

**Northern Spirit Executive Minutes  
June 14, 2023 at Kirk Center and via Zoom**

<b>EXECUTIVE PRESENT</b>	Helen Reed (Chair), Mary Annan, Margaret-Anne Hall, Peter Chynoweth  A quorum was present.
<b>REGRETS</b>	None
<b>STAFF PRESENT</b>	Shannon McCarthy (Executive Minister); Julie Graham (Justice & Communications Minister); Heather Dootoff (Finance Administrator), Chloe Burns (Administrative Support); Chantal Winslow (Executive Assistant & Recording Secretary), Leanne Templeton (Archivist);
<b>CALL TO ORDER</b>	Helen called the meeting to order at 9:45. We checked in and Helen led us in reflection & prayer.
<b>APPROVAL OF AGENDA</b>	We reviewed the agenda.
<b>BUSINESS ARISING</b>	
<b>CORRESPONDENCE</b>	Pride Season letter from Julie that was sent to Communities of Faith. Keep on website going forward as resource
<b>FINANCE</b>	General council details up to March 31 <sup>st</sup> Annual meeting revenue \$23490. Expenses 34910. Under budget. Rent under budget – dropped an office – rented out to another person Audit more expensive than projected. New component plus annual increase. May be more information added End of the month charities report to CRA. July GST claim. Archivists are covering for archivist vacancy in Living Skies. \$350 in fire relief donations. Promotion of legacy fund – in visioning
<b>COMMITTEE REPORTS</b>	
<b>Chairs</b>	Helen has nothing to report. Concerned about the health of some of our congregations but also their willingness to have conversations. Annual reports have not been received. Then they get in trouble and it is too late ... How do we fix this?
<b>Community of Faith Support</b>	Three churches struggling – Spirit West (selling their building?), Moose Hill (decided to disband and to sell their property – property is talking to them but they have not notified us – didn't follow proper process, and rushed), Vegreville (loan to pay out the

minister as she has asked for a change in pastoral relations). And should be receiving requests from two of them but haven't received them yet. Will we need to take care of this over the summer?

**Property**

Korean United Update— evaluation of the value. Looking to sell. They would like to use that money to purchase a storefront in an area of Edmonton where there are Koreans living. Kind of work like condos. Buy two or three and then rent the two they are not using. Use the other as their physical space. They owe us \$50k – need to remind them. They will be making this request and it seems to be a good plan. More sustainable and can reach out to the community in a more community hub model. It was a great gesture to have Richie? United to gift them the building but the location just doesn't work. The intent is still being fulfilled with this plan. Behind on their assessments to general council by \$25k – will remind them. List at 1.8m and hope for 1.2m

**Incorporated  
Ministries**

**004-2023/2024**

**It was agreed by consensus that:  
Northern Spirit Regional Council Executive approve the following actions:**

a) Bissell Centre

... per Bissell Centre January 30, 2023 Board of Governors Meeting Minutes approve the resolutions of its Board meeting to dissolve Bissell Centre's stake in the Inner City Youth Housing Project Joint Venture Partnership and transfer its share of the partnership's assets to E4C.

*In the minutes, Chief Executive Officer G. St. Amand provided background detail on the origins and history of the Inner City Youth Housing Project (ICYHP) Joint Venture partnership to the board of directors and noted that, functionally, E4C is and has been for years the operating partner as owner of the Joint Venture's assets.*

*This kind of approval is required until such time as the Legacy Agreement is complete.*

The Alberta and  
Northwest Conference  
United Church of  
Canada Historical  
Society

This is a society with one person left and can no longer function. We need to help them dissolve as a society and need to work on a process on how to do that so that the newsletter can continue to be published and honour the work Robert has done.

Leanne has suggested that they continue to be able to do the centennial addition.

Still have finances. Where would the money go? Put it in a fund.

Make them a centennial committee?

**It was agreed by consensus that:  
Northern Spirit Regional Council Executive move towards disbanding/dissolving The Alberta Northwest Conference United Church of Canada Historical Society and work with the group to make a committee or task group to continue their work.**

Shannon and Chantal will work with Incorporated Ministries to get this process started.

