

**Minutes of a meeting of the
Community of Faith Commission
Wednesday, September 18, 2024**

The Communities of Faith Commission of Shining Waters Regional Council met on Wednesday September 18, 2024 via Zoom. The meeting began at 9:30 a.m.

Present: Chris Bennett, Carolyn Harding, Isaac Kamta, Tom MacNeil, Krista Moore, Sandra Nottegar

Staff: Diane Matheson- Jimenez, Jody Maltby, Eun-Joo Park

Regrets: Amy Lee, Trevor Brisbin, Kathleen Jones, Adèle Mayer, Eric Nyarko, Patti Rodgers

Welcome

Carolyn Harding led the commission in a time of worship. There was a time of check in. The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed everyone. Carolyn Harding 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 Isaac Kamta / Tom MacNeil **SW-CFC-2024-09-18-01**
that the Agenda of the Communities of Faith Commission of Shining Waters Regional Council dated September 18, 2024 be accepted as circulated with an addition of an update on staffing at the region.

MOTION **CARRIED**

Minutes

MOTION by Carolyn Harding / Sandra Nottegar **SW-CFC-2024-09-18-02**
that the Minutes of the meetings of the Communities of Faith Commission of Shining Waters Regional Council dated June 19, 2024 be approved as circulated

MOTION **CARRIED**

The Commission made the following decisions by email vote;

.... approves the request of St. Paul's United Church, Scarborough to access \$200,000.00 from the Endowment Fund to pay the salary and benefits of the IIM during the 2-year term

.... approves the lease agreement between Kimbourne Park United Church and Pegasus Studios for ten years starting September 1st, 2024

.... approves the request of Stouffville United Church, Whitchurch-Stouffville, to modernize the Stouffville United Church Sanctuary and to access \$242,000.00 from the Trustee held 'restricted funds' to complete the renovation.

..... approves the request of Grace United Church, Barrie to replace their roof and recommends the Capital Loan Application request between Grace United Church, Barrie and the United Church of Canada, to the General Council in the amount of \$78,860.00.

.... approves the request of Westmount United Church, Orillia to list the property at 23 Westmount Drive South for sale with Bruce Shipley, Broker (Coldwell Banker the Real estate Centre Brokerage) as the agent to manage the selling of the building and property at \$2.9 million

.... approves the lease agreement between Asbury & West United Church & Forest Hill Montessori School for fifteen years starting June 1st, 2024.

.... approves the request of Collier St United Church to appoint Nidea Realities Corporation as Broker and collaborator with Trinity Centres Foundation for the development phase of the Collier Street United Church property; that the brokerage fee of 3% of the appraised land value be paid in full or in part by the developer with the Collier Street United Church portion to be paid when Collier Street United Church is paid the full land value by the developer

.... approves the capital renovations of Palgrave United Church in the amount of \$126, 836.11 and approves the request to access up to \$25,000 from the Manse Fund to cover the increased cost not covered by grants.

Input Requested: Ad Hoc Committee, Review of Ministry and Funding Priorities

The Executive Ad Hoc Committee is preparing a consultation document to circulate broadly within the region. In preparation, they are seeking input from a number of sources to understand what priorities currently exist and what work has been done toward these priorities.

- **What priority setting have you done as a commission or committee?**
- **What are your current priorities?**
- **How is work progressing on those priorities?**
- **Are there other priorities that could be considered by the regional council?**

The Community of Faith Commission Draft Budget 2023 was shared, which listed the strategic direction and goals of the commission. The priorities that are identified in the property policy were also shared. Members of the commission were asked to share their thoughts or questions about the priorities. Jody will prepare a report out of the discussion and it will be circulated with the minutes.

FALL WEBINARS – Eun-Joo Park

- ✓ Introduction to Management Advisory Service Wednesday, Sept. 11, 2024.

<https://shiningwatersregionalcouncil.ca/communities-of-faith/lets-connect-lay-leader-webinar-mas/>

- ✓ Where Two or Three are Gathered, there is Jesus. And Conflict! Part 2
Wednesday, October 2, 2024 <https://canadianshielddrc.ca/communities-of-faith/congregational-support/lets-connect-lay-leaders-webinar-conflict-2/>
- ✓ Rural Ministries Gathering – *Jody Maltby*
Bronwyn Corlett in the growth department, focusing specifically on rural ministries. Partnering between SWRC & CSRC looking to offer a series of conversations that are focusing particularly on the rural context.
October 30, 2024 – collaboration in a rural context.
Krista shared the success of the South Simcoe cluster in working together.

JOINT PRC/CFC MEETING ON OCTOBER 29th, 2024 – *Chris Bennett*

Pastoral Relations Commission & Community of Faith Commission Joint Meeting will be held on Tuesday October 29th, 2024 at Cummer Avenue United Church, 53 Cummer Ave, North York, ON M2M 2E5. The draft agenda was shared. The commission will not be meeting at their regular time on October 16th, 2024.

The meeting took an all-purpose break.

UPDATE ON STAFFING AT THE REGION LEVEL – *Diane Matheson- Jimenez*

A discussion was had around how we can maximize efficiency and efficacy. Due to our Financial Administrator retirement, Jody is going to assume her duties, supported by a full-time Accounting Assistant/Bookkeeper. Jody will continue to support CoF during property issues as well as the financial implications. Jody will continue as staff lead and Diane will now provide support and supervision to the program staff in the work of supporting Communities of Faith and Pastoral Relations. We are in the process of hiring one full time, permanent program staff person, and one temporary staff person.

