**Discipleship and Justice Commission**

**Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council**

**of The United Church of Canada**

*Connecting, Supporting, Transforming*

**APPROVED MINUTES**

***2023/06/27 at 7pm   
via Zoom (***<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87463165419>***)***

**Roster:** Andrew Hyde (Chair); Edith Coyle, Mary Hawthorne, Cathy Hird, Thom McDonough, Joyce Osborne, Chris Panylo, Linda Peacock.

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

Thérèse Samuel — Minister for Right Relations and Social Justice

John Egger — Minister, Social Justice

Stephen Iverson — Interim Community of Faith Stewardship Support

Ruthanna Mack — Administration

**Present**: Andrew Hyde (Chair); Edith Coyle, Mary Hawthorne, Joyce Osborne, Linda Peacock.

Kathy Douglas, Thérèse Samuel, John Egger.

**Regrets:** Chris Panylo, Cathy Hird, Thom McDonough

**Agenda**

1. **Acknowledgement of the Land/Territory — Mary**
2. **Opening Prayer/Worship — Andrew**
3. **Establishing/reminder of Equity Monitor — Mary**
4. **Approval of Agenda for June 27, 2023 meeting**

MOTION by **Linda/Joyce** that the Discipleship and Justice Commission of Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council approve the agenda as written...

MOTION **CARRIED**

1. **Approval of Minutes from April 13, 2023 meeting**

MOTION by ***Mary*/ *Joyce*** that the Discipleship and Justice Commission of Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council approve the minutes from May 26, 2023:

MOTION **CARRIED**

1. **Funds available** *(As recorded in Events and Meetings Funds Tracking sheet in Dropbox)*
   1. **Events fund balance available as of the last meeting:** $6,037.19 (as of April 13)
   2. **Meeting Fund balance available as of the last meeting:** $5,000
2. **Record of Email Votes since the last meeting:** Not applicable this meeting
3. **Business Arising:**
   1. Introductions of New (and Existing) Commission Members — Andrew
   2. Debrief of Pride Flag presentations at WOWRC meeting in May — Andrew *The presentation, the flags and the intention was well received. Folks felt it was public, intentional and explicit. Offering flags to those in process, not assuming they are ready to receive a flag. Still need people to offer flags to in process. Linda and Thérèse will get together over email to follow up with them.*
4. **New Business:**
   1. Update on ARW, HF, WOW Restructuring Report — submitted by Joyce

*Bill Allen and Jenny Stephens presented their findings and responded to questions on Thursday June 15 at a gathering of the executives of the three regions; members of the staff support committee and staff members.*

*Their written report which was in two parts was distributed a couple of days prior to the gathering. The main part – 36 page document - covered the evaluation of the governance model and shared staffing model which was common to all three regional councils. The second part – 13 page document - consisted of the summarized data from the surveys with further analysis for each particular regional council.*

*In the lead up to the presentation of their report via power point, they named what they considered to be outside of the scope of their analysis, ie. Budget and financials*

*The morning presentation was for everyone, then in the afternoon each regional council executive and the staff met individually.*

***For the Tri Regions:*** *The findings were divided into five areas and, were presented along with 20 recommendations.*

***Communities of Faith perspective – 6*** *– disconnect; representation; loss in relationship; frustration in understanding process and also in accessing info online*

***Ministry of Faith perspective – 2*** *– connecting retirees and the honouring of the vocation of ministry*

***Understanding roles and responsibilities – 4*** *– orientation and understanding accountability.*

*Two of these recommendations name D & J:*

*Finding: The Discipleship and Justice Commissions are doing a great job of dispersing mission support grants and are struggling around how to respond to many social justice initiatives.*

*Recommendation 11: Determine how the Discipleship and Justice Commission might support the discipleship and justice work in communities of faith and the commitments of the regional council.*

*Finding: It is unclear how networks fit into the governance particularly when they are engaging key ministry objectives.*

*Recommendation 12: Discipleship and Justice Commission build relationships with networks and consider the kind of relationship to establish to support God’s call in the world*

***Executive Governance – 5*** *– involve strategic planning; loss of corporate memory unless staggering of terms is planned or possibly understudy/mentoring; updating to terms of reference in handbooks*

***Purpose – 1 –*** *review of purpose statements*

*Shared Staffing Model – 2 – clarification of staff support committee role; and develop common strategies among the regional councils*

