

**Northern Spirit Executive Minutes
January 10, 2024 via Zoom**

- EXECUTIVE PRESENT** Helen Reed (Chair), Donna Kline, Mary Annan, Peter Chynoweth
- A quorum was present.
- REGRETS** Leslie Penny
- STAFF PRESENT** Shannon McCarthy (Executive Minister); Julie Graham (Justice & Communications Minister); Heather Dootoff (Finance Administrator), Chloe Burns (Administrative Support); Chantal Winslow (Executive Assistant & Recording Secretary), Adam Hall (Pastoral Relations Minister);
- CALL TO ORDER** Helen called the meeting to order at 9:35 am. We checked in and Helen led us in reflection & prayer.
- APPROVAL OF AGENDA** We reviewed the agenda.
- APPROVAL OF MINUTES 026-2023/2024** **It was agreed by consensus:
That Northern Spirit Regional Council Executive approve the minutes of December 13, 2023 as distributed.**
- BUSINESS ARISING**
- CORRESPONDENCE Edson United Church** We received correspondence from the Commission for Edson United Church. They are recommending that the Commission be disbanded and that Edson’s Board re-take responsibility within a provisional structure that was suggested to them and that they have affirmed at their Annual Meeting in November 2023.
- Edson United Church is in need of a supervisor.
- 027-2023/2024** **It was agreed by consensus:
That Northern Spirit Regional Council Executive disband the Commission for Edson United Church, with thanks from the Executive.**
- Legal Correspondence re Munro Estate** We received an email from Pahl Howard LLP advising us that Northern Spirit Regional Council is a beneficiary to the Estate of Shirley Elizabeth Munro. They are asking us to consent to the release of the “asset” of the burial plots in Mount Pleasant cemetery as the deceased wishes to be buried there.
- Shannon has already signed the document and sent it back to the law firm.
- We receive this correspondence for information.

FINANCE Heather reported. There were no updated financials currently.

Disaster Relief Chantal and Chloe sent out the letter to affected communities. We have received one response back from Hay River asking for any support that we would be willing to provide to support their food program.

Received \$4,542.50 in disaster relief in 2023 plus we had \$13,912 from previous years.

Since we have only received one request, we would like to provide the funds from 2023 to them, and we have the other funds in reserve for those who may make a request in the future.

028-2023/2024 **It was agreed by consensus:
That Northern Spirit Regional Council Executive send \$4500 from our disaster relief fund to St. Andrew's Anglican in Hay River to support their food hamper program.**

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Chair Letter written to go out in the Newsletter today.
Working with Julie and Shannon regarding the remit.
Discussions about churches that are closing, or those who need assistance

**Community of Faith
Support
Green Grove United**

In December this came to us with the recommendation that the Executive help them close as they didn't have enough members to fulfill their governance. We may need to create a Commission to go in and help them with closing. The question isn't should they close, it's how to do it well.

029-2023/2024 **It was agreed by consensus:
That Northern Spirit Regional Council Executive approve the following actions:
The Community of Faith Committee will contact Green Grove United and have a conversation regarding closing. If the congregation would like to be involved in the decision making process, they need to let the Executive know immediately.
Otherwise the Northern Spirit Regional Council Executive approves a motion to close Green Grove United Church on January 31, 2024.**

**Parameters for
assisting churches
who may need to
close**

Green Grove is one of many communities of faith who are needing guidance in this process. The Community of Faith Support Committee is aware of this and are looking to the Executive for guidance on how best to have these conversations. There are resources on the website etc. but they looking for maybe some parameters around when they should be having these discussions.

This is a discussion that can possibly be had tri-regionally as the other regions are also having these discussions. Shannon isn't sure if other regions might already have something in place. A big part is thinking about Legacy. Thinking about what their gifts are before their resources wither away to nothing.

Sedgewick Change of Governance

We received a letter from Sedgewick & St. Andrew's Loughheed. They have been partners for years and would like to formally put everything under one joint pastoral board.

Have they thought about what happens if there is conflict? Splitting later is complicated, so having processes in place in case of conflict is important.

030-2023/2024

It was agreed by consensus:

That Northern Spirit Regional Council Executive approve the request for changes to the governance of Sedgewick Pastoral Charge which were submitted to us on November 24, 2023. However, we do recommend that the Pastoral Charge put some thought and consideration into conflict resolution and putting a process in place just in case conflict should arise down the road.