Community of Faith Updates

WESTMOUNT UNITED CHURCH, ORILLIA – *Jody Maltby*

A member of the council has filed an appeal against the Communities of Faith Commission decision to approve the request from the council and trustee of Westmount to list their property. The appellant has until September 23rd to provide a statement of argument; the CFC will have the opportunity to provide a response. We will retain legal counsel to assist. The General Council Judicial Committee decides whether the appellant has met the test for an appeal and whether or not an appeal will be heard.

Regarding the listing, we can proceed with sale, unless we or Westmount Council decide that we're going to pause pending the appeal. The commission expressed concern that delaying the sale will have a negative impact on the congregation. And it opens both Westmount and the Commission up to some potential liability. The commission chose not to pause the sale at this time.

The Region has been asked to hold the Congregational Meeting set for Sunday September 29th, 2024 to talk about future steps. During this meeting, they will be advised to consider whether or not it is still a viable option to proceed with an ecumenical shared ministry or whether the congregation should make the decision to close. The commission has concerns about whether the congregation is still strong enough to proceed with the shared ministry. If the congregation wishes to proceed with that path, a formal assessment of viability may be required. The commission asked questions for follow up but in general was supportive of this path forward.

MOTION by Carolyn Harding / Krista Moore **SW-CFC-2024-09-18-03**
 That the Communities of Faith Commission of Shining Waters Regional Council approves the request of the Trustees of Westmount United Church to reduce the list price for the property located at 23 Westmount Drive South to \$2,498,888.00
MOTION **CARRIED**

NORTH BRAMALEA UNITED CHURCH, BRAMPTON – *Jody Maltby*
 North Bramalea would like to create a proposal for partnership with Heart Lake United Church, which is a small rural church. It is an opportunity for greater connection and partnership. Heart Lake would continue to be a church in its community. North Bramalea, which is flourishing would support Heart Lake, that has been struggling to become a stronger church in its community. North Bramalea is requesting \$10,000 from the Commission to support this. They are also looking a grant from TUCC and the national growth department. This will continue to be on the agenda. A partnership agreement will follow.

Sandra Nottegar left the meeting

VICTORIA SQUARE UNITED CHURCH, MARKHAM – *Jody Maltby*
 The city of Markham has made the decision to designate their manse under the Ontario Heritage Act.

EBENEZER UNITED CHURCH, MARKHAM – *Eun-Joo Park*.
 A request has been received from Ebenezer United Church, Markham 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. The team will consist of Krista Moore, Tom MacNeil, Isaac Kamta and Eun-Joo Park.

COLLIER STREET UNITED CHURCH, BARIE – *Diane Matheson- Jimenez*
 Previously we have been referring to the group that Collier has signed a memorandum of agreement with as Trinity Centers foundation. Trinity Centers has rebranded and are now

called Relèven. The theme of the town hall about development possibilities at Collier Street was reimagining our space. Relèven came up with 3 possible choices to move forward and invited members of the community to provide input. There were 4 questions that those who participated were asked to consider.

- ✓ What role does Collier United have in addressing opportunities and challenges in Barrie?
- ✓ What could the space be used for?
- ✓ What have been barriers to finding the kind of space you need to access in the community?
- ✓ Who needs to be at the table?

The information will be gathered, given back to the leadership team. The leadership team will digest that and present it to the community of faith.

ST LUKE'S, TORONTO – *Jody Maltby*

St Luke's is a congregation that has signed an agreement with Kindred Works and United Property Resource Corporation to develop their property. They have had some financial struggles and a recommendation was made to the Executive to approve a \$50,000.00 loan to them, so they could continue to have some ministry following the conclusion of their IIM. Therefore, it is important that this development project be successful so it can provide an income source that will help ensure the sustainability of the congregation going forward. Jody has been working with Kindred Works to ensure the costs of the building are covered. St Luke's has agreed that their property is going to come into the Regional Trust and the region will become the beneficial owner. Eun-Joo has been working closely with the congregation to develop a realistic ministry plan and budget to support it. St. Luke's will receive the income from the development, when it becomes income producing, that they need in order to be viable, vital, and grow, but a portion of that income will also be used to pay back the costs of managing the building incurred by Kindred Works during this interim period, and also the \$50,000.00 loan.

DEWI SANT UNITED CHURCH, TORONTO – *Jody Maltby*

Anytime a congregation sells a property the commission approves the agreement of purchase and sale. An e-vote will be going out in the near future and it will be a tight turnaround.

REVIEW TASK GROUPS

- Governance Task Group** – approve (new and/or updated) constitutions, collaboration agreements & living faith stories – Amy, Carolyn, Tom, Eric
- Lease Task Group** – approve lease agreements (new and/or updated) – Trevor, Krista, Patti
- Loans Task Group** – approve loans and renovation requests – Isaac, Sandra, Chris

GOOD NEWS STORIES

Members shared good news stories from various communities of faith.

NEXT MEETING JOINT PRC/CFC MEETING ON OCTOBER 29th, 2024

October 29, 2024

CLOSING Chris Bennett offered a closing blessing