

February 16, 2022

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

**Minutes of a meeting of the
Communities of Faith Commission
Wednesday, February 16, 2022**

The Communities of Faith Commission of Shining Waters Regional Council met on Wednesday, February 16, 2022 by video conference call. The meeting began at 9:30 a.m.

Present:

Chris Bennett (Vice Chair), Carolyn Harding, Calin Lau, Amy Lee, Kevin Logie, Sandra Nottegar, Patti Rodgers, Gloria Tozek (Chair), Harry Ramsaran

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

Welcome, check in and prayer

The chairperson welcomed everyone. Diane Matheson-Jimenez 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. As an opening, Diane shared a video, *Stand Up* by Tracy Cain, in honour of Black History Month, and offered a prayer from *Ancestors and Ancestry: A worship service honouring the histories of our families and our faith*, by Rev. Debbie McMillan.

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

Agenda

An item on Bala-Port Carling and on Community Ministries was added to the Agenda and the Agenda was then accepted as amended by consensus.

Minutes

MOTION by Amy Lee / Harry Ramsaran that the Minutes of the meetings of the Communities of Faith Commission of Shining Waters Regional Council dated December 15, 2021 be approved as circulated.

MOTION

CARRIED

Report from Strategic Planning

The report from the Strategic Planning session held on January 19, 2022 had been circulated. By consensus, there were no errors or omissions noted, and the report was accepted as circulated.

Correspondence

A letter has been received from St. Andrew's, Toronto regarding the regional council property policy. The letter asked a number of questions including whether there would be a consultative process in the review of the policy.

Jody Maltby reported that this is not the only congregation that has raised either concerns or support regarding the policy.

There was discussion around the idea of a consultative process and the bigger, underlying issue of property ownership.

It was decided to get more information from St. Andrew's, and let them know that the idea of a consultative process will be examined. Chris Bennett agreed to work with Jody Maltby on a regional conversation on property ownership in response to the request for consultation. Jody and Gloria will draft a response to the letter.

Email Votes

The following decisions were made by email:

- approved the proposed governance structure of Kingsway-Lambton United Church, Toronto, dated November 16, 2021.
- approved the lease between Lansing United Church, Toronto, and United Property Resource Corporation dated December 1, 2021.
- approved the lease between Knob Hill United Church and Scarborough on Ephesus Seventh-Day Adventist Church.
- approve the loan application of Birchcliff Bluffs United Church with Toronto United Church Council (TUCC) through the Toronto Southeast Presbytery Major Capital Fund, dated January 21, 2022, in the amount of \$290,000.

Participation in Regional Meeting – Jody Maltby

The Regional Council annual meeting is taking place in May and a team is being put together to be involved in planning the agenda, in particular, educational components. Each Commission is being invited to have someone participate on that team. There was no one from this commission that felt called to participate on the planning team.

Community Ministries – Jody Maltby

The Grants and Mission Support Committee is creating a short-term task group to talk about community ministries – Jane-Finch, Davenport-Perth, Regent Park, and Toronto Urban Native Ministries. Members of this commission are invited to be a part of that conversation along with some people from the Social and Ecological Justice Commission and the Intercultural Diversity Commission. It is about building relationship with the community ministries so we can better support them. They need to know what the regional council commitment is around funding for community ministries and what other options there are around funding. Patti Rodgers and Chris Bennett offered to assist in this conversation.

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Meeting of Equity Leads – Gloria Tozek

Gloria participated in a meeting of Equity Leads on February 8th. There are Equity Leads from each Commission now instead of the former Equity Committee. The leads meet and share ideas; endeavour to break down silos that may happen; look at collaborations and partnerships; and assist in communications.

Follow-up from Strategic Planning – Gloria/Calin/Susie

- Gloria Tozek, Calin Lau and Susie Henderson took the work from the planning session in January and pulled material together to identify key areas and directions.
- deepening connection; encouraging transformation; renew and support leadership were three directions identified.
- they also got some priorities and goals; should the property matter discussed today be included in the goals? It could be under ‘renew and support leadership.’
- there was some feedback discussion on the process used at the planning session.
- a poll was used to identify some priorities on the directions; deepening connections was the top one;
- a poll was used for the goals; strengthen connections between communities of faith and the region was the strongest;
- there was discussion around the goals; are there activities that can be done around them? What are the measures to determine if the activity had impact?
- Gloria, Calin and Susie will continue to work on the document around the priorities and goals; there will be some more polls and emails go out to the Commission; a new document will be brought back to the March meeting of the Commission.

Appeal Committee – Jody Maltby

Jody explained that when someone wants to appeal a decision made in a community of faith, this commission needs to manage the appeal. Appeals are very well structured within our polity, Section 10 of *The Manual*. The role of the commission is simply to appoint the appeal committee. The committee has authorization to completely deal with the appeal. There is a community of faith that is at this stage of an appeal. Jody has an appeal committee to recommend to the Commission and there is legal counsel advising the committee.

