

MINUTES of the Executive of Canadian Shield Regional Council held on November 7, 2024 at 1:00 p.m. online via Zoom.

PRESENT: Nancy Ferguson (Chair), Laurie Stevenson, Bill Steadman, Stewart Walker, Jim Jackson, Gord Roberts, Lionel Ketola, Susan Peverley, Bill Jones

STAFF: Peter Hartmans, Susan Whitehead, Meranda MacKenzie

REGRETS: Susan Lindquist, David LeGrand, Mastard Sakala

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 by lighting the Christ Candle, then discussed All Saints Sunday and continued with a reading from Matthew 11:28 and ended with prayer.

INTRODUCTION

Executive welcomed Meranda MacKenzie to the meeting; she is the new staff person in SWRC and CSRC as the Bookkeeper and she started on October 1, 2024.

CHECK-IN

Executive members were asked to name someone or something that they light a candle for today.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION by Jim Jackson/Lionel Ketola CS Exec 2024-11-07-01
That the agenda for the meeting be approved, as circulated.
CARRIED

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Bill Jones and Gord Roberts were omitted in the list of those members present.

MOTION by Bill Jones/Bill Steadman CS Exec 2024-11-07-02
That the Minutes of the meeting of the Canadian Shield Regional Council Executive held on September 25, 2024 be approved, as amended.
CARRIED

RECEIVE MINUTES FROM COMMISSIONS

MOTION by Jim Jackson/Lionel Ketola CS Exec 2024-11-07-03
That the Minutes of the CSRC Support to Communities of Faith Commission from September 18, 2024 be received, for information.
CARRIED

Executive deliberated Page 36 of the PRC Minutes questioning if Executive discussed the issue of Celebration of Ministry Service (CoMS) and Executive confirmed that this issue was not discussed at an Executive meeting and that perhaps it was mischaracterized by the PRC recording secretary. Executive directed the Chair of the PRC, Stewart Walker, to communicate to the PRC that that there was error made in the minutes regarding the CoMS and to have the minutes secretary correct that set of minutes.

MOTION by Stewart Walker/Bill Steadman CS Exec 2024-11-07-04
That the Minutes of the CSRC Pastoral Relations Commission from
September 18, 2024 be received, for information.
CARRIED

MOTION by Laurie Stevenson/Gord Roberts CS Exec 2024-11-07-05
That the Minutes of the CSRC Property Commission from September
18, 2024 be received, for information.
CARRIED

CORRESPONDENCE

Notes from the Moderator and General Secretary re: Meeting with Presiding Officers on Oct. 2, 2024

Executive members discussed the email from Cheryl-Ann Stadelbauer-Sampa regarding the meeting of Presiding Officers which took place on October 2, 2024.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Thank You Letter to Camp McDougall

After the letter went out to Camp McDougall with concerns about their 2024 camping season, they responded by sending in an annotated list of things they have accomplished. As a follow-up, Executive directed Peter to send a letter of thank you and encouragement. Diane Matheson-Jimenez has been working with the Camp McDougall team on their policies and Shawn Redden has been working with them on program questions.

HONOURARIA POLICY FOR VOLUNTEERS/GUESTS TO RC EVENTS AND MEETINGS UPDATE

Peter shared that he, Katie Smith, Helen Smith and Susan Whitehead met recently to discuss a possible honouraria policy with regards to regional council events and meetings. This is still being discussed and a policy needs to be created. Peter will update Executive at the next meeting.

HUNTINGTON UNIVERSITY UPDATE

Peter has still been attempting to connect with Huntington University. He will update Executive at the next meeting. The Chair raised the question of chaplaincy as being a continued UCC connection with Huntington. Stewart Walker shared some history in relation to chaplaincy at Huntington in the past; but no chaplaincy currently exists.

CSRC LOGO POLICY

Executive approves of the general idea of the logo policy presented but would like to see some wordsmithing regarding time frames. Peter will work with Susan Whitehead and bring an updated policy to Executive at a later meeting.

INSTALLATION OF CHAIR-ELECT AT IN-PERSON JUNE 2025 FESTIVAL OF FAITH (FOF)

Nancy shared the idea of moving the installation of the Chair-Elect from the online 2025 CS Regional Council Meeting to the in-person Festival of Faith Event a month later in June 2025. Bill Jones, Chair of the Nominations Committee, will forward the request to his team and will report back to Executive.

LSRC COMPLAINT UPDATE

Peter shared that the Living Skies Regional Council Complaint Team has been working together to review the case and recommended that an investigator be hired. The General Council Office (GCO) assigned John Watson as the investigator, who is trained in this kind of inquiry and is a former parole officer. All costs will be covered by the CSRC and then reimbursed by LSRC.

John will fly to Living Skies Regional Council and will meet with both the Complainants and Respondent and he will send a report back to the team and then it will get referred to Executive.

There are two complaints: one is about a church employee and the other is about a camp employee, both of which are the same person. The camp is an Incorporated Ministry and the regions cannot deal with it; it will go to the Incorporated Ministry department of the UCC. Legal council from the GCO has informed us we cannot do a review for a camp (an incorporated ministry) and therefore, we must comply with their request and leave it. John has set a timeline of the end of December to have the visit and the report completed.

