

MINUTES of the Executive of Canadian Shield Regional Council held on June 2, 2021 at 10:00 a.m. via Zoom.

PRESENT: Kathie Smith (Chair), Barb Nott, Joy Galloway, John Watson, Jim Jackson, Stewart Walker, Bill Steadman, Helen Smith, Selina Mullin, Dave Le Grand, Maxine McVey

STAFF: Melody Duncanson Hales, Peter Hartmans, Susan Whitehead

REGRETS: Judith Visser

Kathie Smith welcomed everyone to the meeting of Executive.

Kathie honoured the traditional lands upon which we meet with the following words:

As we come together in this virtual space, we are mindful that we do so from Traditional Territories and unceded lands of the First Nations peoples. We give thanks for their stewardship of the land throughout the ages. We acknowledge their history comes at a great expense as a result of colonization. We honour their spirituality and their teachings as we continue our learnings and un-learnings. In our acknowledgement, we commit to care for creation and walk together with the First Peoples as siblings in healing, in solidarity, in reconciliation, and in love.

Kathie then read the CSRC safe space statement:

The Canadian Shield Regional Council Executive, as an affirming community, is a safe place that welcomes and includes all people to gather and participate in the life and work of the regional council regardless of age, ability, race, cultural background, sexual orientation or gender identity. In this space, all are welcome.

Peter lit the Christ candle and led Executive in worship and read a prayer from The Moderator of The United Church of Canada, Richard Bott, entitled "A Prayer During Times of Covid-19."

Kathie shared a poem with Executive entitled "Community" by Joyce Rupp.

CHECK-IN

Executive took time to do a check-in with each other amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION by Maxine McVey/Jim Jackson **2021-06-02-01**
That the agenda for the meeting be approved as circulated.
CARRIED

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION by John Watson/Stewart Walker **2021-06-02-02**
That the Minutes of the meetings of the Canadian Shield Regional Council Executive held on May 5, 2021 via Zoom, be approved as circulated.
CARRIED

RECEIVE MINUTES FROM COMMISSIONS

MOTION by Jim Jackson/Helen Smith **2021-06-02-03**
That the Minutes of the CSRC Support to Communities of Faith Commission from April 6, 2021 and the Pastoral Relations Commission from April 28, 2021 be received, for information with thanks for the dedication, commitment, and work both Commissions are doing on behalf of the CSRC.
CARRIED

CORRESPONDENCE

There was no Correspondence.

ELECTION OF GC44 COMMISSIONERS, NOMINATIONS: UPDATE

The Chair of Nominations, Jim Jackson, gave an update to Executive members. There are 9 positions available to the CSRC, which must include the Chair (the Chair Elect which is Barb Nott), 1 Racialized position, 1 Indigenous position and 1 youth position. After Nominations closed, we have 4 lay and 4 Ministry Personnel nominated. We did not have anyone self-identify as Racialized or Indigenous and the Youth position will be decided upon later in the fall by the Youth network.

That leaves 7 positions that need to be filled, with 8 being nominated and therefore, a vote will have to happen. Since the Chair Elect is a Lay person, Jim is suggesting that the 4 Ministry Personnel will be acclaimed and the vote will only be on the Lay people to keep the Lay-Ministry Personnel ration equal.

People nominated are as follows:

- George Bott (Lay)
- Whitney Bruno (MP)
- Joyce Fergus-Moore (MP)
- Peter Haddow (Lay)
- Susan Siczkar (Lay)
- Mary-Jo Tracy (MP)
- Fraser Williamson (MP)
- John Watson (Lay)

The CSRC GC44 Commissioner Elections will happen on Thursday, June 10th, 2021 at 6:30 p.m.

VIRTUAL REGIONAL COUNCIL MEETING

The 2021 Canadian Shield Regional Council Meeting will be online on Saturday, October 16th, 2021. Barb Nott is the Chair of the Planning Committee and she indicated they have not met yet and will meet this week coming.

COVID 19 UPDATE: TRANSITION TO OPEN OUR CHURCH BUILDINGS

Peter gave a quick update on the transition to opening our churches during Covid 19. A number of churches have been able to connect physically during the pandemic, while others have not met since March of 2020. He remarked on the resiliency and creativity of the communities of faith within the Canadian Shield Regional Council. Peter indicated that it looks like at Stage 2 of the Provincial Covid Re-Opening Plan that churches can open for in-person services.

PASTORAL RELATIONS COMMISSION UPDATE

Joy Galloway and John Watson shared some updates from the Pastoral Relations Commission (PRC). There was a review of all the Pastoral Charge Supervisors and the PC's they are supervising and the results showed that some are doing well and others are not. Joy indicated the need for training for PC Supervisors and their congregations.

Also mentioned was that some communities of faith are not receiving communications from the region, often when there is not a regional rep or minister. People are saying they haven't heard.

John discussed lay-run churches and questions arose around training and retreats for LLWLs and possibly making training mandatory for LLWLs. One comment was the Region could survey churches asking what types of training do you need to make your community of faith run properly?

