

**Minutes of a meeting of the Community of Faith Commission
Wednesday, May 15th, 2024**

The Communities of Faith Commission of Shining Waters Regional Council met on Wednesday May 15th, 2024 via Zoom. The meeting began at 9:30 a.m.

Present: Chris Bennett, Trevor Brisbin, Carolyn Harding, Tom MacNeil, Eric Nyarko, Patti Rodgers

Staff: Kathleen Jones, Diane Matheson-Jimenez, Jody Maltby, Eun-Joo Park, Kim Uyede-Kai

Guest: Calin Lau – Growth Animator Shining Waters & Canadian Shield,
Tay Moss - CHURCHx / Innovative Ministry Centre / TUCC

Regrets: Amy Lee, Sandra Nottegar, Harry Ramsaran, Shawn Redden, Gloria Tozek

Welcome

There was a time of check in. The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed everyone. Chris Bennett 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 Carolyn Harding / Patti Rodgers **SW-CFC-2024-05-15-01**
that the Agenda of the Communities of Faith Commission of Shining Waters Regional Council dated May 15, 2024 be accepted as circulated with addition on an update from St Paul's United Church, Scarborough, learning event from the Community Ministries group, and Toronto Chinese United Church, Toronto
MOTION **CARRIED**

Minutes

MOTION by Tom MacNeil / Eric Nyarko **SW-CFC-2024-05-15-02**
that the Minutes of the meetings of the Communities of Faith Commission of Shining Waters Regional Council dated April 17, 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 sale of 31/33 Melrose Avenue, Toronto by the Trustees of Dewi Sant Welsh United Church to Insoho Properties Inc for a purchase price of Five Million Two Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$5,250,000.00) with a completion date of August 27, 2024.

The Regional Staff Lead (Jody Maltby) made the following decision;

St James, Parry Sound, renovation to create a barrier free entrance

Tay Moss joined the meeting

Introducing Churchx - Tay Moss - CHURCHx / Innovative Ministry Centre / TUCC

Tay discussed the Innovative Ministry Center's mission, its founding, and its future plans. He highlighted the center's role in supporting digital communications, collaborations, and the United Church of Canada's global mission. Tay also discussed the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, the rise of the "VUCA" business model, and the resulting vocational leadership crisis in the church. Furthermore, he mentioned the center's growth, its plans to create an online environment for communities of faithful purpose, and the development of a robust ecosystem through new partnerships. The discussion also touched on the concept of church, the use of AI-related tools, and the potential of virtual platforms like Church X to augment and extend traditional church ministry. Chris raised concerns about the potential replacement of traditional church ministry with Church X.

Tay Moss left the meeting.

CFC Budget Jody Maltby

Jody discussed the budget for the Commission, which is \$35,000 per year. In reviewing spending in 2023 and 2024 to date, we are not making full use of the funds available. Jody emphasized the need to follow up on the strategic visioning process initiated in 2022, suggesting a reallocation of funds to support broader congregational development. Chris expressed concern about the effectiveness of the budget execution and suggested that it could be used for church cluster development. The \$35,000.00 is committed for this year, and it's in the budget for 2025 as well.

Financial Statement for Communities of Faith Commission, 2023 – 2024

Budget Item	Budget	Actual 2023	Notes	Actual 2024 to date	Notes
COMMISSION					
✚ CFC Commission	\$1,000	\$707.59	In-person meeting		
✚ IIM Team	\$1,000				
✚ Education & Training	\$3,000			Up to \$1,200	
COMMUNITIES OF FAITH					
✚ Deepening Connection	\$10,000	\$1,980.00	May 17, 2023 Cummer Ave & Bayview consultant funding up to \$3,000		
✚ Encouraging Transformation	\$10,000				
✚ Renewing & Supporting Leadership	\$10,000				
OTHER					
✚ Hub Ministry		\$1,448.00	February 19, 2020 funding up to \$2,000		
✚ Black Clergy Network				\$500.00	March 20, 2024
TOTAL	\$35,000	\$4,135.59			

Support to Communities of Faith not from CFC budget: \$33,754

Proposals to Regional Meeting *Jody Maltby*

There are six proposals that are coming to the regional meeting this year.

The following will be heard at the Regional Meeting on Friday June 7th, 2024, although there will be a town hall to discuss these proposal on Wednesday May 22, 2024

1. related to poverty and homelessness, and taking an action on that
2. related to communication between that Commission as the Social and Ecological Justice Commission and local communities of faith, and how to strengthen that relationship
3. originating from Grace United, Barrie related to calling on the General Council to support Broadview Magazine.

The following proposals will be heard at the Regional Meeting on Saturday June 8th, 2024, although there will be a town hall to discuss these proposal on Wednesday May 29th, 2024 along with the budget.

1. Dalston Crown Hill, United Church. Calling on the Regional Council to distribute \$4,000 to every pastoral charge within the Regional Council as a sign of support and recognition of the struggles that congregations are facing.
2. Fairlawn Avenue United Church in Toronto, calling on the Regional Council to develop strategy, for how we can support, congregate churches in the GTA, who are rich in property assets, but perhaps struggling in their financial assets to support their ministry and their communities.
3. Executive asking that we table and pause those 2 proposals to allow our Finance Committee to do a full understanding of our current commitments.