*For WOW: the report continued by Identified the strengths; areas needing improvement; gaps; identifying and engaging members;*

**Next steps for WOW:**

*President Jennifer will write and circulate a pastoral letter to the region as follow up to the report.*

*The reports and the power point presentation will be circulated to the members of the commission; should be anytime now. These are to be kept confidential.*

*The executive will meet via Zoom on July 19th to further advance the next steps to the twenty recommendations including who will be responsible for working on each recommendation.*

*A presentation will be made to the Fall meeting of the Regional Council outlining the findings, recommendations and status of next steps.*

*In appreciation, Bill and Jenny stated that “they are grateful for the opportunity to understand our regional councils better and to offer suggestions about what you might let go of and how your work might be enhanced. Thank you for all you do with and for God’s people in our regions and beyond.”*

*Additional note: the commissions will meet in person for fall orientation on Tuesday, September 19 at 10:30 a.m. at Trinity United Church in Listowel. Gathering at 10 a.m. Commissions will meet separately at 1:30 p.m. (The executive will meet at 9 a.m.)*

* 1. Update on Remit Work — Cathy (**written report attached below**)
  2. Inviting Guests to Present at Upcoming Meetings — Andrew *Maybe some folks who are doing work our regions could be invited to share their ministry…camps, chaplains, recipients of MS Grants, networks, CoF etc. Camps, High Country UC, Thornbury UC, Parkminster UC in Waterloo Andrew is going to contact Westminster UC, Waterloo to hear from Diversity Staff Position.*
  3. Choosing a Date/Location for Mission Support Deliberations — Andrew *Andrew, is not able to attend those meetings as he is an applicant. We can not set dates for MS Grants decisions as we will not know amount of money we are allotted to disburse. We will need to set dates later in the fall. There is a hope we do this in person.*

*Of note, re other dates…The Fall Regional Meeting is Sept. 28 6:30-8:30, Sept. 29 6:30-8:30, Sept 30 with celebration of ministry is Oct 1. Our commission will be invited to share a presentation (1/2hour) about our commission.*

1. **Staff Reports:**

* **Kathy**

*Kathy offered a bit of information about TCOW (Two Countries One World) a program of former Waterloo Presbytery. This program is back up and running after pandemic and seeking support. Kathy attended an information night and learned more about it.*

* + **Camps** 
    - Boundaries Trainings at several camps & hope for a round the WOW camps bus trip in a day next year.
  + **Youth Program for this summer across the church**

The Church in Mission has hired Climate Motivators (high school) as part of Canada Summer Jobs program.  They have also hired 3 Young Adult Coordinators.  Our regions have had successful candidates.  These young people will work in their communities of faith, in their communities and across Canada to effect Climate Justice.

The three coordinators are, Skylar Boylan from Bermuda-Nova Scotia RC, **Conor Russell, Western Ontario Waterways, and Thea Sheridan-Jonah, originally from Horseshoe Falls** and now residing in Pacific Mountain.

Here are the selected Motivators:

Kaleo Duncanson-Hales - Canadian Shield, working with St. Andrew's UC, North Bay

Ellia Perdue - East Central Ontario, working with Cambridge Street UC, Lindsay

Kara Burke - East Central Ontario, working with Cambridge Street UC, Lindsay

**Dan Kapenda – Western Ontario Waterways, working with Trillium UC, Cambridge**

**Jackson Rukundo - Western Ontario Waterways,**, working with Trillium UC, Cambridge

**Magdalen van der Wijst - Horseshoe Falls, working with Norval UC, Norval**

**Matthew Tyhurst - Horseshoe Falls, working with St. Andrew's UC, Georgetown**

**Sifa Kanyamuneza - Western Ontario Waterways, working with Trillium UC, Cambridge**

Leo Salamon - Living Skies, working with St. Martin's UC, Saskatoon

Ben Johnson - Pacific Mountain, working with Kamloops UC, Kamloops

Anna Ramsey - Prairie to Pine, working with Knox UC, Brandon

Elijah Kanhai - Prairie to Pine, working with UC in Meadowood, Winnipeg

Tord Mitchell - Prairie to Pine (identifies Indigenous), working with Knox UC in Brandon

Kyla Mills - Bermuda-Nova Scotia, working with Bethany UC, Hammond's Plains

Danna Finnie - Shining Waters, working with Sparrow Lake Camp and Kingston Road UC, Toronto

These folks will have a very busy summer from July 3-August 25, working together online and in their local communities of faith, as well as spending two weeks together at Camp Pringle from July 24-August 4. A general overview of the summer looks like:

We are working with GC Communications staff to develop some ways to tell the church, other youth, and others engaged in climate justice about what is happening. We will be encouraging the motivators and local communities of faith to use the #UCCanclimatemotivators to tell about their experiences. Please watch for and repost anything you see to spread the word!

