**Discipleship and Justice Commission**

**Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council**

**of The United Church of Canada**

*Connecting, Supporting, Transforming*

**Approved Minutes**

***March 16, 2023 at 7:00pm via Zoom***

**Roster:** Jenn Hind-Urquhart (Co-Chair), Gail Fricker (Chair); ~~Edith Coyle~~, Mary Hawthorne, Cathy Hird, Andrew Hyde, Joyce Osborne, Thom McDonough.

**Regrets: Tom McDonough, Gail Fricker**

**On Leave**: Rodger Filsinger

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

Thérèse Samuel – Minister for Right Relations and Social Justice

Brenna Baker – Community of Faith Stewardship Support

Michele Petick-Administration

Ruthanna Mack-Administration

Position Vacant - Minister, Social Justice

**Agenda**

1. **Acknowledgement of the Land/Territory : CATHY Hird**
2. **Opening Prayer/Worship - *Jenn Hind-Urquhart***
3. **Establishing/reminder of Equity Monitor and Pastoral Presence for our meeting(s)** *Choose monitor:*
4. **Approval of Agenda for March 16 2023**

MOTION by ***Joyce Osborne/Cathy Hird***that the Discipleship and Justice Commission of Western Ontario Waterways accept the Agenda as amended.

CARRIED

1. **Approval of Minutes from Feb 15 2023**

MOTION by **Andrew Hyde/Mary Hawthorne** that the Discipleship and Justice Commission of Western Ontario Waterways be accepted.

CARRIED

1. **Business Arising:**
   1. **SJNORC Funding of $1000**

WE will honour this request for this year but will take this to WOW Executive to consider where the responsibility to cover into the future lies.

Jen will send letter to SJNORC that we have agreed to send $1000.

Jen, as chair will also speak with CA about whether we as a commission should cover this

**Motion: Cathy Hird/Andrew Hyde moved and seconded that WOW D&J Commission will pay the $1000 Funding for the Social Justice Network of Ontario Regions (SJNORC) out of Event Budget.**

**CARRIED**

* 1. **Member Review**: The DJ Commission is being asked to look at the list of members (attached), ensure it is up to date, and to ask members whose terms are expiring to consider whether they would be willing to continue for another term. As a more in-depth level of conversation, the Commission is also being asked to consider what plans are for recruiting new members. As a reminder, the Commission must have at least seven members on its roster. As you can see, that will be a pressing concern for this commission if the members whose terms are ending this year do not apply to remain for another term on the commission.

**Spring Terms for members**

***Gail and Jenn,*** the **WOW** DJ Commission currently has 9 members. The following members’ terms end Spring 2023:

Co-Chair Gail Fricker OM (23) NO Gail will not be remaining on this commission.

Co-Chair Jenn Hind OM (23) NO Likely not (Jen’s new position in ministry is in HF and she is also struggling with managing the chair position at this time.) She is leaning toward not remaining as chair for certain

Edith Coyle UCW (23) YES.. Will continue for another term

Rodger Filsinger (23) NO. At this point we will set his name aside as a member. But to be sure he is not expecting to stay on, Jen will send him a note to verify.

If they wish to continue on WOW DJ you need not complete an expression of interest. Kathy will send this list to Sue Duliban to confirm those who are staying on for second term

This commission will need to find at least one more member or we will be under the limit for members.

Cathy Hird has given some thought to who she could ask. We all might consider asking folks to consider taking on the work of this commission.

CA confirmed that members of this commission need to be membership of the UCC but not members of the regional council.

We will not have a chair after the spring meeting and we need to consider who might be able to take that on. Andrew will consider managing the role of chair but wants some time. Jen is willing to reach out to Tom to see if he is willing chair or co-chair.

* 1. **Conversation about REMIT**

Cathy is very concerned that folks understand the importance of getting congregations to pay attention, do the study and make sure they vote on the remit. Perhaps this commission should take a responsibility in helping to get folks aware and prepared. How will we do that?

Along with other regional D&J commissions we hope to offer resources and time toward the work around this remit.

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Because of our polity, we need to have this remit passed in order that we honour what the Indigenous church wants but we need to be cautious is needed to not take action that adds to negative colonial action

Motion Moved Cathy Hird and seconded by Joyce Osborne; By virtue of the mandate of discipleship and justice, the WOW D&J will take action toward educating the broader church on this remit and invite other regions to partner in that action while discerning the best action going forward.