Update on Credence & Co Workshop *Eun-Joo Park*

Eun-Joo gave an update on registration for the May 23rd workshop, which is an overview of understanding conflict and her plans for follow up sessions from the Communities of Faith task groups.

Community Ministries Workshops *Patti Rodgers*

At the 2023 regional meeting, the regional council approved two proposals related to community ministries. The first is the funding proposal which we have been working on and the second involved educational opportunities offered by the three existing community ministries for people to learn about how to do outreach in their community. Patti attended the first workshop in the series. She encourages including people who are educators in creating workshops so that there is a diversity of how the information is presented.

The meeting took an all-purpose break.

Diane Matheson-Jimenez joined the meeting

Community of Faith Updates

Islington UC, Toronto & Bloordale UC, Etobicoke – *Diane Matheson-Jimenez*

An amalgamation agreement has been received from Islington & Bloordale. The name of the amalgamated community of faith will be “Islington United Church.” Bloordale United Church went through a period of discernment as a congregation and concluded that their vision of encouraging spiritual growth, building an inclusive community, and transforming people’s lives was best accomplished through amalgamating with another United Church. Islington United Church and other churches were approached and, after consultation and prayerful consideration, Bloordale recommended going forward with Islington. July 1st, 2024 is the proposed date of amalgamation. The commission asked questions for follow up and the commission was supportive of this direction. It will be approved at Congregational meetings, and then it will come back in June for final approval from the Commission.

Forest Grove UC, North York – *Jody Maltby*

The motion re: 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 that was carried during the April 17, 2024 fell through

Collier Street United Church, Barrie– *Jody Maltby*

Collier Street United Church, has been engaging with Trinity Centers Foundation to pursue a possible development plan, and as per our property policy, they need to get approval of the contract. When a congregation is working with an external developer, the commission may consult with Kindred Works because they are the development arm of the United Church.

The commission agreed that Collier St may proceed with the contract but also offer the following questions for consideration. The commission felt these are not reasons to withhold approval but clarification might strengthen the contract for CSUC:

- In item 2 it states that the agreement does not create a partnership but the terms and conditions at the end of the document refer to a partnership. Is CSUC comfortable that they understand the nature of the relationship?
- In item 7c, what information is going to be provided to TCF regarding denominational decision-makers?
- In item 12, is it acceptable to CSUC that TCF will continue to own the intellectual property even though CSUC is paying for it? Is there an understanding of what will happen if CSUC decides not to proceed beyond phase 2 of the project?
- CSUC is encouraged to ask for a copy of TCF’s Code of Ethics and proof on insurance.

MOTION by Tom MacNeil / Carolyn Harding **SW-CFC-2024-05-15-03**
that the Communities of Faith Commission of Shining Waters Regional Council approve Collier Street United Church moving forward with the contract for Phase 2 with Trinity Centres Foundation (TCF)

MOTION

CARRIED

Going forward, Jody will work with Kindred Works to develop a template of requirements for a contract with an external developer so that we can advise congregations upfront. Key components may include:

- Prioritizing the interests, needs and benefits of the congregation;
- Making the best use of the property to support the ministry of the congregation and the United Church;
- Acknowledging and respecting the relationship between the congregation and the regional council, including the role of the regional council in approving decisions related to property;
- Meeting the requirements of denominational and regional policies;
- Clarity regarding the relationship between the congregation and the developer;
- Providing proof of insurance;
- Providing a clear exit clause.

Westmount United Church, Orillia – *Jody Malby*

Jody provided an update on the situation at Westmount. Rev. Jim Keenan has been appointed as the Pastoral Charge Supervisor. Jody and Jim are meeting with the Council to discuss the commission's motion related to a facilitated process.

Fraserberg United Church, Bracebridge – *Jody Maltby*

Fraserberg is a small summer congregation just outside of Bracebridge, and their congregation. Last summer they closed early due to lack of attendance. They have reached out to Jody for a conversation about next steps.

York Pines United Church, King – *Jody Maltby*

York Pines is part of a three-point collaborative ministry with King City and New Hope. Jody is meeting with them to discuss next steps for the congregation.

St Paul's United Church, Scarborough – *Eun-Joo Park*

MOTION by Trevor Brisbin / Eric Nyarko **SW-CFC-2024-05-15-04**
that the Communities of Faith Commission of Shining Waters Regional Council approve the recommendation of the Intentional Interim Ministry Committee that Douglas duCharme be appointed as regional representative to the transition team of St Paul's United Church, Scarborough

MOTION

CARRIED

Toronto Chinese United Church, Toronto– *Kim Uyede-Kai*

It is a one pastoral charge with one board and two worshipping congregations. One in Cantonese and one in English, each with their own minister. The board has decided not to renew the appointment for their English worshipping ministry. The English Ministry feels not supported by the Chinese ministry.

Good News Stories

Members shared good news stories from various communities of faith.

Next Meeting Wednesday June 19, 2024 9:30 a.m.

Closing Chris Bennett offered a closing blessing, and the meeting closed at 12:00p.m.