

**Minutes of a meeting of the
Community of Faith Commission
Wednesday, January 17, 2024**

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

Present: Chris Bennett, Trevor Brisbin, Carolyn Harding, Tom MacNeil, Sandra Nottegar, Harry Ramsaran, Patti Rodgers, Gloria Tozek

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

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

Regrets: Amy Lee, Eric Nyarko, Kim Uyede-Kai

Welcome

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. She then led the commission in a time of worship.

Agenda

MOTION by Tom MacNeil / Sandra Nottegar that the Agenda of the Communities of Faith Commission of Shining Waters Regional Council dated January 17, 2024 be accepted as circulated with the addition of a report given by Eun-Joo Park re: Governance Task Group

MOTION

CARRIED

Minutes

MOTION by Carolyn Harding / Trevor Brisbin that the Minutes of the meetings of the Communities of Faith Commission of Shining Waters Regional Council dated November 15, 2023 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 SeekersGuidance Canada for a purchase price of Five Million Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$5,500,000.00) with a completion date of March 1, 2024 and in accordance with the terms and conditions set out in the Agreement of Purchase and Sale dated November 14, 2023.

.... that the Communities of Faith Commission of Shining Waters Regional Council approve the Church Council Structure of St. Andrews United Church, Toronto, dated March 2023 with following recommendations: Membership of the Council should include Called/Appointed Minister or Pastoral Charge Supervisor AND Terms of Office should be included.

.... that the Communities of Faith Commission of Shining Waters Regional Council approve the Governance Model of Taiwanese United Church, Toronto with the following Recommendation: Rather than Regional Designate, it should state Called/Appointed Minister or Pastoral Charge Supervisor.

.... that the Communities of Faith Commission of Shining Waters Regional Council approve the revised Constitution of Toronto Chinese United Church, Scarborough, dated February 2023 with the following recommendation: An advisory minister to be removed from the membership of the board as this is not recognized by the Manual.

.... that the Communities of Faith Commission of Shining Waters Regional Council approves the request of St. Paul's United Church, Scarborough to access \$26,775.35 from the Amalgamation Fund to renovate the gymnasium for rental purposes.

.... that the Communities of Faith Commission of Shining Waters Regional Council approves the request of Ebenezer United Church to rebuild their church building located at 5450 Ebenezer Side Rd, Tay, ON for an estimated cost of \$971,491.22.

.... that the Communities of Faith Commission of Shining Waters Regional Council approve the following

- lease agreement between Stouffville United Church and Montessori School dated September 1st, 2023
- funding from Stouffville United Church reserves for an amount of \$34,000 to revitalize the auditorium
- the movement of an additional \$8,000 from Stouffville United Church reserves to cover the overspending on the electrical upgrade

..... that the Communities of Faith Commission of Shining Waters Regional Council approves the lease agreement between Runnymede United Church and Toronto Suzuki School and Lenni Jabour for three years beginning January 1, 2024.

..... that the Communities of Faith Commission of Shining Waters Regional Council approves the request of King City United Church, King City to access \$40,000.00 from the Trust Fund to pay off the CEBA loan

The Regional Staff Lead made the following decision;

December 18, 2023; approval of request from Royal York Road UC to access \$25,000 from manse funds for capital expenses.

Property Conversation Tom MacNeil, Gloria Tozek, Jody Maltby

In September, we asked the Commission to think about the theological understanding that may have informed our current policies and practices relating to property, and how this theology does or does not help us to live into our commitment, to be in right relationship with Indigenous peoples.

- how the communities of Faith Commission can support congregations to include some theological reflection when they're considering property questions
- there is a real tension between what we want to do today in terms of our theology, and in terms of having a view of property that's more aligned with the Leviticus readings
- there are some power relationships here that need to be disruptive, and we struggle with that because we're also beneficiaries of it, and can be, the source of good for us
- there are resources embedded in buildings that are critical to our future as a region and as a church
- shifting the point of view from power over to power with
- if we sell a church and it goes to low-cost housing, or it becomes a community center of some sort, that's just as in line with the Church's mission as keeping the cross on the front and keeping United church on a sign there somewhere
- it is also a matter of empowerment, so how can we empower the communities of faith that have the power to make a decision that they can see the benefit of the communities or wider communities, and empower them to think and act on behalf of the wider church and the wider community, and the whole of creation.

