Western Ontario Waterways Region.

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

Mission and Discipleship Commission Meeting

April 13, 2021 @ 10:00 a.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)

Thérèse Samuel ( Minister, Right Relations and Social Justice)

Kathy Douglas (Minister, Faith Formation)-Note taker

Dave Jagger (Stewardship and Gifts Officer)

Ruthanna Mack (Admin Support)

**Present**: Jenn Hind-Urquhart, Rodger Filsinger, Mary Hawthorne, Gail Fricker, Edith Coyle

**Regrets:** Bruce Dickson, Dave Jagger, Ruthanna Mack, Joyce Osborne, Keith Reynolds (has officially withdrawn from commission)

Welcome members and Check In

What is One Coping Strategy you’ve used during pandemic that has been helpful?

* For me Cooking / then walking to burn off the calories from all the eating lol

Opening Prayer

* Good and loving God, our source of love and light,  
  Thank you for bringing us together today  
        in a spirit of generosity.  
  May we honor one another  
        by keeping an open mind.   
  May we voice our truth  
       and listen with an open heart.   
  May we discern your will  
        to unite in fruitful outcome.   
  We ask for your wisdom and grace,  
       to use our talents for the betterment of others.   
  With gratitude, we offer this prayer for your inspirational guidance.

*Written and offered by Debra Mooney*

* 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. (Prioritize)

MOTION by Rogers/Gail that the Mission and Discipleship Commission of Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council …

* AGENDA-starting with Most Pressing Conversations:

-VIDEO Report - Sharing together: commission members offer their answers to the following questions:   
 **1. What does Mission mean to me? and   
 2. What does Discipleship mean to me?** (The goal is our recorded/video answers after editing be put in a newsletter or on the Regional YouTube channel (linked to the Regional Websites).

-NEWSLETTER date of publication April 28

\*Camps in our region have made a video recording to go into the newsletter-DONE

\*UCW report will go in as well.- ACTION Edith and Kathy

\*Mission Support Grant information – ACTION dates and links-DMJ

\*Link to Expression of Interest needs to given and a notice that we need for more commission members- ACTION Bruce

\*Harm Reduction information-ACTION Jen

PLEASE Send information for Newsletter ASAP

Letter of support of The Hub Community Network. (See notes)

The Hub Community Network is asking for a letter of endorsement for thier New Ministry Grant application. We gave them one for their last application.

**Motion**  The WOW M&D Commission will authorize Bruce Dickson to write a letter of endorsement to the HUB Community Network for their New Ministries grant application, with an intent to invite Adam Cresswell to address the commission within the next couple of meetings to share the work of this ministry.

Moved by Gail/Edith. Moved

Mission Support Grant Process

Application deadline AND plan a meeting date to review applications.

We set a tentative date for 2022 MS Grant Application deadline of Sept 1, 2021.

We also set tentative dates to review the application of Wednesday, September 15, 1-3 and extra date, if needed Friday, September 17 between 1-3

Dates added to Regional Calendar (no zoom links set up)

Review pre-work on Senator Sinclair’s presentation on May 28 at 1:30 p.m.

M Sinclair speak on May 28. Please encourage folks to attend pre events to be prepared for this speak. Virtual Tours of Former Mohawk Institute and KAIROS Blanket Ex and speak with Sara Stratton-Residential Schools 101.

There will be a gathering with Indigenous Church on a separate date

There will be a follow up action plan for ‘What’s next?’ Dates to be announced

Harm Reduction work

MOTION: by Jenn Hind-Urquhart/Roger Filsinger that the WOWRC Mission and Discipleship Commission endorse a series of events sponsored by Shining Waters Regional Council around Harm Reduction and the decriminalization of illicit drugs for personal use

CARRIED

* Staff reports:
  + Thérèse

See details of M. Sinclair event and the items surrounding it

GLI Vigil Event and we hope to name a rep from this region to be on the GLI national group.

Affirming Celebration is Sunday, June 6 @ 2pm for all three regions. After this celebration we can become an Affirming region

* + Diane

**Ted McMeekin event: How to talk so politicians will listen.** May 6 at 12:10. Poster attached.

Indigenous Justice dates - there is lots of room in the events with Sara Stratton and Murray Sinclair;

GLI vigils had the most social media participation of any UCC initiative in the last decade;

Social Justice Network of Ontario Regional Councils meets this Thursday, Jenn H-U and Diane MJ will represent WOW if anyone wishes us to raise a specific issue;

Affirming celebration Sunday June 6 at 2 pm - details to come, but for now save the date; April 27 will be a national day of action on long term care facilities - the Canadian Health Coalition is taking the lead, Diane MJ will forward information as it becomes available

* + Kathy

**Taste of Palestine**-Interest in offering another virtual tour in Palestine with a focus on Youth/Children’s experience living under occupation.

**Pastoral Care Training/Support**-two time slots for Volunteer/Lay Pastoral Care support are very popular. Perhaps indicating great need for help in this stress filled times. Tuesday, April 13 @7 and Wednesday, April 14@10am

**Music Ministry Support**-helping music ministry people in our churches to share celebrations and struggles…feel support and collaborate.  I am working with Shining Waters and Canadian Shield on this…40 folks attended event Monday, April 12.

**Youth Leadership Ministry Gathering (Tuesday, April 13@1pm)** Support and sharing resources. Also hearing about need to gather and find youth/young adult representatives to National youth forum and GC (2022)

**Camps-** video recording made for WOW with our three camps. Bruce has seen it and it will be used in newsletters. I hope to share it with CoF for camping Sunday-4th Sunday in April <https://united-church.ca/worship-special-days/camping-sunday>

**UCW –** AGM Saturday, April 24

**My Sabbatical is May 17 -Aug 13, 2021**

* Approve Minutes of NameMarch 11, 2021 meeting

MOTION by Name Mary/Edith that the Mission and Discipleship Commission of Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council approve the minutes of March 11, 2021 as circulated.

* + - Business Arising…
  + Membership issues of this commission. - We will ask Bruce to send out terms and continued look/promotion for members
    - Other Business
* Dropbox – what is helpful and what isn’t needed – To be set on another agenda
  + - Correspondence:
  + Next meetings:

\*Spring Regional Meeting of WOW- May 13, 14, 15. More information to come re times and links

\*M&D, ZOOM, June 22, 2021 @ 10 a.m

* Adjournment. Gail/Roger