

**Northern Spirit Executive Minutes
November 10, 2020 via Zoom**

Present	Gord Waldie (Chair), Mary Annan, Marilyn Carroll, Peter Chynoweth, Margaret-Anne Hall, Alistair MacKay. A quorum was present.
Corresponding Members	There were no corresponding members in attendance.
Regrets	Shauna Scott (Treasurer)
Staff Present	Shannon McCarthy (Executive Minister), Earl Reaburn (Pastoral Relations Minister), Julie Graham (Justice and Communications Minister), Heather Dootoff (Finance Administrator), Jamie Mckay (Executive Assistant & Recording Secretary).
Call to Order	Gord Waldie opened the meeting at 8:30 AM.
Opening Worship and Check-in	Mary Annan read a meditation about the month of November and we checked in by sharing one of our greatest hopes for the remainder of this year.
Agenda Review	We reviewed the agenda and agreed that it would be our agenda for this meeting.
013-2020/2021	It was agreed by consensus: That Northern Spirit Regional Council Executive accept the agenda as distributed.
Correspondence	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Chaplaincy letter• Letter to Fort Nelson re: NSRC 2022 Gathering
Approval of Minutes	We reviewed the minutes from October 14, 2020. The following changes were made: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Change date of financial reports from June 30, 2020 to September 30, 2020• More information about covenanting• Correct name spelling for Peter Chynoweth• Mary Annan and Peter Chynoweth had a meeting with the committee, not only themselves
014-2020/2021	It was agreed by consensus: That Northern Spirit Regional Council Executive accept the minutes from October 14, 2020, as amended.
Covenant Partner	We had a discussion about the following question: How are we as a regional council best living out our promises as a covenant to partner with communities of faith?

We set up a governance structure that is clear in terms of process and accountability, but the pastoral side of this structure seems to be somewhat missing. The pastoral side is key to us having a good relationship with communities of faith.

There has been more work to improve communication, but we only have control of one side of the communication. We have to work within our limits and keep in mind what can we realistically offer to support work that is happening. We haven't seen as many clusters and networks form as we thought.

A Northern Spirit Regional Chaplain is a possible way to live into the covenant partner role. We can reimagine the work of pastoral oversight visits.

We can consider opportunities for online gathering that would focus more on lay people. How can the regional council use its resources to hold different types of space for different types of leadership? We can use the model that is being used by pastoral relations with ministry personnel. We can also send out a letter or communication to encourage people meet and not worry about whether they are allowed to do so.

A Christmas service could be done as a regional council for anybody who wants to sign in and view online.

Pastoral Relations

The Pastoral Relations Commission has drafted a Moving Assistance Policy and is seeking feedback and direction before finalizing the draft.

Content to be adjusted:

- The percentage of the prescribed formula
- Clarify the reimbursement of moving expenses when a call or appointment is less than three years in length
- Clarify the *Definition of Geographically Isolated Ministries* section to describe the practice of naming a major centre and which moving costs are covered by the pastoral charge and the regional council

The Pastoral Relations Commission would also like feedback on if there is will and resources to have a policy like this or if we should treat these on an as-needed basis.

We wondered if certain communities, considered to be more isolated than others, could have first consideration for this assistance. This would require a solid definition of an isolated ministry.

There is concern with the financial viability of pastoral charges and the ability to sustain ministry personnel for another three years.

The question about treating moving expenses as an-needed basis was not determined. Gord Waldie asked the executive to review the policy and send

comments back to Earl Reaburn. The Pastoral Relations Commission will review the comments and adjust the draft policy to bring back to the executive.

Financial Statements

Heather Dootoff presented the 2021 Northern Spirit Regional Council Draft Budget. We have miscellaneous income of \$1326. We are predicting a large surplus because there was no regional in-person meeting and activity in the regional council has been reduced.

We decided to approve the 2021 budget at the December meeting. If questions come up before then, please email Heather Dootoff.

The *NSRC Budget, Actual and Projected to October 31, 2020 (Appendix A)* document was presented for information.

015-2020/2021

**It was agreed by consensus:
 That Northern Spirit Regional Council Executive receive ‘NSRC Budget, Actual and Projected to October 31, 2020’ as distributed.**

Bursary Fund Society

The Bursary Fund Society held a meeting where they made a motion to transfer their bank accounts to the regional council. We can now begin the process to determine if our existing signing authorities will need to be updated.

The next steps will be to set up a task group or add it to our agenda to work out how this work will be done moving forward. The Bursary Society will send their recommendations on how they were doing this work and from there we can set up our terms of reference.

There is nothing to do at this point except to write a letter indicating the society is closing, that the regional council will take on the work of the society, and that money that was raised for the purpose of student bursaries will continue to be used for student bursaries for all the former Alberta and Northwest Conference.

Gord Waldie will work with Carolyn Bouey-Shank to draft the letter to send out.

M & M Grants

Peter Chynoweth and Mary Annan reported on the Grant Committee recommendations for *2021 Mission and Ministry Grants (Appendix B)*.

It was a challenge to make recommendations based on the amount of grants available and the amount of grants requested. Most applications received less than what they requested. \$5,000 was set aside for emerging needs.

