
A meeting of the Pastoral Relations (PR) Commission was held via Zoom Conference call on Tuesday, October 17, 2023 at 1:00 p.m.

PRESENT:

Jim Allen, Ina Bromley, Wayne Harris (Chair), Charlotte Hoy, Sharon MacDonald, Erin McIntyre, Karen McLean (Scribe), Blair Paterson, Whit Strong, (9)

REGRETS: Patsy Henry, Micheline Montreuil, Linda Suddaby (3)

CALL TO ORDER, OPENING PRAYER:

Chair, Wayne Harris, called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m. After a quick check-in with members, Jim Allen led us in an opening prayer.

ADDITIONS/CORRECTIONS TO THE AGENDA: None

INTERIM MOTIONS: None

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES:

MOTION 2023-104 (I. Bromley/B. Paterson) “that the minutes of September 12, 2023 be accepted as circulated.” **CARRIED**

CORRESPONDENCE: None

RESTORATIVE CARE/LTD:

Restorative Care: Rev. Eric Pagé (OM) Williamstown P.C.

LTD: Rev. Lynda Harrison (OM) Kemptville: St. John’s P.C.

SABBATICALS/COVERAGE: None

ACKNOWLEDGED SABBATICALS:

David Sherwin – Zion-Memorial P.C. (Carleton Place) – March 1 to May 31, 2024

Elaine Beattie – Glen Cairn P.C. – June 1 to August 31, 2024

Erin McIntyre – Cornwall: Knox-St. Paul’s P.C. – June 1 to September 3, 2024

Lorrie Lowes – Bells Corners P.C. – July 1 to September 30, 2024

SUPERVISED MINISTRY EDUCATION SITE: None

CHANGE IN RELATIONS:

Rev. Blair Paterson – South Mountain-Hallville P.C.

MOTION 2023-105 (C. Hoy/E. McIntyre) “That the EOORC PR Commission approves the request of the Rev. Blair Paterson for a change in pastoral relations effective March 1, 2024.” **CARRIED**

[**Abstaining:** Blair Paterson]

St. Lawrence and Glengarry East P.C.s

MOTION 2023-106 (E. McIntyre/J. Allen) “That the EOORC PR Commission takes note of the Shared Ministry Agreement between the St. Lawrence Pastoral Charge and the Glengarry East Pastoral Charge effective Dec. 1, 2023.” **CARRIED**

[Note: Whit was asked to ensure mileage is clearly explained.]

APPROVAL OF PROFILES: None**LIAISONS****Harrowsmith Verona P.C.**

MOTION 2023-107 (C. Hoy/B. Paterson) “That the EOORC PR Commission names Sharon MacDonald as Liaison to the Harrowsmith Verona Pastoral Charge.” **CARRIED**

[Abstaining: Sharon MacDonald]

MOTION 2023-108 (E. McIntyre/I. Bromley) “That the EOORC PR Commission names Janet Nield as Liaison to the First United Church Pastoral Charge.” **CARRIED**

Liaisons are still needed for Aylwin, Merivale-Fallowfield, Morrisburg: Lakeshore Drive, South Mountain-Hallville, and St. Andrew’s (Westmeath).

PASTORAL CHARGE SUPERVISORS:**Aylwin P.C.**

MOTION 2023-109 (J. Allen/S. MacDonald) “That the EOORC PR Commission, in the absence of called/appointed ministry personnel, names Natalie Matkovsky (OM), EOORC member, as Pastoral Charge Supervisor to the Aylwin Pastoral Charge.” **CARRIED**

Harrowsmith-Verona P.C.

MOTION 2023-110 (B. Paterson/E. McIntyre) “That the EOORC PR Commission, in the absence of called/appointed ministry personnel, names Sharon MacDonald, EOORC member, as Pastoral Charge Supervisor to the Harrowsmith-Verona Pastoral Charge.” **CARRIED**

[Abstaining: Sharon MacDonald]

PCs are still needed for St. Andrew’s (Westmeath).

Pastoral Charges without called/appointed Ministry Personnel:

(Pastoral Charge Supervisor in place as noted)

Addison – Lynne Gardiner

Admaston – Paul McLenaghan

Ashton-Munster – Jim Allen

Augusta – Linda Suddaby (while the minister is on LTD)

Eardley – Jim Allen (Eardley open for only a couple of services per year.)

