

February 17, 2021

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

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

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

**Present:**

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

Jody Maltby (Staff Lead), Susie Henderson, Kim Uyede-kai, Diane Matheson, Jeffrey Dale

**Welcome, check in and prayer**

The chairperson welcomed everyone, 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. She offered opening worship based on Ash Wednesday.

Members checked in.

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

**Agenda**

**MOTION** by Amy Lee/Harry Ramsaran that the agenda be approved as presented.

**MOTION**

**CARRIED**

**Minutes**

**MOTION** by Cindy Randall/Kevin Logie that the Minutes of the meeting of the Communities of Faith Commission of Shining Waters Regional Council dated December 16, 2020 be approved as circulated.

**MOTION**

**CARRIED**

**Email votes**

The following decisions were made by email:

- East End United Church, Toronto lease agreements

Approved the three lease agreements between East End United Regional Ministry, Toronto, and Riverdale Activity Centre, Matthew and Guillermo, and Strickland Reading Clinics.

Approved the lease agreement between East End United Regional Ministry, Toronto, and the City of Toronto

- Dewi Sant, Toronto – request to sell property  
Approved the motion to reconsider the motion of December 16, 2020 “That the Communities of Faith Commission of Shining Waters Regional Council does not approve the request of Dewi Sant United Church, Toronto, to sell their property in anticipation of amalgamation with another congregation.”

Defeated the original motion of December 16, 2020: “That the Communities of Faith Commission of Shining Waters Regional Council does not approve the request of Dewi Sant United Church, Toronto, to sell their property in anticipation of amalgamation with another congregation.”

Approved a new motion that the Communities of Faith Commission postpone discussion and decision on the request from Dewi Sant Welsh United Church, Toronto, until a recommendation is received from the United Property Resource Corporation.

- Runnymede United Church, Toronto – amended Constitution  
Approved the amended Constitution of Runnymede United Church dated February 7, 2021.

### **Election of new chairperson**

Christine Smaller advised that she will be leaving the region which opens up the need for a new chairperson. The commission discussed the process for electing a new chairperson and deferred the decision to later in the meeting to allow folks to discern if they wished to put their name forward.

At the next meeting, the commission will consider electing a vice-chair and setting a term for both positions.

### **Mapping Process – Kevin Logie, Susie Henderson**

Kevin and Susie reported that they are conscious of the impact of Covid and the need to proceed slowly and with care as we don’t know exactly what the future will bring for local congregations. We are committed to maintaining a United Church presence.

They proposed a steering group representing various parts of the region to sit and work with what Edge has given. We hope to hold an in-person gathering to reflect together.

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Susie shared three maps so the commission could start to get a sense of the data that is available.

Commission members were asked to consider who might be appropriate to serve on a steering committee and to approach the other commissions for members. Chris Bennett expressed willingness to participate.

### **Priorities Conversation – Christine Smaller and Gloria Tozek**

Gloria and Christine shared thoughts from the conversation about priorities. The Mapping Process could be linked to this because several of the commissions spoke to the need for research.

Priorities included equity, inclusion, racism. There is a need for both core funding and funds for developments for different ministries.

Several people spoke about the importance of cross commission communication and working together to support each other and reduce duplication of effort.

There was lament that the church as an institution remains inherently racist and structure continues to be oppressive.

The Commission took a 15-minute break

### **Election of New Chairperson (cont'd)**

**MOTION** by Carolyn Harding / Cindy Randall that Gloria Tozek be acclaimed as the chairperson of the Communities of Faith Commission.

**MOTION**

**CARRIED**

The commission agreed to hold off approving vice-chair pending establishing a term. Chris Bennett expressed willingness to be considered for vice-chair.

### **Preaching Conference – Kim Uyede-kai and Jeffrey Dale**

Kim and Jeffrey reported on a preaching conference that has been organized by Dr. Hye Ran Kim-Cragg to take place virtually August 20-21<sup>st</sup> with a particular focus on what the pandemic has taught us about preaching. Kim and Jeffrey will both be workshop facilitators. The region has been invited to co-sponsor the event. At this point we don't know exactly what that looks like other than lending our name to the event. If we are invited to participate in other ways, we can consider whether that is appropriate but it doesn't prevent us from lending our name to the event, which is a positive step in strengthening our relationship with Emmanuel College.

**MOTION** by Sandra Nottegar/Cindy Randall that the Communities of Faith Commission of Shining Waters Regional Council agrees to co-sponsor the Preaching Event on August 20- 21, 2021 with Emmanuel College.

**MOTION**

**CARRIED**

## **Updates**

### **Innovation Cluster**

Diane Matheson reported that the innovation clusters have continued over the fall. Out of clusters across the country EDGE is cosponsoring an event: The Hopeful Economics UnConference focusing on social innovation, trends in the charitable sector and systemic change issues.

### **Thriving Churches webinar**

Several people participated in a series of webinars with Loraine MacKenzie Shepherd and Tammy Allen looking at their new book, *Thriving Churches*. From their research with a number of congregations, they lifted up several spiritual attributes that could inform our conversation about innovative ministry. Their research included both large and small, urban and rural congregations which broadens the traditional picture of a thriving church.

### **Digital Ministry/TUCC**

Susie Henderson reported.

### **Intentional Interim Ministry Appointments**

Diane Matheson reported that across the country there are IIMs not actively serving and that this presents an opportunity for us to tap into a wider network of qualified Intentional Interim Ministers to better serve the communities of faith in our region

### **Website updates**

Commission members are encouraged to visit the website to see the resources that have been added for congregations.

### **Recent Executive decisions**

Jody Maltby reported on recent decisions by the Executive to sell one property and partner with the United Property Resource Corporation in exploring the development of others to provide a long-term sustainable income for the region while maintaining significant property resources.

Staff provided updates on work with Dewi Sant Welsh United Church, Toronto, St. Andrew's United Church, Markham, and the South West Community Ministries. Plans are moving forward in the sale of the building that housed Huttonville United Church, Brampton. Of particular note, the Ministère Protestant Francophone du Toronto, in partnership with both Shining Waters Region and La Table des ministères en français, is planning a covenanting service on Sunday, June 13, 2021.

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### **Policy Updates**

Jody Maltby reviewed two small changes to the Finance and Property Policy and one to the Policy regarding Sale of Property by an Existing Community of Faith. These came out of the meeting of the commission in December and the experience of the Lease Review Task Group. She noted that the commission still needs to engage in a more fulsome review of the policies but these updates will help provide greater clarity in the meantime.

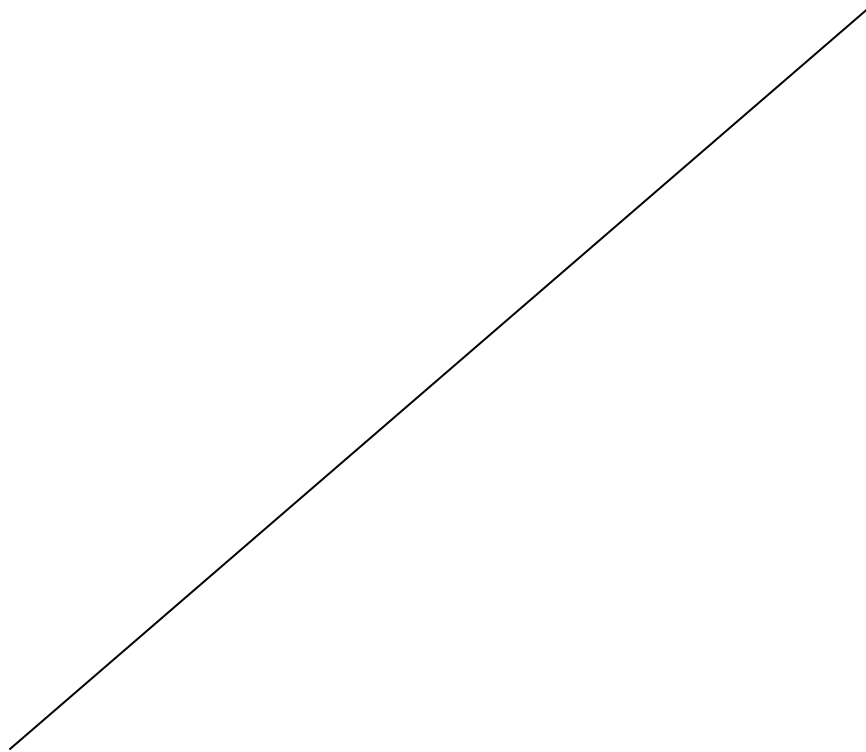
**MOTION** by Amy Lee/Kevin Logie that the Communities of Faith Commission of Shining Waters Regional Council approve the Finance and Property Policy and the Policy regarding Sale of Property by an Existing Community of Faith as revised.

**MOTION**

**CARRIED**

**Closing:** Christine Smaller offered a closing prayer and the meeting adjourned at 12:02 p.m.

Next Meeting: March 17, 2021, 9:30 a.m. via video conference



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**Present:**

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

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

**Regrets:** Christine Smaller, Sandra Nottegar, Bronwyn Corlett

Guests: Tim Blair (UPRC), Liz McKenzie, Lori Diaz

**Welcome, check in and prayer**

The chairperson welcomed everyone, and opened with the New Creed. She 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.

Members checked in.

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

**Agenda**

**MOTION** by Cindy Randall/Amy Lee that the agenda be approved as presented.

**MOTION**

**CARRIED**

**Minutes**

**MOTION** by Chris Bennett/Amy Lee that the Minutes of the meeting of the Communities of Faith Commission of Shining Waters Regional Council dated February 17, 2021 be approved as corrected.

