

The United Church of Canada
Shining Waters Regional Council

EXECUTIVE

MINUTES of Meeting held December 5, 2023 at 1:00 p.m. via Zoom.

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

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

REGRETS: Lynn Mooney

GATHERING, OPENING PRAYER

Tina opened the meeting at 1:00 p.m. and welcomed everyone to the meeting. She gave an acknowledgement of the land and acknowledged our commitment to being a safe place for all people to gather and participate in our Region.

CHECK IN

Executive members did a check in since last we met.

AGENDA

MOTION by Jingle Ayupan/Peter Hartmans SW Exec 2023-12-05-01
That the agenda for this meeting be approved, as circulated.
CARRIED

MINUTES

MOTION by Allan Holditch/David Leyton-Brown SW Exec 2023-12-05-02
That the Minutes of the meeting of the Shining Waters Regional
Council Executive held November 7, 2023 be approved, as
circulated.
CARRIED

COMMISSION MINUTES

MOTION by Peter Hartmans/Jingle Ayupan SW Exec 2023-11-07-03
That the Executive receive the Minutes of the Intercultural
Diversity Commission for January 2023 through June 2023, for
information.
CARRIED

Omnibus Motion: Incorporated Ministries

At the meeting of the Executive on November 7th, 2023, the following motion was passed:

...pursuant to the Incorporated Ministries Policy of The United
Church of Canada approve the request of Abiona Centre for Infant
& Early Mental Health in connection with its ongoing arrangements
with the City of Toronto under its Contribution Agreement with the

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City dated June 28, 2023 to provide the City with a registered third mortgage on 55-57 Humewood Drive, Toronto, Ontario, in the amount of \$10,000.00.

This was based on the understanding that the Abiona Centre board was conducting an email vote and would provide confirmation when completed. Subsequent to our meeting, the Abiona Centre sought legal advice indicating that as a corporate law matter, the board does not need to approve entering into the contribution agreement and granting the charge. The agreement has already been entered into, pursuant to which Abiona has agreed to grant the change. However, they were also advised that Shining Waters could still require a board resolution as a condition of approving the mortgage.

Executive had a discussion about the Abiona Centre for Infant & Early Mental Health portion of the Omnibus motion. Jody shared that the options moving forward are to respond and ask for the motion or declare the region affirms them not passing the motion since the mortgage has already been approved but that in future, there will need to be a motion. Executive made the decision to move in the direction of requiring the Abiona Centre Board to provide a motion from their board.

Executive removed the section regarding the Abiona Centre from the Omnibus Motion and considered it separately.

MOTION by Allyce Mutungi/Jingle Ayupan SW Exec 2023-12-05-04

That the Shining Waters Regional Council Executive require the Abiona Centre Board to provide their board motion with regard to their registered third mortgage on 55-57 Humewood Drive, Toronto, Ontario, in the amount of \$10,000.00.

CARRIED

MOTION by Peter Hartmans/Jingle Ayupan SW Exec 2023-12-05-05

That the Shining Waters Regional Council (10) Executive take the following action(s):

a) Ina Grafton Gage Home of Toronto

... pursuant to the Incorporated Ministries Policy of The United Church of Canada approve the Ina Grafton Gage Home of Toronto 2023-2024 Board of Directors

**Maura Bascom
Anne Fomin
Ntonghanwah Forcheh
Pamela Gauci
Molly Marrack
Kevin Pook
Rizuan Rahman**

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This is based on the draft minutes of Annual General Meeting of September 20, 2023 and board meeting of October 6, 2023, the 2023 board member approval form, the board contact list provided and receipt of other required documentation per the Incorporated Ministries Policy of The United Church of Canada.

b) Wilmar Heights United Church Non-Profit Homes

...pursuant to the Incorporated Ministries Policy of The United Church of Canada approve the Wilmar Heights United Church Non-Profit Homes 2023-2024 Board of Directors

**David Almack
Trevins Fonseka
Frances Greco
Neil Harris
Bridie Lane
Tony Lo
Jim McArthur
Jo-Anne McArthur
Patricia Shearer
Ty Yusko**

This is based on the draft minutes of Annual Virtual Zoom General Meeting of June 20, 2023, 2023 board member approval form, the board contact list provided and receipt of other required documentation per the Incorporated Ministries Policy of The United Church of Canada.

