

**Northern Spirit Executive Minutes
June 9, 2021 via Zoom**

Present	Gord Waldie (Chairperson), Donna Kline (Treasurer), Mary Annan, Marilyn Carroll, Peter Chynoweth, Alistair MacKay, Leslie Penny. A quorum was present.
Corresponding Members	There were no corresponding members in attendance.
Regrets	Margaret-Anne Hall.
Staff Present	Shannon McCarthy (Executive Minister), Earl Reaburn (Pastoral Relations Minister), Heather Dootoff (Finance Administrator), Julie Graham (Justice and Communications Minister), Kathy Jackson (Office Administrator), Jamie Mckay (Executive Assistant & Recording Secretary).
Call to Order	Gord Waldie opened the meeting at 9:30 AM (MDT).
Opening Worship and Check-in	Gord Waldie gave a reflection and led a prayer.
Agenda Review	We reviewed the agenda.
010 – 2021/2022	It was agreed by consensus: That Northern Spirit Regional Council Executive accepts the agenda, as distributed.
Correspondence	There was no correspondence.
Approval of Minutes	We will review the minutes from May 12, 2021 at the next meeting.
FINANCE	Heather Dootoff reported. A year-to-date financial statement have been added to the Dropbox for information. In preparation for budgeting for 2022, a projected line for year-end has been added.
PASTORAL RELATIONS	Earl Reaburn reported.
Pastoral Relations Commission	The Pastoral Relations Commission has completed three exit interviews for clergy who are retiring or moving to away from pastoral charges and the committees involved are receiving feedback from those exit interviews.
<i>Busby United Church</i>	Busby United Church is closing its doors as of June 30, 2021 and have made a motions to disband their congregation and make arrangements for the disposal of assets.

We will honor their decision to cease worship, but we will wait to formally close the congregation until all assets have been dispersed.

Shannon McCarthy will write a letter to Busby United Church.

**Communities of Faith
Support Committee**

The Community of Faith Support Committee continues their work of supporting pastoral charges who are requesting or needing assistance. A team of ten readers have been reading annual reports from communities of faith.

The committee held a meeting of chairpeople from ten rural pastoral charges. These chairpersons got to hear about their common situation and identify who the leaders are at other pastoral charges. There was recognition that reaching out to other pastoral charges is a good thing and now they knew who to contact. Small steps have taken place with further recognition that a larger conversation still needs to happen.

**Ministry Personnel
Support Committee**

The Ministry Personnel Support Committee held a meeting with leadership coaches Donna Richardson and John Donner. They approached the committee and expressed interest in providing professional coaching services to ministry personnel.

The purpose of this meeting was for the committee to meet them and see if they would be comfortable recommending these individuals to work with ministry personnel.

The Ministry Personnel Support Committee were quite satisfied with what Donna and John were presenting and felt this would be an asset to offer to ministry personnel.

**Lay Leadership
Support Committee**

The Lay Leadership Support Committee has developed new standards of practice for licensed lay worship leaders in Northern Spirit Regional Council and will soon bring changes to the Executive for review and approval.

Interviews are being conducted for those who have applied for a renewal of their license as a licensed lay worship leader. Those who are deemed ready will be recommended to the Pastoral Relations Commission for renewal.

REPORTS

**Executive Minister's
Report**

Shannon McCarthy reported.

Annual meeting

The annual meeting went well. There are a few proposals that have come from the meeting that we will begin to work out and follow up on.

*Exceptions to Property
Policy*

We have two congregations who are in the process of selling property and we anticipate they will each ask for an exception to the property policy.

We had a discussion on whether we will make exceptions to the property policy on a case-by-case basis or amend the policy itself. We are interested in supporting

congregations wanting to refocus their mission and assets but agreed that we would continue this discussion at a future meeting.

Incorporated Ministries

There was nothing new to review from incorporated ministries.

Communications & Justice

We had some discussion about adding content to the letter being sent to the Alberta government regarding the 214 unmarked graves discovered at the Kamloops Indian Reservation School.

Alberta Social Studies Curriculum

There is still a good amount of surprise and shock from people, many learning for the first time about Indigenous people and the residential school system in Canada. School curriculum plays a vital role in helping people understand why there is a significant intergenerational ongoing struggle.

Julie Graham will add content referring to the unmarked graves. The final draft will be signed by the Chairperson and Executive Minister on behalf of Northern Spirit Regional Council, sent to communities of faith, and published in the Northern Spirit Regional Council newsletter.

Anti-Racism Proposal (follow up)

Shannon McCarthy will draft a letter using the language in the original proposal and send to Gord Waldie for any additions.

Sacraments Elders Policy

Marilyn Carroll proposed that the Sacraments Elders Policy be changed so that being a licensed lay worship leader does not preclude one from being a sacraments elder.

We agreed to send this proposal to the Licensed Lay Worship Leaders Committee for feedback. Kathy Jackson agreed to pass on information to Earl Reaburn.

Evaluation of New Structure

We had a discussion on how to begin to evaluate the regional council structure and realized we need more data to review.

Marilyn Carroll and Leslie Penny agreed to work on a survey to send to congregations as a starting place for getting more data. The Jotform survey used by Living Skies can be used as a style template. We can also get in touch with Diane Strickland who can work with us to get the best responses from our survey.

2022 Annual Meeting Dates

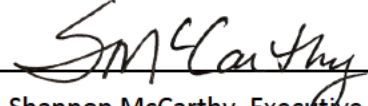
We discussed possible dates of the 2022 annual meeting in Fort Nelson, British Columbia.

We agreed to return to the former weekend schedule of Thursday to Sunday with the proposed dates being the last weekend in May 2022 or the second weekend in June 2022.

Gord Waldie will draft and send a request to organizers in Fort Nelson with our proposed dates.

- Regional Presidents and Presidents-Elect Strategic Planning Consultation** Gord Waldie will be attending a strategic planning initiative from General Council for Presidents and Presidents-elect. We came up with a few topics that Gord might bring to that meeting, which are:
- Providing support to small and isolated pastoral charges and congregations.
 - The increasing reliance on the internet.
 - How do we support volunteers and regional council staffing?
- Nominations** Marilyn Carroll reported.
- Completed terms** Northern Spirit Regional Council acknowledges with thanks that Gaie Goin has completed her term with the Pastoral Relations Commission.
- Northern Spirit Regional Council acknowledges with thanks that Kim Roy has completed her term with Pastoral Relations committee.
- 011 – 2021/2022** It was agreed by consensus:
That Northern Spirit Regional Council Executive appoint GAIE GOIN to the Lay Leadership Support Committee, effective immediately.
- 012 – 2021/2022** It was agreed by consensus:
That Northern Spirit Regional Council Executive appoint SUSAN SILVERTHORNE to the Pastoral Relations Commission, effective immediately.
- 013 – 2021/2022** It was agreed by consensus:
That Northern Spirit Regional Council Executive appoint LINDA MCLAREN to the Pastoral Relations Commission, effective immediately.
- Next Meeting** The Executive agreed to meet on the second Wednesday of each month from 9:30 AM – 12:00 PM via Zoom with the next regular meeting date:
- September 8, 2021
- Closing Prayer** Gord Waldie led us in a closing prayer.
- Adjournment** Gord Waldie adjourned the meeting at 12:05 PM (MDT).


Gord Waldie, Chairperson


Shannon McCarthy, Executive Minister

