

Mission and Discipleship Commission
Antler River Watershed Regional Council

OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA

Holding and Encouraging Communities of Faith

Approved Minutes

December 6, 2019 10:30am

Roster:

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

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

Kathy Douglas, (Minister, Faith Formation)

Joan Tuchlinsky (Minister, Social Justice)

Present: Robert Harris, Pat Whitton, Robin Sherman (Chair), Joan Tuchlinsky, Kathy Douglas, James Haupt, Richard Auckland, Patricia Mack, Ruthanna Mack, Glenda McMillan, Carey Wagner

Regrets: Dawn Jones

Welcome and Constitute Meeting: Richard offered a welcome to the group and he shared a little of the history of First UC, St. Thomas.

Acknowledging the Land: Robin and Richard offered acknowledgement of the land.

Worship: Kathy offered a brief reading by Joan Chittister.
 Joan Tuchlinsky closed with a prayer.

Choose an item.

Ruthanna will be the minute taker for the Commission

- **Agenda Items:**

- MSG Grants
- Grant letters – who will write these?
- Westminster UC Proposal update
- Drop Box
- Social Justice Covenant and fee; SJSWO network report
- Resource people expressions of interest
- Next Meeting date/time

1. Approval of minutes of the September 10th Zoom call

MOTION: Carey Wagner/Glenda McMillan That the ARW Mission and Discipleship Commission approve the minutes of the September 10th, 2019 minutes as circulated.

Discussion: Kathy reviewed the minutes for the group

CARRIED

2. Westminster UC Proposal

Robin Sherman gave an update on this proposal. It pertains to the Ontario Government's cuts to Legal Assistance for those on ODSP. The concern is that these cuts will increase poverty and is putting housing at risk for those who have mental health concerns.

Carey mentioned ISARC (Interfaith Social Assistance Reform Coalition). This group could best give leadership in this area.

Joan will follow up with ISARC.

Kathy will follow up with the Housing Coalition in Kitchener

3. Mission Support Grants

We have received a grant request from Kenesserie Camp.

MOTION: Carey Wagner/Jim Haupt That the ARW Mission and Discipleship Commission confirms all MSG grants that were approved at the October 23, 2019 meeting.

CARRIED

MOTION: Carey Wagner/Jim Haupt That the ARW Mission and Discipleship Commission issues a Mission Support Grant of \$15,000 each to Camp Kenesserie and Camp Tanner.

CARRIED

Robin will follow up the Sue Duliban to see if she can write the letters to the grant recipients. She noted that letters should indicate the predicted decrease of Grant monies for 2021.

Kim, Kathy and Joan to look at application for next year to enhance the information coming to the Commission.

There was a suggestion that the deadline be moved to earlier in the year, possibly to the summer.

It was also suggested that folks on the Commission take a look at the 2020 MSG form and let Kathy, Kim and Joan know what information they would like to know from the applicants.

4. A. Social Justice Covenant (from the Social Justice Network Ontario)

Joan reviewed the Social Justice Covenant with the group. A copy is in appendix A of these minutes.

Carey is already a member but we need one more rep from this region.

There is also a fee of \$1,500 per year.

MOTION: That ARW Mission and Discipleship Commission pay the 2020 fee (\$1,500) for the Social Justice Network of Ontario.

Moved: Pat Whitton/Jim Haupt

CARRIED

Carey will forward contact info to Ruthanna.

B. Carey gave an overview of the local Social Justice Network meeting. He noted a fair to be held on May 9 at Siloam UC in London Ont. He will have more information after the next meeting in January.

5. **Upcoming ARW Newsletter deadlines: January 24, February 14, March 6**

6. Carey also gave an update about the United Network for Justice and Peace in Palestine and Israel (UNJPPI)

MOTION: Jim Haupt/ Glenda McMillan That dependant on funds available, the ARW M&D Commission give \$1000 to the United Network for Justice and Peace in Palestine and Israel.

Carey will forward contact information to Ruthanna.

7. Budget: The group wanted to get a budget report of what has been spent this year (2019). Robin to ask Doug Cameron to provide that information.
8. Chair: Robin will stay Chair of the Commission until May 2019 with the help of the group. Carey said he could help Robin.
■
9. Resource Pool: Kathy suggested a few folks for the Resource Pool – Linda Badke, Kathleen Welch and Marjory McMillan. Kathy to follow up.
Robin suggested commission members name their passion so members could focus attention. Commission would then know who to talk with or refer to.
**Let people know on commission and beyond if something happening. Newsletter every 3 weeks can advertise events.
Commission mandate to encourage colleagues and communities of faith to take part in social justice events.
10. Right Relations Network: Pat Whitton gave an update. There are resource kits available. Ask Pat if you are interested. Suggestion to advertise on S.J. page of region website. Two resource kits would be available at region office (one with Kim and one with Joan).
11. Pat and Dwain working on proposal for a project for creating 60 scoop interviewing video. The Right Relations Network of ARW doing this.
12. Carey ask Executive what they require from commission. And commission can think about what they might want to do/educate people do.
13. Items for the next ARW Mission and Discipleship meeting:
 - Executive Report
 - Right Relations
 - Areas of passion within the group

Next Meeting:

