

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.

February 16, 2022

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

February 16, 2022

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.

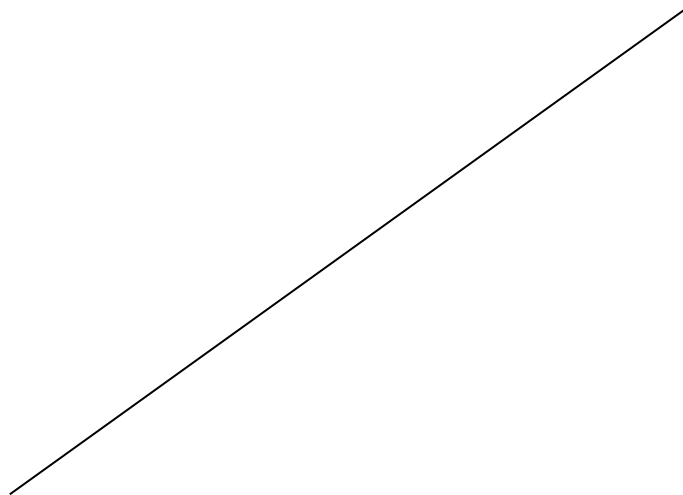
Meetings:

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.



March 16, 2022

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

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

The Communities of Faith Commission of Shining Waters Regional Council met on Wednesday, March 16, 2022 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, Patti Rodgers, Harry Ramsaran, Gloria Tozek (Chair)

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

Guests: Lorraine Diaz, Chris Pinnington (Timothy Eaton UC) and Liz Mackenzie and Sheryl Clay (Dewi Sant Welsh UC)

Welcome, check in and prayer

The chairperson welcomed all and invited everyone to a check-in and reflect on what they are grateful for.

Gloria Tozek provided a video acknowledgement of the land, and acknowledged our commitment to being a safe place for all people to gather and participate in our Region. She then offered an opening prayer and constituted the meeting in the name of Jesus Christ.

Agenda

Agenda accepted as circulated by consensus

Minutes

MOTION by Amy Lee / Sandra Nottegar that the Minutes of the meetings of the Communities of Faith Commission of Shining Waters Regional Council dated February 16, 2022 be approved as circulated.

MOTION

CARRIED

Email Votes

The following decisions were made by email:

- Dewi Sant – sale of property
approved the request of Dewi Sant Welsh United Church, Toronto, to sell their property in anticipation of amalgamation with Timothy Eaton United Church, Toronto.

- Saint Luke's – loan with TUCC
approved the application by Saint Luke's United Church, Toronto, for a bridge loan of up to \$225,000 with Toronto United Church Council on the following terms & conditions:
Date: March 1, 2022
Loan Amount: Up to \$ 225,000
Term: Three (3) years with a loan review conducted by TUCC annually
Interest Rate: 3 % as designated in consultation with SWRC
Repayment: Interest will accrue monthly and be capitalized to the loan balance
Security: First Mortgage registered against 353 Sherbourne Street, Toronto
First Assignment of Leases & Rents
Approvals: Shining Waters Regional Council - SWRC (to be confirmed)
Source of Funds: TSEP – Major Capital Fund

- East End – renovation and use of manse funds
approved the renovation project of East End United Regional Ministry, Toronto, for renovation of the sanctuary stage area at the Eastminster campus.

approved the request of East End United Regional Ministry, Toronto, for the expenditure of up to \$140,000 of their manse funds for the renovation of the sanctuary stage area at the Eastminster campus.

Governance Task Group

The Governance Task group made the following motions:

- North Bramalea
approved the updated constitution of North Bramalea United Church.
- East End
approved the governance structure of East End United Church, Toronto.

Report from Intentional Interim Ministry Committee – Diane Matheson-Jimenez

- Jim Keenan, Chair of the Committee, sent a letter of gratitude and blessing to the intentional interim ministers (IIMs) serving in the region which was very well received. From that, there is an interest in the intentional interim ministers gathering and sharing the unique challenges that they face as IIMs
- A video resource would be helpful to give overview of the work of IIMs and to bring people into the work.
- The Committee is mindful of the fact that within the next 6-18 months, many communities of faith will be facing significant transition; one of the ongoing topics for the committee is a recruitment strategy and a way to make better use of the resources they have.

Dewi Sant – Presentation and Discussion

Lorraine Diaz, Chris Pinnington from Timothy Eaton Memorial UC and Liz Mackenzie and Sheryl Clay from Dewi Sant Welsh UC joined the meeting.

March 16, 2022

The guests made a presentation on the amalgamation financial plan of Dewi Sant Welsh United Church and Timothy Eaton Memorial Church. The plan summarized the funding required to amalgamate Dewi Sant and Timothy Eaton and effectively implement the shared vision and mission of the amalgamated congregation. The presentation showed the purpose of the plan is to ensure and support a successful amalgamation and to preserve, support and expand the Dewi Sant culture, language/tradition of worship and heritage.

The presentation was brought to the Commission for feedback and discussion, and then the final financials, estimates for property, and covenant plans will come back to this Commission's April meeting. The amalgamation service is planned for June 26th.

The guests left the meeting.

The Commission had an opportunity to discuss the presentation. The Commission asked the staff to remind the communities of faith of the regional council policy on the distribution of funds following the sale of property.

St. Paul's Brampton – recommendation from IIM Committee

Diane Matheson-Jimenez updated the Commission on the intentional interim ministry at St. Paul's Brampton. The intentional interim minister has submitted a request for a change in pastoral relationship. The Intentional Interim Ministry Committee is recommending a formal review be conducted of St. Paul's Brampton.

MOTION by Kevin Logie / Chris Bennett that, on the recommendation of the Intentional Interim Ministry Committee, Shining Waters Regional Council conduct a formal review of St. Paul's Brampton, pursuant to section J.4 of *The Manual* (2022) of The United Church of Canada.

MOTION

CARRIED

Commission Report for regional annual meeting – Gloria Tozek

Gloria will be preparing a report from the Commission for the regional council annual meeting and invited commission members' input.

At the regional council meeting, Gloria will become past Chair of the Commission and Chris Bennett will become Chair. A new Vice Chair will need to be appointed and members were invited to give that some consideration.

Activity plan from Direction setting – Gloria/Calin/Susie

Gloria, Calin and Susie met to carry on with following up the strategic planning exercise.

Gloria shared the draft activities plan for the key priority that was identified in the last meeting: Deepening Connection--Strengthen connection between communities of faith and Shining Waters Regional Council.

The Commission affirmed that building the relationship with regional lay representatives is a key component of this direction and it was pointed out that we may be able to collaborate with other Commissions in this endeavor.

The team will meet again to consider next steps and will continue to keep the overall question of strategic directions before us.

Collaborative Ministry meeting – *Diane Matheson-Jimenez*

Diane reported on a meeting she and Susie had with 25 people representing communities of faith northeast of Brampton: Cheltenham, Nobleton-Schomberg, Home, Bradford, and Caldeon East. They had conversation about what they can do together that they can't do on their own. They shared about Rural Connect, talked about sharing ministry personnel, and some of the relationship building that exists. The conversation will continue as there is interest in more intentional relationship building. It is hoped that something more concrete will emerge as trust and relationship is built.

Community of Faith Updates – *Jody Maltby*

Collier Street UC – appeal

Jody updated the Commission on the appeal that took place regarding Collier Street UC and let them know of the decision reached.

MOTION by Carolyn Harding / Harry Ramsaran that the Communities of Faith Commission of Shining Waters Regional Council receive for information the decision dated March 3, 2022 of the Appeal Committee related to Collier Street United Church;

And that the commission discharge the Appeal Committee with thanks to Stephen Willey, chair, and members Patricia Rodgers, DLM and Rev. Sadekie Lyttle-Forbes.

MOTION

CARRIED

Minesing UC – closing

A letter was received from Minesing United Church requesting approval to disband the pastoral charge.

MOTION by Sandra Nottegar / Kevin Logie that the Communities of Faith Commission of Shining Waters Regional Council approves the request of Minesing United Church to disband the pastoral charge as a recognized community of faith effective April 30th, 2022 with thanks to God for the ministry of this congregation, and, in consultation with United Property Resource Corp. and Toronto United Church Council, recommends to the Executive that the property be sold.

