

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

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**APPROVED MINUTES**  
**January 20, 2022, 1:00 p.m.**  
**ZOOM meeting**

**Roster:** Bruce Dickson (Chair), Rodger Filsinger, Mary Hawthorne, Joyce Osborne, Edith Coyle, Gail Fricker, Jenn Hind-Urquhart

**Staff Support:** Diane Matheson-Jimenez - Minister, Social Justice  
Kathy Douglas - Minister, Faith Formation  
Thérèse Samuel – Minister for Right Relations and Social Justice  
Dave Jagger - Stewardship and Gifts Officer  
Michele Petick - Administration  
Ruthanna Mack - Administration (on leave))

**Present:** Bruce Dickson (Chair), Rodger Filsinger, Mary Hawthorne, Joyce Osborne, Edith Coyle, Gail Fricker, Jenn Hind-Urquhart, Diane Matheson-Jimenez, Kathy Douglas, Thérèse Samuel, Michele Petick, Vanessa Spence

**Regrets:** Jenn Hind-Urquhart and Ruthanna Mack

**Invited Guest:** Vanessa Spence

1. **Acknowledgement of the Land/Territory:** Bruce Dickson
2. **Opening Prayer/Worship:** Bruce Dickson
- 3.

**Guest - Vanessa Spence will answer questions regarding proposal YAT Forum & Youth Rally Project Proposal**

- An annual event to build community.
- Programs have been built on former youth programs. COVID prevented these programs continuing
- A new vision of past programs for the future in the tri-regions.
- Youth events, in-person.
- Great success from previously known as Youth Forum group that led opportunities to learn about conference meetings and general council meetings of the United Church of Canada. Knowledge of governance structure.
- Established for young adults and youth. Young adult event is for 19 years and up.
- Connect with God, nature, one another, church and community.
- Create space to make these changes and to be seen and heard.
- Looking for support and financial endorsement.

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- Looking to manage a self-sustaining program that will not run a deficit.
- Looking at opportunities to fundraise.
- Looking for a centrally located and accessible location to run the events.
- Currently meeting at Pearce Williams in Fingal, Ontario near St. Thomas.
- 20 people are on the planning team.
- Tiered system payment structure to remove financial barriers to participation.
- YAT = Young Adults Together

4. **Check-Ins:** I'd like to tell you ...

5. **Establishing/reminder of Equity Monitor and Pastoral Presence for our meeting(s)**

- Need to be cautious to make space, that voices are heard and that space isn't taken up by some voices and not others, holding each other aware of the use of language, learn how interpretations can be ableist or racist.
- Introducing this idea and Regional Councils have been having Equity Monitors present at meetings.
- Can be made part of the meeting, to pay attention to it instead of assigning one person to the position.
- Makes it easier to speak up.
- An opportunity to learn a skill we might use elsewhere.
- Being HARSH:
  - Hugely
  - Against
  - Racism
  - Sexism
  - Homophobia
- Calling people "IN" to deep relationships (rather than calling out).
- Mary Hawthorne will serve as Equity Monitor for this meeting.

6. **Approval of Agenda for January 20, 2021**

MOTION by Name Rodger/ EdithName that the Mission and Discipleship Commission of Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council as circulated.

MOTION

CARRIED

7. **Approval of Minutes from October 21, 2021**

MOTION by Name Gail/ MaryName that the Mission and Discipleship Commission of Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council as circulated.

MOTION

CARRIED

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**8. Business Arising:**

**a. Fall meeting Word Cloud:**

A great success and a highlight of the Fall Regional Council meeting of Western Ontario Waterways

**b. Racial Justice Training:**

Was successful and Thérèse reported 7 additional sign ups.

