

The United Church of Canada
Shining Waters Regional Council

EXECUTIVE

MINUTES of Meeting held February 24, 2021, at 7:00 p.m.
via video teleconference.

PRESENT: Jingle Ayupan, Pat Edmonds, Allan Holditch, Kirsty Hunter, Isaac Kamta, David Leyton-Brown, Steven Loweth, Allyce Mutungi, Moon Ja Park, Dong-Chun Seo, Jessica Stevenson, Daniel Reed

Staff: Peter Hartmans (Executive Minister), Jody Maltby (Staff Lead), Rachael Howes (Administrative Support), Susie Henderson, Kim Udeye-kai,

Absent: Lynn Mooney

GATHERING, OPENING PRAYER

David Leyton-Brown opened the meeting at 7:05 p.m. Peter Hartmans led a brief worship focussing on Genesis 1:14 – 18.

The Chair gave an acknowledgement of the land, and acknowledged our commitment to being a safe place for all people to gather and participate in our Region.

The members checked in.

AGENDA

MOTION by Betty Lou McNabb / Dong-Chun Seo that the agenda for this meeting be approved with addition of an item for Other Business of a report from David Leyton-Brown of the meeting the General Secretary had with the Presidents of Regional Councils.

MOTION

CARRIED

MINUTES

MOTION by Jingle Ayupan / Pat Edmonds that the Minutes of the meeting of the Shining Waters Regional Council Executive held January 26, 2021 be approved as circulated.

MOTION

CARRIED

Commission Minutes

MOTION by Daniel Reed / Steven Loweth that the Executive of Shining Waters Regional Council accept for information the Minutes of the Communities of Faith Commission of April 15, May 20, June 2, July 29, September 16, October 21, November 18, 2020.

MOTION

CARRIED

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Email votes

The following decisions were made by email:

- appointed Janet MacDonald as Trustee for Church of the Master United Church, West Ellesmere United Church, Wexford Heights United Church, and Wilmar Heights United Church, all located in Scarborough, Guthrie United Church in Oro-Medonte, Regent Park United Church Orillia, Newton Robinson United Church and Dunkerron United Church located in Bradford West Gwillimbury.
- appointed Jody Maltby as Trustee for Wilmar Heights United Church in Scarborough, Newton Robinson United Church in Bradford West Gwillimbury, and Guthrie United Church in Oro-Medonte.
- That the 2021 Shining Waters Regional Council New Ministry Service take place in the afternoon of Sunday, May 30, ~~3021~~ 2021.

Intercultural Diversity Commission Proposal and Draft Policy Document

David Leyton-Brown reviewed the discussion held at the last meeting around merging the Equity Committee into the Intercultural Diversity Commission. He researched more information around this. Equity is a multi-dimensional priority of The United Church of Canada and Shining Waters Regional Council. There are at least four different areas of emphasis within equity. The sense is that we should keep the Intercultural Diversity Commission focus on intercultural diversity and think further where and how best to attend to the other important issues of equity elsewhere in our structure but not hold up getting the Intercultural Diversity Commission running and staffed. The proposal as presented at the previous meeting is now being presented without any changes or refinements

MOTION by Jingle Ayupan, / Isaac Kamta that the Executive of Shining Waters Regional Council adopt the draft policy of the Intercultural Diversity Commission
MOTION **CARRIED**

By-Law Updates and Memorandum of Understanding

Memorandum of Understanding:

The Memorandum of Understanding between Shining Waters and Canadian Shield Regional Councils was revised to reflect the decision made at the December 10, 2020 Executive meeting approving the sharing of staff between the regions.

MOTION by Jessica Stevenson / Allyce Mutungi that the Executive of Shining Waters Regional Council approve the adoption of the revised Memorandum of Understanding between Shining Waters and Canadian Shield to include a provision for sharing of staff.
MOTION **CARRIED**

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Regional Council Policy:

In the section of the Regional Council Policy dealing with membership, the sentence stating past lay presidents of Toronto Conference will be voting members of the Regional Council needs to be amended to include past lay Shining Waters Regional Council presidents.

MOTION Kirsty Hunter / Betty Lou McNabb that the Executive of Shining Waters Regional Council approve the revision of the Regional Council Policy by amending wording under Membership to; “Past lay Toronto Conference *and Shining Waters Regional Council* Presidents will be voting members of the Regional Council.”

MOTION

CARRIED

Other Business

David Leyton-Brown reported that twice a year there is a meeting of all the Presidents of all the Regional Councils. Their first meeting with the new General Secretary, Michael Blair, was February 23rd.

Learnings from the Covid experience: Things that stood out for him were how many of his counterparts across the country talked about the benefits of technology and that we have all become more comfortable with online meetings and online worship than we would have if it was not for Covid; it has accelerated the learning and the comfort level. There is still a lot of concern across the country of smaller communities of faith in the small remote locations that lack the infrastructure or tech support to be active in online worship. There is also concern about ministerial vacancies in the small, remote locations. An observation by one President was that The United Church of Canada stands at one end of the spectrum in being comfortable with online worship. Another observation by one was that we can not put God in a box, do not need to be in a building to be present.

The assessment model in the new structure: There is a lot of uncertainty, because not only was there over \$1 million in unpaid assessments at the end of 2020, but many congregations chose the 3-year freeze on assessments, and that is due to end at the end of 2022, leaving many facing substantial increases. Two regions (Shining Waters and Horseshoe Falls) face significant increases. The 2021 collective assessment target for Shining Waters is \$2,008,351 but we are invoiced only \$1,378,297 (just 68.6%) leaving \$630,054 to be added in 2022 if we “rip the bandaid off” and move instantly to the new assessment model. It will be up to General Council to decide what to do (maintain the freeze, have a graduated transition, or rip the bandaid off), but across the church only 903 communities of faith are at target, while 1,508 chose the freeze option. Our Executive has no particular decisions to make on this, but should be aware of the issue, and consider whether and how we should raise the consciousness of our communities of faith.

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Announcements

Peter Hartmans announced the Shining Waters affirming service will be held March 14 at 2 p.m. via live-stream, Michael Blair is preaching. Michael Blair also agreed to preach at our new ministry service on May 30th.

Covid 19 Update – *Peter Hartmans*

Peter mentioned that there is not much to update. Main areas of the region are still on lockdown; there might be some shifting in our region either way.

Closing: the meeting closed at 8:30 p.m. and Peter Hartmans offered a closing prayer.

Next meeting – March 23, 2021, 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. via Zoom.

