

Region 4 Commission Minutes October 10, 2018

- Present** Annette Taylor (Chair), Barb McNaughton, Neil Gilbert, Bonnie Morton, Bev Kostichuk, Susan Reed, David Whalley, Brian Maitland, Bernice Saulteaux, Tricia Gerhard (Recording Secretary)
- A quorum was present.
- Staff Present** Shannon McCarthy (Executive Minister)
- Call to Order/
Check in
Agenda** Commission Chair Annette Taylor called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m.
Additions were made to the agenda under new business.
- Minutes** The minutes of September 13, 2018 were reviewed
- 001-2018/2019** **It was agreed by consensus:
That the minutes of September 13, 2018 be approved as circulated.**
- BUSINESS ARISING:
Communication** **Communication** - Bev Kostichuk reported on communication initiatives that have taken place.
- Reports were sent to network and committee convenors, as well as to presbyteries. There has been no official written feedback from any of those bodies.
- Presbytery Report feedback given by Commission Members
A reporting commission member was surprised by angst and anger surrounding the funding for the regions and how it worked out. There was concern about spending more on governance than mission and ministry. Presbytery members wondered why the mission and ministry money is so much less than what the ministries receiving grants were getting from the courts prior to the new structure. There is anxiety about the future funding because the picture they've had for funding is not the way it has worked out.
- There was the assumption that the three courts funding was lumped together, but presbytery money wasn't there at all. The overall budget of General Council for mission and ministry is more than the money coming in for assessments. Was how the GC divided the money to the regions open to input? Regions need to send information back to GC that the amount of the M&S funds isn't enough... and is only a small portion of the actual M&S totals. \$4.6 million of \$26 million is coming to the congregations.
- 002-2018/2019** **It was agreed by consensus:
That the Region 4 Commission send a letter to General Council regarding the need for ministry and mission money and also send a letter to the presbyteries to encourage them to send a letter to General Council as well.**
- Twin Valleys: questions led to realize that the presbytery has a sense that the four court responsibilities were going to be translated into the three-court system.

There was a lack of awareness of the scope of the change and that some of the things held dear were not necessarily going forward
Of the Presbytery's remaining money 1/3 will go back to the congregations and 2/3 to the region.

Huge concern/grief/worry about mission support grants
Concern about assessments going up.

Chinook: some conversation about giving back the last quarterly assessment payment to the congregations. A letter was distributed to the commission via email.

Prairie Pine: giving \$10,000 to chaplaincy, a couple of other places.

Naming the Region Tricia Gerhard reported on progress to date:
At the closing date, the survey had 21 name options given.

David Moors sent a letter to the Commission regarding the Region naming process. David suggested that a committee including indigenous and non indigenous folk gather to study and contemplate a name for a region over a longer period of time so that all options could be explored and so that the name also becomes a mark of the reconciliation journey.

003-2018/2019 **It was agreed by consensus:**
That we take no further action on David Moor's letter

We will send the list of names to the commission members, and each member would pick up to five top choices. Once the top five or so names are collected, a letter with the names will be sent to Plains Presbytery to ask their membership what their thoughts were about the top five names and to offer any suggestions that they would find more fitting.

The information from Plains Presbytery would be collected prior to opening the voting process to the entire Region.

Staffing Update Shannon McCarthy reported:
Jamie McKay and Bev Diebert are in place in the administrative positions
Working hard at trying to make connecting with the staff as straight forward as possible.

Saskatchewan Archives does not have space for the Conferences archive and so Conference/Region is looking for either a church space or other off site location for storage. If unable to locate space, the archives may need to be sent off site to either Alberta, Manitoba or to the Maritimes.

Shared Services Shannon McCarthy reported:
Bill Dillard sent an email regarding website services, information was shared
The Commission was given a more specific break down of shared services which will be integrated into the budget.

REGION 4 Barb McNaughton reported:

INAUGURAL MEETING All Native Circle Conference/Plains presbytery representatives have not yet named but working on getting that happening.