Aylwin – Natalie Matkovsky

Bethel-St. Andrew’s – Jan Lougheed

Central Lanark – Wayne Harris

Charge pastorale Namur – Jim Kenney
Christ Church United (Chesterville) – Christine Lowson
Clyde Forks-Tatlock – Carla Van Delen
Delta-Toledo – Charlotte Hoy
Denbigh, Matawatchan, Schutt – Jon Williams/Ina Bromley
Elgin-Portland – JoAnne Fletcher
Genesis Co-operative – Jim Allen
Glasgow-Castleford – James Murray
Glengarry East – John Noordhoff
Golden Lake – Jon Williams
Greenwood – Ina Bromley
Harrowsmith-Verona – Sharon MacDonald
Kenmore (in process to close) - Ed Gratton
Knox Edwards – (closing in 2023) - Ed Gratton
Lanark-Balderson – Sharon MacDonald
Lansdowne – Donald Wachenschwanz
Lyn: Christ Church – Shelley Roberts
Mallorytown – Charlotte Hoy
Melville-Eganville – Ina Bromley
Metcalf – Ed Gratton
Osgoode-Kars – Ed Gratton
Ottawa Chinese – Barbara Reynolds (after 10 years, only on call)
Pembroke: Mt. Zion – Kevin Moratz
Pembroke: Zion Evangelical – Zacharia Mandara (meetings);
Ingrid Condie-Bennett (Pastoral Care)
Perth Road – Heather McLurg Murphy
Pittston – Myra Garvin
Rideau – Sharon MacDonald
Rockland – Jim Kenney
Russell – Ed Gratton
Southminster – Brian Copeland
St. Andrew's (Westmeath) -
St. John's (Brockville) – Linda Suddaby
Vernon – ministry is supplied by the Baptist Church
Williamstown – Lois Gaudet

Pastoral Charges in search mode:

(Liaisons in place as noted)
Ashton-Munster – Jim Allen
Aylwin –
Bethel-St. Andrew's – Beth Sweetnam
Cardinal – Myra Garvin
Central Lanark - Wayne Harris
Charge pastorale Namur – Jim Kenney

Christ Church United (Chesterville) – Christine Lowson
 Denbigh, Matawatchan, Schutt – Jon Williams/Ina Bromley
 First United (Ottawa) – Janet Nield
 Genesis Co-operative – Jim Allen
 Glasgow-Castleford – James Murray
 Glengarry East – **Eric Pagé**
 Knox Edwards – Ed Gratton
 Lanark-Balderson – Sharon MacDonald
 Lansdowne – Patsy Henry
 Melville-Eganville – Ina Bromley
 Merivale-Fallowfield -
 Metcalfe – Ed Gratton
 Morrisburg: Lakeshore Dr. -
 Osgoode-Kars – Ed Gratton
 Ottawa Chinese – Charles Barrett
 Perth Road – Heather McLurg Murphy
 Rockland – Jim Kenney
 Rothwell – Beth Sweetnam
 Russell – Ed Gratton
 South Mountain-Hallville -
 St. Andrew's (Westmeath) -
 St. John's (Brockville) – Linda Suddaby

Pastoral Charges not searching:

Addison	Eardley	Centenary
Clyde Forks-Tatlock	Delta-Toledo	Elgin-Portland
Glasgow-Castleford	Greenwood	Lower Gatineau Valley
Lyn: Christ	Mallorytown	Pittston
Rideau	Southminster (Ottawa)	St. John's (Brockville)
Templeton		

CALLS/(RE)-APPOINTMENTS

Christ Church United P.C. (Chesterville) – Blair Paterson (OM):

MOTION 2023-111 (I. Bromley/S. MacDonald) “that the EOORC PR Commission approves the call of the Rev. Blair Paterson (OM) to the Christ Church United Pastoral Charge (Chesterville), as Congregational Minister, 40 hours per week, effective March 1, 2024.”

CARRIED

Lanark-Balderson P.C. – Dan Hansen (OM)

MOTION 2023-112 (S. MacDonald/I. Bromley) “that the EOORC PR Commission approves the appointment of the Rev. Dr. Daniel Hansen (OM) to the Lanark-Balderson Pastoral Charge as Congregational Minister, 20 hours per week, effective February 1, 2024 – January 31, 2025.”

CARRIED

Central Lanark P.C. – Dan Hansen (OM)

MOTION 2023-113 (E. McIntyre/S. MacDonald) “that the EOORC PR Commission approves the appointment of the Rev. Dr. Daniel Hansen (OM) to the Central Lanark Pastoral Charge as Congregational Minister, 20 hours per week, effective February 1, 2024 – January 31, 2025.”

CARRIED

CHANGE OF TERMS:

MOTION 2023-114 (E. McIntyre/B. Paterson) “that the EOORC PR Commission approves the change to the terms of the call of the Rev. Eric Pagé (OM) of the Williamstown Pastoral Charge from “with manse” to “without manse” effective immediately.”

CARRIED

SACRAMENTS:

Parkdale P.C. – Bev Buckingham (DLM)

MOTION 2023-115 (S. MacDonald/E. McIntyre) “That the EOORC PR Commission, under the authority of the Executive, confers Sacramental privileges to Beverly Buckingham (DLM) for the duration of her appointment at Parkdale U.C.”

CARRIED

Pembroke: Mount Zion P.C. – David Henderson (DLM candidate)

MOTION 2023-116 (B. Paterson/I. Bromley) “That the EOORC PR Commission, under the authority of the Executive, confers Sacramental privileges to David Henderson (DLM candidate) for the duration of his appointment at Pembroke: Mount Zion Pastoral Charge.”

