

**Northern Spirit Executive Minutes
February 1, 2023 via Zoom**

- EXECUTIVE PRESENT** Helen Reed (Chair), Gord Waldie, Donna Kline, Alistair MacKay, Leslie Penny;

A quorum was present.
- REGRETS** Margaret-Anne Hall, Julie Graham, Peter Chynoweth, Mary Annan
- STAFF PRESENT** Shannon McCarthy (Executive Minister); Heather Dootoff (Finance Administrator), Chloe Burns (Administrative Support); Chantal Winslow (Executive Assistant & Recording Secretary), Earl Reaburn (Pastoral Relations Minister);
- CALL TO ORDER** Helen called the meeting to order. We checked in and Helen led us in reflection & prayer.
- APPROVAL OF AGENDA** We reviewed the agenda.
- APPROVAL OF MINUTES 032-2022/2023** **It was agreed by consensus:
That Northern Spirit Regional Council Executive approve the minutes of January 11 as distributed.**
- BUSINESS ARISING**
- Edson United Church** The commission will start soon. Waiting to hear from one more person.
- Korean United Church** Kindred Works met with Steve Johann and Wendy Galloway. It was a good meeting, they found it helpful. Earl will meet with Brian (chair of board) next week. Rev. Jun-Hyok Chan has accepted a call elsewhere. Leaving the congregation in 3 months.
- Marwayne** We started gathering information them and they had assumed we would be doing all the work for them. The folks from Marwayne and Kitscoty are meeting together with an accounting firm to assist in all of their CRA filings. Once everything is filed Marwayne are planning to close and not be a part of the UC any longer. They are asking us for help with accounting costs. We do not know this cost yet. Helen had told them we would be open to sharing the responsibility of the accounting cost.
- How does the Church support people with CRA? A General Council responsibility. Shannon will bring this to GC today.
Can we do something proactively? Can we be a rep for each congregation? Can we ask congregations for reports so we know it's done?
It has to be done by the individual congregation.
Lack of information is being transferred to new treasurer etc.

Is tech an issue? Everything is done electronically now but some older treasurers are not comfortable.

Ensuring that congregations have Trustees.

CORRESPONDENCE

Letter from Earl

Earl will be retiring at the end of June. Thank you to Earl for 18 years of service to this region. Great wishes.

033-2022/2023

**It was agreed by consensus (reluctantly):
That Northern Spirit Regional Council Executive approve the retirement of Earl Reaburn.**

Now what? Shannon has informed HR. A search will hopefully be started and completed by the end of March. Job description is already written. An interview committee will be gathered.

FINANCE

No updated financials at this time.

Cluster Funding Request

There was a cluster request from Robertson-Wesley United Church for June 22-24 event. They are looking for \$3000. On their application it is noted that there would be a \$10,000 registration expense? That doesn't make sense. Also there is a \$26,000 salary expense. Is this a network or cluster? Is it a community event? If it is not deemed a network or cluster, can we take money from Mission & Ministry Fund or Legacy Fund? Chloe mentioned that they were hoping to fall under Affirming Network for funding.

It seems to be the consensus that we should support this event with funding but will decide where the money comes from later.

We need better clarity on what is a network?

Together We Worship

This is a \$4000/year expense.

Should we continue to support this? We had the same conversation two years ago. If individual churches are using this resource instead of paying somebody to do pulpit supply, should we be paying for this (and not pulpit supply)? Money came from Presbytery (\$10k) to fund this. This money is now gone.

There are free resources online that people can use nowadays. Rural Connect is also an option.

In Rural/remote communities, travel costs can be higher. Should there instead be an application process for those congregations who have to pay a higher supply rate.

034-2022/2023

**It was agreed by consensus:
That Northern Spirit Regional Council Executive will support the funding of Together We Worship until the end of June.**

Helen will write a letter informing those that we will stop funding at the end of June.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Chair	Helen is going to prepare a letter to share in the Newsletter with an update.
Nominations	<p>No report from Brenda.</p> <p>There are now three people on the nominations Committee. Brenda, Dorcas and potentially a third?</p> <p>Also some new members on Community of Faith, Property and Pastoral Relations.</p>
Community of Faith Support/Pastoral Relations	Working with a number of communities. Walking them through the struggles of not having the funds, what do we do next? Who is responsible for what? Changing names etc.
Incorporated Ministries	None
Justice & Communications	<p>Julie is on Sabbatical but we received an email from her:</p> <p>“The NS Affirming task group met in person last week. Linda McLaren and Wilson Maclennan are doing further work on a recommendation to the task group about whether to ask that the Regional Council hold the Affirming vote at annual meeting. I imagine Linda will be in touch soon- that would go through the Executive, either for decision or information, I think? Not straight to annual meeting planning? As I write I realize I’m not sure.”</p> <p>Helen will speak with Linda to decide what to do.</p> <p>Chantal & Chloe are working together on website and Facebook. Shannon will write any formal letters. Grace Hussey is also doing some pieces.</p>

STAFF REPORTS

Executive Minister	<p>Shannon has commenced Supervision time with her staff. Chantal spent time setting these up.</p> <p>Continuing Managing Change course. It is going well and is really helpful.</p> <p>Chloe has passed her probation period!</p> <p>Work is beginning around hiring new a Pastoral Relations Minister.</p> <p>GC Executive meets this weekend.</p>
---------------------------	--

Earl

Annual Meeting Update

There is another meeting this afternoon.
We don't have enough information in some areas.
What will registration cost? What will catering cost? How many people?
Rooms are booked. We are trying to avoid billeting if possible.
Kathy Jackson had a resource (Chloe to find this).
Using another outline from another region as a guideline.

OTHER

No

**EMAIL MOTION
035-2022/2023**


**It was agreed by email consensus on January 11, 2023 that:
That Northern Spirit Regional Council Executive appoint the Trustees of Barrhead
United Church to act on behalf of the Regional Council in the matter of the sale of
Swan Hills United Church.**

NEXT MEETING

Next meeting will be March 1 at 9:30 am.

ADJOURNMENT

Helen adjourned the meeting at 10:50 am.



Helen Reed, Chairperson



Shannon McCarthy, Executive Minister

