

SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

MINUTES of meeting held March 13, 2018, at 2:00 p.m.
at Northwest Barrie United Church, Barrie, ON

Co-Chairpersons Ted Grady and Kirsty Hunter presided.
Barbara Hendren acted as Secretary.

IN ATTENDANCE:

Executive Members:

Order of Ministry: Ted Grady, Kirsty Hunter, Pat MacDonald, Irene Ty
Laity: Leona Appleby, Barbara Hendren, Elizabeth McDonald, Linda Severson-Winson
Bill Stevens, Gay Van Caeyzeele,

Corresponding Members:

The corresponding members to the Commission had been invited to attend by the Chair
Laity: Moon Ja Park
Staff: Jeffrey Dale, Karen Hilfman Millson

REGRETS: Ross Carson, Nancy Knox, Steve Salt, Andrea Wheaton

QUORUM:

Total voting members present: 10
Quorum required: 1/3 of 15 or 5 voting members.
The Chair declared that quorum was achieved.

Kirsty Hunter opened our meeting with a welcome to everyone as we checked in around the circle. She explained the opportunity to spend some time visiting the 14 Stations of the Cross as posted in the sanctuary or in the quiet space reflecting on Jesus' pilgrimage in the desert as part of our Lenten Journey. A shared prayer followed.

Moon Ja Park, lay representative from Thornhill UC, was welcomed as a visiting/seeking new presbyter.

MOTION: That the minutes of the meeting of the Spiritual Development Commission of Living Waters Presbytery held November 14, 2017 be accepted as distributed.

Moved by: Elizabeth McDonald

Seconded by: Gay Van Caeyzeele

CARRIED

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BUSINESS ARISING

Proposal from Thornhill United Church

Irene Ty presented a proposal from Thornhill United Church asking the Commission for financial support for two music workshops to be hosted by Thornhill UC. (Appendix A) It was suggested that the events be advertised in the other three presbyteries as well as our own.

MOTION: That the Spiritual Development Commission of Living Waters Presbytery financially support Thornhill United Church for two music workshops in the amount of \$400.00.

Moved by: Irene Ty

Seconded by: Pat MacDonald

CARRIED

Update on Youth Ministry position with Living Waters Presbytery and Grace United Church

Jeffrey Dale spoke about value-based opportunity program, Our Better Selves, to connect with 20-40 year olds whose presence is lacking in our churches. (Appendix B). This would be a series of information gathering events to 30 – 40 year old people to discover what they want/need to become more interested in participating in church activities. Ministers would also be encouraged to attend to find out what is wanted as well.

Kirsty Hunter reported that the first meeting of the Youth Ministry Steering Committee was rather fractious with the job expectations between the Presbytery and Grace United Church being unclear and needing to be redefined somewhat. It was suggested that a resource team of people vested in the growth potential of the church was needed to support the Youth Ministry work. The three-month initial pilot program would need financial support of \$16,000 to cover the work of the consultant, Nick Gibson, food, advertising, etc. The cost per participant would be \$25. After the presentation, the feeling of the members of the commission was very positive towards the project. Further discussion determined that the pilot project should be in April and May so that a request from the New Ministry Fund could be made in June for use in September 2018.

MOTION: That the Spiritual Development Commission of Living Waters Presbytery financially support the Our Better Selves program using \$6,000 from the current budget of the Spiritual Development Commission and asking for a Presbyteries of Toronto Conference Corp (PTCC) drawdown of \$10,000 for the remaining amount.

Moved by: Gay Van Caeyzeele

Seconded by: Pat MacDonald

CARRIED

There is Living into Right Relations for Youth and Teenagers event being held on April 28 at Minesing United Church. This event is for youth aged 12 – 18 plus clergy. The

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Community Connections and Right Relations Commission is supporting the event in the amount of \$1,500. Cost for participants is \$20 per person through to \$50 per youth group.

The recently-held Resource Day events held in the north, central, and south sections of our Presbytery were well attended with a total of 31 people. This clearly showed that event locations in different parts of the Presbytery is essential for good attendance.