We offer the following as a way to begin the conversation:

1. As you are preparing to make a decision regarding property how will you express your congregation's living faith story?
2. Think about some stories and images from the Bible that are reflective of how we in our faith are called to think about property. How do they inform your conversation?
3. How can we honour our purpose as outlined in The Manual:
The community of faith

- a) lives in covenant with the regional council with mutual responsibilities for the life and mission of the community of faith, and for fulfilling its responsibilities under the covenant;
- b) regularly self-assesses its ministry and files the self-assessment report with the regional council;
- c) joins the hearts, voices, and resources of the community to witness to the gospel and vision of Jesus for a compassionate and just society, both in Canada and around the world;
- d) engages in local, regional, national, and global initiatives and partnerships (community, ecumenical, and interfaith) for ministry, mission, and justice work;
- e) ministers with children and youth and young adults;
- f) honours and lives into intercultural mission and ministry; and
- g) lives in covenant with Mother Earth and All My Relations in the Earth community.

(The United Church Manual, section B.2.1.1)

4. How can we live into the United Church's commitment to:
 - 1) living in right relations with Indigenous peoples, and responding positively and meaningfully to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Calls to Action and the Caretakers of Our Indigenous Circle Calls to the Church;
 - 2) becoming an anti-racist church (declaration of the Commissioners of the 43rd General Council, October 24, 2020);
 - 3) welcoming people of all ages, abilities, races, sexual orientations and gender identities, and any other forms of marginalization into, and removing barriers to, the life, work and leadership of the Region and our communities of faith.

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- probably no one's going to hit every one of those with every decision although, maybe one or two of those are something that a congregation might be able to elaborate on
 - the whole idea is to just start them thinking about something rather than money
 - where is the greatest impact that a congregation can make?

The Commission as a whole offered the following feedback

Ownership is something that we struggle with, especially in light of some of the obligations and commitments that we are making, and should make, or have made with respect to our indigenous siblings.

How to get it to become part of our services as we go into those conversations.

Who owns the property? The trustees are the hold the property in trust for the congregation, for so long as the congregation continues to exist, if and when a congregation cease to exist the property, it reverts to the United Church of Canada. So, while a congregation exists. they are the beneficial owners of the property, but they can't make decisions without approval of the Regional Council. Before any congregation can move forward with the property in whatever direction the Regional Council, must give approval, unless the decision that they're making is under the thresholds that we have set. So, for example, if a renovation is left less than \$50,000, it does not require regional approval. If a lease is less than \$50,000 or not for exclusive use, it does not require regional approval, but for the most part any decision with respect to property does require regional approval. if a congregation proceeds with a decision without getting the proper regional approval, then, and if there is a problem as a result of that decision, then both the trustees and the governing body individuals on those could be personally liable. If there is a problem that leads to any kind of litigation.

Try to encourage people to actually begin by looking at vision and their call before actually getting into some of the legalese aspects of it.

There is within our property policy a stipulation that a percentage from the sale of property will go to a fund that is directed towards indigenous ministries.

Are these questions that we would be offering to a congregation who's considering making some property decisions? Or is this something that we're going to be offering generally to people within the region? - these were questions that we would be offering to communities of faith as they were approaching a sale or a lease.

How do we make this information accessible to those lay led congregations?

We might want to put in a few suggestions of stories and images like give examples for people to go to.

Governance Task Group – Eun-Joo Park

A Discussion about a governance event for lay readers - **Lay Leaders Gathering**

- PowerPoint presentations to talk about governance – Eun-Joo Park
- Living Faith Story – Tom MacNeil
- Closing Prayer – Amy Lee
- Educate three people from each community of faith (chair & two board members)
- **April 24 2024 (7:30pm – 9:00pm)**
- 2/3 education component & 1/3 breakout rooms

The meeting took an all-purpose break.

