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A meeting of the Pastoral Relations Commission was held via Zoom Conference call on Tuesday, September 8, 2020 at 1:00 p.m.

**PRESENT:**

Ina Bromley (via telephone), Ed Gratton, Wayne Harris (Chair), Charlotte Hoy (via telephone), Erin McIntyre (left at 1:45), Karen McLean (Scribe), Janet Nield, Whit Strong (8)

**REGRETS:** Sharon MacDonald, Linda Suddaby (2)

**CALL TO ORDER, OPENING PRAYER:**

Chair Wayne called the meeting to order at 1:10 p.m. and opened the meeting with prayer.

**QUICK CHECK-IN:**

Members checked in with personal updates since the last meeting.

**ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES OF AUGUST 18, 2020**

**Motion 19/20-136** (E. McIntyre/ J. Nield) “that the minutes of the EOORC PR Commission for August 18, 2020 be approved as distributed.”

**CARRIED****CORRESPONDENCE:**

All correspondence will be dealt with during the meeting.

**RESTORATIVE CARE:****For Information**

Deborah Roi (OM) – Carp-Dunrobin PC - applied August 7, 2020

Elizabeth Bryce (OM) – Rideau Park PC – applied Sept. 4, 2020

**LIAISONS and PASTORAL CHARGE SUPERVISORS:****Pastoral Charge Supervisors:****Cumberland PC – Ed Gratton**

**Motion 19/20-137** (I. Bromley/J. Nield) “that the EOORC PR Commission, in the absence of called/appointed ministry personnel, names Ed Gratton (OM), EOORC member, as Pastoral Charge Supervisor to the Cumberland Pastoral Charge.”

**CARRIED****CHANGE IN PASTORAL RELATIONSHIPS:****Laurie McKnight – Retirement**

**Motion 19/20-138** (E. McIntyre/E. Gratton) “that the ROORC PR Commission approves the request of Laurie McKnight (OM) St. Paul’s-Eastern Pastoral Charge for a change in pastoral relations to retire as of November 30, 2020.”

**CARRIED**

**Motion 19/20-139** (I. Bromley/ E. McIntyre) “that the EOORC PR Commission approves the request of Valerie Vande Wiele (OM) Iroquois-Matilda Pastoral Charge for a change in pastoral relations as of November 30, 2020.”

**CARRIED****COVENANTING SERVICES:**

Chair Wayne noted that there were a number of Covenanting services scheduled for the beginning of the year but we have heard nothing more about them. Were they held, were they rescheduled? If so, when and where? Whit will contact each one to check on the status. Dates, locations and times are needed so they can be posted on the website and other churches can be notified.

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Other questions – Has the Covenanting service changed? Who is the Presider from the Region? Can the Region take on coordinating the service with the ministry personnel?

Whit explained the service is now the responsibility of the Community of Faith. They should find a presider for the service. The Liaison represents the Region at the service. There is a service template which Whit sends to Pastoral Charges when they have called/appointed new ministry personnel.

**OTHER BUSINESS:**

- Whit noted we must reiterate to Liaisons and Communities of Faith our \$1000/year minimum phone policy for calls and appointments. Some appointment forms are coming in with much less in this column. They cannot prorate this amount or settle for less.
- There are different practices in place for reimbursing ministry personnel for mileage and con ed costs. Some churches pay when receipts are presented while others have opted to pay a monthly amount and then even things out at the end of the year. While CRA approves both methods, the monthly arrangement has caused difficulties especially when a pastoral relationship ceases before the end of the year.

**Motion 19/20-140** (E. Gratton/I. Bromley) “that the EOORC PR Commission requests the Executive to strongly recommend that Communities of Faith reimburse con ed and travel expenses when receipts are presented rather than by a monthly payment through ADP.” **CARRIED**

- Concerns were raised over the large number of pastoral charges requiring pastoral supervision and how we go about finding people to fill these roles. This seems to be left with Whit to try to fill the various vacancies. What happens if we are unable to find someone right away? Ideally, it would be nice to have a part-time or retired clergy who might be willing to cover multiple pastoral charges in his/her commuting area.  
Is this something rural/urban clusters might be interested in? Janet will contact Jane Dawson to ask how these clusters see pastoral supervision happening and what suggestions they might bring to the table. Wayne will add this to our October agenda.
- Whit reported on church re-opening plans. There are approximately 130 pastoral charges in our region with multiple points which results in almost as many different re-opening plans. So far, about 70 or slightly more than half have submitted their plans. Whit reviews them and makes necessary suggestions or corrections before approving them. A few planned to open Sept. 6 or 13 while others planned a Thanksgiving opening and still others were leaving things as they are until the New Year.

**NEXT MEETING:** Next meeting October 13, 2020 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. via Zoom.

**CLOSING:** Ed offered our closing prayer today. The business of the Commission being completed, Chair Wayne thanked everyone for attending, encouraged us to stay safe and declared the meeting closed at 2:09 p.m.