**MOTION**

**CARRIED**

There was confusion about how Kevin Logie had seconded a motion after he left the meeting. Subsequently, it was determined that the decision around policy changes was moved to earlier in the meeting, prior to the break, as the meeting was running ahead of

schedule and there were several people who were leaving throughout the meeting, so we wanted to ensure quorum.

**Burton Ave United Church, Regional Representative to Governing Body**

**MOTION** by Harry Ramsaran/Carolyn Hastings that the Communities of Faith Commission of Shining Waters Regional Council appoint Rev. Patricia Gale-MacDonald to attend the meeting of the governing body of Burton Avenue United Church to meet the requirement of ministry personnel present.

**MOTION**

**CARRIED**

**Email votes**

The following decisions were made by email:

- Humbercrest lease with Erik Grice

Approved the Lease agreement between Humbercrest United Church and musician Erik Grice dated February 15, 2021 to February 14, 2022

- New Hope United Church loan application to the Toronto Southeast Presbytery Major Capital Fund

Approved the loan application from New Hope United Church, Vaughan to the Toronto Southeast Presbytery Major Capital Fund which is managed by the Toronto United Church Council, in the amount of \$85,000

- Cummer Ave. loan with TUCC

Approved the loan between Cummer Avenue United Church, Toronto and the Toronto United Church Council in the amount of \$600,000 with the following terms and conditions:

Date:	June 1, 2021
Amount:	\$ 600,000
Amortization:	25 years
Term:	Three (3) years
Interest:	4.0% or the Bank of Nova Scotia three-year interest rate, or whichever is the higher Interest Rate on the date of the first drawdown. The loan will be set as a blended monthly repayment for the remaining Term at the date shown below under repayment.
Repayment:	Interest-only payment until June 1, 2022 with conversion to monthly Principal and

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	Interest payment thereafter until Maturity Date.
Security:	Promissory Note for the authorized loan amount and a direction to assign the currently invested \$465,000 held by TUCC on behalf of CAUC
Approval:	Shining Waters Regional Council (To be obtained).
Source of Funds:	Toronto United Church Council General Fund (TUCCGF)

- North Bramalea loan renewal with TUCC

Approved the loan renewal between North Bramalea United Church and Toronto United Church Council (TUCC) on the following terms and conditions:

Date:	April 1, 2021
Amount:	up to \$1,247,043
Amortization:	13 years
Term:	3 years
Interest:	the Bank of Nova Scotia 3-year mortgage rate or 4% whichever is the higher for the term as of the renewal date
Payment:	monthly payments, principal and interest
Provisions:	the renewal fee be paid (\$3,117.61)
Security:	first mortgage in place
Approval:	Shining Waters Regional Council
Source of Funds:	Investing in Ministry Fund

- Trinity Huntsville, new constitution

approved the Constitution of Trinity United Church, Huntsville, dated February 28, 2021.

- Parry Sound Rural Pastoral Charge, name change

Approved the change of name of the Parry Sound Rural Pastoral Charge to Seguin Pioneer United Church.

### **Election of vice-chairperson and terms of office**

**MOTION** by Kevin Logie/Amy Lee that the term of office for the chairperson of the Communities of Faith Commission be one year as vice-chair, two years as chair and one year as past-chair.

**MOTION**

**CARRIED**



**MOTION** by Carolyn Hastings/Cindy Randall that Chris Bennett be elected as vice-chair of the Communities of Faith Commission.

**MOTION**

**CARRIED**

It was noted that for this first year, the chair and the vice-chair have been elected at the same time. The commission expressed thanks to Gloria and Chris for taking on the leadership roles.

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

Susie, Kevin and Chris met to continue the planning around the Mapping Process. Earlier this month, Susie met with Sharon Buttery from Edge about a final version of the report. It was agreed to create a web-based report with a live map as the base so that people can zoom into actual locations.

In the meantime, there are two sections of the report available on a website page that is accessible only to members of the commission. The link will be circulated by email.

Once the web report is available we can book a time to walk through it with Sharon in greater detail. The final report will include:

- A live regional map that incorporates census and United Church data, both historical and recent;
- Community of faith “profiles” that incorporate multiple layers of data;
- Potential clustering connections drawn from the data;
- A list of opportunities identified by Edge that emerge from the data.

**Engaging the Material**

It would be useful to see the material through a variety of sub-sets categories that combine various maps together. For example, the more obvious ones are: UCC membership; regional geography and demographics; age; intercultural content. There may also be more ministry specific categories that we may also want to explore (social enterprise, community ministry, etc.) These categories can become topics to explore in more depth over time in focused sessions (with external facilitators, like Edge, or on our own). It makes sense to wait until the Intercultural Diversity Commission is established to review the ethno-cultural material.

There are three potential levels of engagement with the material and the commission can decide where to go with it once we see it.

- Data profiles – What does it look like? What are the trends over time? For both the region and communities of faith.
- Analysis and reflection – What does it mean? What is this an indicator of?
- Planning – What do we want to do with it? Are there strategic objectives that we want to set? Do we want to be intentional about how we direct regional resources?

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There are three possible applications for the use of the data:

- To inform case by case decision-making with community of faith profiles;
- To direct regional resources towards emergent needs or new opportunities;
- To support communities of faith in developing their own living faith stories.

### **Hopeful Economics UnConference Report – Gloria Tozek, Susie Henderson**

Gloria and Susie reflected on this online event put together by EDGE which included a combination of faith groups and social purpose organizations. The first day included presentations and exhibitor booths that participants could visit while the second day was workshop style. It was interesting to be able to listen to presentations and view booths at same time, and to move between conversations.

Ryan Turnbull, MPP for Ottawa and chair of the Social Innovation Table and Readiness Investment Program spoke about the emerging social economy and need for systems change and transformation. Communities of Faith have an important role to play to assist with resilient recovery needed to create an equitable and sustainable economy.

A significant learning was the importance of not compartmentalizing our faith from rest of our lives. Social enterprise can act as a bridge. Mission-driven organizations exist to address social, cultural or environmental issues. There could be opportunities for congregations around being a community hub.

Susie shared a glimpse of Whova, the application used for the conference and which has potential for some of the programs offered by the region.

These platforms are a good way to bring people together that is accessible and at a lower cost. They provide a good model to complement live gatherings. In some ways they can be even more interactive as a way to connect with presenters through chat.

The Commission took a 10-minute break.

### **What do you think of when you hear the word Innovation? – Gloria Tozek**

Gloria invited members to reflect on what they think when they hear the word innovation. Some comments include:

- Change can be painful for people.
- Sometimes we need to be creative.
- On my good days, innovation makes me hopeful in terms of possibilities even while it's not without pain.
- Is there a difference between innovation and invention? Is innovation working with what you know where invention is creating something completely new?
- In the field of economics, we keep working within a framework that isn't working but we can't seem to change the framework. Yet it has to be changed or we're

doomed. We've created a system based on endless growth and that's not possible.

- Maybe tinkering isn't enough.
- Maybe innovation isn't radical enough. When I think of innovation it's employing new ideas, tools or perspectives to old problems. When we think of social innovation, it's looking in new places to address social problems. Maybe we can't use that frame to address deep systemic issues because we have forgotten that systems are human construct and we think we can't change the systems.
- Connecting our understandings in different ways can become the innovation.
- Innovation can be a thing, e.g. a new computer application, or it can be a process. It is both a noun and a verb. Words are how we conceive of our world and shape our worldview. Our worldview is based on a capitalist system and we don't see how we can change it, but that system has only been around for a couple of hundred years.
- What are the conditions that need to exist in congregations in order for innovation to happen?
- There is concern about energy levels in congregations, which has been negatively affected by the pandemic. Will this change after pandemic? Sometimes it is just lack of energy that prevents us from pursuing something new.

Three issues that impact on innovative ministry:

- Trust – it's hard to do innovation when there isn't a strong sense of trust between minister and congregation, among lay leadership
- Patience – innovation doesn't happen overnight, we don't get answers overnight
- Commitment to fail and move on – this is really hard and not limited to churches. People want an answer that is right and perfect and will succeed once you've made the commitment and that is just not always available.

We need to be committed to each other and to trying and failing and moving on.

We may understand the concept of trying and failing and moving on, but usually this involves financial investment and congregations don't have deep pockets.

What are the connections between innovation, sustainability, viability, mission-focused, and thriving? We need to develop a common language for our policy and work so that we can support congregations. Can a congregation be thriving and viable and not innovative? How does this connect to our mapping and use of resources? Being innovative could be a good thing but does everyone HAVE to be innovative? Innovation can be one sign of vitality.

We need to find methods to share experiences broadly so we can learn from each other. There is a breadth of experience across the region and also a lack of experience. Not everybody has to fall over the same stone – that can be a role for the commission. We aren't just dispensing policy but giving people support and connection.

If members of the commission have ideas of topics or resources that would help in our work and policy development, please let Gloria know (i.e. videos, reading, etc.)

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## **Updates:**

### **South West Community Ministries**

Gloria Tozek, Chris Bennett, Harry Ramsaran and Jody Maltby provided an update on the conversation with the Social and Ecological Justice Commission and the community ministries. Gloria will work with Susan Eagle to have further conversations with the Board of the community ministries. It is helpful to understand the history of the relationship between the ministries and the wider United Church. How do we do a better job of having these conversations earlier in the process?

### **St. Andrew's, Markham**

Diane Matheson and Carolyn Harding provided a report on St. Andrew's. The Listening Team process worked really well. Diane thanked Carolyn for her significant contribution to the process. It was really helpful to have access to the pastoral relations liaison and pastoral charge supervisor, and particularly to have them on the team.

**MOTION** by Carolyn Harding/Chris Bennett that the Communities of Faith Commission of Shining Waters Regional Council accepts the recommendation of the Listening Team, as outlined in their report, that St. Andrew's United Church, Markham, continue in a six-month intentional supply with a priority on streamlining and simplifying the governance structure of the congregation.

