

**Northern Spirit Executive Minutes  
February 10, 2021 via Zoom**

<b>Present</b>	Gord Waldie (Chair), Mary Annan, Marilyn Carroll, Peter Chynoweth, Margaret-Anne Hall, Alistair MacKay.  A quorum was present.
<b>Corresponding Members</b>	There were no corresponding members in attendance.
<b>Regrets</b>	Shauna Scott (Treasurer).
<b>Staff Present</b>	Shannon McCarthy (Executive Minister), Earl Reaburn (Pastoral Relations Minister), Julie Graham (Justice and Communications Minister), Heather Dootoff (Finance Administrator), Kathy Jackson (Office Administrator & Administrative Support), Jamie Mckay (Executive Assistant & Recording Secretary).
<b>Call to Order</b>	Gord Waldie opened the meeting at 9:30 AM.
<b>Opening Worship and Check-in</b>	Gord Waldie read scripture and said a prayer.
<b>Agenda Review</b>	We reviewed the agenda and made the following additions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Correspondence on decriminalization</li></ul>
<b>034-2020/2021</b>	<b>It was agreed by consensus: That Northern Spirit Regional Council Executive accept the agenda as amended.</b>
<b>Correspondence</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Letter on decriminalization</li></ul>
<b>Approval of Minutes</b>	We reviewed the minutes from December 9, 2021 and January 13, 2021.
<b>035 – 2020/2021</b>	<b>It was agreed by consensus: That Northern Spirit Regional Council Executive accept the minutes from December 9, 2021 and January 13, 2021, as distributed.</b>
<b>FINANCE</b>	There were no new financial statements to review.  The financial audit is happening at the end of this month.  There was another application for Together We Worship.
<b>Bursary Fund Society</b>	Work that still needs to be done for the Bursary Fund Society: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Decide who is making decisions about bursaries</li></ul>

- Terms of reference
- Set up a committee to create the terms of reference
- Set up criteria for decisions

We are working to make decisions on bursaries for students entering school in Fall 2021. Shannon McCarthy will begin a terms of reference draft for a Bursary Fund Society committee.

**036 – 2020/2021**

**It was agreed by consensus:**

**That Northern Spirit Regional Council Executive:**

- **Name MARY ANNAN, EARL REABURN, and KATHY JACKSON as signers on the Alberta Treasury Branch account transferred to the Regional Council from the Alberta and Northwest Conference Student Bursary Fund Society, with the qualification that only two of three signatures be required; and,**
- **We authorize HEATHER DOOTOFF and SHANNON MCCARTHY to discuss the details of the account and if allowable by Alberta Treasury Branch to give directions on investments.**

**037 – 2020/2021**

**It was agreed by consensus:**

**That Northern Spirit Regional Council Executive name HEATHER DOOTOFF and SHANNON MCCARTHY as signers on the Frontier Capital Funds account being transferred to the Regional Council from the Alberta and Northwest Conference Student Bursary Fund Society, with the qualification that two signatures be required to withdraw funds.**

**PASTORAL RELATIONS**

Eart Reaburn reported.

**Pastoral Relations Commission**

The Pastoral Relations Commission has not yet met in 2021 and there is nothing new to report.

**Ministry Personnel Support Committee**

The Ministry Personnel Support Committee continues to provide a gathering for active ministry personnel every Tuesday afternoon for one hour.

A priority for the Ministry Personnel Support Committee is to connect more intentionally with retired ministry personnel. The committee is looking to arrange an online gathering for retired ministry personnel, similar to the active ministry gathering, to begin creating a connection between them.

**Community of Faith Support Committee**

The letter about annual reports, annual meetings, assessments, etc., was sent to communities of faith which also included a request for communities of faith to craft and post their Living Faith Story on ChurchHub.

*Behavioural Covenants*

Conflicts are emerging in a number of situations involving communities of faith. These conflicts do not involve ministry personnel but among individuals within the community of faith. There has been a lot of requests for support in terms of behavioural covenants and holy manners. The regional council can offer resources to

communities of faith to develop a behavioural covenant that may be a helpful guide to resolve conflicts that arise.

**Lay Leadership  
Support Committee**

The Lay Leadership Support Committee used its January meeting to hold a gathering of licensed lay worship leaders. Thirteen licensed lay worship leaders gathered and some of the things they discussed were continuing education, the pandemic, and the licensing or renewal process.

Licensed lay worship leaders were also asked to give feedback on a policy that is being developed about Licensed Lay Worship Leadership. The policy proposal will be brought forth to the executive for review and approval in the next month or two.

*Continuing Education  
Fund*

One of our ministry personnel is doing conflict resolution training. The cost is \$600 per unit.

Are there any continuing education funds in the regional council? The Lay Leadership Support Committee wonders if there are other funds available that could be used to continuing education. The committee also wonders if a fund needs to be created.

*Strategic Plan*

Earl Reaburn raised a number of questions to consider as part of an overall strategic plan for the regional council:

- What is the future of Northern Spirit Regional Council?
- Where do we see ourselves in 10 or 15 years?
- If smaller pastoral charges reach a point where they are no longer continuing on, what does that mean in terms of more viable communities?
- How do we strengthen ministry in those places?
- How do we attach or connect small congregations with larger congregations?
- What does that mean and what would it look like?

These questions have been brought forward as a big picture conversation. The Executive can begin to think about where the authority lies for determining what the long term vision is for the regional council. Does thinking about the future of Northern Spirit Regional Council really need to be overseen by the Executive?

**REPORTS**

**Executive Minister's  
Report**

Shannon McCarthy reported.

*Lamont Health Center*

A previous complaint about care received at Lamont Health Center has been resolved. The complaint was not submitted so there is nothing to do at this point.