Cathy Hird has agreed be champion of this on behalf of WOW D&J

1. **Funds available** *(As recorded in Events and Meetings Funds Tracking sheet in Dropbox)*
   1. Events fund balance available as of the last meeting: $9500
   2. Meeting Fund balance available as of the last meeting: $5000
2. **New Business:**

**A letter with a Request for Funding from Jen Auger/Norval United Church**

Jen Auger and Pat Morrison will be hosting 2 Fun Days with Mario Kart Games…one in Sarnia and one in Georgetown. Both Jen and Pat are full time paid accountable ministers working with youth and young adults.

Moved by Mary Hawthorne/ Andrew Hyde that the Western Ontario Waterways Discipleship and Justice Commission approve the allocation of $100 (1/3 of the total of $300) from the Events Budget for MK Tournament in Georgetown and Sarnia CARRIED

* 1. Staff report –
     1. Thérèse Samuel

1. **WOW Pride Flags**
   1. Price for 50 flags is $32.40 each. The cost will be $1625 plus tax.
   2. Order request has been made, and I am waiting to receive the final proof of the graphic.
2. **Antiracism series**
   1. March 7 there were tech challenges impacting the breakout room experience.
      1. approx 110 people attended this session (I am not sure of exact number).
      2. numerous challenges with tech.
      3. there was also more material than we were able to include in the session.
      4. In conversations about 3 more sessions, Alcris and I would co-plan and co-facilitate, would offer Alcris an honorarium of $500 per session
      5. Asking for a motion for the WOW DJ Commission to support a UCC 360-Antiracism series.$500 from each DJ Commission
3. **Registration still open for the Lenten Study** Tuesday March 28:
   1. Feb 28, Session 1: 39 registered, 30 attended.
   2. Next session registration still open:

<https://catalog.churchx.ca/product?catalog=UILX6000&utm_source=United-in-Learning&utm_campaign=02503fa7d4-UiL_230116&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_b151b1ffa7-02503fa7d4-189464643&goal=0_b151b1ffa7-02503fa7d4-189464643&mc_cid=02503fa7d4&mc_eid=133b2def54>

1. In the United Church of Canada, March 14 is PIE Day, also called National Affirming Day.  
   Several regions collaborated to support a workshop that evening. The guest was a highly regarded 2Spirit (Indigenous) speaker. Click the link for info about the session: [PIE Day Workshop - Ozhawa Anung Kweon - Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council (wowrcucc.ca)](https://wowrcucc.ca/pie-day-workshop-ozhawa-anung-kweon/) Our Tri-regional Affirming Network endorsed it. Over 200 registered, and 110 attended, although a number of logged in participants were groups at churches.
2. Networks:
   1. Tri-Regional Affirming Network: I suggest the commission also reach out to the Affirming Network. They have a lot on their plate and are doing an awesome job supporting communities of faith in the process. Robin Sherman is Chair and Deborah Laforet is Secretary.
3. Emerging Events:
   1. Possible event being planned for Fall, 2023: Online “Fishbowl” with 8 Youth/Young Adults from The Hub, and 8 Seniors who are leaders from various congregations. I am in talks with Adam Cresswell from The Hub/Trinity UC Kitchener on initial plans.
   2. Presentation at the three regional spring meetings, in preparation for the remit vote.

**REMIT:**

[Remit 1: Establishing an Autonomous National Indigenous Organization | United Church 44th General Council (generalcouncil44.ca)](https://generalcouncil44.ca/council/remit-1-establishing-autonomous-national-indigenous-organization#msdynttrid=lHGZNhJP_JqviH5YGrkN00ZPMymrFQnIwYibomTIVdg)

**ADDITIONAL BACKGROUND INFORMATION TO THE REMIT:**

The United Church Repudiation of the Doctrine of Discovery

[Backgrounder and 2012 Motion to Repudiate the Doctrine of Discovery (united-church.ca)](https://united-church.ca/sites/default/files/2022-08/doctrine-discovery-backgrounder-motion.pdf)

Doctrine of Discovery

[The Doctrine of Discovery | CMHR (humanrights.ca)](https://humanrights.ca/story/doctrine-discovery)

* + 1. Kathy Douglas

**Creating a Refugee Advisory Network in ARW, HF and WOW**

ARW, HF, and WOW Regional Councils wants to support the Communities of Faith who are doing and/or wish they were doing **Refugee Sponsorships**.

