

Region 4 Commission Minutes October 18, 2018

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

A quorum was present.

Staff Present Jamie Mckay (Regional Program Assistant)

Regrets Bernice Saulteaux , Barb McNaughton, Bonnie Morton, Shannon McCarthy (Executive Minister)

**Call to Order/
Check in** Commission Chair Annette Taylor called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

**Mission Support
Grants** The report from the Mission Support Grant Task Group was received.with recommendations for the 2019 grants. The report indicated that we received requests from ministries totalling \$406,532. The commission had budgeted \$125,000 from Mission & Service income for the Mission Support Grants and the task group recommended using an additional \$10,000 from the Moats Fund Income.

There was a long discussion in which the following points were raised:

There is a large difference between what is available and what has been requested. Most of the ministries will receive much less than what they requested, or what they have received in the past.

Deep concern was voiced about ministries where staff are involved, less grant money means less available for salaries.

Most of the ministries have money in reserves to continue functioning for a few months but we wonder about the viability of the ministries in the wake of losing funding.

Letters need to be sent to the ministries outlining the amounts being given and encouraging them to do additional fundraising. Letters should also be sent to presbyteries and communities of faith noting that grants totaling \$204,000 used to come from presbyteries and requesting that they think about these ministries when dispersing funds at the end of the year.

The letters to communities of faith could also indicate that donations given to United Church ministries will be subtracted from their revenue and thus reduce their General Council assessment in future years. We need to be realistic with the ministries regarding the fact that M&S monies will probably not be increasing over the next few years.

Only 4.5% of total Mission & Service revenue is being given back to the regions
At this point we don't know the amounts that are coming from the presbyteries to the region at the end of the year.

In the future, we could consider creating a fund with monies from conference and presbyteries that allows the region to spend the interest.

May need to encourage the Regional Council to develop a policy around centralized fund requests and/or a centralized donation fund for the ministries of the Region.

005-2018/2019

It was agreed by consensus:

That the commission approve the recommended Mission Support Grant budget with the following numbers:

- a) South Sask Chaplaincy - \$14,650
- b) North Sask Chaplaincy - \$11,500
- c) RAPM - \$30,650
- d) ICM - \$36,150
- e) LaRonge – \$24,532
- f) Parkland Restorative Care and Micah outreach -\$4,500 each
- g) U of S chaplaincy – \$8400

Total Mission Support Grants for 2019: \$134,882

After the decision was made further discussion took place with the following observations and decisions being made:

- The commission was disappointed and torn with the fact that they were put in this position. It was a hard decision to make on behalf of the ministries, which are integral to the vision of our region.

Brian Maitland agreed to write a letter regarding the lack of funding to David Armour and to the General Council Executive and letters to the ministries with the amount they are receiving and an explanation as to why they are receiving this amount. Attached will be a copy of the letter being send to GC regarding the lack of funding. Letters will also be sent to presbyteries and the communities of faith as described above.

006-2018/2019

It was agreed by consensus:

That the Regional Council commission will send a letter to the GCE of General Council 42 and the General Council Elect, and to Nora Sanders, also copied to David Armour, Erik Mathiesen, and Brian Cornelius.

Brian Maitland will edit the letter to GC to include a request for the presence of David and Erik via adobe connect at our November meeting in Regina.

Region Naming Process

The commission has received 21 suggestions for the region's name and each commission member has been asked to choose their top five.

Tricia Gerhard will create a short list from the choices of the commission and will send a letter to Plains Presbytery for their input and choices.

YAYAC

Commission rep to talk to YAYAC re needs of youth ministry

This topic is related to staffing so it was agreed that Shannon McCarthy should talk to them. Annette Taylor would be willing to contact the YAYAC folk if Shannon McCarthy is unable to make that contact

OTHER BUSINESS

Property

Dave Whalley reported:

Dave needs policies from the Conference and from the Presbyteries, he will talk to Bill Doyle regarding these.

Other regional representatives: Jamie McKay will send information to Dave Whalley

Correspondence

Sandra Beardsall et.al. sent a letter regarding the Mission Support Grants. Annette will respond to Sandra Beardsall and attach a copy of the GC letter to the response

A letter from Dave Moors regarding the naming process was discussed and it was decided that we would continue with our current process.

The commission needs to create a coordinated process for receiving and responding to correspondence.

Annette Taylor and/or Shannon McCarthy will acknowledge receipt of each piece of correspondence and let the sender know that it will be brought forward to the group.

If other commission members receive correspondence for the commission they are asked to simply respond by saying that the letter will be sent on to the chair of the commission and then Annette Taylor will respond to the sender

Communication

An update will be sent after the November meeting so that the presbyteries and communities of faith are aware that communities of faith will receive information even when presbytery and conference ends.

Agenda for our next meeting

- Structure –what are we needing to have in place, and where do we need to have other folk involved when we move to the new structure?
- We need to contact networks that are functioning well -- don't want to have them end and then lose the key people who can help us create structure as we go forward
- Need to hear from pastoral relations -- need structure in place for finance, pastoral relations and property with the provision of approval by Regional Council
- Communication to Communities of Faith (CoF)—urging them to become parts of local clusters as clusters won't just happen. They need to be encouraged... not mandated but we need to be proactive about that encouragement.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

Annette Taylor, Chair

Shannon McCarthy, Executive Minister