

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

August 27, 2020, 2pm

Via Zoom

Roster: Deanne Dickson (Chair) Rosemary Benbow Mary Jeanne Carmichael
Bruce Dickson, Rodger Filsinger, Lyle Haney, Mary Hawthorne, Patrick McDonough
Joyce Osborne, Keith Reynolds

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

Kathy Douglas (Minister, Faith Formation)

Dave Jagger (Stewardship and Gifts Officer)

Ruthanna Mack (Admin Support)

Present: Jenn Hind, Keith Reynolds, Bruce Dickson (Chair), Rodger Filsinger, Mary Hawthorn,
Diane Matheson-Jimenez, Kathy Douglas, Ruthanna Mack, Pat McDonough

Regrets: Lyle Haney, Joyce Osborne, Dave Jagger

Absent:

Welcome and Constitute Meeting: Bruce welcomed the group and constituted the meeting.

Acknowledging the Land: *Here we acknowledge that the lands and waters in these regions where we live and work and play are the ancestral homes of indigenous people who have been here long before the first settlers and colonizers arrived. I invite you to pause for a moment and think about the original peoples of the place where you are. And know that their relationship has been one of love and care for these lands and waters. We want to acknowledge that as church we have a painful relationship with these peoples. Our work is do our part in building right relationships with the indigenous people, with each other and with the land and waters. Also at this time, it would be remiss not to acknowledge that we are called to stop and remember and acknowledge the violence caused by overlapping histories and legacies of radicalized slavery and oppression.*

May these acknowledgements renew in us our commitment to persist in anti-racism and anti-oppression practices.

Opening Worship: Bruce asked the group to share a Blessing and a Struggle and then closed with prayer.

Opening Motions:

Approval of Agenda:

The agenda was accepted by consensus as circulated

Approval of Previous Minutes:

Approval of previous minutes: the only comment was that Lyle Haney should be put in the Regrets section for that meeting.

MOTION: Pat McDonough/Rodger Filsiner that the WOW Mission and Discipleship Commission accept the minutes from the June 25th, 2020 meeting as amended.

MOTION

CARRIED

Business Arising

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.

Update from Diane Matheson-Jimenez: This letter was sent.

New Business

1. Kitchen Sink Series: Kitchen Sink series, is a series on online events for Affirming ministries and friends of Affirm United. Diane M-J and Kathy Douglas are seeking approval of the Commission for funding part of this initiative. They are asking for \$350 from the Commission's Events Budget.

MOTION by Bruce Dickson /Rodger Filsinger that the Mission and Discipleship Commission of Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council allocate \$350 from the Events budget line for this initiative.

MOTION

CARRIED

2. The second piece is working with Woodland Cultural Centre to make a virtual tour of the former Mohawk residential school available to our Regions. We would like to book 2 dates – 1 day time and 1 evening to make the event as accessible as possible. This is being offered in conjunction with Shining Waters Regional Council. To fund this, the Commission is being asked to allocate \$150 from the Events budget line.

MOTION by Keith Reynolds/Jenn Hind that the Mission and Discipleship Commission of Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council allocate \$150 from the events budget line for this initiative.

MOTION

CARRIED

3. Diane expressed concern that Israel has escalated violence, engaging in a bombing campaign that mainstream media has largely not been. This article as a helpful reference: <https://electronicintifada.net/blogs/tamara-nassar/israel-cuts-fuel-gaza-goes-dark?fbclid=IwAR0aI2gS3ZzSw4lxL51K-nQrnNViOHL-TMNQ24k0nfH2N5oafUcnE7st34>
4. Additionally UNJPPI is engaged in a campaign, "Canada, Stand Up for Children's Rights" to apply pressure on the Canadian government to appoint a Special Envoy to monitor and report on the rights of children in occupied Palestinian territories. Every region will have someone trained by UNJPPI to be an interpreter of this campaign. Diane has signed up to be trained.
5. WOW Fall Meeting: October 15-18: - a discussion centred on items folks would like to see presented at the General Meeting.
Bruce and Kathy volunteered to find out what is expected from C-A
Keith also volunteered to help with a presentation for the General Meeting

6. Black Lives Matter: The Commission has been invited by the WOW Executive to hold this item up. Kathy and Diane (MJ) will work together to find out what racial awareness training might be available to the Commission.

7. Mission Support Grants: All incoming grant applications will be put in the Commission's DropBox. It was suggested that folks read the application from the agency for which they are liaison and one other. There is a short turn around time for this process from the time we receive the grant applications and the time that we have to make decisions and then to report them to the Executive.

8. Kathy outlined several of her pieces of work:
 - children and youth ministry webinars
 - inter-Region connections
 - Affirming and Right Relations work
 - Camps

9. Executive Meetings: Bruce offered folks the opportunity to sub in for him at Executive meetings. Keith and Jenn both volunteered to help with this.

Next Meeting: Monday September 14th at 2pm via zoom [Enter place or Zoom](#)

Worship by: