

**Mission and Discipleship Commission**  
**Antler River Watershed Regional Council**  
**OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA**  
*Holding and Encouraging Communities of Faith*

*September 10, 2019*

*Approved Minutes*

4:30, ZOOM call,

**Roster:**

<b>Richard Auckland (3)</b> rauck27@gmail.com	<b>Bob Harris (3)</b> rsharris@hotmail.com	<b>James Haupt (3) OM</b> redbaron338@gmail.com
<b>Dawn Jones (1)</b> j djones@xplornet.com	<b>Patricia Mack (2)</b> patricia.mack@sympatico.ca	<b>Glenda McMillan (2)</b> glenda.mcmillan@sympatico.ca
<b>Robin Sherman (1) OM</b> revrsherman@yahoo.ca	<b>Carey Wagner (2) DM</b> cgwagne@sympatico.ca	<b>Pat Whitton (1)</b> whittons2013@gmail.com

**Staff Support:** Kim Uyede-Kai (Minister, Right Relations and Indigenous Justice)

Kathy Douglas, (Minister, Faith Formation)

**Present:** Kathy Douglas (note taker), Dawn Jones, Carey Wagner, Robin Sherman, James Haupt, Richard Auckland. Glenda McMillan, Pat Whitton

**Regrets:** Kim Uyede-Kai, Bob Harris

**Absent:** Patricia Mack

**Welcome and Constitute Meeting:**

**Acknowledging the Land:**

Choose an item.

AGENDA

\*Election Issues

Kathy will send out link to National Church website for the election and ask that it be added to a newsletter for regions. She has written a document and action item for communities of faith, that she is asking this group (M&D Com) to review it and see if it is useable.

Affirm Issue with Conversion Therapy...an election issue?

\*Refugee and Asylum Seekers

This proposal came to us at last meeting. Revisited. Proposal 1: Legal Aid Funding Cuts

Origin: Westminster United Church, Windsor

1. What is the issue?

We believe that God's call for the church to seek justice extends to people unable to afford access to legal advice and representation in our court system. Proposed cuts to provincial funding of Legal Aid services creates a barrier to low income Ontario residents.

2. Why is this issue important?

The proposed 30% cuts to legal aid will result in drastic reduction of legal services to low income residents. The severe restriction to the provision of refugee law services will result in a denial of representation in refugee proceedings.

3. How might Antler River Watershed Region respond to the issue?

Moved by Del Stewart and Seconded by Fred Barkhouse that Antler River Watershed Region through its Mission and Discipleship Commission study the issue and petition the Government of Ontario to reconsider and reverse the funding cuts and restrictions on Legal Aid.

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**Robin will ask Del and Marion to inform us on what a letter should contain...perhaps write the letter and we sign it. WE will make an effort to get it to regions. We need to suggest CoF speak to their MPPs. Wondering about FB/Social Media campaigns. This information will be sent to UCW as well.**

\*Right Relations

Pat Whitton reported on Meeting today with Right Relations where Kim Uyede-Kai attended. **Pat will bring the resource packages to the regional gathering in November.**

\*Funding requests

Youth Rally 2020 & Confirmation Retreat....both for all three regions

**Kathy will attach these to minutes.**

\*Social Justice Regions of Ontario

There is a request for each region to give \$2000 to this group to keep it coming. Another rep is needed to represent ARW. Carey recommended Linda Woods be approached to be a part of this. He will ask her.

**Next Meeting: 12-06-2019 10:30am**

Bring your lunch or purchase. Saint Andrew's UC Chatham

Worship by: Carey Wagner/Pat Whitton.