MOTION

CARRIED

March 16, 2022

Bala-Port Carling – review

Jody gave an update on the ongoing review process at Bala-Port Carling; it is proceeding slowly and with care.

Update on Affirming Ministries – *Susie Henderson*

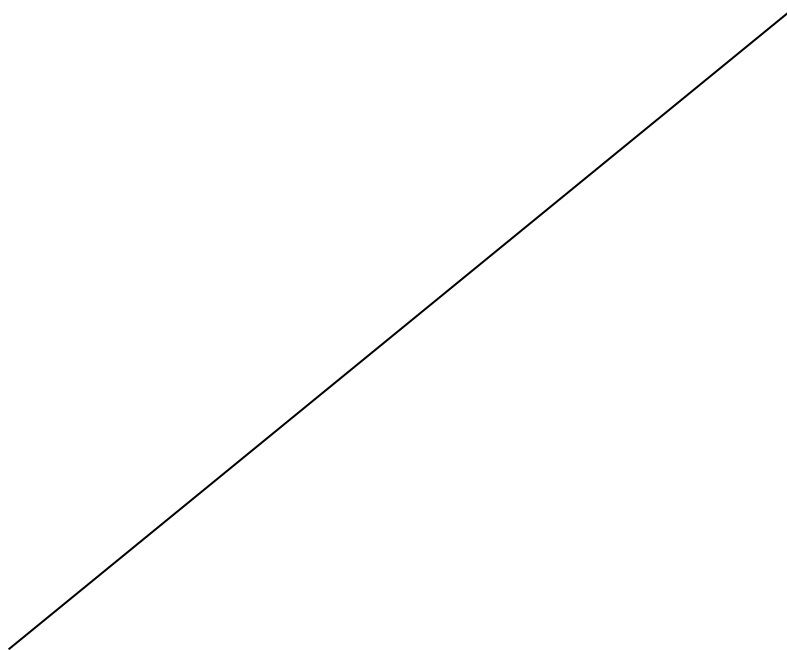
- Jeffrey Dale and Susie share the affirming work for the region.
- North Bramalea has recently become an affirming ministry; there is a map on our website showing the affirming congregations.
- the region had an evening celebrating P.I.E. day on March 14th. Affirming congregations have been invited to give a video story of what it means to be public, intentional and explicit. Some of them were shown at the P.I.E. day event and more will be collected to have for Pride celebrations.
- Pride celebrations are in person this year and UCC will be a presence; Shining Waters has ordered a large flag to carry in parades.
- the Shining Waters progressive Pride flag is still available for congregations.
- the Affirming page on the Shining Waters website is being updated.

Equity goal from Pastoral Relations Commission – Living Faith Stories

Susie Henderson reported that one of the Pastoral Relations Commission equity goals is to build equity into the Living Faith Stories. They will come to this Commission around how we lift up our commitments to equity around covenanting and living faith stories.

Closing: Gloria Tozek thanked everyone, gave blessings to all, and the meeting closed at 12:20 p.m.

Next Commission meeting: April 20, 2022, 9:30 a.m. Chris Bennett to provide opening.



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

**Minutes of a meeting of the
Communities of Faith Commission
Wednesday, April 20, 2022**

The Communities of Faith Commission of Shining Waters Regional Council met on Wednesday, April 20, 2022 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, Patti Rodgers, Harry Ramsaran, Gloria Tozek (Chair)

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

Guests: Sheryl Clay, Betty Cullingworth, Lorraine Diaz, Peter Jones, Liz Mackenzie, Bill Melvin, Chris Pinnington.

Welcome, check in and prayer

The chairperson welcomed everyone. 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. He then offered an opening prayer.

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

There was a time of check-in.

Agenda

An item on Taiwanese United Church Toronto was added to the agenda under *Communities of Faith Updates*.

The Agenda was accepted as amended by consensus

Minutes

The Minutes of March 16, 2022 were amended by adding the following paragraph under Dewi Sant:

The Commission had an opportunity to discuss the presentation. The Commission asked the staff to remind the communities of faith of the regional council policy on the distribution of funds following the sale of property.

MOTION by Amy Lee / Carolyn Harding that the Minutes of the meetings of the Communities of Faith Commission of Shining Waters Regional Council dated March 16, 2022 be approved as amended.

MOTION

CARRIED

Email Votes

The following decisions were made by email:

- Manor Road – remediation project
approved the oil tank soil remediation project of Manor Road United Church at an estimated cost of \$150,000 plus HST.

approved the use by Manor Road United Church of up to \$200,000 from Special Gifts Fund which is money from the sale of property to the City of Toronto in 2015, for the oil tank soil remediation project.

In accordance with Shining Waters Regional Council policy, the following decision was made by the Staff Lead;

- Camp Scugog loan with TUCC
approved the loan in the amount of \$50,000 to Lake Scugog Camp from Toronto United Church Council under the following terms and conditions:
 - Date: April 1, 2022
 - Amount: \$50,000
 - Amortization: 10 years
 - First Term (Years 1-5) with an Interest Rate of 0% per annum, the monthly payments to be based on the amortization period of ten (10) years
 - The balance remaining unpaid on the 5th anniversary date shall constitute the principal owing for the second term
 - Second Term (Years 6-10) with an Interest Rate of 1% per annum, the amortization period for the calculation of monthly payments will be five (5) years
 - Payments: Monthly Principal and Interest
 - Security: Promissory Note
 - Approvals: Shining Waters Regional Council (TBA)Source of Funds: Sustainable Energy Loan Fund – (SELF)

Governance Task Group

The following decisions were made by the Governance Task Group

- St. James, Etobicoke
approved the revised Constitution of St. James United Church, Etobicoke, updated March 2022.
- St. Andrew's, Markham
approved the revised Constitution of St. Andrew's United Church, Markham, updated February 2022.

- Willowdale Emmanuel
approved the Governance Model of Willowdale Emmanuel United Church, Toronto, dated October 2021 on the condition of deleting the references to the Intercultural Diversity Commission.
- Don Mills-Thorncliffe Park
approved the request of Don Mills United Church and Thorncliffe Park United Church to amalgamate under the name Chapel in the Park United Church.

approved the Constitution of Chapel in the Park United Church dated March 2022.

Communities of Faith Updates

Dewi Sant – Presentation and Discussion

Diane Matheson-Jimenez reported that presentation today is different than what was circulated prior to this meeting, and Diane reviewed the difference with the Commission before the guests joined the meeting. Dewi Sant will be asking the Commission to approve an amalgamation on a conceptual basis, and when the Dewi Sant property is sold, it will become a formal amalgamation.

North York Korean

Diane Matheson-Jimenez reported.

The Pastoral Relations Commission will pass a motion formally halting the search process, and ask this commission to pass a motion to facilitate a listening process. Rev. Richard Choe, on behalf of the region, has begun some work with the congregation.

St. Paul's Brampton – recommendation from Intentional Interim Ministry Committee

MOTION by Carolyn Harding / Amy Lee that the Shining Waters Regional Council appoint Neil Ian Parker to conduct the review of St. Paul's United Church, Brampton.

MOTION

CARRIED

Taiwanese United Church Toronto

MOTION by Chris Bennett / Amy Lee that under section C.2.3.g) of *The Manual*, that the Communities of Faith Commission of Shining Waters Regional Council extend the appointments of Janet MacDonald and Rachael Howes as directors of the Taiwanese United Church Toronto, from January 1, 2022 through December 31, 2022. Jody Maltby continues as pastoral charge supervisor.

MOTION

CARRIED

Metropolitan United Church

Jody Maltby provided an update on the meeting she and Chris Bennett had with the Trustees of Metropolitan United Church.

Dewi Sant – Presentation and Discussion (*cont'd*)

Guests from Dewi Sant and Timothy Eaton Memorial United Church joined the meeting at 10:35 a.m. They gave a presentation on the amalgamation. They reviewed the vision of the amalgamation, the governance structure, property, proposed schedule, amalgamation financial plan, opinions of value, sustaining the Welsh Ministry, and the covenant. The Commission members had an opportunity to ask questions.

The guests left the meeting.

The Commission had an opportunity for discussion on the presentation. Staff was asked to give feedback to the churches regarding amending their Amalgamation Covenant.

