

## EXECUTIVE

**MINUTES of Meeting held November 7, 2023** at 1:00 p.m. via Zoom.

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

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

**REGRETS:** Lynn Mooney, Allyce Mutungi

### **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/David Leyton-Brown SW Exec 2023-11-07-01**  
That the agenda for this meeting be approved, as circulated.  
**CARRIED**

### **MINUTES**

**MOTION by Peter Hartmans/Isaac Kamta SW Exec 2023-11-07-02**  
That the Minutes of the meeting of the Shining Waters Regional Council Executive held October 3, 2023 be approved, as circulated.  
**CARRIED**

### **COMMISSION MINUTES**

**MOTION by Allan Holditch/Peter Hartmans SW Exec 2023-11-07-03**  
That the Executive receive the Minutes of the Social and Ecological Justice Commission for January 2023 through June 2023, for information.  
**CARRIED**

**Omnibus Motion: Incorporated Ministries**

**MOTION by David Leyton-Brown/Jingle Ayupan SW Exec 2023-11-07-04**  
That the Shining Waters Regional Council (10) Executive take the following action(s):

- a) Abiona Centre for Infant & Early Mental Health (formerly The Massey Centre for Women)

**... pursuant to the Incorporated Ministries Policy of The United Church of Canada approve the Abiona Centre for Infant & Early Mental Health 2023-2024 Board of Directors**

**Edam Akan  
Jessica Amey  
Lisa Blanchette  
Alana Buckley  
Beth Dewitt  
Susan Golets  
Michael Kuske  
Carolina Martelo  
Anika Mehta  
Jalpa Patel  
Elena Simonetta  
Hilary Smee  
Catherine Wang**

***This is based on the draft Annual Members Meeting Minutes of September 19, 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.***

**...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 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 is based on the request received October 25, 2023 from Abiona Centre, and receipt of other required documentation per the Incorporated Ministries Policy of The United Church of Canada.***

***N.B. The Abiona Centre board is conducting an email vote and will provide staff with confirmation when completed.***

**b) Lake Scugog United Church Camp Inc.**

**... pursuant to the Incorporated Ministries Policy of The United Church of Canada approve the Lake Scugog United Church Camp Inc. 2020-2021 Board of Directors**

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Ken W. Andras  
Chris Barfield  
Graham Clark  
Jeff Dobson  
Karen Hamilton  
Shannon Lundquist  
Tim Magwood  
Jessica Marangos  
Sally Jo Martin  
Melody Onuoto  
Carol Rhynas  
Patti Smith  
Myriam Theodule

*This is based on the AGM minutes of October 28, 2020, 2020 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.*

... pursuant to the Incorporated Ministries Policy of The United Church of Canada approve the Lake Scugog United Church Camp Inc. 2021-2022 Board of Directors

Janet Adamson  
Ken W. Andras  
Graham Clark  
Jeff Dobson  
Karen Hamilton  
Tim Magwood  
Jessica Marangos  
Sally Jo Martin  
Melody Onuoto  
Patti Smith  
Myriam Theodule

*This is based on the AGM minutes of November 24, 2021, 2021 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.*

... pursuant to the Incorporated Ministries Policy of The United Church of Canada approve the Lake Scugog United Church Camp Inc. 2022-2023 Board of Directors

Janet Adamson  
Ken W. Andras  
Graham Clark  
Jeff Dobson

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Shining Waters Regional Council

**Karen Hamilton  
Tim Magwood  
Jessica Marangos  
Sally Jo Martin  
Jenn Meeker  
Melody Onuoto  
Patti Smith  
Myriam Theodule**

***This is based on the draft AGM minutes of November 22, 2022, 2022 board member approval form, the board contact list provided and receipt of other required documentation per the Incorporated Ministries Policy of The United Church of Canada.***

**c) The Toronto United Church Council (TUCC)**

**... pursuant to the Incorporated Ministries Policy of The United Church of Canada and the request from The Toronto United Church Council approve the transfer agreement for 86 Cedar Street, Orillia between The Toronto United Church Council and Hillcrest Lodge.**

***This is based on the draft Board Meeting Minutes of October 26, 2023 the transfer agreement and other documentation per the Incorporated Ministries Policy of The United Church of Canada.***

***Currently the property is leased to the corporation on a long-term triple net lease basis. To be eligible for property tax exemption the operator of the housing project must also be the beneficial owner. The transfer agreement includes a reversionary clause that would return title to TUCC in the event that the corporation ceased to exist or changed its purpose.***

**CARRIED**

**Correspondence**

There was no correspondence.