**Nominations** NA

**Other** NA

**STAFF REPORTS**

**Executive Minister**

Thank Chloe and Chantal for putting together Earl's farewell today. Earl will be done at the end of the month. Meeting with Adam and Judy and Tracy over the next two days. How to cover July before Adam begins in August. A painting was commissioned as a farewell gift for Earl. Adam is in the process of getting his office set up – mostly from home and some from the Regional Office

Interviews for Growth Animator position – general council staff working in regions. Working with congregations re renewal. Posting closes this week. Full time position. 6 regional councils.

Taking holidays.

National spiritual indigenous gathering. Leanne doing a presentation. Julie and Shannon attending. 27-30<sup>th</sup> at university of alberta

Yellowknife in sept.

**Pastoral Relations Minister** NA

**Justice & Communications**

Meeting follow up. Video editing. Remit follow up. Sharing resources, facts. Making sure they know where the voting materials are if they didn't see the email from GC. Working with being good relations to provide some support and governance work.

June 21 – connecting with Being Good Relations to see how things went. Orange shirt date coming up.

Maybe encourage people to do it before the end of year even though they don't have to vote until March. (Remit). Ramp up in the fall (Oct/Nov). Final push in January.

Charlene and Russ to help with a more Edmonton local discussion/presentation re remit.

**Archivist**

Sept to Jan contractor in archives paid through funding spearheaded. Resulted in 310 folders of records. 141 flagged for digitization. Indigenous community records. Specifically looking for names of students, teachers, maternal homes. 8000+ pages.

Feb/Mar a pilot digitization project. Just ended. Scans are not as good quality as they were hoping. Maybe Leanne will be doing the digitizing.

Working with Erin Ackland to cover LS.

Donation of draft letter from a young person who was had visited the residential schools and critiqued. Very upsetting. New records are still being discovered and coming into the care of archives.

13 new deposits of records. 26 new last year.

Use the fires as a reason to encourage them to deposit more records.

Presentation to office admins in July. Garneau United.

National Spiritual gathering give a workshop on caring for community records. Panel with Archivist from TO and Michael Blair.

**OTHER**

**Centennial  
Celebration**

What do we want to do?

Do we want an event? A task group? We need to delegate to others (executive doesn't want to take this on).

GC has a group working on some things. GC is approving things. They want RC to plan.

Do we want to couple with CW?

Acknowledge some of the history, mission etc. Education.

Chloe to add something to the newsletter?

That will be our year for annual gathering.

Archive display? – add in newsletter for people to reachout now not right away

**Proposal from Annual  
Meeting**

Doesn't like the word crisis.

He is asking for it be acknowledged that the region is in crisis, is that true?

Crisis requires urgent

Don't know what is happening in so many places? That might be a crisis.

Don't want to wait to 2024

We do need a staff person who can help with some of the CoF support pieces to work with Adam.

Job description has changed but the way we do things hasn't. Hoping that Adam can live in to it.

Not opposed to hiring more staff (contract). A task group might be difficult. Need to act before he is proposing. Task group already working on disbanding/amalgamations etc.

If people who are in “crisis” don’t want to communicate there is nothing we can do about it.  
Sandy had a passionate plea at the meeting and Helen has reached out to him and he hasn’t said anything back.  
Lamenting was requested but Jennifer Henry decided to focus on hope.  
What do we do with this right now?  
Discussion was had. Respond to each point with Paul. (better idea after our visioning meeting)  
Growth animator  
Communities of faith support  
Visioning meeting for Regional Council  
GC theming/visioning that congregations will look at it and how they fit into it.  
Letter from Helen responding to those points. Respond to the region. Letter in newsletter and letter directly to Paul. Respond pastorally.  
Remind people we have had opportunities ... GATHER!

Rural congregations are grieving. How do we help them die with dignity. Palliative care for CofF. If congregations know that they aren’t sustainable why drain the account and use all their resources rather than gift it to the UCC before they die. Place for conversation with CofF to work with Kindred Works (5-10 year process) now rather than wait.

**Celebration of  
Ministry & Affirm -  
October**

The Region will take responsibility for organizing the Celebration of Ministry. Is there guidance from affirm? Julie will check.  
Use same outline as the annual gathering ministry  
Certificate needed from Affirm United that is presented.  
Publicly advertised.  
Helen is happy to put some pieces together.  
People from current task group that want to help plan.  
Need to make sure to get the advertising out. Lead graphic. Theme.  
October 21 at 4:00 pm  
At kirk center.  
Recognition and possibly two ordinations.  
Preacher?  
Dinner with rainbow cupcakes? Catering? Do have budget leftover from annual meeting. Supporting some travel costs.

