

**Northern Spirit Executive Minutes  
March 13, 2024 via Zoom**

<b>EXECUTIVE PRESENT</b>	Helen Reed (Chair) Donna Kline, Peter Chynoweth, Margaret-Anne Hall, Leslie Penny,  A quorum was present.
<b>CORRESPONDING MEMBERS PRESENT</b>	Jim Belliveau, Gaie Goin
<b>REGRETS</b>	None
<b>STAFF PRESENT</b>	Shannon McCarthy (Executive Minister); Julie Graham (Justice & Communications Minister); Heather Dootoff (Finance Administrator), Adam Hall (Pastoral Relations Minister); Chloe Burns (Administrative Support);
<b>CALL TO ORDER</b>	Helen called the meeting to order. We checked in and Helen led us in reflection & prayer.
<b>APPROVAL OF AGENDA</b>	We reviewed the agenda.
<b>APPROVAL OF MINUTES</b>	Minutes from February were unavailable. We will approve them at the next meeting.
<b>BUSINESS ARISING</b>	Donna has cheques ready; we just need to check the bank statements.
<b>Chinese United Church</b>	There is a maintenance person, Bruce, who we are in contact with. Adam will connect with him to make sure that the mail is being checked and forwarded to the Regional Council office.  Discussed what we will do with the building.
<b>CORRESPONDENCE</b>	Minutes going forward will be a record of decisions and topics discussed. If Executive members would like more details, check with Chantal for the AI summary or a copy of the recordings.
<b>Project 100 Year Anniversary</b>	Paul Walfall would like to produce a documentary looking at the history of the United Church through the lens of black people. Would the Regional Council be willing to be one of the sponsors and supporters?
<b>037-2023/2024</b>	<b>It was agreed by consensus: That Northern Spirit Regional Council Executive recognizes and appreciates the work that Paul Walfall is doing regarding his United Church 100 year anniversary project and we support his project.</b>
<b>FINANCE</b>	Heather reported.

Currently have a \$97,000 surplus.

Western Intercultural Ministry had a surplus of \$7,753. They would like the Region to hold this money for them and they will use it for future meetings. Heather will set this up in a restricted fund.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

<b>Co-chairs</b>	NA
<b>Community of Faith Support</b>	NA
<b>Property</b>	Jim reported.
<b>Incorporated Ministries</b>	NA
<b>Nominations</b>	NA
<b>Equity and Diversity</b>	Affirming planning committee. Julie reported. She will be recruiting people to join the committee.

## Other

## STAFF REPORTS

<b>Executive Minister</b>	Shannon reported: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The Regional Council office is moving into Strathearn United Church at the end of the month.</li><li>• One in person annual meeting (Living Skies) but will also need to do in person Celebration of Ministry services for the other two regions.</li></ul>
<b>Pastoral Relations Minister</b>	Adam reported. <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• A lot of good conversations happening across the region regarding visioning and brining communities of faith together.</li><li>• Very high need for supervisors and liaisons.</li><li>• Ministry support committee has changed the pattern of their online gatherings to include time for presentations once a month, as well as including a time for retired clergy to meet.</li><li>• Lay Leadership Support Committee have been receiving a number of sacrament elder requests. Training will be held in May or June.</li><li>• Planning a LLWL gathering to be planned in the fall.</li><li>• M&amp;P 101 workshop was held in March. Great turn out.</li><li>• Pastoral Relations Committee met in March and are looking at the governance document that was received by the Executive last month.</li></ul>

**Sacraments**

We received a letter from a Diagonal Minister who is on long term disability. Because she is not in a current call or appointment, the policy says that she is not licensed for sacraments. Can not make the situation fit the policy so that we can license her.

We discussed.

Adam will bring this forward to General Council and see if they would approve a change in the policy.

**Justice &  
Communications**

Julie reported

**Advocacy for Trans rights**

Julie provided the Executive with a document that she has drafted.

We discussed.

**038-2023/2024**

**It was agreed by consensus:**

**That Northern Spirit Regional Council Executive gives it approval of the circulation and posting of the Advocacy for Trans Rights document that Julie Graham has been working on. This will be a living document that will continue to be updated.**

**OTHER  
Remit**

24/71 Pastoral Charges have not voted.

We are working with congregations to make sure that if they have voted, they have sent their votes in. Encouraging them to use email rather than mailing it in.

**Annual Meeting**

After Easter we need to get the dates and information out.

We may also want to discuss where we want it to be held next year (in person) as LS really struggled with finding a location to fit.

**Regional Council Trust  
039-2023/2024**

**It was agreed by consensus:**

**That Northern Spirit Regional Council Executive approve that a trust (the "Regional Trust") be formed by the UPRC and with the approval of Northern Spirit Regional Council for the benefit of Northern Spirit Regional Council. The beneficiary of each Regional Trust will be the Regional Council and a wholly-owned affiliate UPRC will be the corporate trustee of each of the Regional Trusts.**

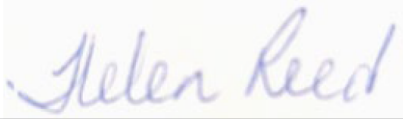
**Centennial  
Celebration**

We will continue to discuss this and encourage congregations to plan their own celebrations.

**NEXT MEETING**

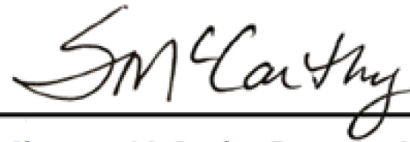
Next meeting will be April 10, 2024.

**ADJOURNMENT**



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**Helen Reed, Chairperson**



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**Shannon McCarthy, Executive Minister**