**MOTION**

**CARRIED**

This decision will be communicated to the governing body of St. Andrew's by the Listening Team rather than a letter from the office. It was noted that a learning of the pandemic is that a remote Intentional Interim Ministry (IIM) can work with intentional plan for emergency pastoral care around funerals and visits, or as a part-time model where the IIM work is supported remotely, while worship and pastoral care is managed in-person.

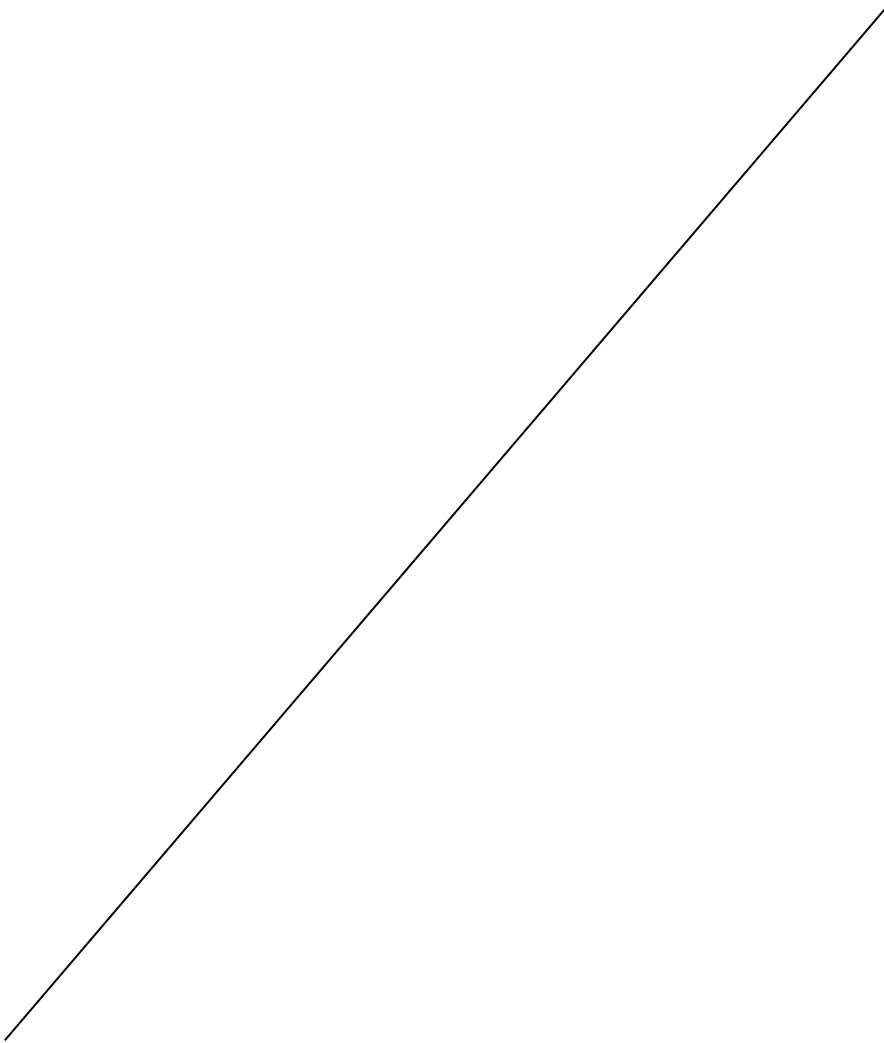
### **Conversation with United Property Resource Corporation**

The Chair welcomed Tim Blair from the United Property Resource Corporation (UPRC), Liz McKenzie and Lori Diaz to the meeting. Liz is the Intentional Interim Minister for Dewi Sant Welsh United Church, Toronto and Lori is the region representative to their transition team.

Tim provided a brief history of the development and mandate of the UPRC and then an update on the research they have been doing regarding the property that has housed the congregation of Dewi Sant Welsh United Church.

**Closing:** Amy Lee offered a closing prayer and the meeting adjourned at 12:45 p.m.

**Next Meeting:** The commission will meet on April 21, 2021 at 9:30 a.m. via video conference. Amy Lee will give an acknowledgement of the land and Gloria Tozek will offer an opening prayer or reading.



April 21, 2021

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**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.

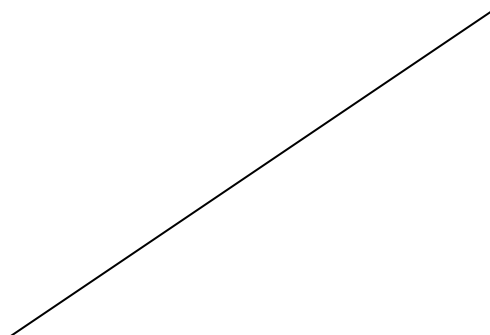
The focus of Camp Awesome this year will be creating an online United Church presence where there isn't one on platforms currently used by young people. There will also be a workbook, *Love and Serve Others*, available to congregations to use. This was a popular resource last year.

This Sunday, April 25<sup>th</sup> 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.



May 19, 2021

**THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA  
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Wednesday, May 19, 2021**

The Communities of Faith Commission of Shining Waters Regional Council met on Wednesday, May 19, 2021 by video conference call. The meeting began at 9:30 a.m.

**Present:**

Chris Bennett (vice-chair), Carolyn Harding, Amy Lee, Kevin Logie, Sandra Nottegar, Cindy Randall, Gloria Tozek (chair), Harry Ramsaran

Jody Maltby, Diane Matheson-Jimenez, Jeffrey Dale, Susie Henderson

Guest: Sharon Buttrey (EDGE)

**Regrets:** Calin Lau

**Welcome, check in and prayer**

The chairperson welcomed everyone. Gloria Tozek opened with a blessing from The Artist's Rule. Cindy Randall gave an acknowledgement of the land, and Gloria 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**

**MOTION** by Carolyn Harding / Sandra Nottegar that the agenda be approved as amended.

**MOTION**

**CARRIED**

**Minutes**

**MOTION** by Cindy Randall / Amy Lee that the Minutes of the meeting of the Communities of Faith Commission of Shining Waters Regional Council dated April 21, 2021 be approved as circulated.

**MOTION**

**CARRIED**

## Email votes

The following decisions were made by email:

- Trinity Huntsville – Licensing Agreement with Town of Huntsville

Approved the Licensing Agreement between Trinity United Church Huntsville and the Town of Huntsville to allow the Town to encroach on the property of Trinity to upgrade the property between the two buildings.

## Updates

Collaboration: Knox United Church, Sutton and Virginia United Church

Diane Matheson-Jimenez reported that both communities had congregational meetings on Sunday and have committed to moving forward in a collaborative partnership. Islay Scott has been appointed to work with them. Once they have collaboration agreement ready, it will come to the commission for approval.

St. Paul's United Church, Brampton listening team

Diane Matheson-Jimenez reported that St. Paul's United Church, Brampton has asked for a listening team to help them discern next steps. Carolyn Harding has agreed to represent the commission, for which we are grateful. In conversation with the Intentional Interim Ministry committee, there was a feeling that their participation in listening teams might help in considering when it might be appropriate to recommend an intentional interim minister. Jim Keenan has agreed to represent the committee. Rev. Margaret MacDonald has also agreed to help. She is the minister of a neighbouring congregation.

Dewi Sant Welsh United Church, Toronto

Diane Matheson-Jimenez provided an update on the intentional interim ministry at Dewi Sant Welsh United Church.

**MOTION** by Amy Lee / Carolyn Harding that Diane Matheson-Jimenez be appointed as second regional representative to support Dewi Sant Welsh United Church, Toronto during amalgamation talks.

**MOTION**

**CARRIED**

The commission expressed thanks to Diane for the work she is doing on behalf of the region.

May 19, 2021

**Living Faith Story and Mapping Process** – *Kevin Logie, Chris Bennett, Susie Henderson, and Sharon Buttrely (Edge).*

The chair welcomed Sharon Buttrely of EDGE who has been supporting this project.

Susie Henderson provided an update on conversations that she, Kevin Logie and Chris Bennett have been having about folding the mapping conversation into a larger conversation about a Living Faith Story for the commission. She reminded us that the commission agreed to take our time with this project and hopefully gather in person to reflect together more deeply.

Sharon demonstrated how the interactive map works and how data can be layered.

The commission reflected on their learnings from an initial viewing of the maps.

What surprised you?

- the low number of Affirming congregations and at some of the areas with a low level of people who identify as United Church of Canada
- helpful to have demographics related to new ministry proposals
- as we look at amalgamations and collaborative ministries I can see ways to use the map as a reference point
- great resources for the church's living faith story. But most importantly we can use it for the expansion of church mission. It already puts the information together.
- how can we connect our mission with the community? This is good and useful
- look at the forest rather than trees, this will help us understand where to direct resources, expand mission.
- shows us information related to people who are not represented in our own data -- shifts the echo chamber of talking to ourselves
- how can this information help us direct strategy?
- we have lots of property in metro Toronto, but that is not where population is growing
- what are the needs in the community?
- this will also be a valuable resource for communities of faith
- love the layers of information layered over actual map to help us engage with the data.
- information from the current census won't be available until late in the year
- the last 15 months of Covid have changed the game in so many ways
- Edge can do individual congregation reports as a service
- we will have a set of maps in a directory; we have more data that we will use as an internal side

When you look at a map of the region, what do you see?

