

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

January 21, 2021
Approved Minutes
2pm via Zoom

Roster: Bruce Dickson (Chair), Rodger Filsinger, Mary Hawthorne, 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: Bruce Dickson (Chair), Edith Coyle, Joyce Osborne, Mary Hawthorne, Gail Fricker, Keith Reynolds, Kathy Douglas, Diane Matheson-Jimenez, Dave Jagger, Ruthanna Mack

Regrets: Jenn Hind-Urquhart, Rodger Filsinger

Absent:

Welcome and Constitute Meeting: Bruce welcomed everyone and facilitated Opening Worship and check-in using the story of Jonah.

Commission Resignations: The resignations of Pat McDonough and Lyle Haney were acknowledged. Bruce has sent along a note of thanks to each for the time that they had dedicated to the Commission to date.

Acknowledging the Land: Bruce 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.

Prioritizing the Agenda: Items from the agenda were prioritized.

Communication:

Several ideas were suggested.

Dave asked: What are we trying to achieve?

Bruce summarized: As a Commission we can't be 'doing' everything. What we need to be doing is trying to link people with what is already happening in our region.

Diane let the Commission know that WOW M&D would have the opportunity to develop and send **two dedicated Regional Newsletters** per year.

After more discussion, it was decided that commission members would prepare an answer to the following questions:

1. What does Mission mean to me? and

2. What does Discipleship mean to me?

The goal being to video/record the answers at the next Commission meeting. Then, after editing it could be put in a newsletter or on the Regional YouTube channel (linked to the Regional Websites).

2021 Grant Money Process:

The Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council has funding available to support particular ministry initiatives.

The WOW M&D Commission will oversee some of these grants.

See the WOW M&D grant information in the 2020-11-12 minutes (available in Dropbox)

Applications are to be received twice yearly on April 1st and October 1st.

For reference the WOW Grant Application is available in Dropbox.

It will also be available on the WOW Regional Council website.

Bruce noted a letter received from Camp Menesetung requesting access to the Children and Youth Grant monies.

Staff Reports:

- **Diane Matheson-Jimenez, Minister for Social Justice**

Kathy and I continue to serve on the planning team for the **Kitchen Sink series**, an initiative of Shining Waters, ARW, HF, WOW and Affirm United/S'Affirmer Ensemble. The planning team is busy recruiting facilitators, as well as chaplains, for the series which will resume in February and run until June. In order that we might pay the facilitators and chaplains for their time, we are requesting \$100 from each partner

region.

Additionally, we are seeking folks willing to serve as chaplains for the events.

Thursday January 28 at 3:30 pm, I am meeting with a small group interested in education and **advocacy around the crisis in long term care facilities**. Commission members are welcome to participate and/or recommend folks in their network who might like to engage with this topic. The idea will be an educational event and follow-up opportunities to engage in advocacy with elected officials. More information to come.

I gave the heads up that Diane will soon be hearing, at executive, about **racial justice training – that all commissioners are expected to participate in**. Date and details to come. This will count for clergy needing racial justice training.

Although the timing hasn't been negotiated yet, each Commission will have the opportunity, twice yearly, to have a **newsletter** dedicated to the content they wish to lift up. The Commission is encouraged to think about what material they might like to cover and what timing might work to best highlight our shared work.

Along similar lines, I am interested in creating some videos about ministries in our region that are doing something innovative, creative, brilliant...to keep focused on their mission, and engaged in their community. Commission members are invited to tap on the shoulder those who might have a story to share.

Affirming Communities: Pancake Cook-off: Feb 16th 7pm-8:30 (Pancake Tuesday)
Each Regional M&D Council will contribute \$100 for this event to cover payments to the Chaplains providing support for this event.

Link to participate (and get more details):

<https://mailchi.mp/60c970498909/your-affirm-united-enewsletter-4587897?e=ef45ad4499>

- **Kathy Douglas, Minister for Faith Formation**

Kathy asked that the commission consider setting a discretionary budget amount for Program Staff use. Usually, small amounts of money are needed to pay, for instance, honorarium for speakers. She and DMJ (and in March, Thérèse Samuel) would appreciate the ability to offer funding for such without the need to come back to the M&D C every time for approval.

