

Fundy St. Lawrence Dawning Waters Regional Commission
January 9, 2019 – 3:30 p.m.
Adobe Connect Meeting

1. **Present were:** Rev. Faith March-MacCuish, Provisional Executive Minister; Wayne Trail, Steve Berube, Rick Bowley, Kevin Dingwell, Sheila Gallant, Audrey Launder, Heather Donnelly, Blair Lewis, Jane Doull, and Rose-Hannah Gaskin.
2. **Absent:** Jason O’Hearn, youth representative; Sharon Hannan.
3. **Agenda:** Rev. Faith welcomed everyone to the Adobe Connect meeting. The agenda as circulated was agreed to with two additions: Website, Nominations.
4. **Prayer:** Co-chair Heather Donnelly opened the meeting with a prayer.
5. **Minutes of December 20, 2018:** On the Co-chair asking if there were any corrections to the December 20th minutes as circulated. Rev. Faith informed the meeting that Region 15 had met last week and it would be beneficial to have one mandate for all three Regions. Richard Bowley moved, seconded by Blair Lewis, that the minutes be approved as circulated. **Motion Carried.**
6. **Business arising:** There was no business arising that was not already noted on the Agenda.
7. **Memorandum of Understanding:** Region 15 agreed to the proposed Memorandum of Understanding as circulated but asked that Shared Staff information be added. That information was added to the new draft MOU that was circulated under “Terms.” Each Region gives \$500. to the archivist for expenses for a total of \$1,500. It was noted that “Avel” should be all capitals as “AVEL.” Rev. Faith would speak with the Archivist Sarah Wallace for clarity regarding the expenses and if expenses should be shared between the Region and churches requesting her to visit for workshops or to assist them with their material and artifacts. If expenses are to be shared, churches/pastoral charges should be so advised. It was **agreed** that the Chairs sign the MOU and scan back to Rev. Faith. Steve Berube moved, seconded by Richard Bowley, that the proposed MOU be accepted and be signed by the Chairs of each Region. **Motion Carried.**

Audrey joined the meeting 3:48 - explained issue with trying to connect through Adobe Connect.
Rose-Hannah joined the meeting at 3:51.

8. **Manual 2019 Definitions:** Questions arose around definitions for “resident members,” “outreach ministries,” and “community of faith.” Question also arose around outreach ministries and if considered a community of faith, would they be expected to be assessed/pay an allocation to the United Church of Canada, and how would they be assessed. When incorporated ministries sent someone to a presbytery meeting, they were made a

corresponding member so they could speak at the meeting but they were not reimbursed for the expense of travelling to the meeting. Rev. Faith felt the Regions would decide if a ministry was a community of faith and advise General Council of its decision to assess and set an allocation but she will seek clarification on incorporated ministries.

9. **Governance:**

- a) **Nominating Committee:** A discussion ensued re members selected by Pastoral Charges and members at large with particular expertise nominated to be delegates to Conference and serve on committees. Under the new structure, a person does not have to be a delegate to the Regional Council in order to serve on a committee. This should broaden the base of volunteers to draw from but chairs of the committees should be a delegate because they would serve on the Executive. It was suggested that some of the volunteers may have been former presbytery members. Expression of interests were distributed to presbyteries for members to complete and send in. This item has been mentioned at meetings at every opportunity in order to have a pool of people to draw on.

The members of the Nominating Committee are: Wayne Trail, Blair Lewis, Jane Johnston, Stephen Brown, Rose-Hannah Gaskin, and it was **agreed** that they should go ahead and contact people to populate the committees. Prince Edward Island contacts were needed; Rose-Hannah would check on the Expression of Interests; and the Island members would ask people to come forward. On request of the group, Rose-Hannah agreed to chair the Nominating Committee. Steve Berube moved, seconded by Blair Lewis, that the Nominating Committee move forward with populating the committees and that Rose-Hannah be the chair. **Motion Carried.**

We were reminded that Chairs of Committees are full voting members of the Regional Council.

