

**Mission and Discipleship Commission**  
**Antler River Watershed Regional Council**

OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA

*Holding and Encouraging Communities of Faith*

*Approved Minutes*

*December 15, 2020*

*10am via zoom*

**Roster:**

<b>Richard Auckland (3) (Chair)</b> rauck27@gmail.com	<b>Robert Harris (3)</b> rsharris@hotmail.com	<b>James Haupt (3) OM</b> redbaron338@gmail.com
<b>Dawn Jones (1)</b> jdjones@xplornet.com	<b>Carey Wagner (2) DM</b> cgwagne@sympatico.ca	<b>Glenda McMillan (2)</b> glenda.mcmillan@sympatico.ca
<b>Linda Badke (23)</b> linda.badke@rogers.com 519-432-5420	<b>Tabitha Carey (23)</b> tabithatalking@gmail.com 519-520-0284	

**Staff Support:** Diane Matheson-Jimenez (Minister, Social Justice)

Kathy Douglas, (Minister, Faith Formation)

Ruthanna Mack, Admin Support

Dave Jagger (Stewardship and Gifts Officer)

**Present:** Richard Auckland (Chair), Glenda McMillan, Linda Badke, Jim Haupt, Carey Wagner, Tabitha Carey, Robert Harris, Diane Matheson-Jimenez, Kathy Douglas, Ruthanna Mack, Eric Skillings, Rev. Doug Rowley, Joe Richards

**Regrets:** Dave Jagger

Welcome and Constitute Meeting: Richard opened the meeting and welcomed everyone.

**Acknowledging the Land:** Richard read the Land Acknowledgement as follows:

We acknowledge that we gather on the traditional territory of a number of First Nations and acknowledge their stewardship of this land throughout the ages. This Land known as Antler River Watershed, was once settled by the Attawandaran Peoples. Later the Algonquin, the Anishinabe, the Lenne-Lenape and the

Haudenosaunee Peoples who used their lands as their traditional gathering, hunting and congregating place. Let us also recognize our three closest neighbours from these nations: The Chippewa of the Thames First Nation, The Munsee-Delaware Nation, and the Oneida Nation of the Thames. We seek a new relationship with the Original Peoples of this land, one based in honour and deep respect.

Carey asked that we acknowledge Geraldine Robertson who recently died:

Geraldine Roberson was a member of Aamjiwnanng and received the Order of Ontario, Lifetime Achievement Award, and the Mayor's Award for educator and advocate for Residential School survivors. She has travelled across the country, encouraging other Residential School survivors to open up and move towards healing. She educated countless people on the intergenerational legacy of Residential Schools and helped advocate for compensation for survivors. She was one of the three survivors documented in "We Are Still Here"—an essential piece of work from the London Conference Right Relations Committee. Geraldine was a special friend to many.

**Opening Worship:** Richard offered an opening prayer

**Opening Motions:**

Corresponding Members:

- MOTION by Glenda McMillan/Carey Wagner that Eric Skillings and Rev. Doug Rowley from Ridgetown Campus Christian Fellowship Chaplaincy (Guelph) be named as corresponding members of Antler River Watershed Mission and Discipleship Commission.

MOTION

CARRIED

- MOTION by Glenda McMillan/Carey Wagner that Joe Richards from Pearce Williams be named as a corresponding member of Antler River Watershed Mission and Discipleship Commission.

MOTION

CARRIED

Approval of Agenda:

MOTION by Carey Wagner/Jim Haupt that the December 15, 2020 agenda be accepted as circulated.

MOTION

CARRIED

## Approval of Previous Minutes:

MOTION by Carey Wagner/Jim Haupt that the Mission and Discipleship of Antler River Watershed Regional Council approve the minutes of both September 15<sup>th</sup>, 2020 and September 17<sup>th</sup>, 2020 as circulated.