Diane Matheson joined the meeting

Community of Faith Updates

Westmount United Church, Orillia – Jody Maltby

Jody shared a DRAFT proposal for a way forward for Westmount United Church that the leadership team is presenting at a congregational meeting on Sunday January 28th, 2024. The commission asked questions for follow up but in general was supportive of this path for the congregation. A couple of suggestions were

offered which Jody will share with the Leadership Team before their meeting on the 28th.

Forest Grove United Church, North York

Forest Grove consulted 3 real estate agents, 2 of whom recommended going with the open bid process for this particular sale because of the nature of the market. When there is surplus from an amalgamation, it comes to the regional council and is distributed through our granting process.

MOTION by Harry Ramsarans / Sandra Nottegar that the Communities of Faith Commission of Shining Waters Regional Council approves the request of Forest Grove United Church to list the property at 43 Forest Grove Rd for sale with Susan Iriarte (Royal LePage Commercial Real Estate) as the agent to manage the selling of the building and property.

MOTION

CARRIED

Forest Grove United Church / Jubilee United Church – *Diane Matheson*

Diane shared the draft amalgamation report and a discussion was had around this report. This relationship is about growth, connections within the community and possibilities. Date of amalgamation, March 31st, 2024. The commission asked questions for follow up but in general was supportive of this path for the amalgamation.

Trevor Brisbin left the meeting

Diane Matheson left the meeting

Bloor Street, Toronto

Began their IIM January 1st, 2024 with Douglas duCharme. They have provided their goals to the IIM Committee. Mary Ellen Richardson is the regional rep and will come to the IIM March meeting.

St Paul's, Brampton

They are currently involved in a review so are not the responsibility of the IIM Committee.

St Paul's, Scarborough

In October the Commission has approved their request to enter into another IIM, although the IIM Committee has been unable to find an IIM minter to support them. Jim Keenan is willing and able to go to St Paul's, Scarborough although not available until December 1st, 2024. Until that time Jim is offering to prep them for IIM with consultation. They currently have a short-term appointment with Don Gibson until April. He has yet to decided whether or not to extend his appointment.

St. James, Etobicoke

Began their IIM January 1st, 2024 with Richard Choe. They have yet to provide their goals to the IIM Committee. David Allen is the regional rep and will come to the IIM April meeting.

Good News Stories

Members shared good news stories from various communities of faith.

Update Justice and Faith Formation Minister

An offer has been extended to a successful candidate and a tentative start date will be in March 2024.

Next Meeting Wednesday February 21, 2024 9:30 a.m.

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

**Minutes of a meeting of the
Community of Faith Commission
Wednesday, February 21st, 2024**

The Communities of Faith Commission of Shining Waters Regional Council met on Wednesday February 21st, 2024 via Zoom. The meeting began at 9:30 a.m.

Present: Chris Bennett, Trevor Brisbin, Carolyn Harding, Amy Lee, Tom MacNeil, Eric Nyarko, Harry Ramsaran, Patti Rodgers

Staff: Kathleen Jones, Diane Matheson, Jody Maltby

Regrets: Sandra Nottegar, Eun-Joo Park, Gloria Tozek, Kim Uyede-Kai

Welcome

There was a time of check in. The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed everyone. Harry Ramsaran, 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. She then led the commission in a time of worship.

Agenda

MOTION by Tom MacNeil / Harry Ramsaran **SW-CFC-2024-02-21-01**
that the Agenda of the Communities of Faith Commission of Shining Waters Regional Council dated February 21, 2024 be accepted as circulated with the additions included a discussion about Westmount United listing their property for sale and an update on the regional meeting

MOTION

CARRIED

Minutes

MOTION by Carolyn Harding / Trevor Brisbin **SW-CFC-2024-02-21-02**
that the Minutes of the meetings of the Communities of Faith Commission of Shining Waters Regional Council dated January 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 increase the amount that St. Paul's United Church, Scarborough may use from restricted funds from \$54,108.92 to \$56,048.92 to cover the unexpected cost of additional LED lighting

...that the Communities of Faith Commission of Shining Waters Regional Council approve the renewal of the loan from TUCC to Metropolitan United Church, Toronto in the amount of up to \$3,031,991 for a term of two years beginning March 1, 2024 with an interest rate of 4% or the Bank of Nova Scotia three-year rate (maximum 6%), whichever is the higher on the date of the renewal.