**General Council Update - October 21, 2023 Meeting**

The General Council held a recall meeting on October 21, 2023. David attended and gave an overview of what transpired. He explained that a set of principles has been established to guide social justice actions by The United Church of Canada, which will be evaluated at a future General Council meeting. The General Council Office is also set to move to a new location at Bloor Street United Church, where it will cohabitate with the United Church archives and other religious offices. Furthermore, David noted that The United Church of Canada recommends a cost-of-living increase for ministry personnel each year, based on a specific numerical value. The recommended cost-of-living increase for 2024, however,

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does not match the current year's inflation, leading to a decision to follow the traditional pattern for 2024, with a cost-of-living increase set at 6.3%, which is the inflation increase of 2022. The United Church of Canada will introduce a new basis of calculation for the cost-of-living increase starting from 2025, factoring in other elements such as affordability.

Isaac expressed his satisfaction with the collaborative work and mentioned a special motion accepted during the meeting as a guideline for the Christian community. Jingle raised the issue of recognition for designated lay ministers and their equivalency to those with a Masters of Divinity. This was a major agenda item from the meeting, which involved the proposal to fold designated lay ministers into the order of ministry. A working group has been established to propose a course of action. Finally, David shared recommendations from GC44, including raising the education level of Designated Lay Ministers and the need for licensing retired Designated Lay Ministers to perform marriages and sacraments.

### **Property Development Motion**

Jody proposed a motion for the transfer of properties which are not being sold to the Regional Trust for development and income generation. It was agreed that this would be beneficial and should be incorporated into the existing property policy. Peter reminded the group that we will need to start preparing proposals for the next General Council meeting in 2025.

#### **MOTION by David Leyton-Brown/Jingle Ayupan SW Exec 2023-11-07-05**

**That the Executive of Shining Waters Regional Council authorizes the Executive Minister or their designate, where a congregation has disbanded, to transfer property that is not being sold to the regional trust for the purpose of holding such property for development and/or rental to create a sustainable income source for the work of the Regional Council.**

**CARRIED**

#### **MOTION by David Leyton-Brown/Allan Holditch SW Exec 2023-11-07-06**

**That the Executive of Shining Waters Regional Council approves and authorizes the sale of the property of the former Cheltenham United Church, being 14309 & 14299 Creditview Road, Cheltenham, ON, to John Grange, in the amount of Three Million, five hundred thousand (\$3,500,000) with a completion date of December 14, 2023.**

**CARRIED**

Jody reported that Camp Scugog was approved for a bridge loan of \$100,000 from TUCC to begin capital renovations that will then be repaid by a grant from the Rotary Club which will be received in 2024.

### **2024 SW RCM Update**

Jody shared that she and President Tina have had a conversation about a possible theme for the 2024 CS RCM. There will need to be a meeting between Tina, David, Peter and Jody to discuss the RCM further regarding the theme and proposals.

### **Camps as both Incorporated Ministries and Communities of Faith Motion**

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Jody indicated that camps are a unique body in SWRC; the region is in covenant with them as communities of faith, and come into the oversight of the Communities of Faith Commission, but camps are also Incorporated Ministries and fall under the oversight of the SWRC Executive. After conversation with Linda Gray (Incorporated Ministries), it was recommended that it was a good idea to approve loans through the Communities of Faith Commission and have it reported to Executive.

**MOTION by Jingle Ayupan/Isaac Kamta SW Exec 2023-11-07-07**  
**That when a camp within the bounds of Shining Waters Regional Council requests a loan, it will be approved by the Communities of Faith Commission as part of the Regional Property Policy and reported to the Executive, for information.**  
**CARRIED**

**Rescheduled 2024 date for Joint Executives Meeting in Sudbury**

The Joint Executives meeting in Sudbury, ON was rescheduled to Tuesday, September 24 to Thursday, September 26, 2024, with the option of virtual participation for those unable to travel. There will be a new Executive when this date comes and therefore, the new members of Executive will need to be informed. Peter will bring these dates to the next CSRC Executive meeting seeing if they work for them.