**Annual Meeting**

Need to debrief from the annual meeting.  
Chantal has sent questions to the planning team and they will meet. Chloe has received responses from the feedback forms. Chantal will arrange a meeting with all of the regions and staff and planning teams to bring all of that feedback together and to start the creation of a manual.  
OWL – works for sound and tech

**NEXT MEETING**

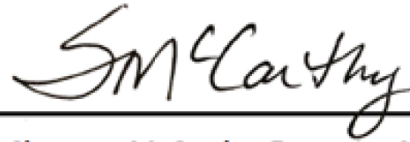
Next meeting will be September 13

**ADJOURNMENT**



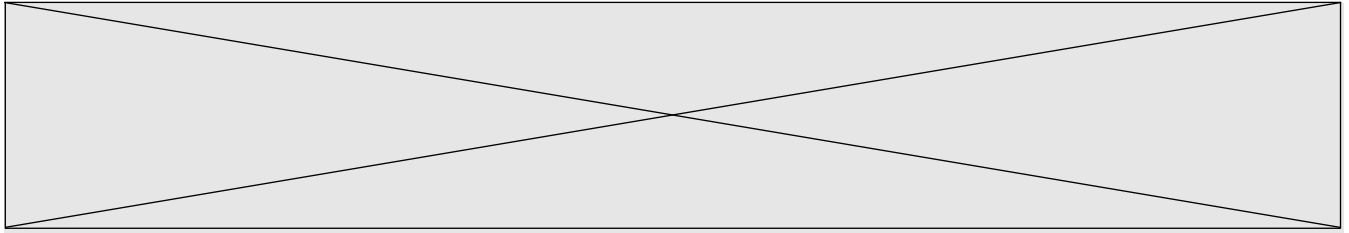
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**Helen Reed, Chairperson**



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**Shannon McCarthy, Executive Minister**



<b>2023 Northern Spirit Regional Council</b>	2022 Budget	31-Dec-22	2023 Budget	31-May-23	
<b>Governance Revenue</b>					
Governance and Shared Services (from	\$ 325,000	\$ 325,000	\$ 325,000	\$ 81,250	GC figures to Mar 31
Shared Staff Grant Governance	\$ 67,000	\$ 90,775	\$ 67,000	\$ 16,750	GC figures to Mar 31
Annual Meeting Meal Fee	\$ -		\$ 25,000	\$ 23,490	
Misc	\$ 4,000	\$ 10,260	\$ 5,000	\$ 9,766	
	<b>\$ 396,000</b>	<b>\$ 426,035</b>	<b>\$ 422,000</b>	<b>\$ 131,256</b>	
<b>Governance: Office and Staffing Expenses</b>					
<b>Office Expenses:</b>					
Office Rent (Kirk Centre)	\$ 38,748	\$ 38,745	\$ 38,748	\$ 13,069	
Office Costs (supplies, phone, wifi, et	\$ 13,500	\$ 12,408	\$ 13,500	\$ 3,345	
Shared Service GC	\$ 11,500	\$ 11,167	\$ 11,000	\$ 3,021	GC figures to Mar 31
Website	\$ 1,005	\$ 1,007	\$ 1,005	\$ 951	
Audit/Prof Services	\$ 6,200	\$ 6,576	\$ 7,000	\$ 9,634	
Discretionary fund	\$ 5,000		\$ 5,000	\$ -	
<b>Shared Staff Costs</b>					
Shared EM, Asst and Finance staff	\$ 92,000	\$ 91,603	\$ 101,820	\$ 26,298	GC figures to Mar 31
Shared Staff Office Costs (office spac	\$ 3,500	\$ 923	\$ 3,500	\$ 496	
Shared Staff Travel Costs	\$ 7,000	\$ 2,386	\$ 7,000	\$ 2,852	
<b>Staffing</b>					
Regional Staff - Governance	\$ 147,143	\$ 147,463	\$ 155,617	\$ 41,144	GC figures to Mar 31
All Staff Con-Ed	\$ 3,500	\$ 459	\$ 4,000	\$ 200	
All Staff Training Event	\$ 2,000	\$ 3,264			
Staff Travel/meals	\$ 4,000	\$ 2,289	\$ 4,000	\$ 1,667	
<b>Governance: Committee and Structure</b>					
Annual meeting	\$ 10,000	\$ 958	\$ 60,000	\$ 34,910	
Governance Committee costs	\$ 12,000	\$ 1,949	\$ 12,000	\$ 568	
<b>TOTAL GOVERNANCE</b>	<b>\$ 357,096</b>	<b>\$ 321,197</b>	<b>\$ 424,190</b>	<b>\$ 138,155</b>	
<b>Remainder of Governance Total</b>	<b>\$ 38,904</b>	<b>\$ 104,838</b>	<b>\$ (2,190)</b>	<b>\$ (6,899)</b>	
Mission & Ministry (Mission & Service I	\$ 239,000	\$ 240,000	\$ 239,000	\$ 52,223	GC figures to Mar 31
Other M & M Income		\$ 415,778		\$ 791	
	\$ 239,000	\$ 655,778	\$ 239,000	\$ 53,014	
<b>Mission and Ministry Costs for Region 2</b>					
<b>Staffing</b>					
Salaries and benefits	\$ 116,252	\$ 110,757	\$ 123,046	\$ 27,848	GC figures to Mar 31
<b>Mission &amp; Ministry</b>					
Mission Support grants	\$ 150,000	\$ 136,750	\$ 150,000	\$ 24,375	GC figures to Mar 31
M&S/Indigenous from sales/closures		\$ 304,328			
Clusters & Events, other grants*	\$ 20,000	\$ 18,383	\$ 20,000	\$ 19,637	
Mission & Ministry Committee Costs	\$ 5,000		\$ 5,000	\$ 1,588	
	<b>\$ 291,252</b>	<b>\$ 570,218</b>	<b>\$ 298,046</b>	<b>\$ 73,448</b>	
<b>Remainder of Mission &amp; Ministry Total</b>	<b>\$ (52,252)</b>	<b>\$ 85,560</b>	<b>\$ (59,046)</b>	<b>\$ (20,434)</b>	
* 2020 Includes \$20000 grant for Kirk UC Centre					
<b>Restricted/Designated Funds</b>					
Revenue		\$ 79,766		\$ 1,510	Cash bursary collection not entered yet
Expenses		\$ 61,194		\$ 17,159	
		\$ 18,572		\$ (15,649)	
Combined Surplus (Deficit)	\$ (13,348)	\$ 208,970	\$ (61,236)	\$ (42,982)	