MOTION by Carolyn Harding / Sandra Nottegar that the Communities of Faith Commission of Shining Waters Regional Council approve the plan of Dewi-Sant Welsh United Church and Timothy Eaton Memorial United Church, for the funds from the sale of property with the understanding that \$3,048,000 is restricted to support Welsh ministry as outlined in the financial plan appended to the Amalgamation Covenant Agreement. The congregation will provide an update every five years demonstrating that the Welsh ministry continues to be active and viable. If the Welsh ministry ceases to function, remaining funds intended to support the ministry will revert to Shining Waters Regional Council to support other regional ethno-specific ministries.

MOTION

CARRIED

Bala-Port Carling

Jody Maltby updated the Commission with an update on the review of Bala-Port Carling.

A review committee needs to be appointed and it is hoped a member of this Commission would be willing to be on the committee. It is estimated the report will be ready near the end of April. The Commission was asked to give it consideration and get back to Jody if willing to sit on the committee.

Canada Summer Jobs Program – Jeffrey Dale

Jeffrey reported that he has not heard back from his application to the Canada Summer Jobs program. There is a budget of \$40,000 so there have been commitments made within that budget. The plan is for Shining Waters to have three positions and Canadian Shield Regional Council to have two positions. The positions will be working with communities of faith in the regional councils around camping, summer programming, and guaranteed livable income. There will be some form of hiring summer students once he hears back from Canada Summer Jobs Program.

Church Closings and Regional Presence – *Jody Maltby*

Since becoming a regional council, we have not had a presence with congregations that are closing. The Commission members were agreeable to Jody's proposal that when we know a congregation has made the difficult decision to close and they are having their final service, that we offer the invitation to members of this Commission to attend and be a presence, and speak words of closing with them. There was a suggestion that a letter go from the President and the Executive Minister as well.

Intercultural Diversity

Kim Uyede-Kai was unable to join the meeting but updates were distributed in writing prior to the meeting.

Meetings

In-Person meeting/June Meeting

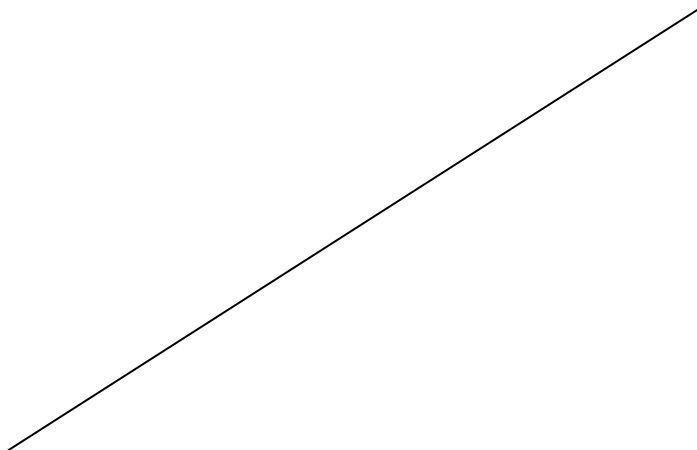
A poll was conducted on how members are feeling about meeting in person. The June meeting would normally be on June 15th but both the Chair and Vice Chair are not available that day. It was decided to meet on the 29th. With the results of the poll, it will be an in-person meeting at the Shining Waters Regional Council Guthrie office, with some members joining by Zoom.

Joint meeting with Pastoral Relations Commission

Traditionally a joint meeting with the two commissions has been held in June. It was decided to hold it in September this year. There is the possibility of including some time with the Intercultural Diversity Commission and the Social and Ecological Justice Commission.

Closing – The agenda having been completed, the meeting closed at 12:36 p.m. and Gloria offering blessings.

Next Commission meeting: May 18, 2022, 9:30 a.m.



**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.

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

**Minutes of a meeting of the
Communities of Faith Commission
Wednesday, June 29, 2022**

The Communities of Faith Commission of Shining Waters Regional Council met on Wednesday, June 29, 2022 at the Shining Waters Regional Council office in Guthrie and by video conference. The meeting began at 10:00 a.m.

Present:

Chris Bennett (Chair), Carolyn Harding, Kevin Logie, Sandra Nottegar, Eric Nyarko, Patti Rodgers, Harry Ramsaran, Gloria Tozek,

Staff: Susie Henderson, Kim Uyede-Kai, Diane Matheson-Jimenez, Rachael Howes

Regrets: Calin Lau, Amy Lee, Tom MacNeil

Welcome, check in and prayer

Gloria Tozek chaired the meeting and 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. She also provided a time of worship.

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

There was a time of check-in.

Agenda

The Agenda, as circulated, was accepted by consensus.

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 May 18, 2022 be approved as circulated.

MOTION

CARRIED

Email Votes

The following decisions were made by email:

- Dewi Sant – loan with TUCC
approved the request of Dewi Sant Welsh United Church for a loan from Toronto United Church Council in the amount of \$125,084.
- Lansing – loan renewal with TUCC
approved the renewal of the loan between Lansing United Church and Toronto United Church Council (TUCC) on the following terms and conditions:

Date: July 1, 2022
Amount: \$1,160,379
Amortization: 22 years
Term: Three (3) years
Interest: 4%, or the Bank of Nova Scotia three-year interest rate, whichever is the higher on the date of the renewal.
Payment: Monthly principal and interest repayment
Provisions: Renewal fee to be paid (\$ 2,900.95)
Security: First mortgage (subordinate only to the City of Toronto Registration – Section 37 Agreement) plus Assignment of Rents & Leases
Approvals: Shining Waters Regional Council & Confirmation by PTCC of continued grant support for five years up to a total of \$103,423
Source of Funds: Investing in Ministry Fund (\$723,303) and General Fund (\$437,076)

- New Hope – lease
approved the lease between New Hope United Church and Journey with Christ Church, for a portion of the church building located at Unit 37-43, 9100 Jane Street, Vaughan, for a term of three years commencing June 1, 2022.
- Trinity, Gravenhurst – constitution
approved the revised Constitution of Trinity United Church, Gravenhurst, dated 2022
- St. Paul's, Brampton – Review Committee
appointed the following to be the Review Committee in the review of St. Paul's pastoral charge, Brampton: Rev. William Haughton, Michelle Cutts, Rev. Douglas duCharme; the committee to report by October 2022 on the final decisions in this matter.

Intercultural Diversity Commission Translation project – Kim Uyede-Kai

Kim shared that the Intercultural Diversity Commission agreed on a multi-year project to translate key United Church of Canada policies and parts of handbooks into other languages so that communities of faith have information. The first translations will be in Korean since there are five Korean language communities of faith in Shining Waters. Other language translations may follow if required. Educational events will be held once translations are complete so that lay leaders are informed as well as ministry personnel.

The Indigenous Office of Vocation is looking at equipping lay leadership for lay-led congregations for several Indigenous communities of faith where there are ministry personnel vacancies. Some of these are in Shining Waters. Jody Maltby's sabbatical work on lay-led communities of faith can be informed by this work by the Indigenous church.

Kim shared two proposals that are going to General Council 44 this summer: [National Indigenous Circle Restructuring](#) and [Living Into Reconciliation](#). She also shared the following link to the National Indigenous Church dialogue on the restructuring proposal: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wvs4e-T0KXo&t=383s>

June is National Indigenous History Month, and Kim shared these links:

Pow Wow protocols:

<https://www.northernontario.travel/indigenous/pow-wows-in-ontario-the-complete-list?s=2017>

August 20-21 2022 Shawanaga Pow Wow:

<https://calendar.powwows.com/events/shawanaga-traditional-pow-wow/>

August 27-28, 2022 Rama Pow Wow 2022:

For more information, visit [Rama Pow Wow on Facebook](#).

Communities of Faith Updates:

Dewi Sant Welsh and Timothy Eaton Memorial amalgamation – *Diane Matheson-Jimenez*

Both congregations have unanimously approved the amalgamation. As of July 1st, they will be ‘nesting’ until such time as the Dewi Sant Welsh property is dealt with.

MOTION by Sandra Nottegar / Carolyn Harding that the Communities of Faith Commission of Shining Waters Regional Council approve the amalgamation of Dewi Sant Welsh United Church and Timothy Eaton Memorial United Church to be effective upon the sale of the Dewi Sant Welsh United Church property.

MOTION

CARRIED

Bala-Port Carling Review

The Review Committee has met with representatives from the pastoral charge. The Review Committee decisions are binding and they will come to this commission for information. At the time the decisions are presented to the congregations, Diane Matheson-Jimenez and Peter Hartmans will attend to present.