Youth

NA

Property

Have not met since the last meeting. No new information.

Inevitability regarding property issues with Chinese United in Edmonton.

Incorporated Ministries

031-2023/2024

It was agreed by consensus:

That Northern Spirit Regional Council Executive approve the following actions:

a) **Christian Youth Camps Incorporated o/a Camp Maskepetoon**

...pursuant to the Incorporated Ministries Policy of The United Church of Canada approve the Christian Youth Camps Incorporated o/a Camp Maskepetoon 2023-2024 Board of Directors

**Leanna Andrews
Samantha Berg
Kira Brunner
Mackenzie Couper
Wendy Dyjur
Ben Gregg
James Guindon
Brett Holden
Bayley Mann
Kevin McBean
Marlene McBean
Heather McLeod
Jetta Paradis**

**Kenneth Sage
Shirley Simpson
Laura Webster**

This is based on the draft minutes of Annual General Meeting of November 21, 2023, the 2023 board member approval form, contact list provided, and receipt of other required documentation per the Incorporated Ministries Policy of The United Church of Canada.

Nominations

They need a new chair as Brenda Simon is not able to lead Nominations. Wilson McLennan and Julie Graham are working with Brenda but we do not have a lead.

Helen wrote a letter to go out in the newsletter.

We have 3 executive vacancies.

Julie and Chloe to work on a summary of what spaces need to be filled

Other

STAFF REPORTS

Executive Minister

Shannon has been busy with personal matters. Working from Ontario currently. Heading to Yellowknife next week.

Correspondence from Office of Vocation regarding a review of the ministry personnel at one of the congregations. There were red flags but it was outside of the review purview. Adam and Shannon are working on whether they will raise those concerns with the congregation. If they are not open to that, we will need to do a review which will give us the authority to go forward.

Rundles Mission is one of our incorporated ministries. We are trying to make it legacy. The board of directors has given his resignation. The property is valuable. We want them to have a plan for the property if the ministry ceases to exist. There may be some work for the Executive to do around Rundle's Mission down the road.

Pastoral Relations Minister

Pastoral Relations minister report: January 10, 2024

- We continue to have a high need for Pastoral Charge supervisors and Pastoral Relations Liaisons. Currently we need nine (9) Supervisors and at least as many Liaisons.

- I was able to participate in the covenanting service at St. Paul's United Church on January 7th and hope to be present for the covenanting service of Devon/Stoney Plain Communities of faith on January 14th

- On January 9th we had a zoom conversation with the central and western United Churches of Edmonton, hosted by our Growth Animator Jordan Cantwell. It was well attended and I hopeful that it will enable further conversations and possibly some collaboration in the future.

- WE have a wider conversation with a large piece of use to be the Northern Lights Presbytery in planning for the end of January. This too, I hope, will help to develop collaborations and possibly some shared ministry opportunities.

- I am excited about the potential development of a Francophone SME site and possible development of long-standing Francophone ministry near Fahler, AB (within the bounds of lesser slave Pastoral Charge. It is a work in progress, but exciting news.

Adam and Chloe asked for clarification regarding Marwayne United because they were under the impression that Marwayne had closed but they are showing up as active in Dynamics.

Shannon clarified that they were still working on resolving matters regarding debt, etc. They never formally closed. They were given a list of things that needed to be completed. Might be worth following up with them. Helen has a contact that she will provide to Adam and Chloe.

**Justice &
Communications**

PIE Day is March 14. 18 people met last night to discuss that. Very good discussions regarding the work that is being done around the region. Prairie to Pine will be hosting another discussion at the end of the month.

**OTHER
Remit**

November updates switched to telling us who had not voted. Next update should come out next week. Prior to Christmas break we were at 85% of pastoral charges had not voted. We are going to need to do a hard push in February and March.

Updates are going out in the Newsletter with new resources. Two more learning opportunities coming up. The next one will be with Gloria Cook.

We will also be working on doing phone calls to some pastoral charges that might be at risk of not voting. We will develop a template/script to help with those conversations. Jim and Helen volunteered to be a part of that conversation.

**Online regional
gathering planning**

May 2 and May 9 were chosen as our dates.
We are going to focus on the remit right now and come back to this in March.

NEXT MEETING

Next meeting will be February 14, 2023

ADJOURNMENT



Helen Reed

Helen Reed, Chairperson



Shannon McCarthy

Shannon McCarthy, Executive Minister

