

EXECUTIVE

MINUTES of Meeting held June 20, 2023 at 1:00 p.m. via Zoom.

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

STAFF: Peter Hartmans (Executive Minister) Jody Maltby (Staff Lead)

REGRETS: Moon Ja Park, Lynn Mooney, Susan Whitehead

GATHERING, OPENING PRAYER

Peter opened the meeting at 1:00 p.m. and extended greetings to the new Executive. He acknowledged there are no new faces to this table but there is a new President, Tina Conlon, and David Leyton-Brown now moves to the Past President position. David Leyton-Brown 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.

Tina led a worship reflecting on Luke chapter 8, verse 40.

After worship, there was a time of check-in with Executive.

AGENDA

MOTION by David Leyton-Brown / Jingle Ayupan
That the agenda for this meeting be approved as circulated.
CARRIED

MINUTES

MOTION by David Leyton-Brown / Jingle Ayupan
That the Minutes of the meeting of the Shining Waters Regional Council Executive held April 20, 2023 be approved, as circulated.
CARRIED

Email Vote May 23, 2023

Fred Victor Centre

- approval of request to purchase 501 Logan Avenue

Toronto United Church Council

- approval of request to sell 501 Logan Avenue and approval of 2021-2022 and 2022-2023 Board of Directors

Dunkerron United Church Cemetery

- approval the severance and sale of the property to the Township of Bradford-West Gwillimbury

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Email Vote June 1, 2023

Director of PTCC

- approved the nomination of Philip Armstrong as a Director of The Presbyteries of Toronto Conference Corporation.

Correspondence:

There is no correspondence at this time.

Nominations, If Needed

There was no report from the Nominations Committee at this time.

Regional Council Meeting (RCM) and Celebration of Ministry Service (CoMS)

Reflections and Review

Tina invited Executive members to give their reflections on the RCM at North Bramalea UC in May. David shared that he was delighted with the way the agenda of the RCM was so coherent and integrated and felt it really brought the theme to life. He expressed that one of the key goals of the meeting was to give people a lot of opportunity for post-pandemic interaction and to not just be sitting and listening to a presenter; he inquired how members felt about the amount of formal and informal interaction at the meeting and Executive members all agreed that is was the perfect amount.

The comment was made that people were perhaps missing not having table groups and the conversations generated there but appreciated the knee group time to chat in small groups of 8-10. Another comment was that it was hard to interact and connect with people online but that it was a well-run meeting.

Since we are on a learning curve with doing hybrid meetings, Peter asked how people perceived how the online piece went – did it feel like you were part of the meeting or did it feel like you were watching television. Comments were that it felt like a bit of both and that the breakout rooms could have been a bit longer.

Peter shared that the facility staff and volunteers at North Bramalea were remarkably professional, warm and intentional. Another observation was that having the bookstore in the basement limited the traffic and sales; at the Festival of Faith in North Bay, the bookstore was in the centre everything and it impacted the sales in a very positive way. Jody reiterated Peter's learnings and was very satisfied with North Bramalea.

David stated that North Bramalea was extremely adept at technologically supporting the hybrid meeting in a way that a lot of churches/facilities might not have been able to and that was another "plus."

There were comments that people felt the Celebration of Ministry Service (CoMS) went a bit long and Peter stated he doesn't know how to make it shorter, as there are official duties like laying on of hands, that need to be done. Jody shared that in the former Toronto Conference, candidates responded to the questions as a group rather than individually. This was changed during the pandemic because the service was held online. It might save a few minutes to go back to the former model, but it feels more significant to have them answer individually.

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David suggested the hymn “When the Spirit of the Lord Is Within My Heart” be the theme hymn for every Shining Waters Regional Council CoMS.

Tina shared that she appreciated Jody’s time executing the CoMS rehearsal and getting everyone organized. She also remarked that people have asked the question if retirees will be recognized at the RCM in the future. Peter and Jody shared that in both their former conferences retirees were recognize and gave speeches but that practice has been to now have videos from retirees to share with the court and perhaps a combination of videos to share and slides with pictures and names, etc. will be the way to celebrate at future meetings.

Regional Meeting 2024 (Checklist)

Tina shared that she appreciated the checklist of items for the 2024 RCM.

Venue for 2024 SW RCM

The venue will need to be chosen and booked for the 2024 SW RCM; Peter and Tina have had preliminary discussions about this. Some suggestions on venues are to return to North Bramalea UC, to possibly use the Evergreen Brick Works, and to inquire at another United Church within our region. It was reiterated again that the venue must have the capability to technically support a two-way hybrid meeting.

Moderator Invite to Festival of Faith (FoF) for 2025

Peter shared that our Moderator accepted our invitation to attend the FoF in 2025; Peter will reach out to Tina, David, Barb and Nancy about the creation of an Ad Hoc Committee for this.

David Leyton-Brown assumed the chair as President Tina needed to leave the meeting.

