

**Living Skies Commission Minutes
April 18, 2019**

- Present** Annette Taylor, Tricia Gerhard, Bev Kostichuk, Barb MacNaughton, Bev Kostichuk, Brian Maitland, Neil Gilbert, Dave Whalley, Kent Mohn, Susan Reed.
- A quorum was present.
- Staff Present** Jamie Mckay (Recording Secretary).
- Regrets** Bonnie Morton, Bernice Saulteaux.
- Call to Order/
Check in** Annette called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.
- We checked in and Annette led with a reflection.
- Agenda** We reviewed the agenda and agreed that it would be our agenda for this meeting with additions.
- Minutes
073-2018/2019** **It was agreed by consensus:
That we approve minutes for March 7, 2019 & March 21, 2019.**
- We will approve the minutes from April 4, 2019 at our next meeting.
- Report from
Pastoral Relations
Minister
074-2018/2019** **It was agreed by consensus:
That we approve the Sacraments Elders Policy document as it has been presented.**
- 075-2018/2019** **It was agreed by consensus:
That we approve the Licensed Lay Worship Leaders Policy document as it has been presented.**
- Executive Minister's
Report** Decisions and processes that were put in place by the commission need to be ratified at the regional meeting, including the naming of the region.
- Regional Gathering
Report** Bernice Saulteaux will help lead the opening worship and will be doing a smokeless smudge along with a medicine wheel teaching. Sweet grass will be passed around for people to enjoy the scent.
- There will be an afternoon of workshops on Friday organized by Julie Graham. On Saturday we are having a priority conversation to look at the regional council purpose from the manual and then go through a process of figuring out priorities which would be given to the incoming executive as they begin their work.

Participation of Indigenous Church	In order to help Indigenous communities of faith to attend the regional meeting, we will make arrangements for hotel rooms and give a firm deadline. Those who have not confirmed their attendance and need for a hotel room will be able to make their own accommodation arrangements and submit an expense claim for the cost.
Nominations Committee	Nominations has sent out expressions of interest and has not received responses. It is looking like we will be going into the regional meeting with a blank slate. We may have a fuller slate by the end of the meeting. It was thought that we might need a nominations person in each congregation.
Property Commission 076-2018/2019	We are agreed by consensus: To accept the property policy as presented. Appendix A.
Legal Name 077-2018/2019	We agreed by consensus: That we change our legal name from Region 4 of the United of Canada to Living Skies Regional Council effective April 18, 2019.
Granting Committee 078-2018/2019	It was agreed by consensus: We will have a granting committee and we ask Shannon to work with Brian on terms of reference.
Feedback on Structure/Policies	We will have a process for receiving feedback and if changes are to be made, they will be made by the new executive as time goes on. We need to present our work on structure and policies as the initial framework, ask for feedback, and take those comments to the new executive. Action item: Jamie will create a structure diagram to review at the next meeting.
Creation of Corresponding Members	We will discuss this at the next meeting when Shannon and Tracy are present.
Next Meetings	May 2 @ 1:00 PM (SK), 2:00 PM (MB). May 16 @ 9:00 AM (SK), 10:00 AM (MB).
Adjournment	Annette adjourned the meeting at 11:05 AM.

Annette Taylor, Chair

Shannon McCarthy, Executive Minister

PROPERTY POLICIES AND PROCESSES Living Skies Regional Council

In Living Skies Regional Council property decisions and conversations are dealt with through the regional council property commission which is resourced by the Executive Minister. For property questions or approvals please contact Shannon McCarthy, Executive Minister smccarthy@united-church.ca or call 204-421-8149.

Background documents:

The Manual: Regional council responsibilities regarding property are described in *The Manual* which will come into effect January 1, 2019. *Manual* references, below, are from the 2019 edition.

Calls to the Church describes the relationship between the Indigenous church and the non-Indigenous church. This document was approved by GC43.

Resources:

Before selling a property of an estimated value over \$150,000 it is advisable for the regional council property commission or the congregation to contact EDGE's property resource group for advice and expertise.

Investing: The United Church of Canada Foundation can assist regional councils in dealing with investing money received from the sale of property. See <https://unitedchurchfoundation.ca/>.