- I see potential
- concentration of communities of faith around the GTA

- Toronto has lots of communities of faith. Less populated areas have fewer. There is more potential north of Toronto.
- I see some communities really spread out and some really close
- water
- more northern communities are spread out in comparison to the clumping in the GTA.
- wondering how many communities of faith are viable?
- what is internet availability?
- our presence is not distributed proportionately to population. Most high-density FSAs don't have United Church locations
- wealth concentrates as you move south
- interesting to see pockets of higher income
- household income in the north is less, how does this intersect with age? areas in the north have a higher age and lower income
- northern part of the region is stronger in United Church of Canada affiliation
- some church deserts in suburbs of Toronto
- concentration of communities of faith in Toronto does not reflect affiliation
- the northern section of the region is more rural and appears less diverse
- some congregations attract people from outside their catchment area; how does this fit with our vision?
- How do we map online communities?
- churches are wondering how to better serve everyone post pandemic?
- How does the beyond border/boundary population connect and identify -- this is our Covid experience -- now what?

Susie invited folks to continue to offer questions and comments to her via email. United-in-Learning is offering a webinar series looking at the post-pandemic church: The Church has left the Building!: <https://www.united-in-learning.com/index.php/webinars/397-the-church-has-left-the-building>

The chair offered thanks to Sharon, Susie, Kevin and Chris for their work. This will be an excellent resource.

### **Updates (cont'd)**

Saint Luke's United Church, Toronto: property development

Jody Maltby reported that the congregation is ready to submit documentation for approval and asked what supporting information would be helpful to the commission. We acknowledge that this is our first development approval so it will be a learning opportunity for the commission. Chris Bennett and Harry Ramsaran reported on the presentation from United Property Resource Centre (UPRC) on Monday. It was helpful to have the facts and important that the property will continue to belong to the United Church with the resources from the development supporting ministry. Some clarification is needed about roles between congregation, the region and UPRC. It will be important

May 19, 2021

to know the congregation has the governance structure to support the project and that UPRC and the congregation will be able to move through the decisions that need to be made with support from the commission.

Don Mills, Toronto: property development

Jody Maltby reported that Don Mills United Church is having conversations with United Property Resource Centre (UPRC) and Toronto United Church Council (TUCC) about a possible development of their property.

Le Ministère Protestant francophone de Toronto

Jody Maltby reported on behalf of Kim Uyede-Kai that the congregation has decided to delay a covenanting service with the region and focus instead on a celebration of their 5<sup>th</sup> year as a United Church mission. The service will be on Sunday, July 4<sup>th</sup> at 12:30 p.m. All are welcome from the regional council and it would be particularly good if one or two representatives of the commission could join. Le Ministère Protestant francophone de Toronto and the congregation of Downsview United Church are deepening their relationship as a partnership in shared space.

St. Bartholomew's United Church, Brampton – Manse Funds

Jody Maltby reported that the Region of Peel is requesting a survey and remediation of all water connections with non-residential buildings. This will require removal of asbestos insulation from around the water pipes inside the entry point to the building. The quote for the work is \$5,000 to complete the work and provide certification of compliance to the Region. The congregation made a request to use capital from the Manse Fund previously for a roof repair which the Staff Lead was able to approve as per the commission's Finance and Property Policy. Because this is a second request, approval of the commission is required.

**MOTION** by Cindy Randall /Amy Lee that the Communities of Faith Commission of Shining Waters Regional Council approve the request of St. Bartholomew's United Church, Brampton to use approximately \$5,000 from the Manse Fund to complete the work required by the Region of Peel for the remediation of water connections.

**MOTION**

**CARRIED**

Jody Maltby reported that,

- The temporary amendment allowing congregations to defer their Annual Meeting has been extended to December 31, 2021.
- There are currently two nominations processes underway for the Intercultural Diversity Commission and the General Council Commissioners. Please consider if you know anyone who might be a good candidate and encourage them to apply.

*The Commission took a 15-minute break.*

### **Property Policy**

Harry Ramsaran, Gloria Tozek and Jody Maltby presented their initial draft of a recommendation to the Executive regarding use of funds under the Sale of Property policy and where property is declared surplus in an amalgamation. They also presented a first draft of a policy regarding property development. The commission made suggestions. The task group will do further work and bring a second draft to the next meeting.

### **Funding Priorities Conversation**

Gloria Tozek and Chris Bennett provided an update on the ongoing conversation regarding funding priorities. Current participants include the Social and Ecological Justice Commission, the Grants Review Committee and Mission Support Committee and the Executive. It was noted that there are overlapping and intersecting conversations and this can be a bit confusing. The working group is tasked with developing and recommending a framework for the granting processes in the region.

The next meeting of this group is May 26<sup>th</sup>.

### **Camp Updates**

Jeffrey Dale noted that the recent announcement by Doug Ford that camps would open this summer has created confusion and concern for some and excitement for others.

Some of the camps plan to offer online programs while others hope to have onsite camping.

The GO Project and Camp Awesome are also developing modified programs for the summer. Camp Awesome is excited to have received 15 grants through Canada Summer Jobs program, including some in Canadian Shield Regional Council which will be a great partnership.

### **Joint meeting with Pastoral Relations Commission, June 15<sup>th</sup>, 1 – 3 p.m.**

Jody Maltby reported on a joint meeting with the Pastoral Relations Commission on June 15<sup>th</sup>. The first hour will focus on the Pastoral Relations Commission Equity project and we will be joined by members of the Equity Committee, the Executive and some General Council staff. For the second hour, the two commissions (Communities of Faith and Pastoral Relations) will share some information. Susie Henderson will share about the work we are doing on Mapping and Living Faith Stories. An email with details will come out next week.



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Harry Ramsaran volunteered to give an acknowledgement of land and safe space for the gathering.

### **Closing**

Gloria Tozek thanked everyone for their participation and offered blessings on the day. The meeting adjourned at 12:02 p.m.

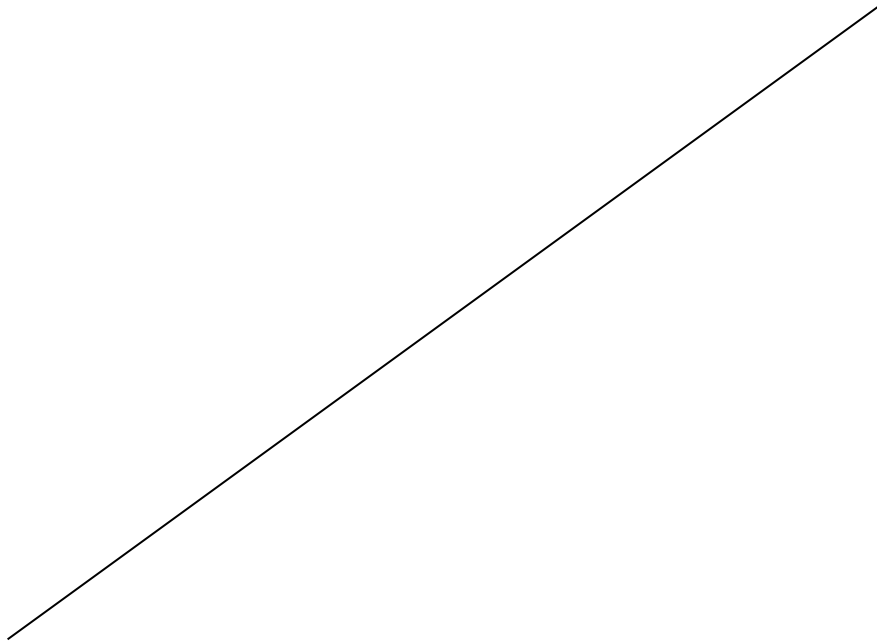
### **Next Meeting(s)**

June 15, 2021 at 1:00 p.m.,

joint meeting with Pastoral Relations Commission via video conference

June 16, 2021 at 9:30 a.m.,

Communities of Faith Commission meeting via video conference. Chris will offer a land acknowledgement and safe space. Diane is on deck for the next meeting.



June 7, 2021

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

**Minutes of a meeting of the  
Communities of Faith Commission  
Monday, June 7, 2021**

The Communities of Faith Commission of Shining Waters Regional Council met on Monday, June 7, 2021 by video conference call. The meeting began at 2:00 p.m.

**Present:**

Gloria Tozek (chair), Carolyn Harding, Cindy Randall, Sandra Nottegar, Calin Lau, Kevin Logie, Chris Bennett (vice-chair)

Staff: Jody Maltby, Jeffrey Dale, Diane Matheson-Jimenez, Kim Uyede-Kai

Guests: Jim Keenan, Intentional Interim Minister of Saint Luke's United Church and Tim Blair, CEO of the United Property Resource Corporation (UPRC).

Absent: Harry Ramsaran

The meeting was called to address the request of Saint Luke's, Toronto, for regional council approval for their project to redevelop the church property in partnership with the United Property Resource Corporation.

Gloria Tozek welcomed everyone and asked the members of the commission to introduce themselves to Jim Keenan and Tim Blair. Cindy Randall opened the meeting with prayer.

Jim Keenan provided some background on the history of the congregation and the proposed development and spoke to the viability of the congregation. Tim Blair provided details about the proposed redevelopment and the role that UPRC will play. The members of the commission asked questions.

Gloria thanked Jim and Tim for their participation and they left the meeting. The commission had further discussion about the request.

**MOTION** by Carolyn Harding/Chris Bennett that the Communities of Faith Commission of Shining Waters Regional Council approves the redevelopment project of Saint Luke's United Church, Toronto, in partnership with the United Property Resource Corporation, with the understanding that the congregation and UPRC will provide regular reports at each milestone of the project.

**MOTION**

**CARRIED**

The congregation is asked to return with a plan for the use of income generated by the redeveloped property for approval when appropriate.

Gloria Tozek thanked the members of the commission for their participation. The meeting adjourned at 3:28 p.m.

Next Meeting:

Tuesday, June 15, 2021 1:00 – 3:00 p.m., joint meeting with the Pastoral Relations Commission

Wednesday, June 16, 2021 at 9:30 a.m., regular meeting of the commission.