Theme Task Group: Bonnie Morton, Brian Maitland and Annette Taylor reported:
Task group met and offered these choices:
Let us build a house
A Firm Foundation (Building or On)
Together on a Journey/ On a journey
Together we are Strong

004-2018/2019 **It was agreed by consensus:**
That the theme for the Inaugural meeting of Region 4 be *Together on a Journey.*

Policies Task Group Bonnie Morton, Barb McNaughton, Tricia Gerhard reported:
Proposals process: want to see what the three regions are doing. Will consult with the regions and with Shannon McCarthy to see how we can make them fairly similar across the Tri-Regions.

Many of the policies are fairly new so there wasn't a need to redo them
Accommodations for staff and leadership – only change would be to have GC reps pay for their own hotel and food.

Will not offer children at conference for a year, we will see what happens regarding feedback.

Some changes to dependant care, salary replacement etc policy, with a reinforcement that the policy is for lay delegates. Mileage amounts need to change as the current amounts are too high. Can there be a donation to the region as part of the claim sheet?

BUDGET

Mission Support Grants Task Group

Bev Kostichuk, Dave Whalley, Brian Maitland reported:

In 2018 ministries received grants from four places: M&S, Conferences, Presbyteries and Congregations. With our current budget amounts, we can give ministries money similar to what they would have received from M&S and Conferences, but unable to match what Presbyteries and Congregations gave.

United Church Camps will not receive funding from the current budget amounts as they usually received grants from Presbyteries and Congregations.

The larger ministries will receive far less than what they requested.
The other option considered was to fund only two or three of the ministries fully and not fund the others.

Total requests: \$406,532

The task group looked at the liquid assets of the various ministries and made decisions based on that.

At this point is it unknown what the presbyteries may be giving to the ministries.

It was offered that a letter be sent to the ministries that outlines how the amounts were decided, reminding the ministries that a significant amount of their funding came from presbyteries. It was also suggested that a letter be written for the Ministries to send to the presbyteries for distribution to congregations reminding them that they can give directly to the ministries.

Review of Budget One concern raised was the lack of a youth and young adult staff person in the new region budget. The commission needs to look at the position and how it functions. At this point the contract will be allowed to run out.

Need to have conversation with the members of the YAYAC and what they would like the position/ministry happen in the new structure. 1/3 time youth position would cost about \$23,000 which would be found in the ministry and mission funding

At this point the Pastoral Relations Minister's salary is split with 2/3 coming from governance and structure budget and 1/3 from ministry and mission amounts,

Nominations Bev Kostichuk reported.
They are getting some expressions of interest from some of the presbyteries.

NEW BUSINESS All Tribes/Plains gathering of November 30 to December 2 in Calgary, the commission is to have a representative to attend at least on December 1st. Julie Graham and Tracy Murton will attend on behalf of the Commission.

Questions from Marg Janick-Grayston – not discussed

Next Meeting Dates October 18th (9:30 am) re Mission Support Grants – via Adobe

November 8th – in person meeting

Adjournment Annette adjourned the meeting at 5:00

Annette Taylor, Chair

Shannon McCarthy, Executive Minister

Correspondence:

#	Date Received	Received From	Regarding	Recomm'd action
1	September 19, 2018	Dave Moors	Naming Process for Region 4	For action at this meeting
2	October 1 st , 2018	Duane Mohn	Representatives for Earthcare Connections	For action at this meeting
3	October 2 nd , 2018	Sandra Beardsall, Debra Berg, Kathleen James-Cavan & Janet Clarke	Funding for Outreach and Social Ministries	Input to budgeting process
4	October 3 rd , 2018	Heather Dootoff	LLWL Education Program	Input to budgeting process
5	October 5 th , 2018	Liz Mackenzie for SMPR Committee	Recommendations to Commission re SMPR Committee	Input to structure discussion
6	October 5 th , 2018	Heather Dootoff	Budget Questions related to Moats Fund & Learning Site top up	Input to budgeting discussion
7	October 5 th , 2018	Kathleen James-Cavan for PESCN	Support for Students & Candidates in the new structure	Input to structure & budgeting discussion

