

**Living Skies Executive Minutes
September 14, 2023 via Zoom**

EXECUTIVE PRESENT	<p>Darrell Reine (Chair), Linda Gunningham, Kathleen James-Cavan, Piotr Strzelecki, Ron Brandow, Deborah Springer, Dale Worrall</p> <p>A quorum was present.</p>
REGRETS	<p>None</p>
STAFF PRESENT	<p>Shannon McCarthy (Executive Minister); Chantal Winslow (Executive Assistant & Recording Secretary), Tracy Murton (Pastoral Relations Minister);</p>
CALL TO ORDER	<p>Darrell called the meeting to order at 2:45. He explained the process and offered a prayer. Shannon provided some background and reasoning to the review.</p>
REPORT 006-2023/2024	<p>IT WAS AGREED BY CONSENSUS</p> <p>That Living Skies Regional Council Executive receive the Review report dated August 2023 from the J.4 Review of Bethany-Newton United Church;</p> <p>And, that Living Skies Regional Council Executive affirms the findings listed on pages 47 & 48 of the Bethany-Newton United Church Review report</p>
CAROL HANCOCK	<p>At 3:00, Carol Hancock was admitted to the meeting. She allowed the Executive to ask any questions for clarification based on the report. Thank you to Carol for her report and her participation in this review.</p>
LUKE JOHNSON	<p>At 3:30, Luke Johnson, Attorney for the congregation of Bethany-Newton United Church was admitted to the meeting. We asked him to review the recommendations that were provided in the report. He spoke about the congregation's position.</p>
DON LOWE	<p>Don Lowe was invited to participate in the meeting but never arrived.</p>
DECISIONS 007-2023/2024	<p>The Executive went through each of the recommendations provided in the report. Each recommendation was discussed thoroughly and after much deliberation, the Executive was able to finalize their Decisions based on those recommendations.</p> <p>IT WAS AGREED BY CONSENSUS</p> <p>That the Living Skies Regional Council Executive through the Executive Minister, Shannon McCarthy work with Pacific Mountain Regional Council Executive to appoint a Commission to immediately assume control of Bethany-Newton United Church ("BNUC") and assess its immediate needs for governance, financial management, worship life and pastoral care and that the members of this Commission replace the current lay members of the BNUC Council; [The Manual 2023 C.2.3 (g) pg. 78]</p>

That Pacific Mountain Regional Council Executive take the necessary steps to remove the current lay trustees and appoint new trustees;

That the Pacific Mountain Regional Council Executive appoint a Pastoral Charge Supervisor to ensure compliance with the policies and polity of The United Church of Canada and production of the relevant records to the Commission.

That the Commission take the following steps:

- a) arrange for a financial audit covering the last three years at a minimum; and**
- b) immediately perform an assessment of governance practices over the last three years.**

That effective immediately, Don Lowe be prohibited from having any involvement whatsoever in any groups or committees responsible for the governance or administration of any United Church congregation, including serving as a trustee or in any position with responsibility for congregational finances. Should Don Lowe violate the above prohibition, his membership with Bethany-Newton United Church will be removed. Notwithstanding the above, Don Lowe shall

have full access to the worship services, pastoral care, and sacraments within the United Church.

That the Living Skies Regional Council Executive, through its staff, call and attend a Congregational Meeting as soon as possible. That Pacific Mountain Regional Council also be present at this meeting. That the two Councils use this open meeting to outline plans for the coming weeks and months.

That the Regional Councils ensure the availability of J.4 Review Report and these Decisions to all members and adherents of Bethany-Newton United Church prior to the Congregational Meeting.

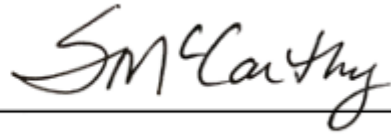
That the Executive Minister of Living Skies Regional Council provide a copy of the J.4 Review Report and these Decisions to the Office of Vocation, which is responsible for the oversight of the Rev. Juanita Lowe.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 5:30 pm.



Darrell Reine, Chairperson



Shannon McCarthy, Executive Minister

