

MINUTES of the Executive of Canadian Shield Regional Council held on November 2, 2023 at 1:00 p.m. online via Zoom.

PRESENT: Barb Nott (Chair), Nancy Ferguson, John Watson, Bill Steadman, Stewart Walker, Dave LeGrand, Jim Jackson, Kathie Smith

STAFF: Peter Hartmans, Susan Whitehead

REGRETS: Susan Lindquist, Mastard Sakala, Helen Smith, Joy Galloway

Chair Barb Nott welcomed everyone to the meeting of Executive and welcomed Nancy back to Canada after her sabbatical overseas.

Barb honoured the traditional lands upon which we meet and then read the CSRC safe space statement.

Peter opened the meeting with a prayer and highlighted Helen Smith today, as she has a particularly difficult and challenging funeral in Sault Ste. Marie today.

CHECK-IN

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

There were some changes to the Commission dates that needed to be made on the agenda.

MOTION by Jim Jackson/Kathie Smith CS Exec 2023-11-02-01
That the agenda for the meeting be approved, as amended.
CARRIED

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION by Kathie Smith/Bill Steadman CS Exec 2023-11-02-02
That the Minutes of the meetings of the Canadian Shield Regional
Council Executive held on October 12, 2023 be approved, as amended.
CARRIED

RECEIVE MINUTES FROM COMMISSIONS

MOTION by Dave LeGrand/Peter Hartmans CS Exec 2023-11-02-03
That the Minutes of the CSRC Pastoral Relations Commission from
September 26, 2023 be received, for information.
CARRIED

MOTION by John Watson/Nancy Ferguson CS Exec 2023-11-02-04
That the Minutes of the CSRC Support to Communities of Faith
Commission from June 26, 2023, July 27, 2023, September 13, 2023
and September 26, 2023 be received, for information.
CARRIED

CORRESPONDENCE

- *Email from Fraser Williamson re: 2024 RCM Date*

Executive discussed the letter from Fraser Williamson regarding the date of the 2024 Regional Council Meeting (RCM). This issue was referred to the Pastoral Relations Commission (PRC) at the October 2023 CSRC Executive meeting. The PRC have since met and made the decision that there will not be an ordination at the 2024 RCM in Sault Ste. Marie. Executive directed Peter to write a joint response letter to Fraser Williamson on behalf of himself, the Executive Minister, the Chair of Executive, the Chair of the PRC, and the Chair of the Nominations Committee. See section "Possible 2024 Ordination – Update from PRC" below for more information.

- *Email from Melody Duncanson Hales re: funding*
The team also discussed responding to a funding request from Melody regarding Reseau Access and support for a supervised consumption site (petition signing initiative). A decision was made to have Dave draft a letter to Melody from Barb and the Support to Communities of Faith Commission. Kathie requested the letter include a call for other communities of faith to show public support.

RESCHEDULING OF JOINT EXECUTIVE MEETING

Barb shared that the new Joint Executives meeting date will be on Tuesday, September 24 – Thursday, September 26, 2024 at Villa Loyola in Sudbury. Peter has already offered these dates to the SWRC Executive at their last meeting and the CSRC Executive has confirmed these new dates work.

There was consensus that the CSRC Executive will join the SWRC Executive in Sudbury, ON at Villa Loyola on September 24-26, 2024 for the Joint Executives Meeting.

POSSIBLE 2024 ORDINATION – UPDATE FROM PRC

Executive continued their discussion about the possibility of having an Ordination at the 2024 CS RCM. The PRC referred the matter back to Executive, indicating there are two options available:

1. **To wait to be ordained until the next RCM (2025), which will be online; or,**
2. **To be ordained at a different service (outside the in-person 2024 RCM) that they arrange with the Region.**

Individuals seeking ordination would normally have to wait until the next meeting if their documents (Testamur) and Supervised Ministry Education (SME) were not in place. Alternatively, they could arrange a service at a location of their choice. The point was made that since all students must receive their Testamur and complete their SME before they can be ordained, it is clear the date of the RCM will not work. Executive discussed the implications of changing the date of the RCM at this time, i.e. losing the deposit for the venue, possibly not being able to book the venue again at this late date, possibly not being able to get the Moderator to attend the RCM, Nominations timeline changes, etc. A suggestion was made that there not be a formal ordination for the candidate but that an affirmation of ordination could happen at the meeting 2024 RCM in Sault Ste. Marie to recognize them.

