



WESTERN ONTARIO WATERWAYS REGIONAL COUNCIL

OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA

Connecting, Supporting, Transforming

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Western Ontario Waterways Mission & Discipleship Commission

Here to help deepen faith, strengthen witness and offer ways of serving our communities and the world.

The Mission & Discipleship Commission (M&D C) is dedicated to helping communities of faith live out their ministry of faith formation, mission and justice; to provide resources, guidance and support enabling communities of faith to do the best ministry possible in their communities and the world.

Our mandate includes working in right relations with Indigenous partners, and supporting Affirming ministries with LGBTQ2SIA+ members, making safe space, open dialogue and strengthening relationships everywhere in our churches and world.

Western Ontario Waterways Mission and Discipleship Membership

Chair: Bruce Dickson

Representative to Executive: Bruce Dickson/Keith Reynolds

Other Members: Rodger Filsinger, Lyle Haney, Keith Reynolds, Mary Hawthorne, Joyce Osborne, Pat McDonough, Jen Hind-Urquhart, Edith Coyle, Gail Fricker

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

DMatheson@united-church.ca

Kathy Douglas (She/her) Minister, Faith Formation KDouglas@united-church.ca

Mandate

The purpose of the Mission and Discipleship Commission is to provide information, education and opportunities for communities of faith and their members to deepen faith and strengthen service and witness, and to discern grant support to missions in the region. The Mission and Discipleship Commission may create different resource pools.

The Mission & Discipleship Commission and the M&D C Resource Pool will work in the following possible areas. The M&DC has the ability to determine their direction and priorities. Other roles may be identified by commission as its life unfolds.

- a) *Social justice initiatives and outreach and living out the Affirm mandate;*
- b) *living into right relations and Indigenous justice;*
- c) *support for ministry with children and youth;*
- d) *youth events;*
- e) *camping ministries;*
- f) *chaplaincy;*
- g) *living into the call to become an inter-cultural church;*
- h) *U.C.W. and local A.O.T.S.;*
- i) *research and promotion of study resources;*
- j) *refugee work;*

k) white privilege;

l) provide support for communities of faith to become an Affirming ministry; along with other important possibilities.

Support and Benefits for regional volunteers as they serve the church

- 1) Training to cover the role chosen and to improve use of technology;
- 2) Opportunity to develop skills that will strengthen the life of the representative's home community of faith;
- 3) Opportunity to develop leadership skills;
- 4) Opportunity to deepen and widen relationships across the church;
- 5) Opportunity to learn from one another.

The Commission encourages and equips communities of faith to enable their members to discern God's call to different ministries and ways of service.

See *The Manual, 2019* Section C.2 references for responsibilities delegated to the Mission and Discipleship Commission (M&D).

The Commission is accountable to the Executive through:

- a) A representative of the Commission who also serves as a member of the Executive (may be the Chair but not necessarily so);
- b) The timely provision of minutes of its meetings according to the format established by the Regional Council Executive.

Membership

Minimum of 7 members and a maximum of 12 members, at least one-third of total membership to be ministry personnel and one-third of membership to be lay, elected by the Regional Council, one of whom serves on the Executive.

Meetings

Normally monthly, September to June to ensure timely action on requests from communities of faith; as needed in July and August.

At least 50% of the meetings will be electronic. We use a platform called ZOOM and the staff will be happy to show folks how to use that or other ways to join a conference call.

If you wish to be a part of this commission, please contact any of the staff or members of the commission. We also hope to increase our pool of resource people who will take on leadership in the directions of M&DC. Volunteers provide leadership by researching information and opportunities and engaging communities of faith or their members with the same. This covers a wide variety of roles.