

**Northern Spirit Executive Minutes
September 11, 2024 at 9:30 am via Zoom**

EXECUTIVE PRESENT	Helen Reed (Chair), Donna Kline, Mary Annan, Margaret-Anne Hall, Leslie Penny, Peter Chynoweth A quorum was present.
REGRETS	Gaie Goin
CORRESPONDING MEMBERS PRESENT	Jim Belliveau
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 9:30 am. We checked in and Helen led us in reflection & prayer.
APPROVAL OF AGENDA	We reviewed the agenda.
APPROVAL OF MINUTES 001-2023/2024	It was agreed by consensus: That Northern Spirit Regional Council Executive approve the minutes of June 12, 2024 as distributed.
BUSINESS ARISING Chinese United	Heather reported. \$156,000 has been transferred out of the account. Utility bills are being paid, as well as the bill for Bruce who is taking care of the building. The insurance has been transferred and is now being paid for by NS. They have \$12,000 owed in assessments.
002-2023/2024	It was agreed by consensus: That Northern Spirit Regional Council Executive approve the payment of the \$12,000 of owing assessment. Adam has been getting messages from people asking what is available at Chinese united. He has been sending him to Bruce. If they do take something they are just letting us know. What are the next steps? Will this be transferred to the regional council trust?

To do:

- Shannon will speak with Miriam

Korean United

Adam spoke with Brian who is the current chair person. There were offers put forward but we have not heard back.

They owe \$20,000 in assessments and a \$50,000 to us as well.

Policy for penalty for not paying assessments

Adam and Shannon have not worked on this yet.

To do:

- Shannon and Adam to discuss creating a policy.

CORRESPONDENCE

**Greengrove United Church
003-2023/2024**

It was agreed by consensus:

That Northern Spirit Regional Council Executive approve the disbandment of Greengrove United Church effective September 11, 2024.

Rosalind United Church

They have voted at their congregations meeting and would like us to disband them effective December 31, 2024. They do have property and the property committee has given them approval to sell.

How does this affect their shared ministry situation?

004-2023/2024

It was agreed by consensus:

That Northern Spirit Regional Council Executive approve the disbandment of Rosalind United Church effective December 31, 2024 upon the conditions that the property has been disbursed.

005-2023/2024

It was agreed by consensus:

That Northern Spirit Regional Council Executive recognize that the disbandment of Rosalind United Church would have implications for the terms of call for the current incumbent minister and the Ministry Support Committee will initiate conversations.

To do:

- Chantal will advise Greengrove and Rosalind United about our decision.
- Chantal will advise GCE about these decisions.

**FINANCE
Finance report**

Heather reported.
\$109,000 projected surplus at year end.

2025 Budget

Heather has provided some numbers. She is still waiting for some numbers from committees. Hoping to bring a bring more finalized copy by November. With these

projected numbers, we are estimating a \$83,000 deficit. We do have money available to support the deficit for a few years.

Mission Support Grant figure 2025

Mission Support Grant for 2025. They usually meet in October so it is helpful to give them this number ahead of that.
\$136,000 is what we gave last year.

006-2023/2024

**It was agreed by consensus
That Northern Spirit Regional Council Executive recommend a budget amount of \$136,000 allocated for Mission Support Grant in 2025.**

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Chair

Helen reported.
It has been a quiet summer.
Meeting about how to get people on executive. Wrote a letter that went out and posted to the website. Already receiving responses.
Starting a location search for the AGM 2025.

Community of Faith Support

NA

Property

Jim has provided us a report for our review. (Attached)

Incorporated Ministries

NA

Nominations

We have had some names brought forward for different committees.
If the nominations committee was functioning, they would vet the people and then we would approve. But this is done by the Executive right now.

007-2023/2024

**It was agreed by consensus:
That Northern Spirit Regional Council Executive approve the following nominations:**

- **Henriette Kelker for Ministry Personnel Support Committee**
- **Paul Walfall for Executive**
- **Marilyn Carroll for Executive**

To do:

- **Chantal will follow up with the individuals for executive and let them know they were approved.**
- **Chloe will follow up with Henriette**

Other

STAFF REPORTS

Executive Minister

Shannon reported.
Went to Ireland over the summer.
Working on planning the AGM Night 2 and trying to gather names for GCE Commissioners.