Other questions the PRC heard were:

What is the role of the regional rep and some clarity on that is needed (send out job description);

What are we doing with the annual reports?

Does there need to be anything done with them?

John stated that in recent past, the regional rep was someone who mainly went to the Regional Council meeting. Communities of faith need to hear and know that our church world changed in 2019 with transition, changing the roles and functions in the church. The regional rep role needs to be the person who disseminates information and should always be in touch with the region and its goings on; Regional Reps are part of the governance of this church.

2022 REGIONAL COUNCIL MEETING

The 2022 CS Regional Council Meeting is not until next year but Peter suggested that Executive choose a date now to avoid the Shining Waters RC Meeting. He stated that since both regions are staff sharing and there is a lot a work involved for everyone, it behoves us to have the two meetings at different times, such as one in the spring of 2022 and one in the fall 2022.

After discussion, Executive decided to tentatively have an in-person meeting on the September 23-25, 2022 weekend. Barb indicated that she would contact St. Andrew's UC – Sudbury to confirm that weekend is available for an in-person meeting.

MOTION by Barb Nott/Selina Mullin

2021-06-02-04

That the Canadian Shield Regional Council will have a fall 2022

in-person meeting.

CARRIED

BY-LAW UPDATE CHECK-IN AND FUTURE WORK

Kathie indicated that there will be a meeting on June 16th with the Governance Document Review Team where the by-laws will continue to be updated.

CAMP/STUDENT HIRING UPDATE

Melody Duncanson Hales joined Executive to give an update on the Summer Young Adult Program that Canadian Shield RC is participating in with Shining Waters RC. Jeffrey Dale from Shining Waters RC is supervising all young adults and Melody has been working collaboratively with him.

Jeffrey has indicated that as of today, 4 of the 9 positions have been filled with young adults that are in relationship with the United Church (locations include North Bay, Thunder Bay, and Sudbury) and Melody stated that these jobs are not only for people in relationship with the UCC. There are still 5 more positions available to fill.

The program will start running the week of June 21st and Jeffrey will gather with all 15 students during that time so get them started. They will meet one-on-one with Jeffrey 1 hour per week and will join as a plenary all together every 2 weeks.

SUPPORT TO COMMUNITIES OF FAITH COMMISSION UPDATE

Bill Steadman, Chair of the Support to Communities of Faith Commission (SCoFC), gave an update to Executive. There was a joint meeting between the SCoFC and the Pastoral Relations Commission (PRC) in June and those items are in process. The Commission continues to work on covenanting processes within the CSRC.

The SCoFC have had discussions regarding church's ministry with social justice issues and it has become clear there is a need for clear direction and support systems for communities of faith regarding social justice and the region. Bill will be sending out a letter to church regional reps and ministry personnel to outline the work of the SCoFC and highlight social justice work and give suggestions they can look at. He indicated this is a follow up from our regional work from over a year ago at the 2020 RC Meeting when we address questions in the breakout groups.

Bill also shared that the SCoFC received updates on one community of faith that is looking for support as a result of the special motion approved at a previous Executive meeting regarding up to \$5,000 relief money due to Covid 19 challenges. The Mission Grants Resource Team will discuss this application at its next meeting and it will move to the SCoFC for approval.

APOLOGY CAIRN UPDATE

Peter gave an update on the Apology Cairn. He indicated that although the Cairn is within the CSRC boundaries, it is actually a national UCC site. There is no formal partnership or agreement with Laurentian University (or with the federated schools within Laurentian) besides it residing in their parking lot. Concern has been expressed around the region and the UCC about the upheaval within Laurentian University regarding the insolvency and not having a formal agreement with them in case they sell the land.

Melody Duncanson Hales, Dave Le Grand, and Stewart Walker shared that there was a meeting with the Manitou Intentional Learning Community (MILC) recently where discussions about the disrepair of the Cairn happened and what could be done about it. There are also concerns about if the University sells the property since it is prime real estate. Executive discussed these concerns and what possible legal actions the CSRC and the UCC could take to protect the Cairn.

MOTION by Stewart Walker/Dave Le Grand

2021-06-02-05

That the CSRC Executive request that Peter Hartmans formally write the General Council Office of The United Church of Canada, petitioning them to stabilize the Apology Cairn on the site of the Sacred Fire from GC31 in Sudbury, Ontario and begin the process for recognition as a National Heritage Site.

CARRIED

Peter indicated that it might be advantageous for the CSRC Executive to formally write Laurentian University to have it on record. These was also an idea that the UCC contact

Laurentian University and offer to buy acreage around the Cairn so that it cannot be sold. Peter shared that any decisions would need to be discussed in partnership with the National Indigenous Council and the Elders and they would have to agree with any decision.

Several Executive members expressed interest in sharing future letters with the media to garner local and national attention to inform people who do not know about the Apology Cairn.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

POSSIBLE NEXT MEETING DATES:

- August 24, 2021 at 10:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. via Zoom

CLOSING

Kathie adjourned the meeting at 12.25 p.m. and ended with a prayer.

DRAFT