REGIONAL MEETING 2023 UPDATE

- *Updates*
As previously mentioned, the theme is called "The Stones Will Shout." Executive reviewed the agenda for the meeting and Barb shared that the SCoFC and the PRC will be leading the opening and closing worship, respectively. The agenda includes an optional refresher on Zoom protocols, a gathering and welcoming, and a time of grounding with the Right Relations Resource Team prior to the Remit vote. The team also planned to have a budget presented and voted on, nominations opened, and a new chair

installed. The team also discussed the importance of registration deadlines and communication about the meeting, which had been taken over by Donna for website communications.

2025 CS RCM

There was a brief discussion about the 2024 RCM and a possible lay-led congregation information session prior to the meeting in 2024, potentially inviting the Moderator to participate. John shared that several people expressed that we reconsider having the Ministry Personnel Retreats prior to the RCM, as many people who participate in those are part of the planning and want it to happen after the RCM.

- *Executive Accountability Report Starting Point*

Peter thanked the staff team and the Chair for planning the RCM in his absence and shared a draft of the Executive Accountability Report for the Report Packet at the upcoming RCM. Peter requested that Executive review the report and that any updates be sent to himself and Susan this week and emphasized that the report was a team effort.

BUDGET UPDATE – 2024 CSRC DRAFT BUDGET

Executive discussed the draft budget for 2024 and Peter shared that there is no requirement that Executive approves a budget before a RCM. He asked if Executive would like to conduct an e-vote to bring the draft budget to the RCM or just bring the draft budget to the RCM and then approve the final budget at the December meeting of Executive. Members decided to review it before presenting it at the regional meeting. They agreed that any major changes could be made at the December Executive meeting.

There was consensus that Executive will review the draft Budget prior to the 2023 CS RCM via email, with the Executive Minister drafting an email to the Financial Administrator, Janet MacDonald, asking to have it ready before the November 25, 2023 CS RCM.

EXECUTIVE MINISTER'S REPORT

Executive received the Executive Minister Report, for information (*attached as Appendix A*). Peter reported that Jeffrey's position is now vacant and the position of Justice and Faith Formation is about to be posted and there is a desire to re-establish youth ministry support for Canadian Shield.

- *Huntington University Update*

Peter has attempted on several occasions to plan a meeting with the President of Huntington with no success with finding a mutual meeting time. He will continue to try to set up a meeting. If a meeting date is not chosen before the installation of Nancy as the new Chair for the CSRC, Executive can choose to pivot and have Nancy take over the negotiations if that is ideal.

NEW BUSINESS

GC44 Meeting

Barbara shared her experience from the GC44 annual meeting, noting that the discussion about Designated Lay Minister (DLM) discussion took up a significant portion of the meeting time. Peter added that while the DLM conversation was complex, with some progress had been made, discussing their role in the church and their acceptance within communities of faith was also discussed. Bill, who co-authored the One Ministry report years ago, expressed his interest in understanding the current status of the issue. Peter indicated he would send Bill a link to the recorded conversation for better understanding. They also discussed the end of missionary work in South Korea.

NEXT MEETING DATES:

- December 7, 2023 at 1:00 p.m. via Zoom
- January 2024 TBD

CLOSING

The meeting also marked Barbara's last official meeting as Chair of the Canadian Shield Regional Council, for which the Executive expressed their gratitude.

Barb adjourned the meeting at 3:10 p.m. and Nancy ended with a prayer.