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE UCC

Plans, \$2,000 from GCO, and Regional Engagement

Peter shared that the information package that was sent out under the title of "United Church Foundation" (UCF) was misleading; the person who created the material did not have authorization to do it and it is not a sanctioned event from the UCF.

Executive had a discussion on ways that the CSRC could celebrate the 100th anniversary. It was thought that through the CSRC, either through Executive or the Support to Communities of Faith Commission (SCoFC), should be encouraging and inviting clusters of communities to celebrate via in-person or hybrid watch parties across the region.

As the primary Admin on the 2025 Festival of Faith (FoF) planning team, Susan shared that there will also be 100th anniversary celebrations after June 10th, 2025 at the closing worship for the FoF event on Sunday, June 15th at the Bell Park Amphitheatre in Sudbury with the FoF keynote speaker, John Bell.

There was consensus to send a request to the Grants Committee to propose a process of distribution for these funds (\$2,000 from GCO for the 100th Anniversary) that can support watch parties around the region, in lieu of sending the Chair to Newfoundland on June 10th, 2025.

FOLLOW UP ON JOINT EXECUTIVE DISCUSSIONS RE: NEXT 5-10 YEARS

Nancy stated that the notes from the CSRC Caucus at Villa Loyola were distributed in the agenda package for this meeting.

Items from the caucus notes discussed included:

Circuit Rider Model - Talked about looking at the circuit rider model for ministry that comes to them from our Methodist roots, and how a student minister might benefit, and the training that would be needed for this, but it comes back to including the educational institution who do the education and formation work and there needs to be some connection through the Office of Vocation.

Technology - Collaborations around technology is a big piece.

Bonding as a Region - What does it mean to wave the regional flag? Connection with one another and with the region is a big piece.

Supervision - Huge demand and need for Pastoral Charge Supervisors;

Self-Assessment - Loss of pastoral oversight committees that used to come to visit the pastoral charge every 3 years to check in; perhaps every 3 years (or sooner) reach out to the community of faith (cof) and discuss their self-assessment.

Financial Support - Perhaps use the income from the sale of churches and earmark that money to go towards visits to cof's.

The Chair invited the Commissions to share these notes with their respective members with the question how these ideas could help them as a commission; do these ideas resonate with the

commissions and how could they/we enable these ideas to happen; then have them report to an Executive meeting in the new year.

GCE SUMMARY SEPTEMBER 2024

The Executive acknowledged the receipt of the General Council Executive Summary from September 2024.

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:

- December 5, 2023 at 1:00 p.m. via Zoom

CLOSING

Nancy gave a closing prayer and the meeting adjourned at 3:35 p.m.

APPENDIX A Executive Ministers Report November 2024

I am so grateful for the Joint Executive Retreat in Sudbury and for the Executive's significant commitment of time, online and in-person. I am also grateful for all the pre-planning work Susan contributed for the retreat, with support around travel, accommodation and support during and following the retreat.

GC45:

The Regional Council will offer an orientation time for GC45 Commissioners early in the new year.

100th Anniversary Kick off: June 9, 2024 and June 8th 2025:

The UCC 100th Anniversary kick-off service took place in Toronto at Metropolitan United Church. The service was recorded (which still can be viewed) and a wonderful event to attend. The June 2025 UCC 100th celebration will take place on Sunday, June 8th in Newfoundland. We have been invited to consider how we use the \$2,000 grant for the 100th anniversary celebration. Executive Ministers have been invited to attend the service in-person. We have included time on the agenda to discuss at our November meeting.

Festival of Faith:

Planning continues for our CSRC and SWRC joint Festival of Faith in 2025. Hotel space has been booked and the planning team has secured a speaker, which is John Bell from Scotland! The Moderator hopes to attend the Festival of Faith and possibly provide a flourishing event in advance of the event.

Huntington University:

We have made slow progress with Huntington University! We are in the process of scheduling an in-person or zoom meeting with President Kevin.

Staff update:

We are in the process of transitioning from Janet's work to Jody. Jody will provide key leadership around financial planning and support of both the SWRC and CSRC Finance committee and continue her support around granting and property sales, a key component of the regional budget and long-term planning for the regional council. We have hired Meranda MacKenzie, who has started as bookkeeper for both SWRC and CSRC, starting October 1. She will shadow Janet, in preparation for her retirement. Jody will provide direct oversight to Meranda and we welcome her to the team! Jody will continue with her role as staff lead for SWRC and primary support to the Communities of Faith Commission. Jody will shift out of providing primary support to communities of faith, replaced by the new positions as first point of contact. Jody will continue to support regional Admin staff for both regional councils.

For information, in Shining Waters Regional Council, with the shift of Jody's work, Diane shifts her work in SWRC and will coordinate between Community of Faith Support and Pastoral Relations work.

Sabbatical: Rob Smith will go on Sabbatical, returning January 31. We are currently planning coverage for Rob in his absence through Dale Hildebrand, who will start December 1. Todd MacDonald and Eun-Joo Park will provide primary support for Rob in November.
