

EXECUTIVE

MINUTES of Meeting held April 20, 2023 at 10:00 a.m.
via video teleconference.

PRESENT: Tina Conlon, Allan Holditch, Isaac Kamta, David Leyton-Brown, Moon Ja Park, Bri-anne Swan, Jingle Ayupan, Daniel Reed

Staff: Peter Hartmans (Executive Minister) Jody Maltby (Staff Lead), Susan Whitehead (Administrative Support)

REGRETS:

Absent: Allyce Mutungi, Lynn Mooney, Kristy Hunter

GATHERING, OPENING PRAYER

David Leyton-Brown opened the meeting at 10:06 a.m. He gave an acknowledgement of the land, and acknowledged our commitment to being a safe place for all people to gather and participate in our Region.

Peter Hartmans led a worship reflecting on the Easter season focussing on Psalm 23, followed by lighting the Christ candle and finished with prayer.

David shared that this will be the last meeting of Executive with this configuration of members and several members who are leaving shared their thanks for their time on Executive. There was a time of check-in.

AGENDA

MOTION by Jingle Ayupan / Moon Ja Park that the agenda for this meeting be approved as circulated.

CARRIED

MINUTES

MOTION by Jingle Ayupan / Allan Holditch that the Minutes of the meeting of the Shining Waters Regional Council Executive held March 27, 2023 be approved, as circulated.

CARRIED

Email Vote March 28th, 2023

Draft 2021 Audited Financial Statements

- That the 2021 Shining Waters Regional Council Draft Audit be approved, as presented.

West Ellesmere Property

- That the Executive of Shining Waters Regional Council approve the sale of the West Ellesmere property to Qudus Michael Eritrean Orthodox Tewahdo Church,

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for a purchase price of \$5,800,000, closing March 30, 2023, as recommended by Toronto United Church Council (TUCC).

Commission Minutes

Peter indicated that Jody Maltby is the staff member that supports the Communities of Faith Commission and she is here to answer any questions Executive might have. Jody shared that the Support Communities of Faith Commission members have been focused on closing churches but the commission wants to figure out a way to better support congregations that are looking to continue on and revitalize; the second focus is how to use the assets in property to better support united church ministry.

MOTION by Allan Holditch / Isaac Kamta that the Executive receive the Minutes of the Communities of Faith Commission for May 2022 through March 2023, for information.

CARRIED

Incorporated Ministries

MOTION by Jingle Ayupan / Isaac Kamta that the Shining Waters Regional Council Executive take the following actions:

a) Simcoe Presbytery Camp o/a Camp Simpresca

... pursuant to the Incorporated Ministries Policy of The United Church of Canada approve the Simcoe Presbytery Camp 2022-2023 Board of Directors

Brian Cooper
Lucas Cooper
Paul Cooper
Sarah Draper
Colin Elliott
Peter Fairman
Sarah Fairman
Ryan O'Hearn
Taylor Poulin

...based on the guidance received from General Council Staff, pursuant to the Incorporated Ministries Policy of The United Church of Canada approve BY-LAW NUMBER ONE of the incorporated ministry known as Simcoe Presbytery Camp operating as Camp Simpresca.

These are based on the draft AGM Meeting Minutes of October 22, 2022, 2022 board member approval form, the board contact list provided and receipt of other required documentation per the Incorporated Ministries Policy of The United Church of Canada

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b) Sparrow Lake United Church Camp, Inc.

... pursuant to the Incorporated Ministries Policy of The United Church of Canada, approve the Sparrow Lake United Church Camp, Inc. 2023-2024 Board of Directors

Andrew Blair
Colin Campbell
Christopher Fickel
Paul Foley
Janice Franklin
William Grove
Lee Holland
Samantha Misner
Katherine Mutton
Ellen Weir
Mark Winger

This is based on the draft minutes of Annual General Meeting of January 22, 2023, 2023 board member approval form, the board contact list provided and receipt of other required documentation per the Incorporated Ministries Policy of The United Church of Canada.

CARRIED

Correspondence:

There is no correspondence at this time.

Nominations Committee re: PRC Mandate

MOTION by Jingle Ayupan / Allan Holditch that the proposed changes to the Pastoral Relations Commission Policy for Members be as follows:
A Chair and six to ten members to allow for some regional representation with a balance of ministry personnel and laity to work with the Pastoral Relations Ministers, to include one person who is a pastoral relations liaison to be named by the Pastoral Relations Commission.

CARRIED

Nominations Motion for RCM

Jody shared that this is a proposal that the Nominations Committee has been working on and mainly just wanted the Executive to be aware of it. The Nominations Committee saw benefits to both processes for electing the President Elect and wanted to present both of them fairly without making an appearance of preferring one over the other.

Tina would be introducing and speaking to this proposal at the RCM before it is actually put on the floor of the court. David suggested that while she is introducing it, that she asks the court if they would like to be polled to get a sense of the preference for a) or b) or neither and use the result as context for people who come to the microphone to ask for

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a particular action. If Tina and the Nominations Committee decide they would like to poll the court, they would need to be in discussions with staff around the mechanism that would be used to do this during the RCM.

Signing Authorities for Region

MOTION by Allan Holt / Jingle Ayupan that the signing officers for all Bank Accounts at the Bank of Montreal and BMO Nesbitt Burns for Shining Waters Regional Council be Susan Whitehead, Janet MacDonald, Jody Maltby, and Kathleen Wolfe effective June 1, 2023.

CARRIED

TUCC Nominations of 2 Members from SWRC to Annual Meeting June 15th, 2023

Bri-anne Swan and Moon Ja Park have agreed to attend the Toronto United Church Council annual meeting on June 15th and is offered both in-person and online. Peter will be attending online.

