**Mission and Discipleship Commission  
Antler River Watershed Regional Council  
of The United Church of Canada  
*Holding and Encouraging Communities of Faith***

***Minutes***  
**September 7, 2021**  
**10:00 a.m. (via Zoom)**

**Roster:** Richard Auckland (Chair), Linda Badke, Cheryl Bolton, Robert Harris, Jim Haupt, Glenda McMillan, Tabitha Carey

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

Kathy Douglas – Minister, Faith Formation   
Thérèse Samuel – Minister, Right Relations and Social Justice  
Dave Jagger – Stewardship and Gifts Officer  
Ruthanna Mack – Admin Support

**Present:** Richard Auckland (Chair), Linda Badke, Cheryl Bolton, Robert Harris, Jim Haupt, Glenda McMillan, Diane Matheson-Jimenez, Kathy Douglas, Thérèse Samuel

**Regrets**: Ruthanna Mack, Tabitha Carey

1. **Meeting Opened** at 10:07 AM, Chair Richard Auckland established quorum, welcomed new member Cheryl Bolton
2. **Welcome –** Richard invited each present to tell one thing they have enjoyed this past summer, and one thing they are looking forward to this fall.
3. **Thank Yous to staff** – Richard Thanked: Kathy, Diane, Thérèse and Ruthanna for their preparations and organization, and for hanging in there during these difficult times; Thérèse for putting together the script, editing and final version of our June video presentation about the M & D Commission.
4. **Equity Monitor:** Kathy volunteered for the role; Anybody can speak up about an equity issue at any time, and the Equity Monitor can also be contacted by private chat should anyone have an equity concern during the meeting.
5. **Opening Prayer** Richard – Dear Lord, grant us the wisdom to make sound decisions for your world. Help us to honour you with our work today and everyday. Amen.
6. **Establishing a secretary for our meeting** Thérèse will take minutes today
7. **Acknowledging the land** - Richard

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. We also recognize the errors in the era of colonization – treaties, schooling, governance, and so on.

This Land known as Antler River Watershed, was once settled by the Attawandaran Peoples.  Later the Algonquin, the Anishinabe, the Lenne-Lenape, the Haudenosaunee and other Peoples who used their lands as their traditional gathering, hunting and congregating place.  This is also the Traditional Territory of the Three Fires Confederacy, comprised of the Ojibway, the Odawa and the Pottawatomi Nations. Some are on the traditional territory of the Chippewas of Saugeen Ojibway Territory, represented by Saugeen First Nation and the Chippewas of Nawash Unceded First Nation.

Let us also recognize our closest neighbours from these nations: The Chippewa of the Thames First Nation, The Munsee-Delaware Nation, and the Oneida Nation of the Thames.  We would like to specifically acknowledge the people of Aamjiwnaang, Kettle and Stony Point and Walpole Island First Nations. We seek a new relationship with the Original Peoples of this land, one based in honour and deep respect. As those groups of people were caretakers of the land, may we too be conscientious caretakers of this land.

1. **Approval of Agenda for September 7, 2021** Consensus
2. **Approval of Minutes from May 25, 2021** deferred to a later meeting because minutes had not yet been reviewed by the Commission due to the leave of the staff person who typed the notes
3. **Reports:**

* **ARW Region Social and Ecological Justice Network – Linda** no update
* **Kathy Douglas, Minister, Faith Formation**  wrote a resource that she will share, waiting for approval to share stories
* **Diane Matheson-Jimenez, Minister, Social Justice** has been compiling MS applications, her report will be circulated by e-mail. The book *Evolutionary Dancer* by Carol Kilby shares rituals for grounding amid the climate crisis, and there will be an Earth Day event with Carol’s leadership
* **Thérèse** **Samuel** - Right Relations event was held July 1 Canada Day Vigil- Together in Prayer. Upcoming: Sept 22 Networking workshop, Nov 1 All Saint’s Day vigil: Together in Song; (there will also be a vigil on Orange Shirt Day Sept 30 led by Murray Pruden, Executive Minister for Indigenous Ministries and Justice)

**Current staff Update:**

* ***Ruthanna Mack***, Admin. Asst. Mission & Finance, M&D Staff Resource is on leave and Diane, Kathy and Thérèse are filling in as much as possible;
* ***Pretima Kukadia-Kinting*** Admin. Asst. Communication and Records is on leave and ***Elizabeth Marshall*** is filling in for newsletters.
* ***Diane Blanchard***, Pastoral Relations, is on leave and ***Micol Cottrell*** is filling that role;
* ***Lynne Allin***, Congregational Support & Mission is on leave and ***Judith Fayter*** is covering for ARW,
* Shaela ***Kinting*** has moved on to other pursuits and ***Michele Petick*** is the new Website Admin.

1. **Chair for the upcoming year** – consensus that Vice Chair should be appointed, no volunteers so this conversation will continue
2. **Grant Review** –

* There are 6 camps in ARW, Gesstwood did not apply, historically has not applied.
* 11 Applicants. Reviewed totals requested from each application, noted that total 169,000, exceeds funds available by 9,000; generally, about 5% will be taken from each amount to reach $160 000
* There was some discussion about dealing with incomplete and late applications, and about those who received grants last year but did not apply this year. Organizations receive reminders to apply and at some point need to be responsible for their own applications.
* Merits of the Organizations and Applications were discussed
* Conflicts of Interest: Richard declared potential conflict of interest regarding Pearce Williams: his son is a member of his household and works at Pearce Williams.

1. Plan: It was established that quorum for the planned meeting Thurs Sept 9 would not be possible. Instead, the Chair will send out suggested grant disbursement, for an email vote, with the understanding that as per UCC Polity, if 2 people request an in-person vote, a meeting would be called for the vote.

UPDATE September 10, 2021: Moved by Jim Haupt, Seconded by Cheryl Bolton, carried

“That, grants be awarded as noted in the attached spreadsheet to the 11 organizations which applied for monies.”

**Next Meetings:** Email vote later this week to make final decisions on Mission Support Grants.

upcoming meetings **(generally, Second Tuesday of the month)   
December 7, 2021.   
January 11, 2022,**   
**March 1 2022** (8th is executive),  **May 10, 2022   
June 14, 2022 (budget preparation for August),   
September 6 & 8, 2022   
November 8, 2022  
 December 13, 2022 -**

1. **Closing Prayer** Richard
2. **Meeting Closed by the Chair** 12:08 pm