

LLWL Network Meeting – November 29, 2021

MINUTES

Attendees (21): Kathleen Whyte (convenor of meeting), Paul Kneebone (LLWL Forum secretary), Nancy Payne (host via church's Zoom account). Ruth Oiley, Karen Bates, Dianne McCracken, Chris Ingersoll, Phyllis Tamlin, Debbie Cowling, Nicolette Mitchell, Carol O'Neil, Richard Weigand, Tanna Edwards, Susan Pleasance, Darlene Hallett, Evelyn Chamber, Lisa Norman, Robert Bennett, Debbie Sherwin, Mark Sturman, Lisa Norman.

Start time: 7:05pm.

End time: 8:40pm.

Opening Prayer – Debbie Sherwin

1. What did you do before or do you do as well, before becoming a LLWL? Going around the Zoom room, everyone gave us a short summary of their story.

2. Thank you to Carol for her tireless work as Secretary and welcome to Paul Kneebone for taking over this role.

3. Review of LLWL Forum Highlights

- *How do students feel about being reviewed by your peers?* Not so much a peer review and interview, but more of a welcome discussion, etc. We need to get clarification from LLWL Forum (in conjunction with Covenant Support Team) on parameters for this review/discussion process --- starting with feedback being received today. "Peer review" has certain connotations (i.e., being tested) ---- very different than exit/entrance discussion. What does it exactly mean? We need to be clear on expectations in this process, whatever that is. Note that only present LLWL's that wish to participate will take part in such discussion scenarios.

Note that present LLWL Forum members include 3 ministers and 5 LLWL's. Two also are ECORC Elders: Cathy Gradante (Chair), Paul Kneebone (Secretary), Karen Bates, Cheryl McMurray, Carol O'Neill, Nancy Payne, Kathleen Whyte. [David Timpson also attended our first meeting on Nov. 23rd.

- *How often do we want to meet? Suggest meeting following a Forum meeting at a minimum?* LLWL Forum will probably meet 2-4 times each year. Possibly 4 times this first year – as we reconstitute and move forward. Let's try for 4 times a year as a start.

- *Funerals – ongoing discussion – input?* It's basically the pastoral care before and afterwards that is up for discussion. Earlier LLWL courses (2000's) had a focus on pastoral care as part of study course. Obviously, a boundary issue in at least some churches and ministers. At least some LLWL's have been told they can only perform graveside services. Yet some LLWL's have been asked to provide funeral coverage by some churches, esp. rural settings. Note that in Ontario anyone can perform a funeral. Every scenario is different --- some funeral requests don't want any pastoral care or follow-up of any kind.

- *Pastoral Care training – ongoing discussion – input?* Yes, consensus was that there was a wish for such Pastoral Care training.
- *Sacramental Elders – ongoing discussion – input?* Rev. Rosemary Lambie has given courses on Sacramental Elders. As mentioned at last Fall's ECORC meeting, Rosemary stated that our region has no policy on Sacramental Elders. Doing an Agape meal was one alternative that was suggested. 46 churches presently in ECORC don't have ministers. That's close to 40% of total number of churches.
- *Recruiting future LLWL's – does anyone know anyone???* Besides recruiting new course attendees, we need to circle back to number of LLWL's, incl. our region, that have dropped off for whatever reasons.
- *Website Update – Pay Raise January – mileage the same* will be posted shortly.

*\$224 (vs. \$221 – 2021 rate) is the 2022 Pulpit Supply rate. 41c/km. mileage rate will continue as-is. Make sure you are paid these correct 2022 rates --- you are all earn & deserve it!

- *Training twice a year... What would we like to learn?* Funerals, Sacramental themes as a good start. Also, technology as we move more to online delivery of services --- incl. PowerPoint & Zoom. May have to get more involved in esp. some rural churches. Maybe we can capture collective skill levels of entire group, as well. United in Learning ---- example of 2-night seminar (John Young) being offered again in January: Extension of Preaching the Big Questions. Change management was another training suggestion. Part of it could be congregations envisioning something different.

Dream Trainings... Share training you have attended... Retreat and apply for a grant?

Within geographical area of ECORC, vs. outside (i.e., Five Oaks)? Idea of a weekend retreat (one or possibly two overnights) at whatever location. Or perhaps a one-day event. Needs to be within weekends, as some LLWL work fulltime. We could carpool to expedite travel distances, 401, etc.

