

**Living Skies Executive Minutes
April 25, 2024 via Zoom**

EXECUTIVE PRESENT	Darrell Reine (Chair), Dave Whalley, Kathleen James-Cavan, Piotr Strzelecki, Linda Gunningham, Ron Brandow, Dale Worrall, Doug Haroldson A quorum was present.
REGRETS	None
STAFF PRESENT	Julie Graham (Justice & Communications Minister); Heather Dootoff (Finance Administrator), Bev Diebert (Administrative Support); Chantal Winslow (Executive Assistant & Recording Secretary), Tracy Murton (Pastoral Relations Minister); Lindsay Mohn (Youth and Young Adult Minister)
CALL TO ORDER	Darrell called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm. We checked in and Darrell led us in reflection & prayer.
APPROVAL OF AGENDA	We reviewed the agenda.
APPROVAL OF MINUTES 040-2023/2024	It was agreed by consensus: That Living Skies Regional Council Executive approve the minutes of February 21, 2024 as distributed.
Incorporated Ministries 041-2023/2024	It was agreed by consensus: That Living Skies Regional Council Executive approve the following actions: Camp Shagabec Committee ... pursuant to the Incorporated Ministries Policy of The United Church of Canada approve the Camp Shagabec Committee 2024-2025 Board of Directors Julie Bailey Mack Beveridge Abby Bristow Jillian Buye Heather Caswell Laine David David Fletcher Katherine Fletcher Mike O'Donnell Tracy O'Donnell Natasha Pettyjohn Grady Rowley <i>This is based on the AGM Minutes of March 23, 2024, the 2024 board member approval form, contact list provided and receipt of other required documentation per the Incorporated Ministries Policy of The United Church of Canada.</i>

****N.B. This corporation continues to work on updating its by-laws.***

CORRESPONDENCE
Open letter to the
moderator and
regions & Julie's
response

This letter was sent out to the moderator and regions mentioning that we need to do more as the United Church in support of Israel/Palestine. Also included was the email response from Julie Graham.

We received for information.

STAFF REPORTS
Youth

Lindsay Mohn reported.

Megan Drabble met with other youth and young adult ministry regional staff in Vancouver.

Lindsay and Megan met with Springwater regarding how they can work together in Living Skies.

Spring event in Regina at Knox-Met starts tomorrow.

Camp stuff is ramping up. Lindsay has been tasked with taking on the Camp Accreditation process from the National Church office.

Campapalooza is happening in Cypress Hills at the beginning of June.

Youth leaders will be gathering as a co-hort at the Regional Gathering.

Pastoral Relations

Part of the Regional Gathering is the Celebration of Ministry which will include celebrating some of our DLM folks. We are excited to have Dave Whalley (commissioned) and Darrell Reine (ordained) participate in that celebration.

Sacrament elder training coming up

Fourth installation of Equipping the Saints. This is a training for lay folks visiting institutions and homes. Run by two hospital chaplains: Lorna King and Emily Carr.

Please hold those congregations in your prayers who are struggling financially.

Justice &
Communications

Affirming celebration on June 13 as opening worship for the AGM. Hoping to work with two spirit leadership to offer teachings to honor their reclaiming place in ceremony.

CAIROS Prairie North decolonization committee. Hoping to meet at Treaty 4 Governance Center in Fort Capelle to have time with knowledge keepers regarding water and threats to water. This will be taking place in August/September.

The Justice Team will be hosting an open house regarding social justice concerns and looking at how we can take action. and concerns for upcoming election.

On May 29, the archivists and Julie will be planning a centennial planning meeting that will be open to anybody to attend. The hope is to get ahead of requests for things like photos etc. so that our archivists aren't overwhelmed with requests.

Gaza/Israel

Letter received by Valarie Zink who is a part of the Treaty Land Sharing Network. She is asking us as a region to sign onto a letter that is calling for an academic boycott. We need more information.

Action:

- Julie will get more information from Valarie. (Deadline? Who else has signed on?)
- Julie will send the letter out to the Executive to review.

Finance

Heather Dootoff reported.
Almost done with the audits. CRA reports to begin.

Treasurer's webinar that takes place monthly. In May they will be doing a different type of webinar, inviting others and looking to receive feedback on salaries for ministry personnel.

Chantal and Heather have been working with the property committee. Editing how the flow of money is sent to the various ministries when a sale of property happens.

