

**Northern Spirit Executive Minutes
December 9, 2020 via Zoom**

Present	Gord Waldie (Chair), Shauna Scott (Treasurer), 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	There were no regrets.
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 9:30 AM.
Opening Worship and Check-in	Peter Chynoweth read a prose reflection and we checked in by sharing what we are most excited about during this very different Christmas season.
Agenda Review	We reviewed the agenda and made the following adjustments: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Discussion on gathering restrictions
022-2020/2021	It was agreed by consensus: That Northern Spirit Regional Council Executive accept the agenda as amended.
Correspondence	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ashmont United Church
Approval of Minutes	We reviewed the minutes from November 10, 2020.
023-2020/2021	It was agreed by consensus: That Northern Spirit Regional Council Executive accept the minutes from November 10, 2020, as amended.
FINANCE	The balance sheet and the NSRC Budget, Actual and Projected to Nov 30, 2020 were provided for information. We are projecting a surplus of \$79, 436 in governance and a small surplus of \$811 in Mission and Ministry.
<i>2021 Draft Budget</i>	Heather Dootoff presented the 2021 Draft Budget for Northern Spirit Regional Council (Appendix A). We are projecting a surplus in governance of \$5774 and a deficit in Mission and

Ministry of \$47,766, largely due to the cutting of the Mission and Ministry budget.

024 – 2020/2021

It was agreed by consensus:

That Northern Spirit Regional Council Executive accepts the 2021 Draft Budget for Northern Spirit Regional Council (Appendix A) as distributed.

Bursary Fund Society

There is no decision to be made at this time. Heather Dootoff is working on the transfer of funds and is looking at an end-of-March deadline.

PASTORAL RELATIONS

Pastoral Relations Commission

The Pastoral Relations Commission held a consultation on November 18, 2020 with churches in the western area of the regional council. A large number of pastoral charges have part-time ministry or in some cases, no ministry. There are currently 23 part-time ministry positions and five full-time ministry positions.

Pastoral Commission observed that part of the underwhelming response was probably due to the inactive vacancies and also low interest. The pastoral charges who were interested will be arranging a follow up conversation to talk about different ideas for ministry including sharing ministry resources. Pastoral charges who did not attend the consultation will receive a letter asking how they see themselves connecting and what the regional council can do to offer support.

Rural Connect

Rural Connect will soon be implemented. Northern Spirit will be receiving three units of equipment, one going to Fort McMurray First United Church and we are considering sending one to Pilgrim United Church. Hub churches will share worship by livestream and satellite churches will connect by camera and audio.

The basic equipment costs \$30,000. General Council will provide the equipment through a non-interest repayment plan of \$500 per month. The suggestion would be that a satellite church would pay \$125 to join the service. If a hub church had one satellite congregation joining the service each week, it would cover their \$500 repayment.

Rather than watching, we intend that participants will take part in the services. Music can come from one place along with children's time and readings from others. Whomever is putting the service together would ensure participation across all congregations that are part of Rural Connect.

We are not advertising Rural Connect on the websites or other communication methods. We want to test it our first and see how it goes. Once we make the commitment to it, then we would consider offering it widely.

Ministry Personnel Support Committee

The Ministry Personnel Support Committee continues to meet with active ministry personnel. Phyllis Greenslade has volunteered to join the committee.

**Community of Faith
Support Committee**

The Community of Faith Support Committee continues work with McDougall United Church. They are also working to support Edmonton Korean United Church.

**Lay Leadership
Support Committee**

The Lay Leadership Support Committee is planning an online gathering for licenced lay worship leaders (LLWL) and will bring forward a proposal or guidelines on how to become a LLWL, where and how often they are authorized to lead worship, etc.

*Ashmont United
Church*

Ashmont United Church has sent a letter to the regional council requesting to disband.

We need to make sure that General Council is informed of this consensus decision. We agreed that the information will be sent to Kathy Jackson so she can forward to General Council.

025 – 2020/2021

**It was agreed by consensus:
That Northern Spirit Regional Council Executive agrees to disband Ashmont United Church be disbanded on the last day of the month following the disbursal of all assets, including the church building and property.**

REPORTS

**Executive Minister's
Report**

*Incorporated
Ministries*

Shannon McCarthy has been working with Linda Gray in Incorporated Ministries to wrap up as much as possible before Linda leaves her position at the end of December 2020.

Anti-racist church

Shannon met with Adelle Halliday to discuss how we might move to become a less-racist church, how we might continue to work, and how to receive information about being anti-racist. Adelle suggested anti-oppression training for church leaders followed by discussion on what they learned. A job description and best practices is being developed for Equity Monitors.

Christmas break

The office will be closed for Christmas on December 21, 2020 and will re-open on January 4, 2021. Staff will be using up their remaining vacation days so availability may be different.

*Transition to
SharePoint*

Northern Spirit Regional Council is going to be making a gradual transition from Dropbox to SharePoint, which is part of the Microsoft 365 intelligent and productivity cloud service and is what the United Church of Canada uses. It includes a wide range of familiar products like Word, Excel, Powerpoint, and other cloud storage tools like OneDrive, SharePoint, and Teams.

Northern Spirit has been splitting the cost Dropbox with Prairie to Pine and Living

Skies but once we transition away from Dropbox, we will no longer have that expense.

2020 Regional meeting questionnaire

A questionnaire was sent out about the 2020 regional meeting to get feedback from attendees. We are hoping to go back to our usual spring meeting schedule.

COVID-19 restrictions over holidays

We cannot confirm if all churches are closed to the public during office hours. We want to send a message to everyone to stay home, close church offices, and work from home. We are also worried we are sending contradictory information from what we have previously said.