We want to celebrate and encourage the immense contributions and dedication our church communities have provided as safe havens for vulnerable refugees around the world.

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We want to help support refugee sponsorship ministry. As rewarding as this work can be, we are aware that it requires great energy and long hours of work.  There is a steep learning curve and lots of struggles to overcome.

**Guest Speaker: Barb Sheffield**

at Private Refugee Sponsorship Network of Ontario  [Private Refugee Sponsor Network | About](https://refugeesponsornet.ca/about/)

Join a Zoom Call

**Creating an Refugee Advisory Network**

**in ARW, WOW and HF Regional Council**

Tuesday, June 13 @ 1-2:30

Zoom link (registration)

**Who should attend this gathering?**

* + - * + Those who have a long and rich history in Refugee Sponsorship
        + Those who are hoping to offer this ministry in their context
        + Those who need support in this ministry

**Kids Across the Regions Event  June** 9-11 at Camp Bimini.  Built on Children at Conference (London Con) this event offers short camp experience for kids trying overnight camp, leadership development for teens and young adults, a community building opportunity for Children and Youth Ministry folk.   In an effort to ‘rebuild’ our region wide events, and children ministry in general, we want to reduce barriers.  Cost is one barrier.   If all three D&J Commissions subsidize this camp at $500 each, we can keep the participant fee between $75-$100.    Watch for poster and registration.

Working with **For the Love of Creation** <https://fortheloveofcreation.ca/earth-week/>

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| |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | During Earth Week 2023 (April 16–23), The United Church of Canada is joining with numerous sibling denominations and faith-based organizations under one banner, [Together for the Love of Creation](https://can01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Farwrcucc.us20.list-manage.com%2Ftrack%2Fclick%3Fu%3Dee15470ca4eab124ea964929b%26id%3D7ad2d1ebb8%26e%3D0d7e2b1c9c&data=05%7C01%7Ckdouglas%40united-church.ca%7C9ef1ada6477a4c24f28d08db1a40e6ee%7Ccf18b5a826784011931215f0f7157574%7C0%7C0%7C638132638282338866%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=OZxYb1Kl9EjwRmI0wQ2sIJbNcStL4a9nxzUIDhMj%2FR4%3D&reserved=0). During Earth Week, we invite you to hold events to pray, learn, and act for climate justice.  Ready to take action? On Tuesday, March 7, 2023, at 12:30 p.m. EST, come learn more, brainstorm possibilities, and hear from Moderator, Carmen Lansdowne at the [Together for the Love of Creation Zoom session](https://can01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Farwrcucc.us20.list-manage.com%2Ftrack%2Fclick%3Fu%3Dee15470ca4eab124ea964929b%26id%3D376944eb60%26e%3D0d7e2b1c9c&data=05%7C01%7Ckdouglas%40united-church.ca%7C9ef1ada6477a4c24f28d08db1a40e6ee%7Ccf18b5a826784011931215f0f7157574%7C0%7C0%7C638132638282338866%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=kDmj9i9tsGi5GdH4AUvog%2BbgVM0bv4rlrbWnyGv%2BCWU%3D&reserved=0). | | |

**YAT Forum 2023**

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| |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | [Click here to Register!](https://can01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Farwrcucc.us20.list-manage.com%2Ftrack%2Fclick%3Fu%3Dee15470ca4eab124ea964929b%26id%3D29a0478438%26e%3D0d7e2b1c9c&data=05%7C01%7Ckdouglas%40united-church.ca%7C9ef1ada6477a4c24f28d08db1a40e6ee%7Ccf18b5a826784011931215f0f7157574%7C0%7C0%7C638132638282495113%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=0qnFAFwRGomZeoV%2B%2BdTSr0KwHlJQ%2FZucqIHgpYXBcOQ%3D&reserved=0)  **✤**   Kenji Marui   **✤**   Doug Peck   **✤**   Marilyn Arthur   **✤**  Deadline for registration is April 14! | | |

* + 1. Brenna Baker

**Brenna Baker, Community of Faith Stewardship Support**

* **Easter M&S Resources:** Will be available on M&S website: <https://united-church.ca/worship-theme/mission-and-service-worship>

“For the Love of Creation” is a worship service for the Sunday after Easter (Earth Week) that highlights how M&S is confronting climate change and inspires communities of faith to make a difference. Great for a lay-led service, and could really be used anytime.