Approved Regional Council Proposals for Review and Discussion: Next Steps

Executive discussed the difference in character between motions and proposals, where motions being made at Executive meetings become final decisions, and proposals at the RCM are a conversation that leads to either policy or action. Peter invited input from members and they discussed each of the 4 proposals. There was an extensive discussion by Executive members about the proposals and these talking points have been recorded to be distributed to the applicable Commission.

SW2023-01: A Vision for the Post-Pandemic Church from a Community Ministries Perspective

Motion: Moved by Patti Rogers and seconded by Sarah Lough that Shining Waters Regional Council adopt the proposal SW2023-01, A Vision for the Post-Pandemic Church from a Community Ministries Perspective as presented.

This motion was carried at the RCM and it is ready for action.

**MOTION: by Peter Hartmans / Jingle Ayupan
That the Shining Waters Regional Council Meeting Proposal
SW2023-01: A Vision for the Post-Pandemic Church from a
Community Ministries Perspective be referred to the Social and**

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**Ecological Justice Commission (SEJC) for action, in consultation
with other Shining Waters Regional Council Commissions.
CARRIED**

SW2023-02: Funding Community Ministry as a Priority for the Church

Motion: Moved by Chris Bennett and seconded by Sarah Lough that Shining Waters Regional Council adopt the proposal SW2023-02, Funding Community Ministry as a priority for the Church as presented.

This motion was carried at the RCM and is ready for further exploration, recommendations, and action.

MOTION: by Peter Hartmans / Jingle Ayupan
That the SWRC Executive refer SW2023-02 "Funding Community Ministry as a Priority for the Church" to the Communities of Faith Commission, in consultation with the Grants and Mission Support Committee, for further exploration and to make recommendations to the Executive for action.
CARRIED

SW2023-03: Process for Election of President Elect

Motion: Moved by Martha ter Kuile and seconded by Greg Daly that Shining Waters Regional Council adopt proposal SW2023-03 and affirm a process for an election during the regional meeting that involves all candidates for President-Elect.

This motion was carried at the RCM and is ready for further exploration, recommendations, and action.

MOTION: by Peter Hartmans / Allan Holditch
That the SWRC Executive refer SW2023-03 "Process for Election of President Elect" to the Nominations Committee for recommendations to the Executive around policy.
CARRIED

SW2023-04: Working for a Guaranteed Livable Income for all Canadians

Motion: Moved by Susan Eagle and seconded by Lois Wilson that Shining Waters Regional Council adopt the proposal SW2023-04: Working for a Guaranteed Livable Income for all Canadians as presented.

MOTION: by Peter Hartmans / Jingle Ayupan
That the SWRC Executive refer SW2023-04 "Working for a Guaranteed Livable Income for all Canadians" to the Social and Ecological Justice Commission for further action.
CARRIED

Update to Property Policy Related to Disposition of Funds When a Congregation Disbands

Jody discussed that changes to the Property Policy with Executive, sharing that our

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current plan for the disposition of funds assumes that when a congregation disbands, the property will be sold, and so the current disposition goes through allows the congregation to distribute up to 10% of the funds, and then it comes to the Indigenous Ministries Fund, the Regional Fund, and then to PTCC. If the property is not being sold, there's a very good chance that there's some deferred maintenance and some ongoing capital work that needs to happen for the property.

The recommended addition is that if the property is being held, that any funds that the congregation has at the time of disbanding be attached to the property to assist with any maintenance and/or capital costs, as well as creating a broader shared capital fund so that any of the property the region is holding can have access for the above stated reasons. This has been approved by both the Kindred Works and TUCC.

MOTION: by Daniel Reed / Allan Holditch

That the SWRC Executive approve the following additions to the SW Property Policy:

- **If the property is to be held for development or rental to provide a long-term income source, it may be transferred to the Shining Waters Regional Trust and managed by Kindred Works and/or Toronto United Church Council. Any money or investments remaining at the time the congregation disbands will be used to assist with maintenance and capital costs associated with holding this and other properties.**
- **The congregation may make a proposal to the Communities of Faith Commission regarding community partners who wish to continue accessing space in the building. Where possible, these requests will be accommodated for as long as is reasonably practicable, however the first priority will be support for United Church ministry.**

CARRIED

New Business

Executive discussed the in-person joint Executive meeting in Sudbury in September. Peter indicated members do not need to decide right now if they are attending in-person or by zoom. Susan will send an email around inquiring who is interested in getting a ride in the van that Peter will be renting and that will inform the decision on how large of a van to rent.

Closing Prayer

Peter gave a closing prayer and the meeting closed at 3:27 p.m.

Next Meetings:

- Summer Meeting, if needed
- Joint Executive Meeting – Tuesday, September 26-28, 2023 in Sudbury or via Zoom
- Wednesday, September 6, 2023 – 1:00 p.m. via Zoom
- Tuesday, October 3, 2023 – 1:00 p.m. via Zoom