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

February 20, 2024; approval of request from Ebenezer United Church to receive a loan from TUCC for \$75,000 for renovations

Listening Plan Lay Led Congregations *Diane Matheson*

Diane then discussed their proposal to engage with lay-led congregations to understand their needs and share resources. They plan to start this outreach after Easter, with the intention of fostering relationships and learning from the experiences of these congregations.

Purpose behind this proposal: In October 2023, the Pastoral Relations Commission and the Communities of Faith Commission recognized that lay led congregations may become more prevalent in Shining Waters Regional Council. The Commissions jointly asked for a listening process with the current lay led congregations and their pastoral charge supervisors to find out how best to support lay led congregations into the future.

Goal: To create a process for listening that builds trusting relationship between the regional council and lay led congregations in order to assess the needs of those communities of faith. Pastoral Charge Supervisor can help provide support for the connection with lay led congregations. The listening process can be informed by an Appreciative Inquiry approach which focuses the listening for those things that are working well, and seek to learn from and enhance them. It will be important for lay led congregations to know that the intention is to listening and learn from those communities of faith.

Community of Faith Updates

Forest Grove & Jubilee – *amalgamation agreement*

An amalgamation agreement has been received from Forest Grove and Jubilee. This relationship is about growth, connections within the community and possibilities. March 31st, 2024 date of amalgamation. This agreement was submitted previously in January for feedback and the commission was supportive of this direction.

The commission supports this amalgamation going forward as scheduled but has also identified a number of learnings to inform our decision-making process for future requests. It would be helpful to have more data about the congregations' income and assets to understand the potential for ongoing viability of a newly amalgamated congregation. The commission voiced concerns about decisions that have been made in several instances related to allocation of funds from the sale of property, in particular the use of proceeds from the sale of a church building to pay a minister's compensation. While congregations can access interest from a manse fund to pay a minister's compensation, they can't access capital in that fund for this purpose. This discrepancy in how we allow access to capital from the sale of property may create inequity, particularly between larger urban churches and smaller rural ones.

The commission also discussed the importance of regular check-ins and the possibility of reallocating funds if things don't go as planned.

The commission asked that this be an item on the agenda of the next meeting to allow for a fuller exploration of these issues. These are systemic concerns that should be separated from the particular experience of considering the request from Forest Grove and Jubilee.

Eric Nyarko joined the meeting

The meeting took an all-purpose break.

MOTION by Patti Rodgers / Tom MacNeil **SW-CFC-2024-02-21-03**
that the Communities of Faith Commission of Shining Waters Regional Council approve the amalgamation agreement between Forest Grove United Church and Jubilee United Church with March 31st, 2024 being the date of amalgamation with the understanding that \$6,197,319 is restricted to be used over ten years as outlined in the agreement. The congregation will provide an update every three years demonstrating that the congregation continues to be active and viable or an alternate plan for the use of those funds. Should the congregation cease to function, remaining restricted funds will revert to Shining Waters Regional Council to support other communities of faith.

MOTION

CARRIED

Amy Lee left the meeting

Palgrave United Church, Caledon

Palgrave United Church in Caledon, which is in the process of transitioning to a lay-led congregation.

Westmount United Church, Orillia

On January 28th, 2024 a motion was passed resoundingly at the AGM for Westmount Congregation, to proceed with finalizing a Shared Ecumenical Agreement with Church on the Hill, and directing the Westmount Trustees to proceed with selling Westmount United Church property

MOTION by Trevor Brisbin / Carolyn Harding **SW-CFC-2024-02-21-04**
That the Communities of Faith Commission of Shining Waters Regional Council 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 \$4.175 million

MOTION

CARRIED

Conversation re: Budget Jody Maltby

Chris and Jody agreed to discuss the strategic directions for the budget in an upcoming meeting and to consider ideas and comments on how to proceed. Chris suggested creating

a proposal for the budget and deciding when it becomes active. Jody clarified that the Regional Council approves the total amount, but the Commission internally creates the budget and decides how to allocate the funds.