* **Thérèse**

**Report to WOW DJ Commission** - June 27, 2023 -*Thérèse Samuel*

1. Antiracism UCC 360- Follow-up sessions with Rev. Alcris Limongi for June-Sept previously approved $500 from Events Budget have been postponed to Jan, 2024. This would now come out of 2024 budget. **This was agreed to by all in our meeting**
2. Remit Presentation Update : Education videos, remit & other resources will soon be available on [www.wowrcucc.ca](http://www.wowrcucc.ca) website.
3. Thérèse’s summer plans: ***Vacation July 23-Aug 11***; Will likely be at ***Lambton Centre Camp Aug 20-25***
4. Fishbowl Gathering- Regional Council in partnership with The Hub/Trinity UC Kitchener- Tentative Date Tuesday Sept 26, 2023, evening. See below
5. Pride Flag Update- at Spring Gathering, all Affirming Ministries were given a flag. We still have loaner flags.
   1. May be request to replace if vandalized.- One RC in HF has already replaced a vandalized flag.
   2. Congregations in process: DJ has yet to make arrangements to offer flags.
      1. Annesley UC, Markdale and Grace UC, Thornbury have already been given flags.
6. Pride March Updates: Owen Sound June 17th. Upcoming: Collingwood Sat, July 15

**Fishbowl Gathering- Regional Council in partnership with The Hub- Tentative Date Tuesday Sept 26, 2023, evening.** **Background**: Post-COVID, Youth leaders struggle to put together groups. A message often heard from many youth in the church is that what’s being offered doesn’t work for them. Being an intercultural church includes finding ways to bridge communication between different age groups/generations.

**Goal**- To offer a forum that brings together youth and adult leaders in the church, and allows the two groups to hear one another and be heard by one another, and to consider what might be the Spirit’s invitation to the church for youth ministry at this time.

**Program outline-** This online gathering will use a “fishbowl” process in which

* Questions will be prepared in advance, and provided to the participants
* Youth will have an opportunity to reflect in a small circle about their concerns, questions and hopes, etc. for their involvement in church, and for adult leaders to hear.
* Adult leaders will have the opportunity to share their concerns, questions and hopes, etc. for the youth to hear.

Each group will be invited to reflect on what they have heard and consider possible next steps.

Participants will be given questions for reflection and feedback, to be returned following the session.

**Who:**

* *Leaders/planning group* are Adam Cresswell of The Hub/Trinity UC, Kitchener, and triregional staff Thérèse Samuel and Kathy Douglas.
* *Potential participants will be invited to apply:*
* Youth connected with The Hub and other UCCs in the regions (exact age of youth is to be determined, likely approx high school to 20s)
* adult leaders .

Participants will be asked to agree in advance to sharing reflection/feedback following the session.

This is to be a pilot project. Reflection and feedback from facilitators and participants will be used to discern whether to consider offering future sessions.

Honorarium: $105 per participant

* Youth would each receive an honorarium
* Adults who are not being paid for their participant (i.e. not in paid accountable ministry) would also receive an honorarium.

Funding Request: $1680 = $560 per Regional Council.

*Motion:* Moved by **Edith/Joyce** that the WOW Discipleship and Justice Commission approve funding of $560 from the Events Budget toward a pilot online “fishbowl” workshop for an intercultural (i.e. cross-generational) fishbowl sharing between youth and adult leaders in congregations. **CARRIED**

* **John** At this stage no major report. Steep learning curve. Brings rich perspectives from his work in Korea and building relationships.
* **~~Stephen~~**
* **~~Ruthanna~~**
* **Other**

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)*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **2023 Events Budget** | |
| **Description of Expense or Adjustment** | **$** |
| $500 for Antiracism 360, previously approved, is to come from 2024 budget, and so to be returned to the 2023 Events Budget | ($500) |
| Fishbowl workshop for intercultural (cross-generational) sharing about youth/young adult ministry | $560 |
|  |  |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **2023 Meetings Budget** | |
| **Description of Expense or Adjustment** | **$** |
|  |  |

