

MINUTES of the Executive of Canadian Shield Regional Council held on December 7, 2023 at 1:00 p.m. online via Zoom.

PRESENT: Nancy Ferguson (Chair), John Watson, Bill Steadman, Stewart Walker, Dave LeGrand, Jim Jackson, Kathie Smith, Mastard Sakala, Helen Smith, Joy Galloway

STAFF: Peter Hartmans, Susan Whitehead

REGRETS: Susan Lindquist, Barb Nott

Chair Nancy Ferguson welcomed everyone to the meeting of Executive.

Nancy honoured the traditional lands upon which we meet and then shared the CSRC safe space statement.

Peter opened the meeting with worship reading from Luke 1:41. Peter also welcomed Nancy as the CSRC Executive Chairperson.

CHECK-IN

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

There was a change to the PRC Commission Minutes dates that needed to be made on the agenda; Executive is receiving only the October 24, 2023 minutes.

MOTION by Helen Smith/Peter Hartmans CS Exec 2023-12-07-01
That the agenda for the meeting be approved, as amended.
CARRIED

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

There were some errors in the Minutes that will be corrected.

MOTION by Joy Galloway/John Watson CS Exec 2023-12-07-02
That the Minutes of the meeting of the Canadian Shield Regional Council Executive held on November 2, 2023 be approved, as amended.
CARRIED

RECEIVE MINUTES FROM COMMISSIONS

MOTION by John Watson/Stewart Walker CS Exec 2023-12-07-03
That the Minutes of the CSRC Pastoral Relations Commission from October 31, 2023 be received, for information.
CARRIED

MOTION by Bill Steadman/John Watson CS Exec 2023-12-07-04
That the Minutes of the CSRC Support to Communities of Faith Commission from October 24, 2023 be received, for information.
CARRIED

OMNIBUS MOTION FROM INCORPORATED MINISTRIES

**MOTION by Helen Smith/Peter Hartmans CS Exec 2023-12-07-05
that the Canadian Shield Regional Council (6) Executive take the
following actions:**

a) Camp McDougall Inc.

**... pursuant to the Incorporated Ministries Policy of The
United Church of Canada approve the Camp McDougall
Inc. 2021-2022 Board of Directors**

**Denise Berg
Sherrill Dewar
Kevin Harrison
Kenny Hermiston
Debbie Kirby
Sharon Lane
Mary A. Laundrie
Rhea McAdam
Steven Mullins
Nancy Rouble
Cleo Walker**

***This is based on the draft Annual Meeting minutes of June
6, 2021, the 2021 board member approval form, contact list
provided and receipt of other required documentation per
the Incorporated Ministries Policy of The United Church of
Canada.***

****N.B. During follow up with this IM, it was discovered that
no D&O policy was issued for the term December 1, 2020
to September 7, 2021 as the Hub office never received the
D&O application due to the changes in leadership on the
Camp's board. This has been corrected and D&O coverage
was reinstated September 7, 2021 and on.***

****N.B. This IM continues to struggle with submission of
required documentation and Regional Council staff are
following up.***

CARRIED

CORRESPONDENCE

- *Letter from Kathy Dahmer*
Executive discussed the letter received from Rev. Kathy Dahmer regarding possible ordinations at the 2024 CS RCM. Since the ultimate authority around ordination resides with the Office of Vocation and decision about executing the ordinations residing with the regional Pastoral Relations Commission (PRC), Executive will refer this matter to the PRC.

There was consensus that a letter be drafted on behalf of the CSRC Executive from Peter and Nancy, indicating that the letter from Kathy Dahmer was received and has now been referred to the Pastoral Relations Commission for a more specific response to her concerns.

REGIONAL MEETING DEBRIEF

Nancy led a discussion on the regional meeting held on November 25th via Zoom. The team reflected on the successes and challenges, including technical glitches and the learning curve for the new administrative staff. Stewart and John expressed dissatisfaction with using Zoom for these types of meetings, emphasizing the need for brevity and focus on business. Nancy proposed using Zoom's breakout group feature to encourage interaction.

REMIT FOLLOW UP

The team also discussed the Remit 1 vote, with Peter reporting a low response rate of voting across the church with a 10% return of the voting cards. GCO has a listing of all churches across the country who haven't returned the cards and CSRC has a number of churches on that list. In the new year, Diane Matheson-Jimenez and Jody Maltby (SWRC) will work with the Right Relations Resource Team to reach out to our churches to encourage voting and the return of the voting cards before the close of the remit.

BUDGET UPDATE – 2024 CSRC DRAFT BUDGET

Janet presented the budget, emphasizing a 25% cut to the M&S Grant for 2024 and the residual amount from congregations, which is expected to balance the budget.

MOTION by Jim Jackson/Bill Steadman CS Exec 2023-12-07-06
That the Executive of the Canadian Shield Regional Council approve
the 2024 Budget with a total revenue of \$654,000 and total expenses of
the same amount, as presented.
CARRIED

HUNTINGTON UNIVERSITY UPDATE

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 counsel for The United Church of Canada, has forwarded a first draft of proposed changes to the by-laws, which reflect the UCC structural shift, to Huntington's legal counsel. Peter and Barb had reached out to Dr. Kevin McCormick, President and Vice-Chancellor of Huntington University, in early November to discuss the proposed changes and his office indicated that Dr. McCormick is on leave until the new year. Peter and Nancy will follow up with Huntington in the new year and also look forward to a response from Huntington's legal counsel.

GCE UPDATE

Peter reported there has been a change in the regional council membership related to the request to add retired Designated Lay Ministers (DLMs) to the membership role of the region. Upon further investigation, it was discovered that the request goes against the Basis of Union of the UCC and there would need to be a regional remit to remedy this; more details to come.

EXECUTIVE MINISTER'S REPORT

Executive received the Executive Minister Report, for information (*attached as Appendix A*).

Nancy inquired whether the new Growth Animator, Calin Lau, would be at the next RCM and Peter shared that he would.

DISCUSS UPCOMING EXECUTIVE MEETING DATES

Unless there are emergent issues that arise after Christmas, Nancy shared that we will not need to have our January 4, 2024 CSRC Executive meeting. Susan inquired whether Executive would be open to moving the proposed dates of May 2, 2024 and June 6, 2024 to April 25, 2024 and May 30, 2024 respectively, as they fall on the weeks of the SW and CS Regional Council Meetings and the decision was made to move those dates.

NEW BUSINESS

Bill Steadman inquired whether the agenda package could now be sent in 2 batches as they are hard to manage when they are large and sent close to the meeting date. Susan will send the agenda package in 2 sets if there are pieces that can come early.

NEXT MEETING DATES:

- January 4, 2023 at 1:00 p.m. via Zoom – **if needed**
- February 1, 2023 at 1:00 p.m. via Zoom
- March 7, 2023 at 1:00 p.m. via Zoom
- April 4, 2023 at 1:00 p.m. via Zoom
- **April 25, 2023 at 1:00 p.m. via Zoom in lieu of May 2, 2023 (CS RCM)**
- **May 30, 2023 at 1:00 p.m. via Zoom in lieu of June 6, 2023 (SW RCM)**

CLOSING

Nancy adjourned the meeting at 2:00 p.m. and she 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 counsel 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.

