

**Living Skies Executive Minutes  
February 27, 2025 via Zoom**

<b>EXECUTIVE PRESENT</b>	Darrell Reine (Chair), Piotr Strzelecki, Doug Haroldson, Amelia Takau; Dale Worrall (Treasurer),  A quorum was present.
<b>REGRETS</b>	Deborah Smith, Deborah Springer,
<b>CORRESPONDING MEMBERS PRESENT</b>	
<b>STAFF PRESENT</b>	Shannon McCarthy (Executive Minister); Heather Dootoff (Finance Administrator), Bev Diebert (Administrative Support); Chantal Winslow (Executive Assistant & Recording Secretary), Tracy Murton (Pastoral Relations Minister);
<b>CALL TO ORDER</b>	Darrell called the meeting to order. Darrell led us in reflection & prayer.
<b>APPROVAL OF AGENDA</b>	We reviewed the agenda.
<b>APPROVAL OF MINUTES 026-2023/2024</b>	<b>It was agreed by consensus:</b> <b>That Living Skies Regional Council Executive approve the minutes of January 30, 2025 as amended.</b>
<b>CORRESPONDENCE</b>	
<b>U of S Ecumenical Chaplaincy Letter</b>	We received a letter from Ecumenical Chaplaincy at the University of Saskatchewan thanking us for the grant they received from us. Received for information.
<b>Green Spirit Report</b>	We received a report for February 2025 from the Green Spirit Chaplaincy. Received for information.
<b>BUSINESS ARISING</b>	
<b>Request from nominations</b>	The property Commission is losing some of their members. This would leave them with only two people. They are asking for our approval to extend the term for George Thurlow.
<b>027-2023/2024</b>	<b>It was agreed by consensus:</b> <b>That Living Skies Executive approve a one-year extension of term for George Thurlow, on the Property Commission.</b>

**To do:**

- Darrell will let Jeanette know our decision

**Incorporated  
Ministries  
028-2023/2024**

**It was agreed by consensus:**

**That Living Skies Regional Council Executive approve the following actions:**

**a) Lumsden Beach Camp Inc.**

**...pursuant to the Incorporated Ministries Policy of The United Church of Canada approve the Lumsden Beach Camp 2024-2025 Board of Directors**

**Shirley Bartz**

**Susan Black**

**Vicki Conway**

**Mike Hadwen**

**Kara Moen**

**Kevin Perrey**

**Andrea Stronski**

**Rob Swallow**

**Wendy Therens**

**Courtney Thomson**

**Chelsey Vargo-Wilson**

**This is based on the draft AGM Minutes of November 19, 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.**

**b) River Bend Integrated Community Ministries Inc.**

**...pursuant to the Incorporated Ministries Policy of The United Church of Canada approve the River Bend Integrated Community Ministries Inc.**

**2024-2025 Board of Directors**

**Cheyenne McDonald**

**Maureen McPherson**

**Anne Mathewson**

**Leanne Opoonechaw**

**Bill Pollock**

**Janice Poundmaker**

**Gary Stevens**

**These are based on the draft Annual General Meeting Minutes of June 11, 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.**

**Island Forest Letter**

We received an email from Vicki Obedkoff regarding the Saskatchewan Governments plans to accelerate clear-cutting in the Island Forests. We were provided with a letter from Saskatchewan Environmental Society which shares more information about the

situation. SES and Metis Local 66 are asking for similar requests to be sent to the Forest Service.

**To do:**

- Darrell will write a brief letter of support.

**Pastoral Care  
Proposal**

Tracy submitted a proposal regarding a paid pastoral care position. We discussed and provided Tracy with feedback. Tracy will work with Heather to discuss budget and the Community of Faith Support and bring back a proposal.

**Approval of Trust**

Shannon presented us with the property trust documents. This will allow us to hold property for longer periods of time instead of selling it.

**029-2023/2024**

**It was agreed by consensus:**

**That Living Skies Executive give Shannon McCarthy permission to sign the Living Skies Regional Trust document and provide payment in the amount of \$10.**

**Proposals from Just  
Peace**

We will deal with these at our March meeting.

**Funding Request from  
Pilgram United**

We received a letter from Paul Walfall at Pilgrim United asking each region to fund \$500 for their exhibit on black history.

