Discipleship and Justice Commission Report to the Fall 2026 Regional Council Meeting

The Discipleship & Justice Commission is tasked with providing information, education and opportunities for communities of faith and their members to deepen faith and strengthen service and witness. Over the past year, our commission has worked to carry out this mandate on a variety of fronts.

One of our primary annual functions is to receive, review and discern funding for ministries that have applied to grants through the Region's portion of **Mission and Service Support**.

We worked to streamline the application form for the Mission and Service Grants. The Commission also created a more thorough reporting form to be filled by those who received M and S Grants before they are eligible to apply for new funding. While M and S Grant recipients have always been required to submit a story about their projects, there was a need for more thorough reporting evaluating how grant money was spent. Improving our follow-up on grants awarded will help to highlight to the WOW Region the ministry that is being done.

2026 Mission and Service Recipients

Camp Bimni	$16,500.00
Camp Menesetung	$21,500.00
The Hub – St. Pauls United	$22,500
United Church GO project	$10,000.00
Grey Bruce Spiritual Care Council	$20,000.00
Parkminster United Church	$2,000.00
Tobermory United Church	$8,000.00
Guelph U Ecumenical Campus Ministry	$34,500.00

For 2027 the amount of funding requested, was $72,000 more than the Commission has available to grant which is $150,000. This both reflects the growing need for external funding for congregational projects, as well as the dependence many para church organizations rely on such as our Camps, and other non-profit organizations. Final decisions for 2027 will be made and communicated to the applicants by the end of November.

The Discipleship and Justice Commission is also responsible to award grants from the **Ministry with Children, Youth and Young Adults Fund.** Congregations are encouraged to consider applications to fund local activities that engage ministry with children, youth or young adults. The application form is on the WOW website. In 2026, this fund supported;

Ministry with Children Youth and Young Adult Funds Opening balance for 2026 $64,000
April 1st deadline, for May meeting decisions dispersing up to $30,000
September 15th deadline for Oct meeting decisions dispersing $32,500 plus any remaining amounts from the Spring

2026 Ministry with Children, Youth and Young Adults Grant Recipients

Go Beyond March Break Camp	$2500
Camp Bimini	$5000
Eramosa United Church	$5000
Trinity United Church	$4000
Avondale United Church	$3232
Leadership Development Camp	$785
Cedar Hills United Church	$5000
Pine River United Church	$4950
Port Elgin United Church	$5000
St. Paul's UC Oakville – The HUB	$5000
subsidy for participants at The Collective	$3366.67

The other fund administered by the Discipleship and Justice Commission is the **Events Budget**. In 2026 this fund had $10,000. The amount each year is determined by the annual Regional Council budget. In 2026, this fund supported:

Worshiplude – deposit	$1856.59
Worshiplude – final payment	$121.26
Social Justice Network Ontario Regional Councils (SJNORC)	$1000
Woodland Cultural Education Event	up to $1500
"Here From The Beginning" travel costs	$53.60
"Beyond Polarized Kvetching" workshop	$182.68
"Biblical Grounding for Justice Ministries" webinar	$90

Should a congregation or regional group want to host a speaker, or run a workshop, the Commission would consider requests to this fund.

The Region's Camps (Camp Menesetung, Silver Lake Camp and Camp Bimini) are an important corcern of the Commission. Communities of faith are encouraged to consider supporting their local camps in a variety of ways; financially, through promotion, and with volunteers for Boards and work parties. Camps are still a significant way that the United Church is connecting with children, youth and families.

At the spring WOW Regional Meeting, our commission presented communities of faith who have completed the Affirming Process with Pride flags.

In terms of education and advocacy, D&J commission was prompted by the Tri-regional PalNet group to encourage communities of faith to become apartheid free. The commission committed to learning more and benefitted from the United Network for Justice and Peace in Palestine and Israel (UNJPPI) workshop on becoming an apartheid free community on April 20th, which gave an excellent introduction to the topic. That webinar (59 minutes) is still available on youtube:

https://youtu.be/ZnAsAPQSiik
Further information can also be found on the UNJPPI website: Apartheid Free Communities of Faith – United Network for Justice and Peace in Palestine/Israel

The Discipleship and Justice Commission is grateful for the supportive work of Regional Council Staff and we welcome Laura Black to the team. Thérèse Samuel and John Egger are important resources to help us carry out our work, as is Krista Ford whose administrative skills keep us on track and informed. Thank you!

Thank you also to the members of the Discipleship and Justice Commission. The time, diligence and commitment you bring to the work and ministry of the commission is valued and appreciated. I am particularly grateful to Dan Leaver who has agreed to serve as Vice Chair.

Rev Kristal McGee, Chair, on behalf of Discipleship and Justice Commission Members: Linda Peacock, John Adeyemi, Diane Dick, Ayla Mackie, Judy Jones, Dan Leaver, Megan Gilholm, Janet Howitt, Dyanne Marlock.