MOTION

CARRIED

**Presentations by M&S Grant Recipients:** (The following presentations were recorded. Video is available upon request)

- Ridgetown Campus Christian Fellowship Chaplaincy (Guelph): Presenting were Eric Skillings (Secretary and Treasurer) and Rev. Doug Rowley (Chaplain). Doug presented a 2 ½ min. video for the group.
  - CCF started in 2007
  - Over 500 students have participated in chaplaincy events such as:
    - Orientation Week BBQ
    - Second week Corn Maze
    - God on Tap
    - Bowling
    - Mid-Exam brunch
    - Reading Week Social Justice Mission Trips to Dominican Republic
    - Traveling Band
    - Year-end Tail-gate party
    - Weddings
    - CCF Gala – Student Testimonials
  - Questions:
    - Coping with Covid-19 and fewer students on campus
      - It has been hard to meet 1<sup>st</sup> year students
      - 2<sup>nd</sup> year students are connecting via zoom – still reduced numbers (approx. 15-20 students on zoom each week)
      - Local students have attended a bonfire at Doug's
    - Mental Health Issues:
      - Doug has facilitated the presence of 3 Mental Health workers to be on campus 1 day a week for students to talk to.
      - Succession Planning: The board has had these conversations.
- Pearce Williams Christian Retreat Centre: Presenting was Joe Richards (Executive Director). Pearce Williams founded 1960. Joe has been the Executive Director since 2005. Of the 6 camps in ARW 2 run year-round programs (Lambton UC Centre and Pearce Williams).
  - Mission: To Welcome To Teach To Serve

- Core statement: To do what needs to be done to give the campers the most amazing summer camp experience

Questions: As people who care deeply about Faith Formation, how do we respond in a faithful way to the crisis that Covid-19 has brought to our camps?

- For Pearce Williams the local community has responded through giving – PW has just passed the \$200,000 mark in funds raised since Covid started.
- We also respond by protecting what we know camp to be – it may be a time to talk about camp mergers.
- Kathy noted: that it was ARW M&D that initiated doing a ‘deep dive’ into what we as the United Church want from our camps. (this project was postponed due to Covid-19) How do we support our camps, and how do we measure that support, in order to keep all our camping ministries alive and vital. This might require questions about whether we can keep all of our camps as they are currently functioning.
- Joe noted that he is working to develop ecumenical partnerships to broaden the base of support because there is a realization that outdoor ministries can’t survive on their own.

**Pearce Williams follow up discussion:**

- Glenda noted the essential role of camps in Faith Formation

**Ridgetown Chaplaincy follow up discussion:**

- Carey asked: How does the LGBTQ+ community relate to the Ridgetown Chaplaincy ministry?

Richard followed up with Ridgetown Chaplaincy around the LGBTQ+ question that Carey raised. Richard noted that the Chaplaincy is open and welcoming to the LGBTQ+ Community and have on occasion had participation from members of that community.

Richard will follow up with both groups with a thank you and further follow up questions.

Next Meeting: Richard will invite two other M&S Grant recipients to report on their ministries.

**Rep needed for Ontario Network of Social Justice:**

Carey noted that no one yet has contacted him about this.

Tabitha indicated that she would be interested in being the Rep.

**Legacy Fund Proposal #3: ARW EXECUTIVE SEPTEMBER 16, 2020**

New Funds that ARW Mission and Discipleship will oversee:

Deadlines for Applications to ARW M&D: April 1<sup>st</sup> and October 1st

**Ministry with Youth and Young Adults**

The Executive could combine:

Kent Presbytery \$9,160.65 Youth Ministry Reserve

Malahide Youth Fund \$24,906 for youth and young adults

**Terms of Reference**

Purpose: Support for ministry with youth and young adults

Available Funds: All prior year interest earned plus up to 15% of principal available to be granted annually.

**Granting Body and Oversight: Mission and Discipleship Commission**

The Mission and Discipleship Commission will report annually, starting in 2021, to the regional council on how the funds have supported ministry with youth and young adults.

Criteria

Ministry with Youth and Young Adults

- 1) Grants will normally be for one-time grants to a maximum of \$5,000
- 2) Grants in excess of this amount or for a multi-year project will require the applicant to meet with the Mission and Discipleship Commission

Procedure: Applications will be submitted to the Mission and Discipleship Commission. The Commission will design the application form as best suits their needs.

Grant Payment: Approval will be forwarded to the Treasurer and Executive Minister for payment and tracking.

**Institute for Specialized Ministry**

From London Conference \$22,451

London Conference established Westminster College at Western University. When the College closed and was sold to the university, this money was forwarded in 2008.

**Terms of Reference**

Purpose: Events/Training for youth ministry leaders

Available Funds: Up to 30% of the principal every two years

**Granting Body and Oversight: Mission and Discipleship Commission**

The Mission and Discipleship Commission will report annually, starting in 2021, to the regional council on how the funds have supported training for youth leaders and ministers.