## PROPOSAL FOR NORTHERN SPIRIT REGIONAL COUNCIL

### The Need to Act!

*“Do not trust in these deceptive words: “This is the temple of the Lord, the temple of the Lord, the temple of the Lord.” (Jeremiah 7:4. NRSVUE)*

The current reality is that many of the congregations in our region are facing issues of viability and sustainability. At the same time, many of our ministry personnel face vulnerability and a lack of stability in the current call/appointment. Also, the number of workplace harassment complaints has significantly increased in the past year. As a region, we are in crisis!

It would be inconceivable that the regional council, the body charged by the Manual with 1) the oversight of Communities of Faith (C.2.3) and 2) encouraging and supporting ministry personnel toward health, joy, and excellence in ministry practice (C.2.11) would conclude its meeting without acknowledging that the region is in crisis. The regional council needs to make this acknowledgement a first step towards resolving this situation and moving towards health.

I implore the Northern Spirit Regional Council to do more than talk about this situation and to do more than only pray for it. While we believe prayers are good, we also know intentional prayer-based action is better.

I move that the Northern Regional Council or its Executive set aside a Task Force of three (3) persons to begin immediately to look at ways that the region can intentionally address the crisis.

That this Task Force could be given the responsibility to:

- 1) Consider ways how we can help congregations and members to adapt to the changes that are occurring,
- 2) Recommend specific changes, including changes that would require us to think and act "outside of the box," that will be necessary for the health of Communities of Faith and the region,
- 3) Dialogue with Communities of Faith and Ministry Personnel as they consider a vision for a viable way forward for the Northern Spirit Regional Council, Communities of Faith, and Ministry Personnel, and
- 4) Bring to a meeting of the Regional Council in 2024 a report on what can be intentionally done to address the current crisis.



I move that this proposal be accepted by the meeting of the Northern Spirit Regional Council or referred to the Executive for immediate action.

Move by Rev Paul Douglas Walfall

Seconded by Rev Paull Allard.