Staff for the Tri-region will be gathering in October in Winnipeg.

Getting ready for GCE 45. Shannon is on the business committee and “The way forward” committee.

Pastoral Relations Minister

Pastoral Relations Report- Executive- September 11, 2024

Restorative Care Leaves and LTD:

Rev. Eli Carter-Morgan (Millwoods United, Edmonton)- LTD
Rev. Marlene Salmonson (Sherwood Park United)- **Fully returned to work**

New Appointments/Calls and Renewal appointments

- Rev. Sharon McRann- Telfordville Pastoral Charge- **Regular Appointment .25** FTE July 1 2024-June 30, 2025)
- Rev. Alison Mock- Yellowknife Pastoral Charge- **Short-Term Appointment .50** FTE July 10-2024- August 21, 2024
- Rev. Kennedy Phiri- Fort St. John: St. Luke’s Pastoral Charge- **Regular Appointment 1.0 FTE- October 1, 2024- September 30, 2027- Admission Minister (Pending)**
- Rev. Harold Imes- Spirit River Pastoral Charge- Regular Appointment .25 FTE August 1, 2024-June 30, 2025
- Rev. Sungsoon Park- Bonnyville/Cold Lake Collaborative Ministry- **Call 1.0 FTE** August 1, 2024
- Rev. Shane Goldie- Spruce Grove Pastoral Charge- **Call 1.0 FTE** October 7, 2024
- Rev. MaryAnn Pastuck- McDougall Pastoral Charge- **Regular Appointment .50** FTE July 1, 2024-June 30, 2025
- Bernadette Pearson-Levesque- Lesser Slave Pastoral Charge- **SME Appointment .50 FTE** October 1, 2024-September 30, 2026- **Pending**
- Rev. Stuart Jackson- Yellowknife Pastoral Charge- **Short Term Appointment-.50 FTE** August 28, 2024-September 27, 2024
- Rev. Hugh MacGregor- Grace Pastoral Charge- **Short Term Appointment .50** FTE July 17, 2024-Janaury 14, 2025

Requests for Change of pastoral Relationships approaching:

- Rev. Steven Johann (Retirement July 31, 2025)

New positions approved or pending:

Irma-Viking Pastoral Charge (Search)- *Pending*

Covenanting Services:

- Bonnyville/Cold Lake Collaborative Ministry- Rev. Sungsoon Park- October 5th, 2024
- Spruce Grove Pastoral Charge- Rev. Shane Goldie – *Pending*
- Spirit of Peace Pastoral Charge- Rev. Harold Imes- *Pending*

Growth/Stewardship Discipleship program

We are hosting within our region a test discipleship program developed by Jordan Cantwell (Growth) and Vikki Nelson (Stewardship) which will work with five communities within our region (Tofield United Church, Living Spirit Drayton Valley, St. Andrew's Spruce Grove, First United Wetaskiwin, St. David's, Leduc) *From Jordan and Vikki "It is our hope that by the end of the year together, participants will experience transformation in their personal faith life, have a better understanding of the fullness of discipleship, make an impact on the spiritual life of their communities of faith through deep engagement with the practices of discipleship."*

Committee/Commission work:

Ministry Personal Support Committee:

- Continued to offer Zoom Clergy Gatherings throughout the summer led by Adam Hall
- Next meeting September 12th, 2024

Lay Leadership Support Committee:

- September 28th – LLWL Gathering at St. David's in Leduc- Opportunity for LLWL and Lay leaders to gather and fellowship. We have also planned a Funeral training afternoon led by Rev. Leigh Sinclair and Adam Hall. Currently have 13 registrants.
- Planning and online Sacrament Elders Training October 2024- Five people have expressed interest. From our last training we have licensed two people and two more should be licensed by the end of September.
- Part of the Worship at our October online meeting of the Region I would like the opportunity to name and celebrate our newly licenced Sacrament elders and LLWL

Community of faith Support

- Will be reviewing the Ecumenical Shared Ministry (ESM) agreement from Hinton United Church and Grace Lutheran Church
- Will be seeking to support Vegreville United Church with their request to become an ESM
- Continuing to determine how best to engage and support the communities that are vacant within our region.
- Request a meeting Shannon, Helen, possibly Jordan (Growth) in regards to the New Church development fund.