Responsibilities - overview: *The Manual* outlines the responsibilities of the regional councils in relation to property matters, and Calls to the Church mentions property matters in two places. Those responsibilities/calls include:

1. Calls to the Church #8(b) – a percentage of the proceeds of property liquidation be allocated to Indigenous ministry and justice work;
2. Calls to the Church #8(c) – any properties turned over to Indigenous communities of faith be brought up to code before they are transferred;
3. C.2.6(a) - cooperating with communities of faith regarding property transactions;
4. C.2.6(a) – distributing proceeds from the sale of property;
5. C.2.6(a)i - making decisions on requests from communities of faith to buy, sell, mortgage, exchange, renovate, lease, or otherwise deal with community of faith property
6. C. 2.6(a)ii and iii – defining “other major assets”;
7. C. 2.6(a) ii and iii – defining “major renovations”;
8. C. 2.6(b) - making decisions on the property of communities of faith remaining after the communities of faith cease to exist;
9. C. 2.6(c) – making decisions about regional property;
10. G.1.4.5(a) and (b) – determining what is surplus property and deciding how to make use of the surplus property;
11. G.1.5.4 – dealing with proposals regarding property from communities of faith that will be disbanding;
12. G.1.5.7 – deciding how to use any remaining property after a community of faith has disbanded.

DISTRIBUTION OF ASSETS FROM SALE OF PROPERTY FOR A CONGREGATION THAT IS CLOSING

See *Manual* Section C.2.6(a)

In accordance with *Manual* Section C.2.6(a), the Living Skies Regional Council policy is that funds received from the sale of church property be disbursed in the following manner:

- Reimbursement of holding/maintenance/disposal costs
- Dealing with shortfalls in assessments arising from closure of churches
- 70% to priorities of the previous/closed congregation if applicable. These need to be outlined and approved by the regional council property commission.
- 10% to Indigenous ministry and justice work as per Call to the Church #8(b).
- 10% to the regional council for other initiatives of the regional council.
- 5% to the regional council archives.
- 5% to Mission & Service for immediate short-term operational needs of the work of the church.

Other options congregations might consider for their 70%:

- % to the Mission & Service Endowment Fund for long-term needs of the work of the church
- development/extension councils or other financial or property holding
- corporations/camps/sustainable energy loan funds/bursaries/specific ministries like education centres or community outreach ministries or campus ministries.

DISTRIBUTION OF ASSETS FROM SALE OF PROPERTY FOR A CONGREGATION OR CONGREGATIONS THAT IS/ARE AMALGAMATING OR CONTINUING TO EXIST:

That normally, any amount over \$200,000 would be considered surplus assets. [G.1.4.5 (a) and (b)]

Any amount resulting from the sale of property below \$200,000 the congregation/pastoral charge need to put forward a plan for approval of how those assets will be used. [G.2.3.2 (e)]

- It is recommended that 10% of those assets would go to Indigenous ministry and justice work as per Call to the Church #8(b).

That any amount over \$200,000 and under \$500,000 would be disbursed in the following manner:

- Reimbursement of holding/maintenance/disposal costs
- Dealing with shortfalls in assessments arising from closure of churches/amalgamation
- 70% to priorities of the congregation. These need to be outlined and approved by the regional council property commission.
- 10% to Indigenous ministry and justice work as per Call to the Church #8(b).
- 10% to the regional council for other initiatives of the regional council.
- 5% to the regional council archives.
- 5% to Mission & Service for immediate short-term operational needs of the work of the church.

That any amount over \$500,000 would be disbursed in the following manner:

- Reimbursement of holding/maintenance/disposal costs

- Dealing with shortfalls in assessments arising from closure of churches
- 40% to priorities of the congregation. These need to be outlined and approved by the regional council property commission.
- 15% to Indigenous ministry and justice work as per Call to the Church #8(b).
- 30% to the regional council for other initiatives of the regional council.
- 15% to Mission & Service for immediate short-term operational needs of the work of the church.

OTHER MAJOR ASSETS

In accordance with *Manual* Section C.2.6(a)ii, Living Skies Regional Council defines “other major assets” as any item or group of items under consideration in the accrued amount or evaluation of \$25,000 or greater.

MAJOR RENOVATIONS

In accordance with *Manual* Section C.2.6(a)ii, Living Skies Regional Council defines “major renovations” as any repair, work, addition, upgrade or capital improvement or like project to the real property of a congregation or pastoral charge estimated or expected to cost \$50,000 or more with all costs including without limitation applicable taxes, design, permits, project management and commissions.