Western Ontario Waterways Region.

***Connecting, Supporting, Transforming.***

Mission and Discipleship Commission Meeting

September 15, 2021 @ 1:00 p.m.

Zoom meeting

APPROVED- Minutes

**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)

Thérèse Samuel (Minister, Right Relations and Social Justice)

Kathy Douglas (Minister, Faith Formation)

Dave Jagger (Stewardship and Gifts Officer)

Ruthanna Mack (Admin Support on leave)

Michele Petick (acting Administrative Assistant)

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

**Regrets:** Rodger Filsinger, Dave Jagger, Ruthanna Mack,

**Welcome members and Check In**

* Gifts from Summer? Hopes for Fall?
* Fire by Judy Brown shared by Diane Matheson-Jimenez
* 31 Short Spiritual Practices by Rob Fennell shared by Gail Fricker

**OPENING PRAYER:**

Led by Bruce Dickson

*Gracious God, glad for the things of summer … give thanks for the Fall. Help us face the busyness.*

**Acknowledgement of Territory:**

*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.*

**Approve the agenda:**

**MOTION:** by Joyce/Gail that the agenda as prioritized be approved by the Mission and Discipleship Commission of Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council.

**CARRIED**

**AGENDA - starting with Most Pressing Conversations:**

* Fall Regional Council Meeting dates planned for November 12-14th, Mission and Discipleship will contribute something to this event.
* Financial Support pages now active on the site, funds are available.
* Requests for fall program support from Thérèse Samuel
* Request from Diane Matheson- Jimenez

1. **Truth and Reconciliation Events – Thérèse Samuel**

Fall programs to focus on post Senator Murray Sinclair visit and right relations ministries. Three or four active groups can share what they are doing. TRC action plans discussion. Together in Song will be a time to gather with Indigenous leaders. Costs will go towards elder leadership. Monies may be used towards gifts as this is the meaningful way to compensate elders. This is an opportunity for our regions to participate in an event as a spiritual gathering and not a webinar.

**MOTION:** Jenn/Mary accept the proposal and funds for the Fall Right Relations programs of $700 as outlined by Thérèse Samuel for the events by the WOW Mission and Discipleship commission for these events:

• Working Together for Right Relations • Engaging the TRC Calls to Action (4 sessions)• Together in Song

**CARRIED**

1. **Earth Day Event 2022 -** Diane Matheson-Jimenez

Events are planned to be held Friday April 22nd, 2022 in- person in Welland and on Zoom for Earth Day 2022. The theme is: ‘Dancing through the Darkness with an Evolutionary Faith’. Purpose of the event is to engage deeper conversation around climate concerns and honuoring the climate emergency. It is planned that conversation and grounding time with people passionate about climate change will occur. Looking for $1500 financial support for the event, split between the three regions of $200 each region. Carol Kilby is a retired United Church Minister from Toronto, an author and speaker. She wrote the book *Evolutionary Dancer: Out, In, and On the Fringe of the Church.* Carol shows a connection between the resurrection with a backdrop of the current climate crisis. A finger labyrinth will be made for online participants and people n-person will be invited to walk a labyrinth to create movement. Wesley United Church in Welland, ON will be contributing $900 to the event. This is a 2022 budget item.

**MOTION**: By Edith/Jenn that the WOW Mission and Discipleship Commission support financially and contribute $200 to the Earth Day 2022 Event as outlined by Diane Matheson-Jimenez with participation of resource person Carol Kilby.

**CARRIED**

1. **Mission Support Grant Applications**

Approval of mission of support grants $126,600 requests for $136,000

Chaplaincies and camps are given priority followed by resource centres.

**Grey Bruce Healthcare Chaplaincy Council -** **$30,000**

* Covers 11 communities.

APPROVED

**Grand River Spiritual and Educational Resource Center -** **$7,600**

* General sales down due to COVID.
* Is it still of value to have a physical presence?

APPROVED

**Camp Menesetung** - **$15,000**

APPROVED

**Camp Bimini** - **$15,000**

APPROVED

**Mitchell Resource Centre** - **$15,000**

* Requesting $5K more from WOW this year.
* It is in the WOW region.
* A storefront on Main Street.
* Maintain the level we have supported them in the past.

APPROVED

**Guelph Ecumenical Campus Ministries** - **$27,000**

* No religious studies program at University of Guelph.
* Potential for a broader reach with benefits to bigger communities.
* Shared ministry.
* Remind them of the dissolution of presbyteries.

APPROVED

**Five Oaks Centre -** **$10,000**

* Host camping programs

APPROVED

**Skylight Festival -** **$4,500**

* Requesting across the three regions R789 $4,500 each region.

APPROVED

**Westminster United Church -** **$2,500**

* Pastoral charge request.
* They have other funding sources available.
* Looking to engage a person in student ministry for youth and children ministry. Perhaps a ½ position.
* Send a note of support to encourage and affirm what they are doing.

APPROVED

**MOTION:** Mary/Gail that the requests for funds via grant application be granted as discussed in the sums listed above by Western Ontario Waterways Mission and Discipleship Commission.

**CARRIED**

Approval letters to be sent between Bruce Dickson (Chair) and Diane Matheson-Jimenez. The Chair thanked everyone for the thoughtful considerations of these grant applications.

**Staff reports:**

* **Diane** - None today, busy time with grants.
* **Kathy** – Nothing specific, little seeds growing, keep in mind the camps. Children, youth and leadership onsite at camps this past summer.
* **Thérèse** – None today, will look to highlight more of what we are doing in our events.

**Approve Minutes:**

* Deferred to the next meeting

NO MOTION

**Business Arising:**

* None at this time.

**Other Business:**

* Send a Card to Ruthanna from the Commission.
* Orange Shirt recommendations? Avoid big box stores when buying Orange Shirts. Wear an unbranded orange shirt and discuss the reasons why we wear orange shirts. Supplies are low.

**Correspondence:**

* None at this time

**Next meeting:**

Thursday October 21, 2021 - 1pm-3pm

**Adjournment**