MOTION by Carolyn Harding / Kevin Logie that Shining Waters Regional Council appoint the following to be the Appeal Committee in the matter of the appeal of Dorothy Ramsay of the decision of the board of Collier Street United Church of October 15, 2021:

Rev. Stephen Willey
Patti Rodger (DLM)
Rev. Sadekie Lyttle-Forbes

The committee to report by March 16, 2022 whether to hear the appeal; and if so, to complete its report by April 20, 2022.

MOTION

CARRIED

St. Paul’s, Scarborough – Intentional Interim Ministry

Diane Matheson-Jimenez gave some background on this item.

MOTION by Patti Rodgers / Carolyn Harding that on the recommendation of the Intentional Interim Ministry Committee, the Communities of Faith Commission of Shining Waters Regional Council approves the request of St. Paul’s United Church, Scarborough, to enter into a time of intentional interim ministry for a period of two years.

MOTION

CARRIED

Intentional Interim Ministry Committee - updated policy

Jody Maltby gave background on this matter.

MOTION by Amy Lee / Calin Lau that on the recommendation of the Intentional Interim Ministry Committee, the Communities of Faith Commission of Shining Waters Regional Council adopt the Intentional Interim Ministry Policy as amended, and adopt the Procedures for intentional interim ministry.

MOTION

CARRIED

Proposed Review policy – Jody Maltby

Jody Maltby gave background on this matter.

MOTION by Kevin Logie / Patti Rodgers that the Communities of Faith Commission of Shining Waters Regional Council approve the policy regarding the conducting of reviews of communities of faith.

MOTION

CARRIED

The meeting took an all-purpose break.

Community of Faith Updates

Dewi Sant/Timothy Eaton – Diane Matheson-Jimenez

Dewi Sant is working hard towards their goal of amalgamation with Timothy Eaton; they meet every two weeks and are meeting next week with Jody Maltby and Tim Blair from UPRC; a proposal will come to this Commission next month for feedback on the use of Dewi Sant’s funds, and then in April they will have the amalgamation covenant and financial plan come to the commission for approval.

Alpha Korean – Jody Maltby

Re: name change and binding arbitration agreement. A legal opinion was received. Alpha Korean using the name of Toronto Korean would be in contravention of the arbitration agreement so the commission should not agree to it. If the two congregations

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came to a new agreement, that would be permissible. Alpha Korean has reached out to the Omega congregation to have a conversation.

Bala-Port Carling – Jody Maltby

Mediation was set up with Credence & Co. and the Board of Bala-Port Carling decided to not engage in mediation. However, there is still ongoing complaints and conflict in the congregation that needs to be resolved.

MOTION by Chris Bennett / Sandra Nottegar that Shining Waters Regional Council,

1. Conduct a review of Bala-Port Carling United Church pursuant to section J.4 of The Manual (2022) of The United Church of Canada; and
2. Appoint Beth Symes to conduct the review; and
3. Request that the Regional Staff Lead contact potential members for a review committee to consider the reviewer's report and make a decision in response to be communicated to the commission for action; and
4. Request the Pastoral Relations Minister to arrange pastoral care as needed.

MOTION

CARRIED

The commission will appoint the review committee by email vote once the members are confirmed. The Regional Staff Lead will communicate with the community of faith by letter to inform them of the review and will ask the Pastoral Relations Minister to communicate with the community of faith as well and offer a pastoral response.

Preaching Conference at Emmanuel – Jeffrey Dale

Emmanuel College is hosting a preaching conference again this year. Previously, Shining Waters supported the conference with a donation. The focus of the conference this year is on intercultural experiences and conversations in preaching. A guest speaker list is in the process of being developed and Jeffrey is a part those conversations. The Commission is being asked for support of the event in the amount of \$200 to go towards one of the guest speakers/workshop leaders and the use of the Shining Waters logo on their promotional material.

MOTION by Amy Lee / Harry Ramsaran that the Communities of Faith Commission of Shining Waters Regional Council support the Preaching Conference at Emmanuel College in the amount of \$200 to go towards guest speakers/workshop leaders for the conference.

MOTION

CARRIED

For Information

Affirming Communities video and P.I.E. Day – *Jeffrey/Susie*

Disability Network Events Guide – *Susie*

Pastoral Relations Pulpit Supply Policy – *Susie*

Youth Ministry in these Changing Times, March Event – *Jeffrey*

The Journey – Stewardship Best Practices spring cohorts
Community Ministry Cohort
Right Relations Circle
General Council meeting and website

Information on these items was circulated prior to the meeting. Commission members had the opportunity to ask questions.

Meetings:

Commission members were encouraged to sign up to participate in the opening of the meetings through a Google document.

Governance task group meeting dates were set for February 22, April 6, June 7, October 4, 2022.

Closing: The Chair offered blessings to all and the meeting ended at 11:48 a.m.

Next Commission meeting: March 16, 2022, 9:30 a.m. Opening – Gloria Tozek.

