

VISION AND CHURCH DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

MINUTES of Meeting held January 9, 2018 at 2:00 p.m.
by conference call

ATTENDANCE: Laurie Cook, Bill Hurdman, David Leyton-Brown (Co-Chair), Kevin Logie, George Moore, James Ravenscroft, Ted Reeve (Co-Chair), Ivor Roberts, Al McNaught

ABSENT: Bill Morley, David Woodall

REGRETS: Katherine Knoke, Evelyn McLachlan

Staff: Karen Hilfman Millson, Jane Sullivan

1. Constituting the Meeting:

The meeting opened at 2:08 with a time of prayer, led by Karen Hilfman Millson

2. Declaration of Quorum: 1/3 of 13 = 4. Attendees = 9

Chair of Meeting: David Leyton-Brown

Secretary of Record: Jane Sullivan

AGENDA:

MOTION: that the draft agenda for the meeting be adopted as circulated.

Moved by: Ivor Roberts

Seconded by: Bill Hurdman **CARRIED**

3. New Ministries and Leadership Development Fund proposal – St. James Parry Sound
Questions about the administration of this fund were answered. The purpose, background and management of the fund were discussed.

MOTION: that the Vision and Church Development Commission of Living Waters Presbytery approve the New Ministries and Leadership Development fund application by St. James Centennial United Church, Parry Sound, in the amount of \$134,018 to implement a ministry of relationships and connections with the wider community through programs and services.

Moved by: Laurie Cook

Seconded by: James Ravenscroft **CARRIED**

ABSTENTIONS: Karen Hilfman Millson and Kevin Logie

4. Cluster and Network Gatherings

There will be a session for animators on Saturday, January 20, at Northwest Barrie United Church, 9:30 - 1:30 with lunch provided. This has been expanded to anyone who has a passion to ignite a network, and not just those identified in the fall clustering conversations as people willing to animate.

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5. Living Presence Ministry

When the funding was approved, there was a concern that there be transparency as to Presbytery's oversight of the project, so an update at every meeting is appropriate. David Leyton-Brown reported on Bri-anne's great work, and that at the last steering team meeting, more discussion about strengthening the existing congregations happened. Laurie Cook reported on the community dinner at The Burrow, (the Living Presence Ministry house), and the concert at Sharon Hope which were both successes. David reported that Bri-anne is about to launch a podcast and Vision and Church Development Commission members will be alerted when the podcasts are ready. Laurie mentioned that it would be good to have a printed update to share with groups within the congregations.

6. Working on site re-development

Look for developments from St. Andrew's Markham, Thornhill, Victoria Square, St. James Centennial Parry Sound, and Trinity Huntsville. They will need permissions going forward. A discussion ensued regarding the manner in which this commission would provide compassionate and supportive intervention and oversight. It was felt that an established process would make it easier to guide the work of the commission, so Jane Sullivan will develop a flow of process for a future meeting to consider.

Karen Hilfman Millson then gave a synopsis of the work she has been doing with congregations in their visioning exercises; Richmond Hill, who may be considering site development potential; King City, who are looking to establish a group to work on analysis with Karen about future directions and core values, which might include site development potential, staff-sharing ideas; Severn Bridge has completed listening circles, which were adapted for a multipoint charge, and they are deciding how they will move forward; Minesing, who have re-engaged after a hiatus, will be beginning the listening circles; York Pines has made contact and will refer their permission to engage Karen through Vision and Church Development Commission.

Ted raised the need to consider the use of consultants, and that there might be an increased need, and what impact this might have on the financial capacity of this Commission.

Karen continued to report that she has spoken with Bracebridge, but they have headed in another direction. She has spoken with Knox Sutton, who may consider the listening circle process.

7. Minister for Congregational Support Monthly Report – Jane Sullivan

A written report is part of this agenda package, and will be an addendum to the minutes. Details about Engaging Difference were given, explaining that this is another tool to strengthen congregational capacity to engage in radical welcoming, specifically targeted to the smaller urban, ex-urban and rural context. It is led by Jonathan Schmid, hosted by Collier St. United. Jonathan is the director of Deepening Understanding of Intercultural Ministry.

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8. Other Business

George Moore raised a concern; at Goodwood Epsom Utica recently, George felt that the momentum for the circle process might be waning. How do we prevent work from being shelved during an intentional interim ministry? It was pointed out that the terms of reference of the interim should be worked out with the transition team. So could the presbytery communicate this through presbytery reps to transition team? Laurie Cook pointed out that it is difficult to get consistent presbytery reps, but that their involvement has been beneficial. George reiterated that he feels there is a sense of urgency at Goodwood Epsom Utica. Jane Sullivan gave a brief overview of how an interim minister develops the terms of reference, and that it is a consultative process.

Perhaps staff could communicate the concerns of this commission to the presbytery reps on transition teams in congregations, and could perhaps find out what the terms of reference might be to see if they are following a process that would “honour” the work of the consultant. Jane Sullivan will investigate the transitional process of Goodwood, Epsom-Utica to see whether this can lead to a process enshrining the work “bought and paid for” of consultants.

Regent Park – Kevin Logie has met with Regent Park and with Westmount and it looks like they might work toward an amalgamation. They are doing some joint worship under the leadership of Tony Rennett. A plan will be coming to this commission in the near future. Likely, Regent Park will amalgamate with Westmount, and it is hoped the property will be used to support some Orillia community-based ministry, and so may be declared part of the trusts of the newly formed pastoral charge and not considered surplus. But we will await the plan as it is fleshed out in the future.

9. Closing Prayer

There being no further business the meeting closed at 3:27 p.m., with prayer led by Karen Hilfman Millson.

Next Meeting: February 6, at Grace United in Barrie at 2 pm or should weather be a problem, will meet on that date by conference call.

Report, Conference Minister for Congregational Support

To Vision and Church Development Commission

To January 9, 2017

Having missed the last VCD meeting in December due to family obligations, I've synopsized my work from November as well.

November was jam-packed: along with routine assistance to congregations in the effective leadership work/vacancies, there was:

- United Fresh Start facilitator training, and then follow up planning with Leslie Sedore to roll out the United Fresh Start program, starting with the East Gwillimbury cluster and including southern congregations that have new ministry
- Presbytery, which involves a lot of time to do the book display and also is very demanding as I have to support two commissions simultaneously, and there were serious issues requiring my contribution for both of these commissions
- Con. Ed., I did another course leading to my Certificate in Conflict Management and Congregational Leadership
- Leadership cohort 2.0, Geneva Park retreat
- Staff meeting and Christmas celebration at Fern Resort
- Living Presence ministry, including meeting at the Burrow! Lots of mud.

Direct support to congregations:

- York Pines, Thornhill, Huntsville, Bracebridge, King City, St. Andrew's Markham

Clustering:

- York south ministers
- Attended clustering gathering in Bracebridge

Troubleshooting (?)

- Many hours have been spent on the closure of Central Barrie and the dispersal of their assets

What is coming up?

- Engaging Difference – planning with Deepening Understanding of Intercultural Ministry for midsize urban training in intercultural ministry, at Collier St. This will assist in equipping congregations to understand their cultural context
- Lay cohort at Geneva Park