**Roster:** Rodger Filsinger, Mary Hawthorne, Joyce Osborne, Edith Coyle, Gail Fricker, Jenn Hind-Urquhart, Andrew Hyde

**Staff Support:** Kathy Douglas - Minister, Faith Formation

Thérèse Samuel – Minister for Right Relations and Social Justice

??? - Stewardship and Gifts Officer

Michele Petick - Administration

Ruthanna Mack - Administration (on leave)

**Present**: Mary Hawthorne, Edith Coyle, Gail Fricker, Jenn Hind-Urquhart, Andrew Hyde, Cathy Hird

Kathy Douglas, Thérèse Samuel, Michele Petick,

**Regrets:** Ruthanna Mack, Rodger Filsinger, Joyce Osborne

1. **Welcome Rev. Cathy Hird – Introduction to Covenant Commission**
2. **Opening Prayer: Gail Fricker**
3. **Establishing/reminder of Equity Monitors and Pastoral Presence for our meeting(s): Jenn Hind-Urquhart**

Remembering Being HARSH:

HugelyAgainstRacismSexismHomophobia

**4. Approval of Agenda for Sept 21st, 2022**

MOTION by Andrew/Mary Name / Name that the Mission and Discipleship Commission of Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council as amended.

MOTION CARRIED

**5. Approval of Minutes from June 30th, 2022**

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

CARRIED

**Business Arising from minutes:**

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**6. Discussion/ Comments from the morning session:**

**Clarifying our Role as a Commission/Goals of the Commission going forward:**

* Unused funds from commission budgets can be used towards learning opportunities for commission members.

**In person vs virtual meetings:**

* Climate change concerns to consider.
* Via Zoom is the preference.
* Once or twice a year meet in person.
* Consider having an in-person meeting for grant review.

MOVED BY: Jenn/Edith that the Western Ontario Waterways Mission & Discipleship Commission will meet online for regular meetings via Zoom and to meet once a year October in person and hybrid to review and discuss the Mission and Support Grants.

CARRIED

Learning about our members of the Commission:

* **What is your greatest area(s) of passion in the Mission and Discipleship portfolio?**
* Inspired by Outreach and Vision work in communities of faith.
* Working with congregations moving past affirmation to inclusion and education with 2SLGBTQ+ and diverse populations. Becoming Affirming is not the ultimate step, that is just the beginning. What is beyond Affirming?
* Youth and young adult work, chaplaincy on campuses, work with young people, giving support to those folks.
* Social Justice.
* Youth and inclusion, support Affirming.
* Helping all our people know where to go to get information about Mission and Service, like sharing links in the eNewsletter.
* Climate engagement. How do we get ourselves motivated about climate?
* Right Relations work.
* **What area do you find most concerning? In what way does it concern you?**

- What are we doing about the situation in Ukraine and the women in Afghanistan. Would like to have a more defined outline of where Mission funds are being allocated. Sarah Charters sends an email. Gail Fricker will send the link to this email sign up.

- How do we create advocacy for social justice issues?

- The broad mandate of the M&D Commission.

- Next round of grants maybe we need to re-work what our priorities are.

- The region is still young, building connections with communities of faith and communities’ faith together is super important.

* **Affirming commitments:**

- Educations for Communities of Faith re: biblical interpretation with an Affirming lense.

- Encourage communities of faith to create safer spaces. The difference between brave spaces and safe spaces.

- Welcome and celebration of all sexual orientations and gender identities.

- Advocacy for social justice for 2SLGBTQ+

- Education around inclusion.

- Advocacy, education and support for 2SLGBTQ+

- Potential podcasts for sharing on creating safer spaces.

* What area do you most want to learn more about? (It could be an area you know little about and are curious, or an area that you have developed some knowledge in and want to grow).
* For reflection for future meetings to discuss.

**7. Finances – see drop box for up to date figures**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| ***Fund:*** | **$ Set Aside**  **(Event/mtg)** | **$ final Approval** | **$ Remaining** |
| **2022 Events Fund**  **($10,000 available for 2022)**  ($2000 for each of three areas FF, SJ and IJ to plan) |  | $2,600 | $7,400 |
| **2022 Meeting Fund**  **($ 5000 Available for 2022)** |  |  | $5,000 |

MOTION CARRIED

**Reports:**

* **Kathy**

**Moved by Andrew/Mary that the   WOW Regional Council Mission and Discipleship Commission approve the allocation of $100 from the Events Budget for honorarium for Kenji Marui.** (Kenji was a presenter at GC44 Youth Forum Intern Retreat at 5 Oaks on August 17, 2022.  His total honorarium will be $300, split between all three regions.)

