

April 21, 2021

**THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA
SHINING WATERS REGIONAL COUNCIL**

**Minutes of a meeting of the
Communities of Faith Commission
Wednesday, April 21, 2021**

The Communities of Faith Commission of Shining Waters Regional Council met on Wednesday, April 21, 2021 by video conference call. The meeting began at 9:30 a.m.

Present:

Chris Bennett, Carolyn Harding, Calin Lau, Amy Lee, Kevin Logie, Sandra Nottegar, Cindy Randall, Gloria Tozek (Chairperson), Harry Ramsaran

Jody Maltby (Staff Lead), Diane Matheson, Jeffrey Dale, Susie Henderson

Welcome, check in and prayer

The chairperson welcomed everyone, and offered an opening prayer from the book of prayer *The One Who Listens*, author unknown. Amy Lee gave an acknowledgement of the land, and Gloria Tozek acknowledged our commitment to being a safe place for all people to gather and participate in our Region.

Members checked in.

The chairperson constituted the meeting in the name of Jesus Christ.

Agenda

The commission agreed that the agenda be approved as presented.

Minutes

MOTION by Cindy Randall/Carolyn Hastings that the Minutes of the meeting of the Communities of Faith Commission of Shining Waters Regional Council dated March 17, 2021 be approved as circulated.

MOTION

CARRIED

Email votes

The following decisions were made since the last meeting:

- Central Unionville – approval of major construction work

the staff lead approved the request of Central United Church, Unionville to undergo major construction work (\$90,000) for replacement of the driveway and parking lot of the church. (Regional Council Executive Property Policy)

- Central, Unionville – use of Manse funds

By email, approved the request of Central United Church Unionville to use up to \$45,000 from the Manse Fund towards the replacement of the driveway and parking lot of the church.

- Thornhill – approval of Constitution

By email, approved the Constitution of Thornhill United Church dated April 11, 2021

- King City – approval of expropriation decision

By email, approved the decision of King City United Church to agree to expropriation by the municipality of the full frontage of the church property where it abuts Elizabeth Grove in anticipation of widening the street, as a condition of the severance of a portion of the congregation's property.

Mapping Process – *Kevin Logie, Chris Bennett, Susie Henderson*

Susie Henderson provided an update on the work to create a web-based map that will enable the commission to work with the information. A key piece will be to connect with the Intercultural Diversity Commission around ethno-linguistic congregations.

South West Community Ministries, Toronto – *Gloria Tozek*

Gloria reported that she and Jody Maltby representing the Communities of Faith Commission along with Susan Eagle and Bri-anne Swan for the Social and Ecological Justice Commission, met with members of the Board of the two community ministries: Jane Finch and Davenport Perth. There was a discussion about the impact of the structural transition on their funding. In order for the ministries to continue, they are looking for stable funding for their staff positions from the United Church.

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Conversation about multi-year funding

The next step in the regional priorities' conversation is a conversation including representatives of the Communities of Faith Commission, the Social and Ecological Justice Commission, the Grants Review Committee and the Mission Support Committee. A key point is whether the region should prioritize multi-year core funding for various community ministries, and/or seed funding for new ministries and/or smaller grants for outreach, chaplaincies and youth/children's ministry. We also need to clarify the roles of the various commissions and committees in terms of decision-making around grants. The role of the commissions is to name the mission we want to support and identify the framework within which we make decisions. The two committees are the bodies that consider and make recommendations on individual grant applications within that framework.

It was noted that if we are going to prioritize multi-year core funding, there should be an expectation of accountability back to the region and this should be clearly outlined in a formal written document. There is tension between the desire to provide stable funding so that recipients can make plans and focus on programs, and the ability to direct funds to different projects as the need emerges. The region won't have that flexibility if all funds are committed to core funding. We need balance. Transparency is important.

Gloria Tozek and Chris Bennett will represent the commission in the inter-commission conversation.

