

## Living Skies Commission Minutes April 4, 2019

<b>Present</b>	Annette Taylor, Tricia Gerhard, Bev Kostichuk, Barb MacNaughton, Susan Reed, David Whalley, Brian Maitland, Neil Gilbert.  A quorum was present.
<b>Staff Present</b>	Shannon McCarthy, Executive Minsiter; Jamie Mckay (Recording Secretary).
<b>Regrets</b>	Dave Whalley, Bernice Saulteaux.
<b>Call to Order/ Check in</b>	Annette called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m.  We checked in and Annette led an opening prayer.
<b>Agenda</b>	We reviewed the agenda and agreed that it would be our agenda for this meeting.
<b>Minutes</b>	Minutes for March 7, 2019 & March 21, 2019 will be approved at the next meeting.
<b>Meeting of the Chairs of Commission</b>	Annette shared a report from the meeting of the chairs of commission for information.
<b>Letter from Khwaka Kukubo</b>	Darren is unable to go and we need a replacement. Moving forward, what do we do about these kinds of requests?
<b>064-2018/2019</b>	<b>It was agreed by consensus: That the commission will pay the expenses of whomever has been selected to attend the 2019 Spring Conference of the Canadian Council of Refugees, that this is a one-time expense, and that it will come from the network budget.</b>
<b>Letter re: General Secretary's ruling on Regional Council Membership</b>	<b>Action item:</b> Shannon will prepare a letter on the regional council membership.
<b>Executive Minister's Report</b>	Kent Mohn was hired at half time and has already attended a staff meeting. His email is <a href="mailto:livingskiesyaya@united-church.ca">livingskiesyaya@united-church.ca</a> and he will be working with his partner as a team in this position.  There will not be youth programming at the regional meeting this year as the time is too short to plan any quality programming. There was concern around the youth not having votes. Time will be added to the agenda for consultation time about youth ministry. Youth are still welcome to attend as delegates and attend as visitors and participate as corresponding members.

- EDGE** Edge has received money to host gatherings to hold conversations about the rural church in each of the six staffing regions. Julie has some volunteers who might be interested.
- South Saskatchewan Chaplaincy** South Saskatchewan Chaplaincy wants to post a part-time vacancy but they currently have a deficit of \$30K. Pastoral Relations commission will not approve a vacancy with that amount of deficit. After a lot of discussion it was agreed that Shannon will write a letter to Randy Graham stating that at this time we do not have the money to affect the deficit and there will be priority setting at the regional meeting around budgeting for 2020.
- Motions to be Ratified**
- 065-2018/2019** It was agreed by consensus:  
That Commission will hire a person for a Regional Pastoral Relations position. The Job Description will be created by Shannon McCarthy. (May 5, 2018)
- 066-2018/2019** It was agreed by consensus:  
That Region 4 agree to share a joint financial staff person with Regions 2 and 5, authorizing Shannon McCarthy to do what needs to happen to ensure this occurs. (June 26 & 27, 2018)
- 067-2018/2019** It was agreed by consensus:  
That Region 4 agree to buy into the common email platform including licensing offered through the Denominational Council for the Regional Staff. (June 26 & 27, 2018)
- 068-2018/2019** It was agreed by consensus:  
It was proposed by Bev Kostichuk that Region 4 agree to have General Council do the ongoing monitoring of the Incorporated Ministries of the Region at a cost of \$500/ministry/year coming from Governance and Structure funding. (June 26 & 27, 2018)
- 069-2018/2019** It was agreed by consensus:  
That Shannon McCarthy will talk to Julie Graham about her working on a process for Regional visioning. It might be the best use of her time now to figure out a strategy for communication and for starting the visioning process for the annual gathering. We agreed to hire her half-time if she is willing. (June 26 & 27, 2018)
- 070-2018/2019** It was agreed by consensus:  
That Region 4 fund the Explorer Project up to \$2500 for the summer of 2019. (June 26 & 27, 2018)
- Report from Transition Minister** See attached. (Appendix A)

The need to meet with various hospital chaplaincies, camps, and community justice ministries needs to be carried forward to the new executive.

**Naming process –  
Indigenous names**

Dave has a volunteer who can get the indigenous translation of Living Skies in Dakota and Saulteaux and who may be able to design a logo for the region.

We haven't made a decision on how or if we are going to incorporate indigenous name translations. Annette will send a note to Dave saying we are not ready at this time. We think it would be a good idea to wait until after the indigenous communities of faith meet in August so we will know if they are joining the region.

**Ministries'  
Gathering**

Brian gave an update on the Ministries' Gathering.

**Regional Gathering  
Theme – update on  
logo**

Logo has been finalized and will begin to appear on documents.

**New website**

The new domain for Living Skies is [www.livingskiesrc.ca](http://www.livingskiesrc.ca).

Brian has spoken with Julie and they are still in the process of working content.

**Regional Planning  
Committee**

Barb gave a report on the regional planning committee.

