

**Minutes of a meeting of the  
Community of Faith Commission  
Wednesday, April 17<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

The Communities of Faith Commission of Shining Waters Regional Council met on Wednesday April 17<sup>th</sup>, 2024 via Zoom. The meeting began at 9:30 a.m.

**Present:** Chris Bennett, Trevor Brisbin, Amy Lee, Tom MacNeil, Sandra Nottegar, Harry Ramsaran, Gloria Tozek

**Staff:** Kathleen Jones, Diane Matheson-Jimenez, Jody Maltby, Shawn Redden, Kim Uyede-Kai

**Regrets:** Carolyn Harding, Patti Rodgers, Eric Nyarko

**Welcome**

There was a time of check in. The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed everyone. Trevor Brisbin, 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. He then led the commission in a time of worship.

**Agenda**

**MOTION** by Gloria Tozek / Sandra Nottegar **SW-CFC-2024-04-17-01**  
that the Agenda of the Communities of Faith Commission of Shining Waters Regional Council dated April 17, 2024 be accepted as circulated with the addition of Community of Faiths Update; Saint Luke's, Toronto, Alpha Korean United Church, North York and sale of Forest Grove United Church, Toronto  
**MOTION** **CARRIED**

**Minutes**

**MOTION** by Sandra Nottegar/ Tom MacNeil **SW-CFC-2024-04-17-02**  
that the Minutes of the meetings of the Communities of Faith Commission of Shining Waters Regional Council dated March 20, 2024 be approved as circulated.  
**MOTION** **CARRIED**

**Community Ministries Recommendation to the Executive** *Jody Maltby*

The Executive asked the Communities of Faith Commission to recommend how the proposal to fund Community Ministry could be implemented. A proposal was shared with the Commission and offered the following suggestion for how SWRC might respond to the issue of funding Community Ministry. A small working group prepared a request for proposals that was sent to Fundraising Consultants. They received four proposals. The group selected Evenings & Weekends Consulting to support the financial appeal. The work plan includes three phases: research, a listening campaign and the creation of a Fundraising and Communications Package. The cost of this plan is \$43,200.00 (+HST) which is within the budget of \$50,000

**Report for Annual Resource Book** *Chris Bennett*

The deadline for submitting the report is Monday May 6<sup>th</sup>, 2024. Chris is inviting anyone in the Commission to reach out to him if they have any suggestions to submit into the report by Friday April 26<sup>th</sup>, 2024

**Credence & Co Workshop** *Diane Matheson-Jimenez*

Thursday, May 23, 2024 Join us to understand conflict and learn how to work through difficult conversations in your community of faith. This webinar is a joint zoom gathering for lay leaders and ministry personnel in both Canadian Shield and Shining Waters Regional Councils. Betty Pries from Credence & Co will facilitate the workshop. With over 30 years of experience coaching, mediating, training, facilitating and consulting, Betty is highly regarded as a Conflict, Change, and Leadership Specialist. Betty specializes in working with complex challenges, supporting leaders, organizations and congregations to be at their best. <https://shiningwatersregionalcouncil.ca/communities-of-faith/lets-connect-lay-leader-webinar/>

**Lay Leaders Gathering** *Tom McNeil*

Thursday, June 19, 2024 The Governance Task Group to hosting a workshop looking at governance structures and living faith stories. A discussion was had around whether or not the other task groups would like to host a workshop. (Lease Task Group & Loans Task Group). If there is any interest, please contact Tom MacNeil

Harry Ramsaran joined the meeting

**Community of Faith Updates**

**St Paul's United Church, Brampton**

Diane reported that the review of St. Paul's United Church has led to financial improvements. The congregation is currently functioning well under the leadership of their appointed minister although additional work is required around governance and a plan for ministry. The review team is recommending that they be disbanded and that oversight of the congregation return to the commission.

**MOTION** by Trevor Brisbin / Tom MacNeil

**SW-CFC-2024-04-17-03**

that the Communities of Faith Commission of Shining Waters Regional Council disbands the Review Committee for St. Paul's United Church, Brampton with thanks for their faithful work in support of this congregation; and that no call or appointment be approved following the current appointment until St. Paul's United Church has demonstrated to the satisfaction of this commission that they are financially viable and have a clear plan for ministry and effective governance.

**MOTION**

**CARRIED**

Sandra Nottegar left the meeting

**Westmount United Church, Orillia**

Jody advised the commission of concerns that have developed at Westmount United Church. A conflict that occurred in a Council meeting is affecting the Council and the Trustees. This is impacting the wider congregation and also the work of selling the property and moving toward an Ecumenical Shared Ministry.