“Your Impact: Easter 2023” highlights how M&S is at work, and the difference your donations are making.

* **Mission and Service Impact Stories** If you know of a partner in mission that’s doing great things or have a great story from one of our grant recipients, please let me know. The folks that write the stories are looking for fresh examples of Mission and Service donations at work.

**Spring Stewardship Modules:**

**Stewardship Best Practices (Module 1)** starts week of March 20. Learning Teams are invited to register to learn about how to cultivate stewardship as a year-round, on-going spiritual practice in your community of faith. The course is four 2-hour sessions learning with a cohort, incorporating hands on work like writing a case for support, how to communicate your vision, etc. Space is limited so register now! Here’s the registration and more info: <https://www.united-in-learning.com/index.php/ctbtc/445-ctbtc-mod-1-stewardship-best-practices>

Includes a customized report for your congregation and on-going coaching.

**Getting Started in Stewardship –** the first step in your stewardship journey.This webinar gives a quick overview of the Called to be the Church: The Journey stewardship program and resources. Individuals may attend this and then determine if they’re ready to form a team and continue the process.

Offered next on May 2 at 6:30pm

Registration is open here: <https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=qLUYz3gmEUCTEhXw9xV1dAO0ht3KpoFDrfiQuQ8iIvNURFpYTk1GVk1WN1g5NEJTMENYRFpWMDVBMS4u>

**Module 2 – Setting Up Your Giving Program –** This is a two-week series designed for congregations planning a stewardship campaign for the fall. It discusses inviting people to give, what should be in the invitation package, and how to thank people in a meaningful way. This module next begins the week of May 15 and each community of faith would need a learning team of 3-4. Let me know if you are interested and I’ll make sure you get the registration info.

* + 1. Any other?

1. **Any Other Business? Report from Equity Monitor.**

**Joyce Osborn offered a UCW Report**

The National United Church Women have taken on a new five year project in supporting the work of the Healing Fund. The General Council staff identify some national or global projects from which the NUCW executive select a project. In the recent past, the UCW supported Morogoro Women’s Health Training Centre and Women for Change – Zambia. In September 2022, the executive selected The Healing Fund as our next project. On February 11th, UCW WOW hosted a virtual gathering for our members with guest speaker, Joni Shawana, Healing Fund coordinator. The gathering was promoted in other regions as well so representatives from across Canada joined us to hear Joni speak of the work of the Healing Fund and how the financial support the UCW will be designated for programs for women and/or children. The video of this gathering can be found on the regional YouTube channel.

1. **Closing Words.**

**Adjournment**

**Next meeting:**  April 13, 2023 at 7pm (Gail Chairing? )

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

(email received Jan 30th, 2023)

Greetings Regional Councils and Commissions,

 I am writing on behalf of the Tri-Regional Affirm Network to follow up on the time we spent with you during the orientation gatherings last September. We are wondering whether that time together, focusing on the regional action plan has translated into action for your regional councils and commissions?

 With the regional meetings approaching, we encourage you to report on your priorities and progress in relation to the Affirming action plan, and the work of your group.

Blessings  
Rev. Michelle Owens

[owens@whiteoaksunitedchurch.ca](mailto:owens@whiteoaksunitedchurch.ca) 519 681 3229  (church) 548 888 4256  (mobile)