**Nominations Policy Language Update**

The Nominations Committee recommended a process for electing the President elect to be included in the Regional Council Executive policy. This process involves presenting all nominees for the position to the Regional Council for election at the end of the first year of the President's two-year term. David also discussed the implications of this recommendation, including the possibility of multiple nominees and the role of the Nominations Committee in inviting qualified individuals to stand for nomination. He emphasized the need for the Committee to provide information to the Regional Council about the nominees to facilitate an informed choice. David also discussed the agenda planning for the Regional Council Meeting, highlighting the need for time to be allocated for candidate speeches, Q&A sessions, and votes.

**MOTION by David Leyton-Brown/Jingle Ayupan SW Exec 2023-11-07-08**  
**That the Executive of Shining Waters Regional Council accepts the recommendation of the Nominations Committee for the Process of Election of President Elect to be included in the Regional Council Executive Policy:**

***After discerning with each nominee that they are equipped to serve in this capacity, the Nominations Committee will present all nominees for the position of President Elect to the Regional Council meeting at the end of the first year of the President's two-year term for election to serve for one year as President Elect, two years as President, and one year as Past President.***

**CARRIED**

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**Executive Minister's Report (Appendix A)**

Peter discussed the Executive Minister's report, which included updates on staff changes and the hiring process for Jeffrey's position. Peter explained the challenges of filling the position due to United Church policy, which requires notice if the new hire is a ministry personnel.

**MOTION by David Leyton-Brown/Isaac Kamta      SW Exec 2023-11-07-09**  
**That the Executive of Shining Waters Regional Council receive the**  
**Executive Minister Report, for information.**  
**CARRIED**

**New Business**

There was no new business at this time.

**Closing Prayer**

Peter gave a closing prayer and the meeting closed at 2:37 p.m.

**Next Meetings:**      Tuesday, December 5, 2023 at 1:00 p.m. via Zoom

**Appendix A**  
**Executive Minister Report**  
**November 7, 2023**

**SWRC Executive Minister Report November 2023:**

Happy Fall!!!! I am grateful to return from sick leave and continue to recover. I am currently on graduated return to work and hope to return full-time starting in November. I deeply appreciate the time the United Church provided for recovery and in particular the support of Jody Maltby and Susan Whitehead, along with the entire staff of CSRC and SWRC who provided key support in my absence. I am grateful to be back.

**The Ad Hoc Committee:**

The Ad Hoc Committee of Canadian Shield Regional Council and Shining Waters Regional Council met on May 2, 2023. The group included Chair Barb and President David and Chair-Elect Nancy and President-Elect Tina. The conversation focused on our relationship between Regional Councils, planning between Regional Councils and a discussion about the 2025 Festival of Faith. A gathering of both Executives was planned for fall 2023 but needed to be postponed and Canadian Shield Regional Council Executive has proposed a new tentative date for fall 2024 tbd.

**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 for this event.

**UPCOMING MODERATOR'S FOURISH VISIT Update/change:** hosted by the Moderator and coordinated and organized by the Moderators Office:

In early 2023, the Moderator reached out to Regional Councils with the desire to host local Regional Flourish events across The United Church of Canada. The Moderator asked for May 1- 4, 2024 for the Canadian Shield Regional Council. Recently the Moderator indicated that she needed to cancel a portion of her Flourish event for the Canadian Shield Regional Council and will focus on their Regional Meeting on Friday May 3-6<sup>th</sup>. ***SWRC Flourish event is still scheduled for February 10-14, 2025!***

**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. 2025 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.

**Staffing**

Jeffery Dale, who supported Justice/Youth Ministry and 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 and we will be providing updates in the near future. The posting for the new position should be circulated soon.



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**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) The 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 was hired recently and will start January 1, 2024 for CSRC and SWRC.

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. Rev. Calin Lau, ministry personnel from Shining Waters Regional Council, was hired by the General Council office to support Shining Waters Regional Council and the Canadian Shield Regional Council, starting January 1, 2024.

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.