**Mission and Discipleship Commission**

**Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council**

**of The United Church of Canada**

*Connecting, Supporting, Transforming*

**APPROVED MINUTES**

**November 30, 2022 at 1pm**

**ZOOM meeting**

**Roster:** Rev. Jenn Hind-Urquhart (Chair), Rev. Cathy Hird, Mary Hawthorne, Joyce Osborne, Edith Coyle, Andrew Hyde, Tom McDonough

**Staff Support:** Minister, Social Justice (vacant)

Kathy Douglas - Minister, Faith Formation

Thérèse Samuel – Minister for Right Relations and Social Justice

Brenna Baker - Stewardship and Gifts Officer

Ruthanna Mack – Administrative Assistant, Mission and Finance

Michele Petick - Administration

**Present**: Rev. Jenn Hind-Urquhart (Chair), Rev. Cathy Hird, Mary Hawthorne, Edith Coyle, Andrew Hyde, Tom McDonough, Joyce Osborne

**Regrets:** Ruthanna Mack, Rodger Filsinger, Gail Fricker

1. **Land Acknowledgement:** Rev. Jenn Hind-Urquhart

Let us be reminded that we live, work, and have our being on the traditional lands of Indigenous Peoples.

The lands where we live, learn and work hold the ancestral connections and stories of Indigenous peoples since time immemorial.  However, colonization has orchestrated the displacement of First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples from their ancestral lands and hindered their ability to be good relations with the land.  Indigenous peoples are actively maintaining and strengthening their relationships with the land which are grounded in respect, reciprocity, and resiliency. (<https://www.uoguelph.ca/land-acknowledgement>)

The original peoples have sought to walk gently on this land, and we endeavor to follow their example. We seek a new relationship with First Nation peoples through Truth and Reconciliation and we actively seek Right Relations based in honour and with deep respect.

1. **Opening Prayer:** Rev. Jenn Hind-Urquhart
2. **Establishing/reminder of Equity Monitor and Pastoral Presence for our meeting(s) :** Kathy Douglas

**Remembering Being HARSH:**

**HugelyAgainstRacismSexismHomophobia**

**4. Approval of Agenda for November 30, 2022**

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

MOTION CARRIED

**5. Approval of Minutes from October 20, 2022**

MOTION by Cathy H./Edith Name / Name that the Mission and Discipleship Commission of Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council as circulated.

MOTION CARRIED

**6. Business Arising from minutes:**

- Gail Fricker on medical leave, holding Gail in prayer as we go on with the business of the Commission.

- All Mission Support grants correspondence has been sent out.

- Consider a follow up with Trinity/The Hub and Adam Cresswell for an updated budget after the grant process and their applications to the five regions. Or an invitation to update the Commission on their plans. Staff support will check in with Executive Minister, Cheryl-Ann and report back in January.

**7. NEW BUSINESS:**

**a) Official Welcome of Tom McDonough**

**b) Email Votes:**

1.  Moved by Joyce/Seconded by Andrew that WOW Mission & Discipleship Commission approve the payment of $266 from the Events Budget to Lambton Centre United Church Camp to cover the deposit for Youth Rally.

CARRIED November 26, 2022

2.  Moved by Joyce/Seconded by Andrew that WOW Mission & Discipleship Commission approve the payment of $225 from the Events Budget expenses incurred by Vanessa Spence during the YAT Forum April 29th - May 1st, 2022.

CARRIED November 26, 2022

3. Moved by Cathy Hird / Seconded by Joyce Osborne that Western Ontario Waterways Mission & Discipleship Commission approve the allocation of the Mission Support Grant Funds as outlined with meeting notes of October 20, 2022.

CARRIED October 25, 2022

**c) Discussion on the Word “mission”:**

- being discussed at Executive levels and the General Executive Council last year

- the word “mission” has negative connotations to Indigenous communities.

- is there more to be gained to moving into a new language that more accurately describes what the Commission does.

- How does this Commission feel about the word “mission” and the idea of renaming the Commission.

- Discipleship, stewardship and justice might name the areas of work we are doing.

- This Commission largest responsibility is the Mission Support grants.

- The Commission could be involved in the education of words and ideas like “mission” and “justice” ie What does actual “justice” look like in action?

- A proposal of "Love in Action Commission".

- Like the idea of changing the Commissions name to more actively represent what the Commission does.

- Colonial baggage and settler language, some lamenting that a rich theological word like “mission” has become lost

- Would be good for practicalities for all regions to use the same new name

- Staff support Thérèse Samuel offers to review the “mission” conversation from the Spring regional council meetings. Video: <https://youtu.be/KZmqAlEDyBc?t=1657>

- Majority feel that the name should be changed, some feel that the incredible work who have done work under the name of “mission” should not be lost

- Reclaiming the word mission will be difficult. The Queer Community successfully reclaimed the word Queer but that is because it was reclaimed from within the oppressed community not by the oppressor. I am not sure you'll see a willingness on the part of Indigenous Christians to reclaim the word. The re-claiming of a word needs to happen by the oppressed not the oppressor.

- Mission has a broad definition and a catch all for so many things. If renaming happens it will be good to rename with specific actions of the Commission

- The word is a “mission” is an outward looking word and we don’t want to remove this language that helps us not to become an insular organization.