June 16, 2021

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

**Minutes of a meeting of the  
Communities of Faith Commission  
Wednesday, June 16, 2021**

The Communities of Faith Commission of Shining Waters Regional Council met on Wednesday, June 16, 2021 by video conference call. The meeting began at 9:34 a.m.

**Present:**

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

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

**Regrets:** Harry Ramsaran

**Welcome, check in and prayer**

The chairperson welcomed everyone, and opened with Romans 8:38. Chris Bennett 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.

Members checked in.

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

**Agenda**

**MOTION** by Carolyn Harding/Chris Bennett that the agenda be approved as amended.

**MOTION**

**CARRIED**

**Minutes**

**MOTION** by Amy Lee/Cindy Randall that the Minutes of the meetings of the Communities of Faith Commission of Shining Waters Regional Council dated May 19, 2021 and June 7, 2021 be approved as circulated.

**MOTION**

**CARRIED**

## Email votes

The following decisions were made by email:

- Eglinton St. George's - accessible lift project

approved the project of Eglinton-St. George's United Church, Toronto, for the installation of an accessible lift.

approved the request of Eglinton-St. George's United Church, Toronto, to use their Manse Fund to fund the installation of an accessible lift.

- Humbercrest – leases

approved the lease between Humbercrest United Church, Toronto, and Eric Frisch for April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021 to March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2022

approved the lease between Humbercrest United Church, Toronto, and Evan Redsky for June 15<sup>th</sup>, 2021 to June 14<sup>th</sup>, 2022.

- Kingston Road – roof replacement and TUCC loan

approved the request of Kingston Road United Church, Toronto, to replace their slate roofing with asphalt shingles including localized cladding repairs.

approved the request of Kingston Road United Church, Toronto, for a loan with Toronto United Church Council (TUCC) in the amount of \$615,358.35 for the replacement of their slate roofing with asphalt shingles and localized cladding repairs.

- Metropolitan – livestream and sound system

approved the project of Metropolitan United Church to upgrade their livestream and sound system.

**Living Faith Story and Mapping Process** – *Kevin Logie, Chris Bennett, Susie Henderson*  
Link to Online Map

<https://edgeucc.maps.arcgis.com/apps/instant/interactivelegend/index.html?appid=83d422301ac34870b33332b8d08211d4>

The Commission was introduced to the online tool beginning on May 19<sup>th</sup> and again on June 16<sup>th</sup> and we spent some time reviewing the preliminary maps: Number of pastoral charges and communities of faith; Indigenous communities of faith; Affirming Communities; United Church locations in 1965 and the UCC Affiliation in the census.

## **SUMMARY OF MAY 19<sup>TH</sup> CONVERSATION**

Here are the comments from the reflections that were recorded in the chat. They have not been edited much beyond sorting them into categories. Based on the comments, Susie has proposed some opportunities to explore further to be discussed next time.

### **WHAT DO WE SEE?**

- I see potential
- There is lots of property in Toronto, but not where the population is growing
- Toronto has lots. Less populated have fewer.
- Concentration of communities of faith around GTA
- More potential north of Toronto
- More northern communities are spread out in comparison to the clumping in the GTA.
- I see some communities of faith are really spread out and some are really close
- Lots of water
- Our presence is not distributed proportionately to population. Most highest density FSAs (Forward Sortation Areas, postal codes) don't have UC locations
- North is stronger in UCC affiliation
- Not surprising, but generally more open communities of faith in higher income neighbourhoods
- Some church deserts in suburbs of TO
- More WASP (white Anglo-Saxon protestant) in the north
- Older in the north
- Rural in the north
- Concentration of communities of faith in Toronto does not reflection affiliation
- Valuable resource for communities of faith

### **SURPRISES?**

- Low number of Affirming Communities
- Low level of people who identify as UCC especially around Barrie

### **CONNECTIONS?**

- Love how the layers work
- Shows us information related to people who are not represented in our own data -- shifts the echo chamber of talking to ourselves
- Household income in the north is less, how does it intersect with age
- Interesting to see where there are pockets of higher income
- Wealth concentrates as you move south
- North higher age and lower income

### **WHAT ARE WE CURIOUS ABOUT?**

- How many communities of faith are viable?
- How do we map online communities! Churches are wondering how to better serve everyone post zoom?

- How do we engage people outside the catchment area? how does it fit? Doesn't follow the rules for congregations?
- How does the beyond border/boundary population connect and identify -- this is our COVID experience -- now what?

### **WHAT'S MISSING?**

- COVID context last 15 months has changed the game in so many ways
- What are the needs in the communities that aren't on these maps?

### **WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR OUR WORK?**

- How can this information help us direct strategy?
- Looking at the forest rather than trees, helps us understand where to direct resources, expand mission.
- Helpful to have demographics related to new ministry proposals
- As we look at amalgamations and collaborative ministries I can see ways to use the map as a reference point
- Edge can do individual congregation reports as a service
- Demographics are great resources for the church's living faith story. But most importantly we can use it for the expansion of church mission. It already puts the information together.
- How can we connect our mission with the community? This is good and useful.

### **MOVING FORWARD**

- Are there some categories/sub-groupings that would be useful to see on our map for future conversations?
  - Existing relationships: Clusters; Collaborative Ministries
  - Affinity groups? Population density? (small/medium/large) New/emerging ministries? Ministries with particular populations?
- Shall we take a deeper dive into the research related to affinity with The United Church and religious engagement in general?

### **SUMMARY OF JUNE 16<sup>th</sup> CONVERSATION**

Reflections included the following:

- Disconnect between locations and population growth;
- Density and wealth more concentrated as you move south
- There are a number of places without UCC presence
- Older population in the north with higher UCC affiliation
- Recognize COVID landscape not reflected here
- Wondered how we can use this work to direct strategy.

### **REVIEW POPULATION MAPS**

The Commission spent some time reviewing the population maps: Average Sunday attendance; Population; Age; Seniors living alone; People per household; Children Per Household; United Church affiliation; No Religious affiliation.

June 16, 2021

Here are the comments:

- There is a high percent of seniors living alone in Muskoka area and pockets in GTA -- more dispersed than previously thought
- Thinking more about seniors, where the percentages are lower, does this mean there are fewer seniors living there or that fewer of them are living alone?
- What does the percentage under Language at home mean?
- Dynamic between age and children -- surprised that downtown Toronto has so many young people
- Destination churches go beyond geography
- Can we map demographic make-up of congregations?
- COVID has changed the demographic, attendance beyond geographic borders and generally less geographic based – let's explore that in the future
- What is the criteria for the base map in terms of what's included there and what isn't?

### **MOVING FORWARD**

- Sandra, Kevin and Susie will read the article on Religious Nones and report back, <https://www.cmacan.org/religious-nones/>
- We will continue to think about opportunities to create affinity groupings – that could include opportunities for people to work together, or lenses to see particular dimensions on the regional map
- Next time: maps on property and wealth; joint conversations with Pastoral Relations on Ministry and Intercultural Commission on ethnicity/language/immigration maps.

### **Funding Priorities Conversation**, update – *Gloria Tozek, Chris Bennett, Jody Maltby*

Gloria Tozek and Chris Bennett reported on the conversation on May 26<sup>th</sup>. They noted that there is tension in offering funding to new applicants because it will have implications for current recipients. It can also be challenging to focus on policy rather than the needs of individual recipients.

A report went to the Executive at their meeting on June 10<sup>th</sup>. The Executive was comfortable with the direction in the report. The commission requested time to review the report so it will be revisited at the September meeting.

**MOTION** by Cindy Randall / Kevin Logie that the Communities of Faith Commission of Shining Waters Regional Council receive the report, *DRAFT Recommendation to the Executive for a Framework for Grants in SWRC* for information.

**MOTION**

**CARRIED**



**Review of Commission Mandate – Jody Maltby**

Jody Maltby reported that the Executive requested that the commission review its Mandate and offer recommendations. The members asked for time to review the mandate so it will be an agenda item at the September meeting.

**Property Policy – Gloria Tozek, Harry Ramsaran, Jody Maltby**

- Recommendation to Executive regarding use of funds

**MOTION** by Kevin Logie / Sandra Nottegar that the Communities of Faith Commission of Shining Waters Regional Council approve the Recommendation to the Executive regarding the property policy use of funds, amended to reflect LGBTQ2S+, and forward to the Executive for consideration.

**MOTION**

**CARRIED**

- Policy regarding property development

The commission deferred a decision on this policy to consult with UPRC around a definition of development with respect to property.

- Questions regarding sale of manse

Jody Maltby reported on her conversation with the Trustees of Stouffville United Church which raised questions about the section of the Finance and Property policy related to sale of property and use of manse funds. Also, the question was raised whether the Policy regarding sale of property by a community of faith that continues to exist applies to manses or only to church buildings. The commission agreed it applies to church buildings but not to manses, which are covered by the Finance and Property policy. The commission appreciated that decisions around Agreements of Purchase and Sale for houses are closed quickly and do not wish to delay this process.

**MOTION** by Amy Lee / Cindy Randall that the Communities of Faith Commission of Shining Waters Regional Council gives approval for congregations wishing to sell a manse to work with any real estate agent who is arms-length from the congregation. Regional approval is required for the listing price for the property. Provided the sale price is at or above the listing price, and the congregation works with a real estate agent and lawyer, regional approval is not required for the Agreement of Purchase and Sale.

**MOTION**

**CARRIED**

Jody Maltby will update the policies and bring to the September meeting for consideration. The above motion will allow Stouffville to proceed prior to the changes being made in the policy.

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- Approval of lease renewals

The question was asked whether the commission needs to review the renewal of a lease agreement where the original lease was approved. The commission agreed that if there are changes in terms, the renewal should be reviewed by the commission. If the only change in the terms is a rent increase, the congregation is not required to seek legal advice, although it is always recommended.

