

**Minutes of a meeting of the
Community of Faith Commission
Wednesday, June 19, 2024**

The Communities of Faith Commission of Shining Waters Regional Council met on Wednesday June 19, 2024 via Zoom. The meeting began at 9:30 a.m.

Present: Chris Bennett, Trevor Brisbin, Carolyn Harding, Isaac Kamta, Amy Lee, Tom MacNeil, Krista Moore, Sandra Nottegar, Patti Rodgers

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

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

Regrets: Adèle Mayer, Eric Nyarko, Shawn Redden, Kim Uyede-Kai

Guest: West Hill United Church; John McKechnie, Deb Ellis, Mike Lawrie (WHUC Board Chair), Dan Cooperstock, Annie DiPede

Welcome

Amy Lee led the commission in a time of worship. There was a time of check in. The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed everyone. Amy Lee 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.

Agenda

MOTION by Trevor Brisbin / Patti Rodgers **SW-CFC-2024-06-19-01**
that the Agenda of the Communities of Faith Commission of Shining Waters Regional Council dated June 19, 2024 be accepted as circulated with the addition of an update from Collier Street United Church, Barrie & Ebenezer United Church, Markham.

MOTION

CARRIED

Minutes

MOTION by Trevor Brisbin / Patti Rodgers **SW-CFC-2024-06-19-02**
that the Minutes of the meetings of the Communities of Faith Commission of Shining Waters Regional Council dated May 15, 2024 be approved as circulated with correction under Grace United Proposal to Broadview Magazine

MOTION

CARRIED

The Commission made the following decisions by email vote;

.... approve the lease amending agreement between Northlea United Church and Pawsitively Pets for Kids Inc. dated May 19, 2024

.....approves the sale of Forest Grove United Church, located at 43 Forest Grove Drive, Toronto, ON by the Trustees of the Jubilee congregation of The United Church of Canada to Lingyen Mountain Temple (Canada) for a purchase price of nine million and two hundred thousand dollars (\$9,200,000) with a closing date of September 16, 2024.

..... approves the updated constitution of TRINITY UNITED CHURCH HUNTSVILLE, ONTARIO dated April 28, 2024.

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

.... approve the renovation under \$100,000 for St. Paul's Scarborough United Church

John McKechnie, Deb Ellis, Mike Lawrie (WHUC Board Chair), Dan Cooperstock, Annie DiPede joined the meeting

WEST HILL UNITED CHURCH, PROPOSAL FOR THE DISPOSITION OF FUNDS

Deb and John discussed the financial challenges and strategies for maintaining West Hill's viability, including the need for a return on investment and cost-cutting measures. They also clarified the conditions for the renewal of the vendor buyback mortgage and addressed questions about the need for separate leadership positions.

John McKechnie, Deb Ellis, Mike Lawrie (WHUC Board Chair), Dan Cooperstock, Annie DiPede left the meeting

The decision to recruit from a global pool was influenced by language guidelines and West Hill's global aspirations, although concerns were raised about the feasibility of finding suitable candidates for these part-time roles. They discussed a vendor take back mortgage from 2020 with a principal amount of \$2,000,650. They reviewed the mortgage's status, noting that the principal balance remained at \$2 million, with a rate of 6.5%, and was due for renegotiation in 2025. The commission is still unsure of the full financial picture for the congregation. Jody will follow up to request a budget for 2024 and 2025, and ask them to fill out the financial viability tool used by the Pastoral Relations Commission. The commission discussed whether it would be appropriate to ask West Hill to provide the 10% contribution to the Indigenous Ministries Fund and renew the mortgage for a three-year term during which they would continue to benefit from the interest income. At the end of the three-years, the commission and West Hill could consider again whether it might be possible to provide the additional 10% contribution. The commission will revisit this discussion after receiving the additional financial documents.

Diane Matheson-Jimenez left the meeting
Trevor Brisbin left the meeting

The meeting took an all-purpose break.

JOINT PRC/CFC MEETING ON OCTOBER 29th, 2024

October 29, 2024 (9:30 am - 3 pm) An in-person joint meeting with the Pastoral Relations Commission location TBD

MOTION OF THE REGIONAL COUNCIL FOR A REVIEW OF PRIORITIES AND FINANCES

- That the Shining Waters Regional Council direct the Regional Council Executive to create an ad hoc committee, with the support and advice from all four Commissions, Grants & Mission Support Committee and the regional council Finance Committee, to do a region-wide consultation about regional ministry and funding priorities. The review would include input from all four regional Commissions, all communities of faith and Shining Waters Regional Council grant recipients, PTCC and TUCC and a review of current regional council granting priorities and available financial resources. The Committee will report back to the Executive with recommendations, no later than June 30, 2025 and to the regional council with recommendations, no later than the 2025 Regional Council Meeting on October 24/25, 2025. The committee to be created will provide a schedule of milestones to accomplish their work to the Regional Council Executive no later than October 31, 2024 and thereafter, provide quarterly updates as to progress. Such reports to be posted promptly with the minutes of Regional Council Executive.

