

SHINING WATERS REGIONAL COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE REGIONAL MEETING May 26 - 28, 2023

The annual meeting of Shining Waters Regional Council took place on May 26 – 28, 2023 at North Bramalea United Church, 363 Howden Blvd., Brampton, ON and via video conference. The theme was *So What? Faith in Action*.

FRIDAY, May 26, 2023

Words of Welcome, Opening of Meeting and constituting the Council

Shining Waters Regional Council gathered at North Bramalea United Church and via Zoom video conference at 1:00 p.m. to begin the annual meeting of Shining Waters Regional Council. David Leyton-Brown, President, welcomed all those participating, introduced himself and Executive Minister, Peter Hartmans.

David Leyton-Brown gave an acknowledgement of the land and a safe space statement. David introduced Tabitha Shurgold, the Cultural Resource Program Coordinator for the Indigenous Network who offered an opening ceremony and teaching to begin the time together.

President, David Leyton-Brown constituted the meeting in the name of Jesus Christ, and as the United Church gathered together, to deal with such business as should properly come before the Council.

The United Church of Canada Moderator, The Right Rev. Dr. Carmen Lansdowne brought greetings via video.

Diane Matheson-Jimenez gave an orientation to how the group will be together during the meeting, and Holy Manners video was shared. She also highlighted the programming happening during the meeting.

David Leyton-Brown led the participants through a test motion and vote.

Opening motions

MOTION by Peter Hartmans / Maria Christina Conlon that the following enabling motions be adopted,

- a) **Roll of the Regional Council: that the roll of Roll of the Regional Council shall consist of:**
- **All ministry personnel within the geographic bounds served by Shining Waters Regional Council (Basis of Union 6.2.1);**
 - **Ministers of denominations within mutual recognition agreements while under appointment or call (Basis of Union 6.2.2);**

- Lay members elected by the Community of Faith, respecting the balance of lay and ministry personnel where possible (Basis of Union 6.2.3);
 - Additional lay members as determined by the Regional Council if necessary, to respect a balance of ministry personal and lay members who are not ministry personnel in the membership of the Regional Council (2023 Manual C.1.2.b).
- b) **Bounds of the Regional Council Meeting:** that the bounds of the Regional Council meeting for voting purposes shall be North Bramalea United Church, 363 Howden Blvd., Brampton, ON L6S 4L6 and the zoom meeting ID: 873 4064 9304 when in session; that the Shining Waters Regional Council hold a Celebration of Ministry Service including admission and ordination to the Order of Ministry of The United Church of Canada on Sunday May 28, 2023 at 2:30 p.m. to take place at North Bramalea United Church, 363 Howden Blvd., Brampton, ON L6S 4L6 to fulfil its responsibility to ordain those whom the Office of Vocation has confirmed as having completed all the requirements for ordination and commissioning, and admit those whom the Office of Vocation has confirmed as having completed all the requirements for admission, and whom the Regional Council has confirmed have a covenantal relationship in place with a community of faith.
 - c) **Agenda:** that the Agenda as posted to the regional website be the order of business, subject to those changes that are recommended by the Chairperson.
 - d) **Minutes:** that the Minutes of the meetings of Shining Waters Regional Council held May 27 and 28, 2022 be approved as circulated.
 - e) **Accountability reports:** that the reports as presented in the Resource Book be accepted for information.
 - f) **Adjournment of Sessions:** that the Chairperson have the authority to recess the Regional Council when business, as ordered, is completed, until the next order of the day.
 - g) **Corresponding Members:** that corresponding members shall be official guests of the Regional Council. Their names shall be included in the Record of Proceedings (2023 Manual C.1.5).
 - h) **Commitments:** that the regional council participants commit/covenant to honour the Holy Manners printed in the Resource Book and commit to our regional council's commitments around equity, justice and anti-racism through both conversation and actions. If there is failure to honour these commitments, individuals may be removed from the meeting at the discretion of the President.
 - i) **New Business & Nominations:** (Nominations are closed. The deadline was March 28, 2023). Items of New Business shall be given to the Chairperson by 6:00 p.m. on May 26, 2023.