The Commission took a 15-minute break.

Updates - Jody Maltby, Diane Matheson

Dewi Sant Welsh United Church, Toronto

Diane reported that the Intentional Interim Ministry Committee supports the request of Dewi Sant Welsh United Church to extend their Intentional Interim Ministry.

MOTION by Sandra Nottegar/Cindy Randall that the Communities of Faith Commission of Shining Waters Regional Council approves the extension of the Intentional Interim Ministry at Dewi-Sant United Church to June 30, 2022, and recommends that the Pastoral Relations Commission extend the appointment of Rev. Liz Mackenzie as the Intentional Interim Minister until June 30, 2022.

MOTION

CARRIED

Jody Maltby reported on a good meeting with Tim Blair of United Property Resource Corporation and the Transition Team at Dewi Sant.

Wesley Mimico United Church, Toronto

Jody Maltby reported that Wesley Mimico United Church sold their building under the former South West Presbytery but had not yet provided a plan for the use of the funds. The congregation has met the requirement to provide 10% for the Indigenous Ministries Fund and 10% to support other regional ministry. They are working on a plan for use of a portion of the capital and the ongoing interest from investment. This plan will come to the commission for approval.

St. Andrews United Church, Markham – appointment of regional representative to Transition Team

Diane Matheson provided an update on the work with St. Andrews United Church in Markham.

MOTION by Amy Lee/Carolyn Harding that the Communities of Faith Commission of Shining Waters Regional Council appoints Lynella Reid-James as the regional representative to the transition team of St. Andrews United Church, Markham with thanks for her service.

MOTION

CARRIED

Lynella is a trained Pastoral Relations Liaison and her particular skills will be helpful in the unique circumstances of this Intentional Interim Ministry.

Diane also reported on conversations across the region regarding governance and a crisis of leadership as a result of a decreased volunteer base. Diane, Kim and Susie are working on a lay leader gathering that will focus on streamlining governance and attracting volunteers,

Diane is also working with the Office of Vocation to streamline resources for volunteers working with Intentional Interim Ministries with a goal to offer better support.

Property Policy – Jody Maltby

The commission discussed some work connected to the property policy.

Harry Ramsaran, Gloria Tozek and Jody Maltby will consider recommendations to the Executive regarding the use of funds received by the region from congregations that sell property while continuing to exist and recommendations for property declared surplus in an amalgamation. They will also look at policy regarding the development of property. They may consult with the United Property Resource Corporation about this piece.

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Kevin Logie, Chris Bennett and Susie Henderson will consider how the requirements for a Living Faith Story and Financial Viability Report that are part of the Pastoral Relations Handbook are connected to our requirement that congregations demonstrate mission and financial viability in order to access restricted funds. This is connected as well to the work on mapping.

They will also explore whether a Living Faith Story might be the container for this commission to establish our practices for supporting communities of faith.

Camp Updates – Jeffrey Dale

Jeffery reported that the regional camps are not sure what will happen this summer and so are preparing for different possibilities, including on-site camps, virtual camps and on-site leadership development.

To date, Camp Awesome has received funding for six positions from Canada Summer Jobs in our partner region, Canadian Shield Regional Council. We are excited to be in partnership with Canadian Shield on this project. We do have funds in budget for positions in Shining Waters if we don't get government funding.

The focus of Camp Awesome this year will be creating an online United Church presence where there isn't one on platforms currently used by young people. There will also be a workbook, *Love and Serve Others*, available to congregations to use. This was a popular resource last year.

This Sunday, April 25th is Camping Sunday. Shining Waters is partnering with our regional camps in a Zoom gathering at 2 p.m. All are welcome!

Closing

Gloria Tozek thanked the commission for their work and offered blessings on our day. The meeting adjourned at 12:30 p.m.

Next Meeting: May 19, 2021 at 9:30 a.m. via video conference, Cindy Randall will offer the land acknowledgement.