2021 Mission and Ministry Grants		
Mission Unit	Unit Request	Grant Recommended
Bissell Centre, Edmonton	50,000	40,000

Camp Maskepetoon	15,000	7,500
Camp Whitney	27,750	7,000
Edmonton Interfaith Centre	6,500	5,000
Faith Lift / St. Paul's Campus Ministry U of A	20,500	20,500
Hillcrest United Church, Fort Nelson	25,000	25,000
Inner City Pastoral Ministry, Edmonton	35,000	30,000
Kirk Centre	20,000	10,000
Totals	<i>199,750</i>	145,000
Grant Available	<i>150,000</i>	150,000
Available for Emerging Needs	<i>(49,750)</i>	5,000

016-2020/2021

It was agreed by consensus:

That Northern Spirit Regional Council Executive approve the recommendations of the Northern Spirit Grants Committee, as attached in Appendix B, and summarized below as follows:

2021 Mission and Ministry Grants		
Mission Unit	Unit Request	Grant Recommended
Bissell Centre, Edmonton	50,000	40,000
Camp Maskepetoon	15,000	7,500
Camp Whitney	27,750	7,000
Edmonton Interfaith Centre	6,500	5,000
Faith Lift / St. Paul's Campus Ministry U of A	20,500	20,500
Hillcrest United Church, Fort Nelson	25,000	25,000
Inner City Pastoral Ministry, Edmonton	35,000	30,000
Kirk Centre	20,000	10,000
Totals	<i>199,750</i>	145,000
Grant Available	<i>150,000</i>	150,000
Available for Emerging Needs	<i>(49,750)</i>	5,000

Margaret-Anne Hall abstained.

Gord Waldie will write letters to 2021 Mission and Ministry Grant applicants letting them know of the approved grant.

Executive Minister's Report

The regional meetings from the regional councils served by tri-regional staff are now complete. The meetings were held one evening each week for six weeks and including many more weeks of planning. Shannon thanked the staff and noted that staff from all three regional councils worked on all six meetings to help manage the behind-the-scene technical aspects.

Incorporated Ministries

017-2020/2021

**It was agreed by consensus:
That Northern Spirit Regional Council Executive take the following action:**

a) G U C Playschool Society

...approve the G U C Playschool Society 2020-2021 Board of Directors

- Darrel Howell
- Catherine Kinsman
- Karen Ollen
- Lindsay Sedgwick
- Doug Weir

This is based on the draft annual minutes of July 7, 2020, the 2020 board member approval form, contact list provided and receipt of other required documentation per The United Church of Canada Incorporated Ministries Policy.

Yellowknife United Church Moving Grant request

Since we don't have an approved policy in place, we decided to grant the moving assistance request from Yellowknife United Church with the understanding that this is a one-time grant. The funds for this assistance will come from 2020 governance funds.

018-2020/2021

**It was agreed by consensus:
That Northern Spirit Regional Council Executive approve the Application for Moving Financial Assistance from Yellowknife United Church with the understanding that this is a one-time grant, and that these funds will come from 2020 governance reserves.**

Disbanding of Innisfree United Church

In December 2019, the Executive approved the disbanding of Innisfree United Church on the last day of the month following the disbursal of all assets, including the church building and property (Consensus Decision 048-2019/2020).

Clarification is needed on the date that Innisfree United Church was actually disbanded.

- 019-2020/2021** **It was agreed by consensus:**
That Northern Spirit Regional Council Executive confirms Innisfree United Church was disbanded effective December 31, 2019 as per the agreement of the Northern Spirit Regional Council Executive Consensus Decision 048-2019/2020.
- Alberta Social Studies Curriculum** During the last regional council meeting, we heard recommendations about the new Alberta Social Studies Curriculum and concerns were raised. We would like more information and will table this discussion until the next meeting in December.
- Gord Waldie will contact Paul Walfall to see if he would be willing to join the next meeting.
- Campus Chaplaincy** The letter from United Church University & College Chaplaincies Group was distributed for information.
- Property Commission** We received a letter from the Property Commission (*Appendix C*) and will receive this report for information.
- 020-2020/2021** **It was agreed by consensus:**
That Northern Spirit Regional Council Executive will receive the report from the Property Commission as distributed.
- Nominations** Paul Walfall has suggested the 2021 Regional Meeting could be held in Fort Saskatchewan. Debra Hoekstra has volunteered to chair the 2021 Regional Meeting Planning Committee. Sharon Adams has agreed to continue on as a member of 2021 Regional Meeting Planning Committee. Brenda Simon has volunteered to serve on the Nominations Committee.
- 021-2020/2021** **It was agreed by consensus:**
That Northern Spirit Regional Council Executive appoint Brenda Simon to the Nominations Committee, effective immediately.
- Next Meeting** The Executive agreed to meet on the second Wednesday of each month at 9:30-11:30 AM via Zoom with the next meeting date:
- December 9, 2020
- Closing Prayer** Gord Waldie said a closing prayer.
- Adjournment** Gord Waldie adjourned the meeting at 11:20 AM.

Gord Waldie, Chairperson

Shannon McCarthy, Executive Minister