

Fundy St. Lawrence Dawning Waters Regional Commission
November 16, 2018 – 10:00 a.m.- 3:00 p.m.
Adobe Connect Meeting

1. **Present were:** Rev. Faith March-MacCuish, Provisional Executive Minister; Wayne Trail, Steve Berube, Chignecto Presbytery; Rick Bowley; Kevin Dingwell, Sheila Gallant, P.E.I. Presbytery, Audrey Lounder, Pam Reidpath, Saint John Presbytery; Jane Doull, Sharon Hannan, St. Croix Presbytery; Rose-Hannah Gaskin, Heather Donnelly, Woolastook Presbytery; Blair Lewis, Miramichi Presbytery.
2. **Absent:** Jason O’Hearn, youth representative.
3. **Agenda:** Rev. Faith welcomed everyone to the webinar which was arranged on short notice due to the pending snow storm. No one had heard from Jason O’Hearn for awhile. An agenda was circulated but three items were moved to the top so we could deal with them today: Mission and Services Grants; Governance structure; and choosing a name for region 14.
4. **Worship:** Audrey volunteered to open the meeting with prayer.
5. **Minutes of September 7, 2018 and of the three Regions joint meeting October 11 and 12, 2018:** The minutes of September 7, 2018 were agreed to by consensus. The October minutes would be put over to the next meeting agenda.
6. **Mission Grants:** The Financial Support Committee had met and submitted its recommendations on applications for 2019 mission support grants. Some grants are from Region 15 and some from Region 14. There are some that overlap in each region and on those, the Committee has recommended both regions support on a percentage basis. Region 15 has the largest grant requests at \$116,350.; Region 14 requests total \$67,970. before consideration of the percentage amounts of those projects that overlap. Maritime Conference and Presbyteries also assisted some of these projects financially.

The draft budget was then considered with the grant projects included previously listed. Audrey updated the grant projects as discussion continued. Some of the staff salaries come from the same monies for grants and we had used estimated amounts which were close to the exact amounts. Fundy St. Lawrence Dawning Waters Regional Council has a surplus amount, and a willingness to share the suggested projects was expressed. Concern was mentioned that many areas are seeing a shift in homeless people in the Moncton, St. John and Fredericton areas this year and projects directly connected to providing for the homeless will be impacted more. Audrey mentioned that St. John was considered the poorest place in Canada, and one school had broken windows that were not fixed because, when replaced, they were broken again. Her congregation helped students with providing shoes, socks, etc.

Rev. Faith mentioned that the Atlantic Christian Training Centre (Tatamagouche) was not listed on the mission support grant listing. Twenty-six thousand had been given to it but no application had been received for 2019. Notice would be given to those who had received funding in the past from either presbyteries and Conference that they would have to apply for the funds received by them in the past. Camp Abegweit and Camp Ta-Wa-Si had submitted an application. Church Extension Board had not. Miramichi had supported, not only the Moncton Hospital Chaplaincy along with P.E.I. Presbytery and Chignecto Presbytery, but also Quebec City chaplaincy services. The amount given was a minimum of \$500. annually. Rev. Ed. Stretch is the contact person - estr3etch@quebec.anglican.ca or edatt@gmail.com, cell: 418.951.1295. Donations in support may be sent to The Diocese of Quebec, 31, rue des Jardins, Quebec, QC G1R 4L6. Rev. Blair Lewis explained that doctors in the Miramichi area refer people to the Quebec area hospitals for treatment at their discretion.

All **agreed** that the amount of \$500. be added into the budget to cover this donation.

Discussion continued on the Wesley Memorial Hospital Chaplaincy Fund (Moncton Chaplaincy) which comes through the UCC Foundation, P.E.I. Church Extension Board, and the Lift project (an after school and seniors project in a rural area).

Having two lists, one for grants and another for mission, was confusing. It would be easier if one list was created combining the amounts each project received. Rev. Faith reminded everyone that the projects were for 2019 and they needed to know whether funding was approved or not and the amounts coming if any and that the responsibility for deciding rests with the Transition Commission.