Update on Regional Meeting

Jody provided an update on the planning process, including a change in the timing of the Celebration of Ministry (CoM) Service to avoid a conflict with another significant event. The meeting is set to start at 9 AM on Friday June 7th and would continue through Saturday June 8th until 3 PM, followed by the CoM Service at 6:30 p.m. on Saturday.

Good News Stories

Members shared good news stories from various communities of faith.

Next Meeting Wednesday March 20th, 2024 9:30 a.m.

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

**Minutes of a meeting of the
Community of Faith Commission
Wednesday, March 20th, 2024**

The Communities of Faith Commission of Shining Waters Regional Council met on Wednesday March 20th, 2024 via Zoom. The meeting began at 9:30 a.m.

Present: Chris Bennett, Carolyn Harding, Tom MacNeil, Sandra Nottegar, Harry Ramsaran, Patti Rodgers, Gloria Tozek

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

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

Regrets: Trevor Brisbin, Amy Lee, Eric Nyarko, Kim Uyede-Kai

Welcome

There was a time of check in. The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed everyone. Welcome to Shawn Redden, Justice and Faith Formation Minister. Gloria Tozek, 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. She then led the commission in a time of worship.

Agenda

MOTION by Gloria Tozek / Harry Ramsaran **SW-CFC-2024-03-20-01**
that the Agenda of the Communities of Faith Commission of Shining Waters Regional Council dated March 20, 2024 be accepted as circulated with the following additions, TUCC grant, Saint Luke’s United Church, Toronto, Budget request from Communities of Faith Commission.

MOTION

CARRIED

Minutes

MOTION by Carolyn Harding / Patti Rodgers **SW-CFC-2024-03-20-02**
that the Minutes of the meetings of the Communities of Faith Commission of Shining Waters Regional Council dated February 21, 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 lease agreement between Fairlawn Avenue United Church Lease Agreement with Mapletown Academy Inc. and GN Educafion Inc for three years beginning February 15, 2024

...that the Communities of Faith Commission of Shining Waters Regional Council approve the loan renewal between North Bramalea United Church and Toronto United Church Council (TUCC) due on April 1st, 2024 with a three-year term.

...that the Communities of Faith Commission of Shining Waters Regional Council approve the request of Forest Hill United Church to install a Vertical Platform Lift in the church building, and renovate the basement kitchen at a cost of up to \$160,000.00.

...that the Communities of Faith Commission of Shining Waters Regional Council approves the lease agreement between Kimbourne Park United Church and East End Children's Centre for five years starting once approved.

...that the Communities of Faith Commission of Shining Waters Regional Council approves the capital budget of Metropolitan United Church for 2024 in the amount of \$222,000.

TUCC Grant Discussion

Harry was requesting a report on the \$500,000.00 grant that TUCC received from closing of Presbyteries. Jody shared that she has been in conversation with Ron Ewart and has confirmed that they are working on a report for their Annual Meeting and will present the report to the Commission during the May Meeting.

Diane Matheson joined the meeting

Review of Property Policy *Jody Maltby*

The Commission discussed the financial implications of selling properties and using inherited capital, with Jody clarifying that there are no restrictions on how the congregation can use the inherited money, unless there was a former presbytery restriction. They also discussed the differences in financial proposals between congregations that choose to amalgamate and those that choose to sell their properties separately, noting that amalgamating congregations have more financial flexibility. The Commission agreed to continue discussing and refining their policies, with a focus on decentralizing decision making and resources to better serve communities of faith. The need to review a policy and its effectiveness in meeting their needs was also recognized, with the Commission agreeing to involve Jody Maltby, Harry Ramsaran, Chris Bennett in the review process.

