

## SUPPORT TO COMMUNITIES OF FAITH COMMISSION

### **Activity Report for the period January 2023 to April 2024**

- The Commission consists of a chair, a secretary and six to nine (6-9) members.

### **General Description:**

This SCFC is responsible for the resourcing of mission and ministry in the Region. The SCFC is responsible for the Support of Communities of Faith, including clusters, networks and property matters; as well as supporting Communities of Faith in their life and work and articulating their mission and ministry. The work may be carried out in a variety of ways, including by staff, task groups for a limited time period. For a more detailed description, you are referred to The Manual 2019, sections C.2.1, .2, .3 and G.1.

### **Responsibilities:**

- Support and encouragement to the development and life of clusters and networks;
- Develop and nurture Covenantal relationships with the Regional Council and other communities of faith;
- Resource and animate collaborative conversations like cooperative ministries, amalgamation, disbanding
- Resource for collaboration around mission (e.g. Joint youth ministry, senior housing, food banks;
- Provide support and advice to Communities of Faith in matters of property, archives, and development of worship resources particularly for lay led congregations
- Develop a strategy for service, support and oversight of Communities of Faith, seeking to strengthen the community to live their mission and ministry
- The work must be reported through the Executive Minister to the Executive of the Regional Council on a regular basis and to the Regional Council annually
- Five (5) Resource Teams are accountable to the SCFC: Affirming Ministry, Mission Support, Funding and Grant Review, Property, Right Relations, Youth and Young Adult. All of these Resource Teams report regularly to the monthly SCFC meetings

### **Activity for the period January 2023 to April 2024**

- Participated in the position description and hiring of the Growth Animator for CSRC and SWRC – Welcome Calin Lau
- Approved the Covenant between the CSRC and Korah Maxwell UC
- Approved the Ecumenical shared ministry in Espanola – St George Anglican Church and The United Church of Espanola
- Supported the North Bay cluster in their sharing ministry on the 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month
- Disbanding of Manitowadge UC and approved sale of building
- Disbanding of Grace UC Hornpayne and approved sale of building
- Approved the sale of St. Stephen's UC Chelmsford
- Approved sale of Hillview Pioneer UC Temiskaming Shores
- Approved demolition of the building and sale of Shequindah property
- Approved the sale and disbanding of Elliot Lake UC
- Approved sale of Trinity UC Iroquois Falls
- Approved Trinity UC Magnetawan Governance Structure

- Ongoing work with Fairview – Tehkammah to sever the cemetery from the building property in order to sell the building.
- Heather Ketchie is a lawyer whose area of expertise is non-profit and charity law. She is well versed in the polity of the United Church of Canada. Heather has consulted widely with CSRC and SWRC Communities of Faith regarding property sales. Heather has been the lawyer of record for a few of our sales within the region.
- With the heaviness of closing Churches, we do have bright moments like funding for the Rainbow Camp and helping other Churches remain a Community of Faith, building or not.
- **Initiated the Mustard Seed project April 2023.** Two Biblical passages came to mind as we considered this project:
  - *“...for truly I say to you, if you have faith the size of a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, ‘Move from here to there,’ and it will move; and nothing will be impossible to you.”*  
~Matthew 17:20 and
  - *“I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth; do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert”*  
~Isaiah 43:19
- The establishment of a \$100,000 fund earmarked for the SCFC to use. The SCFC would use up to \$25,000 per year; \$5,000 for commission support and \$20,000 in a grant form to facilitate growth and new ways of providing worship
- **“the Commission Connection”** is a mutually established (2023) liaison body with the Pastoral Relations Commission which provides the opportunity to discuss mutual concerns, identify areas where both commissions may or should be involved, provides the SCFC the opportunity to tap input from Pastoral Charge Supervisors and allows the two commissions the opportunity to provide education and support to Pastoral Charge Supervisors and Communities of Faith. In 2023/24 an in person event for the Thunder Bay cluster with presentations and involvement regarding Pastoral relations and Stewardship. Two Pastoral Charge Supervisor gatherings were held providing the opportunity to discuss issues and solutions that have occurred. A fourth gathering occurred to discuss Time, Treasures and Talent: When What you have feels like not enough. There are plans to provide the Pastoral Relations and Stewardship events for other cluster areas within the CSRC area in the foreseeable future.
- In April of 2024 the SCFC and the Property Resource Team established a small group with representatives from each body to review the possibility of establishing a Property Commission. This work was undertaken because the existing structure has been very frustrating when dealing with property transactions. By having the decisions for Property transactions within one body the process can be expedited, not delayed.

Thanks to all the members of the Support to Communities of Faith Commission; Mardi Mumford, Secretary, Ernie Epp, Susan Peverley, Marilyn Schatzler, Bonnie Johnson, Crystal Grieg, George Bott, Brynn Carson and Peter Haddow. Thanks also to Diane Matheson-Jimenez and Melody Duncanson-Hale who brought their expertise and down-to-earth advice to all our discussions. We also welcomed Calin Lau to our meetings starting in 2024.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jim Jackson, Chair