**Discipleship and Justice Commission**

**Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council**

**of The United Church of Canada**

*Connecting, Supporting, Transforming*

**DRAFT MINUTES**

***2023/10/24 at 7pm  
via Zoom***

**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, ~~Thom McDonough,~~ Joyce Osborne, Chris Panylo, Linda Peacock.

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

**Agenda**

1. **Acknowledgement of the Land/Territory – Andrew**

Andrew shared a land acknowledgement from the book *A Liturgy for All Bodies.* Thisland acknowledgement piece “*We are on Sacred Ground*” written by Timothy Cole.

1. **Opening Prayer/Worship – Andrew**

Andrew read The Parable of the Lost Sheep from Luke 15. Members were invited to share what stood out to them in this reading.

1. **Establishing/reminder of Equity Monitor and Pastoral Presence for our meeting –** Linda Peacock
2. **Approval of Agenda for 2023/10/24**

MOTION by *Joyce Osborne* / *Cathy Hird* that the Discipleship and Justice Commission of Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council approve the agenda as distributed.

MOTION CARRIED

1. **Approval of Minutes from 2023/09/19**

MOTION by *Linda Peacock* / *Cathy Hird* that the Discipleship and Justice Commission of Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council approve the minutes from month date, year as circulated.

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: $5,902.19**
   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. **Fall WOWRC Meeting Review - Andrew**

The chair opened the floor for feedback/commentary on the Fall Regional Meeting. Some members reviewed the summary of the Thursday night breakout room which looked at seven areas of growth. A priority in the summary is connecting to communities of faith, and finding was to animate their justice work, not just the work of the commission. Attendees of the meeting can request a copy of the summary to review.

It was pleasing to be able to view the video submissions from all three of the camps in this region. We are thankful that the camps were able to submit them.

* 1. **SharePoint discussion re: Orientation**

Some members have been able to look at SharePoint. It was pointed out that once you’re registered and signed in, it is very simple to navigate once you have a chance to look at each section. Members only have access to the commissions they are working with; therefore, it is easy to find our documents. Members are to let Kathy/John know if they need assistance with it. It is important for all to have access for Mission Support Grants which will be in SharePoint.

* 1. **Remit Work Update – Cathy**

John Neff was able to get lists of Pastoral Charges, Community of Faith leaders, and ministers in a timely manner. There are 14 people within our region who are contacting pastoral charges and leaders. There was good feedback from a third of the contacts within days. There were 3 Pastoral Charges to phone due to outdated emails. The feedback from connecting with those three Pastoral Charges was good, showing the benefit of connecting with pastoral charges. A lot have already voted, and most have a plan for how to vote.

A couple tough conversations were noted. Receiving feedback and asking questions is good. If we don’t have a dialog about it, people are going to vote and not know what they are voting for. It does seem like people are engaged. It’s not always an easy conversation to have, although the people who have been checking in with Pastoral Charges have been feeling good with it. Overall, this region is well covered in this task.

Andrew asked for a 30-second elevator pitch the current Remit.

A remit is a voting process that happens when we are changing our basic by-laws within the United Church. This particular decision is around enabling the Indigenous Church within the United Church to establish its own structure for relating to each other that they want to establish. Because it is a substantial change, it requires every Pastoral Charge and Regional Council to vote. Our Regional Council voted on Saturday, September 30th with 90% in favour. With many Pastoral Charges without ministers, and those without Regional Council Representatives, we decided that we would reach out to every Pastoral Charge. Contact people were not telling them what to vote for, but making sure they had the information they needed on *how* to vote. If a pastoral charge does not vote, it counts as a no-vote. Unlike a federal election, those who do not vote will still be counted as a no. The deadline is March 2024.

Cathy shared that there was an updated list in September, and approximately once a month Mark (acting Executive Minister) will receive the information for Cathy to send to the contact people.

1. **New Business:**
   1. **Inquiry from The Working Centre – Andrew**

Andrew read a letter addressed to acting Executive Minister, Mark Laird, regarding the need to locate a facility to be used as a shelter location in either Kitchener, Waterloo, or Cambridge. There are close to 200 or more people living outside as winter approaches, and shelter spaces are mostly full. Perhaps a church or a building that could be available in the winter.

It was suggested to send a note to all United Churches in the KW area outlining the need, if this is something the commission supports. Further, if one of the region’s priorities is to connect, sometimes sending that email to share the need and here’s how to follow up if you can. First, it might be beneficial to know what kind of space they are looking for.

Andrew will reach out to ask more details regarding the ask to ensure that churches are well matched or consider if they’re even able to be involved. If they know there is a great need and someone outside of their congregation may know of another community, it could open up some door. Andrew will follow up for a fuller picture of the ask, and then send an email out to the KW Churches.

* 1. **Priority Setting for Mission & Service Grants – Cathy**

Cathy took over as the Chair and led us into this conversation. Andrew declared a conflict in all aspects of Mission Granting procedures as the Chaplaincy at the University of Guelph, which often applies for Mission Support Grants. Andrew asked if he could still listen to the conversation, although would not engage with microphone or camera during this portion. Members agreed.

Cathy welcomed Therese to the meeting. The Mission Support Grant is the work of the Discipleship & Justice Commission. M&S distributes funds to the Regional Councils’ to then be divided among those who apply for Mission Support Grants. It is this Commissions who decides where those funds go to.

Cathy shared the history of what outreach ministry looked like in our region. The priorities decided for this region are: right relations, camps, youth & faith formation, and chaplaincy. These priorities have been the guiding principles for the last 4 years. It was also encouraged to note the General Council priorities: emboldened justice, invigorating leadership, nurturing the common good, climate, right relations. The requests add up to $163,000, with one more application of $25,000. We have $135,000 available to grant.