1. **Items Tabled to Future Meetings:**
2. **Next Meetings:** Sept. 26 (Might change), Oct. 24, Nov. 28 (7pm on Zoom)

Orientation Meeting -September 19 @ 10:30 followed by D&J Commission meeting

1. **Closing Words — Andrew**
2. **Adjournment Edith moved**

**WOW Discipleship & Justice** **Priorities:   
Right Relations   
Camps/Youth/Faith Formation   
Chaplaincy**

*WOWRC = Connecting, Supporting, Transforming*

**REPORT FROM CATHY HIRD re. REMIT WORK**

Sorry to not be with you at the June 27th meeting as I have a climate engagement event I am running.

Before the regional councils met, Thérèse and I met with the chairs of the Discipleship and Justice commissions of Horseshoe Falls and Antler River Watershed. Both were keen to support the remit process and agreed that pastoral charges would need to be contacted in order to help them with the process.

After the three regions had met, we met again with the commission chairs and were joined by Cheryl-Ann Stadelbaur-Sampa, Mark Laird (he’ll be stepping in to the executive minister role when C-A is on sabbatical), and the new staff person John Egger. At this meeting, we refined our sense of the process to include an initial email with follow up phone calls. Admin staff will prepare a contact list for us, and a newsletter will go out around the time of the National Indigenous Spiritual Gathering to inform about the remit process and encourage people to engage with Indigenous communities over the summer and fall. Thérèse will prepare a webinar to be held before the regions vote on the remit.

if Indigenous Ministries and Justice needs help contacting any of the Indigenous Communities of faith, Martha Pedoniquotte will request assistance through Thérèse, and an Indigenous member of the team would be designated to make that contact.

Cheryl-Ann pointed out that this is an opportunity for the three commissions to engage with communities of faith. The review that was just completed highlighted this disconnect. Therefore, it is hoped that members of the commissions will take on the role of contact person for a few congregations, say between four and ten, as we are comfortable.

Recruiting for contact people has begun, and seven people from WOW have stepped forward. Given there are 140 pastoral charges, we hope to have fifteen contact people. Suggestions of people to follow up with are more than welcome.

I have also attached the timeline for this task.

**TIMELINE FOR REMIT PROCESS**

June 19 – Aug. 8th Recruitment of contact people Cathy WOW

Richard ARW

Sula HF

July 17th Regional newsletters highlighting Thérèse & C-A

National Spiritual gathering, Admin help

local events to engage with Indigenous

neighbours, and remit plans

July-August 15th Put together contact list: ministry Admin staff

personnel, region reps, board chairs,

General Council commissioners,

supervising ministers (email and phone)

July-August 15th Put together a FAQ sheet Thérèse & C-A

August 15th Check list of who has voted on the remit Thérèse & C-A

Late August Match contact people & pastoral charges Cathy WOW

Richard ARW

Sula HF

Late August Draft initial email for each of 3 regions Cathy, Richard for local connections and Sula

September 5 – 8 Training/orientation for contact people Thérèse and Cathy

September 18-22 Webinar on the remit Thérèse

September 8th Check list of who has voted Thérèse with Richard, Sula, and Cathy

September 11-15 Contact people send out first email Contact ppl.

September 20 – October 9 Contact people watch for replies to email Contact ppl.

For those who did not reply, phone

Ministry personnel, supervising

Minister and/or region rep/ chair.

October-January Contact people follow up as needed Contact ppl

October-January Region people will keep track of who Richard, Sula, has voted and Cathy

February Follow up email to those who have not Contact ppl

voted (draft prepped by Cathy)

March Celebrate our work and debrief All of us

**PRINCIPLES OF THE REMIT SUPPORT PROCESS:**

We are supporting congregations/pastoral charges in the voting process, encouraging dialogue in their official board, not telling them how to vote. We will direct them to where to find the remit, where to find learning resources, and how the process works.

This will be a process of dialogue and conversation using resources that are available on-line.

This is an opportunity for the Discipleship and Justice commissions to engage with congregations.

This is an opportunity for ministry personnel to reconnect to their role as representative of the region.

This is an opportunity for congregational boards/councils to engage in a conversation about reconciliation.

Indigenous congregations will be contacted by the National Indigenous Council and Indigenous Ministries and Justice Unit. If requested, an Indigenous member of the contact group will work with the congregation.