Open Hands United

Pat MacDonald reported that there is a shortfall of \$5,000 to support the Nicaragua Youth Mission 2018 as two youth have had to drop out of the program and a source of funding has been lost. (Appendix C) Pat MacDonald will be writing a Minute for Mission type of article to be sent out through the Presbytery Office to all churches asking that each church consider holding a loose change offering to cover the \$5,000 shortfall on either April 22 or 29. Monies may be sent to the Presbytery Office through Rachael Howes to go to Open Hands United.

Camp Awesome

Jeffrey Dale continues to complete the planning for Camp Awesome 2018. Kirsty Hunter is putting the finishing touches on the curriculum entitled "Living Waters."

Camp Big Canoe

Bill Stevens reported briefly that registrations continue to be higher than last year. He officially retires at the end of April.

Living Waters Presbytery Closing Activities and Celebration

A planning meeting of the Spiritual Development Commission will take place in April to work out details for the celebration to take place at Camp Big Canoe on Saturday, September 22, 2018. Details to follow.

Ted Grady closed the meeting with prayer at 3:50 p.m. and we adjourned to the plenary session of Presbytery.

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Appendix A

Rev. Irene Ty
Thornhill United Church
25 Elgin St.
Thornhill, Ontario

March 6, 2018

Members of the Spiritual Development Commission
Living Waters Presbytery
c/o Rev. Kirsty Hunter and Rev. Ted Grady

Dear Members of the Commission,
I'm writing on behalf of the Worship and Music Committee of Thornhill United Church. There are two workshops for which we are seeking the co-sponsorship and/or support from your commission: in terms of publicity to the presbytery, and funding support.

Here are the details of each of the workshops: Both will take place at Thornhill United Church, 2- 4 p.m. on a Sunday.

- 1) Dr. Swee Hong Lim: "Trends in Christian Music in the GTA"
May 4, 2018

Description: The GTA is a highly diverse society filled with people from around the globe. For some, the locale is a microcosm of music making that forms and shapes the identity of diverse communities. How then might Church be relevant in this situation where music plays an increasingly important role of identity formation? How might the Church move beyond the tension of Tradition versus Contemporary music making to the position where the non-sonic function of music is better understood and harnessed to enliven Christian worship. This workshop will offer an overview of sacred music making particularly in congregational song and its idiomatic characteristics. Thereafter explore ways in which songs can be used to nurture spirituality.

Swee Hong Lim is the Associate Professor of Sacred Music at Emmanuel College of Victoria University in the University of Toronto and directs its Master of Sacred Music program. In addition, he serves as the Director of Research for the Hymn Society in the United States and Canada. He is also a committee member of the Hymnal Revision Committee of the United Methodist Church, US and for the Sing 2025 Ecumenical Hymnal project of the United Church in Canada. He is widely utilized as a leader for global seminars and conferences dealing with worship and sacred music. He is well-published in global music. His latest book is [Lovin' on Jesus: A Concise History of Contemporary Worship](#).

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2) Linnea Good and David Jonsson: “Diversifying our Music in Worship”
October 14, 2018

Description: A positive, encouraging musical study and singing time, for those who lead in music and/or worship, and for all who enjoy singing and want to learn more. Workshop topics include: Learning how to lead singing in a group, focusing on singing with all ages together, strategizing ways to bring new music to the faithful 'reluctant'.

Linnea Good is an award-winning BC hymn and songwriter. A liturgist and music educator, she is known for her ease in storytelling, her humour and the lyricism of her songs. Many of her compositions have found their way into the United Church hymnbooks: Voices United and More Voices. Linnea has toured with drummer David Jonsson, featuring in festivals, conferences and missions. They will be in Toronto for the Biblical Storytelling workshop in October 2018.

FUNDING SUPPORT WE SEEK:

These workshops are open to the wider United Church congregations in the Toronto Conference and to the ecumenical churches. Both of these workshops will inform congregations seeking to expand their musical repertoire, will help broaden the awareness of music and current trends and will give them the tools to introduce different types of music to their congregation.

The honorarium for the workshop leaders are \$250 and \$678 (\$600 + tax) respectively = \$928.00 Total. We would appreciate if the Commission could help fund part of the cost of each workshop. Therefore, **we are seeking \$100 + \$300 = \$400.00 from Spiritual Development Commission, Living Waters Presbytery.**

We hope to raise the balance (\$528.00) through ticket sales. We will charge \$10 for Swee Hong's and \$20 for Linnea's.

