

MINUTES of the Executive of Canadian Shield Regional Council held on April 25, 2024 at 1:00 p.m. online via Zoom.

PRESENT: Nancy Ferguson (Chair), Barb Nott, Bill Steadman, Stewart Walker, Jim Jackson, Helen Smith, Susan Lindquist, Mastard Sakala, Joy Galloway, David LeGrand

STAFF: Peter Hartmans, Diane Matheson-Jimenez, Susan Whitehead, Shawn Redden, Rob Smith

REGRETS: John Watson

Chair Nancy welcomed everyone to the meeting of Executive.

Nancy honoured the traditional lands upon which we meet and then spoke about the CSRC being a safe space.

Peter opened the meeting with worship discussing his invitation to a prayer circle today where the challenges and blessings of communities of faith were noted. Peter read from Christ the True Vine passage (John 15:1-8) and ended with prayer.

INTRODUCTION

Executive welcomed Shawn Redden to the CS Executive meeting by first introducing themselves and sharing what responsibilities they have around the region. Shawn then shared a bit about herself and said how excited she is to get to know and have conversations with Executive members.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION by Jim Jackson/Barb Nott CS Exec 2024-04-25-01
That the agenda for the meeting be approved, as circulated.
CARRIED

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION by Helen Smith/Joy Galloway CS Exec 2024-04-25-02
That the Minutes of the meeting of the Canadian Shield Regional Council Executive held on March 7, 2024 be approved, as circulated.
CARRIED

RECEIVE MINUTES FROM COMMISSIONS

MOTION by Jim Jackson/Susan Lindquist CS Exec 2024-04-25-03
That the Minutes of the CSRC Pastoral Relations Commission from February 27, 2024 and the CSRC Support to Communities of Faith Commission from February 27, 2024 be received, for information.
CARRIED

INCORPORATED MINISTRIES OMNIBUS MOTION

MOTION by Peter Hartmans/Joy Galloway CS Exec 2024-02-06-04
That the Canadian Shield Regional Council (6) Executive take the following actions:

a) **Thunder Bay United Church Camps, Incorporated o/a Camp
Duncan**

... pursuant to the Incorporated Ministries Policy of The United Church of Canada approve the Thunder Bay United Church Camps, Incorporated 2024-2025 Board of Directors

**James E. Bidnall
A. Ernest Epp
Laurie Forbes
Dave Hammond
Linda Hammond
Gerhardt F. Jansekovich
Lori Jansekovich
Faye Larsen
William Lynch
**Patricia McDonald
Ross McCubbin
Ken Moffatt
Richard Paterson**

This is based on the draft Annual General Meeting minutes of February 11, 2024, draft board Meeting minutes of April 2, 2024, the 2024 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, concerns were raised by National Service staff to Regional Council staff. Regional Council staff are working with this IM and can provide further information.***

*****N.B. Since the annual meeting Patricia McDonald has resigned.***

CARRIED

CORRESPONDENCE

Remit 1 Letter

The CSRC will continue to work towards being an anti-racist region. Peter shared the email from Adele Halliday, Anti-Racism and Equity Lead at the General Council Office (GCO), where she indicated Remit 1 - Establishing an Autonomous National Indigenous Organization within The United Church of Canada has passed with 80% of communities of faith voting. He expressed deep appreciation to the CSRC Right Relations Resource Team for working hard to get the vote out to our region and he thanked staff in both regions for diligently working with communities of faith to vote.

Letter to the Moderator re: Palestine and Israel

The General Council Executive (GCE) received a letter regarding Israel/Palestine, which was about the process of The UCC. While everyone universally laments the suffering of innocent people and the injustice of this conflict, what the letter itself asked was in conflict with the practice and polity of The UCC and so the Moderator did not respond directly to this letter.

Letter from the Moderator re: Gaza Ceasefire Pilgrimage

This was a pastoral letter as a response to the concern around Israel/Palestine and how different groups are responding. The Moderator shared how the GCE is responding to this crisis and how

we are partnering with groups like KAIROS, encouraging people to walk in prayerful solidarity while tracking the distance travelled.

Janet MacDonald's Resignation Letter

Peter shared that Janet MacDonald, the Financial Administrator for CS and SW Regional Councils, has indicated she will resign from her position next June 30th, 2025.