Friday, February 21, 2020 10:30 am to be held at

December 6, 2019

CC19-9

First United in St. Thomas

Appendix A

COVENANT of the SOCIAL JUSTICE NETWORK of ONTARIO REGIONS of The United Church of Canada

(formerly the Coordinating Committee of Ontario Conferences – CCOC
& the Social Justice Network of Ontario Conferences - SJNOC)

I. COVENANT MEMBERS

Those represented within the Covenant:

- Regional Councils of The United Church of Canada located within Ontario

Corresponding members:

- staff from the Church in Mission Unit of the General Council Office

II. PURPOSE

Regions of The United Church of Canada, whose boundaries lie within the Province of Ontario, hereby covenant together to form the Social Justice Network of Ontario Regions (SJNIOR):

- to collaborate and provide a collective presence of The United Church of Canada concerning socio-economic issues and concerns which impact Ontarians.

III. MUTUAL ACCOUNTABILITY

Member courts will fulfill this covenant by:

- Appointing 2 representatives and 1 regional staff person

- Making a financial contribution based upon an annual assessment .

APPENDIX A

**SOCIAL JUSTICE NETWORK OF ONTARIO REGIONS
NETWORK OPERATIONS**

A. THE SJNOR WILL:

Examine the social justice issues that exist in the Province of Ontario with reference to their implications for the United Church of Canada, its people and the wider community;

Prayerfully discern what actions to take towards deeper understanding, redress of injustices and just alternatives;

Seek to work with government or non-governmental organizations to develop action plans and make recommendations for just, healthy, environmentally nurturing solutions.

B. OPERATING PROCEDURES

Convenorship for the SJNOR will be vested in co-chairs who will serve two-year terms. Co-chairs should have their respective terms staggered to ensure continuity. Any co chair can serve for a maximum of two consecutive terms.

The SJNOR will meet a minimum of twice yearly. Meetings may be conducted by means of video conference.

Agendas will usually include time for sharing of member court social justice activity and reports from coalitions and task group representatives related to the SJNOR.

Policy decisions rest within the member courts of the church. Representatives to the SJNOR will be communication links with those courts.

Strategizing and decision-making within the SJNOR

(i.e. formulation and implementation of church policies and SJNOR's actions) will be by consensus with an understanding that consensus will not necessarily mean complete agreement but insufficient disagreement to block the decision.

Tasks (such as recording, duplication, distribution, agenda preparation, meeting arrangements, research, analyses, resource development and collection, supervision support) will be undertaken by SJNOR members on a shared basis.

Decision-making between meetings will be undertaken by consulting all member courts' representatives for feedback. Any action will take into account this consultation.

Any member court is free to act unilaterally but should take into account the potential effects upon other member courts. Unilateral action will not imply action on behalf of others.

An orientation to the SJNOR's history, covenant, operating procedures and current activities will be provided for new representatives.

Collection, disbursement, recording and reporting services for operating funds will be provided by the General Council's Mission Through Finance Unit.

C. COLLECTIVE ACTION

The SJNOR will take joint social justice action: This could be accomplished in any of the following ways:

- a) the member courts may endorse and support one regional council in taking a particular initiative;
- b) the member courts may agree on more than one regional council on a joint study or action of vital interest; or
- c) the members may agree to work and speak together, through the SJNOR.

The SJNOR may consider the initiative of one member court but decide not to endorse or support the effort leaving that member court free to take its own action.

The SJNOR will provide leadership representatives on behalf of The United Church of Canada in Ontario for occasions related to SJNOR's social justice agenda.

The SJNOR will designate representation to ecumenical social justice coalitions and task groups functioning within the province of Ontario, such as the Inter-Faith Social Assistance Reform Coalition (ISARC) or KAIROS. Arrangements for support such as orientation, expenses, supervision, accountability and communication mechanisms with the SJNOR, etc. will be undertaken.

D. COMMUNICATION

The SJNOR will facilitate the sharing of The United Church of Canada's social justice policy.

The SJNOR will provide an annual report to each member court. These reports are to contain actions taken, future agenda items and financial operations.

E. MEMBER COURT CONTRIBUTIONS

Each member court will appoint two representatives to the SJNOR. Each member court will clarify the terms of that appointment. In addition, it is hoped that there would be a staff person from the member court.

Each member court will make an annual financial contribution to the SJNOC.

Through their representative(s), member courts will share information, analyses and strategies related to their social justice issues, concerns and activities.

Member courts will assume primary responsibility for SJNOR tasks within their resource capacity on a rotating basis.

THE SOCIAL JUSTICE NETWORK OF ONTARIO REGIONS

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF MEMBER COURT REPRESENTATIVES

Representatives will contribute their unique gifts to the work of the SJNOR as a proactive participant.

Representatives will act as an essential communication link between their member court and the other member courts by means of:

- a) attendance at SJNOR meetings
- b) regular reports at SJNOR meetings
- c) reports to the SJNOR between meetings of relevant concerns and actions
- d) regular SJNOR reports to their member court including an SJNOR annual report.

Representatives will relay their member court's social justice concerns to the SJNOR's agenda.

Outgoing representatives will brief their successors of the SJNOR's covenant, communication needs with the member court, and the member court's responsibilities.