Jody Maltby will update the policy and bring to the September meeting for consideration.

- Consolidation to a single property policy

Jody Maltby reported that she is working on consolidating all policies related to property – both from the Executive and from the commission – into one policy. This work will continue based on today's decisions. The final version will come to both bodies for consideration.

*The Commission took a 15-minute break.*

### **Joint Meeting with Pastoral Relations Commission – debrief**

The final version of the Equity report will be shared with the commission. The Pastoral Relations Commission has asked us to consider when a minister retires but continues with the same pastoral charge, is this an opportunity to review the Living Faith Story? Staff will be working on this in the fall and will bring to the commission for consideration.

### **Staff Updates**

Jody Maltby reported that only a few congregations have provided a plan for repayment of Canada Emergency Bank Account (CEBA) loans. The requirement was to provide a plan for repayment by June 2021. Given that the pandemic continues, the commission agreed to wait until after the summer to follow up with congregations. Staff will contact congregations in September.

Jeffrey Dale reported that staff for the Camp Awesome summer program will be starting work during the week of June 21<sup>st</sup>. They are a diverse group who will be engaging with the region mostly online.

Diane Matheson reported that Knox United Church, Sutton and Virginia United Church have written their collaboration agreement and it will be considered by both congregations in July, after which it will come to the commission via email vote.

Susie Henderson reported that the Wellspring blog this month focuses on Dorothy's Place, a seniors' outreach program at Birchcliff Bluffs United Church, Scarborough that is being honoured for its work by Pride Toronto.

<https://mailchi.mp/united-church/swrc-pride-celebration-wellspring>

Shining Waters Regional Pride Celebration will be June 24<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m.

Summer Wellspring will be lifting up experiments of having church outside as opposed to just online. If you have suggestions for the blog, please let Susie know.

### **Closing**

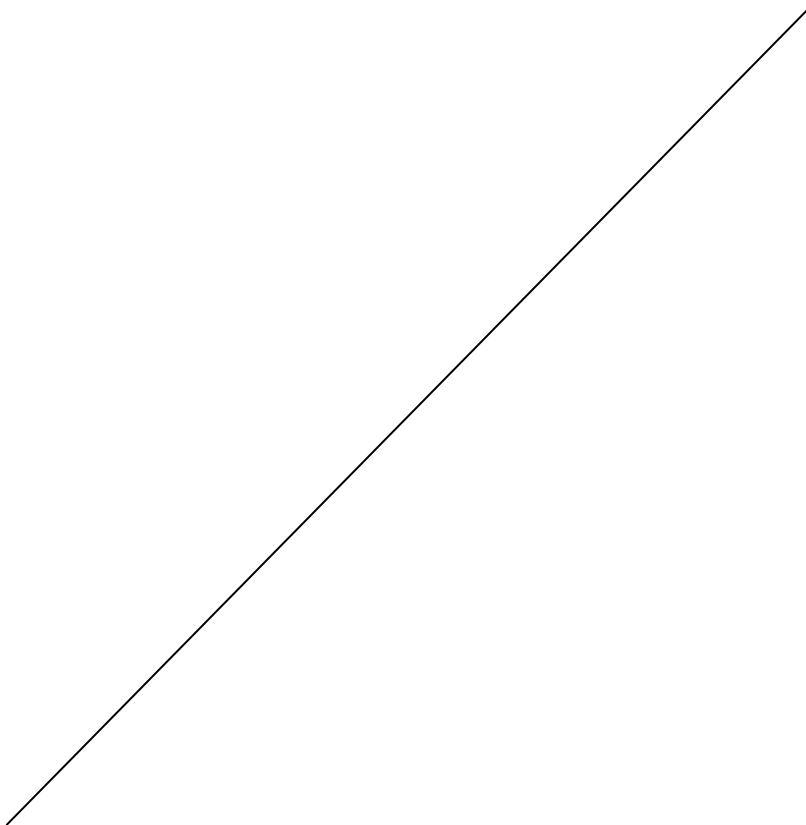
The chair thanked everyone for participation and for the fruitful discussion. The commission will take the summer off from meetings unless needed. Where possible, votes will be addressed by email.

The chair offered blessings and the meeting adjourned at 11:37 a.m.

### **Next Meeting:**

Over the summer at the call of the Chair.

September 15, 2021 at 9:30 a.m. via video conference. Diane Matheson will offer a Land Acknowledgement.



September 15, 2021

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

**Minutes of a meeting of the  
Communities of Faith Commission  
Wednesday, September 15, 2021**

The Communities of Faith Commission of Shining Waters Regional Council met on Wednesday, September 15, 2021 by video conference call. The meeting began at 9:30 a.m.

**Present:**

Chris Bennett, Carolyn Harding, Calin Lau, Amy Lee, Cindy Randall, Gloria Tozek

Staff: Jody Maltby, Diane Matheson-Jimenez, Jeffrey Dale, Rachael Howes

Guest: Tim Blair

**Regrets:** Kevin Logie, Sandra Nottegar

**Absent:** Harry Ramsaran

**Welcome, check in and prayer**

The chairperson welcomed everyone and members checked in. The chairperson opened the meeting with a prayer from the Equity Report.

Diane Matheson 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 chairperson constituted the meeting in the name of Jesus Christ.

**Agenda**

Remove Mapping Project and add letter from Fairlawn in its place

Add Locust Hill Pastoral Charge closing to agenda

**MOTION** by Calin Lau / Amy Lee 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 June 16, 2021 be approved as circulated.

**MOTION**

**CARRIED**

## Email votes

The following decisions were made by email:

- Knox United Church, Sutton & Virginia United Church – Collaboration Agreement  
approved the Collaboration Agreement between Knox Sutton United Church and Virginia United Church
- Trinity United Church, Newmarket – Constitution  
approved the Constitution of Trinity United Church, Newmarket, dated May 16, 2021
- Parkwoods United Church, Toronto – Constitution  
approved the Constitution and Organization Framework of Parkwoods United Church dated June 11, 2021.
- Ghana Calvary Methodist United Church, Toronto – loan application  
approved the loan application of Ghana Calvary Methodist United Church, Toronto with Toronto United Church Council through the Toronto Southeast Presbytery Major Capital Fund in the amount of \$160,000 for capital repairs to the building due to flood damage.
- Parry Sound Rural Pastoral Charge – name change  
approved the change of name of the Parry Sound Rural Pastoral Charge to Sequin Pioneer Pastoral Charge.
- Stouffville United Church – sale of manse  
approved the request of Stouffville United Church to sell the manse located at 22 Duchess Street in Stouffville, ON, provided the congregation works with an arms-length real estate agent. Regional approval is required for the list price of the property. If the sale price is equal to or greater than the list price, and the congregation works with a real estate agent and a lawyer, regional approval of the Agreement of Purchase and Sale is not required.
- St. Mark's United Church, Scarborough – TUCC loan  
approved the loan application by St. Mark's, Scarborough, to Toronto United Church Council (TUCC) in the amount of \$30,000 for the installation of an elevator.
- St. Matthew's United Church, Toronto – redevelopment project  
approved the redevelopment project of St. Matthew's United Church, Toronto, in partnership with the United Property Resource Corporation (UPRC), with the understanding that the congregation and UPRC will provide for approval when ready a definitive agreement between the parties, and a plan for the use of the

September 15, 2021

income generated by the redeveloped property, and regular reports at each milestone of the project.

- Royal York Road United Church, Toronto – lease approved the lease between Royal York Road United Church, Toronto, and The Learning Common Inc., dated August 12, 2021, for the term September 1, 2021 to August 31, 2023.
- Painswick United Church, Barrie – disbanding approved the request of Painswick United Church to disband the pastoral charge as a recognized community of faith effective September 30, 2021 with thanks to God for the ministry of this congregation.

approved the request of Painswick United Church to share the 10% of their assets equally among the charities: the Food Bank, Mission and Service Fund, and IOOF.

- Glebe Road United Church, Toronto – lease approved the lease agreement between Glebe Road United Church, Toronto, and The Study Academy with a term of one year commencing September 1, 2021.
- Fairlawn Avenue United Church, Toronto – Intentional Interim Ministry concurred with the recommendation of the Intentional Interim Ministries Committee and does not approve the request of Fairlawn Avenue United Church, Toronto, for an extension of their intentional interim ministry to June 30, 2023.
- Saint Luke's United Church, Toronto – IMM concurs with the recommendation of the Intentional Interim Ministries Committee and approves the request of Saint Luke's United Church, Toronto, for an extension of their intentional interim ministry for a maximum of two additional years to September 2024.

#### **Locust Hill Pastoral Charge, Markham – Jody Maltby**

**MOTION** by Cindy Randall / Chris Bennett that in accordance with The Manual (2021) section G.1.5.2, the Communities of Faith Commission of Shining Waters Regional Council disbands Locust Hill Pastoral Charge as a recognized community of faith effective September 30, 2021 with thanks to God for the ministry of this congregation.

**MOTION**

**CARRIED**

According to the minutes of the former Living Waters Presbytery, the congregation made the decision to close in 2018. The presbytery appointed trustees but did not pass a motion to disband the congregation. Jody Maltby is working with United Property Resource

Corporation and Toronto United Church Council to determine the best use of the building going forward.

**MOTION** by Carolyn Harding / Amy Lee that the Communities of Faith Commission of Shining Waters Regional Council remove Rose Cambourne and Shirley Baster as Trustees of Locust Hill United Church and add Janet MacDonald as a Trustee of Locust Hill United Church.

**MOTION**

**CARRIED**

**Review of Commission Mandate – *Jody Maltby***

The Commission had discussion on the commission mandate.

There was a suggestion of strategic planning, how do we move forward now that we have some knowledge and experience as a Commission in the new structure. Jody suggested this could include revamping the Service, Support and Oversight to Communities of Faith Policy. Gloria and Jody will have some discussion around this.