Audrey revised the grant project list and sent out to the members. After revisions reviewed, Rev. Faith asked if anyone objected to the list and hearing no response, everyone **agreed** by consensus to approval of the following projects:

Atlantic Christian Training Centre (Tatamagouche)	\$26,000.00
Camp Ta-Wa-Se (as requested and as recommended)	\$8,000.00
Moncton Hospital Chaplaincy (this is the total but we are assuming there will be an interest income of \$7000.)	\$10,400.00
Camp Abegweit (We added an extra 1000 over the recommendation because we have always given that and suggested they apply to some other fund to top up)	\$11,000.00
PEI Ext Board (We met previous years' commitments)	\$6,000.00
Fredericton Council for Christian Ministry on Campus (this is the two numbers added together to come to this total)	\$14,200.00
AST	\$500.00
(we didn't talk about this and AST didn't apply for mission support but it has been given in the past)	
Brunswick Street Mission (as recommended)	\$3,000.00
Out of the Cold (as recommended)	\$1,500.00

Hope GO Project (as recommended)	\$2,000.00
Aboriginal Peace and Friendship Project (as recommended)	\$9,750.00
Breaking the Silence (as recommended)	\$2,500.00
CQS Day Care (as recommended)	\$15,000.00
St Croix Wellness (as recommended)	\$18,570.00
LIFT - An Intergenerational Event (as recommended)	\$6,400.00
Chaplaincy Quebec (we added this...they did not apply or applied late)	\$500.00
 Total Grants	 \$135,320.00.

Discussion then turned to priorities of funding which may be more challenging for Region 15. The application process would also need to be discussed but this could be delayed for now. We would need a process between Regions 14 and 15 on the projects shared between them. Audrey suggested a process be set for one to two years and then an elected body could make more permanent decisions. Some felt clear directions early would be beneficial. Rev. Faith will work with Marlene to send letters to recipients of funding, first by email so they will know and then by regular mail. Until the notifications are sent, the results are confidential.

7. **Naming Contest for Region 14:** The following list of names were received: Eastern Bridges Region; Eastern Rivers and Seas Region; Eastern Gulf Region; Dawning Waters; Région Champlain Region; Twin Bridges; Bridges Region; Fundy St. Lawrence; Acadia. Audrey explained a few had explanations with them. One she had not listed because it had no connection to the region. Dawning Waters: land of the dawn, word that would connect with the Wabanaki people; and water - we are all linked by water. Twin Bridges: defined by past - covered bridges; and future - Confederation Bridge.

Following discussion, the choice was narrowed to three: Dawning Waters, Fundy St. Lawrence, and Bridges Region.

Rev. Faith informed the group that Region 15 would make a decision on its name in the spring and would need to apply for a new charitable number. If we choose a name today, we would file for a name change for the current Conference number.

After discussion of various reasons and name configurations, all agreed with or could live with the name of Fundy St. Lawrence Dawning Waters Regional Council. Audrey informed the group that the proposed name of Dawning Waters had been submitted by Laura Hunter, and Bob Crawley submitted Fundy St. Lawrence. She would notify the winners of the contest after we had agreed on the announcement of the name. Rose Hannah agreed to write a notice which might read as follows:

As we pondered a new name for our Region, we looked at the suggestions that had been submitted and also at the names chosen by some of the other Regions. We could see that there were at least two

ways of approaching this task: describe the geographic location of the region, or choose a name that is more creative, poetic and imaginative.

As the Commission turned the question over and over, we chose to move away from binary thinking - either/or, and look at a more inclusive approach. (How very United Church!)

Eventually, we chose two of the suggested names and put them together: Fundy-St. Lawrence Dawning Waters.

Fundy-St. Lawrence allows everyone to locate us within the vast landscape of Canada. Dawning Waters comes from a translation of the Aboriginal word 'Wabanaki'; "People of the First Light" or "People of the Dawnland" . It acknowledges our presence on traditional lands and also evokes our love of God's Creation. Finally, we believe that 'Waters' speaks deeply to all of us who call ourselves Christians and who live on Canada's East Coast.

Once the notice wording was agreed upon, it would be sent to Presbyteries and communities of faith.

Rev. Faith would ask Jennifer to apply for a name change from Maritime Conference to Fundy St. Lawrence Dawning Waters Regional Council charitable number to be effective January 1, 2019, to which all **agreed**.