If our revenue (from presbytery contribution and from the ticket sales) exceeds our expenses, we will forward the proceeds to the UCC Mission and Service Funds.

Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns.
Sincerely,

Rev. Irene Ty
Christian Development Minister
Thornhill United Church

Our Better Selves/United Church Partnership: Summary Proposal

Feb 2018

Nick Gibson

Our Better Selves

Overview

Our plan is to create an innovative partnership between Our Better Selves (ourbetterselves.org) and the United Church which focuses on unique, community-based approaches to promoting values.

Goals

1. Provide practical value and promote shared values: to participants and members of this community
 - a. Build a robust and sustainable community
 - b. Engage more people to live a life of intentionality and values
 - c. Empower participants/community members to become their better selves, and help others around them do the same
2. Increase awareness and engagement with the United Church in various ways in the region

First Event Outline

- Four Parts:
 - Introductions and Dinner
 - Meaningful Conversation on the topic “What is the Good Life”
 - Life Design Workshop: how do we start to practically get closer to the good life for ourselves and our loved ones
 - Closing and Speakers on the topic “The Power of a Values-Based Life”

Other Notes

Various forms of data and feedback will be collected which will guide the design and execution of future events for the community (surveys, focus groups, etc)

Partnership Model

I. Content/Event Planning + Partnership and Community Building + Data Collection

- Our Better Selves would lead the formation of the content/event creation, and community/partnership building
- Goal would be a regular series of events/programs (every 4-6 weeks) depending on the needs of the community (determined through direct engagement with members and partners, and data collection)
- Initial pilot phase of 3-months, goal of making this an ongoing partnership
- Data will be used to inform the growth and trajectory of this program within the framework established
- Partnership Costing Model:
 - Initial Setup (community building/partner engagement, event planning, content creation): 8000
 - Ongoing Engagement after first event (continued work on community building/partner engagement, event planning, content creation based on data collection and participant need): 4000/month (starting in month two)
 - Revenue-sharing model encouraged for events: after expenses are paid, I will encourage that we set up a revenue-sharing framework on a program by program basis where appropriate
 - 3 month initial commitment:
 - 8000 upfront + 8000 (2 subsequent months)
 - 16000 total for 3 month pilot

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Appendix C

Report on Open Hands United

The members of the Burton Ave Nicaragua Mission Team were happy to welcome David Sujo Taylor and Elizabeth Coleman to Canada February 1-12. David is the young man who helps organize our trips and serves as our driver and guide while we are in Nicaragua. Elizabeth is David's aunt, and she is also a leader in the Moravian Church in Waspam and a driving force for justice for the people the church serves.

David came to Canada for 4 weeks in May/June 2016, but this was Elizabeth's first trip. The 12 days they spent here were snowy and very cold, but they managed to survive. In fact David got so used to the cold that he wore a T-Shirt during the curling event we held on February 10!

We planned a number of activities for them, including:

- Visiting the food bank and the David Busby Centre
- Pancake breakfast and Winterfest at the waterfront
- A Barrie Colts game
- Tubing (David)
- Speaking at Stayner United Church
- Attending a meeting of the August 2018 mission group in Bracebridge
- Doing the Blanket Exercise with the youth from Youth Inc.
- Meeting with the new staff responsible for youth and outreach ministries in Living Waters Presbytery
- Attending a Spanish class
- Going to the men's lunch (David) and a Women's lunch (Elizabeth)
- Touring a school
- Speaking at the Christian Women's Institute in Guthrie and in Sandy Cove
- Visiting with friends who have been to Nicaragua
- Spending a day in Toronto, which included several hours at the National United Church offices where David and Elizabeth met and spoke with leaders of the church.
- Taking part in a curling fundraising event for the projects we support in Nicaragua
- Meeting with the 2018 youth mission participants and their parents
- Participating in the Sunday worship service at Burton on February 11

As you can see, it was a very busy time, but it was wonderful to have them here!

Looking ahead, Open Hands is currently preparing for four missions: a Youth Mission June 30-July 12, 2018; an adult mission August 19-30, 2018; a BAUC-sponsored adult mission February 19-March 2, 2019, and a youth mission July 2-14, 2019.

Rev Pat MacDonald
Executive Director, Open Hands United