**Discipleship and Justice Commission**

**Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council**

**of The United Church of Canada**

*Connecting, Supporting, Transforming*

**APPROVED Minutes**

***April 13, 2023 at 7:00pm via Zoom***

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

**Regrets:** Jen Hind Urquhart, Brenna Baker, Kathy Douglas

**On Leave**: Rodger Filsinger

**Present:** ~~Jenn Hind-Urquhart (Co-Chair~~), Gail Fricker (Chair); Mary Hawthorne, Cathy Hird, Andrew Hyde, Joyce Osborne, Thom McDonough, Edith Coyle, Thérèse Samuel, Ruthanna Mack

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

Thérèse Samuel – Minister for Right Relations and Social Justice

Brenna Baker – Community of Faith Stewardship Support

Ruthanna Mack-Administration

Position Vacant - Minister, Social Justice

**Acknowledgement of the Land/Territory :** Thérèse Samuel

1. **Opening Prayer/Worship -** Joyce Osborne
2. **Establishing/reminder of Equity Monitor and Pastoral Presence for our meeting(s)** *Choose monitor*:  **Cathy Hird**
3. **Approval of Agenda for April 13th 2023**

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

CARRIED

1. **Approval of Minutes from March 16th 2023**

MOTION by Cathy Hird/Mary Hawthornethat the March 16, 2023 minutes of the Discipleship and Justice Commission of Western Ontario Waterways be accepted.

CARRIED

1. **Business Arising:**
   1. **New Member for Commission?**

Commission must have at least seven members on its roster. What are plans are for recruiting new members. This commission will need to find at least one more member or we will be under the limit for members.

* Cathy Hird has someone who is interested. Cathy would like to connect her to a member of the commission for more information.
* Andrew Hyde also knows someone who is interested in joining the Commission.
* Gail suggested that those new folks should connect to Jenn Hind Urquhart via email
  1. **New Chair of Commission?**

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.  
Thom has respectively declined.  
Andrew has indicated that he’d be ok with the chair.

Motion: Edith Coyle/ Thom McDonough that Andrew Hyde will become the chair of WOW D&J after the WOWRC Spring Meeting.  
CARRIED

* 1. **Conversation about REMIT**

WOW D&J agreed to 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

Cathy has talked to Thérèse and will connect with others around how to animate the discussion.  
Focussing on equity and respect  
Develop a tri-regional network of people that can be trained – and then they would contact every CoF.

* 1. **Pride Flags -** Therese

**Cost: $1800, Ruthanna Will send flags out with details to come   
Maybe taking the flags to the WOWRC Spring meeting**

1. **Funds available** *(As recorded in Events and Meetings Funds Tracking sheet in Dropbox)*
   1. Events fund balance available as of the last meeting: $6037.19
   2. Meeting Fund balance available as of the last meeting: $5000
2. **New Business:**
   1. Staff report –
      1. Thérèse Samuel  
         Motion for the WOW commission to support with $500

Asking for a motion for the WOW DJ Commission to support a UCC 360-Antiracism series with $500 from the Events budget. Moved Cathy and Thom second.

1. Antiracism UCC 360- Feedback from the session with Rev. Alcris Limongi March 7 asked for more time to engage with the concepts. Alcris and I wil co-plan and co-facilitate 3 UCC 360-Antiracism workshops. Alcris will be given an honorarium of $500 per session, for a total of $1500.
   1. Asking for a motion that the HF DJ Commission support a UCC 360-Antiracism series with $500 from the Events budget to cover 1/3 of the honorarium for Rev. Alcris Limongi.
      1. $500 from each DJ Commission.

MOTION: Cathy Hird/Thom McDonough that the WOW D&J Commission approve a payment of $500 from the events budget to cover 1/3 of the honorarium for Rev. Alcris Limongi for their leadership in the 360-Antiracism series.

CARRIED

* 1. Will likely have a small registration fee, to encourage attendance
     1. This will be decided in consultation with United-in-learning and CHURCHx.
  2. They are tentatively scheduled to be offered Wednesdays 2-4 PM: June 14, July 19, -and a Wed in either Aug or Sept. Scheduling is dependent on availability of facilitators and tech support.