*Continuing Education*

Executive ministers are meeting monthly with Cameron Trimbal and are reading and discussing three books:

- Emergent Strategy: Shaping Change, Changing Worlds by Adrienne Maree Brown

- Who Do We Choose To Be? Facing Reality, Claiming Leadership, Restoring Sanity by Meg Wheatley
- Braiding Sweetgrass by Robin Wall Kimmerer

Shannon is also attending Bartimaeus Kinsler Institute 2021: Deepening Practices of Restorative Solidarity, which is taking place online from February 12 to 15, 2021.

*GC Commissioner Nominations*

Shannon McCarthy and Julie Graham are meeting with the chairpersons of the nomination committees in each of the three regional councils to make a plan that will allow for regional diversity among the commissioner nominations for GC44.

*GS 83 Declaration Re: Remit 1*

All sixteen regional councils have voted in favour of Remit 1. Therefore, the General Council Executive has declared that *Remit 1 – Amendment to the Basis of Union’s Article 10 on Ministry Personnel* has been approved. The remit will come into effect on March 1, 2021 and the change will be included in the next edition of The Manual.

*Communication around commission minutes*

There is a delay between holding meetings and making minutes public. We discussed the possibility of commissions creating a summary of their motions to send to the Executive for approval. The list of motions would be appended to the Executive minutes and made public in the final draft. This would address the delay between meetings and finalizing minutes. Commissions would need to decide how detailed how they would like their minutes to be.

We are not ready to make a decision and would like more time to discuss this matter.

*Johnny Rhoad*

We need to have an admission service for Johnny Rhoad.

Shannon McCarthy does not need to be present for an admission service so we agreed that she will not do any non-essential traveling. Shannon, Earl Reaburn, and Gord Waldie will speak with Johnny to figure out what might work.

*Shylo Rosborough*

Shylo Rosborough is working as the chaplain for LGBTQ people in the former Edmonton presbytery and has asked for clarity on their relationship with the regional council. Shylo is a lay employee of Robertson-Wesley United Church and is not accountable to the regional council.

Shannon McCarthy will reply to Shylo and clarify his position and relationship with Northern Spirit Regional Council.

**Incorporated Ministries**

There was nothing new to review from incorporated ministries.

**ORDER OF THE DAY**

We agreed to extend the order of the day.

**Communications & Justice**

We moved the letter on decriminalization of illicit substance for personal use to the meeting on March 10, 2021.

**2021 NSRC Regional Meeting**

Deadlines for GC44 are as follows:

- Electing Commissioners: June 14, 2021
- Submitting proposals: October 20, 2021

We discussed the possibility of switching the order of our tentatively planned annual meetings, with the business meeting place first in spring and the educational meeting in fall. Switching the order creates new challenges.

The biggest challenge volunteer and staff resources. We still do not have a planning team. It will also be a very tight timeline to arrange a business meeting of the full regional council by May 2021.

We need to figure out a process to ensure our slate fulfills the diversity requirements and that voting is confidential. We are considering methods of conducting confidential voting online, such as email voting, MailChimp, Simply Voting, online forms, etc.

It may be an advantage to hold the business meeting in spring to leave time for unforeseen work that could arise before the fall.

The annual meeting planning committee, as it stands, will meet in the next few weeks and report back at the March meeting.

**Youth, Young Adult, and Campus Ministry**

In order to have a longer discussion, we have agreed to hold a special meeting at the end of February to address the matter of youth, young adult, and campus ministry.

*Faith Lift Campus Ministry*

We received a letter from Denise Davis Taylor, Chaplain of Faith Lift Campus Ministry at the University of Alberta regarding:

- Creation of an Advisory Committee
- Funding model for Faith Lift Campus Ministry

We agreed that the way for Faith Lift to get funding beyond 2021 is the same as other organizations, they are welcome to apply for the annual dispersal of the regional council's funds. We also would like some clarity of the terms of reference for the advisory committee.

Gord Waldie will draft a letter addressing the matters raised in the letter from Denise Davis Taylor and send to the executive for input.

**Nominations**

We discussed two pieces of nominations work.

*New Treasurer*

Northern Spirit Regional Council needs a new treasurer. Shauna Scott finished her term as treasurer at the end of 2020 but is willing to remain on until the end of the audit.

It is not necessary to be an accountant or bookkeeper, but the treasurer needs some

financial knowledge in order to assist Heather Dootoff and to review the budget with Heather and Shannon McCarthy. We may use a job description from another regional council to help in the search. A suggested replacement is Donna Klein at Trinity United Church (Edmonton).

*Edmonton District  
Council of Churches  
(EDCC)*

In the past, Northern Spirit Regional Council has agreed to pay for the membership of two people. We received notice that included memberships for four names.

After a short discussion, we agreed that we will continue to pay for two representatives and that we are not the body to name those representatives.

*Stuart Jackson*

It was noted that Stuart Jackson has not yet been named to the annual meeting planning committee.

**038 – 2020/2021**

**It was agreed by consensus:  
That Northern Spirit Regional Council name STUART JACKSON to the 2021 Regional Meeting Planning Committee.**

**Special Meeting**

We agreed to hold a special meeting of Northern Spirit Regional Council Executive on February 24, 2020 from 9:30 – 11:30 PM to discuss:

- Youth, Youth Adult, and Campus Ministry
- Justice and advocacy

**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 regular meeting dates:

- March 10, 2021
- April 14, 2021

**Closing Prayer**

Gord Waldie said a closing prayer.

**Adjournment**

Gord Waldie adjourned the meeting at 12:20 PM.

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Gord Waldie, Chairperson

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Shannon McCarthy, Executive Minister