**MOTION** by Gloria Tozek / Tom MacNeil

**SW-CFC-2024-04-17-04**

With regret, the Communities of Faith Commission of Shining Waters Regional Council has received an update on tensions that have arisen within the congregation of Westmount United Church family. Therefore, be it resolved that until such time as Westmount United Church has entered into, and successfully completed, a process to restore relationships, the Communities of Faith Commission does not approve moving forward with an Ecumenical Shared Ministry. The commission will arrange, and pay for, a healing process unless the Council of Westmount offers, and has approved by the commission an alternate plan to address the conflict.

**MOTION**

**CARRIED**

The meeting took an all-purpose break.

**Victoria Square United Church, Markham**

Victoria Square United Church has advised the commission that the city of Markham has designated their property as being of cultural heritage value or interest.

**Collier Street United Church, Barrie**

The legally reviewed and recommended contract for Trinity Centres Foundation (TCF) and Collier Street United Church to work on Phase 2, re-imagining the property and building at CSUC was shared with the Commission for their consideration. It has been forwarded it to Kindred Works for their input. They have suggested revisions to the document which will be shared with Collier St..

**Palgrave United Church, Caledon**

Palgrave was in a collaborative agreement relationship with Bolton, United Church, and Palgrave has been exploring their options for a few months and made the decision that they were going to proceed as a lay led congregation. Therefore, they terminated the pastoral relationship with the minister, so that relationship ends as of the end of June. At the request of Bolton United church, the region will facilitate a conversation with some of the other congregations in the Caledon and North Brampton area about possible opportunities for collaboration there.

**MOTION** by Amy Lee / Trevor Brisbin

**SW-CFC-2024-04-17-05**

that the Communities of Faith Commission of Shining Waters Regional Council approves the dissolution of the Collaboration Agreement between Bolton United Church and Palgrave United Church with thanks for the ongoing ministry of both congregations.

**MOTION**

**CARRIED**

### **Forest Grove & Jubilee**

Jody discussed the sale of Forest Grove United, and the subsequent sale of the Forest Grove property which was expected to generate a surplus of over 3 million dollars for the council's granting programs.

**MOTION** by Trevor Brisbin / Gloria Tozek **SW-CFC-2024-04-17-06**  
that the Communities of Faith Commission of Shining Waters Regional Council approves the sale of Forest Grove United Church, 43 Forest Grove Drive, Toronto, ON by the Trustees of the Jubilee congregation of The United Church of Canada to 100071369 Ontario Inc. for a purchase price of thirteen million six hundred thousand dollars (\$13,600,000.00) with a closing date 30 business days after waiving of all conditions or such other date as may be agreed to by the parties, not prior to August 15, 2024.

**MOTION**

**CARRIED**

### **Saint Luke's, Toronto**

Jody discussed the financial difficulties faced by Saint. Luke's due to the delays in their collaboration with Kindred Works, and proposed a loan from the regional council to cover their costs of ministry. The commission expressed concerns about potential risks of this decision but also noted the uniqueness of this situation due to the key location of the church and the fact that the congregation is the first to have signed an agreement with Kindred Works and thus some aspects of the work have taken longer than expected. We could recommend an external loan – perhaps from TUCC – but this would normally require attaching a mortgage to the property and this could affect funding for the development.

**MOTION** by Harry Ramsaran / Tom MacNeil **SW-CFC-2024-04-17-07**  
that the Communities of Faith Commission of Shining Waters Regional Council recommends to the Executive that the regional council provide a loan of \$50,000 in support of the ongoing ministry of Saint Luke's United Church, Toronto with the understanding that they will continue to work with Eun-Joo Park to create a more sustainable ministry going forward, such loan to be repaid from the income of development of their property.

**MOTION**

**CARRIED**

### **Alpha Korean United Church, North York** – *Kim Uyede-Kai*

Alpha Korean has been without a called minister for over a year now and has been in search process. Kim and their liaison, have been in conversations with them, and have stopped their search process and disbanded their search committee. Kim will continue to work with Alpha Korean to ensure compliance with the necessary processes for calling a new minister.

### **Good News Stories**

Members shared good news stories from various communities of faith.

**Next Meeting** Wednesday May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024 9:30 a.m.

**Closing** Chris Bennett offered a closing blessing, and the meeting closed at 12:05p.m.