Executive Minister

Chantal Winslow read Shannon McCarthy's report:
Sorry I can't join you today. I am currently in Edmonton speaking at an Ecumenical Shared Ministry conference. As ESM's are important for us moving forward I thought it a good use of my time to be here in person.

My calendar is filling up with more face-to-face and events. In May I will be attending the St. Andrew's convocation, a gathering of Indigenous congregations in Regina, and a gathering of Keewatin Circle in Winnipeg (Indigenous congregations from Northern Manitoba). I also have two celebration of ministry services

I have also been asked to serve on the GC 45 Business Committee so meetings for that are starting to happen regularly. We are working on the process to get commissioners for GC45 and I encourage you to think of who we can tap to put their name in to attend the meeting in Calgary to show the diversity and energy of Living Skies.

We are still dealing with some conflict issues at Knox-Met Tracy and I are working with the commission to work through those processes.

BUSINESS ARISING

Appointment of appeal committee

There is a congregation in Regina who had a renter that is now appealing a decision. We need to appoint an appeal committee to decide whether or not the renter has

grounds for an appeal. If they do, then the appeal committee will also hear the actual appeal.

042-2023/2024 **It was agreed by consensus:
That Living Skies Regional Council Executive appoint Kathleen James-Cavan, Bev Bradshaw and Mathias Ross to the Wesley/renter appeal hearing committee.**

Treasurer's report Dale reported.

043-2023/2024 **It was agreed by consensus:
That Living Skies Regional Council Executive approve the audited financial statements.**

There is no updated financial statements from General Council. We are currently sitting at a \$32,000 deficit but once we receive information from General Council, that should balance out a bit with grant amounts etc.

Regional Council Trust No updates

Big River Gathering The gathering at Big River will take place from August 24-26.
Kathleen, Piotr, Doug, Julie, Linda, Heather, and Dave have all confirmed that they should be able to attend.
Please invited your partner.

Friday night will be a campfire. Saturday they will be taking out boats and going fishing and then ending the day with a bbq feast and visiting. On Sunday morning, the Pentecostal minister will lead a service.

Tracy is not able to attend but she has camping equipment for others to borrow.

What do we want from this gathering?
What are some of the things that they are grappling with? History?
Singing & drumming

Action:

- Dave will continue to work with Big River to plan this event
- Julie will correspond with Dave about some thoughts.
- The Executive will think about what we want to get from this gathering so that we can share this with our hosts.

Regional Meeting Planning Committee Regional Annual Meeting Planning Committee April 25, 2024
The agenda is almost completed with maybe a few tweaks later. The Saturday is the Flourishing workshop with the Moderator
Working with the hotel around food costs. Using their menu, we will be over budget for what we are charging the delegates. So, seeing if we can reduce the amount/variety of food being offered so we can reduce the costs. For example, coffee

breaks are \$8 a person. Meals chosen so far are \$17 to 35 plus 28% for gst, pst, and gratuity.
The other dilemma at the moment is the reception after the Sunday service. Knox where the service is taking place doesn't have the people to do it. So, I am seeing if the people at Grace West will do the planning for it.
After some encouragement we are looking to see if we can have a children's program. After two surveys only one person responded. But we were encouraged to try, so someone is seeing what we can do.
Everything is coming along, and registration will be coming out very soon.
There will be 6 workshops offered over two times periods.
The Affirming Celebration will be the first worship service.

Centennial Celebration

As Julie mentioned earlier, there will be an open house/workshop on May 29 for the three regions to coordinate plans. Open to all.
Should we ask congregations what they are doing?

Living Skies Regional Council Affirming Action Plan

The action plan was presented by Darrell. This needs to be approved by executive and then brought to annual meeting and approved.

Kathleen asked that the term "differing abilities" be changed to disabilities.

044-2023/2024

**It was agreed by consensus:
That Living Skies Regional Council Executive approve the LSRC Regional Affirming Action Plan and pass along to the Regional Council for approval.**

Action:

- **Julie will make the correction and then pass the approved document on to the Affirming Task Group.**

Nominations

NA

OTHER

NEXT MEETING

Next meeting will be May 23, 2024 from 1-4 pm.
Worship – Kathleen James-Cavan

ADJOURNMENT



Darrell Reine, Chairperson



Shannon McCarthy, Executive Minister