Criteria

Applications will be considered to assist with the sponsorship of events and training provided through or in partnership with Antler River Watershed regional council for youth leaders and ministers.

Procedure: Applications will be submitted to the Mission and Discipleship Commission. The Commission will design the application form as best suits their needs.

Grant Payment: Approval will be forwarded to the Treasurer and Executive Minister for payment and tracking.

**Middlesex Resource Centre Fund**

\$48,669 forwarded when the Middlesex resource centre closed directed to the support of resource centre ministries and camping ministries in ARW.

Purpose: To support resource centre ministries and camps

Available Funds: All prior year interest earned plus up to 15% of principal available to be granted annually.

**Granting Body and Oversight: Mission and Discipleship Commission**

The Mission and Discipleship Commission will report annually, starting in 2021, to the regional council on how the funds have supported resource centres and camps.

Criteria

Applications will be considered for:

- 1) Resource centre events;
- 2) The purchase of resources for a specific camp program.

Procedure: Applications will be submitted to the Mission and Discipleship Commission. The Commission will design the application form as best suits their needs.

Grant Payment: Approval will be forwarded to the Treasurer and Executive Minister for payment and tracking.

### **Engaging Stewardship Fund**

London Conference Mission and Service Project Revenue Generation Fund

#### **Terms of Reference**

Purpose: To promote support of the Mission and Service Fund

Available Funds: This is ARW's share of the remaining balance of funds entrusted to the Conference for this purpose. The fund will be expended and not replenished.

#### **Granting Body and Oversight: Mission and Discipleship Commission**

The Mission and Discipleship Commission will report annually, starting in 2021, to the regional council on how the funds have promoted Mission and Service

#### **Criteria**

The Mission and Discipleship Commission will have access to the fund to support events promoting stewardship and Mission and Service.

Procedure: The decision to access the fund will be made the Mission and Discipleship Commission.

Grant Payment: Approval will be forwarded to the Treasurer and Executive Minister for payment and tracking.

Application form is being developed and will be posted on the ARWRC website.

At that point these funds can be put on Facebook.

Full document of Proposal 3 available on request.

#### **Affirm Network Representative:**

There have been some follow up discussions with Pegi Ridout about this.

#### **New Business:**

- FYI - ELUCO didn't know they had received a Mission Support Grant till Dec. 8
- Social Justice Network: **Meeting notes available on request.**  
Of concern regarding effective communication was the usefulness of the ARWRC website not being time-sensitive enough. It was noted that Facebook is

better for timeliness. There was a suggestion around making use of the Regional Newsletters.

- **Antler River Watershed Region Social and Ecological Justice Network (Updated Dec. 2020)**

MANDATE:

In light of the mission of the United Church of Canada and its partners, to study, contribute to, and advocate for Christian responses to social justice concerns both locally and globally.

The network will:

Relate to the Mission and Discipleship Commission of the Antler River Watershed Region of the United Church of Canada.

There was discussion of supporting the Network's website startup costs. This cost is \$60.

**MOTION:** Carey Wagner/Glenda McMillan that the ARWRC Mission and Discipleship Commission pay the ARW Social and Ecological Justice Network website start up costs of \$60 incurred by Curtis Marwood.

MOTION

CARRIED

- Review of the ARW M&D Letter outlining mandate etc. Diane Matheson-Jimenez' name needs to be corrected. Kathy to follow up with Richard for necessary updates.

**Future Meetings:**

- **March 10<sup>th</sup> 10am – not yet confirmed with Richard**
- **June 8<sup>th</sup> 10am**
- **Sept 7<sup>th</sup> and Sept 9<sup>th</sup> 10am (to review and approve M&S grants)**
- **Dec 7<sup>th</sup> 10am**

**For the Love of Creation:**

Diane Matheson-Jimenez mentioned this Climate Justice zoom call – January 18<sup>th</sup> at 4pm. Linda Badke to connect with Diane regarding someone she knows might be interested.

**Phone Numbers:**

Richard would like phone numbers for the Commissioners. Ruthanna to follow up with Richard.

**Closing Prayer:** Jim offered a quick closing prayer.



December 15, 2020

CC 20-23