

Region 4 Commission Minutes September 13, 2018

Present Annette Taylor (Chair), Barb McNaughton, Neil Gilbert, Bonnie Morton, Bev Kostichuk, Susan Reed, David Whalley, Brian Maitland, Tricia Gerhard (Recording Secretary)

A quorum was present.

Staff Present Shannon McCarthy (Executive Minister)

Regrets Bernice Saulteaux

**Call to Order/
Check in** Commission Chair Annette Taylor called the meeting to order at 9:34 a.m. and welcomed all who were present.

Each person checked in with a highlight of their summer.

Worship Annette opened with words from Wendell Berry.

Agenda We reviewed the agenda as distributed.

Notes from June We reviewed the notes from the June 26 & 27 meeting.

BUSINESS ARISING

Communication

Bev Kostichuk reported

- Email containing a letter and report, along with a request for agenda time at the upcoming Presbytery meetings was sent out to all Presbytery Secretaries to be forwarded to Pastoral Charges.
- Same letter was part of the latest E-Notes sent from Conference Office.
- Was unable to make contact with Arlene Dieter from Prairie Pines Presbytery in order to make sure that the letter was distributed there. Bev Kostichuk emailed Cheryl Jourdain, who will make sure that the letter is sent to the right places.
- Did get feedback from Jim Pilfer regarding the report... He planned to use it as a sermon, along with drawing attention to the name survey – will be giving his congregation homework: to come up with names for the Region, and prayers around the names. He has agreed to share the sermon via FaceBook
- The report was not yet sent to Network and Committee chairs as she did not have master email list for this group of people.
- Bev Kostichuk will make sure that the reports get to network and committee convenors.
- When talking about sending information to the new staff, a question was raised as to when the new positions take effect.
- Both Julie Graham and Tracy Murton will be going to the All Staff Meeting in Toronto in September, so will be starting little bits of stuff. Julie's responsibilities are mixed between Conference and Regional Work so work will need to be done to work out that balance.
- Tracy Murton will be meeting with the other Regional Pastoral Relations folk to have conversation on how to work together.
- The current report will remain on E-Notes for another week. With a few changes including the naming of the new Staff.

- Will we produce something internally so that all members of the commission are reporting the same things to our Presbyteries.
- Need to address at Presbytery the budget and volunteer issues
- Need to remind Presbytery members that volunteers will still need to be present to help out with the running of the region.
- Julie wondered if there appointed liaison with the commission, someone who would liaison with her on the justice and mission work.
- We aren't at a place where we can work that out.
- Staff of the Tri-Region are meeting together to start working out questions and concerns, and work out how they want to relate to the commission.

Naming the Region **Tricia Gerhard reported**

- A Google survey link was included in the letter sent to Presbytery Secretaries and in the E-Notes.
- People were invited to put names forward until October 7
- Already have three entries
- Will place the link on the Region 4 Facebook site.

Staffing Update **Shannon McCarthy reported**

- Tracy Murton, Pastoral Relations Minister will have an office at St. Andrews in Saskatoon
- Julie Graham, Program Coordinator for Mission & Ministry will work from home in Saskatoon
- Administration support still talking with the incumbent
- Heather Dootoff, Financial Administrator - will work from home in Regina
- Bill Doyle and Shannon McCarthy are working on an archives location. Talking with Provincial Archives offices, to see if Madeline can work from there.
- Office costs will be about \$500 per office at this point.
- How do we share the cost of offices? Keeping the Edmonton office, and Winnipeg offices, along with the Saskatoon/Moose Jaw offices, so how this be shared among the three regions? Each region would pay for own, at this point. Will have this conversation at the Triumvirate meeting in October.

Shared Services **Shannon McCarthy reported**

- Region 4 will opt into the IT Program as the other two Regions have decided to opt in.
- Likely will not be as expensive as \$7500 as budgeted.
- Still in conversation with A+ Computers regarding the Regional website. At this point, it will likely be a repurposing of the Saskatchewan Conference website, with the cost of the website shared between the three regions. Because using an existing website, it shouldn't be overly expensive.