| *Post-It-Notes items from Affirming Action Plan that participants wanted* **Mission and Discipleship Commission***to address* | | |
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| ARW | WOW | HF |
| Practices: Guest speakers – diversity, exposure | A: Education around inclusion (defining inclusion) | A: remove barriers in life and work  Provide orientation |
| Practices: work toward accessible properties | (B) Acknowledging risk to trans folk and advocating for safety | A: Affirming education for interested lay people |
| B: Outreach to local Pride organizations | B: Advocate for municipal, provincial, federal government policies and laws that reflect a diverse and inclusive society | B: Speak out on current events that demean, stigmatize or incite violence against others (3x) |
| B: 1st Point: Advocate for municipal, provincial and federal government policies and laws reflect diverse and inclusive society (3x) | C: Committing to be open to the spirit | B- Advocate for governments to create policies and laws that reflect a diverse and inclusive society (3x) |
| B: speak out on current events that…(2x) | E: Provide support for the Affirm Network (E, last point) | B: Continuing to remove barriers to participation in society (2x) |
| C: Continue to be open to the Spirit | E: Provide support for Affirm Network | B: Actively advocate for justice for all who are oppressed and who face discrimination within our region |
| C: Listen together for God’s ongoing revelation | E:, especially 1, 2, 3 | B: Create physical and emotional spaces |
| D: Be mindful of the disgraceful relationship of the church with 2S-LGBTQIA+ | E:- Welcome, celebrate | B: Encourage ecumenical interfaith conversations |
| D: resisting oppression | E: Education for communities of faith- some still don’t understand even biblically | C: Committing to be open to the Spirit  1. Listen together for God’s ongoing revelation  2. Discern new voices and seek them out (2x) |
| D: Education and info re: gender identifying language | E: Encourage communities of faith to engage in conversations about making safer spaces within the church and community for people of any sexual orientation or gender identity | D: Seek to provide accompaniment to those travelling a difficult path (2x) |
| E: Providing support for individuals- individual community of faith/individuals | E) Welcoming and celebrating people… | E: Tell Stories (by actual people & from their mouths) about queer experience in the church - challenge & hope stories |
| (E) Camps- nongendered facilities | E: Discipleship commission needs to connect with communities of faith to make people open to the spirit and where it will take them | (E) Work with camps to be come affirming especially Cove Springs, and partner with Queer Kid Bible Camp, St. Catharines |
| E: Welcoming and celebrating people of any orientation |  | E – Welcoming and celebrating, provide education and information |
| E: Visibly support 2SLGBTQIA+ activities |  | E – Provide opportunities for the celebration of our diversity |
| E: Educate re: evolving gender identity, diversity of identity and pronouns |  | E: Encourage communities of faith to engage in conversation |
| E: Addressing gendered language  Make it more expansive and inclusive in worship and meetings |  | E: Education for communities of faith |
| (?) Advocacy re 2S-LGBTQ+ safety |  |  |

1. **Summary of Fund Expenses or Adjustments made at this meeting or email votes:***(To be recorded in Events and Meetings Tracking form in Dropbox)*

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Meeting Date** | **Program:** | **$ Approved** | **Remaining** |
| **--** | **EVENTS ALLOCATION FOR 2023 is: $10,000** |  | **$10, 000** |
| Feb 15 | Kids Across the Region event at Camp Bimini (approved Feb 15, 2023) | $500 | $9,500 |
| March 16 | SJNORC 2023 Assessment | $1000 | $8,500 |
| March 16 | Norval United Church, Georgetown for Mario Kart Tournament | $100 | $8,400 |
| March 16 | UCC 360 Antiracism- 3 presentations, honorarium for Alcris Limongi | $500 | $7,900 |
| Feb 15th | Approved Sept 21, 2022 to purchase: 50 WOW Pride Flags approx. $30 each:  March 16 confirmed price before tax $32.40 each  Total cost: 50 x $32.40 = $1620 plus 13% HST = | $ 1,830.60 | $6094.40 |

EVENTS FUND:

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| **2023 Events Budget** | |
| **Description of Expense or Adjustment** | **$** |
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| **2023 Meetings Budget** | |
| **Description of Expense or Adjustment** | **$** |
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**Items tabled for Future Meetings**

**Examples of Motions**

***For Money***

Moved by (mover/seconder) that the Western Ontario Waterways Discipleship and Justice Commission approve the allocation of $\_\_\_\_\_\_ from the Events (or Meetings) Budget for \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

***Email voting Template***

You are being asked to vote on the following motion;**MOTION**: Moved by (mover/seconder) that the Western Ontario Waterways Discipleship and Justice Commission approve the allocation of $\_\_\_\_\_\_ from the Events (or Meetings) Budget for \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. *(or wording appropriate to the context)*

**VOTING WILL CLOSE** at *time and date (allowing at least 48 hours).* Please vote by replying to *the Chair*. You can vote at any time before the closing date and time, and are free to change your vote at any time until the voting closes.

**QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS** are welcomed, and must be visible to all voting members.

**CANCELLING EMAIL VOTE**: If two voting members object to making this decision by email, a meeting will be scheduled to discuss it.

**QUORUM:** We require a quorum from the Commission to respond by the closing time for the vote to be valid.

*Please let me know if you have any questions and thanks for your participation.*