Use of Funds from Sale of Property based on the Property Policy

Disbanding	Amalgamation	Sale of Church Building before 2020	Sale of Church Building after 2020	Manse Funds	Mandated Manse Reserve Fund
Executive Policy requires CFC approval for congregation proposal	CFC Policy but requires Executive approval for use of Surplus	CFC Policy	CFC Policy	Executive Policy executed by CFC	Executive Policy executed by CFC

Decision to sell or retain property rests with Executive	Decision to sell property and declare surplus rests with CFC	Decision to sell property rests with CFC	Decision to sell property rests with CFC	Decision to sell property rests with CFC	
Congregation makes proposal for use of 10% of funds from sale of property, approved by CFC. Funds must be given to another registered charity. Remaining Funds are used for regional purposes.	Congregation makes proposal for use of property to be approved by CFC. No limitations on how funds may be used. Surplus is encouraged but not required under policy. Surplus is used for grants as per regional policy approved by CFC and Executive.	Funds are restricted and congregation must seek approval to use capital and/or income. No limitations on how funds may be used.	Contributions to Indigenous Ministries Fund required. Congregation may immediately access a portion of the capital with no limitations on how funds may be used. For sales over \$300,000, contribution required to Regional Council for grants. Remaining capital is invested and annual income may be used. No limitations on how income may be used. No provision to access capital.	Congregations may access annual income to support minister's compensation. Capital may be accessed to support minister's housing and congregational capital projects. No provision to access to capital to support ministry except minister's housing.	Congregations required to keep minimum of \$150,000 in Manse Reserve Fund to access when they are closing and can't pay minister's salary or for other closing costs. This requirement does not apply if Manse Fund was below required amount as of 2019

Update on Community Ministry Funding *Jody Maltby*

Work is progressing on the various pieces related to community ministry funding. A request for proposals has been sent out for a fundraiser to support this work. There will be good learnings from this process that can also be shared with communities of faith. Jody and Harry are working with Sarah Laugh from the Grants and Mission Support Committee and Angie Hocking on a process for accessing money once the fund is active. Chris and Jody will schedule a follow-up meeting regarding a policy and process for financial appeals to communities of faith, as part of the recommendation to the Executive. Lastly, they touched on the ongoing work of the community ministry, particularly in relation to funding.

Eun-Joo Park left the meeting

The meeting took an all-purpose break.

COMMUNITY OF FAITH UPDATES

Forest Grove Jubilee, North York *Diane Matheson*

On Sunday, March 3rd, 2024, Forest Grove United Church voted to affirm the Amalgamation Agreement between Forest Grove United Church and Jubilee United Church. On Sunday, March 3rd, 2024, Jubilee United Church voted to affirm the Amalgamation Agreement between Forest Grove United Church and Jubilee United Church

Forest Grove, Toronto *Diane Matheson*

The members of the Congregation of Forest Grove United Church invite the members of Shining Waters Regional Council to the final service of worship at Forest Grove United Church, 43 Forest Grove Drive, Toronto, ON M2K1Z4 on Sunday, April 14 at 10:30 am. They thank Shining Waters for their inestimable assistance in helping Jubilee United Church and prepare an amalgamation agreement which both congregations enthusiastically approved. Harry Ramsaran will attend the final service on behalf of Shining Waters Regional Council.

The meeting went in camera

MOTION by Gloria Tozek / Tom MacNeil **SW-CFC-2024-03-20-03**
That the Communities of Faith Commission of Shining Waters Regional Council agree to come out of camera.
MOTION **CARRIED**

The meeting came out of camera

Collier Street United Church, Barrie *Jody Maltby*

A partnership proposal between Trinity Centres Foundation (TCF) and Collier Street United Church was shared with the Commission. The Commission asked questions for follow up.