Procedural

1. The procedural and prayer microphone shall be microphone #? and the zoom chat box.
2. Any handouts must be authorized by the Chairperson.

3. **The Parliamentarian shall be Beth Moore.**
4. **The Chairperson will present proposals. The Chairperson may, at their discretion, invite an individual to verbally introduce a proposal for up to five minutes. The Chairperson will invite prayerful discernment and discussion on the wisdom of the proposal. When the Chairperson discerns that the sense of the meeting is such that we are ready to hear a motion on the proposal, they will invite the presenter to move the motion. Once the motion has been moved and seconded, Rules of Debate and Order shall be followed.**
5. **At the discretion of the chairperson, microphone time for each speaker will be limited to 1½ minutes per proposal and 1½ minutes per motion with the exception of the mover (who may speak at the beginning and end of a motion).**
6. **Microphone time may be reduced at the discretion of the Chairperson in 30-second increments when any item of business exceeds 20 minutes.**
7. **The normal voting procedure, in person, shall be a show of hands using ballot cards, except where a secret ballot is required (ballot sheets will be provided by the Chairperson through the Regional Council office). The normal voting procedure, online, shall be a show of hands using the RAISE HAND icon found at the bottom of the participants panel or *9 for those on the phone. If two people are joined from the same household one person will vote with the Raise Hand icon and the second will type Yes or No in the chat. Those who wish to abstain will type ABSTAIN in the chat. Where a secret ballot is required, ballot sheets will be provided through the Regional Council website.**
8. **In the case of limited time for business, items will be dealt with in the following order: Proposals to Shining Waters Regional Council, Reports requiring a decision of the Regional Council, Reports for Information.**
CARRIED

Introductions

President, David Leyton-Brown expressed thanks to the staff and volunteers of North Bramalea United Church. Rev. Jamie Holtom and Rev. Roni Beharry brought greetings on behalf of North Bramalea United Church. The President also made a number of introductions, including the chaplains, the prayer room support, worship team, parliamentarian, General Council representative, and Shining Waters staff. He welcomed Barb Nott, Chair of the Canadian Shield Regional Council who brought greetings from Canadian Shield.

Worship

A time of worship was led by Bri-anne Swan and Julia Yun Jung Kim.

Theme Presentation: Equity

The first theme time centred around intercultural diversity and equity, and was presented by members of the Intercultural Diversity Commission. It included break-out groups and rooms for small group discussion and reflection.

The meeting took an all-purpose break.

The meeting continued their reflections on equity with Rev. Sung Ran Kim from the Pastoral Relations Commission leading the presentation.

General Council Remit 1: *Establishing an Autonomous National Indigenous Organization*

David Leyton-Brown provided context and background on the remit from the perspective of a General Council Commissioner. A video on the remit was presented, and there was a time for questions.

Greetings from the General Council Representative

Erik Mathieson, Executive Officer of Finance for the General Council Office brought greetings from General Council, The United Church of Canada. He also spoke about The Strategic Plan of The United Church of Canada.

Accountability Reports

The President called for questions related to the accountability report of the Executive.

Nominations Report

Martha ter Kuile of the Nominations Committee presented the Nominations Report.

Financial Report and Budget

President, David Leyton-Brown presented a brief narrative on the preliminary budget. Janet MacDonald answered questions.

Announcements and Adjournment

Jody Maltby offered some announcements. Andrew Kunyoung Lee offered a blessing for supper. The President declared the meeting adjourned to reconvene at 9:00 a.m. on May 27, 2022.

SATURDAY, May 27, 2023

Words of Welcome

President, David Leyton-Brown, welcomed participants to the second day of the Shining Waters Regional Council meeting. He reminded the meeting of Holy Manners and how we will be in community together.

