

**THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA
SHINING WATERS REGIONAL COUNCIL**

**Minutes of a meeting of the
Pastoral Relations Commission and Communities of Faith Commission
Tuesday, October 29 2024**

The Pastoral Relations Commission of Shining Waters Regional Council met for a hybrid (in-person and online) joint meeting with the Communities of Faith Commission, on Tuesday, October 29, 2024 at Cummer Avenue United Church, 53 Cummer Ave, North York, ON The meeting began at 9:30 a.m.

Present In person: Carolyn Harding, William Haughton, Barbara Hendren, Isaac Kamta, Sung Ran Kim, Deirdre (Dee) Lawrence, Amy Lee, Liz Mackenzie, Tom MacNeil, Krista Moore, Sandra Nottegarr, Lawrence Nyarko, Robin Pilkey, Patti Rodgers

Present Online: Chris Bennett, Calin Lau (General Council Staff), Diane Matheson-Jimenez (Regional Staff)

Staff: Celio de Andrade Santos Jr, Kathleen Jones, Jody Maltby, Todd McDonald, Eun-Joo Park, Shawn Redden, Donna Rutz

Regrets: Trevor Brisbin, Richard Gardner, Adèle Mayer, Beth Moore, Eric Nyarko, Kim Uyede-Kai

Welcome, Constituting the Meeting and Worship

Chris Bennett welcomed everyone to the meeting. Lawrence Nyarko gave an acknowledgement of the land and led a time of worship. There was a time of introductions.

Lay Led Congregation Listening Process - *Diane Matheson-Jimenez and Todd McDonald*

As a result of the presentation at the 2023 joint commission, a listening process was initiated for our lay-led congregations. Commission members shared their assumptions about these congregations. Todd and Diane kickstarted the listening process by meeting with the Pastoral Charge Supervisors from five lay-led congregations, where they shared and discussed three key questions.

1. What is the biggest challenge or need for the lay led congregations?
2. What are the success stories from your perspective as Pastoral Charge Supervisor?
3. Are there resources that the regional council could provide you

A word cloud of their responses was shared, sparking a discussion within the group about which words stood out the most. An invitation was then extended to visit the five lay-led congregations, and two of them graciously welcomed them. Their responses were shared with the commission, leading to a discussion among its members. The commission was subsequently invited to respond to the following question “What do our commissions need to do to keep working at our relationship with lay led congregations?” Responses below were shared

- Develop a toolkit to guide lay-led congregations toward thriving.
- Place greater emphasis on the pastoral aspect across all community forms.
- Organize pulpit exchanges between ministers or leaders of congregations.
- Collaborate with lay-led congregations to celebrate their strengths and gifts.
- Engage in deep listening to understand the genuine concerns and motivations of lay-led congregations.
- Utilize process points of contact to facilitate connections when congregations seek support and opportunities.
- Encourage positive interactions between Regional Council and communities of faith.
- Acknowledge their own visions of discipleship.
- Foster more frequent communication with lay-led congregations, either in person or by phone, to determine what support they need to thrive.
- Simplify lay leadership training.
- Lead efforts to create clusters where lay-led congregations can support one another.
- Continue the listening process by including a lay member from each commission on the listening team.
- Focus on support, education, sharing hope and vision, and building trust.
- Solicit ideas from lay-led congregations for enhancing community.
- Ask questions such as: “Where are you in normal times?” “What do you contribute to congregational life?” and “What do you need or want?”
- Increase communication among all parties to break down mistrust.
- Maintain connections with Pastoral Charge Supervisors and provide ongoing support.

Liz Mackenzie joined the meeting.

Assets During Change - *Jody Maltby and Chris Bennett*

Jody highlighted some of the commitments embedded in the regional property policy. The Communities of Faith Commission is dedicated to making decisions that foster healthy and thriving communities of faith, advancing right relations with, and justice for, Indigenous peoples promoting a more equitable distribution of resources. Jody spoke about how recent decisions have highlighted possible inequities related to property sales depending on the reason for the sale, for example the difference between when a congregation is amalgamating or will continue to exist without property. Jody and Chris also shared some of the work the commission has been doing around theologies of property and the possibility of offering questions for congregations to consider when making property decisions. It was also noted that the United Property Resource Corporation and Kindred Works are being intentional in identifying and separating their roles. UPRC is available as a resource to any region or congregation looking for support making decisions about property while KW works with regions or congregations to develop property for affordable housing.

The meeting took a 10-minute break.

Equity Goal Project Updates - *Liz Mackenzie*

The Pastoral Relations (PR) commission is currently developing a negotiation handbook through the Equity Task Group to assist with negotiations. They are also focused on identifying and

addressing any inequities affecting equity-seeking ministry personnel in calls or appointments. Additionally, the PR Liaison, who collaborates with search committees, is receiving training on equity-related issues.