St. Paul’s, Brampton Review

The reviewer has finished his report. The Review Committee will meet with St. Paul’s and then make their decisions on the recommendations in the report. The decisions will then be shared with this commission and the congregation.

Update Community Ministry – *Jeffrey Dale*

The working group as a whole has met twice and a smaller group has met once. During this time conversation was centered around the viability of the community ministries that are already present in the regional council and the potentiality to engage the wider regional council and beyond, in supporting community ministry within The United Church of Canada. We’ve discussed many pieces including: financial and physical support for the ministries, ways of engaging the wider church in conversations regarding community ministry, and how to work within Shining Waters Regional Council structures to ensure that all understand the importance of these ministries. We are hopeful that throughout the

fall we can build a proposal for the future of community ministries in the regional council and how they connect to living out our mandate as a region.

Staff Reports

Summer programs – *Jeffrey Dale*

Government funding has been approved; we were not able to fill all the positions this year; have 13 of the 18 filled; have three working on guaranteed livable income; one working on Affirming; a few are working with communities of faith across the regions; one is working with a camp specifically around research on their history; two will be working on resource booklets. There is an even split between Shining Waters and Canadian Shield so the 13 positions cover from Mississauga up to Thunder Bay.

Then Let Us Sing – *Jeffrey Dale*

In 2023-24 the *Then Let us Sing* resources will be released online and there will be a hard copy by 2025. Every hymn will be able to be used for any purpose under a single license.

Pride Presence – *Susie Henderson and Jeffrey Dale*

Susie and Jeffrey shared about The United Church of Canada presence at pride celebrations across the region this month.

Kim Uyede-Kai left the meeting.

Climate Justice General Council Proposal

Conversation: What's our part in moving it forward?

The proposal had been circulated to Commission members for discussion today.

- in what areas could this commission have some influence?
- think of what to do in terms of communities of faith wanting to change their buildings;
- the Commission travel is reduced by meeting online;
- spearhead an initiative such as having electric vehicle chargers at each community of faith
- what are the kinds of partnerships we can enter into to support climate justice?
- What is in place and the commission mandate is something to discuss with regional lay reps?
- should the Social and Ecological Justice Commission and this Commission work together on some of these issues?
- this will come back to this Commission's agenda in September, after the GC44 meeting is completed.

Strategic Directions (Appendix A)

The commission had discussion around the three strategic directions – deepening connections, encouraging transformation, and renewing and supporting leadership;

There have been 21 responses so far to the regional reps survey sent out recently; results of this survey will give us a base line.

MOTION by Patti Rodgers / Kevin Logie that the Communities of Faith Commission of Shining Waters Regional Council adopt the *Communities of Faith Commission Strategic Directions: Action Plan*

MOTION

CARRIED

Chris Bennett left the meeting.

The meeting broke for lunch

Update from Regional meeting

Leadership update

Betty Lou McNabb has stepped down as President of the regional council due to health reasons and David Leyton-Brown will complete her term as President.

Statistics and Financial Reporting Proposal (recommendations 6 & 7)

A proposal was presented and accepted at the regional council meeting in May, on Statistics and Financial Reporting. Recommendations number 6 & 7 in that proposal relate to this commission. The implementation of the proposal lies with the Executive who has not addressed it yet, but this commission was invited to have discussion and some input to the Executive, particularly around statistics. The commission had discussion and Susie Henderson will report back to the Executive.

Work plan and next meeting

- no meeting in July, meeting on August 17 and September 21, joint meeting with Pastoral Relations Commission on October 25th, and then Commission meeting on November 16, no meeting in December;
- Governance task group meeting is October 4th; perhaps they will have a report back to the Commission from the task group on learnings or issues, etc.
- July – lay reps baseline; community ministries; climate change
- August – plan forum with lay reps; follow-up on meeting with Executive re: property
- September – report around resources on website related to communities of faith; budget, Service Support and Oversight Review policy
- October – affirming resources for congregations
- November – lay reps; liaisons policy
- at end of year look at the plan itself and those outcomes/indicators in the plan and schedule future opportunities for forums with lay reps.
- policy framework of the commission
- on every agenda include Community Ministries update and Climate Justice
- incoming chair of commission

The work plan is at this link: https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1vv42U-u5_UZ3K9M5aerNO-fyqpSaGrkBBYDXEHDJK8k/edit?usp=sharing

Openings for upcoming meetings:

August – Calin Lau

Sept. – Kevin Logie

October – Carolyn Harding
November – Patti Rodgers
No meeting in December
January – Harry Ramsaran

Policy Review

Service Support and Oversight Review policy needs to be reviewed first.
Liaison policy needs to be re-visited; scheduled for November.

Other

Joint meeting with Executive on Property – not scheduled yet

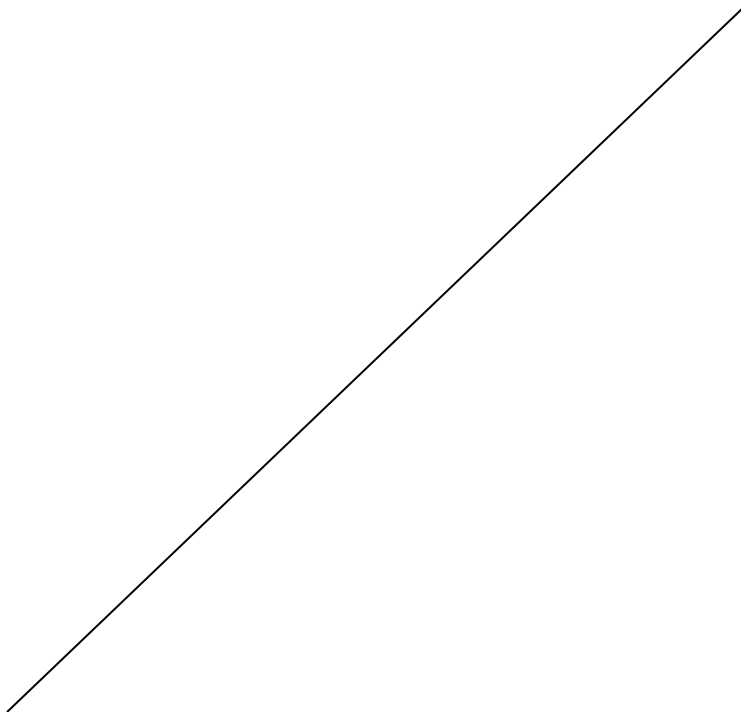
Joint meeting with Pastoral Relations Commission October 25, at Lansing United Church.
Possible agenda items could be:

Intentional Interim Ministry (TUCC support)
Equity and Living Faith Stories

Email votes – a reminder that the Commission will not be doing any email votes during the last week of July and the first week of August.

Closing

The agenda having been completed the meeting closed at 1:30 p.m. Gloria offered a blessing from the book, *The Earth Cries Glory* by Steven Shakespeare.



Appendix A

Community of Faith Commission Strategic Directions: Action Plan

PURPOSE

The Communities of Faith Commission will set policy and give direction within their mandate. The Communities of Faith Commission will care for communities of faith and provide resources for collegiality and support amongst communities of faith. The Communities of Faith Commission will nurture new ministries. The Communities of Faith Commission will empower and resource ministry in the Region. This includes supporting communities of faith in areas such as clusters, networks, visioning, amalgamation, disbanding, and property matters. The work may be carried out in a variety of ways, including by staff or liaisons appointed for a limited time period. (From the Communities of Faith Commission Policy.)

STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS

In February 2020 the Community of Faith Commission affirmed three strategic overall directions with a highlight on deepening connection.

1. Deepening Connection
2. Encouraging Transformation
3. Renewing and Supporting Leadership

GOALS

The following goals were identified in priority order:

- a) Strengthen connection between communities of faith and SWRC
- b) Connect rural and small ministries for resource sharing
- c) Help communities of faith (small/rural) imagine possibilities for ministry
- d) Strengthen connection between communities of faith and wider community
- e) Decrease carbon cost of buildings
- f) Outreach to new immigrants
- g) Increase number of affirming ministries
- h) Shared ministry plan/streamlined process
- i) Adapt governance to meet changing realities

2022 NEXT STEPS

Given that much of our work as a Commission is responsive, we will keep these directions and goals before us as we work for guidance. We will initiate new activity based on the first priority. Deepening Connection: strengthening connection between communities of faith and Shining Waters Regional Council.