MOTION by Peter Hartmans/Stewart Walker CS Exec 2025-04-25-05
That the CSRC Executive receive Janet MacDonald's letter of resignation effective June 30, 2025, with extreme gratitude for all her work.
CARRIED

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Update on Creation of Property Commission - Motion

Jim Jackson shared a bit about how this decision came about. In the past 2-3 years, the process of the selling of properties for the region did not work with the processes and timelines of the real estate businesses, thus, leading to SCoFC requesting that the Property Resource Team become a Commission, with the ability to make its own decisions regarding the sale of properties. After consulting The Manual (section C.2.6) and learning that other regions immediately set up a Property Commission at the inception of the region, the Property RT feels confident this is the proper decision for our region. Diane shared a chart of the proposed changes to the CSRC Governance Document and policy documents in order to implement this change in policy.

MOTION by Helen Smith/Stewart Walker CS Exec 2025-04-25-06
That the CSRC Executive authorizes the establishment of a Property Commission, effective April 25, 2024, and that the current Property Resource Team to be transitioned into that role, with the terms of reference to be approved at the next Executive meeting on May 30, 2024.
CARRIED

DRAFT BUDGET

The CSRC Finance Resource Team forwarded a recommendation to Executive re: the 2025 Draft Budget.

Finance Resource Team Motion 2024-04-22-03:

Moved by Bill Jones/seconded by Michael Wesa that the Finance Resource Team of Canadian Shields Regional Council recommend the 2025 draft Budget to the Canadian Shield Regional Council Executive for approval. Motion Carried.

Janet MacDonald joined the meeting to share the draft 2025 Budget.

MOTION by Bill Steadman/Barb Nott CS Exec 2024-04-25-07
That after review by the CSRC Finance Resource Team, the CSRC Executive recommends the 2025 Draft Budget to the 2024 Canadian Shield Regional Council meeting in Sault Ste. Marie, ON May 3-5, 2024.
CARRIED

2024 CS REGIONAL COUNCIL MEETING and GC45

GC45 Commissioners Election – Nominations Committee Motion

Nominations Ctte Motion:

Moved by Helen Smith/seconded by Kathie Smith that the Election of GC45 Commissioners be held at an electronic recall of the Canadian Shield Regional Council in mid-September 2024.

Peter and Barb shared that the Nominations Committee would like to extend the receiving of GC45 Commissioner nominations until the fall, as they feel there has not been enough time to generate enough interest for an election.

MOTION by Helen Smith/Barb Nott CS Exec 2024-05-24-08
Upon the recommendation of the CSRC Nominations Committee, that
the election of the GC45 Commissioners be held at an electronic recall
of the CSRC by September 30th, 2024.
CARRIED

Update on Planning

Helen shared that the planning for the meeting next weekend is all set and the team is very excited about hosting the meeting in Sault Ste. Marie. Diane discussed honoraria and requested that at some point before the next RCM in 2025, if Executive would have a conversation about putting parameters around when an honourarium should be given, what amount is appropriate, to whom might an honourarium be offered to, etc. Helen shared that they worked today on fine-tuning the agenda, working in some table group time, finding places for music to go, and a discussion about evaluation forms.

Proposals to 2024 CS RCM

There are no proposals to date for the RCM.

Executive Report for Resource Book

Nancy indicated that Executive was forwarded a copy of the 2024 CS RCM Executive Accountability Report for the Resource Book and asked if there was any input from members. Jim shared that it was exciting to read about all these things Executive did. Susan will put the report in the Resource Book for the meeting.

UPDATE ON CLOSURE OF THUNDER BAY OFFICE

Peter indicated that as Rob Smith has transitioned into a new life in southern Ontario and has moved out of Thunder Bay, there will be no one to use the Thunder Bay office. Peter stated that the region has been so appreciative of the hospitality of Trinity UC in Thunder Bay for housing us.

MOTION by Peter Hartmans/Joy Galloway CS Exec 2025-04-25-09
That the CSRC Executive authorize the closure of the CSRC Thunder
Bay Office effective July 31, 2024.
CARRIED
1 Abstention (Jim Jackson)

CAMP UPDATE

Diane shared the news that Camp McDougall would not be operating in 2024 due to financial, bylaw, and staffing issues. Executive discussed the financial difficulties and future leadership of the camp. They agreed that the current board's inability to function was a problem. The team also discussed concerns about the corporation's lack of financial transparency and the potential impact on their staff time. They agreed to continue attending board meetings until a decision is made by the Executive.

There were concerns raised about the leadership of the Board and the United Church in the area's lack of emotional connection with the camp. The group proposed that the

camp should be given specific support tasks but not an open-ended bailout, with a focus on improving communication between the Board and constituency.