Kindred Works (UPRC) Update (Ground Breaking in Early Spring)

Peter shared that they are starting a project next month in Orillia and is almost on schedule. This will be their first ground breaking as a corporation and ours will be their first project.

Accountability Report of SWRC Executive

There was discussion about the Accountability Report of the SW Executive for the Regional Council Meeting Workbook.

There was consensus that it is a fine report and approved it for the 2023 RCM Workbook.

RCM and Celebration of Ministry Service - Updates

The in-person attendance at the Celebration of Ministry Service (CoMS) will be capped and limited to candidates for ministry and their invited guests and other members of the Regional Council, including members of Executive, will be invited to participate virtually. Isaac reminded Executive and staff to consider putting French in the CoMS at certain intervals.

Jody shared the planning is well in hand and all the behind the scene details are getting ready. Peter will invite the Chair of the CS Executive, Barbara Nott, to the 2023 SW RCM in May.

Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) Review between SW and CS

Peter shared that the CSRC Executive has an in-person meeting where there were discussions about the MOU and how they are very happy with the agreement and would like to keep the status-quo and sign the agreement again. CS would like to explore partnering more with SWRC and after discussions, have invited the SW Executive to an in-person/hybrid joint meeting in Sudbury in September.

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MOTION by Isaac Kamta / Moon Ja Park that after reviewing the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Canadian Shield and Shining Waters Regional Councils, the Shining Waters Regional Council Executive direct the President to sign the MOU.

CARRIED

Partnering between Regional Councils

David reminded Executive that we are also currently sharing several staff who are working for both regions already – a real economy of scale with that. There have been a number of workshops (M&P in particular) that were joint between the two regions and have been extremely successful. SWRC Executive look forward to partnering with CSRC in the future.

Invitation from CSRC Executive for September for In-Person/Virtual Meeting

Executive discussed the possibility of a joint Executive meeting in September in Sudbury at Villa Loyola retreat centre and members were excited about gathering in-person and meeting the other Executive members from the Canadian Shield RC.

Executive Minister Report

Peter provided a written report that was circulated prior to the meeting (*attached as Appendix A*).

MOTION by Tina Conlon / Jingle Ayupan that the Executive of Shining Waters Regional Council receive the Executive Minister Report, for information.

CARRIED

Draft Budget for Review

Janet presented and reviewed the draft Balance Sheet and Income Statement as of March 31, 2023. She also presented and reviewed a preliminary draft budget projection for 2023.

MOTION by Moon Ja Park / Isaac Kamta that the Executive of Shining Waters Regional Council recommend the preliminary draft budget for 2024 to the Regional Council Meeting for approval.

CARRIED

New Business

There is no new business at this time.

Closing Prayer

On behalf of Executive, Peter thanked David for his long-time serve as President and how grateful the region has been to have him give his time. He also thanked Kirsty Hunter for her time on the Transition Executive and then the SW Executive, as her term comes to an end. Peter gave a closing prayer, and the meeting closed at 12:01 p.m.

Next Meeting: Regional Council Meeting – May 26-28, 2023 at North Bramalea UC

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APPENDIX A
Executive Minister's Report
April 2023

Happy Spring!!! Shining Waters Regional Council has chatted with Canadian Shield Regional Council through the Chair, Barbara Nott, this past month around a learning event and we will need to begin thinking about partnering for 2025. Both Regional Council Executives seem very excited.

We hired a new Congregational Support Minister for SWRC, who's primary work will focus south of the 407 in Shining Waters Regional Council. The successful applicant is Eun-Joo Park and we are delighted for her and SWRC. Currently she is serving in the Canadian Shield Regional Council, at St. Andrew's United Church Sault Ste. Marie and as an Executive member. Her start date will be August 31, 2023.

Recently at our Executive Minister management meeting Erik Matheson, CFO for the United Church, shared that the General Council needs to cut our GC operating budget by 6 million dollars over two years. He also feels that communities of faith do not have the capacity to increase General Council assessments. One of the acute challenges at this time for General Council is both the challenge of inflation, as well as receiving smaller returns on investment. While the Regional Council Operating Grant will remain the same until 2025, M&S grants to the Regional Council will likely be cut in 2024/25, which could have an impact on our operating income and our granting.

In the near future, we have pre-planned some room for cuts to our income. However, my sense is in the future, we will face cuts to our operating budget, while at the same time our expenses will increase. Part of the way we are addressing this future challenge is partnering more and more with Canadian Shield around staffing and budgeting related to staffing. However, my suggestion to both Regional Councils is to start talking about how we can partner more as two Regional Councils. Erik Matheson at our recent meeting raised the delicate point, that he has concerns around the economic sustainability of 16 regional councils. For me, I am mindful that he has the challenging task of being the messenger and not the author of our economic challenge. My sense is we could approach this future challenge in two ways. One, we could wait and deal with the challenge when we need to face it head-on, which is a legitimate strategy, as the Regional Council would likely be more accepting facing a budget challenge in real time.

The second option would be to intentionally reach out to the Canadian Shield Regional Council about partnering more beyond staff; perhaps experiment with ways we could consolidate our administrative work as a Regional Council. Consider how we could partner around Regional Council Meetings and at the very least consider how we are **distinctive** as Regional Councils and consider what work are we doing that is essentially the same. After discussing this with President David, it seems that we need to proceed carefully and thoughtfully, as we work toward creating a strong community between the two Regional Councils. However, as our Regional Council policy already has a mechanism for partnering, I am recommending that we work towards planning a joint Executive meeting in the fall to brainstorm how we can strengthen our partnership and perhaps consider how we can work together. If we can figure out a path forward together, perhaps we can offer leadership to the entire church, as we face our future challenges together. We could also provide leadership to our communities of faith as they face similar challenges and conversations with neighbouring United Churches.