Deepening Connections

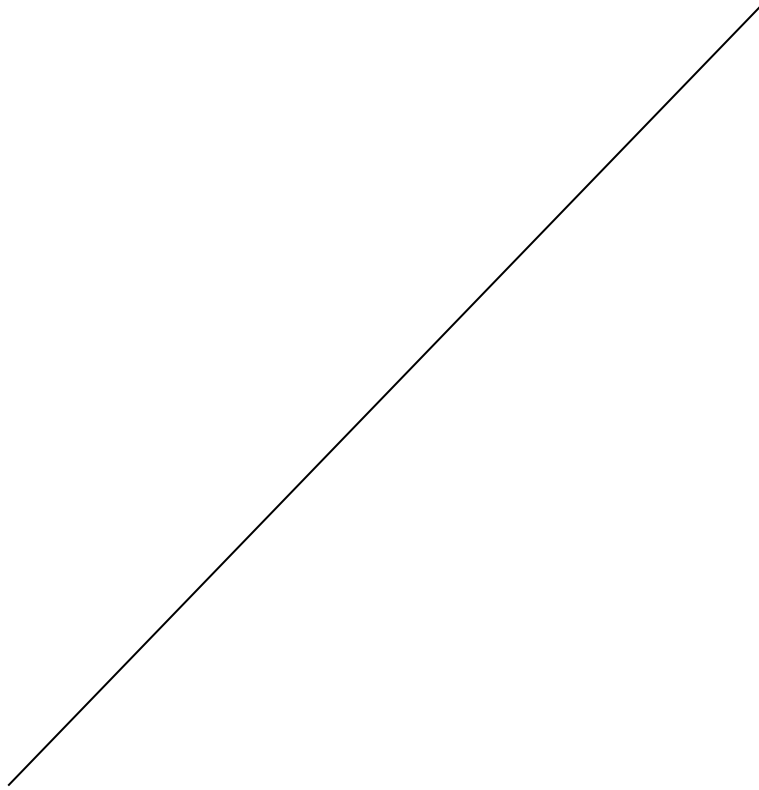
Strengthen Connection Between Communities of Faith and Shining Waters Region

Objective	Activities -what will we do	Indicators – how will we know	Milestones
1. Strengthen Connection Identify and support regional representatives to connect communities of faith with the CFC Commission (and the region as a whole).	a) Survey regional reps. on their sense of connection and needs for support b) Host a (set of) gathering(s) for in response (also invite Board, Trustees) c) Identify communities of faith without regional representation with an aim to fill those roles.	a) Results will provide a baseline for the CFC to articulate what support and lack of support b) means Based on feedback from gatherings, CFC will create an ongoing leadership strategy to train, orient and support regional reps. c) Increased representation/recruitment strategy for 2023.	July 2022 Assessment and baseline Aug.2022 Plan for forums Dec. 2022 Plan for 2023 gatherings Sept.2022 Report on representation
2. Raise Awareness Improve the awareness of the resources and supports that are available to congregations through the CFC	a) Review and update materials on the website and identify gaps b) Monitor and report analytics on email communication and social media	a) Website analytics and CFC feedback Awareness b) and communication read/response rates will improve.	Sept.2022 Report on website resources and first email analytics
3.Grow Belonging Increase belonging and deepen regional identity	a) Animate/reactivate Regional Prayer list b) (Instagram/Facebook?) Create and share resources for communities of faith in the affirming process Improve access to demographic data with our regional map, including orientation and ideas for use.	a) Shares/likes of petitions b) Visits to Affirming resources page c) Visits to map section	Jan. 2023 Prayer list Sept. 2022 publish demographic map Oct.2023 Affirming Resources

June 29, 2022

2023 NEXT STEPS

In December 2022 we will review this plan and revisit the strategic conversation for 2023.



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

**Minutes of a meeting of the
Communities of Faith Commission
Wednesday, August 17, 2022**

The Communities of Faith Commission of Shining Waters Regional Council met on Wednesday, August 17, 2022 via Zoom. The meeting began at 9:30 a.m.

Present:

Chris Bennett, Carolyn Harding, Calin Lau, Amy Lee, Kevin Logie, Sandra Nottegar, Eric Nyarko, Patti Rodgers,

Staff: Susie Henderson, Kim Uyede-Kai, Diane Matheson-Jimenez, Jeffrey Dale, Rachael Howes

Regrets: Tom MacNeil, Gloria Tozek

Absent: Harry Ramsaran

Welcome, check in and prayer

The chairperson welcomed everyone. Calin Lau 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.

There was a time of check-in.

Agenda

MOTION by Amy Lee / Calin Lau that the agenda be accepted as circulated.
MOTION **CARRIED**

Minutes

MOTION by Patti Rodgers / Carolyn Harding that the Minutes of the meetings of the Communities of Faith Commission of Shining Waters Regional Council dated June 29, 2022 be approved as circulated.
MOTION **CARRIED**

Communities of Faith Updates

Willowdale Emmanuel - *Kim Uyede-Kai*

Kim reported on a conflict situation that she is working on with Willowdale Emmanuel. She has suggested a restorative practice listening circle which they will proceed with and which she will facilitate.

Reviews – Diane Matheson-Jimenez

Bala-Port Carling is to receive the decisions of the Review Committee on September 6th. Peter Hartmans and Jody Maltby will meet in person with the congregations that day.

St. Paul's Brampton – The Review Committee continues to meet and is gathering resources to be able to make decisions that have background support.

Strategic Directions

Results from Lay Reps survey

Chris Bennett and Susie Henderson led the Commission through the results of the recent survey. Insights:

- Dig deeper into why so many congregations have no rep (challenge to fill roles, low priority, disconnection from region)
- Hear the loss of the connection of people knowing each other through Presbytery meetings. Consider a pilot project to begin to repair relationships and invite conversation about issues that churches are facing. Chris and Patti will consider this idea further.
- Noticed that a large number of ethnic and ethnolinguistic communities of faith don't have lay reps. This may speak to the need to be more intentional about how we are in relationship with ethnic communities in the Region.
- Fall forums are one way to reach out

Plan for Fall Forums

Susie presented a draft proposal for forums called, *Lay Reps Let's Connect*. Some of the highlights:

- an hour in the evening on perhaps the last Thursday of the month.
- meet and discuss with regional council leadership and come away with a snapshot of the region.
- have a little take-away at the end of each forum, so they are left with something concrete.
- some topics could be: a report back from General Council meeting in summer; online ministry; community ministries; visioning; collaborative ministry; intercultural partnerships etc.

The group felt this was a good plan. We need to leave ourselves some room to be responsive. Susie would set up process and logistical items; someone would need to be present to facilitate/host the evening.

It was decided to go with the first topic on a 'regional council 101' type of forum, and have this be a work in progress, and let it take the shape it needs to.

The group decided to bring this to another commission meeting and then let a smaller group continue with it.

Diane Matheson-Jimenez left the meeting.

August 17, 2022

Draft budget

Susie Henderson provided a first draft of a commission budget. It was decided to bring this back for discussion at the next commission meeting in September, after commission members have had a time to think about priorities, etc.

Eric Nyarko left the meeting.

Canada Summer Jobs update – *Jeffrey Dale*

There have been 18 students that Jeffrey has been supervising which has made for a very busy summer for him; next year he will apply for five students and he will encourage individual churches to hire students as this program allows the engagement of young people which is valuable to churches.

He would like to have a conversation with this commission and the Social and Ecological Justice Commission on youth matters and how we keep the conversations going. It is very important and fulfilling work.

Day for Community of Faith Administrators – *Jeffrey Dale*

On Tuesday, August 23rd from 3 to 4 p.m. Jeffrey and Kathy Douglas of Antler River Watershed, Western Ontario Waterways and Horseshoe Falls regions are hosting a gathering for church office administrators on Zoom; the purpose is to share and learn about Professional Church Secretaries' Association 2022 Conference being held October 16-18, 2022 in Owen Sound, to connect with other Church Administrators, and to share the celebrations and struggles in their work.

Jeffrey presented a proposal to the commission for financial support in the amount of \$600 to have the church administrator of Kimbourne Park United Church sponsored to attend the Professional Church Secretaries' Association Conference. The person would report back to the commission on the conference.

