

The United Church of Canada
Shining Waters Regional Council

EXECUTIVE

MINUTES of Meeting held April 27, 2021, at 7:00 p.m.
via video teleconference.

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

Staff: Peter Hartmans (Executive Minister), Jody Maltby (Staff Lead), Rachael Howes (Administrative Support), Kim Uyede-Kai (Anti-racism and Right Relations), Bri-anne Swan (Social & Ecological Justice and Communications), Janet MacDonald (Finance Administrator)

Guests: Susan Eagle, Cameron Watts

Absent: Kirsty Hunter, Allyce Mutungi,

GATHERING, OPENING PRAYER

David Leyton-Brown opened the meeting at 7:04 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 Psalm 57, and including a prayer written by the Rt. Rev. Richard Bott, Moderator.

The members checked in.

AGENDA

Two items were added to the agenda: Correspondence and a profile conversation by Bri-Anne Swan.

MOTION by Pat Edmonds / Jingle Ayupan that the agenda for this meeting be approved as amended.

MOTION

CARRIED

Correspondence

On Thursday, April 22, 2021 a formal complaint (J8) was received around a ministry personnel which has been forwarded to the Office of Vocation.

MINUTES

MOTION by Jessica Stevenson / Betty Lou McNabb that the Minutes of the meeting of the Shining Waters Regional Council Executive held March 23, 2021 be approved as circulated.

MOTION

CARRIED

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Living into Right Relations (LIRR) Check-in and Calls to the Church – Kim Uyede-Kai

This will now be a standing agenda item.

Kim gave an update. LIRR Circle has a new Chair, Lois Brown. She is also a member of the Shining Waters Social and Ecological Justice Commission so that will provide a natural link. The caretakers of the Calls to the Church are paramount in the work of LIRR as well as the UNDRIP. The Circle is looking forward to connecting with the Executive more regularly. They are hoping to expand the network, congregations are wanting to connect.

Social & Ecological Justice Commission – Two-year mandate review

David Leyton-Brown gave some background around the proposal passed at the 2019 Regional Council meeting and the subsequent forming of the Commission and policy.

The proposal and policy call for a two-year review and is the responsibility of the Regional Council. This will happen at the annual Regional Council meeting in the fall of this year.

MOTION by Betty Lou McNabb / Daniel Reed that the Social and Ecological Justice Commission Policy be amended under Quorum to have the word *ordained* replaced by the word, *ordered*.

MOTION

CARRIED

Susan Eagle and Cameron Watts joined the meeting.

Conversation around Community Ministry – Susan Eagle

Susan Eagle, Chair of the Social and Ecological Justice Commission, reviewed the situation around the closing of community ministries, Jane Finch and Davenport Perth. The Commission became involved because of the importance of those community ministries in the areas they serve. There has been a meeting with the community ministries board and with staff since the last Executive meeting.

Where do we make decisions around funding and priorities? Susan expressed the feelings of the Social and Ecological Justice Commission on the importance of these types of community ministries. A critical discussion is needed about maintaining those community ministries.

Cameron Watts added his thoughts that we can not abandon those communities when the ministry has been so effective. How are we going to make sure we are doing our best to represent Jesus in this community? He would like to see Shining Waters take more of a long-term commitment to this.

David Leyton-Brown explained that no decision by the Region, or any body of the region, has been taken to close these ministries and no funding has been stopped . They are funded through

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to 2022. These questions will be raised in the context of the priority-setting exercise by the region as a whole. We are aware of the importance of the ministry, we are aware of the views of the Social and Ecological Justice Commission and a process is underway.

Susan Eagle stated that in the meeting with the community ministries board it is clear that they are passionate about the importance of the two ministries and the staff are keen to do the work. Her question is how do we move forward with priority setting? How do we put people at ease that supporting one ministry is not cancelling other ministries? Is multi-year funding a model that the Executive feels is worth exploring?

David Leyton-Brown mentioned that the answer is the process that is being undertaken. We are working on a five-year budget and sustainable funding.