Members discussed criteria of the validity of the ministry, whether it aligns with the identified priorities, and who will benefit from the ministry. It was agreed that aligning with identified priorities, and validity takes precedence over the number of times we’ve granted in the past.

We have to make decisions at the next meeting because the funding is dispersed in January of 2024. Within the next week we will have access to the applications in SharePoint. Once they are in SharePoint, people should feel free to share any questions. Cathy will be chairing this section of the meeting and is willing to follow up on any questions regarding the applications.

There are four places that have applied to all three regions: The Hub, 5 Oaks, and two resource centers. We will be able to know the outcomes from both regions who are meeting before our commission. They also applied for different amounts from each region which can be shared.

The Hub last year also applied to Shining Waters and Canadian Shield Regional Councils. We have access to what happens in the three regions, but note that The Hub has a broader area for granting resources. We don’t have the mechanisms to work together with other regional councils.

**Silver Lake Application**

Hamilton Conference had three camps (Camp Bimini, Camp Menesetung, and Silver Lake Camp) within its region, and set up a camp organization which operated all three camps. One of those camps (Silver Lake Camp), is within our regional council.

These three camps are run by committees, the operating board with the charitable number is UCOM, United Church Outdoor Ministry. Silver Lake is building a new dining hall with their application of $25,000. One of the essential items in the application is providing a charitable number, which Silver Lake does not have (UCOM has the charitable number). Kathy reached out to the national church who provided three options:

1. Legal advice communicated to the director of the camp was that Silver Lake camp ask the UCOM board to approve the application and the UCOM board passes a motion in support of that application, documented in their meeting minutes.

2. UCOM board applies to the grant on behalf of Silver Lake Camp, supporting the need for the grant is passed and document in minutes of the meeting.

This message was communicated back to Silver Lake Camp. Kathy Douglas has not heard back from them. We have in hand an application for $25,000 grant to go toward their dining hall. It’s missing the crucial piece of having a charitable number. We have not heard that UCOM has met and/or approved either of those motions in support of the application.

Kathy received a message from a member of the UCOM board, and on the camp committee, unable to coordinate a meeting or motion with UCOM at this time. They are hopeful that their application could still be considered, but understand if they do not meet the criteria. It was stated that they would let the commission know if they heard back from UCOM. The deadline for the application has long passed. It was suggested that we give a deadline to Silver Lake that would give them the opportunity to try and arrange a motion with UCOM to make their application legal.

It was confirmed that Capital projects are not eligible for these grants, so there is potential that we could come back saying that it is a moot point. If they are ineligible, the message will come from Cathy as the Chair. If they are eligible, the deadline to get back to us with a passed motion from UCOM by November 15, 2023. Kathy Douglas with work with Cathy Hird regarding the communication to Silver Lake, hopefully with some options for capital granting resources.

When we aren’t able to grant people what they asked for, it makes us wonder how do these ministries carry on. Last year, The Hub received a quarter of what they asked for within this region, a large portion from another region, and nothing from the third region. It will be interesting to see what they were able to accomplish with what they were granted, versus what they were asking for. It’s one of those difficult questions that sits with this work of the commission.

Andrew returned as the Chair. Chris P. left the meeting.

**Reports:**

* **Kathy** 
  + Appreciate for the commission to read through and ask questions if any arise.
* **Thérèse**
  + **Financial motion:** Fishbowl Gathering- Tri-Regional Councils D&J Commissions in partnership with The Hub/Trinity UC Kitchener-Tuesday Sept 26, 2023. There were 14 panel members (there had been 16 spaces). There were 7 Youth (teens-20s) and 7 non-Youth (40+) who shared, and three additional participants in the “gallery.” All have provided feedback. Facilitators full debrief meeting with feedback is yet to be done. Honoraria for 8 participants = $280 per RC. Original budget for this event was for $560. The amount tracked to *return to the Events budget is $250*.
  + Perhaps inviting the D&J and CSC commission to offer one representative from each of the Regional Councils to be a task force to look at how to offer procedures and support for congregations in hate crimes. Increased hate crimes across the regions, with indications that it will continue to escalate. Particularly given the protests that have come up. If anyone is interested in being part of that task group. This is something the staff are suggesting if the commission is interested. Contact Therese.
* **John**
  + Report attached to review.
* **UCW – Joyce**

November 4th – UCW will be at Calvary United in St. Jacobs for an event. Kathy Douglas will provide worship, and include presentations from the climate animators from the region. The livestream will be available at 12:45pm. No registration is required – Joyce will send the commission the Zoom link which is distributed through the UCW as well.

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| **2023 Events Budget** | |
| **Description of Expense or Adjustment** | **$** |
| Fishbowl: originally approved June 20 $560. Actual amount was $280, so returning $280 to the Events fund line | ($280 return to fund) |

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)*

**No changes to the 2023 Meetings Budget.**

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

Andrew will not be present for the next meeting for grant disbursements. Kathy Douglas may not in attendance as she will be meeting with a Camp in another region who is deciding to close at their last meeting that night. Krista Ford (Administrative Assistant, Finances) will be attending to help track the funds and answer questions as needed.

**Chair for Next Meeting**

**Cathy Hird will Chair the next meeting on November 28th.**

MOTION by *Joyce Osborne* / *Mary Hawthorne* that Cathy Hird will chair the next meeting on November 28, 2023 for the Discipleships & Justice Commission of Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council.

MOTION CARRIED

1. **Next Meetings:** Tues. November 28, 7pm Zoom
2. **Closing Words – Andrew & Linda** (equity monitor for this meeting)
3. **Adjournment**

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