

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

**Minutes of a meeting of the
Communities of Faith Commission
Wednesday, May 18, 2022**

The Communities of Faith Commission of Shining Waters Regional Council met on Wednesday, May 18, 2022 by video conference call. The meeting began at 9:30 a.m.

Present:

Chris Bennett, Carolyn Harding, Calin Lau, Amy Lee, Patti Rodgers, Gloria Tozek
(Chair)

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

Regrets: Kevin Logie, Sandra Nottegar, Harry Ramsaran

Welcome, check in and prayer

The chairperson welcomed everyone. Amy Lee gave an acknowledgement of the land, and led opening worship.

The chairperson constituted the meeting in the name of Jesus Christ, and acknowledged our commitment to being a safe place for all people to gather and participate in our Region.

There was a time of check-in.

Agenda

Add to item on climate justice to end of agenda;
Add one email vote.

The Agenda was accepted as amended by consensus

Minutes

MOTION by Calin Lau / Patti Rodgers that the Minutes of the meetings of the Communities of Faith Commission of Shining Waters Regional Council dated April 20, 2022 be approved as circulated.

MOTION

CARRIED

Email Votes

The following decisions were made by email:

- Islington United Church – Sanctuary project approved the renovations to the sanctuary and narthex of Islington United Church in the amount of \$162,000.

- Central United Church, Weston – updated Constitution approved the updated Constitution of Central United Church, Weston, dated February 20, 2022
- North York Korean UC – appointment appointed Richard Choe to review and to discern with North York Korean United Church on the relationship between North York Korean United Church and Shining Waters Regional Council through the facilitation of a listening and dialogue process.

Communities of Faith Updates

- St. Paul’s, Brampton Review – Diane Matheson-Jimenez

Diane reported – the reviewer is completing his information-gathering and will be moving on to writing recommendations; putting together a committee to review

- Bala-Port Carling Review – Jody Maltby

Jody reported that the final report has just come in today, meeting to figure next steps; have a review committee. The report will go to the committee and to the Boards of the congregations and will be preparing for a meeting in early June for the Committee to consider the recommendations and start to make a decision.

MOTION by Patti Rodgers / Calin Lau that the Communities of Faith Commission of Shining Waters Regional Council appoint the following to be the Review Committee in the review of Bala Port Carling Pastoral Charge: Carolyn Harding, Islay Scott, Rev. Jim Keenan; the committee to report by September 2022 on the final decisions in this matter.

MOTION

CARRIED

Intentional Interim Ministry

Diane Matheson-Jimenez gave background information on College Street’s request for an extension of their intentional interim ministry and the recommendation of the Intentional Interim Ministry Committee.

MOTION by Carolyn Harding / Calin Lau that on the recommendation of the Intentional Interim Ministry Committee, the Communities of Faith Commission of Shining Waters Regional Council, approves the request of College Street United Church to extend their intentional interim ministry to December 2023, and that the approval of the request is contingent upon the first year of the extension focusing on their named goals of being in community and making connections to the local community and stabilizing and increasing membership-building, and the remaining six months focusing on calling a minister.

MOTION

CARRIED

May 18, 2022

Diane provided some background on Central's request for intentional interim ministry.

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 Central United Church, Weston, to enter into a time of intentional interim ministry for two years.

MOTION

CARRIED

MOTION by Patti Rodgers / Carolyn Harding that the Communities of Faith Commission of Shining Waters Regional Council approve the recommendation of the Intentional Interim Ministry Committee that a portion of the time of intentional interim ministry at Central United Church, Weston be dedicated to pursuing relationships in the community of Weston.

MOTION

CARRIED

Rural Connect Midland Hub – *Susie Henderson*

Susie provided a reminder about the background on Rural Connect. The tech part is ready to go; process has been stalled but St. Paul's is now ready; what is the regional role here? St. Paul's would welcome support from region around their strategy of being a Hub, and helping to identify satellite partners. There is a lot of potential to connect beyond worship which is unrealized at this point. The Commission had good discussion on the topic. Questions were raised around timing and relevance of this worship model.

Property Update – *Jody Maltby*

Jody reported that she, Gloria Tozek, and Chris Bennett had conversation around possibilities; we have some pieces of the property work and the Executive has some pieces; decisions are being made with different lenses, and some overlap. We are looking at the Fall to have a joint meeting of this Commission and the Executive.

Theology of property – how we look at property ownership and how we look at equitable resources; who needs to be at the table? This is a good time to have that conversation more broadly; General Council is interested and maybe some other regions. This Commission has a lot of insight to bring. This will be going forward in the Fall.

The Commission took an all-purpose break.

Diane Matheson-Jimenez left the meeting

Jeffrey Dale joined the meeting

Canada Summer Jobs Program – *Jeffrey Dale*

Jeffrey reported that the region got approved for all 18 jobs through the Canada Summer Jobs Program. Twelve of the students from last year have asked to return and Jeffrey has given them the first opportunity. There are now six churches asking about some form of a children's program in-person so four of the jobs will focus on in-person programs.

Jeffrey left the meeting.

Looking Ahead

- Commission Workplan

Susie and Gloria have created a workplan for the commission. The visual format is very helpful. The commission reviewed and discussed the contents of the plan.

Chris Bennett joined the meeting.

- Policy Framework grid

The commission reviewed and discussed the review of policies set out on a policy framework grid.

The commission talked about October dates for the joint meeting with the Pastoral Relations Commission; October 25th or 26th are the possibilities.

- Next steps on strategic directions

The lead direction that is emerging is "Deepening Connections" with the goal to strengthen connection among communities of faith and the Shining Waters region. Our initial objective is drafted to: Support a diverse cohort of regional representatives and strengthen their capacity to connect communities of faith with the Communities of Faith Commission.

We will continue to work on the plan as a whole towards adopting an overall strategy with directions, goals and objectives for the Commission to approve.

At the same time, we want to move forward on what we have identified already as a solid first step, that is, to reach out in June with a survey to regional representatives and listen to their needs and issues to identify where supports are necessary and connections are possible. Staff will touch base with the Executive Minister to make the Executive is aware of this effort.

- Climate Justice

The Executive has requested that Shining Waters Commissions look at the General Council proposal on climate action/justice. There was brief discussion and it was decided to discuss it more fully at next month's meeting.

Closing

The Chairperson thanked everyone and offered them blessings on their day and week.

Next Commission meeting: June 29, 2022, a hybrid of online and in-person. No meeting in July.