MOTION: by Keith Reynolds/Mary Hawthorne that the Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council Mission and Discipleship Commission allocate \$1000 from the 2021 Events Budget (of \$10,000) to each Program Staff to be used for programming, at their discretion.

MOTION

CARRIED

Update from Kathy's desk:

***A Taste of Palestine Event** A handful of enthusiasts are working to put together a two part zoom gathering. Part 1 will invite speakers to share cooking/food and stories about life in Palestine. Part 2 will be a response to Part 1.... how do we respond with justice to the Palestinian situation? To happen in mid February.

*Working with Kevin Steeper on an initiative to support **Pastoral Care**.... for clergy/paid accountable/volunteer lay persons who do or wish to do Pastoral Care in Community of Faiths. She is collecting a group or 'think tank' of folks who have passion for PC work....to meet, along with Kevin to determine how best to do this work.

*The Vision Fund from The General Council has granted \$5000 to a program supported youth and young adult programming. We will be paying youth/young adults to create 15-minute videos to use in youth ministry programming: **Creating Conversation: Voices of Youth/Young Adults in UCC**

For more information

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeV1KSxRzaLFgcfkxkVGE4QEDXCBc5dhbzG2HV3Zakwvl8Z-vA/viewform>

- **Dave Jagger, Philanthropy and Stewardship Officer**

Share! Share! Share!

1. New Format/process for Minute for Mission: New kits coming in the mail.
2. Mission and Service links: <https://united-church.ca/>

<https://united-church.ca/community-and-faith/get-involved/generosity-through-mission-and-service>

<https://united-church.ca/community-and-faith/get-involved/generosity-through-mission-and-service/stories-our-mission>

3. WOW Mission and Service donations down 24% as of Jan 15, but donations still coming in and being processed, so this should improve.
4. a) Called to be the Church giving program: being mailed to each CoF. Likely to arrive mid-February, due to postal issues and COVID.
b) Called to be the Church: The Journey. New companion program to the giving program. Module 1 includes four 2-hour classes on-line about Stewardship Best Practices; with a customised Stewardship analysis report to help the CoF make good data driven choices about their next steps. Module 2 provides hands on coaching to implement the giving program successfully.
5. Newsletters: God's Mission-Our Gifts. Stewardship reminders & Tips. Mission & Service info and Minute for Mission stories and resources. You can subscribe: <https://united-church.ca/e-newsletters>

6. The stewardshiptoolkit.ca website is closing and by the end of February all your stewardship solutions can be found at: www.united-church.ca/stewardship

Other Reports:

United Church Women, Joyce Osborne

The UCW had a successful Tri-Regional event on zoom in the fall of 2020.

They are now working on an event for February 20, 2021. More details to come.

Work is being done by the NUCW with the General Council Office around developing guidelines for the closing of UCW groups that can be implemented across the country. A request from UCW WOW for information prompted this work.

Locally, a letter of encouragement will be sent to UCW groups.

Edith Coyle: Local UCW's: Both First United Waterloo and Forest Hill UCW are having "regular" monthly meetings (on Zoom) with our Units --to keep in touch with our members. Our meetings include worship, a program, and free time for any business discussion. -- hopefully to provide some sense or normality (?) in these days of chaos and isolation!

Business Arising

1. Approving past Minutes: Lyle Haney was not at that meeting. Ruthanna to update this.
Minutes of the Nov 12, 2020 were approved by consensus with that one change noted.
2. M&S Grants
 - a) Bruce will send out the list again before the next meeting. It will also be in Dropbox. Have a look at the list and see if you're still comfortable with it. We will discuss this at our next meeting.

Correspondence:

1. **Camp Menesetung** had sent a letter regarding the new WOW M&D funds available for Youth and Children's programming. Bruce replied to them to say we are not ready yet for them. Ruthanna to find out when the application forms will be on the WOWRC website.
2. **The HUB:** Live out Loud program also wanting to apply to these funds.

Note from the WOWRC Executive:

Next Meeting: Thursday, March 11th 2-4pm