Appendix A Executive Minister Report November 2023

Happy Fall!!! I am grateful to return from sick leave and continue to recover. I am currently on graduated return to work and hope to return full-time starting in November. I deeply appreciate the time the United Church provided for recovery and in particular, the support of Jody Maltby and Susan Whitehead, along with the entire staff of CSRC and SWRC who provided key support in my absence. I am grateful to be back.

The Ad Hoc Committee:

The Ad Hoc Committee of the Canadian Shield Regional Council and Shining Waters Regional Council met May 2, 2023. The group included Chair Barb and David and Chair Elect Nancy and Tina. The conversation focused on our relationship between Regional Councils, planning between Regional Councils and a discussion about the 2025 Festival of Faith. A gathering of both Executives was planned for fall 2023, but needed to be postponed and Canadian Shield Regional Council Executive has proposed a new tentative date for fall 2024.

Huntington University:

Work continues updating the bi-laws for Huntington University, following the reorganization of The United Church of Canada and the establishment of Regional Councils. Nicole Treksler, legal council for The United Church of Canada, has forwarded first draft of proposed changes to the by-laws, which reflect the UCC structural shift. Chair Barb Nott and I have also reached out to Dr. Kevin McCormick, President and Vice-Chancellor of Huntington University, to discuss the proposed changes. We are currently waiting for a response.

Festival of Faith 2025:

The Festival of Faith in 2025 is planned for June 13-15, 2025. Currently, the Nominations Committees has asked for expressions of interest from both Regional Councils and we are focusing on Sudbury as the venue location. The Moderator will attend the Festival of Faith 2025! Rob Smith will provide key leadership for this event.

Upcoming Moderator's Flourish Visit Update/change:

In early 2023, the Moderator reached out to Regional Councils with the desire to host local Regional Flourish events across The United Church of Canada (hosted by the Moderator and coordinated and organized by the Moderators Office). The Moderator asked for May 1- 4, 2024. Our Regional Council Executive, sensitive to the significant geography, cost and environmental footprint of gathering folks from across the Regional Council, elected to attach our Regional Council Meeting (RCM) to the Flourish event hosted by our Moderator. The Executive also invited the Moderator to stay for our RCM and the Moderator offered to preach on Sunday May 5, 2024, concluding the Regional meeting. Recently the Moderator indicated that she needed to cancel a portion of her Flourish event and will focus on our Regional meeting May 3-5th, 2024.

2023 Regional Meeting November

Planning for the meeting continues and I deeply appreciate Barb, Diane and Susan, who coordinated planning in my absence.

Budget: Janet continues planning for the 2024 Draft Budget and planning for the online Regional meeting continues.

Strategic Plan Update

Work continues around The United Church of Canada Strategic Plan. Key pieces for the Regional Council include the hiring of a national coordinator, Cameron Fraser (he/him) Director of Growth and Ministry Development. Cam, along with local CSRC and SWRC folks, partnered around hiring a local Growth Animator to be shared between the Canadian Shield Regional Council and Shining Waters Regional Council. Calin Lau was hired recently and will start January 1, 2024 for CSRC and SWRC.

The Growth initiative represents the leading priority of the Strategic Plan of The United Church of Canada. As a way to embody this priority, the General Council Office's Organizational Development and Strategy Unit is working with regional councils to create and fill six new positions. The six Growth Animators will be deployed across the regions to work in local and regional partnerships with a focus on renewing existing communities of faith, creating new communities, and strengthening invitation. Growth Animators will support and connect with communities where growth is occurring and seek to bring best practices and fresh possibilities where growth is a challenge and feels impossible.

The Growth initiative is seeking to articulate a vision for what growth and invitation looks like rooted in humility and respect as we together answer our call to be the church, become beloved community, and embody Deep Spirituality, Bold Discipleship, and Daring Justice. These staff will join a team that includes existing EDGE colleagues bringing their experience and expertise.