

**MINUTES** of the Executive of Canadian Shield Regional Council held on April 3, 2025 at 1:00 p.m. online via Zoom.

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

**STAFF:** Peter Hartmans (Executive Minister), Susan Whitehead (Administrative Support)

**GUESTS:** Sarah Charters (UCC Foundation), Shawn Redden (CS and SW Staff), Melody Duncanson-Hales (UCC Philanthropy Staff)

**ABSENT:** Dave LeGrand, Susan Lindquist

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 shared a devotional reading from the “Art of Listening” and then shared a video entitled, “Lord, Listen to your Child Praying.” Peter then opened the meeting with prayer and sent prayers out to Dave LeGrand and his family as they walk with his brother during serious illness.

#### **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Bill Jones added Nominations to the Agenda and Peter moved the Huntington University conversation to his Executive Minister Report.

**MOTION by Susan Peverley/Lionel Ketola** **CS EXEC 2025-04-03-01**  
That the agenda for the meeting be approved, as amended.  
**CARRIED**

#### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**MOTION by Bill Steadman/Jim Jackson** **CS EXEC 2025-04-03-02**  
That the Minutes of the meeting of the Canadian Shield Regional Council Executive held on February 6, 2025 and March 6, 2025 be approved, as presented.  
**CARRIED**

#### **RECEIVE MINUTES FROM COMMISSIONS**

**MOTION by Bill Jones/Gord Roberts** **CS EXEC 2025-04-03-03**  
That the Minutes of the CSRC Pastoral Relations Commission from October 29, 2024 and the Property Commission from January 23, 2025 and February 27, 2025 be received, for information.  
**CARRIED**

#### **CORRESPONDENCE**

Email from Cheryl-Ann Stadelbauer-Sampa re: Toward 2035 (see below under Towards 2035 Discussion Continued).

#### **BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE FEBRUARY AND MARCH MINUTES**

*Update on One-Minute Video for the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary*

Nancy shared that Celio and she are working on the CSRC video and that the deadline is May 10<sup>th</sup>, 2025.

*Update from Grants Resource Team re: Monies to CoFs for 100<sup>th</sup>*

Peter recapped that the Grants Resource Team are overseeing the dispensing of money to anyone who applied for the \$100 grants to help assist their community of faith's plans to celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of The UCC and will report back with the number of people who utilized the money. Executive members shared what their communities of faith were doing for June 8<sup>th</sup>.

**UCC FOUNDATIONS – SARAH CHARTERS**

Peter welcomed Sarah Charters to the meeting, President of the UCC Foundation. Sarah shared news, priorities, and projects from the UCC Foundation and Melody Duncanson-Hales joined the meeting to discuss the Philanthropy Unit in the UCC.

**NUCLEAR-FREE NORTH – SHAWN REDDEN**

Shawn Redden, Justice and Faith Formation Minister, joined the meeting to give an interim update regarding the Nuclear-Free North letter received from Gary Kenny from the We the Nuclear Free North group.

**There was consensus that the CSRC Executive request the Nuclear-Free North working group draft a statement regarding the We the Nuclear-Free North resolution and return it back to the CSRC Executive for approval.**

**TOWARDS 2035 DISCUSSION CONTINUED**

Nancy shared an email received from Cheryl-Ann Stadelbauer-Sampa where each regional council is invited to identify two (2) Commissioners at GC45 who will be in Calgary to remain for an extra day for follow-up conversations regarding Towards 2035. Bill Jones offered to stay the extra day. Peter and Nancy will find one more Commissioner who would be willing to stay an extra day.

The draft of Towards 2035 should be available in mid-May and the region will offer a town hall between May 3<sup>rd</sup> and June 1<sup>st</sup> and then the final report comes out from GCO for GG45 for a vote. The suggestion was made that this be put on the agenda for the CS Regional Council Meeting (RCM) in May to give people a heads up.

**2025 RCM UPDATE**

*2026 Draft Budget for RCM*

The Finance Team is preparing the 2026 Draft Budget to be presented at the CS RCM in May. Prior to that, the budget will be presented to Executive and then sent to the RCM for approval. The Business and Agenda Committee have been working on the Agenda for the online RCM. Peter, Diane and Susan will travel to Sault Ste. Marie to be with Nancy

*CS Executive Accountability Report*

**MOTION by Susan Peverley/Stewart Walker**

**CS Exec 2025-04-03-05**

**That the CSRC Executive approve the CS Executive Accountability Report to the 2025 Regional Council Meeting Workbook.**

**CARRIED**

**NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE**

Bill Jones shared with Executive that there is a real need to motivate people to join commissions/committees/resource teams as well as GC45 Alternate Commissioners.

Jim Jackson, as the Past-Past Chair took the Chair to complete the motions.

**MOTION by Stewart Walker/Bill Steadman** **CS Exec 2025-04-03-06**  
**That the CSRC Executive approve the present Chair's term be extended by one year (2026) to allow the incoming Chair installation to occur at an in-person Regional Council Meeting.**  
**CARRIED**  
**1 Abstention – Bill Jones**

**MOTION by Peter Hartmans/Bill Steadman** **CS Exec 2025-04-03-07**  
**That Nancy Ferguson be named an GC45 Alternate Commissioner.**  
**CARRIED**

Nancy returned to the Chair.

