

The United Church of Canada
Shining Waters Regional Council

EXECUTIVE

MINUTES of Meeting held March 23, 2021, at 3:00 p.m.
via video teleconference.

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

Staff: Peter Hartmans (Executive Minister), Jody Maltby, Rachael Howes, Bri-anne Swan, Kim Udeye-Kai, Dale Hildebrand

Absent: Kirsty Hunter, Lynn Mooney

Guests: Lois Brown, Susan Eagle, Brian McIntosh, Elizabeth McLean joined the meeting at 4 p.m

GATHERING, OPENING PRAYER

David Leyton-Brown opened the meeting at 3:04 p.m. He 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.

Peter Hartmans led a brief worship focussing on an article written by Julie McGonegal based on Matthew 4:1–11, from the book, *Faith on the Move*.

The members checked in.

AGENDA

MOTION by Jingle Ayupan/Pat Edmonds that the agenda for this meeting be approved as amended by adding the item of email votes.

MOTION

CARRIED

MINUTES

The Minutes of February 24, 2021 to be amended to change the date on page two, in the third point under *Email Votes*, to read May 30, 2021.

MOTION by Daniel Reed/Jingle Ayupan that the Minutes of the meeting of the Shining Waters Regional Council Executive held February 24, 2021 be approved as amended.

MOTION

CARRIED

Email votes

The following decisions were made by email:

- granted permission for the Massey Centre to proceed with a corporate amalgamation with Humewood House Association. The newly formed amalgamated corporation will

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operate as a Category 1 Incorporated Ministry as per the Incorporated Ministry Policy of The United Church of Canada.

Commission Minutes

MOTION by Betty Lou McNabb/Jessica Stevenson that the Executive of Shining Waters Regional Council accept for information the Minutes of the Pastoral Relations Commission of May 12, June 2, August 25, September 29, October 27, November 24, and December 15, 2020.

MOTION

CARRIED

Dale Hildebrand left the meeting.

Correspondence

The Executive received, for information, letters from Davenport Perth and Jane Finch Community Ministries regarding the possible closure of the community ministries, a letter from the Social & Ecological Justice Commission, as well as background information on the matter. David Leyton-Brown gave background information on the role and responsibility of Commissions to assist with the context of this correspondence. He advised that there will be a further meeting with the board of the community ministries and the Communities of Faith Commission and Social & Ecological Justice Commission.

Living Into Right Relations Circle meeting

The guests, members of the Living Into Right Relations Circle and the Chair of the Social & Ecological Justice Commission, joined the Executive to continue discussions between the Circle and the Executive. Brian McIntosh recapped the previous discussion held with the Executive in January 2020 to give context to the discussion today.

Brian McIntosh suggested that the Executive and the Circle name some people from each group to be in touch to identify priorities and to bring back recommendations to the Executive and the Circle about our roles in relation to the Calls to the Church.

It was suggested that the Executive and the Living Into Right Relations Circle have a yearly conversation to work toward clarity of roles. The Executive expressed interest in continuing to build relationship and welcome input from the Circle. It was agreed that a smaller working group would be helpful.

It was decided that the Calls to the Church will be a regular agenda item at Executive meetings.

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Mission Statement and By-Law updates

MOTION by Allan Holditch/Steven Loweth that the Executive of Shining Waters Regional Council replace the MISSION section of the Regional Council Policy with the following:

The mission of Shining Waters Regional Council is “Encouraging and Connecting Communities of Faith.”

To fulfil this mission, the Regional Council and the Regional Council Executive will encourage and engage in:

- 1) living in right relations with Indigenous peoples, and responding positively and meaningfully to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Calls to Action and the Caretakers of Our Indigenous Circle Calls to the Church;
- 2) becoming an anti-racist church (declaration of the Commissioners of the 43rd General Council, October 24, 2020);
- 3) welcoming people of all ages, abilities, races, sexual orientations and gender identities, and any other forms of marginalization into, and removing barriers to, the life, work and leadership of the Region and our communities of faith.

These objectives are in addition to those declared in The Manual (6.3.4) as the mission and ministry for every Regional Council:

Encouraging and engaging in:

- 4) joining our collective hearts, voices, and resources to witness to the gospel and vision of Jesus for a compassionate and just society, both in Canada and around the world;
- 5) local, regional, national and global initiatives and partnerships (community, ecumenical and interfaith) for ministry, mission and justice work;
- 6) ministry with children, youth and young adults;
- 7) honouring and living into intercultural mission and ministry; and
- 8) living in covenant with Mother Earth and All My Relations in the Earth community.

MOTION

CARRIED

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GC 44 Update, Proposals and Regional Election of GC 43 Commissioners

MOTION by Moon Ja Park/Jessica Stevenson that the Executive of Shining Waters Regional Council schedule a Regional Council meeting for the evening of Thursday June 17, 2021 for the election of Commissioners for General Council 44.

MOTION

CARRIED

Grants Committee Recommendation to the Executive Regarding PTCC Funds:

After a meeting with both Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council and Presbyteries of Toronto Conference Corporation (PTCC):

MOTION by Betty Lou McNabb/Pat Edmonds that the Executive of Shining Waters Regional Council requests that Presbyteries of Toronto Conference Corporation (PTCC) divide the balance in the New Ministries Development and Leadership Fund, as of December 31, 2020, between Shining Waters Regional Council and Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council in the proportion of 75:25, to establish separate funds for each Regional Council.

MOTION

CARRIED

Anti Racism work by Staff: Update

Peter Hartmans updated the Executive on anti racism work. Shining Waters and Canadian Shield staff have agreed to start a one-year conversation amongst ourselves as well as learning, and have signed up for a course run by Salem Debs who is an anti racist educator who gives a holistic understanding of anti racism in a Canadian context. Staff is also doing a regular lunch and learn around this course.

Regarding the current Asian racism in the news now, Peter Hartmans asked permission of the Executive to make a statement from Shining Waters Regional Council around this difficult situation. The Executive agreed. Peter and David Leyton-Brown will work on it together and will circulate it to the Executive for comments.

Covid 19

Currently the pandemic is into a third wave and vaccines are being rolled out. It is hoped we are on a path to a normal to come. There is not awareness of any communities of faith that are meeting in person

Closing: the meeting closed at 6:07 p.m. and Peter Hartmans offered a closing prayer.

Next meeting – April 27, 2021, 7 p.m.