CARRIED

Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

Grants Decisions

David Leyton-Brown took the chair for President Tina, as she has declared a conflict of interest on this topic of grants decisions and did not participate in the discussion and vote. Jody moved through the list of grants and David inquired if there were any other members of Executive whom, upon viewing the list, had a conflict of interest. Jingle and Isaac both declared a conflict of interest and abstained from voting.

Jody Maltby reviewed the process undertaken by the Grants and Mission Support Committee, and the division of the funds available.

**MOTION by Allyce Mutungi/Allan Holditch SW Exec 2023-12-05-06
That the Executive of Shining Waters Regional Council approve
the recommendations of the Grants and Mission Support**

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Committee as presented, recommend the Net Annual Revenue grant applications to the Presbyteries of Toronto Conference Corporation for consideration, recommend the 5% Capital grant applications to the Presbyteries of Toronto Conference Corporation, recommend the St. Enoch's Fund grant applications to Toronto United Church Council, and recommend the Toronto Southeast Presbytery Major Capital Fund application to Toronto United Church Council.

CARRIED

3 Abstentions – Tina Conlon, Jingle Ayupan, Isaac Kamta

MOTION by Isaac Kamta/Peter Hartmans SW Exec 2023-12-05-07

That the Executive of Shining Waters Regional Council approve the recommendation of the Grants and Mission Support Committee to the release of the third year of funding to the community ministries of Davenport-Perth, Jane Finch and Regent Park and recommend the Net Annual Income grant, the 5% Capital grants and the Community Ministries Fund grants to the Presbyteries of Toronto Conference Corporation.

CARRIED

3 Abstentions – Tina Conlon, Jingle Ayupan, Isaac Kamta

Grant recipients need to be informed and therefore, Jody asked that this information be kept confidential.

At the conclusion of the grants discussion, David gave the chair back to President Tina.

2024 Draft Budget

Peter declared a conflict of interest and refrained from commenting and voting on in this discussion.

Janet presented the draft budget for 2024, highlighting significant changes made by the new Finance Committee. The budget includes funding from various sources such as Grant income, investment income, and income from property sales. However, there was a discussion about whether to present a balanced budget or show a deficit to emphasize necessary expenses. David pointed out that proceeds from property sales were used to balance the budget, and they suggested mentioning the Regent Park project, which is already underway and expected to generate revenue in the future.

MOTION by David Leyton-Brown/Bri-anne Swan SW Exec 2023-12-05-08

That the Executive of the Shining Waters Regional Council approve the 2024 Budget as presented.

CARRIED

1 Abstention – Peter Hartmans

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General Council Update

Executive discussed an update from the General Council Executive (GCE) regarding the issue of incorporating retired designated lay ministers into the Regional Council. David and Peter clarified a conflict between The Manual and The Basis of Union, which arises from regional councils not possessing all the powers conferred on previous conferences, which had the ability to add additional members.

David suggested that a remit would be required to include retired, designated lay ministers as members of the regional council, which needs to be voted on by regional councils. In the meantime, the GCE has requested regional councils not to proceed with making retired designated lay ministers (DLMs) members of the Regional Council unless and until they receive the authority to do that, via a proposed remit at the October 2024 GC44 Meeting. All other performative duties such as weddings, funerals, and administering sacraments will continue as it has always been.

David added that if there is a remit, it will allow for retired DLMs to be named as members of the regional council and for up to 10% of regional council membership for other purposes at the regional council's discretion, such as equity or diversity positions.

David discussed two major initiatives at the GCE: the first is the allocation of a substantial amount of money for church growth, including the planting of 50 new United Church congregations across the country, particularly in ethnic communities not adequately served by existing churches; the second initiative involves the creation of new communities of faith and the regeneration and growth of existing congregations, with a new growth animator position to be based in their region.

Peter, Jody, and Tina also shared their enthusiasm and support for these initiatives. Additionally, David mentioned a letter sent by the UCC GCE to the Prime Minister, calling for a ceasefire in Israel and Palestine.