MOTION Sandra Nottegar / Kevin Logie that the Communities of Faith Commission of Shining Waters Regional Council offer support to, and funding of up to \$600, to sponsor the attendance of Megan Stone of Kimbourne Park United Church to attend the Professional Church Secretaries Association 2022 Conference in Owen Sound, October 16-18.

MOTION

CARRIED

Next Commission meeting

September 21, 2022, 9:30 a.m. via Zoom

Closing

The agenda having been completed, the meeting closed at 11:30 a.m.

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

**Minutes of a meeting of the
Communities of Faith Commission
Wednesday, September 21, 2022**

The Communities of Faith Commission of Shining Waters Regional Council met on Wednesday, September 21, 2022 via Zoom. The meeting began at 9:30 a.m.

Present:

Chris Bennett, Carolyn Harding, Calin Lau, Amy Lee, Kevin Logie, Tom MacNeil, Sandra Nottegar, Patti Rodgers, Gloria Tozek

Staff: Susie Henderson, Kim Uyede-Kai, Diane Matheson-Jimenez, Rachael Howes

Regrets: Harry Ramsaran

Absent: Eric Nyarko

Welcome, check in and prayer

The chairperson welcomed everyone, Kevin Logie gave an acknowledgement of the land, acknowledged our commitment to being a safe place for all people to gather and participate in our Region, and gave an opening prayer.

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

There was a time of check-in.

Agenda

Addition of an item on the theology of property ownership under Other Business.

MOTION by Amy Lee / Carolyn Harding that the agenda be accepted as amended.

MOTION

CARRIED

Minutes

MOTION by Sandra Nottegar / Kevin Logie that the Minutes of the meetings of the Communities of Faith Commission of Shining Waters Regional Council dated June 29, 2022 be approved as circulated.

MOTION

CARRIED

Communities of Faith Updates:

For information:

- **Bala-Port Carling**
The Review Committee's decision has been shared with the congregation. One of the decisions was to have Diane Matheson-Jimenez work with the congregation to develop a five-year plan for the viability of the pastoral charge, and submit a report to the Review Committee by 2023; acknowledged work of the review committee (Islay Scott (chair), Jim Keenan, Carolyn Harding) and appreciation for their offer to remain constituted to continue supporting this congregation.
- **St. Paul's Brampton Review**
The Review Committee is doing good work; their meetings are doing information gathering right now; they have engaged Credence & Co for resources for St. Paul's and next steps will be discerned from their report.
- **Korean translation of handbooks and policy**
There are five Korean language congregations in Shining Waters. The Intercultural Diversity Commission was asked to do some translation work starting with Korean. Two are underway right now: the pastoral relations handbook around search and selection, as well as the Policies, Procedures, and Practices handbook. Two translators have been contracted and hope to have the work done by end of November.
- **Indigenous communities of faith** – there are five that all have vacancies for ministry personnel. Kim Uyede-Kai gave an update on these communities of faith.
- **North York Korean** – the congregation has been working with Richard Choe; he is hosting listening circles; he hopes to have some recommendations to bring to this commission in November.

For action:

- **Trillium, Mono Mills – disbanding**
Diane Matheson-Jimenez gave background information on Trillium's request to disband.

MOTION by Carolyn Harding / Calin Lau that the Communities of Faith Commission of Shining Waters Regional Council approves the request of **Trillium United Church, Mono Mills** to disband the pastoral charge as a recognized community of faith effective December 31, 2022 with thanks to God for the ministry of this congregation.

MOTION

CARRIED

- St. Paul's, Scarborough – Regional rep to transition team

MOTION by Kevin Logie / Gloria Tozek That on the recommendation of the Intentional Interim Ministry Committee, the Communities of Faith Commission of Shining Waters Regional Council, approve the appointment of Andy Comar as regional representative to the transition team of St. Paul's United Church, Scarborough.

MOTION

CARRIED

- Central, Weston – Regional rep to transition team

MOTION by Amy Lee / Carolyn Harding that on the recommendation of the Intentional Interim Ministry Committee, the Communities of Faith Commission of Shining Waters Regional Council, approve the appointment of Anne Hepburn as regional representative to the transition team of Central United Church, Weston.

MOTION

CARRIED

- College Street, Toronto – Regional rep to transition team

MOTION by Sandra Nottegar / Calin Lau that on the recommendation of the Intentional Interim Ministry Committee, the Communities of Faith Commission of Shining Waters Regional Council, approve the appointment of Peter Kopplin as regional representative to the transition team of College Street United Church, Toronto.

MOTION

CARRIED

The Commission took an all-purpose break.

Strategic Directions

- Deepening Connections action plan report
Susie Henderson gave a progress check on the activities on the action plan on deepening connections with lay reps.

- Lay Forums revised plan
Susie shared details of a proposal for a lay forum on October 19th in the evening for an hour. It will focus on giving a big picture of the region. Chris Bennett agreed to participate from the Commission.

2023 Commission Budget

Susie Henderson presented and reviewed a draft budget for the Commission. She asked, *how does the Commission want to designate an amount of the budget towards the future?* The Commission discussed some ideas. There was a consensus to take the three strategic

directions and allocate \$10,000 to each, for seed funding for programs/projects in communities of faith.

Other Business

Property:

Jody Maltby updated the Commission on big-picture property matters. There is a real connection and overlap of the work of this commission and the work of the Executive around the property of a congregation. The Executive is in the process of developing four properties with Kindred Works of United Property Resource Corp. A joint meeting of this Commission and the Executive around property is being planned with the aim of being strategic as a regional council about the properties within the region.

There is a need to have an understanding of the theology of our property policies and decisions. This is more of a national conversation, and this Fall a number of people will be starting the conversation.

There are a number of congregations in the region that are in conversation with Kindred Works – St. Luke's, Uganda Martyrs, Ghana Calvary, Metropolitan, Westway, Richmond Hill, Grace Barrie, Westmount Orillia, Victoria Square Markham, Keswick, Fairbanks, and Downsview.

Future Agenda

- Budget
- Policy Review: Service and Support and Oversight of Communities of Faith Policy. This will be deferred to a future meeting and people were asked to consider being part of a small group to work on the update of the policy.

- Joint meeting with Pastoral Relations Commission

There is a meeting on September 30th with the chair of Pastoral Relations Commission to put the agenda together for the joint meeting on October 25th at Lansing United Church. The joint meeting will take place in the morning and the individual commission meetings will be in the afternoon.

- Workplan check

Next meeting – joint meeting with the Pastoral Relations Commission on October 25th. Future meetings will be the third Wednesday of the month.

Closing – Chris Bennett thanked everyone for their participation and offered blessings to all as the meeting closed at 12:09 p.m.

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

**Minutes of a meeting of the
Communities of Faith Commission
Tuesday, October 25, 2022**

The Communities of Faith Commission of Shining Waters Regional Council met for an in-person hybrid (in-person and online) joint meeting with the Pastoral Relations Commission, on Tuesday, October 25, 2022 at Lansing United Church, 49 Bogert Ave, North York, ON. The meeting began at 10:30 a.m.

Present:

Chris Bennett, Carolyn Harding, Calin Lau, Kevin Logie, Tom MacNeil, Sandra Nottegar, Eric Nyarko, Patti Rodgers

Staff: Jeffrey Dale, Susie Henderson, Dale Hildebrand, Rachael Howes, Jody Maltby, Diane Matheson-Jimenez, Todd McDonald, Donna Rutz

Regrets: Amy Lee, Harry Ramsaran, Gloria Tozek, Kim Uyede-Kai

Welcome, constituting the meeting and prayer

Chris Bennett welcomed everyone to the meeting. Dale Hildebrand gave an acknowledgement of the land. Donna Bowman-Woodall led a time of worship. There was a time of introductions.

Joint Commission Conversation - leader, Chris Bennett

Emerging from Pandemic

Susie Henderson led a facilitated discussion scanning the landscape, taking input from the members under categories of what we have lost, what we want to let go, what to nourish/plant, and what is here to stay.

Lay-Led Communities of Faith

Jody Maltby led a conversation that considered the changing context of communities of faith and our current processes and oversight for lay-led congregations. It focused on the General Council Executive proposal, GCE06 *Ministry Leadership to meet the needs of the church in the 2020s*. The discussions around the proposal revealed that this is an issue that needs to be addressed in our church. The proposal asked, might the question we are grappling with be: How do we create a structure of placing personnel that does not create harm?

