**Discipleship and Justice Commission**

**Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council**

**of The United Church of Canada**

*Connecting, Supporting, Transforming*

**Minutes**

***2024/05/21 at 7pm***   
***via Zoom***

***https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89047901640***

**Roster:** Andrew Hyde (Chair); Edith Coyle, Mary Hawthorne, Cathy Hird, Joyce Osborne, Linda Peacock, Kate Ballagh-Steeper.

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

Thérèse Samuel – Minister for Right Relations and Social Justice

John Egger - Minister, Social Justice

Brenna Baker – Community of Faith Stewardship Support

Greg Smith-Young – Growth Animator

Elizabeth Marshall - Administration

**Present**: Andrew Hyde (Chair); Edith Coyle, ~~Mary Hawthorne,~~ Cathy Hird, Joyce Osborne, ~~Linda Peacock,~~ Kate Ballagh-Steeper.

**Guests:** Diane Dick, ~~Diane Blanchard~~

**Staff:** ~~Kathy Douglas,~~ Thérèse Samuel, John Egger, Elizabeth Marshall

**Agenda**

1. **Acknowledgement of the Land/Territory – Andrew**Andrew shared a Land Acknowledgement of gratitude for the land.
2. **Welcome/Opening Prayer - Andrew**

Andrew shared a prayer from Liturgies from Below called “Resisting Powers of Destruction.”

1. **Reminder of equity** **monitor and pastoral presence for our meeting:** JoyceOsborne
2. **Approval of Agenda for May 21, 2024 D&J Commission Meeting:**

MOTION by *Cathy Hird* / *Kate Ballagh-Steeper* that the discipleship and justice commission of Western Ontario Waterways regional council to accept the agenda as distributed/amended.

MOTION CARRIED

**Approval of Minutes from April 23, 2024 D&J Commission Meeting:** MOTION by *Cathy Hird* / *Edith Coyle* that the discipleship and justice commission of Western Ontario Waterwaysregional council approve the minutes of April 23, 2024 as circulated/amended.  
MOTION CARRIED

1. **Funds Available (see full chart below):**
   1. Events fund balance available as of the last meeting: $8,050
   2. Meeting fund balance available as of the last meeting: $3,000
2. **Record of email votes since the last meeting: N/A**
3. **A Conversation with Diane Blanchard re. United Network for Justice and Peace in Palestine/Israel (**[**www.unjppi.org**](http://www.unjppi.org)**)**Diane was unable to attend the meeting.
4. **Business Arising:**
   1. Pride Flags for Newly Affirming Ministries in WOWRC
      1. There will be space for D&J to be able make a presentation for the four congregations that have become affirming. D&J Members are invited to be a part of this with Chair, Andrew.
5. **New Business:**
   1. **Guaranteed Livable Basic Income Info Night**  
      D&J received a request from Harcourt UC about an event coming up about Guaranteed Livable Basic Income Info Session. This has been a working group of multiple churches working together. Kathleen Wynne has agreed to come and speak. The venue chosen was to encourage the community to attend.  
        
      Discussion:  
      - This is something that we could support from the events budget  
      - Many agreed that this is a great event, and structurally really good to support  
      - Great example of supporting of justice work networks already in motion   
        
      MOTION by *Kate Ballagh-Steeper* / *Cathy Hird* that the WOW D&J Commission approve the request from Harcourt UC for their Guaranteed Livable Basic Income Info Night to the amount of $570.00 from the Events budget.  
      MOTION CARRIED

D&J is willing to help share the event and further support the team when possible.

* 1. **Preparations for 2025 Mission Support Granting Cycle**John shared that the staff had met to review the application form. There were some changes to make. John is requesting to have a small group of people to edit the form to be posted in June for the 2025 granting cycle. Cathy Hird offered to assist with this.
  2. **Music Ministry Gathering - funding request**Kathy Douglas sent an event with a request for $75.00 for an honorarium for the Music Ministry Gathering.  
       
     Discussion:  
     - Type of event that helps us live into the commitment of being an affirming region  
       
     MOTION by *Joyce Osborne* / *Kate Ballagh-Steeper* that the WOW D&J Commission approve the allocation of $75.00 from the Events budget for an honorarium for Lys Sonority, guest speaker at the Music Ministry Gathering on June 24th.  
     MOTION CARRIED

1. **Reports:**

* **Kathy** – report attached.   
  Andrew noted: The deadline for the Early Bird Registration has been extended until May 31st. Contact Kathy if you would like the promo code for youth interested in registering.
* **Thérèse**  
  Tri-Regional Affirming Network met on April 30th with approximately 30 people attending. There were breakout groups for those in the affirming ministry and those who are in the process. The network has been re-evaluating as leadership is changing.   
    