Pastoral Relations Commission

- Governance Model is now in front of the executive for approval.
- Provisional Call Policy- introducing it and
- It was decided that myself and the members of the PRC would like to do a “roadshow” to visit with Communities of Faith and listen and learn about where they are and what capacities they have to share and vision into the future.
- Have sent a recommendation in regards to Jasper United church and Rev. Linda McLaren

Terms of Reference

Adam presented a revised copy of the Terms of Reference. Not a drastic change from the policy that was approved in 2019. Mostly just fleshed out a bit. Want to continue to report to the commission and the commission will report to the executive.

008-2023/2024

It was agreed by consensus:

That Northern Spirit Regional Council Executive approve the Terms of Reference as presented.

St. Andrews

A discussion was had surrounding an ongoing situation at St. Andrew’s United Church

**Justice &
Communications**

Julie reported.

Working on statement regarding the police killing of Hoss Lightning, 14 years old. Huge impact on the Sampson Cree Nation and others. Hoping to have this done by the end of the week.

In 2021 the Regional Council passed a proposal from being good relations expressing a huge concern about the Alberta curriculum that was under development at the time. Some work was done in June with an expert in the Red Deer School division that laid out in detail what the concerns are. Hoping to reinvigorate that action.

Transphobic marches that happened across the country last year are starting again this year. The affirming committee might write something from the Regional Council directly to the government and it will come back to the Executive for approval.

Erin, Leanne and Julie have been working on centennial discussions.

OTHER

Jasper United

Both the church and the manse were completely destroyed in the fire.

One of their biggest incomes was their thrift store which is now gone. They would normally get about \$50,000 a year from that.

\$15,000 has been raised for Jasper. \$13,000-14,000 in the emergency fire fund that is available as well. We could also tap into the legacy fund or operational surplus.

009-2023/2024 **It was agreed by consensus:**
That Northern Spirit Regional Council Executive commit to pay the salary of Rev. Linda until the end of January 30, 2025. We will re evaluate this at that time.

010-2023/2024 **It was agreed by consensus:**
That Northern Spirit Regional Council Executive approve a paid leave for Rev. Linda from September 20 to October 31.

A town hall meeting online with folks in Jasper to go through options of what is available in financial supports would be helpful. Rebuild is at least 2 years away before it can start.

To do:

- Adam and Shannon will have a conversation with GCE about what supports are available nationally as well as other sources.
- Adam will arrange a town hall meeting with the people of Jasper and discern what is the best next steps.

Executive Members Helen has drafted a letter to try and encourage people to step up and join the Executive. Chloe has sent this out in the newsletter.

To do:

- Chloe to send the letter to churches directly.

AGM Planning 2024 & 2025 October 24, 2024. Business meeting.
Planning meeting on September 20.

May 29 to June 1 in Edmonton. AGM in person. Helen is drafting an invitation to our possible location.

To do:

- Helen to draft letter to possible location for AGM
- Chloe to send out letter when complete

Centennial Celebration Peter has provided us with some documents regarding cluster gatherings to be arranged for the centennial. As we are out of time, Peter is going to provide us an email with more information.

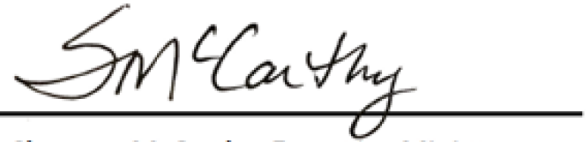
Add this to business arising instead of at the end of the agenda for next meeting.

NEXT MEETING Next meeting will be October 9.
Following will be an in person meeting on November 13 at Strathearn United Church.

ADJOURNMENT



Helen Reed, Chairperson



Shannon McCarthy, Executive Minister