8. **Lunch:** Following a 45 minute lunch break we would continue with Governance Structure. We would also schedule two short meetings to deal with the remaining items on the agenda.
9. **Reconvened meeting:** On calling the roll, all present at the morning session, except Audrey who joined a couple of minutes later, had returned to the webinar following the lunch break.
10. **Governance Structure:** General comments were that the format of the proposed Governance document was good and easy to follow. Concern was expressed on conflict of interest issue with someone serving on executive and Office of Vocation or pastoral relations work. These were separate bodies of work and if someone felt they were in a conflict of interest, they would leave the meeting while that matter was before the meeting and take no part in discussion and it would be so recorded in the minutes.

Rev. Faith suggested a diagram should be included. Sheila informed the meeting that the blank page of the draft was where a diagram would be inserted once the Governance document was completed. Audrey volunteered to do the diagram of the committee structure when we were ready for it.

Rev. Faith noted similarities between governance documents which was helpful to her. Sheila then led the group through the draft section by section. The first section on the terms of reference for regional councils was taken from the draft **2019 Manual of the United Church of Canada**. The subcommittee working on the governance felt it was useful to include this for everyone as there were questions on what councils duties were. These needed to be checked against the new **Manual** which had been passed by General Council Executive in September to ensure they remained the same.

It was suggested that wording be added at the beginning that it was subject to amendments to the Manual, that the Manual takes precedence and that the governance document is intended to be a living document. The Mission Statement should be removed from page one. Rev. Faith suggested that table groups could work on a mission statement during the 2019 annual meeting.

Following discussion, it was **agreed** to leave the Manual sections in the document. Blair suggested the word DRAFT be added to the document, and Jane volunteered to proofread the final document before it is distributed after the Commission has approved it.

Rick informed the group that Maritime Conference Executive was making recommendations to each region. Rev. Faith had received recommendations from David Hewitt and they would be on another meeting agenda. Affirm United had suggested that the affirming status would not be carried forward from Maritime Conference to the regions; asked to reconsider this as the two regions were the same people.

Composition of Region 14 executive would include chairs of the committee, not chairs of the subcommittee or working groups under the committee. The Committee would name its working groups. The Executive Minister would be *ex officio* a member of the Executive but the Office of Vocation Minister, Stewardship Minister and regional staff would be corresponding members and could be invited to attend Executive meetings if and when necessary.

The five members at large was sufficient and that the Nominations Committee could be tasked with finding these members to cover regional representation. Concern was expressed that we ensure intercultural representation. In discussion, we could task the Nominations Committee with a policy around how people are selected and it was one of the reasons why the subcommittee had included regional representation.

On a suggestion that the words be changed from chair to chair of committees or designate, Rev. Faith responded that if a chair could not attend, the designate would be a corresponding member but would have no vote. It was **agreed** to leave the wording as is.

Under duties, #2 should be listed under composition. In #3, the word complete should be amended to undertake.

In #8, Heather explained that the region may wish to have whoever was geographically available to attend certain functions. Rev. Faith shared that Liaisons working with communities of faith from the start of a pastoral relations matters would be asked to complete their work by seeing to the covenanting, commissioning, recognition services. Revisions **agreed** to were: the word share should be deleted and rotating should be amended to shared so the line would read Responsibility of pastoral care be shared among... .

In #9, Heather noted that the wording was to expand on the ties to the Maine churches. The word Establish was amended to Encourage and the rest of the paragraph be deleted so it would read: Encourage ecumenical theological work. The item was tabled for further discussion.

It was **agreed** to omit #11 as this was a function of Pastoral Relations Committee.

Given that we had almost reached the adjournment time, we jumped to Meeting Planning Committee for appointment of two members so the planning could commence as soon as possible. Rev. Faith informed us that Donna Tourneur and April Hart had been appointed from Region 15 to work on the planning, and asked for volunteers from 14. Rick Bowley and Audrey Lounder volunteered. Rev. Faith would ask Jennifer who was on last years planning committee from 14 and all **agreed** for them to start their work.

10. **Dates for next meeting:** Rev. Faith suggested a couple of dates but without a clear date, she would send out a Doodle Poll for people to complete. She asked that everyone complete it as soon as possible and that a date would be scheduled within the next two weeks.
11. **Adjournment:** The webinar then concluded and all wished Rev. Faith a safe journey home.