<https://shiningwatersregionalcouncil.ca/pastoral-relations/pastoral-relations-commission/>

Responding to Review of Funding for Ministry Priorities - Jody Maltby

Jody provided an update on the members of the Ad-Hoc Committee and their current progress. She encouraged both commissions to engage in the consultation and to motivate others to participate as well.

Pastoral Relations Commission: Ordination, Commissioning, and Admission Policy -Todd McDonald

The Pastoral Relations Commission has passed a new Ordination, Commissioning and Admission Policy. The United Church of Canada admits people into the Order of Ministry. The Manual (H.4.8) states, “b) confirmation that a covenantal relationship is in place with a community of faith or offer of employment to a paid accountable/recognized ministry, as determined by the regional council” as a standard that must be met for ordination, commissioning or admission. This policy outlines the requirements for the approval of a provisional call or appointment for ordination or commissioning as determined by the SWRC.

The policy states that:

- i. The coveanted relationship must be for at least 6 months.
- ii. The coveanted relationship must be at least 14 hours per week
- iii. And finally, must not fill a gap for an incumbent minister on leave.

<https://shiningwatersregionalcouncil.ca/pastoral-relations/pastoral-relations-commission/>

Let’s Connect Leaders Webinar - Eun-Joo Park

In response to ministry personnel and congregation members, a request was made for an educational resource to foster mutual support.

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

1. May 23 – Where two or three are gathered, there is Jesus. And conflict!
2. June 19 – Governance and the Living Faith Story
3. September 11- MAS (management advisory service)
4. October 2 - Where two or three are gathered, there is Jesus. And conflict! Part 2
5. November 19 – Advent of Generosity

Flourish Updates - Lawrence Nyarko

Flourish is a continuous initiative aimed at encouraging and supporting the well-being, joy, and excellence of ministry personnel. The Flourish Advisory Team advises Regional Council staff on programs, events, and retreats designed for ministry personnel. This initiative fosters a sense of care, connection, and collaboration among them. The goal is to nourish and enhance the ministers in their roles, ultimately enriching the ministries of the communities of faith they serve.

<https://shiningwatersregionalcouncil.ca/pastoral-relations/flourish/fern-clergy-retreat-2024/>

Blessing - Lawrence Nyarko

Lunch Break

The joint commission gathering broke for lunch at 12:15 p.m. and then reconvened separately.

**Minutes of a meeting of the
Community of Faith Commission
Tuesday, October 29, 2024**

The Communities of Faith Commission of Shining Waters Regional Council met for a hybrid (in-person and online) on Tuesday, October 29, 2024 at Cummer Avenue United Church, 53 Cummer Ave, North York, ON The meeting began at 1:15 p.m.

Present In person: Carolyn Harding, Isaac Kamta, Amy Lee, Tom MacNeil, Krista Moore, Sandra Nottegarr, Patti Rodgers

Present Online: Chris Bennett

Staff: Celio de Andrade Santos Jr, Kathleen Jones, Jody Maltby, Shawn Redden

Regrets: Trevor Brisbin, Adèle Mayer, Eric Nyarko, Kim Uyede-Kai

Welcome

The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed everyone.

Agenda

MOTION by Carolyn Harding / Krista Moore **SW-CFC-2024-10-29-01**
that the Agenda of the Communities of Faith Commission of Shining Waters Regional Council dated October 29, 2024 be accepted as circulated

MOTION **CARRIED**

Minutes

MOTION by Tom MacNeil / Isaac Kamta **SW-CFC-2024-10-29-02**
that the Minutes of the meetings of the Communities of Faith Commission of Shining Waters Regional Council dated September 18, 2024 be approved as circulated, with the correction that Heart Lake United Church should not be described as a small rural church in the North Bramalea United Church Update.

MOTION **CARRIED**

The Commission made the following decisions by email vote;

that the Communities of Faith Commission of Shining Waters Regional Council approve the kitchen renovation of Kimbourne Park United Church, projected to cost \$337,946.53 and a loan with TUCC of \$324,000.00 towards the cost of the work.

that the Communities of Faith Commission of Shining Waters Regional Council approves a multi-year project to replace 100 designated leaded glass windows in Islington United Church.

that the Communities of Faith Commission of Shining Waters Regional Council agrees with the request of Westmount United Church to disband effective October 31, 2024 with thanks to God for their ministry.

that the Communities of Faith Commission of Shining Waters Regional Council approves the submission of the response of Shining Waters Regional Council to the appeal of the decision of August 14, 2024 regarding the listing of Westmount United Church at 23 Westmount Drive South in Orillia, Ontario.