Discussion on Executive Meeting Dates in the New Year

Executive discussed the schedule of meeting dates for the upcoming year. Peter inquired whether the team would like to cancel the January meeting that falls on Tuesday, January 2, 2024 and to ensure that there are no Executive meeting dates that fall on the week of Regional Council Meetings (RCMs) in the spring for both regions.

There was consensus that the January 2, 2024 SW Executive meeting be canceled and will resume on Tuesday, February 6, 2024 and that there will be no Executive meetings the week of RCMs in the spring for both regions.

Executive Minister Report

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

**MOTION by Isaac Kamta/Jingle Ayupan
That the Executive of Shining Waters Regional Council receive the
Executive Minister Report, for information.
CARRIED**

SW Exec 2023-12-05-09

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New Business

There was no new business at this time.

Closing Prayer

Isaac gave a closing prayer and the meeting closed at 3:00 p.m.

Next Meetings: Tuesday, February 6, 2024 at 1:00 p.m. via Zoom
 Tuesday, March 5, 2024 at 1:00 p.m. via Zoom
 Tuesday, April 2, 2024 at 1:00 p.m. via Zoom
 Tuesday, April 23, 2024 at 1:00 p.m. via Zoom
 Tuesday, May 28, 2024 at 1:00 p.m. via Zoom

Appendix A
SWRC Executive Minister Report
December 2023

As we reflect on 2023, we give thanks for our many communities of faith, our lay leadership, ministry personnel, our Regional Council, Regional Council volunteers and finally our Regional Council Staff. I am grateful to return from sick leave and will return to fulltime work the week of December 11, as approved by restorative care. I deeply appreciate the time the United Church provided for recovery and thank you again for the support of Jody Maltby and Susan Whitehead, along with the entire staff of CSRC and SWRC, who provided key support in my absence.

Festival of Faith 2025:

The Festival of Faith in 2025 is planned for June 13-15, 2025. Currently the Nominations Committee has asked for expressions of interest from both Regional Councils and we are focusing on Sudbury as the venue location. The Moderator will attend the Festival of Faith 2025! Rob Smith will provide key leadership from both staff teams.

2024 Regional Meeting June 2025

Planning for the meeting continues and I deeply appreciate the leadership of Jody and Tina as we look toward 2025, as it will be a General Council preparation year. My sense is a significant portion of our meeting time will focus on electing commissioners and discussing General Council proposals. We have starting planning for 2024 Regional Council Meeting which will be held at North Bramalea United Church in Brampton, ON.

Staffing

Jeffery Dale, who supported Justice/Youth Ministry and Faith Formation for ministry for both CSRC and SWRC, transitioned to parish ministry in the fall of 2023. Jeffery was called to Port Elgin United Church in the fall of 2023. Currently we are working quickly to find a replacement for Jeffery's position. The position was posted in November of 2023 for two weeks and an interview team has been put together to interview in later December, staff leadership is being provided by Jody and Diane.

Strategic Plan Update

Work continues around The United Church of Canada strategic plan. Key pieces for the Regional Council include the hiring of a national coordinator, Cameron Fraser (he/him), Director of Growth and Ministry Development. Cam, along with local CSRC and SWRC folks, partnered around hiring a local Growth animator to be shared between the Canadian Shield Regional Council and Shining Waters Regional Council. Calin Lau will start January 1, 2024 for CSRC and SWRC. We are working with Cam, as we prepare for Calin's start.

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The Growth initiative represents the leading priority of the Strategic Plan of The United Church of Canada. As a way to embody this priority, the General Council Office's Organizational Development and Strategy Unit is working with regional councils to create and fill six new positions. The six Growth Animators will be deployed across the regions to work in local and regional partnerships with a focus on renewing existing communities of faith, creating new communities, and strengthening invitation. Growth Animators will support and connect with communities where growth is occurring and seek to bring best practices and fresh possibilities where growth is a challenge and feels impossible.

The Growth initiative is seeking to articulate a vision for what growth and invitation looks like rooted in humility and respect as we together answer our call to be the church, become beloved community, and embody Deep Spirituality, Bold Discipleship, and Daring Justice. These staff will join a team that includes existing EDGE colleagues bringing their experience and expertise.