- Testimonials – about either training received by United in Learning or what it is like being a LLWL – to be posted on ECORC website. Idea of a FAQ section on the LLWL Forum.
- New LLWL interviews – February- names to Paul.
- Bi-annual Review Packages – will be sent in March
- Fall ECORC meeting – Covenant made at meeting – Plan to attend- very poor showing this year... More goodwill and advance communication would help this process for Fall/2022 meeting. It needs to be more than rushed component at very end of meeting. Communication is two ways. We as LLWL's covenant with God and the region, not with each other.
- Any suggestions for changes to the LLWL handbooks. Will wait for any suggestions as submitted by LLWL's. Please forward to Paul Kneebone (LLWL Forum secretary).
- Next meeting for the Forum is Jan 12... so anything we would want added to the agenda should be sent to Cathy and Paul prior to that date...

OTHER: 2 required courses are both offered via United in Learning.

Boundaries course needs to be done every five years. [2 years in original copy – now correct to every 5 years.] The Racial Justice course ---- not certain on frequency. Kathleen & Paul will confirm and get back to everyone. [Subsequently confirmed it is one time and done]

*Plus, Declaration form needs to be completed and submitted (to LLWL Forum secretary) every year.

Anecdotal vs. confirmed policies on these questions and many others --- we need to have clarification. Part of mandate for LLWL Forum --- stay tuned.

Root issue is that we're losing clergy. At least some of the questions/concerns raised tonight are related. As well, LLWL resources needed for existing clergy scenarios such as study leave, furlough, vacation time, etc.

Congregational Designated Minister (CDM) was one topic of meeting in October via Zoom with Paul Reid & David Timpson. Ties into policy of only 10 Sundays within any one pastoral charge/congregation.

Distance you wish to travel in region to preach – at least 8 indicated that they were willing to travel an hour one-way for pulpit supply. Includes: Darlene, Richard, Karen B, Kris, Mark, ~~Debbie Sherwin~~, Carol O'Neil, Paul K (1-2 hours), Kathleen (1 ¼ hours). As also mentioned, depends on roads (i.e., 401 vs. winding country roads, weather (winter conditions), etc.

Increasing number of church congregations are closing, with probably more to come.

FYI – LLWL's almost out number clergy Canada wide (Kathleen --- she will verify this statistic, nationwide and hopefully by region, including within ECORC.

Lots of proposed changes for LLWL's coming to the General Council... (from the grapevine...). None to-date from ECORC. LLWL Forum will be investigating comparative parameters for LLWL's within other UCC Regions and report back to everyone.

Double Vaccine – copy to Paul. *If not already, please email QR confirmation document to Paul. He will confirm receipt, then delete any such files.

Next Meeting: After Forum meeting in January (the 12th). Consensus was **January 24th at 7pm.**

Closing Prayer – Lisa Norman

Chat Room Feedback comments on Zoom during meeting

From Nancy Payne (she/her, Williams Treaties territory) to Everyone: 07:18 PM
We're so grateful, Paul!

From Dianne McCracken to Everyone: 07:22 PM
supply a sermon

From Darlene Hallett to Everyone: 07:24 PM
As an LLWL, I would feel awkward reviewing a student

From Dianne McCracken to Everyone: 07:26 PM
There was a student when I took LLWL that did not receive certificate but a presbytery approved to preach-

From Darlene Hallett to Everyone: 07:34 PM
The purpose of each meeting needs to be defined. Did 5 Oaks use to offer Pastoral Care course

From Nancy Payne (she/her, Williams Treaties territory) to Everyone: 07:39 PM
We definitely need clarity from the Forum/CST/Region on the question of funerals.

From Darlene Hallett to Everyone: 07:40 PM
Perhaps that's what's coming down from above.

From Dianne McCracken to Everyone: 07:43 PM
That seemed to depend on individual church situations

From Darlene Hallett to Everyone: 07:55 PM
I'd like more education about creating prayers

From Nancy Payne (she/her, Williams Treaties territory) to Everyone: 07:55 PM
Let's do an inventory of the skills in this group--we have lots!

From Carol to Everyone: 07:56 PM
I need to leave.... looking forward to the forum update.

From Robert Bennett Oshawa ON Canada to Everyone: 07:59 PM
Maybe.... Post Covid19

From Tanna Edwards to Everyone: 08:08 PM
Communication issues...

From Ruth Olley to Everyone: 08:15 PM
I would even do 90 minutes depending on weather

From Nancy Payne (she/her, Williams Treaties territory) to Everyone: 08:15 PM
45-60 minutes

From Susan Pleasance to Everyone: 08:18 PM
Nancy - thank you for following up on those who have left the LLWL list.

--- Paul Kneebone