

**Mission and Discipleship Commission**  
**Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council**  
**OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA**  
*Connecting, Supporting, Transforming*

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Thursday, June 25, 2020  
2pm via Zoom

**Roster:** Bruce Dickson (Acting Chair), Mary Jeanne Carmichael, Rodger Filsinger, Mary Hawthorne, Patrick McDonough, Joyce Osborne, Keith Reynolds, Jenn Hind-Urquhart.

**Staff Support:** Diane Matheson-Jimenez (Minister, Social Justice)

Kathy Douglas (Minister, Faith Formation)

Dave Jagger (Stewardship and Gifts Officer)

Ruthanna Mack (Admin Support)

**Present:** Bruce Dickson (Acting Chair), Mary Hawthorne, Rodger Filsinger, Joyce Osborne (departed meeting at 4:02 pm), Pat McDonough, Keith Reynolds, Jenn Hind-Urquhart, Diane Matheson-Jimenez, Kathy Douglas, Dave Jagger (joined meeting at 2:50 pm).

**Regrets:** Ruthanna Mack, Lyle Haney

**Absent:** Mary Jean Carmichael

**Welcome and Constitute Meeting:** Bruce Dickson called the meeting to order at 2:02 pm. He welcomed all present and invited each to a brief check-in. Pat McDonough volunteered to be the recorder for the meeting.

**Acknowledging the Land:** Bruce offered acknowledgement of the land.

**Opening Worship:** Bruce offered a prayer.

**Update from United Church Camps:** Representatives from Camp Menesetung (Clayton Peters), Camp Bimini (Carol Young) and Silver Lake Camp (Rob Irish) joined the meeting at 2:17 pm. Bruce invited each to give a summary of their situation and summer plans. These summaries were followed by an opportunity for questions. All three camps are offering online/virtual camp programming during COVID-19. All camps are facing financial challenges of varying degrees of impact, including year-round expenses and seasonal income. Some camps are using this summer to do infrastructure projects in the physical absence of campers. Some camps are trying to stay connected to their leaders, their campers and their supporters. Bruce confirmed those members of M&D Commission who are liaison reps to the camps (Mary - Camp Bimini,

Mary and Joyce - Camp Menesetung, Rodger - Camp Silver Lake). Diane offered a link to the WOW Facebook page for all camps. Bruce offered a prayer for camp ministry and all those connected to it. The three camp representatives left the meeting at 2:45 pm.

**Opening Motions:**

Prioritization and approval of Agenda:

MOTION by Keith Reynolds, seconded by Joyce Osborne that the agenda be accepted as amended, to include the issue of Palestinian/Israeli letters.

Approved by consensus

Approval of Previous Minutes:

MOTION by Rodger Filsinger, seconded by Pat McDonough that the Mission and Discipleship Commission of Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council approve the minutes of 05-28-2020 as circulated.

Approved by consensus

Welcome and Appointment of Jenn Hind-Urquhart as a member of the Mission and Discipleship Commission of WOWRC:

MOTION was approved by consensus, subject to confirmation at the next meeting of WOWRC.

**New/Pressing Business**

1. Letter to Prime Minister of Canada regarding Palestinian/Israeli issue - impending annexation of Palestinian lands. Bruce invited Diane Matheson-Jimenez to introduce this item. Diane provided historical background to the Palestinian/Israeli conflict (You Tube history video), and explained the intent and time-sensitivity of the letter campaign to the Prime Minister.

MOTION by Keith Reynolds, seconded by Joyce Osborne that the Mission and Discipleship Commission of Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council urge the Executive Minister and President of WOWRC to sign the letter to the Prime Minister of Canada opposing further annexation of Palestinian territory.

Approved by consensus. Bruce stated he would contact Cheryl-Ann and Gary regarding this motion. Members of the commission were encouraged to send a copy of the letter themselves and to share it with other communities of faith.

2. Information from WOWRC Executive Meeting. Bruce passed on information gleaned from the meeting:
  - a. WOWRC fall meeting - will take place via ZOOM for 90 minutes each day on October 15/16/17/18, 2020 at selected times. M&D Commission has been allocated a 30-minute window on Friday, October 16 for a presentation. The information we are to present needs to be ready by September 1st. Suggestions were offered for content and format including the "inspire - invite - thank" pillars, stories/reports from the ministries we are supporting through Mission Support Grants, our need to connect with communities of faith who are working already in our mandated ministry. (see Bruce's agenda for proposed outline of WOWRC fall meeting agenda)
  - b. the anticipated impact of reduced M&S donation revenues on staffing, administration and less so on the Mission Support Grant side.
  - c. creation of new funding sources for ministry including Ministry with Children, Youth and Young Adults, Engaging Stewardship Fund, Rural Ministry Leadership Fund, Learning Fund, K-W Post-Secondary Chaplaincy Fund.
  - d. Black Lives Matter - Bruce provided a briefing note with the agenda, describing what the issue was, why it was an issue and courses of action that might be taken. The commission agreed that this would be an action item for future meetings.
  - e. Recognizing New Communities of Faith - including the UCW, camps, etc.

**Staff Reports:**

- Dave Jagger:
  - ◆ many congregations are taking advantage of COVID urgency to do good strong Stewardship.
  - ◆ anticipating new "Called to the be the Church" stewardship guide, broadened and extended in scope.
  - ◆ expressed concerns with decrease in M&S givings and the likelihood of staff layoffs.
  - ◆ How will WOWRC do Stewardship without a dedicated staff person?
- Diane Matheson-Jimenez:
  - ◆ COVID is providing time to go deeper on social justice issues.
  - ◆ expressed concern that networks of Presbytery have not carried on to new Regional structure. With these gaps, how do we discover and disseminate good work being done by communities of faith?
  - ◆ suggested that M&D Commission create "post-meeting" highlight videos to be widely distributed on social media...a good way of letting people know about what we are working on and what issues we are addressing.
- Kathy Douglas

- ◆ recognizing the importance of relationships and connections in all of her work.
- ◆ recognizing how some people/organizations are using the COVID crises for positive ends...to create and be part of vibrant spaces and courageous conversations.
- ◆ aware that issues of Black Lives Matter, white supremacy/white privilege, anti-racism are current and important discussions for youth and young adults to be engaged in.
- ◆ requested M&D Commission to provide financial support to make those discussions happen, to remunerate the people who are willing, capable and competent to lead or guide those discussions.

MOTION by Keith Reynolds, seconded by Mary Hawthorne that a \$4,000.00 fund be established to support emerging work, at the discretion of the M&D Commission staff.

Approved by consensus.

**Closing Items and Motions:**

Approval of Previous Minutes:

MOTION that the Mission and Discipleship Commission of Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council approve the minutes of 05-28,2020 as circulated.

Approved by consensus.

Business Arising:

- ◆ GC 44 postponed until 2022.
- ◆ letter of thanks from Chalmers Centre for M&D Commission funding support.

**Next Meeting:** by ZOOM, August 27, 2020 at 2 pm.

**Closing and Adjournment:** Bruce extended thanks to all those who found time to join and contribute to the meeting. Member responded by "green-lighting" the meeting. MOTION to adjourn by Keith Reynolds at 4:10 pm.