1. Remit Presentation Update-
   1. April 14 Meeting with reps from all 3 RCS and Maggie Dieter, Indigenous minister in WOW.
   2. Initial plans for presentations
   3. Will be looking for volunteers to be trained to reach out to each CoF
   4. WOW RC allowed 60 min for this discussion on its spring agenda
2. Staff Updates
   1. Cheryl-Ann Stadelbauer- Sampa will be on Sabbatical Sept 1-Dec 1, Mark Laird (Outgoing President of WOW) will be acting EM during that time.
   2. Interviews have been underway for the half-time Minister, Social Justice position in a shared ministry with a half-time Social Justice program position at Five Oaks.
3. Tri-Region Affirming Network- working to schedule a meeting before the end of the month.

* + 1. Kathy Douglas

**CAMPS**

* UCC Camping Accreditation Process is starting up again. After the new regional model and COVID, the UCC Camping Accreditation, (Basically visits to the camps to see if they were in compliance with UCC processes and to see how the Faith Formation aspect of the camps were being offered) will be formally starting to ‘visit’ camps, again, in 2024. Each region will be asked to nominate an individual who will accompany regional staff as site visitors/accreditors. This commission may be asked to help recruit those volunteers.
* I will be offering to lead in Boundaries Training at our camps this summer. In an effort to do that well, I have called a team of folks together to review the training and offer guidance for improvement to that training.

**Regional Gathering.** WOW is at Unifor Centre Friday, May 26-Saturday, May 27. Please register asap.

* WOW Spring Gathering ( Only region offering a children and youth program. ) Children and Youth Programs will run at the same time as the Spring Regional Council Meeting. There will be two programs, one for children and one for youth. It’s an opportunity for children and youth to meet others from across Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council and participate in fun, faith-filled programming (programs are based around **Stained Glass Art Making**. Each participant will have an opportunity to create a ‘piece’ of their own).  
   These is no overnight programming. Children and youth attending this event must stay with their parents or an adult from their home community of faith who will act as their sponsor for the weekend.

We need registrations to make this happen by April 17!!

**Earth Week** starts this Sunday, April 16. Be sure to check out the initiatives of UCC and the Ecumenical Efforts with For the Love of Creation [For the Love of Creation – A faith-based initiative for climate justice](https://fortheloveofcreation.ca/)

**MS Grant Process** I have asked a rep from each of the Discipleship and Justice Commissions to advise me on creating a zoom presentation for folks who wish to apply for MS Grants in 2024. Mary Hawthorne has agreed to represent this commission on this working group and I thank her. The video will be offered live and recorded….with the hope that we make the process of applying more successful for applicants and easier for the commissions.

* + 1. Brenna Baker

**Report for WOW D&J Commission – April, 2023 Meeting**

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

**Mission and Service Updates**

* Mission & Service gifts continued strong through 2022 and plans are in place to increase giving in 2023. We also saw huge generosity for Ukraine relief, raising $1.5 million in 2022.
* If your community of faith or one you know of is promoting Mission and Service in a unique way, please let me know.

**Spring Stewardship Opportunities:**

**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.

**Registration is open here:** <https://forms.office.com/r/AaVCT1EdCD>

**Maternity Leave**

I will be on maternity leave from May 1 through November 6. Someone has been hired to cover for me during that time, but we’re not ready to share contact info yet. But once that’s public, it will be shared through the Region newsletter and social media.

* + 1. UCW: AGM April 22 – Lori Neal guest speaker
    2. Executive: will attend next Exec meeting
    3. Chaplaincy at Guelph : 55th anniversery

Include reports from Executive, UCW, Networks, in future meetings

1. **Any Other Business?**

1. **Report from Equity Monitor.**
2. **Closing Words**

**Adjournment: Andrew Hyde**

**Next meeting:**  TBD

**Acknowledgement of the Land/Territory:** Mary Hawthorne

**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)