She spoke about lay-led congregations in Shining Waters, what types of congregations have lay leaders, as well as the strengths in a lay-led congregation and the challenges in a lay-led congregation.

She also spoke about Licensed Lay Worship Leaders, Congregational Designated Ministry and Pastoral Charge Supervisors. The Pastoral Relations Commission trains Licensed Lay Worship Leaders and appoints Pastoral Charge Supervisors. The

October 25, 2022

Communities of Faith Commission has oversight of congregations. Increasingly there is a rise in lay-led congregations that may be more permanent than in the past.

The 44th General Council also encourages regional councils to explore and implement ways that support rural and other struggling ministries in The United Church of Canada and that what is done at the regional councils be shared back to the national church because we have work to do as a whole church that honours a diversity of faithful forms of leadership.

The meeting took a 10-minute break.

Equity Project Goal and Plan

Paul Stott led a conversation about highlighting the equity lens for the Living Faith Story of congregations.

He spoke about encouraging equity considerations to be included in the development of the Living Faith Stories.

- Does it contain an equity statement reflective of the congregation's current practice and future vision?
- How would a LGBTQ2S+ minister read it?
- How would a differently-abled minister read it?
- How would a racialized minister read it?
- How would a female minister read it?

Intentional Interim Ministry

Diane Matheson-Jimenez and Chris Bennett led a conversation about how we can be more deliberate with our resources, support, and networking for those engaged in the intentional interim ministry process. They shared an overview of how churches move through transition. Is there interest in a shared working group to review the situation and recommend directions?

Some of the questions addressed were:

What are the resources needed?

What do you see as your accountability relative to intentional interim ministry?

What do you see as a vision/opportunity?

What are we going to do about it?

It was suggested to take this away to our respective commissions and create a small working group to look at these questions as a way to support intentional interim ministry.

Some of the comments/thoughts given:

- a great tool, are we using it as a region as effectively as we could to be more strategic in the way we employ intentional interim ministers?
- there is a need to be more prescriptive as to how intentional interim ministry is used.
- there will come a time when intentional interim ministry will become inaccessible to the congregations that desperately need it. If this is a tool we value, how are we going to remedy that?

- there usually is a shortage of trained intentional interim ministers although currently we do have enough, but it could be because of a lack of energy for congregations to create a transition team, etc.
- there are patterns, so we perhaps need resources to support congregations more as they go through transition.

Supporting Communities of Faith as They Close

Todd McDonald led a conversation about support for communities of faith, (both ministry personnel and lay leaders) as they close, based on the story of Minesing United Church, including: naming attitudes/stigma and isolation that they face, challenges of dealing with practical things (assets); naming legacy, telling their story, celebrating history, planting seeds for the future, transitioning members. What's our experience? How can we help? What kind of care and accompaniment can we offer? Can we identify best practices?

Learn from endings; both good endings and those that didn't go well. Calin Lau shared a story of ending well, and the learnings from that. Dee Lawrence spoke about an ending that did not go well and those learnings.

The meeting shared with each other what about the stories of endings filled them with thanksgiving; and what new directions they hope for when considering churches that are closing.

Closing

Donna Bowman-Woodall invited people to share a gratitude and offered a blessing prayer for lunch.

Lunch Break

The joint commission gathering broke for lunch at 12:55 p.m. and then reconvened separately.

The Communities of Faith Commission session began at 1:30 p.m.

Agenda

MOTION by Patti Rodgers / Tom MacNeil that the agenda be accepted as circulated.

MOTION

CARRIED

Minutes

MOTION by Calin Lau / Carolyn Harding that the Minutes of the meetings of the Communities of Faith Commission of Shining Waters Regional Council dated September 21, 2022 be approved as circulated.

MOTION

CARRIED

October 25, 2022

Governance Task Group

The following decisions were made by the Governance Task Group

- approved the proposed new governance structure of St. Andrew's United Church, Markham in principle, pending a positive outcome of their test period at the end of the year.

Communities of Faith Updates

Bala Port Carling:

Jody Maltby gave an update on the review of Bala-Port Carling pastoral charge and requested a motion to extend the time of the review committee to present final decisions.

MOTION by Sandra Nottegar / Calin Lau that the Communities of Faith Commission of Shining Waters Regional Council approve the extension of the time for the Review Committee to present final decisions on the review of Bala-Port Carling pastoral charge to their June 2023 meeting.

MOTION

CARRIED

St. Paul's Brampton:

Diane Matheson-Jimenez gave an update on the review of St. Paul's Brampton and requested a motion to extend the time of the review committee to present final decisions

MOTION by Carolyn Harding / Eric Nyarko that the Communities of Faith Commission of Shining Waters Regional Council approve the extension of the time for the Review Committee to present final decisions on St. Paul's United Church, Brampton to June 30, 2023.

MOTION

CARRIED

Cheltenham

Diane Matheson-Jimenez gave background information on the Cheltenham community of faith and their decision to disband.

MOTION by Sandra Nottegar / Carolyn Harding that the Communities of Faith Commission of Shining Waters Regional Council approves the request of **Cheltenham United Church**, Cheltenham, to disband the pastoral charge as a recognized community of faith effective December 31, 2022 with thanks to God for the ministry of this congregation.

MOTION

CARRIED

There was discussion about having a closing worship service with the community of faith.

Cheltenham United Church also requested a decision from the Commission that the Cheltenham United Church property (including church building and manse) at 14309 Creditview Rd, Cheltenham be listed for sale, using the Dusk Team of iPro Realty (Brampton).

The Commission decided to table this motion in order to do due diligence and request the input of United Property Resource Corp. (UPRC) on the matter of the sale of the building and manse.

Cheltenham United Church also presented a legacy plan and asked for approval of the disbursement of 10% of any remaining financial and property-related assets as follows:

- Canadian Foodgrains Bank (15%)
- Bethel Hospice (10%)
- Caledon Community Services (15%)
- Meals on Wheels (20%)
- S.H.A.R.E (10%)
- Headwaters Health Care Centre, Orangeville (6%)
- Brampton Civic Hospital (6%)
- Georgetown Hospital (6%)
- Boston Mills Cemetery (7%)

The Commission decided to table this motion pending the decision on the disposition of the church building and manse.

The Commission did agree in principle with Cheltenham United Church's legacy plan as presented, with any final decision pending on the disposition of the property.

Lay Forums

- Debrief October 19 event
Susie Henderson gave some information and feedback on the lay reps' forum that was held on October 19th. There were 51 registered, and 47 attended. The material shared at the forum is on the Shining Waters website along with some notes.

Susie asked for feedback and thoughts for future forums from commission members.

- some people don't have internet, so include a phone number for those folks when referring people to the website;
- felt people wanted to talk to each other and connect as well as get information;
- perhaps have a forum without much agenda and more mutual conversation;
- some smaller congregations who don't have a regional rep are not engaged in the same way; hard to design something like this that encompasses all sizes and types of congregations; perhaps design something just for the smaller congregations
- needs to be a safe place for lay reps from those churches that are thriving and doing exciting things, so they can talk about what's working and not without judgment from communities of faith that are struggling. How do we create space for clusters based on what are the real needs of your community at this time?

New Business

- Early Warning Indicators of Congregational Financial Instability – offer from SPHAERA RESEARCH | HALO CANADA PROJECT
Halo is a data collection project and reached out to us about doing a study around early warning signs, financial indicators, of congregations that are closing. The cost is \$3,000 for the report. Is this something that we are interested in exploring? would it be of use to us? What would we do with the information and how would we respond? They have done such a report for the Anglican church. Susie will get some more information and will see what the Anglican report looks like.

Workplan for further discussion and to schedule

- Joint work identified in the morning
 - work with intentional interim ministry, create a task group; to determine how we can better employ intentional interim ministers across the region; Chris and Tom are willing to work on this; will ask for a couple of people from the Pastoral Relations Commission to join.
 - property conversation
 - Living Faith stories – Fall of 2023; *with a caution not to presume to read the living faith story from another's point of view (amended in Minutes of November 16, 2022)*
 - storytelling and items around closing congregations
- Lay Forums
Will plan them one at a time; have covered some future topics, above.
- Review Service and Support and Oversight of Communities of Faith Policy
This is one of the older policies that needs review. It was suggested we identify a small group to review and revise this policy, perhaps by the Spring of 2023. We will ask Harry Ramsaran if he would participate in the small group and others are invited to join
- Joint Meeting on property with Executive
This will be a conversation around theology of property, etc. Jody will try to get an email conversation started
- Meetings for 2023
The next regular Commission meeting will be on November 16, 2022 and we will try not to meet in December unless absolutely necessary

Closing

Chris Bennett offered blessings and the meeting closed at 3:20 p.m.