Worship

Julia Yun Jung Kim and Greg Daly led the meeting in worship.

Evening Conversation Topics and Open Space

Jody Maltby outlined the process for offering conversation topics for the evening *Let's Connect*, explained the open space process, and where topics can be shared.

Theme Presentation: Community Ministry

The second theme time centred around community ministry. Maria Christina Conlon of Davenport-Perth Community Ministry, Barry Rieder of Jane Finch Community Ministry, and Angie Hocking of Regent Park Community Ministry each presented on their ministries which included videos.

The meeting took an all-purpose break.

The theme presentation continued with a video of the working group on community ministry, and small group reflections.

In Memoriam

Jeffrey Dale and Lawrence Nyarko led an in-memoriam worship service remembering the congregations that have closed, disbanded or amalgamated, and remembering those who have gone before us.

The meeting broke for lunch and Rev. Carol Ann Chapman offered a blessing on the meal.

Diane Matheson-Jimenez made some announcements about the evening program.

2024 Budget

MOTION by Daniel Reed / John Joseph Mastandrea that Shining Waters Regional Council approve the 2024 preliminary budget as presented.

MOTION

CARRIED

Nominations

MOTION by Greg Daly / Maria Christina Conlon that Shining Waters Regional Council elect those listed in the Nominations Report to serve on the Shining Waters Regional Council Executive, Commissions, and Committees of Shining Waters Regional Council for the stated terms.

MOTION

CARRIED

Toronto United Church Council (TUCC) Presentation

Ron Ewart, Executive Director of Toronto United Church Council gave a presentation on the partnership in ministry between Toronto United Church Council and Shining Waters Regional Council.

Minute for Mission

Melody Duncanson-Hales, Community of Faith Stewardship Support, brought greetings from the Philanthropy Unit of General Council. She offered a minute for Mission and Service which included a video from The United Church of Canada on Mission and Service.

Theme Presentation: The Environment

The third theme time centred around the environment. Esther Collier of the Social and Ecological Justice Commission gave the presentation.

The meeting took an all-purpose break.

The environment theme presentation continued.

Proposals to Shining Waters Regional Council

Chris Bennett presented proposal SW2023-01, *A Vision for the Post-Pandemic Church from a Community Ministries Perspective*.

MOTION by Chris Bennett / 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.

MOTION

CARRIED

Patti Rodgers presented proposal SW2023-02, *Funding Community Ministry as a Priority for the Church*.

MOTION by Patti Rodgers / Sarah Lough that Shining Waters Regional Council adopt the proposal SW2023-02 *Funding Community Ministry as a Priority for the Church*.

MOTION

CARRIED

Greg Daly presented proposal SW2023-03, *Process for Election of President-Elect*.

MOTION by Greg Daly / Maria Christina Conlon that Shining Waters Regional Council that the regional council affirm a process for an election during the regional meeting that involves all candidates;

MOTION

CARRIED

Susan Eagle presented the proposal SW2023-04, *Working for a Guaranteed Liveable Income for all Canadians*.

MOTION by Susan Eagle / Lois Wilson that Shining Waters Regional Council adopt the proposal SW2023-04, *Working for a Guaranteed Liveable Income for all Canadians*.

MOTION

CARRIED

Outgoing President

David Leyton-Brown gave some parting remarks as he ends his term as President of Shining Waters Regional Council.

Announcements and Adjournment

Jody Maltby gave some announcements of the day, including information about the evening program. Peter Hartmans offered a blessing for supper.

The President declared the meeting adjourned to reconvene at 2:00 p.m. on May 28, 2022.

SUNDAY, May 28, 2023

Celebration of Ministries Service

Shining Waters Regional Council held a Celebration of Ministries Service at North Bramalea United Church, Brampton.

President, David Leyton-Brown presided assisted by Executive Minister, Rev. Peter Hartmans. Liturgists Rev. Lawrence Nyarko, Rev. Won Hur, and Andrea Wheaton, DLM, provided leadership.