**030-2023/2024**

**It was agreed by consensus:**

**That Living Skies Executive approve the funding requested by Pilgrim United for their Black History Exhibit in the amount of \$500.**

**Introduction into GC  
Towards 2035**

Shannon gave us an overview of the Towards 2035 document.

Further conversation to take place at our March in person meeting. This document is to be kept confidential and not to be forwarded or shared with anybody outside of the Executive at this time.

**To do:**

- Chantal will send out the document to the Executive members ahead of our March meeting for review.

**Report from Canadian  
Shield**

We received a final report from the investigation that took place regarding Knox Met.

**031-2023/2024**

**It was agreed by consensus:**

**That Living Skies Executive agree to receive the report, dated February 13, 2025, regarding the Workplace Discrimination, Harassment and Violence Response Policy complaint from Canadian Shield Regional Council.**

**To do:**

- Darrell to send a thank you note to the task group

## BUSINESS ARISING

**Purpose of Regional Reps** The group has met and created a first draft. We are going to review this further at our March meeting.

**Emergency Funds for Congregations** The group who were meeting to discuss this haven't had time. We will postpone this for now.

**Don Elliot Trust – Estevan** Dale has tried to reach out and hasn't heard back. He will continue to work on this.

**Funds from the sale of Wesley** Heather and Dale discussed. At this time they would like to move the money into the reserves fund so that it isn't sitting in surplus. We can then decide later how to utilize the money.

It is being proposed that \$346,000 get moved into the legacy fund.

**032-2023/2024** **It was agreed by consensus:**  
**That Living Skies Executive approve moving \$346,000 from the sale of Wesley United into the legacy fund.**

**100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration** A small group are working together to plan the event.  
We are working on getting a themed speaker (Diane Strickland).  
Location in Saskatoon confirmed.  
The committee will be meeting again on March 4  
Theme: From Fear to Hope: Who are we called to be in the future?

**FINANCE** No report.

## STAFF REPORTS

**Executive Minister** GC executive meeting next weekend in Southern Ontario. Decisions coming regarding the Total Compensation report. Towards 2035 will be a big conversation as well.

GC Commissioners training on March 20.

Archives contract Grace Westminster. Asking permission to sign that lease.  
\$1000/month for the next three years with an adjustment based on cost of living after that. Deadline is fast approaching.

**033-2023/2024** **It was agreed by consensus:**  
**That Living Skies Executive approve Shannon McCarthy signing the rental contract between Grace Westminster and Living Skies Regional Council for the purpose of using the space for the Archives.**

**Pastoral Relations Minister** Tracy reported.

A couple weeks ago Piotr and Doreen Hewitson hosted our annual online sacraments elder training. There were 11 people registered.

This evening our licensed lay worship leaders are gathering and sharing their favorite resources for Lent.

In a few weeks there will be an Equipping the Saints gathering around the topic of MAID (medical assistance in dying).

**Office Admin**

Bev reported.

Working on updating the Government of Saskatchewan's Marriage Unit's list.

**Justice &  
Communications**

Julie was unable to attend the meeting but provided us with a report via email.

"I will send regrets for Thursday as I'm in the Sacred Obligations Edmonton unmarked burials learning day.

We have about 40 people minimum coming in person and 10 coming on Zoom to the Saskatoon day March 1, with about half Indigenous in the church and the wider community, and the rest a wide range of settlers and newcomers. It's exciting and a bit daunting, and it will be a very rich conversation.

I have temporarily given up trying to sort the budget, especially since one of our lead resource people just hasn't given us her rate despite multiple requests. When I talked with Northern Spirit they authorized up to \$5,000; I don't say that to pressure, just as a reference point. For these more expensive events that are expensive mostly because we try to be barrier-free and welcoming, I am not sure what our policy is. So I just want to mention that this will be an expense for the Region, shared with the national church (we are unsure of the breakdown for that- this is a pilot event and that shows!)"

**ONGOING**

**Reconciliation Action  
Fund** NA

**MOATS Fund** NA

**NEXT MEETING** Next meeting will be March 28 and 29 in Regina.

**ADJOURNMENT**



Darrell Reine, Chairperson



Shannon McCarthy, Executive Minister