Inaugural Meeting **Barb McNaughton Reported**

- We are looking for a person from ANCC on planning team: Arlene Dieter has been emailed but no response as of yet. Will be sending a follow up email to Arlene Dieter, Cheryl Jourdain and Bernice Saulteaux to see if there is someone who could join this committee.

Theme & Chairperson

- Theme is usually chosen by President, but since the Presidency ends with the end of Conference on December 31st, 2018. Not sure who would decide. Bonnie Morton suggested that the Commission should decide the theme.
- Annette Taylor, Brian Maitland, and Bonnie Morton will work together to brainstorm some theme ideas and will bring them to the October Triumvirate meeting in Saskatoon, at which time the Commission can make a decision.
- There was discussion about the budget particularly around the amount paid in mileage for the last annual meeting - \$13,000
- This led to a conversation regarding policies and recommendations
- Do we follow the same procedures for Annual meetings that have been in place for years? If changes are to happen, they should start now so that it doesn't feel like the Conference is unchanged. Things we need to think about: mileage, children at conference, honorariums, which people get hotels paid for...
- It was noted that it would be interesting to know what other Conferences have done in the past.
- Tricia Gerhard and Bonnie Morton, along with Barb MacNaughton will review the procedures and guidelines and come to the October gathering with recommendations for the Commission to consider.
- Barb MacNaughton will send out the guidelines for the commission members to read prior to the October meeting.
- Shannon McCarthy will send Barb information regarding research she did on Children at Conference programs

Budget

Shannon McCarthy reported

- Total amount of budget \$614,000
- Need to have conversation at the three region gathering as to how the office space cost will be divided
- We increased the amount for Annual meeting to \$40,000
- Moats fund is not in the budget because it is over and above the budget.
- Money from Presbytery closures – need to have further conversation because of the finite state of the funds. How will we deal with the monies that come to the Region?
- The regional budget needs to sustain basic needs, and then we can talk about the extras
- Full Regional Council needs to decide what to do with any money that may come in from Conference or Presbyteries

Mission Support Grants

It is the task of the Commission to make decisions about Mission Support Grants and how much is available and who will receive grants.

The amounts previously granted by Conference and Presbyteries totaled \$400,000... the amounts being asked for are not sustainable with our current budget.

The suggestion is to have a small group look at the mission support grants, so that they are conversant on the grants and then have the whole group together to talk about the

grants.

Bev Kostichuk, Brian Maitland, Dave Whalley will do this initial conversation to bring it back to the commission. There might be monies designated to organizations as Presbyteries and Conference close. We should have information back from the Presbyteries by the end of September

A meeting is set for October 18th, 9:30 am to have the Mission Grant Conversation

Nominations

Presbyteries need to know that volunteers will still be needed for the Region. Suggest current Presbyteries to gather names of folk who would be willing to serve the region

Bev Kostichuk said that she would consider staying on as the chair of Nominations but needs to ask the rest of the Saskatchewan Conference Nominations committee if they would serve until the Inaugural Meeting of the Region.

We can ask Presbyteries to name someone to sit on the Nominations Committee.

NEW BUSINESS

Incorporated Ministries

General Council is taking over ongoing monitoring, so what is our role, what communication is necessary in the short term? Relational aspect will be through the Region, it will need to be decided how that works. The Region has a responsibility for the healthy function and has oversight, while the administrative stuff is being done by General Council Office

Bill Doyle will communicate the changes in oversight to the incorporated ministries, and later as the region takes over, Executive Minister Shannon McCarthy will be communicating with them.

Property and Structure Documents

Starting documents for information were distributed and need to be looked at for the October meeting. Structure document is one place where there are Nomination Committee implications.

Region 4 will have this conversation with the other two regions so that our structures are similar.

Next Meeting Dates October 9 to 11 in Saskatoon @ Queen's House
October 18 – 9:30 via Adobe
November 8 – 9:30 am via Adobe

Adjournment

Annette Taylor adjourned the meeting at 12:05 pm

Annette Taylor, Chair

Shannon McCarthy, Executive Minister