

**Living Skies Commission Minutes
March 7, 2019**

Present	Bev Kostichuk (Acting Chair), Tricia Gerhard, Susan Reed, David Whalley, Brian Maitland, Neil Gilbert, Bonnie Morton, Barb MacNaughton. A quorum was present.
Staff Present	Shannon McCarthy, Executive Minister; Tracy Murton, Pastoral Relations Minister; Jamie Mckay (Recording Secretary).
Regrets	Bernice Saulteaux.
Call to Order/ Check in	Bev Kostichuk is acting as Chair and called the meeting order at 9:00 a.m. We checked in and Dave led an opening prayer.
Agenda	We reviewed the agenda and agreed that it would be our agenda for this meeting.
Minutes	We will review the minutes at the next meeting.
Affirming	Correspondence for information. Action item: Shannon will have a conversation with Julie about what she thinks we need to do and she can join the meeting at the end of the month.
Archives Consultation	Tricia Gerhard will put her name forward to Shannon to attend. A motion will be made at the next meeting.
Moderator's Request	The Moderator has asked for one or two speaking points. Brian commented that our region is vastly dispersed which creates some additional challenges. Bonnie noted there is diverse needs within ministry in Saskatchewan and would like to hear from the Moderator that there is equal respect for all ministry personnel across the country. Brian and Bonnie's comments along with a copy of the theme letter will be sent to the Moderator.
Executive Minister's Report	Shannon is continuing to work on filling the youth and young adult staff position.
Region Naming	Voting on the name took place across Saskatchewan and ended on March 5 th . There were 366 total votes and 158 votes for "Living Skies."
052-2018/2019	It was agreed by consensus: That we are now named Living Skies Regional Council effective immediately. There was discussion as to how and if we should get Indigenous translation of the new name. There was a suggestion of incorporating Indigenous name translations into a logo for the region. We stressed the importance of involving the Indigenous community.

Ministries' Gathering	The event will be on March 22 at St. Paul's United in Saskatoon. Various ministries have been invited to select three people to attend. Tessa Whitecloud will be facilitator. Travel costs will be subsidized. We agreed to ask GC to cover/subsidize the cost of travel/mileage.
Regional Gathering Theme	We will offer up to \$100 for a logo design for the regional gathering theme.
New Website	Jamie explained the submission guidelines for the website content. Brian and Julie will draft a structure draft and will send around to the commission.
Regional Gathering Planning Committee	Barb and Bev Diebert are beginning the process for registrations.
Nominations	Plan is to get the structure document on the website as well as release in the Rambler. Nominations has decided to use phone meetings. Currently filling cluster task group and one position on pastoral relations committee.
053-2018/2019	It was agreed by consensus: That Kevin Sprong be appointed to cluster task group, effective March 7th until July 2020.
054-2018/2019	It was agreed by consensus: That Patti Sawchuk be appointed to the Committee on Lay Leadership effective March 7th to the Annual meeting 2019. It was agreed by consensus: That the Commission give the Nominations committee permission to appoint the Cluster task group and report these appointments to the next commission meeting.
Structure Document	We can add to the website and introduce it as our initial structure document which can be updated later. Barb and Bev will have a conversation about the regional planning task group.
Property Commission	The Handbook was divided up and will be revised. Any amount over \$200,000 will be considered surplus for amalgamating congregations. When a congregation isn't closing but is selling property, a manse or their church building, there would be two thresholds: between 200-500K and over 500K would have different percentages of the formula. This is being written in a document and will be ready for approval in April meeting.
Eastside Review Commission	We are meeting on March 18 th for presentations and will be making recommendations and then reporting back to the commission at the March 21 st meeting. Congregations will receive the recommendations on March 24 th . We don't anticipate any recommendations that will be challenging, etc. We have not received feedback yet. Pastoral Liaisons need another to be appointed. Tracy asked for people to put forward

names to her or Bev. They don't need to have presbytery rep experience. Tracy will send around a formal job description.

Proposed Conflict Resolution Facilitation Process was added late to the Dropbox so will be discussed at a future meeting.

Granting committee

Northern Spirit is working on a similar document so we may be able to adapt it for ourselves. We will add this item to the meeting in April.

Members-at-large

We are still waiting on information from Jenny Stevens about retired DLMS.

We will add these items to the meeting in April.

Conveners and Committee Chairs

Members-at-large: Lay member of a commission; a pastoral charge supervisor; a pastoral charge liaison who are lay people who are not already the member of their congregation.

055-2018/2019

**It was agreed by consensus:
That networks are not members-at-large to the regional gathering, that the chairs of committees be members-at-large, and that the annual planning will be a committee and not a task group.**

Structure Diagram

The group agreed that they like the rectangular diagram. Jamie will create a draft for Living Skies.

Incorporated Ministries

We agreed that incorporated ministries do not need to be members of the regional council.

Finance

There is nothing new to report at this time.

Communications

February report has been sent via Rambler.

Facebook page will be left as is and the website will serve as the main place of information.

Next meeting

March 21st at 9:00 AM (Saskatchewan), 10:00 AM (Manitoba).

April 18th date could be tentative, either move to following week or shorten to one hour.

Bev closed the meeting at 11:00 AM.

Annette Taylor, Chair

Shannon McCarthy, Executive Minister