

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

DRAFT MINUTES

November 12, 2020
via Zoom

Roster: Bruce Dickson (Chair), Rodger Filsinger, Lyle Haney, Mary Hawthorne, Patrick McDonough, Joyce Osborne, Keith Reynolds, Edith Coyle, Gail Fricker, 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: Joyce Osborne, Edith Coyle, Rodger Filsinger, Gail Fricker, Mary Hawthorne, Jenn Hind-Urquhart, Bruce Dickson (Chair), Diane Matheson-Jimenez, Kathy Douglas, Ruthanna Mack

Regrets: Pat McDonough, Keith Reynolds, Dave Jagger

Absent:

Welcome and Constitute Meeting: Bruce opened the meeting and made a special welcome to Gail and Edith and acknowledged the Jenn is now a voting member.

Acknowledging the Land: Jenn Hind-Urquhart read the Land Acknowledgment.

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 racialized slavery and oppression. May

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

Opening Worship: Bruce opened asking “What is your favourite November food? And What was a Faith Formation moment for you?” Everyone had a chance to answer. Bruce offered an opening prayer.

Opening Motions:

Approval of Agenda:

MOTION by consensus that the agenda be accepted as amended.

MOTION

Choose an item.

Approval of Previous Minutes:

MOTION by Rodger Filsinger/Jenn Hind-Urquhart that the Mission and Discipleship Commission of Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council approve the minutes of 09-14-2020 as circulated.

MOTION

CARRIED

Business Arising

1. Email Vote: Motion by Joyce Osborne/Pat McDonough that Western Ontario Waterways Mission and Discipleship Commission endorses The Hub Ministry project. This endorsement will be forwarded to Edge New Ministries grant." This email vote was discussed and ratified at this meeting.

MOTION

CARRIED

New Business

1. **Commission Priorities:**

Chaplaincy

Mental Health & Grief Support

Climate and Environment

Children and Youth Events

Camps

UCW

Indigenous Matters

Affirming Communities of Faith

Black Lives Matter

The following were also suggested:

Government Advocacy

Just and Faithful response to Global Issues

2. Communication of Commission Work:

The Commission is small and there is a lot of work encompassed in our Mandate (see Priorities above).

There was a discussion of how we should best communicate our work and invite others to tell their stories.

Some suggestions:

- Share stories on the WOW website: - ask 'where are you witnessing God/Spirit?' Folks could submit a paragraph and a picture.
- Work on a Newsletter dedicated to WOW M&D work and events including stories collected.
- Could ask folks to Pray for us.

Folks are to think about this for further discussion at our next meeting.

3. Grants and Application Forms:

Bruce Dickson shared the following information regarding some new Grant monies that the WOW M&D will have jurisdiction over beginning in January 2021:

Ministry with Children, Youth, and Young Adults (U30) \$ 397,337 **(approx. \$60,000/year)**

- 1) Authorize all prior year interest earned plus up to 15% of principal to be granted annually;
- 2) Entrust the granting to the Mission and Discipleship Commission for ministry with children, youth, and young adults within the following criteria:
 - a) Grants will normally be one-time grants to a maximum of \$10,000;
 - b) Grants in excess of this amount or for a multi-year project will require the applicant to meet with the Mission and Discipleship Commission.

The Mission and Discipleship Commission will design the application form as best suits their needs.

- 3) Agree approval will be forwarded to the Treasurer and Executive Minister for payment and tracking;
- 4) Request that the Mission and Discipleship Commission report annually, starting in 2021, to the regional council on how the funds have supported ministry with children, youth and young adults.

Engaging Stewardship Fund \$2,757

- 1) Make funds available to the Mission and Discipleship Commission for events promoting stewardship and supporting Mission and Service;
- 2) Agree that the decision to access the fund for an event is made by the Commission and the Treasurer and Executive Minister are advised to record the expense
- 3) Agree that the balance in the fund will be expended and not replenished.

Kitchener-Waterloo Post Secondary Chaplaincy Fund (\$19,790)

- 1) Agree to hold the funds in support of ministry that connects with the students of Kitchener Waterloo post-secondary institutions;
- 2) Agree to **expend up to \$4,000 from the fund annually;**
- 3) Invite applications from communities of faith in Kitchener Waterloo for this ministry;
- 4) Agree that applications are to be received and approved by the Mission and Discipleship Commission
- 5) Agree that approved applications be forwarded to the Treasurer and Executive Minister for payment and tracking
- 6) Review the purpose of the fund in spring 2025 to determine the future of any unspent balance;
- 7) Request that the Mission and Discipleship Commission report annually, starting in 2021, to the regional council on how the funds have supported post-secondary chaplaincy in Kitchener-Waterloo.

Discussion about the new Grants:

Kathy Douglas agreed to ask C-A Stadelbauer-Sampa and the WOW Executive for more direction to help the Commission develop forms and procedures.

This item to be discussed at the January 21, 2021 WOW M&D meeting.

4. Staff Reports:

- **Diane Matheson-Jimenez:**

SJNORC: Social Justice Network of Ontario Regional Councils

Diane gave an overview of the Network noting that we need a Rep to represent WOW M&D. The Network meets 2x per year, has interesting speakers, and provides opportunities to work together.

Speaker: Dr. Monica Coleman. Her work focuses on Faith and Social Action. Website: <https://monicaacoleman.com/>. The cost of a virtual session would be in the \$2000 to \$2500 range.

Jenn volunteered to help make this happen.

Topics to be considered: Bruce suggested Refugee work

Gail suggested affordable housing.

- **Kathy Douglas:** Kathy shared highlights from her work.

- a) Christmas Roundtable
- b) Confirmation Program happening on-line
- c) Justice Issues -> and Faith Formation
- d) Camps: Wondering about next Summer
- e) Vision Grant: for video series: hiring youth to do videos on what inspires them. Sharing these with Youth Groups.
Kathy asked how would we do the same but with adults?

5. **M&S Grants:**

WOW M&D decisions relating to M&S Grants are received by the WOWRC Executive for information only.

6. **Video Presented at the Fall WOWRC Meeting:**

Bruce thanked Kathy and Diane for helping out.

Mary thought it was great.

Diane MJ offered thanks to Bruce for putting it all together.

Other Business:

- 1. **M&S Grant recipient contacts:** Bruce asked for folks to send Christmas greetings to the groups for which they are in relationship with.
- 2. **Gathering new Commission members in 2021:** Folks were asked to think of ways to encourage others to join the commission.
- 3. **Correspondence:**
 - Guelph Ecumenical Chaplaincy** sent thanks for their 2021 M&S Grant.
 - Grey Bruce Healthcare Chaplaincy Center** sent thanks for their 2021 M&S Grant.
- 4. **Note from the WOWRC Executive:** They have hired a full time staff to fill the Minister, Right Relations and Social Justice portfolio. The name is confidential at this time.

Next Meeting: Thursday, January 21, 2021 from 2pm to 4pm

Next Meeting: 01-21-2021 2pm via zoom

Worship by:

MOTION by Name / Name that the Mission and Discipleship Commission of Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council

MOTION

Choose an item.