MOTION by Tom MacNeil / Sandra Nottegar **SW-CFC-2024-03-20-03**
That the Communities of Faith Commission of Shining Waters Regional Council approves the request of Collier Street United Church to proceed with Phase B of their work with Trinity Centres Foundation with the following requirements:

1. that Collier Street United church engage legal counsel to review the contract for Phase B and that the contract be submitted to Regional Council for approval.
2. it is understood and made explicitly clear that the ownership of the property of Collier Street will remain vested in The United Church of Canada
3. that regional approval is still required to proceed with any work beyond Phase B

MOTION **CARRIED**

The commission noted that, as per the section of the regional property policy related to development, Collier St will need to provide detailed financial records to demonstrate the potential for ongoing long-term viability before proceeding with any work beyond Phase B of the proposal.

Shawn Redden left the meeting

St. James United Church, Parry Sound *Jody Maltby*

A request has been received from St. James United Church, Parry Sound 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. This is being planned for after Easter. The team will consist of Carolyn Harding, Tom McNeil, Patti Rodgers and Jody Maltby.

Eun-Joo Park joined the meeting

Saint Luke's United Church, Toronto *Eun-Joo Park*

Eun-Joo discussed the financial challenges faced by Saint Luke's. Jim has tendered his resignation to end his pastoral relationship with Saint Luke's as of May 31st, 2024. He will take Sabbatical June 1st, 2024. They have reached out to Regional Council to support their ministry because they are having a new development with Kindred Works. Eun-Joo and Jody are working with Kindred Works and TUCC to develop a plan for the congregation.

Budget Request *Jody Maltby*

Shining Waters received a request from the Black Clergy Network of the United Church, to support a gathering at Emmanuel College in May.

MOTION by Sandra Nottegar / Carolyn Harding **SW-CFC-2024-03-20-04**
That the Communities of Faith Commission of Shining Waters Regional Council approve \$500 to support the gathering of the Black Clergy Network at Emmanuel College in May 2024.
MOTION **CARRIED**

Good News Stories

Members shared good news stories from various communities of faith.

Next Meeting Wednesday April 17th, 2024 9:30 a.m.

Closing Chris Bennett offered a closing blessing, and the meeting closed at 11:50 a.m.

**Minutes of a meeting of the
Community of Faith Commission
Wednesday, April 17th, 2024**

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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 6th, 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 26th, 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 15th, 2024 9:30 a.m.

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

**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.

**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.

**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

**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.

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

**Minutes of a meeting of the
Community of Faith Commission
Wednesday November 20, 2024**

The Communities of Faith Commission of Shining Waters Regional Council met on Wednesday November 20, 2024 via Zoom. The meeting began at 9:30 a.m.

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

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

Regrets: Isaac Kamta, Diane Matheson, Adèle Mayer, Eric Nyarko, Shawn Redden

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

Welcome

Krista Moore led the commission in a time of worship. There was a time of check in. The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed everyone. Krista Moore 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 / Sandra Nottegar **SW-CFC-2024-11-20-01**
that the Agenda of the Communities of Faith Commission of Shining Waters Regional Council dated November 20, 2024 be accepted as circulated
CARRIED

Minutes

MOTION by Carolyn Harding / Tom MacNeil **SW-CFC-2024-11-20-02**
that the Minutes of the meeting of the Joint Meeting Communities of Faith Commission & Pastoral Relations Commission of Shining Waters Regional Council dated October 29, 2024 be approved as circulated
CARRIED

The Commission made the following decisions by email vote; N/A

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

DISCUSSION OF PRIORITY SETTING WORK

A document was shared that outlines the key discussions from 2024, work completed to date, a summary of all decisions made, and the budget process, including the strategic direction, goals, and the 2023 budget.

Chris and Jody discussed the commission's budget and priorities. Jody shared that they had spent just under \$7,000 of their \$35,000 budget, primarily on direct support to congregations. She also highlighted the various projects the commission has been involved in, such as supporting lay-led congregations, providing education and support for lay leaders, and working with the new fund for community ministries. Jody mentioned the upcoming survey to identify the regional council's funding and ministry priorities for the next year prepared by the ad-hoc committee formed in direction from the June Regional Meeting. Eun-Joo pointed out a discrepancy in the budget, where a cost attributed to CFC was mistakenly included in the PRC's budget. The commission agreed to reallocate this cost to the CFC. Jody will follow up.