Executive agreed to pursue these concerns in the next four to six months. Additionally, there was a discussion about the potential use of church spaces for satellite camps, the complexities and liabilities associated with this. The decision was made to postpone this discussion until a later meeting to allow time for updates on other matters. Shawn Redden will attend the board's next meeting to introduce herself.

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE UCC

Peter shared that there is a special 100th Anniversary service at Metropolitan UC in Toronto that will serve as the kickoff to the 100th. He also said that the UCC is providing \$2,000 per regional council for 100th anniversary celebrations within the region. If we don't use that entire amount, it was suggested putting it towards the Festival of Faith in 2025, which is happening near the 100th anniversary.

HUNTINGTON UNIVERSITY UPDATE

Peter stated that progress is being made with Huntington University, as the President is back to work and things are moving along. Barb will be attending the convocation for Huntington University this year.

2025 FESTIVAL OF FAITH UPDATE

The team has a full compliment of planning team members now and the group has been meeting regularly to plan with the speakers and start the agenda. It now seems the Moderator will be joining us for the FoF and will update us if she is available to lead her Flourishing event the day or two before the start of the FoF.

EXECUTIVE MINISTERS REPORT (APPENDIX A)

Peter gave a verbal update on his health situation and shared the Executive Ministers Report.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business at this time.

NEXT MEETING DATES:

- May 3-5, 2024 - Regional Council Meeting in Sault Ste. Marie
- May 30, 2023 at 1:00 p.m. via Zoom

CLOSING

Peter shared Executive's thanks and deep appreciation for Barb Nott's service as Past-Chair and thanked Joy, Helen, and John for their service over the years.

Nancy gave a closing prayer and the meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

APPENDIX A
Executive Ministers Report
April 2024

We look forward with great anticipation to our May Regional Council Meeting. The planning team has made progress with the business of our regional meeting, focusing on the Election of Commissioners and Proposal review in advance of General Council 45. Our meeting also gives folks an in-person/online opportunity to connect, listen, pray, share, laugh, and learn as Church.

GC45:

General Council 45 will take place in Calgary in 2025. The CSRC Nominations Committee is considering Commissioners; we will be able to elect 9 Commissioners, plus our Chair of Executive.

100th Anniversary Kick off - June 9, 2024 from 4 - 6 p.m.:

Consider joining the UCC kick off celebration online or in-person at Metropolitan United Church, Toronto, on June 9, 2024.

Festival of Faith:

Planning continues for our Festival of Faith in 2025. Hotel space has been booked and the planning team is been working on securing speakers and preparing a draft agenda for the Festival of Faith. The Moderator hopes to attend the next Festival of Faith and provide a flourishing event, in advance of the FoF on June 12, 2024. Rob can offer an update at our Executive meeting.

Remit 1 update:

A big thank you to volunteers and staff who worked so very hard to support communities of faith around voting on Remit 1. All 16 Regional Councils, the National Indigenous Council, and 80% of pastoral charges in The United Church of Canada participated in the vote on Remit 1: Establishing an Autonomous National Indigenous Organization.

The voting process engaged many across the church in deep and sometimes challenging conversations about right relations with Indigenous Peoples. There is one final phase in the remit process. The 44th General Council Annual Meeting will be asked to enact the remit when it meets on October 19, 2024. This is the same process for all Category 3 remits.

In anticipation of the General Council enacting the remit in October, the National Indigenous Council, the National Indigenous Elders Council, and the Executive of the General Council will continue to work together to identify and lay out a framework for the autonomous Indigenous organization within the United Church. Thank you again to all who voted and work so very hard to complete this important work.

Staff update:

Our new Justice and Faith Formation Minister, Shawn Redden, has started! Shawn is moving to Ontario and has served as ministry personnel in the Maritimes. She is in the process of moving and plans to live in a number of locations, before she settles on a final

location. She has many years experience in ministry both congregationally and supporting the Presbytery, Conference, and Regional Council as a volunteer.

Huntington University:

We have made progress with Huntington University and we are in the process of scheduling a zoom connection. Huntington University also invited me to their spring Convocation on Tuesday May 21, 2024 at the Science North Cavern. This invitation is a first since I started as Executive Minister so again, we are making progress! I cannot attend, due to health restrictions; however, I am working with Chair Nancy to determine a replacement in my absence. I think it would be good if we sent someone from the Regional Council.

Executive Minister Health Update:

I am presently waiting for minor surgery in Hamilton. My hope is that surgery will lead to a more normal routine. I have returned to work full-time and I am grateful for the time given to recover. Again, I want to express deep appreciation to Diane for covering for me in my absence.