UPDATE ON CONFLICT WEBINAR, MAY 23, 2024 – *Eun-Joo Park*

Thursday, May 23, 2024 7:30 – 9:00 p.m. 95 ppl attended and 35 ppl responded with the evaluation and all comments were positive. Thank you for joining us as we gathered to begin to understand conflict and learn how to work through difficult conversations in your community of faith. This webinar was a joint zoom gathering for lay leaders and ministry personnel in both Canadian Shield and Shining Waters Regional Councils. A recording of this webinar will be available for 2 months after the date of the gathering, in case you missed it or wish to revisit some of the information we discussed that night <https://youtu.be/ZqGR8yuH0qY>

UPDATE ON LAY LEADERS' WEBINAR, JUNE 19, 2024 – *Eun-Joo Park*

Wednesday, June 19, 2024 7:00 – 8:30 p.m. workshop on Governance Structures and Living Faith Stories

Leaders: Governance Task Group of Shining Waters Communities of Faith Commission
Many churches are facing stagnation from a lack of volunteers, overworked staff, and lack of vision or mission. There are outdated board structure that require more volunteers than some churches have members, ministers and office administrators end up taking on more work, and no-one's quite sure where the community is going. Eun-Joo Park will lead us through a review of different governance structures used in the United Church, and Tom MacNeil will refresh us on what a Living Faith Story is and why it's vital that churches have one (This is a joint webinar with Canadian Shield and Shining Waters lay leaders. There is no cost for this workshop but pre-registration is required. We hope you can join us! <https://shiningwatersregionalcouncil.ca/communities-of-faith/lets-connect-lay-leader-webinar/>

Community of Faith Updates

WESTMOUNT UNITED CHURCH, ORILLIA – *Jody Maltby*

Jody provided an update on the situation at Westmount. Rev. Jim Keenan has been appointed as the Pastoral Charge Supervisor. 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. The letter shared with the commission was discussed. A letter will be drafted to the trustees of Westmount United Church, acknowledging their request for a meeting and encouraging them to continue with the restorative process.

ISLINGTON UC, TORONTO & BLOORDALE UC, ETOBICOKE – *Jody Maltby*

On June 5, 2024, Islington United Church held a congregational meeting and approved the proposed amalgamation with Bloordale United Church. The congregation at Bloordale United Church also met on June 16, 2024 and approved the amalgamation with Islington United Church.

MOTION by Carolyn Harding / Amy Lee

SW-CFC-2024-06-19-03

that the Communities of Faith Commission of Shining Waters Regional Council approve the amalgamation between Bloordale United Church and Islington United Church, per the amalgamation agreement as a two-campus unified pastoral charge, under the name of Islington United Church, effective July 1st, 2024.

MOTION

CARRIED

SAINT LUKE'S UNITED CHURCH, TORONTO – *Eun-Joo Park*

Saint Luke's are proceeding with a ½ time minister for 6 months. It will be approved at the PRC meeting in August.

COLLIER STREET UNITED CHURCH, BARRIE – *Jody Maltby*

Collier Street United Transition Task Force, the group tasked with working on the Re-Imagining of Collier Street United Church, is inviting the Region's Communities of Faith Commission to a meeting with Trinity Centres Foundation via Zoom. The aim is to familiarize the Region with the workings of Trinity Centres Foundation with Collier in phase 2 of their re-imagining. Jody Maltby & Chris Bennett will attend.

EBENEZER UNITED CHURCH, MARKHAM – *Eun-Joo Park*

Due to the conflict that arose when their minister left the end of May; a request will be made from the Community of Faith for a listening team. Once the request is received, the Commission will vote via email.

LAY LEADERS' WEBINAR IN JULY BY CLICKNPARK <https://clicknpark.com/>

This app was discussed and the benefits of it. It was decided to share the information in an email rather than a webinar.

Next Meeting Wednesday September 18th, 2024 9:30 a.m.

Closing Chris Bennett offered a closing blessing, and the meeting closed at 12:10 p.m.