**Covenanting with  
staff**

Annette will write something for covenanting with staff.

**Nominations**

There seems to be problems with filling positions and a large part of the problem is communication. We will continue to work to generate new names.

**Action item:** Jamie will send Bev an email list of the communities of faith in the region.

**Action item:** Bev will send an email that has a bulletin insert attached.

**Property  
Commission  
071-2018/2019**

**It was agreed by consensus:  
That the Property Handbook be approved as presented.**

Property commission needs to have a meeting about asset distribution policy before this is brought forward for discussion.

**Structure**

Structure will be moved higher up in the agenda for the next meeting.

**Finance**

Specific finance questions can be addressed at the next meeting.

**072-2018/2019**      **It was agreed by consensus:**  
**That up to \$5000, with a maximum of \$1000 per congregation, be given to grants for the Grant for GO Project VBS program for 2019 with the funds coming from presbytery monies.**

**Adjournment**      Annette adjourned the meeting at 11:05 PM.

**Next meeting**      April 18<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 AM (Saskatchewan), 10:00 AM (Manitoba).

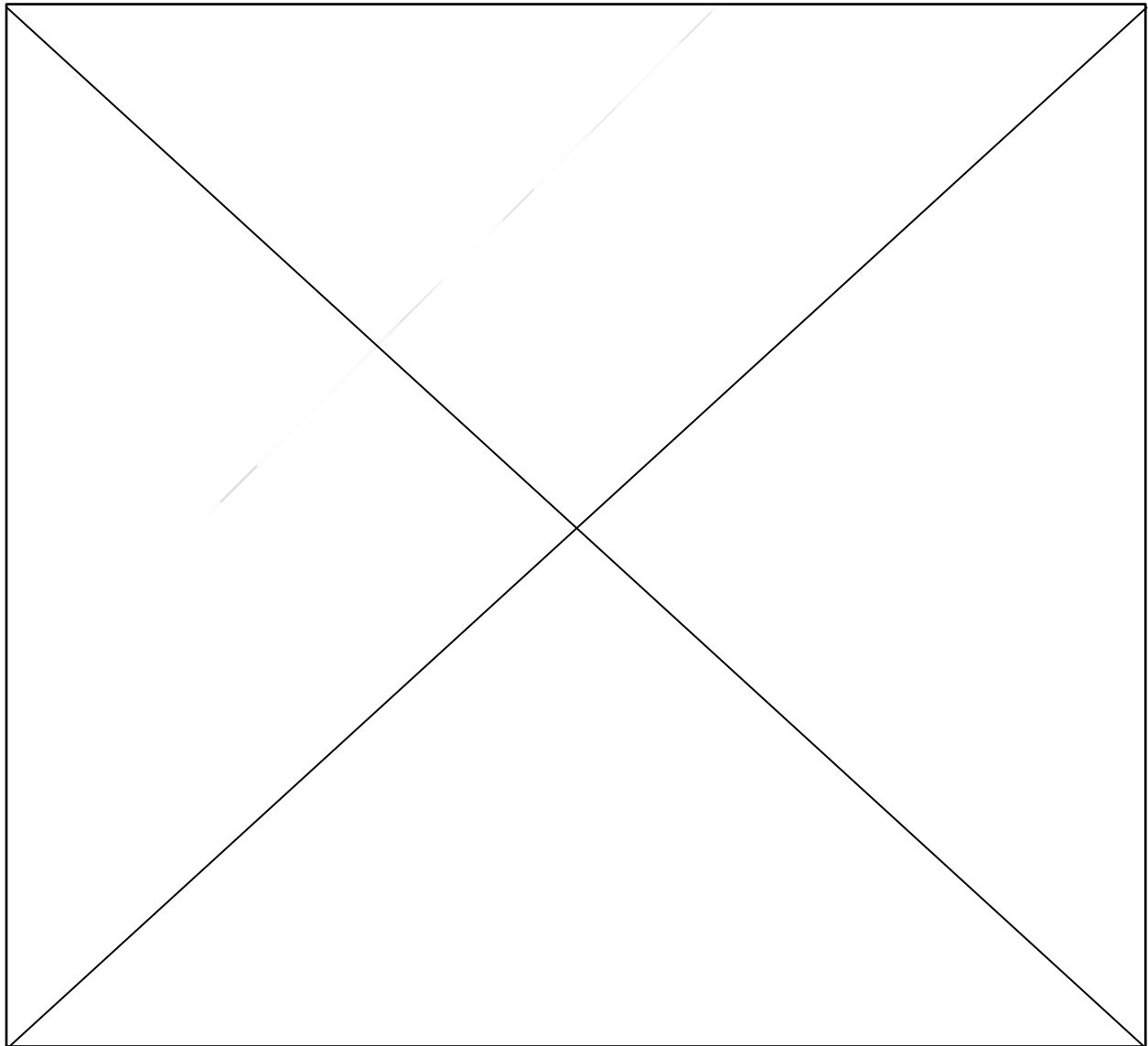
Annette closed the meeting at 11:05 AM.

