

MINUTES of the Executive of Canadian Shield Regional Council held on February 3, 2022 at 1:00 p.m. via Zoom.

PRESENT: Barb Nott (Chair), John Watson, Jim Jackson, Joy Galloway, Kathie Smith, Nancy Ferguson, Tori Mullin, Dave Le Grand, Helen Smith, Stewart Walker

STAFF: Jody Maltby (Acting EM), Susan Whitehead, Janet MacDonald (Financial Administrator)

REGRETS:

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting of Executive.

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

The lands where we gather today, across this region, have been places of gathering for First Nations people as they camped and travelled across the land for generations beyond our knowing. Before people arrived from across the seas, these Nations lived, loved, raised children and made a living. They lived in harmony with all that the Creator had made. As we meet today, we recognize those traditional sojourners in this land. We give thanks for them and for the lands on which we gather today. We acknowledge that our history has come at a great cost to the Indigenous community and we commit ourselves to be partners in healing and reconciliation.

Barb 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.

The Canadian Shield Regional Council was so very saddened to learn of the passing of Maxine McVey, an Executive Member. Stewart led Worship in a tribute to Maxine, Executive took some time to share their memories of her and then he ended with prayer. The group listened to a choir sing Maxine's favourite hymn, "I Have Heard Your Borneing Cry."

CHECK-IN

Executive took time to do a check-in with each other.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Barb added an update report from Support to Communities of Faith Commission and the Pastoral Relations Commission under new business.

MOTION by Jim Jackson/Kathie Smith

2022-02-03-01

That the agenda for the meeting be approved, as amended.

CARRIED

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Nancy Ferguson indicated that she was marked as giving "regrets" at the last CSRC Executive meeting when she actually came to the meeting late. Susan will amend the minutes to include Nancy as attending.

MOTION by Dave Le Grand/Joy Galloway **2022-02-03-02**
That the Minutes of the meetings of the Canadian Shield Regional Council Executive held on December 9, 2021 via Zoom, be approved as amended.
CARRIED

RECEIVE MINUTES FROM COMMISSIONS

MOTION by Tori Mullins/Helen Smith **2022-02-03-03**
That the Minutes of the CSRC Support to Communities of Faith Commission from November 24, 2021 and the Pastoral Relations Commission from October 27, 2021 and December 8, 2021 be received, for information.
CARRIED

CORRESPONDENCE

There was no correspondence.

FINANCIAL UPDATE PRELIMINARY YEAR-END FOR 2021

Janet MacDonald gave an update on the preliminary year-end finances for 2021. Executive had a chance to ask questions about the update.

Nancy asked if any of the tech equipment that was gifted from Algoma Presbytery was being used and Susan indicated that everything was given to Melody Duncanson Hales in Sudbury and she is using it there. The point was made that if there is any tech equipment that is outdated or not going to be used again, perhaps it should be sold instead of sitting in a cupboard. Susan will review the equipment and take note of what equipment is not being used.

COVID-19 UPDATE

Jody directed Executive to the CSRC Website for all the Covid updates from the region and said she appreciates how the covid information is so accessible on both the Canadian Shield and Shining Waters websites.

General Council 44 (GC44) UPDATE

Jody updated Executive on the GC44 indicating that the online sessions begin on February 13, 2022 with the opening Worship. The GC44 website (www.gc44.ca) will list all the information on how to access the livestream for both Commissioners and non-Commissioners.

Non-Commissioners are welcome to watch the learning sessions and some portions of the business section but will be unable to watch the discussion portion. The Nominations for Moderator page is now live and there is one nominee. There are also training sessions for the Commissioners to participate in as well.

REPORT FROM TASK GROUP FOR NEW MINISTRY PERSONNEL IN THE NORTH

The new Recruitment Task Group for Ministry Personnel (MP) has met for their preliminary meeting. Nancy reported that there was a lot of brainstorming that occurred and indicated that whatever recruitment tool was used it was to be personal and reflect the diversity of our geography in the north.

Nancy said they would be submitting a proposal for a budget in the March Executive meeting. She said they were looking at other organizations' recruitment videos to investigate ideas, with the view that we too, would create our own videos from the perspective of different ministry personnel and students around the region.

SCoFC REGIONAL REP TRAINING UPDATE

Barb shared that being a participant on the latest Pastoral Charge Supervisors meeting, she learned that this training is really needed. Jim shared that there is a plan for a workshop to

happen in April 2022 to discuss the responsibilities and duties of a regional rep according to the job description that was created in 2019 when we became a region.

He also shared there is a concern about how we get information out to the regional reps and that they are clear about their duties (i.e. disseminating information from the region to their community of faith, attending the regional council meeting each year, etc.). Melody and Susan will work closely with the Support to Communities of Faith Commission to get a procedure for contacting all communities of faith to receive their current regional rep contact information after they have had their annual congregational meeting in 2022.

Dave shared how they remembered how disconnected presbytery reps were from presbytery and conference and that those churches are even more disconnected now that presbytery is gone. There may need to be some discussions in the SCoFC on how we will ask communities of faith to comply with the need for a regional rep (i.e. a letter to all CoFs).

Nancy and Jim remembered a time in presbytery where someone from the conference office wrote a report to presbytery and reps had something to take back to their churches to report on.

Joy shared that the new governance model for the CSRC looks at a much stronger congregational role than in the past. Two big reasons for disconnect have been us changing to the new governance structure and then getting hit with covid and that is why the relationship between the region and the communities of faith has broken down. She said that congregations do not know what their responsibilities are now. In the conference structure, churches were very supported when it came to their responsibilities and that is not the case now.

A suggestion was made that perhaps regional rep clusters or networks should be created especially for smaller congregations who are completely disconnected from the region.

JUST PEACE PROPOSAL TO GENERAL COUNCIL

Jody gave Executive a brief update on the Just Peace Proposal that the CSRC sent to the General Council Executive (GCE). The GCE submitted a Just Peace Proposal to GC44 suggesting an adoption of a principles-based approach to justice work and outlines what those principles would be and they would be lenses to figuring out actions to respond to proposals from the regional councils and global/ecumenical partners, etc. The information is on the GC44 website.

NEW BUSINESS

Support to Communities of Faith Commission Update

Jim asked what Executive thought should be done with the stones used at the June 2019 Regional Council Meeting that Bill Steadman took home after the meeting. Executive discussed ways we could use the extra stones and also the existing rocks that communities of faith took home with them. Nancy offered to touch base with Bill Steadman re: getting the rocks out of his garage.

Jim shared that at the last SCoFC meeting discussions were ongoing about the covenanting process each CoF is required to make with the region many members were not aware of what it was and that it needed to be completed. He stated that his commission and regional staff have work to do on this.

Pastoral Relations Commission Update

No update.

NEXT MEETING DATES:

- March 3, 2022 at 1:00 p.m. via Zoom
- April 7, 2022 at 1:00 p.m. via Zoom
- May 5, 2022 at 1:00 p.m. via Zoom
- June 2, 2022 at 1:00 p.m. via Zoom

CLOSING

Barb adjourned the meeting at 2:33 p.m. and Nancy ended with a prayer.