- (b) **Pastoral Relations Committee:** Steve mentioned that the Regional Minister had asked for an experienced secretary to be appointed to Pastoral Relations Committee. A lot of questions were raised regarding the work and membership of the Pastoral Relations Committee and the liaison group. Rev. Faith reminded everyone that at the joint three Regions meeting we had agreed that the Regional Minister could move forward with finding liaisons and to do the training required for them to begin their work. This is not the whole Committee nor is it all the work that needs to be done. It was **agreed** that the Nominating Committee treat the Pastoral Relations Committee the same as the other committees and find a chair and secretary. It was also **agreed** that the membership of the core committee should be eight and not 14 members. In #3, the wording should be changed to “appoint members from the pool of Pastoral Relations Liaisons Officers to assist a community of faith in pastoral relations matters at designated times.” Staff members cannot chair committees; they are there

as a resource person only. Rev. Faith undertook to clarify with the Regional Ministers the workings of the Pastoral Relations Committee.

- (c) **Liaisons:** Liaisons will be named to arrange covenanting services on behalf of the Region once a call or appointment has been approved. Living faith documents are to be done for all communities of faith and the ministers can help with that work and can call on liaisons for assistance when or if needed. Liaisons will work with communities of faith where there is no called or appointed ministry personnel in place.
- (d) **Licensed Lay Worship Leaders:** Another piece for Pastoral Relations is the Licensed Lay Worship Leader training, licensing and keeping a list of leaders as well as an annual review of their licenses and racial sensitivity training.
- (e) **Temporary marriage licenses:** Temporary marriage license requests process is the same as before: Session approval should be sought from the church/Charge where the minister has been asked to preside at a wedding, and the request and Session approval forwarded to Rev. Faith. Letter of good standing would be sought from the Office of Vocation. Once all the pieces have been received, Rev. Faith would ensure the license was requested from the appropriate authority/province. In the future, a proper policy should be prepared with power given to the Executive Minister to approve or the request could be presented to the Executive for approval.

10. **CORRESPONDENCE:**

- (a) **Miramichi Presbytery:**
 - (i) **Sale of Church property - Cascapedia:** Blair Lewis explained that the property had been sold and the money received. The process needs to be reviewed by the Regional Council. This would be added to the February agenda.
 - (ii) **Two Point Pastoral Charge on Miscou Island (St. John United & St. Marks United):** Blair Lewis was appointed the supervising minister for the Charge by Miramichi Presbytery. A worship schedule of services has been prepared for the spring. No minister is being called but ministry personnel are required to do services i.e. Mother's Day service and an internment service the same day. Blair explained that he has another commitment but will try to find someone to do the two services. Jane Doull moved, seconded by Audrey Loundry that Blair continue as the supervising minister until May 2019. **Motion Carried.**

Discussion followed re supervisory positions existing at the end of December

continue until May or would they need to be appointed by the Regional Council. Jane Doull moved, seconded by Audrey Loundry, that in situations where Pastoral Charge supervisors are required, current supervisors will continue according to the terms of their appointment by Presbyteries. **Motion Carried.** Kevin abstained.

(iii) **Funds for Syrian Refugee Family:** Blair reported that a cheque had been forwarded to the Regional office in the amount of \$10,000. designated for this family.

11. **FLICKER ACCOUNT:** Rev. Faith informed the meeting that Region 15 wished to continue the Flicker account which holds pictures taken at former Maritime Conference events and is part of our pictorial history. Rev. Faith explained that each Region would have an account and set up. It was **agreed** that we keep the link on the new web site for historical purposes.
12. **WEBSITE:** The web designer Brad would like someone within the Region to add information to the site and someone to work now on what the site would look like. It was suggested that two people from each Region would be sufficient. Audrey and Kevin **agreed** to be the members from our Region.
13. **BUDGET:** The updated budget is now on line
14. **LIAISON MANDATE:** Sheila noted the last line of the circulated Liaison Mandate has two incorrect words, and she would send Rev. Faith the information.
15. **PROPOSED MEETING DATES:** Sharon Hannan cannot meet on Wednesday due to a standing commitment. A doodle poll would again be circulated to see if there was a time and date when all could be available.
16. **ADJOURNMENT:** Having reached the end of the agenda, the meeting adjourned at 5:15 p.m.