  **Remit Follow-Up:**  
  The last piece is to send thank you cards with gift cards. The gift cards are encouraged to be used in a way to grow relationships. The cost of this is from the Executive. This was a huge project with many layers. When we asked people to do this in September, it was not realized that volunteers would need to be working on the reach out pieces up to and during Holy Week. This will be on-going work for everyone to live into right relations.  
    
  A **pride safety guide** had been sent out prior to Pride Month (June). It highlights safety for ministries, congregations and camps. Reports suggested that CSIS was concerned about extremist violence last year, and has similar concerns this year as well. We don’t want people to be alarmed, but do want people to be alert. This is a step to be proactive rather than reactive.

There will be a request for funding for a second **Fishbowl** **event** coming in September. It would be a 2nd pilot event. Last year, it was approximately $500.00, with half of the honorarium amount actually spent.

**Pride Flags:** A staff member will be bringing 20 pride flags to the regional meeting.

**June 21st is National Indigenous People’s Day. June is National Indigenous History Month.** Many first nations have events and invite neighbours to come. It was encouraged for people to engage with these events, and encourage their churches and friends to do the same.

* **John**  
  John is in the area for a month and will be attending the tri-regional meeting. He will be taking the lead on the granting process for the 2025 grant cycle.

NOTE: D&J had discussed re-evaluating the priorities of this commission.   
It would be great to do some sort of process at the fall meeting to discover what the priorities of the D&J Commission are. The commission does have some time at the fall meeting to be able to do this. It is an online meeting and therefore would utilize break out rooms. It would likely be too late for this cycle, but in spring of 2025 we should have some fresh priorities for granting.

* **Executive**  
  The executive has been working on the evaluation which is a large piece of work. There is some conversation about how the region will use the funds of churches that have been closing. There have not been parameters for these funds in the past.
* **UCW** - The UCW Is looking at some dates in June to plan for the fall.
* **Social Justice Network of Ontario Regional Councils (SJNORC)**  
  The next meeting is in June. Staff will report back.
* **Affirming Network** – part of Thérèse’s report above.

1. **D&J Commission Fund Budgets:**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **2024 Events Budget** | | | **$10,000** |
| **Description of Event/Program** | **Date** | **Amount** | **Remaining** |
| UCC 360 Antiracism Program – Alcris Limongi   (deferred from June 20, 2023, anticipated program moved to 2024) | TBA | $500.00 | $9,500.00 |
| Music Ministry Webinar – Honorarium, Rev. Jeffrey Dale | March 4th | $75.00 | $9,425.00 |
| Regional youth event, Winter Fun at Highland Nordic Centre & Overnight Fun at Centennial UC | March 14/ 15th | $300.00 | $9,125.00 |
| Mileage for panelist (Harcourt Memorial UC) ‘Listening to Voices for Peace and Justice in Palestine” | March 25th | $350.00 | $8,775.00 |
| Duty of Care 101 Webinar – honorarium for Terri Sparling | April 23/24th | $75.00 | $8,700.00 |
| Blanket Exercise at Parkminster UC |  | $650.00 | $8,050.00 |
| Guaranteed Livable Basic Income Info Night at Harcourt UC |  | $570.00 | $7,480 |
| Music Ministry Gathering - Honorarium for Lys Sonority | June 24th | $75.00 | $7,405.00 |
| **TOTAL REMAINING:** | | | **$7,405.00** |

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **2024 Meetings Budget** | | | **$3,000** |
| **Description of Event/Program** | **Date** | **Amount** | **Remaining** |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
| **TOTAL REMAINING:** | | | **$3,000.00** |

1. **Next Meetings:**

* **Tri-Regional Meeting – May 24 to 26 (Unifor, Port Elgin)**
* **WOWRC Orientation (Hybrid) - Wednesday, June 19th Calvary UC (St. Jacob’s)**

9:30am - 11am Executive

11:30am - 12:30am Orientation for All Commissioners

12:30am - 1:30pm Lunch

1:30pm - 2pm Orientation for All Commissioners

2pm - 3pm Commission Meetings

* **Meeting through the summer:**It was decided that the D&J Commission would not have scheduled meetings for July or August. A meeting will be pulled together if a matter needs to be dealt with before September.

1. **Closing**
   1. Equity Monitor Check-in  
      Joyce reflected that we shared in a variety of conversation on many topics. An important piece was decisions to delegating our mandate to networks that are working on Discipleship & Justice topics.
   2. Gratitude to Mary and Joyce  
      Andrew acknowledged and expressed gratitude for Mary & Joyce as this is their last meeting as members on this commission. Thank you for serving. contributing, and leading in this way!
   3. Closing Words from Chair  
      Andrew shared that this commission will be welcoming three new members to the commission at the Tri-Regional Meeting.
2. **Chair Declares Meeting Closed**

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