Gord Waldie and Shannon McCarthy will draft another letter and send by email to communities of faith by Friday, December 11, 2020. The regional council can't require that communities of faith follow the restrictions, but we can strongly recommend.

Incorporated Ministries

026 – 2020/2021

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

a) Camp Whitney, St. Paul Presbytery

...approve the Camp Whitney, St. Paul Presbytery 2019-2020 Board of Directors:

- James Belliveau
- Sandy Bishop
- Shirley Kvill
- Patricia Miller
- Alan Mytz
- Rheta Prill

This is based on the draft Annual General Meeting minutes of November 30, 2019, the 2019 board member approval form, contact list provided and receipt of other required documentation per The United Church of Canada Incorporated Ministries Policy.

b) Inner City Pastoral Ministry

...approve the Inner City Pastoral Ministry 2019-2020 Board of Directors:

- Cathy Armstrong
- Mary-Lou Cleveland
- Bruce Ehlert
- Nancy Kerr
- Ann Matheson
- Sue Pasker

- Colleen Smith
- Lucas Stone
- Coby Veecken
- Sharon Webb
- Andrea Whelm
- Linda Whittle
- Victoria Wynn

This is based on the draft Annual General Meeting minutes of March 20, 2019, the 2019 board member approval form, contact list provided and receipt of other required documentation per The United Church of Canada Incorporated Ministries Policy.

...approve the Inner City Pastoral Ministry 2020-2021 Board of Directors:

- Cathy Armstrong
- Mary-Lou Cleveland
- Nancy Kerr
- Ann Matheson
- Fred Matthews
- Julie Lloyd
- Sue Pasker
- Colleen Smith
- Lucas Stone
- Sharon Webb
- Andrea Wilhelm
- Linda Whittle
- Victoria Wynn

This is based on the draft Annual General Meeting minutes of June 18, 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.

****N.B.** proof of insurance has been received for 2020, but UCC has not been named as an additional insured on the policy nor has directors and officers insurance been received, although both have been requested.

Executive Minister continues work on clarifying relationship with this corporation so it is not clear what is required yet.

c) Jellinek Society

...approve the Jellinek Society 2020-2021 Board of Directors:

- Jennifer Bowser
- Mike Brennan
- Claude Buzon
- Chantel Chinni
- Adrien Graci
- Tom Hunter
- Ross Izzard
- Hugh MacGregor
- Doug Oscar
- Rick Schmidt

This is based on the draft Annual General Meeting Minutes of October 20, 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.

d) Lamont Health Care Centre

...approve the Lamont Health Care Centre 2020-2021 Board of Directors:

- Mae Adamyk
- Debbie Brill
- David Diduck
- Kent Harrold
- Trudy Harrold
- Linda Mills
- Connie Newgard

This is based on the draft 10th Annual General Meeting minutes of June 22, 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.

****N.B.** In September 2020 Executive Minister clarified relationship with this Category 3 corporation. A process for board member approval is now in place with the Nominations Committee.

e) Rundle's Mission Society

...approve the Rundle's Mission Society 2019-2020 Board of Directors:

- Audrey Brosseau
- Kathy Gregg
- Ken Hutchinson

- Dave Meuser
- Deb Meuser
- Sharon Seidel

This is based on the draft Annual General meeting minutes of April 25, 2019, Emergency Board meeting minutes of May 30, 2019, the 2019 board member approval form, contact list provided and receipt of other required documentation per The United Church of Canada Incorporated Ministries Policy.

****N.B. proof of insurance has been received for 2019, but UCC has not been named as an additional insured on the policy nor has directors and officers insurance been received, although both have been requested.**

Executive Minister continues work on clarifying relationship with this corporation so it is not clear what is required yet.

GCE Ruling on Annual Meetings

The General Council sub-executive has temporarily suspended the requirement in section B.5.1 of The Manual for congregations to hold an annual meeting, effective November 26, 2020 to June 30, 2021, and is subject to earlier cancellation or extension.

The full motion including recommendations regarding pastoral relations temporary amendments and responsibilities of congregations or pastoral charges to make decisions on their annual budget can be found under GS 81 (Appendix B).

027-2020/2021

It was agreed by consensus:

That Northern Spirit Regional Council Executive endorses the decision made by The United Church of Canada Sub-Executive on November 26, 2020 under Motion GS 81 (Appendix B) that congregational boards can approve their budgets in lieu of having a regional meeting.

AB Social Studies Curriculum

We are waiting to hear back from Paul Walfall about the Alberta social studies curriculum. We will move this forward to the meeting in January or February.

Communications & Justice

We received the report from Julie Graham for information. We are tabling the issues that Julie would like answers on until the next meeting in January.

Property Commission

There was nothing to report from the Property Commission.

Nominations

Marilyn Carroll proposed a review of the expectations of the regional meeting convenor to help with the nominations process. There was no decision on who would do this review.

Marilyn Carroll put forward a name for the Ministry Personnel Support Committee.

028-2020/2021

**It was agreed by consensus:
That Northern Spirit Regional Council Executive appoint PHYLLIS GREENSLADE to the
Ministry Personnel Support Committee, effective immediately.**

Gord Waldie is willing to be named as the regional meeting convener for 2021.

Shannon McCarthy assumed the chair.

029 – 2020/2021

**It was agreed by consensus:
That Northern Spirit Regional Council Executive appoints GORD WALDIE as the
Convener of the 2021 Northern Spirit Regional Meeting.**

Gord Waldie assumed the chair.

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:

- January 13, 2021

Closing Prayer

Gord Waldie said a closing prayer.

Adjournment

Gord Waldie adjourned the meeting at 11:30 AM.

Gord Waldie, Chairperson

Shannon McCarthy, Executive Minister