**CARRIED**

**Moved by Edith/Mary that the Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council Mission and Discipleship Commission approve the allocation of $75 from the Events Budget for honorarium for Kelly Moores** (Kelly is offering leadership at a Children and Youth Ministry Webinar for September 28 and 29, 2022).

**CARRIED**

* Mission & Support Grants are in the DropBox here:   <https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/8u9q1bi1b2p7cyxc2fiau/h?dl=0&rlkey=74bik6ijrihu4kul9dozyf8ti>
* Mission Support Grants- This is challenging, time consuming work for this commission.  Please set aside energy and time for the review and decision on those.  IF anyone needs help with drop box or accessing MS Grants 2023, call me.
* The UCC and Kairos, working with the Love Of Creation program is holding a series on COP27.  Please see link below, <https://fortheloveofcreation.ca/event/road-to-cop27-fall-webinar-series/>
* From this work around COP 27 there is a request for reps from each region to sit on the Animator’s Circle to make ‘real’ the climate justice work.   I will be looking for a rep from each region to consider this. IF you know of anyone, please let me know.
* The Interns GC44 Youth Forum Delegates have been recorded as they share their ‘Passion Projects’  I have those recordings.  Many of these justice projects were around Gender Justice. Gender Justice, Food Justice, Climate Justice, Clobber Texts (certain texts, five or six passages have been used from the bible to batter 2SLGBTQ communities), Love Thy Queer Neighbour videos and social media. There is a nice connection with this for meeting our priorities around Indigenous, Climate, and Gender issues….supporting Youth and Young Adults.
* I would like to get a feel for general support to give finances to help cover expenses of YOUTH Rally. (November 4-6 at Lambton Centre)
* **Thérèse**
* **Updating finances**
* **Racial Justice Event** will be held on Feb 7 and March 7, 2023 it is a single event with Selam Debs for the first session and Alcris Limongi for the second. The regions are paying for this event.
* **Right Relations Work:** October 5 there will be a workshop for worship leaders (lay or clergy) who offer or may be interested in offering occasional worship leadership (i.e. pulpit supply) in Indigenous congregations.   
  In addition, there is a video being prepared which introduces Martha Pedoniquotte CCDC, Indigenous Ministries and Justice Unit and Thérèse Samuel, Minister for Right Relations in SW Ontario Regions and how we work together to support Indigenous communities of faith.
* **Affirming Flags** prepared for the regions for municipally sanctioned Pride parades and Affirming Ministries. Interest in communities of the faith to purchase from the regions.

MOVED BY: Jenn/Andrew that the Western Ontario Waterways Mission and Discipleship Commission purchase 50 Pride Flags with WOW branding for distribution to the Affirming United Churches and gifted to others in the process of the Affirming.

CARRIED

**Ongoing Business**

* Five things from General Council 44

a. principle-based approach to Social Justice

b. Palestine Israel

c. decriminalizing illicit substance abuse

d. challenging anti-Semitism

e. recognition of Armenian genocide

* Highlight the work of our Commission for the Fall Regional Council Gathering. Jenn and Gail will take care of this.
* **Ruthanna/Michele**

None

* **Other**

**NEXT MEETING:** **Thursday, Oct 20 at 2pm HYBRID In-person and via Zoom**

Review of WOW Mission Support Grants - each application which will appear in Dropbox <https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/8u9q1bi1b2p7cyxc2fiau/h?dl=0&rlkey=74bik6ijrihu4kul9dozyf8ti>

-          Template that you can use to organize your thoughts on each applicant

-          Come prepared to discuss and then decide how to apportion the funds

**Summary of financial decisions in this meeting:**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **2022 Events Expenses or Adjustments**  **Program:** | **$ Set Aside** | **$ Approved** |
|  |  | $175 |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **2022 Meeting Expenses or Adjustments:** | **$ Set Aside** | **$ Approved** |
|  |  |  |

**Closing – Equity Monitor**

* Territorial Acknowledgment comes first before introductions and business.

**Adjournment**