CARRIED

SACRAMENT ELDERS:

MOTION 2023-117 (S. MacDonald/C. Hoy) “That the EOORC PR Commission, under the authority of the Executive, approves the requests of the respective pastoral charges, to renew the Sacrament Elder status for another year, for Liz Church (Elgin-Portland P.C.); Barb De Jeet (Christ Church: Lyn P.C.); Deb Jinkinson (Admaston P.C.); and Michael Wattie (Central Lanark P.C.).

CARRIED

OTHER BUSINESS:

1) Proposed Ordination Policy:

The policy, as proposed by the PRC, went to the Executive on Sept. 14, 2023 and was passed as presented:

“To satisfy the requirements for Ordination, Commissioning or Recognition within Eastern Ontario Outaouais Regional Council, a Provisional Call or Appointment must:

- 1) be for a minimum of 12 consecutive months;
- 2) be for a minimum of 20 hours per week;
- 3) be a covenanted ministry involving a Community of Faith within EOORC or a recognized United Church of Canada ministry;
- 4) not fill a gap resulting from a pastoral leave from which the incumbent is expected to return within 12 months;
- 5) include the Candidate being enrolled in The United Church of Canada Pension and Benefits Plan.”

2) Protocols with respect to the deaths of ministry personnel and their spouses and family:

After further discussion, the following motion was prepared for the Executive to address at its meeting on Nov. 2, 2023:

MOTION 2023-118 (B. Paterson/E. McIntyre) "That the EOORC PR Commission recommends to the Executive that, upon the acknowledged death of a minister and/or his/her spouse and children within the EOORC region, the Personnel Minister will notify the Executive and request the treasurer to make a fifty-dollar (\$50) donation to the Mission and Service Fund."

CARRIED

Discussion is still ongoing regarding how to recognize the death of significant lay members of the Region. What are the criteria? Is it only current members or does it include those from the past?

3) Proposed Ordination Policy

On September 14, 2023, the Executive passed the following motion: "that the Eastern Ontario Outaouais Regional Council Executive grant the Pastoral Relations Commission the authority to licence Candidates and Sacramental Elders to perform the Sacraments within the bounds of their respective pastoral charges once Candidates for Ministry and those seeking to be Sacramental Elders have completed the requisite courses with respect to the Sacraments."

On October 12, 2023, the Executive broadened the scope of the previous motion by adding: "that the Eastern Ontario Outaouais Regional Council Executive grant the Pastoral Relations Commission the authority to license Diaconal Ministers and Designated Lay Minister to perform the Sacraments within the bounds of their respective pastoral charges after completing the requisite courses with respect to the Sacraments."

4) Salary Increases

Whit provided an update on the salary increases across the board for regional and General Council staff. The 2024 salary allowance schedule for ministry personnel in pastoral charges is now available.

5) EOORC newsletter

Whit will be adding a new section to his "From the desk of..." part of the newsletter. He will begin with an update regarding changes in pastoral relations for the past year and will then try to add a short report once a month following our meeting. This was a regular part of former Presbytery meetings but people don't know what is happening as much now at the regional level especially if they don't read the minutes.

6) Status of DLMs in the United Church of Canada

The GC Executive is proposing changes to the system which could include changing the educational requirements, and might even eliminate the category of DLM to move them into the ordered ministry stream. If this happens, current DLMs would be "grandfathered" into the system. More information is expected soon.

7) VAM forms

Forms requesting Voluntary Associate Minister (VAM) status and renewals, will now bypass the Executive and come directly to Whit. He will confirm the information on the forms with the Office of Vocation (OV) and send the updated list to the Joel Miller, Administrative Assistant.

8) Covenanting Services

Many services are happening now with numerous appointments and calls in the region. Unfortunately, as most of these services are held during Sunday morning worship, there is not much representation from regional members. The only “official” representative is the Liaison who represents the region during the search process and stays on until the Covenanting service is over.

As more pastoral charges begin to look at shared ministry the question has been raised whether they can hold one joint service or if they must have two separate services. They can have one joint service but must amend the service outline to make it clear there are two separate voices speaking to the covenant.

9) Exit Interviews

This was discussed at the last meeting – with no further input from the commission, Whit will simply speak with ministers who are leaving a pastoral charge and let them decide whether or not to participate in some form of exit interview.

10) Retired Ministers

Whit has sent a list to Blair Paterson who will work with Linda Suddaby to prepare a plan for contacting and keeping in touch with our retirees. This will be a long-term project.

11) Regional Office – closure

Whit reported that the regional office in Zion-Memorial U.C., Carleton Place has been closed. Files have been digitized and have been sent to the National office. The mailing address is now First United Church, 347 Richmond Rd, Ottawa, ON K2A 0E7

LAST WORD: None

Next meeting – **Tuesday, November 28, 2023** 1:00-3:00 p.m. via Zoom.

CLOSING: Whit led us in a closing prayer. The business listed on the agenda being completed, Wayne declared the meeting closed at 2:05 p.m.