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 Destiny & Dominion Word Ministries for a purchase price of Five Million Dollars (\$5,000,000.00) with a completion date of November 29, 2024.

that the Communities of Faith Commission of Shining Waters Regional Council approve the lease agreement between Victoria Square United Church and Jazzercise Markham, dated November 1, 2024

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

Debriefing the Joint Meeting

A discussion took place regarding the topics addressed during the Joint Commission Meeting. The effort involved in organizing the meetings and the quality of information shared were acknowledged and appreciated.

Community of Faith Updates

NORTH BRAMALEA UNITED CHURCH, BRAMPTON – Jody Maltby

Following a discussion with Heart Lake United Church in Brampton, they indicated that they are currently engaged in conversations with communities of faith in Caledon, ON so the proposed collaboration with NBUC is on hold.

SEVERN SHORES UNITED CHURCH, SEVERN TOWNSHIP – Jody Maltby

MOTION by Patti Rodgers / Carolyn Harding

SW-CFC-2024-10-29-03

That the Communities of Faith Commission of Shining Waters Regional Council approves the proposal of Severn Shores United Church to disburse 10% of the proceeds from the sale of their property and other financial assets remaining at the close of the congregation to the following:

- Sharing Place Food Bank, Orillia
- Green Haven Shelter, Orillia

- Mariposa House Hospice, Orillia
- The Lighthouse, Orillia
- Soldiers Memorial Hospital, Orillia

MOTION

CARRIED

WESTMOUNT UNITED CHURCH, ORILLIA – *Jody Maltby*

MOTION by Sandra Nottegarr / Tom MacNeil

SW-CFC-2024-10-29-04

That the Communities of Faith Commission of Shining Waters Regional Council approves the proposal of Westmount United Church to disburse 10% of the proceeds from the sale of their property and other financial assets remaining at the close of the congregation to the following:

- Church on the Hill, Orillia 15%
- Barrie Free Methodist Church, Barrie 10%
- Calvary Pentecostal Church, Orillia 10%
- Cornerstone Baptist Church Coldwater Campus 10%
- Ebenezer United Church, Tay Township 10%
- Salvation Army Church, Orillia 10%
- Simcoeside Lifepoint Church, Orillia 10%
- Sharing Place Foodbank, Orillia 5%
- Orillia Pregnancy Resource Centre 10%
- Mariposa House Hospice Orillia 10%

MOTION

CARRIED

WEST HILL UNITED CHURCH, SCARBOROUGH – *Jody Maltby*

Following their discussion in the spring, we have requested additional information to support their desire not to contribute to the Indigenous fund. They are currently pursuing a new vision and will update the commission once this vision is finalized.

FOREST GROVE UNITED CHURCH, TORONTO – *Jody Maltby*

In June, the commission approved the sale of Forest Grove United Church, scheduled to close on September 16, 2024. This sale has taken place, and discussions are now underway regarding the distribution of the proceeds.

Amy Lee joined the meeting

DEWI SANT WELSH UNITED CHURCH, TORONTO – *Jody Maltby*

An email vote was conducted and approved the sale of Dewi Sant Welsh United Church for a purchase price of five million dollars (\$5,000,000.00), with a completion date of November 29, 2024. A discussion followed regarding the earlier approval of the Amalgamation Covenant and Financial Plan, which included allocating \$4,283,400 from the sale of the Dewi Sant property to support the ongoing Welsh ministry at Timothy Eaton UC. Given that the sale proceeds were initially expected to be significantly higher (with the first offer being \$5,850,000), does this create an opportunity to reconsider the allocated amount in light of the lower sale price? In particular, will the new price provide sufficient funds to cover the commitments in the amalgamation

agreement and will there be any surplus funds to come to the regional council? Jody will have a conversation with Ron Ewart.

FAITH FORMATION – *Shawn Redden & Jody Maltby*

Shawn emphasized the significance of structuring faith formation within the regional councils and its alignment with their mission. She stressed the importance of nurturing and supporting faith formation within faith communities and noted a shift from a hands-on, passion-driven approach to one that focuses on resourcing and fostering connections.

AFFIRMING MINISTRIES – *Shawn Redden & Jody Maltby*

The discussion highlighted the importance of adopting innovative strategies for faith formation, including collaborations with community organizations and leveraging existing resources.. <https://shiningwatersregionalcouncil.ca/equity/affirming-ministry/>

GOOD NEWS STORIES

Members shared good news stories from various communities of faith.

NEXT MEETING – November 20, 2024 9:30 a.m.

CLOSING Chris Bennett offered a closing blessing, and the meeting closed at 3:00 p.m.