

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

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***March 11, 2021***  
***2pm-4pm 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

Thérèse Samuel Minister, Right Relations and Social Justice

Dave Jagger, Regional Stewardship and Gifts Officer

Ruthanna Mack, Administrative Assistant, Mission and Finance

**Present:** Bruce Dickson (Chair), Joyce Osborne, Rodger Filsinger, Mary Hawthorne, Keith Reynolds, Edith Coyle, Jenn Hind-Urquhart, Diane Matheson-Jimenez, Kathy Douglas, Thérèse Samuel, and Ruthanna Mack

**Regrets:** Gail Fricker

**Welcome and Check in:** Bruce made a special welcome to Thérèse and for our check-in question, asked “If you could Spring ahead (get there faster) what would you spring ahead to? Everyone also introduced themselves.

**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 Motions:**

Approval of Agenda: The proposed agenda was approved by consensus as circulated.

### **WOW M&D Newsletter: April 28<sup>th</sup>**

The following were suggested as items to include in the WOW M&D newsletter:

1. Advertising for the visit of **The Honourable Senator Murray Sinclair** (time may be known by then)
2. Video link of Commissioners answering:
  - 1. What does Mission mean to me? and**
  - 2. What does Discipleship mean to me?**

**Videos:** Video recordings at today's meeting were done by:

Kathy,  
Bruce,  
Keith,  
Diane, and  
Mary

For Next WOW M&D meeting:

Jenn, Ruthanna, Joyce, Rodger, Edith, Gail, Thérèse and possibly Dave should prepare answers to these questions.

3. WOW Camping – Kathy will connect with WOW's 3 Camps and have items ready.
4. Rural Mental Health Initiative: "In the Know", Kathy will share this information
5. Stories: How Mission and Discipleship and Faith Formation are happening in WOW
6. Possibly a piece from Dave Jagger around M&S

### **Review Contact list for Commissioners and Mission Support Grant recipients:**

See Appendix A

**Staff Reports:**

**Thérèse Samuel, Minister Right Relations and Social Justice:**

- **CALLS TO THE CHURCH: EVENTS AND PROGRAMS FOR EDUCATION**

in preparation for the visit of **The Honourable Senator Murray Sinclair**, Diane MJ, Kathy D, Thérèse S met with Sara Stratton (GC Staff), and the following tentative plans for sessions to prepare people for the upcoming event with Justice Sinclair:

**Main Event:**

WHAT: UCC, Residential Schools and TRC 101

An Introduction or Refresher to key events and issues related to the United Church of Canada's call to right relations between Indigenous and Non-Indigenous peoples.

WHEN: Two offerings, one daytime and one evening. Tentative dates (dates to be confirmed, Indigenous Elder hopefully to be part of each)

Thursday April 29, morning

Wednesday May 5, evening

**Experiential Events:**

Tentative pending availability of facilitators, etc., hoped to precede the main event mentioned above:

- KAIROS Blanket Exercise – Virtual

- Woodland Centre tour of Mohawk Institute

Then, following the event with Justice Sinclair on May 28<sup>th</sup>, another event for developing concrete Action Plan. Yet to be planned.

- **GUARANTEED LIVABLE INCOME (GLI):**

Light a Candle on April 8, vigil to support the guaranteed livable income movement: This is primarily a virtual vigil. People are being asked to light a candle, take a picture and post it to social media, send it to the Prime Minister, Minister of Finance, local MP, news outlets. Follow up with email or phone call.

There will be small in-person vigils held at select locations, with designated individuals only. The public is NOT invited to attend these, to ensure all restrictions on gatherings are upheld.

- **ORIENTATION**

At this time, I am, with significant guidance, support and input from the staff team, orienting myself to the work of the region related to my two portfolios of Right Relations and Social Justice and the online office technology.

**Kathy Douglas, Minister, Faith Formation:**

- **Taste of Palestine**-3 sessions well received and lots of interest and movement. W DMJ
- **Pastoral Care Training/support**-working with a team to prepare programming for both volunteer teams and paid accountable folks doing PC during Covid: -grief/isolation/funerals
- **Duty of Care/Faithful Footsteps**-Always good to remind Communities of Faith that they need to 'always' be reducing risk and making inclusive safe space in their ministries
- **Music Ministry Support**-helping music ministry people in our churches to share celebrations and struggles...feel support and collaborate. I have been asked to help coordinate this
- **Mental Health in Rural Areas:** " In the Know'...partner program with U of Guelph and CMHA [In the Know \(cmha.ca\)](https://www.cmha.ca)
- **Key stats from UCC Camps**  
REMEMBER-OUR CAMPING MINISTRIES ARE ONE OF THE BEST WAYS TO SHARE FAITH FORMATION WITH CHILDREN AND YOUTH.  
OMC Survey 2020 UC Canada Report Supplement  
<file:///C:/Users/DouglasKathy/Downloads/OMC-Survey-2020-UCCanada-Report-supplement-1.pdf>  
There is lots of information in here for the United Church Camps to use.  
Some brief highlights:  
UCC Camps saw a 99% decrease in the number of campers from 2019  
UCC Camps reported a \$6.28 million loss in revenue in 2020  
45 unique UCC sites responded to the survey  
64% of our camps have no full-time staff  
100% of our camp directors responding were white – 38% were male, 62% were female  
71% of our camps had no onsite guests or programming in 2020  
40% of our camps saw lower donations than in 2019

**My Sabbatical has been approved for May 17 -Aug 13, 2021**

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

- **March 5, 2021** folks from across the country met to talk about the crisis in LTC facilities. Engaging in a plenary session, we heard from Steven Staples of the Canadian Health Coalition. Steven is working on a national day of action at the end of April and will channel information to interested parties through me. In smaller regional groups, we began networking and sharing resources.

The next step will be to another gathering but this time we will divide into interest groups based on how we feel called to respond to the crisis.

- **PIE Day is March 14** – a time to be Public Intentional and Explicit about our commitment to being an affirming ministry! Use your email contacts and social media platforms to share how you will work at PIE in the coming year. Moderator Bott created a video, encouraging our participation in PIE Day. Who can you share it with?! (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dX-w46NSfH0>)
- **March 25, 2021** folks engaging in For the Love of Creation resource, or who are generally passionate about climate justice, will come together to share ideas, resources, best practices...and begin conversation about ways to partner in the work to maximize the impact. All are welcome! (<https://fortheLoveofCreation.ca/>)

**Approval of Previous Minutes:**

MOTION by Keith Reynolds/Rodger Filsinger that the Mission and Discipleship Commission of Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council approve the minutes of 01-21-2021 as circulated.

MOTION

CARRIED

**Next Meeting: Tuesday, April 13<sup>th</sup> 10am – Noon** (Jenn Hind-Urquhart to Chair)

Worship by:

**Appendix A: (next page)**

March 11, 2021

CC 21-11

### Mission Support Grants 2021 Applicants

	APP	\$
Camp Bimini	x	12,000
Camp Menesetung	x	15,000
Christian Resource Centre Mitchell	x	15,000
Ecumenical Campus Ministry U of Guelph	x	27,000
Grand River Resource Centre - Five Oaks	x	7,600
Grey Bruce Chaplaincy	x	30,000
Five Oaks	x	10,000
Skylight Festival	x	5,000
Community Ministry (KW)	x	5,000