The liturgists gave an Acknowledgement of the Land. The Scripture readings were from Jeremiah 29: 11 – 14 and 1 John 3: 17 – 24. The Gospel reading was from Luke 6: 43 – 47. Rev. Donna Bowman-Woodall delivered the message.

Those that were ordained, commissioned, admitted and recognized over Zoom during the years of the Covid-19 pandemic were invited to the service to receive a continued blessing on their ministry in person.

The service also recognized and celebrated those ministry personnel that have retired since the last regional council meeting and those ministry personnel marking a significant anniversary of their entry into ministry within The United Church of Canada.

Executive Minister, Peter Hartmans, gave recognition and gratitude to the outgoing President, David Leyton-Brown.

President, David Leyton-Brown, and Executive Minister, Peter Hartmans installed Rev. Maria Christina Conlon as the new President of Shining Waters Regional Council.

Jeffrey Dale, James Harbell, Jennifer Henry and Nancy Umphrey were ordained to the order of ministry. Dyanne Marlok was commissioned to the order of ministry. Thomas Shin and Woong Youm were admitted to the order of ministry of The United Church of Canada. Marilyn Elphick was recognized as a Licensed Lay Worship Leader.

The newly ordained, commissioned and admitted members of the order of ministry served Communion.

Andrea Wheaton gave the commissioning and blessing.

SHINING WATERS REGIONAL COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE REGIONAL MEETING September 19, 2023

The meeting of Shining Waters Regional Council took place on September 19, 2023 via video conference.

Words of Welcome, Opening of Meeting and Constituting the Council

Shining Waters Regional Council gathered via Zoom video conference at 7:00 p.m. to begin the meeting of Shining Waters Regional Council. David Leyton-Brown, Past President representing President Tina Conlon, welcomed all those participating, introduced himself and the Regional Staff Lead Jody Maltby, who is Acting Executive Minister on behalf of Peter Hartmans.

David Leyton-Brown constituted the meeting in the name of Jesus Christ, and as the United Church gathered together at this 7th meeting of Shining Waters Regional Council, for the work that may properly be brought before it to the glory of God.

David Leyton-Brown shared an acknowledgement of the land and a safe space statement.

Remit 01: Establishing an Autonomous National Indigenous Organization

Having just completed the joint Town Hall Meeting with Canadian Shield Regional Council to discuss the remit, the one agenda item is to consider Remit 01: Establishing an Autonomous National Indigenous Organization. There was a time for questions.

MOTION by Lois Brown/Patti Rodgers

SW RCM – 2023-09-19-01

That Shining Waters Regional Council agrees to amend the Basis of Union to reflect:

- 1. That the United Church of Canada will be organized as follows: (1) a three-council structure, consisting of communities of faith, regional councils and a Denominational Council*; and (2) an autonomous National Indigenous Organization; and,**
- 2. That once the new autonomous National Indigenous Organization is established within The United Church of Canada, it will have its own mechanisms to make any future changes to its structure and processes, and therefore, will not be subject to the remit process under section 7.4.1 of the Basis of Union**; and,**
- 3. The changes required for the establishment of the autonomous National Indigenous Organization.**

CARRIED

Announcements, Blessing, and Adjournment

David thanked everyone for their participation in this significant decision in the life of the church. He shared that the 2024 Regional Council Meeting will be held on June 7-8, 2024 and the Celebration of Ministry Service will be held on Sunday, June 9th, 2024, both in-person and on-line at North Bramalea United Church.

At this meeting, we will be electing a President-Elect; an important position within the regional council and he encouraged everyone to give this prayerful consideration.

The Past President, David Leyton-Brown, declared the meeting adjourned at 7:32 p.m. and Kim Uyede-Kai, the Regional Council's Communities of Faith Support, Intercultural Diversity, Anti-Racism and Right Relations Minister, offered a closing blessing.

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