LLWL Forum Minutes

23 Oct 2019

Whitby Westminster UC

7-9 pm

Members of the East Central Ontario Regional Council (ECORC) Licenced Lay Worship Leaders (LLWL) Forum met to discuss the near future of LLWLs in the ECORC. This event was led by Rev David Timpson, Pastoral Relations minister of ECORC who opened with a prayer. There were approx. 14 LLWL’s in attendance; John & Helen Bowman, Mark Sturman, Debbie Sherwin, Carol Cunday, Prill Bayke, Robert Bennett, Marilyn Fortin, Nancy Payne, Gwen Bevan, Lynn Liddell, Susan Sheremeta, Chris Ingersoll, Darlene Hallett, Richard Weigand, Debbie Peddle.

Rev David T proposed that the LLWL Forum needed a Secretary. The members of the LLWL Forum discussed and commented on this need.

This person would come from the LLWL members of ECORC. The person would assist in –

1. building and maintaining and communicating with the list of those Licenced in the ECORC;
2. Receiving and transmitting information necessary for LLWL Licencing and Renewal;
3. To be recruited by the ECORC nomination Team;
4. This person would work with the licencing and renewal of LLWLs;
5. Be involved with an Education process for training new LLWLs if required;

There was a suggestion that there be 2 members of the Forum who would work as a team (the Secretary and one other member) on the Licencing and the Renewal of licences.

It was noted that Regions 12 and 13 were discussing an Educational event. There was a question as to whether this Forum would be able to join these two regions in bringing an Educational training event for future LLWLs. There was also a question about having an honorarium for the Secretary.

It was also noted that there are at least 60 LLWL’s in our region now. There was a good discussion on training of future LLWLs. Good comments from many members were made on how the latest training had been conducted. It was suggested that all resources used in any recent LLWL courses should be used in future educational events. There was a concurrence amongst the Forum members that a future Educational training course should be run as there has been an interest directed to the ECORC about this. On-line resources can be found at “United Learning” for LLWLs.

It was noted that all this information should be shared with the remainder of the ECORC’s LLWLs.

One of those present showed interest in the Secretary’s position and will submit a Letter of Interest to the Nominations Team.

**Interviews**

David suggested that an Interview Team is needed to make recommendations of new LLWL’s to the Covenant Support Team (CST).

David then proposed the LLWL Forum provide 2 members for each ad hoc interview team to work with those appointed by the CST.

Chris Ingersoll volunteered as a member of the CST. John Bowman and Mark Sturman volunteered as members of the LLWL Forum. It is suggested that one female volunteer from the CST to ensure that equity be shown in the make-up of the interview teams (or that 2 females volunteer from the CST).

**Service of Recognition**

It was proposed the LLWL Forum annually organize a service that:

1. Recognizes and Celebrates the work of the region LLWLs;
2. Completing the Licensing and Renewals of LLWLs in ECORC.

There was a very strong agreement that this Service of Recognition be held at a Regional meeting as the LLWLs are accountable to the Covenant Support Team which reports to the Council. This would be the perfect place to hear of the call of the LLWLs and where the commissioning all new LLWLs should happen. In concert with these thoughts from the Forum:

the Handbook for LLWLs Policies and Procedures para 5 **states** - The regional council recognizes the licensed lay worship leader at a service of worship led by the chair of the regional council.

**Renewal Process**

The LLWL Forum members commented on and discussed this:

1. It was proposed that the Renewal of licensing process be run in 2020;
2. That the Secretary of the LLWL Forum receive the Renewal Packages from those LLWLs and checking for the required materials; and
3. With the support of the Pastoral Relations minister a committee be formed for licence renewals and that it may be recommended to the CST.

In a discussion on the renewal process there was a widespread concern about the proposal and the licence renewals. There was discomfort among many of the gathered LLWLs about acting as reviewers for our peers. As an added note on this in the Four Winds Presbytery the process was done by a non-LLWL and one minister. If done as peer reviews this would put any LLWLs doing this in a conflict of interest. This would suggest that we the LLWLs are accountable to each other rather than the Covenant Support Team as it should be.

**Renewal Process for 2020**

Members of the Forum discussed and commented on the following information:

The following materials will be the renewal package for 2020 and shall be available by the end of April 2020;

Proof of mandatory courses – Boundaries (with-in 5 years) and Racial Justice (once);

A Criminal Records Check (every 6 years) with an Annual Declaration;

A statement of former Presbytery and history of;

Preaching log;

Any on-going learning record;

One sermon as written (recordings accepted);

A letter from church Board or minister;

Research used for submitted sermon (i.e. books, websites, commentaries etc)

**Further Discussions**

There was a conversation on remuneration for LLWLs. The LLWLs are licenced to perform pulpit supply. The UCC has designated the work of pulpit supply to be set at a rate of $216.00. It was noted that some churches had complained about that cost. It is up to each LLWL to decide if they want to continue at churches who will not pay the set rate. Rev David will pass this rate onwards to all regional churches (note to this – the written information of the ECORC remuneration for LLWLs needs to be easily accessible).

It was noted by the Forum members present that these proposals should have been communicated to the Forum members by inclusion on the ECORC website or otherwise before arriving at the meeting. This timely communication would have given those attending an opportunity to organize their thoughts and questions for the group.

Recorded by

Chris Ingersoll

LLWL