

**Minutes of a meeting of the
Community of Faith Commission
Wednesday, March 20th, 2024**

The Communities of Faith Commission of Shining Waters Regional Council met on Wednesday March 20th, 2024 via Zoom. The meeting began at 9:30 a.m.

Present: Chris Bennett, Carolyn Harding, Tom MacNeil, Sandra Nottegar, Harry Ramsaran, Patti Rodgers, Gloria Tozek

Staff: Kathleen Jones, Diane Matheson, Jody Maltby, Eun-Joo Park, Shawn Redden,

Guest: Calin Lau – Growth Animator Shining Waters & Canadian Shield

Regrets: Trevor Brisbin, Amy Lee, Eric Nyarko, Kim Uyede-Kai

Welcome

There was a time of check in. The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed everyone. Welcome to Shawn Redden, Justice and Faith Formation Minister. Gloria Tozek, gave an acknowledgement of the land and acknowledged our commitment to being a safer place for all people to gather and participate in our Region. She then led the commission in a time of worship.

Agenda

MOTION by Gloria Tozek / Harry Ramsaran **SW-CFC-2024-03-20-01**
that the Agenda of the Communities of Faith Commission of Shining Waters Regional Council dated March 20, 2024 be accepted as circulated with the following additions, TUCC grant, Saint Luke’s United Church, Toronto, Budget request from Communities of Faith Commission.

MOTION

CARRIED

Minutes

MOTION by Carolyn Harding / Patti Rodgers **SW-CFC-2024-03-20-02**
that the Minutes of the meetings of the Communities of Faith Commission of Shining Waters Regional Council dated February 21, 2024 be approved as circulated.

MOTION

CARRIED

The Commission made the following decisions by email vote;

... that the Communities of Faith Commission of Shining Waters Regional Council approves the lease agreement between Fairlawn Avenue United Church Lease Agreement with Mapletown Academy Inc. and GN Educafion Inc for three years beginning February 15, 2024

...that the Communities of Faith Commission of Shining Waters Regional Council approve the loan renewal between North Bramalea United Church and Toronto United Church Council (TUCC) due on April 1st, 2024 with a three-year term.

...that the Communities of Faith Commission of Shining Waters Regional Council approve the request of Forest Hill United Church to install a Vertical Platform Lift in the church building, and renovate the basement kitchen at a cost of up to \$160,000.00.

...that the Communities of Faith Commission of Shining Waters Regional Council approves the lease agreement between Kimbourne Park United Church and East End Children's Centre for five years starting once approved.

...that the Communities of Faith Commission of Shining Waters Regional Council approves the capital budget of Metropolitan United Church for 2024 in the amount of \$222,000.

TUCC Grant Discussion

Harry was requesting a report on the \$500,000.00 grant that TUCC received from closing of Presbyteries. Jody shared that she has been in conversation with Ron Ewart and has confirmed that they are working on a report for their Annual Meeting and will present the report to the Commission during the May Meeting.

Diane Matheson joined the meeting

Review of Property Policy *Jody Maltby*

The Commission discussed the financial implications of selling properties and using inherited capital, with Jody clarifying that there are no restrictions on how the congregation can use the inherited money, unless there was a former presbytery restriction. They also discussed the differences in financial proposals between congregations that choose to amalgamate and those that choose to sell their properties separately, noting that amalgamating congregations have more financial flexibility. The Commission agreed to continue discussing and refining their policies, with a focus on decentralizing decision making and resources to better serve communities of faith. The need to review a policy and its effectiveness in meeting their needs was also recognized, with the Commission agreeing to involve Jody Maltby, Harry Ramsaran, Chris Bennett in the review process.

Use of Funds from Sale of Property based on the Property Policy

Disbanding	Amalgamation	Sale of Church Building before 2020	Sale of Church Building after 2020	Manse Funds	Mandated Manse Reserve Fund
Executive Policy requires CFC approval for congregation proposal	CFC Policy but requires Executive approval for use of Surplus	CFC Policy	CFC Policy	Executive Policy executed by CFC	Executive Policy executed by CFC

Decision to sell or retain property rests with Executive	Decision to sell property and declare surplus rests with CFC	Decision to sell property rests with CFC	Decision to sell property rests with CFC	Decision to sell property rests with CFC	
Congregation makes proposal for use of 10% of funds from sale of property, approved by CFC. Funds must be given to another registered charity. Remaining Funds are used for regional purposes.	Congregation makes proposal for use of property to be approved by CFC. No limitations on how funds may be used. Surplus is encouraged but not required under policy. Surplus is used for grants as per regional policy approved by CFC and Executive.	Funds are restricted and congregation must seek approval to use capital and/or income. No limitations on how funds may be used.	Contributions to Indigenous Ministries Fund required. Congregation may immediately access a portion of the capital with no limitations on how funds may be used. For sales over \$300,000, contribution required to Regional Council for grants. Remaining capital is invested and annual income may be used. No limitations on how income may be used. No provision to access capital.	Congregations may access annual income to support minister's compensation. Capital may be accessed to support minister's housing and congregational capital projects. No provision to access to capital to support ministry except minister's housing.	Congregations required to keep minimum of \$150,000 in Manse Reserve Fund to access when they are closing and can't pay minister's salary or for other closing costs. This requirement does not apply if Manse Fund was below required amount as of 2019