The Commission acknowledged that they have reviewed the Policy and will advise the Executive that they have no recommendations for changes but do recommend the creation of an organizational chart that demonstrates both overlap and gaps in the work of the commissions and committees.

**Property Development – *guest Tim Blair***

Update on work of United Property Resource Corporation (UPRC):

Tim Blair reported that UPRC has a Memorandum of Understanding with City of Toronto on their support for our projects; they are working with a planning team from the City on all of our projects which will help with the process. They are working on three Shining Waters owned properties through the same planning team.

Saint Luke's – zoning application has been submitted.

St. Matthew's – pre-consultation has been submitted.

Richmond Hill - UPRC has sent a letter of intent to Richmond Hill UC on how UPRC can work with them on their project of a community/cultural space

Property Development Policy:

The Commission received input from Tim Blair on the draft policy.

Next step – the working group of Gloria, Harry and Jody will meet to finish the drafting of the policy and bring it back to the Commission for approval and motion.

September 15, 2021

Tim Blair left the meeting.

**Fairlawn Avenue United Church, Toronto – Jody Maltby**

A letter was received from Fairlawn Avenue United Church regarding the recent motion on not approving the extension of their intentional interim ministry.

Diane Matheson-Jimenez gave background information on Fairlawn's request for an extension. It was felt best to have conversation about this at the Commission before responding to the letter.

In light of the conversation, the Commission did not feel it necessary to revisit their decision. Jody and Diane will respond to the letter outlining some of the points arising from the conversation and the reasons for the decision. There are also helpful learnings that will be incorporated into the policy and practices around IIMs.

The meeting took an all-purpose break.

**St Paul's United Church, Brampton Listening Team Report – Diane Matheson-Jimenez**

The Listening Team Report was shared with the Commission. Diane spoke to some key highlights.

**MOTION**: Cindy Randall / Calin Lau that the Communities of Faith Commission of Shining Waters Regional Council accept the recommendations of the Listening Team Report on St. Paul's United Church Brampton, as presented.

**MOTION**

**CARRIED**

**Nominations – Jody Maltby**

Jody confirmed the terms of the members of the Commission.

End of First Term in 2021: Harry Ramsaran, Gloria Tozek

End of Second Term in 2021: Cindy Randall

There are two additional vacancies

Members with a term ending in 2022: Carolyn Harding, Calin Lau, Amy Lee

Members with a term ending in 2023: Kevin Logie (second term), Sandra Nottegar (second term), Chris Bennett

There is a Town Hall gathering for nominations on October 13th at 7 p.m. which will include representatives from all commissions and committees available to give information. Chris Bennett and Carolyn Harding agreed to attend for the Communities of Faith Commission.



**Update on Youth, Young Adults and Faith Formation – *Jeffrey Dale***

Jeffrey reported that this summer, we had 15 students between Shining Waters and Canadian Shield regions working for us. He shared how the students working with Shining Waters engaged with the region. Their work will be shared online on the SW website.

He is starting conversations with people working in youth ministry in the regions; October 7<sup>th</sup> is the first conversation.

The GO Project in partnership with the region will do a confirmation program.

He is working with two other regional council ministers regarding a day of workshops for people involved in children's times in worship services.

**Covenants, Living Faith Stories, Self-Assessments Project – *Karen Hilfman Millson***

Karen reported on the project that she will be doing from now to the end of the year:

Every community of faith needs to have a Living Faith story. She will put together a resource that will include the tools for communities of faith to create their Living Faith story which will allow them to be as independent as possible to do their work. The Living Faith story will help them towards doing their self-assessments. It will be a process that is supporting and encouraging of communities of faith. A roll-out will be also be developed. The Living Faith stories have to be reviewed and she will recommend how that will happen.

She also hopes to create short videos that can be used within the communities of faith that will explain the process and help them through it.

Every Community of Faith needs to have a covenant with the regional council. There are some components that we will create and components that the community of faith creates and then there will be a covenanting service.

**Information sharing – *Kim Uyede-Kai***

Kim shared the following information;

Carters Law offers church and charity seminars every year. There is one online on November 4<sup>th</sup>. It is very worthwhile. Some topics include key issues on drafting employment contracts, developing brand identity, mergers and acquisitions.

September 30<sup>th</sup> is National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. It is the first statutory holiday for this issue. General Council decided to make it a paid holiday for their staff and are recommending that communities of faith offer it as a paid holiday for their staff. There lots of resources for education on this topic that could be accessed on this day.

September 15, 2021

**Recommendations regarding email votes and check-list – Jody Maltby**

There were many email votes over this last summer which brings to focus that we need to ensure the Commission has a break.

The Commission agreed that the Commission will take a break over Christmas and Easter and for two weeks in the summer. This year, the commission will not consider any email votes from December 15<sup>th</sup> 2021 to January 4<sup>th</sup> 2022 and for Holy Week (April 8<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> 2022). The commission will also not consider any email votes during the last week of July and the first week of August each year.

These breaks will be communicated to the region through the Currents Newsletter and on the website, so communities of faith can work it into their timelines.

Loans and Leases Checklist – this was created to make sure all criteria is met when considering these items.

Jody will be working on the leases section of Finance and Property policy to update it around the use of the money generated by the lease. UPRC is developing a lease template that we hope to make available to congregations.

**Closing:** the meeting closed at 12:29 p.m. and Gloria extended blessings to everyone.

**Next Meeting:** October 20th, 2021 at 9:30 a.m. – Land Acknowledgement will be given by Jody Maltby

October 20, 2021

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

**Minutes of a meeting of the  
Communities of Faith Commission  
Wednesday, October 20, 2021**

The Communities of Faith Commission of Shining Waters Regional Council met on Wednesday, October 20, 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, Harry Ramsaran

Jody Maltby (Staff Lead), Diane Matheson, Rachael Howes

Guests: Mary Ellen Richardson, Morrey Ewing, Amanda Hancox, Steve Dunk, all of Fairlawn United Church

Absent: Harry Ramsaran

**Welcome, check in and prayer**

The chairperson welcomed everyone and introductions were made. Jody Maltby 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 offered a reading from a Richard Wagamese book and an opening prayer.

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

**Fairlawn United Church – Intentional Interim Ministry**

The guests from Fairlawn United Church offered their presentation to the commission regarding the extension of their intentional interim ministry.

**Agenda**

**MOTION** by Cindy Randall / Amy Lee that the agenda be approved as presented.  
**MOTION** **CARRIED**

**Minutes**

**MOTION** by Chris Bennett / Carolyn Harding that the Minutes of the meetings of the Communities of Faith Commission of Shining Waters Regional Council dated September 15, 2021 be approved as circulated.  
**MOTION** **CARRIED**

### **Email Votes Conversation**

There had been some concerns raised about the volume of email votes. Some email votes had also gone out without full background information from staff. The group reviewed the intent behind setting up the task groups, and discussed what should come to a meeting and what can be dealt with by email vote.

Jody Maltby will bring a proposal to the next meeting based on this discussion.

### **Fairlawn United Church**

The commission had a discussion around the Intentional Interim Ministry at Fairlawn United Church and the presentation made by Fairlawn at this meeting.

**MOTION** by Cindy Randall / Calin Lau that the Communities of Faith Commission of Shining Waters Regional Council agree to the request of Fairlawn United Church, Toronto, for a final extension of the intentional interim ministry to June 2023, that the intentional interim ministry end in June of 2023, and that this approval is conditional on Fairlawn developing a plan of action with specific timelines with regional council staff support, and that the plan be submitted to and monitored by the Shining Waters Intentional Interim Ministry Committee.

**MOTION**

**CARRIED**

The meeting took an all-purpose break.

### **Cummer Avenue United Church**

**MOTION** by Chris Bennett / Sandra Nottegar that the Communities of Faith Commission of Shining Waters Regional Council approve the request of Cummer Avenue United Church, Toronto, to borrow an amount equal to or less than the amount of the outstanding pledges arising from its capital appeal, with a maximum amount of \$400,000, using the housing allowance fund as security.

**MOTION**

**CARRIED**

### **Severn Shores United Church, Severn Bridge**

**MOTION** by Kevin Logie / Chris Bennett that the Communities of Faith Commission of Shining Waters Regional Council approves the request of Severn Shores United Church to disband the pastoral charge as a recognized community of faith effective December 31, 2021 with thanks to God for the ministry of this congregation

**MOTION**

**CARRIED**

October 20, 2021

**Meadowvale Korean United Church, Toronto**

**MOTION** by Amy Lee / Carolyn Harding that the Communities of Faith Commission of Shining Waters Regional Council approves the request of Meadowvale Korean United Church to disband the pastoral charge as a recognized community of faith effective November 30, 2021 with thanks to God for the ministry of this congregation

**MOTION**

**CARRIED**

**Alpha Korean United Church, Toronto**

**MOTION** by Amy Lee / Chris Bennett that the Communities of Faith Commission of Shining Waters Regional Council approves the request of Alpha Korean United Church, Toronto, to change their name to Toronto Korean United Church.

**MOTION**

**CARRIED**

**Rosedale United Church, Toronto**

**MOTION** by Chris Bennett / Cindy Randall that the Communities of Faith Commission of Shining Waters Regional Council approves the request of Rosedale United Church, Toronto, to replace the sanctuary's east roof.

**MOTION**

**CARRIED**

**Mapping Process – Susie Henderson**

Susie Henderson gave an update and review on the mapping process.

There is a concentration of communities of faith in the south but there is not a United Church in every high-density population area. In the north there is a higher United Church affiliation, which is probably related to the age demographic as there is an older population in the north. There is a concentration in wealth in the south and there is less cultural diversity in the north.

There will be a fuller discussion at an upcoming meeting.