The United Church of Canada
Shining Waters Regional Council

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

The Communities of Faith Commission of Shining Waters Regional Council met on Wednesday, November 16, 2022 via Zoom. The meeting began at 9:30 a.m.

Present:

Chris Bennett, Carolyn Harding, Calin Lau, Amy Lee, Kevin Logie, Tom MacNeil, Sandra Nottegar, Eric Nyarko, Harry Ramsaran, Patti Rodgers, Gloria Tozek

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

Regrets: Kim Uyede-Kai

Welcome, check in and prayer

Gloria Tozek acted as Chair for the start of the meeting and welcomed everyone. Patti Rodgers provided an opening worship, 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.

There was a time of check-in.

Agenda

The Agenda was accepted as presented by consensus.

Minutes

Amend October 25, 2022 Minutes to add, at *Workplan for further discussion and to schedule*, under *Living Faith Stories – Fall of 2023*: “with a caution not to presume to read the living faith story from another's point of view.”

MOTION by Eric Nyarko / Sandra Nottegar that the Minutes of the meetings of the Communities of Faith Commission of Shining Waters Regional Council dated October 25, 2022 be approved as amended.

MOTION

CARRIED

Governance Task Group

- Queensville Holland Landing
Approved the revised Constitution of Queensville Holland Landing.
- Reflection on the year of the task group
The task group met recently to review their work and Susie Henderson reported on what the task group has seen in their work over the past year.

- Communities of faith are streamlining positions, combining committees
 - Structures were built for a time when volunteers were plentiful –volunteer workforce is now depleted
 - In small places the congregation is the council (and everything else)
 - Wonder about how accountability is maintained when processes are less formal?
 - Recruiting new people is a challenge
 - Roles are just swapped between the same people
 - Scarcity of volunteers in the charity sector as a whole
 - Feels like online meetings could be a positive change if they are well done
 - There are many, many avenues of communication these days – how does a congregation decide which to use?
- Governance in a Nutshell: This is a PowerPoint that is a compilation around the questions of governance; it could take the form of a workshop; or we could create a resource page on our website.
 - Future Governance Task Group Meetings:
The group will meet the second Wednesday of the month at 1:30 p.m.; February 8, April 12, September 13, November 8, 2023.

The Commission was invited to comment and give feedback. Gloria acknowledged and thanked the task group for their work.

SPHAERA Research - update (Susie)

At the October meeting the Commission heard about the proposal from SPHAERA RESEARCH | HALO CANADA PROJECT on Early Warning Indicators of Congregational Financial Instability. Halo is a data collection project and reached out to us about doing a study around early warning signs, financial indicators, of congregations that are closing.

As a follow-up to the discussion and questions at last month's meeting, Susie got further information. One of the Commission's questions was, *what is required from us for this research and what is required from congregations*. SPHAERA would require a list of regional congregations, their addresses (including postal code), and ideally their CRA business number if available. SPHAERA would then request T3010 information directly from CRA for the congregations listed.

They have done this work for the Anglicans and when asked, indicated they will reach out to their contacts in the Anglican church to see if they are comfortable sharing with us. Susie reached out as well to her contacts in the Anglican church but they didn't have any information on the project.

The cost is \$3,000 and the question was posed, what will we do with the study? Is any of this work being done at the national church through statistics? There is some analysis of data that can be done on an individual basis, from statistics and Church Hub.

Congregations are engaging with Kindred Works, and Shining Waters gets asked by congregations as to what they do in the meantime until they see some income on their development. It is a big conversation.

MOTION by Patti Rodgers / Calin Lau that the Communities of Faith Commission of Shining Waters Regional Council not pursue the SAEPHRA proposal at this time and thank them for their interest.

MOTION

CARRIED

New Business

Regional Meeting Planning Team (Jody)

The Executive is inviting the four commissions to name someone to assist the team in planning the annual regional council meeting, particularly around educational and community-building pieces. It is not a hands-on team, just planning, and would be three to four online meetings over the next few months. Eric Nyarko agreed to be part of that planning team.

The meeting took an all-purpose break.

Chris Bennett joined the meeting and resumed the Chair.

Communities of Faith Updates:

- **North York Korean (Diane)**
We will be getting a report from Rev. Richard Choe; it will likely ask this Commission to reconsider a motion made that indicated that North York Korean could not enter into a search process until they have completed a significant amount of work. Richard feels a lot of work has been done and his report may be asking for a motion giving permission for North York Korean to enter into a search for a six-month supply position in order to give them some stability to help them look forward but also to not give them too much leeway. The report will be circulated to the Commission when received and the request may come to the Commission as an email vote.
- **St. Paul's Brampton (Diane)**
Jody and Diane will be meeting with this congregation on November 21st to bring the decisions of the Review Committee; this commission granted an extension to 2023 for a final report.
- **Keswick (Jody)**
Jody is meeting with the Keswick Board November 17th. Diane and Jody have had conversations with them over the past few months; they are exploring their options for the future.
- **Countryside (Jody)**
Next week Jody is meeting with the Countryside Board; they have been reaching out and exploring options.

We are probably going to be having more and more of these type of conversations with congregations over the next year or two. It speaks to prior conversations around how we use resources to support congregations as they are making these decisions, as they are exploring new ways to be viable, etc.

- Bala-Port Carling (Diane)

This pastoral charge had been under review and received the Review Committee's decisions in September and work has begun to move forward.

Port Carling United Church is having to work harder to work through the governance work that needs to happen, and the need to have a solid communication plan, so the Review Committee decided to call on Credence & Co. to do some restorative work. Credence has submitted a proposal outlining the work they could do and the fees. Diane reviewed the proposal with the Commission and noted that the fees do not come out of this Commission's budget. She also talked about the possible good outcome of the work, and the potential consequences.

The Commission had questions and discussions on the proposal and the work.

MOTION by Gloria Tozek / Carolyn Harding that the Communities of Faith Commission of Shining Waters Regional Council approve the expenditure of funds, to a maximum of \$17 000, from the appropriate line of the regional council budget as directed by the Finance Administrator Janet MacDonald, for the proposal from Credence and Co. on Port Carling United Church.

MOTION

CARRIED

Looking towards 2023

How do we proactively support ministries throughout our region? How do we try to create sustainable ministries in every way?

What are the resources that we have available to us? How do we help congregations make some of the necessary choices; what tools and supports can we give from this Commission? How do we try to support what we know are conversations coming up with congregations?

Theology of property

How do we create a conversation that is supportive and positive but also recognizes some of the truths about what the property represents, that the property is something that is held in trust for the larger church and is intended for the broader intentions of ministry throughout the region, and how does that knowledge get brought into the conversations more clearly across the region?

Last Spring out of this conversation, Jody was tasked with broadening this to include the wider church because it is not just our region that is wrestling with these property conversations. She reported that they approached General Council in the Fall to see

whether we could partner on a conversation and Jody is meeting next week with Sarah Charters, Executive Minister for philanthropy, and Jennifer Janzen-Ball, Executive Minister around theology and faith, to talk about whether there is a possibility of partnership that would also include the National Indigenous Church, Kindred Works, and opening it to the other regions, and including our folks.

Jody mentioned that what seems key is that first we have to understand the theology that informed the policy as it currently is, which really does give that ownership role to individual congregations in partnership with the regional council, and we need to name that, and then we need to name what is our theology of property, and we need to formalize that nationally, and then regions can use that to inform their decision-making.

Policy

Can we consider looking at our policy on the disposition of sale of funds to include a fund for our community ministries? One of the things named currently in the policy is that surplus from amalgamations, and funds recognized when a congregation sells their property but are continuing, are funds that are available to be granted by the Grants and Mission Support Committee. If we get too explicit in a policy, we would be doing that Committee's work.

Next Meeting

The Commission decided not to meet in December so the next meeting will be January 18, 2023 at 9:30 a.m.

Closing

Chris thanked everyone for their participation, and wished everyone a wonderful Advent season and the meeting closed at 12:10 p.m.