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Annette Taylor, Chair

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Shannon McCarthy, Executive Minister



## Report from Julie Graham (Transition and Staff staff), 4 April 2019

**Summary questions:** *Are we having workshops at the regional gathering; Clusters Task Group now meeting; suggestions re follow up meetings with Mission-Supported Ministries; is the order of service for the Service of Praise shared with communities of faith?*

**Regional Gathering:** A few people have volunteered to offer regional gathering workshops/ conversation time on their Clusters work. I've never had people proactively approach me before, so this is exciting. I have a list of proposed workshops and leadership ready. I'd like to be able to confirm very soon whether we're offering workshop time or not.

The letter welcoming Indigenous Communities of Faith attending Living Skies' regional gathering went out early last week. I've not had any responses so far and will need to call them all. I will be following up by phone. Jordan Cantwell is following up with elder Bernice re a possible face to face meeting.

### **Clusters:**

The first meeting of the Clusters task group is this Thursday morning, just as you're all meeting. Members: Elaine Little, Margaret McCallum, Karen Mitchell, Vicki Nelson, and Kevin Sprong. A write up and contact info for all known Clusters in this region accompanies this report.

### **Mission-supported ministries meeting and follow up:**

I will send a follow up email to all ministries with the resources Tessa Blaikie Whitecloud used. I'd also like to expand on the contact list Brian began, with the help of those present.

### *Follow up meetings and concerns:*

I had strong concerns expressed to me by Camp Christopher board members that the United Church looks like it's all but walked away from the partnership. Between losing funding and losing almost all of their three UCC reps, the three Presbyterians who took the time to come clearly felt upset, and this really concerns me. In speaking with other ministries present, it felt clear that the loss of relationships/ accountability/ is having as big an impact as funding cuts, and that this greatly exacerbates the impact of the financial cuts.

**I'd like to suggest that the Regional Council commit to separate meetings with the hospital chaplaincies, camps, and community justice ministries** (other ministries such as Micah Mission and La Ronge United will need to be addressed too, but there seems to be more immediate crises in these three categories of ministries). **Purpose:** hearing their specific needs and concerns around relationships and representation; strategizing about how to respond to these within reasonable limits; pinpointing questions about mission support funds going forward; looking at options for fundraising.

I need to note that while the material from Tessa Blaikie White regarding One Just City and their fundraising and relational strategies was helpful, the context in Winnipeg for these four community ministries is very different from the kind of province-wide funding crisis now confronted in the short term by a diverse array of SK ministries. And the kind of transition she's describing will take at best several years. These are years some of these ministries likely don't have. Tracy and I are already seeing situations where a JNAC is in place, and where the preference will be to call as soon as possible, but the funding is so unstable that it would be irresponsible to allow the call to proceed. What then is the Region offering these ministries?

With assistance I could staff these, but I think there would need to be at least one Commissioner and/ or the Executive Minister present at each. Likely the pastoral relations minister would need to attend the chaplaincies and possibly the community ministries meetings, given call/ appointment and funding-related complexities there. **I would really welcome your thoughts on this.**

**Networks report:** As you know, Local Global Advocacy, Intercultural, and All My Relations continue to function, as do specific Tasks like the Brief, Refugee Sponsorship and representation to key partners like SCIC and KAIROS. All of this will formally end after the regional gathering.

**Local Global Advocacy:** The final LGAN check in call and discernment about the future takes place April 11. While there is agreement that this network is unwieldy in its size and scope, and not optimal or sustainable, there is concern from the co-conveners and various members that advocacy and engagement on priority and emergency issue needs space in the new structure. I would guess that a number of people involved would be willing to work on a proposal in the fall.

**Intercultural:**

A proposal will be coming to you from the conveners recommending the Regional Council enter the Affirming process. My understanding is that Nobuko Iwai and Brian Mitchell-Walker would prefer this proposal go the floor of the regional gathering.

*Affirming Sunday:* May 5 2019. Resources from Calvary United in Prince Albert are ready in draft and should be posted next week. Various hold the date notices have gone out. June 2 is a good alternate date we'll promote, as it's the United Church's first ever Pride Sunday. However, I'd appreciate knowing if the Service of Praise order of service is going to be made available too, and would prefer to avoid competition. I can't remember what the tradition around this is.

The Intercultural Network is going ahead with its May 29 day long event for racialized and Indigenous ministry personnel and lay leaders. The registration form and flyer are ready.

**All My Relations:** This network isn't functioning at this time. This is due to a lack of time and energy, not a lack of interest, and TRC related work continues to take place in a number of congregations. Nonetheless, it's hard to see how this network will find the space and people to make recommendations about its own future. The very small amount of staff time I can offer them also doesn't help. I've been asked to attend a national meeting on the Living Into Right Relations Networks May 14-16 at Five Oaks, ON. Apparently we're not the only ones struggling.