- This conversation will continue into future meetings with all ideas and thoughts welcome and valid.

**d) Affirming priorities from September Orientation – What is our priority?**

* A presentation was made by the Affirming Ministries Network at each of the three regional councils’ orientation events in September 2022.
* Question: How are we living out our Affirming goal on this Commission?
* Discuss Affirming goals at each meeting with more love and action
* Facilitate the training of Equity Monitors with an Equity Monitor Trainor who can help us learn.
* Capacity limits with Commission members
* What are WE going to do to live into our Affirming commitments in our work as a Commission?
* Examples of development like due diligence to make any programs safe
* We will discuss more and look at the parameters that apply to the Mission & Discipleship Commission

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

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

**9. Staff Reports:**

* **Kathy**

**Refugee Advisory Group**

This region is lacking in Refugee Sponsorship programs. Kathy has been meeting with representatives from different areas who are doing this work. Looking to set up a Refugee Advisory Group (RAG) with specialties around housing or schools.

A meeting with reps from each region who are experienced members from their CoF.  A think tank to help me discern what is needed to support them.  Also, spoke with Kwaka Kukoba at National Church whose work is Refugee Program Advisor has connected me with folks across the church who have ideas to share with me about what can and should be formed here.  Kwaka is very happy that there is some effort in our three regions for this to be taken on.

**Climate Justice - COP 27 Delegates and Animators work and progress**

* + Cathy Hird is an animator for COP27, highlighting their voices from the perspective of our delegates. Tia Kennedy, justice and climate justice was one of the delegates in Egypt. She will do an event to highlight her learnings and the need for climate justice.

**Faithful Footsteps**

* + Faithful footsteps has engaging maps where people have received funds for climate justice grants
  + <https://edgeucc.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=6e3c2380aa1143258e22762352717641>
  + <https://www.faithfulfootprints.org/>

**Duty of Care**

* + Working with National Staff, will highlight Affirming concerns and Equity monitoring training.Planning a “Duty of Care” Event

**Conversion Therapy**

* + Working with Shining Waters and hoping to have an event in ARW
  + One of our interns from GC44 has done work on Conversion Therapy and will be doing an event in ARW in the future, it is not prepared yet and we will share that when it is ready.

**New Youth Member possibility (Can a voter on a commission if not a UCC member)**

**COP27 Media - KAIROS Canada**

Press Coverage The Hill Times, November 28, 2022 (letter by Rachel Warden): Our messages were loud and clear at COP27: KAIROS The Catholic Register, November 23, 2022 (Yusra Shafi is featured): COP...

<https://www.kairoscanada.org/what-we-do/ecological-justice/cop27-media>

* **Thérèse**

**-** doing work with Indigenous Ministries

- Faith and justice offering a couple of workshops

- Support Staff have been encouraged to facilitate further involvement and engagement from the commission members.

- Thérèse is looking for support from members of the Commission to fulfil support roles:

**Jesus’ Encounters with the Powerful and Powerless** … How Jesus engaged with people, explore the gospel and asks you to explore the idea of how you do this

**Cycle of Gospel Living** … when we have more power, we are called to give away power. When we have less power, we are called to take more. We all experience different spheres in our life and recognizing when our voices need to be held back and when our voices need to be heard is important.

**Zoom Workshops to be held in January, February or March.**

Jenn Hind and Cathy Hird are interested in helping with these upcoming Zoom workshops.

* + Please sign up for: “Antiracism and the United Church” two workshops open to honest conversations, facilitators are Selam Debs and Rev. Alcris Limongi. The Executives of the three regional councils have paid for these workshops to happen so please attend and register here:
  + [**https://wowrcucc.ca/antiracism-and-the-united-church-intensive-workshop-in-2023-online/**](https://wowrcucc.ca/antiracism-and-the-united-church-intensive-workshop-in-2023-online/)
* **Ruthanna/Michele**

None

* **Brenna**
* Mission and Service fun the deadline is January 15, 2023, this is earlier than past years.
* Along with the Stewardship team Brenna is presenting a module on Congregational Giving in January 2023.

**10. Review/Discussion for future meetings**

* Mission discussion
* Affirming Goals

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

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| **2022 Events Expenses or Adjustments**  **Program:** | **$ Set Aside** | **$ Approved** |
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| **2022 Meeting Expenses or Adjustments:** | **$ Set Aside** | **$ Approved** |
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**Closing – Equity Monitor**

**Adjournment**

**Dates for Next Meetings:**

January 18th 1pm

February 15th 1pm

March 15th 1pm

**WOW** **M&D Priorities: Right Relations, Camps/Youth/Faith Formation, Chaplaincy**

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**Examples of Motions**

* **For Money** Moved by (mover/seconder) that the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Mission and Discipleship Commission approve the allocation of $\_\_\_\_\_\_ from the Events Budget for \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

**Link to drop box:**

[**https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/8u9q1bi1b2p7cyxc2fiau/h?dl=0&rlkey=74bik6ijrihu4kul9dozyf8ti**](https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/8u9q1bi1b2p7cyxc2fiau/h?dl=0&rlkey=74bik6ijrihu4kul9dozyf8ti)