**Property Policy – Jody Maltby**

Jody walked the commission through the *Regional Council Executive and Communities of Faith Commission: Property Policy* document. It brings together all of the property policies that have been approved by the Executive and the Communities of Faith Commission. Much of it has already been approved and this is simply a consolidation.

**MOTION** by Kevin Logie / Amy Lee that the Communities of Faith Commission of Shining Waters Regional Council approve the *Regional Council Executive and Communities of Faith Commission: Property Policy* as presented.

**MOTION**

**CARRIED**

**Funding Priorities** – update and motion by Executive – *Jody Maltby*

Jody reported executive approved the Commission's recommendation around funds received under the policy regarding sale of property by an existing community of faith, and funds declared surplus property in an amalgamation.

The Grants & Mission Support Committee are in the midst of a process of setting priorities for funding support. They are looking at a 3-year funding model for the community ministries. A task group is being formed with staff support from Jeffrey Dale and representation from the region as well as this commission and others, and representation from the three community ministries to have discussions around sustainability. The Committee is looking at having a more open granting process in approximately five years.

**Strategic Planning** – *Gloria Tozek*

Gloria feels that it is time to do some more strategic planning as many things have changed over the last few years. She suggested a half-day session where we can take a look back, and bring in some of the mapping information, etc. She would like ideas from people around process.

The commission agreed to a tentative plan to have an in-person meeting on January 19<sup>th</sup> with the option of changing to a Zoom meeting in the event of inclement weather.

**Equity Report** – *Jody Maltby*

Jody has checked in with Dale Hildebrand of the Pastoral Relations Commission; they might be referring some of the recommendations within the region so will wait to see if any are referred to this Commission. They are breaking into small groups to work on the recommendations.

It was decided to defer the Equity Report until the Pastoral Relations Commission has had a chance to work through it.

**Closing**

The Chair thanked everyone for their work and offered a blessing. The meeting closed at 12:28 p.m.

October 20, 2021

**Next Meeting:** November 17th, 2021 at 9:30 a.m. Carolyn Harding will provide the land and safe space acknowledgement

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=ib7BxVIIYxU>). 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 19<sup>th</sup> 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 19<sup>th</sup> 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.

December 15, 2021

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

**Minutes of a meeting of the  
Communities of Faith Commission  
Wednesday, December 15, 2021**

The Communities of Faith Commission of Shining Waters Regional Council met on Wednesday, December 15, 2021 by video conference call. The meeting began at 9:30 a.m.

**Present:**

Chris Bennett, Carolyn Harding, Amy Lee, Kevin Logie, Cindy Randall, Patti Rodgers, Gloria Tozek, Harry Ramsaran

Staff: Susie Henderson, Jody Maltby, Diane Matheson-Jimenez, Rachael Howes

**Regrets:** Calin Lau, Sandra Nottegar,

**Welcome, check in and prayer**

The chairperson welcomed everyone, Susie Henderson 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. Susie also offered an opening song by video, *Mary Did You Know*, with lyrics by Jennifer Henry, Eric Lige and Edward Chen.

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

There was a time of check-in.

**Agenda**

An update about Rural Connect was added and the Agenda was accepted by consensus as amended.

**Minutes**

The question was raised as to whether we should name a community of faith in the Minutes when it pertains to a sensitive matter in that congregation; there is a need to be transparent, but also a need to be respectful of a congregation in struggle. It was suggested we could have in-camera discussions in those instances. Staff will do some reflection on this matter and possibly speak to the Executive, and the matter will come back to a future meeting.

**MOTION** by Harry Ramsaran / Kevin Logie that the Minutes of the meetings of the Communities of Faith Commission of Shining Waters Regional Council dated November 17, 2021 be approved as circulated.

**MOTION**

**CARRIED**

### **Correspondence**

A letter was prepared by Gloria Tozek and Susie Henderson on behalf of the Commission and sent to the congregation of Ebenezer United Church, Tiny, after their church building burned, to acknowledge their loss, and offering our caring and support.

### **Email Votes**

The following decisions were made by email:

- approved the lease between Lansing United Church, Toronto, and Toronto United Church Council dated December 1, 2021.
- approved the *Terms of Reference – External Church Board Members* document of Collier Street United Church, Barrie.
- approved the loan renewal of Northwest Barrie United Church with Toronto United Church Council with the following terms:
  - Date: January 1, 2022
  - Amount: up to \$112,602
  - Amortization: 5 years, 8 months
  - Term: 3 years
  - Interest: Bank of Nova Scotia 3-year mortgage rate or 4% whichever is the higher for the term as of the renewal date.
  - Payment: monthly payments, principal and interest.
  - Provisions: Renewal fee to be paid (\$ 281.50)
  - Security: First mortgage
  - Approval: Shining Waters Regional Council
  - Source of Funds: Investing in Ministry Fund

### **Ministry Plan – Karen Hilfman Millson**

Karen Hilfman Millson reviewed and explained her work on the Ministry Plan that she is developing. The Commission members had an opportunity to ask questions and provide feedback.

Patti Rodgers left the meeting.

The meeting took an all-purpose break.

### **Ministry Plan – *cont'd***

**MOTION** by Amy Lee / Chris Bennett that the Communities of Faith Commission of Shining Waters Regional Council accept, in principle, the policy and procedure document of the Ministry Plan presented.

**MOTION**

**CARRIED**

### **Reviews/Appeals – Jody Maltby**

In the last meeting, there was discussion about reviews and how the Commission would be managing those. Jody drew a comparison to the policy around appeals which is very specific. An appeal committee is appointed, the committee makes a decision, and that is

December 15, 2021

the decision of the region. She suggested that, as a Commission, we could use a similar model for doing reviews; that we have a policy in place that allows the commission to appoint a review committee of three people who then manage the review through to its completion. The Commission won't do the actual work of the review but has the responsibility for it. The Commission agreed with this suggestion and Jody will work on such a policy for reviews.

**Former Alpha Korean UC – Jody Maltby**

In October the Commission considered and approved a request from Alpha Korean United Church to change their name to Toronto Korean United Church. Subsequently, a letter of concern was received from Willowdale Emmanuel United Church. Research showed that an arbitration agreement dated November 8, 2003 states that neither Alpha or Omega churches would be able to use the name Toronto Korean United Church. Omega United Church is part of the amalgamated Willowdale Emmanuel United Church.

The Commission was asked to re-consider their motion around the name change.

**MOTION** by Carolyn Harding / Harry Ramsaran that the Communities of Faith Commission of Shining Waters Regional Council reconsider the motion of October 20<sup>th</sup>, 2021 to approve the request of Alpha Korean United Church, Toronto, to change their name to Toronto Korean United Church, based on the arbitration agreement dated November 8, 2003.

**MOTION**

**CARRIED**

MOTION by Kevin Logie / Chris Bennett that the Communities of Faith Commission of Shining Waters Regional Council approve the request of Alpha Korean United Church, Toronto, to change their name to Toronto Korean United Church.

MOTION

DEFEATED

**MOTION** by Amy Lee / Kevin Logie that the Communities of Faith Commission of Shining Waters Regional Council directs staff to seek legal advice on this matter and that the commission will revisit the request at a later date.

**MOTION**

**CARRIED**

The Commission asked that Alpha and Willowdale Emmanuel be given the reasons for this decision and invite them to also seek legal advice if desired.

**St. Paul's, Brampton** Intentional Interim Ministry request – *Diane Matheson-Jimenez*

Diane reported that St. Paul's, Brampton has selected a transition team. The Intentional Interim Ministry Committee voted by email to recommend that Betsy Anderson be appointed the regional representative to the St. Paul's, Brampton, transition team.

**MOTION** by Carolyn Harding / Amy Lee that the Communities of Faith Commission of Shining Waters Regional Council, on the recommendation of the

Intentional Interim Ministry Committee, appoints Betsy Anderson as the regional council rep to the transition team of St. Paul's United Church, Brampton.

**MOTION**

**CARRIED**

Dewi Sant and Timothy Eaton, Update – *Diane Matheson-Jimenez*  
No formal update at this time.

### **Strategic Planning**

Meeting date – originally talked about having two meetings in January but suggesting now just having one day, January 19<sup>th</sup>, 2022, with the morning looking at the big picture and, in the afternoon, coming up with a set of intentions or strategic directions. This whole day of strategic planning would be in lieu of a Commission meeting for January, and the Commission would meet in February.

Background material – Susie explained the material that she has created as background for the strategic planning process.

Rural Connect: In response to a resolution passed at the 43rd General Council, Rural Connect has been established to support rural congregations through the use of technology. Using the model of a hub church partnering with satellite churches, a cluster of congregations are joined together for a fully interactive, live worship service with participation from all of the partner churches. All the technology is controlled by the hub/host church, and the satellite/partner churches receive a box with all the equipment fully configured and ready to go – they don't even need internet. St. Paul's Midland is equipped with hub technology and is interested in building a relationship with satellite churches with the support of the region.

Is this strategy of multi-site ministry something that we would identify as a strategic direction around supporting rural ministry?

### **Meetings schedule and shared leadership**

A chart will be sent out with the meeting schedule and a spot for members to sign up for openings, closings, and land acknowledgements.

Schedule governance group meetings – a Doodle poll will be sent out to set up the four meetings of the governance group.

### **Closing**

Gloria Tozek acknowledged that this is the last meeting that Karen Hilfman Millson will be in attendance as she approaches her retirement at the end of the year. Others offered their good wishes to her.

The Chair wished everyone a very Merry Christmas and Karen Hilfman Millson offered a blessing. The meeting closed at 12:30 p.m.

December 15, 2021

**Next Meetings**

Strategic Planning on January 19, 2022, 9:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. and regular Commission meeting, February 16, 2022, 9:30 a.m.