Commission Minutes

The Executive had the opportunity to ask Susan Eagle any questions around the Social and Ecological Justice Commission's work and the Minutes of the Commission provided for this meeting.

Susan invited the Executive to review the document provided at the last regional meeting outlining the work undertaken by the Commission under their mandate. The Commission has lost a couple of members over time and has never been at a full complement, it especially needs members in the environmental justice area.

Susan Eagle and Cameron Watts left the meeting.

The Executive of Shining Waters Regional Council received for information the Minutes of the Social and Ecological Commission of April 29, May 27, July 15, November 3, December 8, 2020.

Grants Committee – Jody Maltby

Recommendation to Executive

The Committee has been working on understanding the funding sources available and how to make the best recommendations around those.

Amendment the Terms of Reference of the Urban Forest Fund

The Urban Forest Fund is owned and managed by the Presbyteries of Toronto Conference Corporation (PTCC) and currently provides grants to communities of faith within the bounds of the former South West Presbytery. The fund was created by motion of South West Presbytery on June 19, 2018 and funds congregational start-ups with newcomers, innovative and vitality projects and projects focused on reconciliation with Indigenous peoples. Item 11b of the Terms of Reference for the Urban Forest Fund states that amendment of these Terms of Reference or the Memorandum of Understanding will require the approval of Region 10 or its successor.

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MOTION by Dong-Chun Seo / Jessica Stevenson that the Executive of Shining Waters Regional Council, on the recommendation of the Grants Review Committee, approves the revision of the Terms of Reference of the Urban Forest Fund to include grants to any community of faith within the bounds of Shining Waters Region.

MOTION

CARRIED

Jody mentioned that there is ongoing conversation around priorities; a group meeting next week with representatives from Communities of Faith Commission, Social and Ecological Justice Commission, Grants Review Committee, and Mission Support Committee. Each of those groups is discussing the matter individually and then coming together for the group discussion. It is a challenging discussion. It is encouraging to see how we are progressing in the right direction; there is a long way still to go, but making very good progress.

Financial Update – Janet MacDonald

Janet reported that a 2022-2026 draft budget projection for the regional meeting is still being worked on and there is nothing to present at this meeting.

She presented a draft statement for the first quarter of this year and reviewed it with the Executive.

New Ministries Service Update – Jody Maltby

Jody reported that there was a meeting this afternoon with the candidates being ordained/commissioned to talk about options for the service regarding safety in the time of pandemic restrictions. It is recommended to continue to have the service on May 30 as planned and the candidates have their liturgical act in their home with members of their own household. Two candidates may choose, for differing reasons, to defer for a year.

MOTION by Isaac Kamta / Jingle Ayupan that the Executive of Shining Waters Regional Council affirm the plans for the Celebration of Ministries service regarding staying within the current restrictions of the pandemic.

MOTION

CARRIED

Covid 19 Update

Peter Hartmans reported that the Communities of Faith Commission continues to support communities of faith when they reach out. Jody Maltby is providing key leadership around Covid-19. The Pastoral Relations ministers called all ministry personnel to check in. Communities of faith along with staff have been reaching out to folks. The creativity of churches around their services is incredible. Challenges are fatigue, burnout, feeling like they are coming to the end of their rope, stress among boards, ministry personnel getting tired, serious challenges of racism within the boundaries of Shining Waters which are upsetting. Medical folks are beyond tired, political leaders are having trouble in terms of fatigue, etc.

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By-law update check-in

Equity committee – redefinition of it's mandate awaits the priority setting discussions.

Profiles of Executive - Bri-anne Swan

Bri-anne Swan will be contacting members of Executive to create a written profile of each member as well as a video conversation with each for the Region's YouTube channel. We want the region to know who the members of the Executive are and have them get to know everyone.

Closing: the meeting closed at 9:10 p.m. and Peter Hartmans offered a closing prayer.

Next meeting – May 25, 2021, 2 p.m. – 5 p.m.