The needs for funds to support collaborative ministry activities and events was discussed. It was suggested that staff be empowered to approve fund usage up to a certain amount, based on specific criteria. Based on discussion in this meeting, staff will provide direction and objectives for the budget, with funding allocated to demonstrate the importance of these objectives. The commission also discussed the importance of fostering collaboration among congregations and improving communication to prevent issues from escalating. It was suggested that the regional council could enhance its understanding of issues by reviewing annual reports.

The challenges of communication and connection following the loss of Presbyteries was named.

SELECTION PROCESS FOR YOUTH FORUM DELEGATES

On behalf of Shawn Redden, Justice and Faith Formation Minister, Jody discussed the selection process for youth forum delegates for General Council 45 which will occur next summer. The General Council is encouraging us to emphasize the importance of racial diversity. Jody recommended forming a short-term task group to review applications and provide recommendations for the February meeting. Tom MacNeil and Sandra Nottegar volunteered to be part of the group.

Community of Faith Updates

BAYVIEW UNITED CHURCH – *Jody Maltby*

Jody provided an update on the sale of the Bayview United Church property as part of the amalgamation between Cummer Ave and Bayview United Churches. The sale has encountered challenges due to a long-term land lease to which has impacted the buyer's ability to obtain financing. This has resulted in a reduced purchase price. The regional council has agreed to a Vendor Take Back mortgage and interest payments on this mean that the total payment will be close to the original selling price.

MOTION by Patti Rodgers / Tom MacNeil

SW-CFC-2024-11-20-03

That the Communities of Faith Commission of Shining Waters Regional Council approves the Agreement of Purchase and Sale for Bayview United Church, located at 2601-2609 Bayview Ave in Toronto to Amanlar Holdings Inc. for a purchase price of Eight Million Four Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$8,400,000.00) with a completion date of November 28, 2024 and a vendor take back (VTB) mortgage of \$4,000,000 with the following terms:

Ø Two-year term

Ø Interest rate of 5% per annum payable twice yearly

- Ø Principal payment on the one-year anniversary of the completion date
- Ø Payment of remaining balance at the end of the two-year term

CARRIED

WESTMOUNT UNITED CHURCH, ORILLIA – *Jody Maltby*

Jody presented a motion regarding the appeal process for the disbanding of the Westmount congregation. A letter from Peter Hartmans, Executive Minister, was shared with the commission in relation to the motion.

MOTION by Sandra Nottegar / Carolyn Harding

SW-CFC-2024-11-20-04

That the Communities of Faith Commission of Shining Waters Regional Council approves the response of Shining Waters Regional Council to the notice of appeal of the decision of September 29, 2024 regarding the decision of Westmount United Church to disband.

CARRIED

JUBILEE UNITED CHURCH, TORONTO – *Jody Maltby*

Jody shared that the Region will receive a large sum of money from the sale of Forest Grove United Church, as part of the amalgamation of Jubilee and Forest Grove United Churches. Transfer of funds is expected by the end of the month. Under the regional property policy, this money is earmarked for grants. The Executive has agreed that no funds will be disbursed until the review of funding priorities is complete in October 2025, the exception being funds approved as a proposal from a disbanding congregation.

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

The listening team, comprising Krista Moore, Tom MacNeil, Isaac Kamta, and Eun-Joo Park, met with Ebenezer United Church on Saturday, November 9th, 2024. The day was dedicated to engaging with individuals and hearing their stories. There is one more person to speak with, after which a recommendation will be presented to the commission at the January meeting.

CHRISTMAS BREAK FROM E-VOTES

It was agreed that the Commission will pause e-voting from December 15, 2024, to January 5, 2025. Commission members were encouraged to stay attentive to any email votes prior to December 15th.

GOOD NEWS STORIES

Members shared good news stories from various communities of faith.

NEXT MEETING – January 15, 2025 9:30 a.m.

CLOSING Chris Bennett offered a closing blessing, and the meeting closed at 11:00 a.m.