Update on Community Ministry Funding *Jody Maltby*

Work is progressing on the various pieces related to community ministry funding. A request for proposals has been sent out for a fundraiser to support this work. There will be good learnings from this process that can also be shared with communities of faith. Jody and Harry are working with Sarah Laugh from the Grants and Mission Support Committee and Angie Hocking on a process for accessing money once the fund is active. Chris and Jody will schedule a follow-up meeting regarding a policy and process for financial appeals to communities of faith, as part of the recommendation to the Executive. Lastly, they touched on the ongoing work of the community ministry, particularly in relation to funding.

Eun-Joo Park left the meeting

The meeting took an all-purpose break.

COMMUNITY OF FAITH UPDATES

Forest Grove Jubilee, North York *Diane Matheson*

On Sunday, March 3rd, 2024, Forest Grove United Church voted to affirm the Amalgamation Agreement between Forest Grove United Church and Jubilee United Church. On Sunday, March 3rd, 2024, Jubilee United Church voted to affirm the Amalgamation Agreement between Forest Grove United Church and Jubilee United Church

Forest Grove, Toronto *Diane Matheson*

The members of the Congregation of Forest Grove United Church invite the members of Shining Waters Regional Council to the final service of worship at Forest Grove United Church, 43 Forest Grove Drive, Toronto, ON M2K1Z4 on Sunday, April 14 at 10:30 am. They thank Shining Waters for their inestimable assistance in helping Jubilee United Church and prepare an amalgamation agreement which both congregations enthusiastically approved. Harry Ramsaran will attend the final service on behalf of Shining Waters Regional Council.

The meeting went in camera

MOTION by Gloria Tozek / Tom MacNeil **SW-CFC-2024-03-20-03**
That the Communities of Faith Commission of Shining Waters Regional Council agree to come out of camera.

MOTION

CARRIED

The meeting came out of camera

Collier Street United Church, Barrie *Jody Maltby*

A partnership proposal between Trinity Centres Foundation (TCF) and Collier Street United Church was shared with the Commission. The Commission asked questions for follow up.

MOTION by Tom MacNeil / Sandra Nottegar **SW-CFC-2024-03-20-03**
That the Communities of Faith Commission of Shining Waters Regional Council approves the request of Collier Street United Church to proceed with Phase B of their work with Trinity Centres Foundation with the following requirements:

1. that Collier Street United church engage legal counsel to review the contract for Phase B and that the contract be submitted to Regional Council for approval.
2. it is understood and made explicitly clear that the ownership of the property of Collier Street will remain vested in The United Church of Canada
3. that regional approval is still required to proceed with any work beyond Phase B

MOTION

CARRIED

The commission noted that, as per the section of the regional property policy related to development, Collier St will need to provide detailed financial records to demonstrate the potential for ongoing long-term viability before proceeding with any work beyond Phase B of the proposal.

Shawn Redden left the meeting

St. James United Church, Parry Sound *Jody Maltby*

A request has been received from St. James United Church, Parry Sound to have a listening team. This is a process that has been well-received in other congregations. The team will meet separately with the minister, the governing body, and with the Ministry Personnel Committee. A number of documents including annual reports and financial statements will be shared with the team to provide a full picture of the life and ministry of the congregation. The team will then offer some recommendations back to the congregation for consideration. This is not a formal process; unlike a congregational review, the recommendations are offered for consideration without any requirement that they be adopted. This is being planned for after Easter. The team will consist of Carolyn Harding, Tom McNeil, Patti Rodgers and Jody Maltby.

Eun-Joo Park joined the meeting

Saint Luke's United Church, Toronto *Eun-Joo Park*

Eun-Joo discussed the financial challenges faced by Saint Luke's. Jim has tendered his resignation to end his pastoral relationship with Saint Luke's as of May 31st, 2024. He will take Sabbatical June 1st, 2024. They have reached out to Regional Council to support their ministry because they are having a new development with Kindred Works. Eun-Joo and Jody are working with Kindred Works and TUCC to develop a plan for the congregation.

Budget Request *Jody Maltby*

Shining Waters received a request from the Black Clergy Network of the United Church, to support a gathering at Emmanuel College in May.

MOTION by Sandra Nottegar / Carolyn Harding **SW-CFC-2024-03-20-04**
That the Communities of Faith Commission of Shining Waters Regional Council approve \$500 to support the gathering of the Black Clergy Network at Emmanuel College in May 2024.
MOTION **CARRIED**

Good News Stories

Members shared good news stories from various communities of faith.

Next Meeting Wednesday April 17th, 2024 9:30 a.m.

Closing Chris Bennett offered a closing blessing, and the meeting closed at 11:50 a.m.