**Discipleship and Justice Commission**

**Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council**

**of The United Church of Canada**

*Connecting, Supporting, Transforming*

**APPROVED MINUTES**

***2023/09/19 at 1:30pm   
via Zoom and in-person at Trinity United, Listowel***

**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

Elizabeth Marshall — Administration

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

Kathy Douglas, Thérèse Samuel, ~~John Egger~~, ~~Stephen Iverson~~, Elizabeth Marshall

**Minutes**

1. **Acknowledgement of the Land/Territory -** Andrew
2. **Opening Prayer/Worship -** Andrew
3. **Establishing/reminder of Equity Monitor and Pastoral Presence for our meeting –** Cathy Hird
4. **Approval of Agenda for Sept. 19, 2023 D&J Commission Meeting:**

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

1. **Approval of Minutes from June 27, 2023 D&J Commission Meeting:**

MOTION by *Linda Peacock* / *Mary Hawthorne* that the Discipleship and Justice Commission of Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council approve the minutes from June 27, 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: $5,977.19**
   2. **Meeting Fund balance available as of the last meeting: $5,000**
2. **Record of Email Votes since the last meeting:**  Not applicable
3. **Business Arising:**
   1. **Reflections on Governance Report & Orientation**

It was suggested for the commission to ensure that the Mission Support Grant information is available to all members prior to the meetings (by Sharepoint or other means).

* 1. **Update on Remit Work** — Cathy H. & Thérèse

Contact people are sending emails to regional representatives, ministers, board chairs, and then follow up by phone if needed. There were three contact lists divided among thirteen people. An orientation session was held (and recorded) prior to beginning the contacting.

This is a way for the regions to have a chance to connect with pastoral charges. There has not been a lot of content or questions back, but the information is on the radar. The final deadline for the Remit is March of 2024. Emails have been sent, and phone calls will be made to follow up in November, and again in January.

* 1. **Mission Support Applications & Timeline**

It was asked for applications to be shared with the commission as soon as possible for members to review prior discussing. Cathy Hird stepped forward to be part of the conversation with Kathy Douglas and Sarah Charters on September 21st at 2:00pm to help establish a criteria for granting to assist the commission decision making. Cathy H. will lead a discussion with the commission in October (with the findings from the meeting), to help prepare for the granting discussion in November.

* 1. **Other D&J Related Grants**
  2. **D&J Presentation at Fall WOWRC Meeting** — 7:45pm Fri. Sept. 29

The commission will share information about the various grants we have available and sharing the message that your M&S dollars are at work in the region. Camps within the region may also be submitting information to share.

1. **New Business:**
   1. **Pastoral Support Webinar with Heather Leffler – Kathy Douglas**

A successful event with 26 people in attendance, and excellent response from congregations looking for support in Pastoral support. The webinar will be available on YouTube.

MOTION by *Mary Hawthorne / Cathy Hird* that the Western Ontario Waterways Discipleship and Justice Commission approve the allocation of $75.00 from the Events Budget for a 1/3 portion of the honorarium (Total $225) to Heather Leffler for her leadership in the Pastoral Support/Visitation Webinar on Sept 6, 2023.

CARRIED

1. **Reports:**

* **Kathy** 
  + Resource staff (Kathy, Thérèse, John) will take a lead for each D&J Commission, rotating in 6 months. The hope is that it will be easier to arrange staff support at meetings, and spread the work load to help staff take a better lead with each region.
* **Thérèse**
  + Flag outreach to congregations in the Affirming process is being done by Linda with staff support from Thérèse. Congregations are being contacted to find out whether the Affirm Team in the congregation feels they are ready to receive and use a flag at this time.
  + Thérèse led the commission in a reflection on the announcement from Affirm United regarding the anti-2SLGBTQIA+ rally on Wednesday, September 20th.

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)*

Events Budget - $75.00 to Heather Leffler. No change to the Meetings budget.

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| --- | --- |
| **2023 Events Budget** | |
| **Description of Expense or Adjustment** | **$5,977.19** |
| Tuesday, September 19, 2023 - Honorarium for Leadership in the Pastoral Support/Visitation Webinar | $75.00 |
| TOTAL: | $5,902.19 |

1. **Next Meetings:** Tues. Oct. 24 @ 7pm on Zoom; TBA Mission Support Grants assessment; Tues. Nov. 28 @ 7pm on Zoom.
2. **Closing Words – Andrew**
3. **Adjournment – The chair declared the meeting adjourned following three deep breathes and a prayer.**

**WOW** **M&D Priorities:**

**Right Relations,   
Camps/Youth/Faith Formation,   
Chaplaincy**