

November 17, 2021

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

**Minutes of a meeting of the
Communities of Faith Commission
Wednesday, November 17, 2021**

The Communities of Faith Commission of Shining Waters Regional Council met on Wednesday, November 17, 2021 by video conference call. The meeting began at 9:30 a.m.

Present:

Chris Bennett, Carolyn Harding, Calin Lau, Kevin Logie, Sandra Nottegar, Cindy Randall, Patti Rodgers, Gloria Tozek, Harry Ramsaran.

Jody Maltby (Staff Lead), Susie Henderson (Equity and Innovation), Kim Uyede-Kai (Communities of Faith Support, Right Relations, and Anti-Racism), Rachael Howes (Administrative Support).

Regrets: Amy Lee

Welcome, check in and prayer

The chairperson welcomed everyone, Carolyn Harding 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. Gloria Tozek shared a video of the poem, *Remember*, by Joy Harjo, and read by Suzi Hudson (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ib7BxVIYxU>). She then offered an opening prayer.

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

There was a time of check-in, introductions, and welcome to the new member of the Commission, Patti Rodgers.

Agenda

Additions to the agenda: recommendation of a regional rep to Fairlawn United Church's Transition Team; and Equity Leads.

MOTION by Harry Ramsaran / Sandra Nottegar that the agenda be approved as amended.

MOTION

CARRIED

Minutes

MOTION by Carolyn Harding / Chris Bennett that the Minutes of the meetings of the Communities of Faith Commission of Shining Waters Regional Council dated October 20, 2021 be approved as circulated.

MOTION

CARRIED

How we are working: Email Votes and Task Groups

Susie Henderson presented a review of the task groups that are in place along with some amendments to their responsibilities and timelines, moving some decisions to staff, and when email votes will be used.

MOTION Kevin Logie / Sandra Nottegar that the Communities of Faith Commission of Shining Waters Regional Council accept the new working plan for the task groups as presented; authorize the Staff Lead to approve communities of faith name change requests; and authorize the Staff Lead to approve loan requests of up to \$100,000.

MOTION

CARRIED

Equity Lead – Susie Henderson told the Commission about the role of an Equity Lead in the Commission, and asked if there was someone willing to take on that role. The Chair, Gloria Tozek, agreed to take on the role with it passing on to Chris Bennett when he becomes Chair.

Strategic Planning – *Gloria Tozek*

Chris Bennett, Susie Henderson and Gloria Tozek have met around strategic planning for the Commission. It is hoped to hold two in-person sessions to work on developing two or three strategic directions. It would also identify tools around those directions. They talked about meeting on January 19th which would include a regular commission meeting in the morning and a facilitated discussion setting the ground work in the afternoon. Gloria outlined some of the areas the commission could focus on.

The Commission agreed to plan for January 19th and then have a second planning session on a Saturday for a half day. A Doodle Poll will be circulated to find the second meeting.

National Strategic Planning – *Susie Henderson*

Susie reported that the national church has engaged in a strategic planning process with a focus on the national church and the General Council Office that also includes an invitation to the whole church into reflection and engagement. Here is the mission and vision that has been approved so far. More resources to engage and work with materials are in the works and will be available to us in our strategic planning conversations.

Mission:

Deep Spirituality

Bold Discipleship

Daring Justice

November 17, 2021

Vision:

Called by God, as disciples of Jesus, The United Church of Canada seeks to be a bold evolving, connected church of diverse, courageous, hope-filled communities, unified in deep spirituality, inspiring worship and daring justice.

The meeting took an all-purpose break.

Community of Faith Reviews Policy – Jody Maltby

The Commission had been asked to look at The United Church of Canada's Community of Faith Reviews Policy. Jody outlined the policy with the Commission as reviews are a part of this Commission's mandate. The region has a listening team model that is working well, however there are circumstances where we need to formalize how we look into the health of a congregation. Jody outlined the process of a review. She suggested the Commission discuss how they would handle a review request and discuss when it would be a review or a listening team.

A concern was raised about reviews being a part of this Commission's mandate and there was discussion around this. Jody will share the commission's concerns with the Executive Minister.

Bala-Port Carling Pastoral Charge

Jody Maltby offered some background to the request for a dispute resolution process for Bala-Port Carling Pastoral Charge.

MOTION by Chris Bennett / Carolyn Harding that the Communities of Faith Commission of Shining Waters Regional Council offer a dispute resolution process to Bala-Port Carling Pastoral Charge.

MOTION

CARRIED

The Commission asked that staff report back to the Commission on the offer of dispute resolution as well as the result of any dispute resolution that takes place.

Living Faith Story, Covenant, Self-Assessment Resource – Karen Hilfman Millson

Karen updated the Commission on her project on putting together a resource for communities of faith work around their self-assessment and living faith story. Another part is the community of faith covenant with the region. A covenant is a requirement in *The Manual*, with a number of components outlined to be included. The community of faith will give input for the covenant; they will identify their style of governance and identify the type of leadership they have. The recommendation being considered is to celebrate the covenants with communities of faith during the region's annual Celebration of Ministries service, and that liturgy would be provided to the community of faith as well.

Self-assessment is a requirement of *The Manual*, which recommends it be done annually. However, minimally once every three years would be recommended by our region. Self-assessment would be based on the Living Faith Story. Living Faith Story has two components – describing current ministry and aspirations within eight categories, and specifically identifying goals for themselves.

Karen outlined how she will be framing the resource so the communities of faith can best prepare and work on these items.

The commission had opportunity to ask questions and give comments.

Fairlawn – Intentional Interim Ministry

MOTION Kevin Logie / Sandra Nottegar that the Communities of Faith Commission of Shining Waters Regional appoint Chris Bennett as the Regional Representative to the Fairlawn United Church, Toronto, Transition Team.

MOTION

CARRIED

Closing

The Chair thanked everyone for their work and offered them blessings on their day.

Next Meetings:

December 15, 2021, January 19, 2022, 9:30 a.m.