

The United Church of Canada
Toronto Conference
Living Waters Presbytery

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS AND RIGHT RELATIONS

Minutes of Meeting held June 14, 2016, 1:00 p.m.
at Trinity United Church, Huntsville

Chairperson: Susan Eagle Recording Secretary: Glen Eagle

IN ATTENDANCE: Mary Belyea, Bruce Chambers, Glen Eagle, Susan Eagle, Barb Kutcher, Maria Mindszenty, Islay Scott, Donald Spratt, Doug Tanner, Sarah Jane Wetelainen, Wendy Wight

CORRESPONDING MEMBERS: Chelsea Skanes (Explorer from Burton Avenue), Jody Maltby, staff.

REGRETS: Betty Lou McNabb, Marg Smith,

1. **QUORUM** 1/3 of 17; total voting members present: 11

The meeting opened with prayer given by Wendy Wight.

2. **CALL TO ORDER**

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

MOTION: That the Agenda be approved with the addition of “Stewardship Workshop.”

Moved by: Islay Scott

Seconded by: Wendy Wight

CARRIED

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:

MOTION: That the Minutes of the meeting held May 10, 2016 be approved as circulated.

Moved by: Donald Spratt

Seconded by: Sarah Jane Wetelainen

CARRIED

3. **REPORTS AND UPDATES**

Staffing for Social Justice Person

Jody Maltby reported that there is a meeting on Wednesday June 15 with the Toronto Conference Executive and she will present our previous motion. She also reported that she emailed the other presbyteries and found very little interest.

South Korea Trip

Susan Eagle reported that Toronto Conference offered to collect all the names of applicants and suggested that each presbytery would choose people to represent their presbytery in the selection process. Living Waters selection team was Susan Eagle and Barb Kutcher. They were looking for someone sensitive to the culture and issues of South Korea and aware of growing faith communities. They chose four people: Kate Boyko from Huntsville; Martha Wood from Bracebridge; Sarah

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Jane Wetelainen from Burton Ave in Barrie; Bright Yun from Coldwater. There is a total of 17 people going. Sarah Jane is to report to the September presbytery meeting.

Newsletter

The newsletter will be late this issue.

Living Into Right Relations:

Aboriginal Day is June 19.

There is a workshop called “What does reconciliation mean to us?” led by Jody Maltby and Bryan Ransom at Grace United in Barrie on June 25, 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. Information about registration can be found in the “Step by Step” newsletter and on the Presbytery website.

Trish Cowie a native and a former MP spoke very well at Bracebridge. It was suggested that she speak at the September Presbytery meeting. Wendy Wight will contact Trish and Susan Eagle will ask for time on the Presbytery agenda. It was hoped that part of her presentation would be “What can we do now?”

Lodge Building Project

Jody Maltby reported that the funds have been secured but there has been limited communication from Jake Charles. The date of the event is uncertain

Request from General Council

General Council has requested that each congregation use June 5 or 12 to celebrate the 30 year anniversary of the Apology. There is information on the General Council website.

There is also a pilgrimage to Sudbury on August 20, with a service at the cairn at 2 p.m. There will be a follow-up service the next day. For information, or to register as a witness, go to the United Church website. You will also then receive the newsletter.

MOTION: That Glen Eagle as Secretary of the Living Waters Community Connections and Right Relations Commission contact Will Kunder of Manitou to discover the process they have enacted in Manitou, that is required by new ministry staff to orient them to native issues.

Moved by: Wendy Wight

Seconded by: Sarah Jane Wetelainen

CARRIED

4. MISSION AND SERVICE

The Stewardship consultation involving the four Presbyteries was held on May 11. One of the recommendations was that they meet more often so ideas don't get lost. They agreed to meet quarterly; twice by conference call and twice in person.

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It was also decided that two consultation workshops be held in Toronto Conference. Many other conferences have had them as two-day events but here it was thought that two one-day events would work better. The title of the workshops is “Inspire, Ask, Thank.” The dates are October 12 for a northern workshop and October 26 for a southern workshop. More info will be forthcoming.

The Salt and Light program should be arriving at each pastoral charge soon and persons are encouraged to put them into action.

There will be an updated roster of Mission and Service speakers soon.

5. NEW BUSINESS

Aboriginal Sunday at Bradford

Don Spratt reported that this was a great success and the group wondered what other congregations were doing. This motion resulted from that discussion

MOTION: That the Living Waters Community Connections and Right Relations ask the Presbytery office to dedicate space on their website that would link to the Living Waters Presbytery Facebook page so that congregations and ministry units could report and share their events and information around Aboriginal activities.

Moved by: Sarah Jane Wetelainen

Seconded by: Wendy Wight

CARRIED

Housing and Homelessness

Susan Eagle met with the Provincial Poverty Reduction Strategy Secretariat. They presented 50 pages of actions and information on Housing Strategy. In spite of hopeful promises the incidence of poverty and homelessness is rising. Chris Ballard is the new Minister of Housing. Wendy Wight mentioned that in Bracebridge where a house had to be moved for a new parking lot the house was taken to a new location and used for affordable housing.

SJNOC

The minutes of the Social Justice Network of Ontario Conferences are not ready yet but will be made available as soon as they are produced.

*It was suggested that a short explanation of both SJNOC and ISARC (Interfaith Social Assistance Reform Coalition) be put in the newsletter

6. UPCOMING EVENTS

If you have upcoming events please send them to Glen Eagle so he can forward them to the Commission.

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NEXT MEETING

Wish List

Susan Eagle suggested that we should be considering topics and foci for next year. Some that were suggested were “Food Banks and Seniors,” “affordable housing for Seniors,” “cost of daycare and before and after school programs,” “income security.” Please think about this over the summer and bring any others suggestions to the fall meeting.

Date of next Meeting: September 13, 2016 at 1pm before the Presbytery meeting.

MOTION TO ADJOURN was made by Bruce Chambers

CLOSING PRAYER was given by Glen Eagle

Addendum Topics for Future Discussion

Minimum Wage; Homelessness and Housing; AURA; Blue Dot; Concern about Mental Health and Suicide; Concern – Double Standard of Salaries; Election Questions and Kit; Bill C51; Environment; Small Arms Trade Petition; Prison Inmate Petition; Bottled Water Petitions; SJNOC; KAIROS; ISARC; Refugee Support; Email from Karen Rodman about Palestine/Israel.