### **2025 FESTIVAL OF FAITH UPDATE AND TRAVEL GRANT**

Peter and Susan shared a FoF update with Executive, indicating that there are over 120 registrations and that there is an even split of registrants between both regions. Planning is getting down to the wire and the Planning and Local Arrangements Teams are hard at work getting this event ready for June.

### **CAMP MCDOUGALL UPDATE**

Nancy shared that Camp McDougall is getting ready for the 2025 camping season. They have advertised on Facebook that they have hired new employees and are sharing a bit of their story there.

### **MARCH 2025 GCE REPORT**

The March 2025 GCE Report was shared with Executive.

### **EXECUTIVE MINISTERS REPORT (Appendix A)**

Peter shared his Executive Minister Report with Executive.

### *CSRC GC45 Accountability Report*

Peter worked on the CSRC Accountability Report that will be sent to GC45 on behalf of the region and shared it with Executive. It was agreed that Peter would forward the report to GCO for GC45 on behalf of the region.

### *Huntington University Update*

Peter had a meeting with the President of Huntington University, Dr. Kevin McCormick, and Scott Darling, Chair of the Huntington Board. Peter shared that he asked them if they were interested in continuing a relationship with The United Church of Canada and they say absolutely yes, they would. With regards to the Memorandum of Understanding, their lawyers will be looking at the agreement next week and they will get back to us. Peter talked to them about UCC membership on the Board and they are open to this, with people that are the right fit.

Nancy and Peter have previously discussed that this may be an opportunity to have a chaplaincy at Huntington/Laurentian University. Peter talked with Jennifer Henry from the GCO recently and inquired whether there might be funding for such a project and she said yes there may be if we were interested in pursuing it. While talking with Kevin and Scott, Peter mentioned this seed of an idea and they were very open to it. Peter then spoke with Melody Duncanson Hales about the possibility to partner with a community of faith/s in the Sudbury area and then he approached Shawn Redden to inquire what her thoughts were as her portfolio with the region is around youth.

Peter indicated that Barb Nott would be invited to the next conversation with Huntington to help facilitate. Susan Peverley offered to help if needed.

**NEW BUSINESS**

There was no new business.

**NEXT MEETING DATES:**

- Thursday, May 1, 2025 at 1:00 p.m. via Zoom
- **2025 Online Regional Council Meeting** - Saturday, May 3, 2025 at 10:00 a.m. via Zoom
- Thursday, June 5, 2025 at 1:00 p.m. via Zoom

**CLOSING**

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

## **APPENDIX A**

### **Executive Ministers Report**

#### **April 2025**

#### **GC 45:**

Major preparation continues for General Council 45 starting in the new year, with an in-person meeting August 7-12, 2025. For the second half of the meeting, the two Regions separated into two regional groups to connect locally. Youth Forum gathering in early March between a Regional gathering in both Thunder Bay and Southern Ontario with SWRC Youth traveling to Guelph, a central location. The event included both CSRC and SWRC youth forum folks, along with our three Ontario Western Regions. The event was an excellent opportunity to prepare for General Council and also youth were able to get to know each other, and to share and plan for August. Shawn Redden was able to travel to Thunder Bay and I attended in Guelph, with many other leaders. Both groups met virtually between Guelph and Thunder bay.

#### **General Council Executive and Staff leaders:**

The General Council Executive met March 7<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup>, 2025 in London and Staff Leaders meet March 7<sup>th</sup>, 2025. Staff leaders primarily discussed the draft document Towards 2035. The General Council Executive had a very full agenda. One highlight was the 150th Anniversary of the Presbyterian Church in Canada (PCC) with the Executive agreeing to a proposal to acknowledge the history and partnership of the PCC and take opportunities of upcoming gatherings of both denominations to join in celebration, inviting communities of faith and regional councils to also participate. With General Council 44 ending, a nominations request was circulated for General Council Executive reps. Both Regional Staff, Regional leaders and national staff reached out to potential SWRC folks to consider letting their names stand for nomination to the General Council Executive from 2025-2028.

#### **100th Anniversary June 8<sup>th</sup> 2025**

The June 2025 UCC 100<sup>th</sup> celebration will take place on Sunday June 8<sup>th</sup> in Newfoundland. With the recent decision of the Regional Council Executive to promote regional gatherings to celebrate the 100th anniversary of The United Church of Canada, the Mission Grants Committee are reaching out to Communities of Faith within the regional council to invite folks to request small grants to support and promote gatherings of neighbours for 100th anniversary worship “watch parties” in June.

#### **Huntington University:**

Dr. Kevin McCormick has requested a meeting with me for Monday March 31. Conversations will continue Regarding local Regional Council partnership with Huntington University. I also chatted with the General Council about the possibility of considering funding for a Chaplaincy, they are open to the idea. Conversations will continue both Regionally, with UCC and eventually Huntington.

#### **Festival of Faith:**

Planning continues for our CSRC and SWRC Festival of Faith (FoF) in 2025. John Bell will be providing key leadership for the Festival of Faith, which will also include a number of workshops and key leadership from within the United Church too. The Moderator also

hopes to attend the Festival of Faith but will not host a Flourish Event prior do to a scheduling conflict. A pre-Clergy event is also be planned for CSRC folks before the Festival of Faith. Staff have been working at supporting carpooling with regional travel grants. Registration has started with equal registration so far from both regional councils.

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