**c. Thérèse - Examples of budget update and budget tracking in minutes:**

**Before Business Arising: Budget Update**

<b>Fund:</b>	<b>\$ Set Aside (Event/mtg details TBA)</b>	<b>\$ final Approval</b>	<b>\$ Remaining</b>
<b>2022 Events Fund (\$10,000 available for 2022)</b>		Some 2022 event funds were approved in a previous meeting, to be confirmed	\$10,000 (less amount to be confirmed)
<b>2022 Meeting Fund (\$ ??? Available for 2022)</b>			

**At the end of business: budget tracking for this meeting:**

(Note monies being returned or re-allocated are in parenthesis)

<b>2022 Events Expenses or Adjustments Program:</b>	<b>\$ Set Aside</b>	<b>\$ Approved</b>
Winter-Spring Right Relations Events		\$700
Coming out of Exile (Lenten Theme study)		\$1,000
<b>2022 Meeting Expenses or Adjustments:</b>	<b>\$ Set Aside</b>	<b>\$ Approved</b>
N/A		

**d. Setting aside funds:**

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Example: MOVED by (mover/seconded) that the Western Ontario Waterways Mission and Discipleship Commission *set aside \$amount* from the Events Budget for program type, which would be held in broad timeframe, with the understanding that this is not final approval and a more complete presentation will be made if it is to go forward.

OR

Example: MOTION by name/name that the Western Ontario Waterways Mission and Discipleship Commission will set aside funds yearly of \$2,000 to each program area for Indigenous Justice - Right Relations, Faith Formation and Social Justice to a maximum of \$6,000 overall to be determined by the support staff to assist in planning.

For further discussion and the Commission is in agreement as a group for this idea of setting aside funds.

**9. New Business:**

**YAT Project (see attachment)- Vanessa Spence:**

MOTION by Rodger / Edith that the Mission and Discipleship Commission of Western Ontario Waterways endorse, host and support the proposal by Vanessa Spence for YAT Forum and Youth Rally Project Proposals as submitted.

**CARRIED**

**10. Reports:**

- **Kathy**

1. Music Ministry Events upcoming
2. Kairos Involvement- Ecumenical work for climate justice. I am UCC person at many of the meetings. There are national staff involved at some levels too. I am training to be a trainer of Facilitators for Climate Conversations. Hoping that our regions will benefit.
3. UCW at executive levels...AGM and Tri-Regional Gatherings. Speaks to strong community and belonging

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4. Continuing theme of need or struggle. Loneliness and loss/need of belonging. Depression and grief in our time and community of faiths. Depressed church. Opportunity that pandemic unveils. As FF Minister what does my work look like and the priorities of it.

- **Diane**

- Work percolating around Anti-Bullying along with Thérèse and Kevin Steeper.
- Workshop will be available in the regions. Skill building around anti-bullying in the church.
- Rue McDonald and Otis Bell proposed Lenten series “Coming Out of Exile”. Reclaim ritual and reclaiming stories. \$3,000 (\$1,000 apprx. per region). Is this worth pursuing? Potentially too late for Lent 2022. Could be a resource for 2023.

MOTION Gail / Mary that the Western Ontario Waterways Mission & Discipleship Commission support staff support person, Diane Matheson-Jimenez to continue to explore and give potential financial support of up to \$1,000 for a project *Coming Out of Exile* with Rue McDonald and Otis Bell as outlined.

CARRIED

- **Thérèse**

**Thérèse Report:**

**Proposed Right Relations Winter-Spring Events**, budget estimates (knowing that costs can vary)

**Acknowledging the Territory-**

Leader estimate \$250 Elder estimate \$250 Tobacco and Gifts \$60

**Together in Art/ Together in Prayer: Tobacco Tie / Together in Story**

one of the three topics will be chosen

Leader estimate \$250; Elder \$250; Tobacco and Gifts \$60

**Follow-up to TRC Sessions**

Leader Estimate: \$500; Elder \$250; Tobacco and Gifts \$60

Costs will be split between the three regions.

Rounded up, budget request: \$700 from each Regional Council (total \$2100)

Suggested motion for request of funds:

MOVED by (Rodger / Joyce) that the Western Ontario Waterways Mission and Discipleship Commission *approve the allocation* of \$700 from the Events Budget for three Winter/Spring 2022

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Right Relations Events: Acknowledging the Territory; Together in Art or Tobacco Tie or Story Sharing; and a follow-up to the TRC Sessions.

CARRIED

- On Vacation for two weeks, going to Edmonton.

- **Ruthanna/Michele**
- **other**

**11. Next Meetings:** Thursday, March 3rd, 1-3pm

**12. Closing – Equity Monitor Review**

**13. Adjournment**