**Mission and Discipleship Commission**

**Antler River Watershed Regional Council**

**of The United Church of Canada**

***Holding and Encouraging Communities of Faith***

***APPROVED MINUTES***

***September 7, 2022 1 p.m. (approximation)  
in person following our morning orientation session at Siloam United, London***

***or via Zoom***

**Roster:** Richard Auckland (Chair), Linda Badke, Cheryl Bolton, Tabitha Carey, Robert Harris, James Haupt, Joshua Lawrence, Glenda McMillan, Anthony Smith

**Staff Support:** Kathy Douglas - Minister, Faith Formation

Thérèse Samuel – Minister for Right Relations and Social Justice

??? - Stewardship and Gifts Officer

Michele Petick-Administration

Ruthanna Mack-Administration

**Present:** Richard Auckland (Chair), Linda Badke, Cheryl Bolton, Tabitha Carey, James Haupt, Anthony Smith

Staff: Kathy Douglas, Thérèse Samuel, Michele Petick

**Note: We will all be included in the executive meeting at the start of the afternoon on Wednesday. Discussion will be around the staff**

**Linda Badke – Acting Chair in the absence of Richard Auckland**

1. **Acknowledgement of the Land/Territory – this would cover any lands which fall in ARW.** 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. ~~(Attawandoran)~~ This Land known as Antler River Watershed, was once occupied by the Anishinabe, the Lenne-Lenape, the Haudenosaunee, the Potawatomi, the Odawa, and the Chonnoton who used these lands as their traditional gathering, hunting and congregating place.  Let us also recognize our closest neighbours from these nations: The Chippewa of the Thames First Nation, The Munsee-Delaware Nation, the Oneida Nation of the Thames, Walpole Island, Moravian of the Thames, Caldwell, Aamjiwnaang, and the Chippewas of Stony and Kettle Point.  We seek a new relationship with the Previous Occupiers of this land, one based in honour and deep respect.
2. **Welcome/Opening Prayer – Anthony Smith**
3. With fall upon us, it is a change in season, and as individuals what are you looking forward to?
4. **Reminder of Equity Monitor and Pastoral Presence for our meeting(s)** *We all serve in this capacity keeping each other’s words and actions in check.*
5. **Approval of Agenda for September 7, 2022 (as amended)**
6. MOTION by Jim/TabithaName / Name that the Mission and Discipleship Commission of Antler River Watershed Regional Council approve the agenda for September 7, 2022.

MOTION CARRIED

1. **Approval of Minutes from June 14, 2022**
2. MOTION by Jim/Linda Name / Name that the Mission and Discipleship Commission of Antler River Watershed Regional Council approve the Minutes from June 14, 2022.

MOTION CARRIED

1. **Business Arising:**
2. **Response to morning orientation session – feedback**

* First orientation since the regional restructure
* New learnings and helpful to learn about other commissions and what they do.
* New commission members since that last gathering roughly three years ago.
* A greater body coming together to make things happen.

1. **Correspondence:**
2. **Diane Matheson-Jimenez notification of resignation from ARW.**
3. **New Business:**

**1) In person vs virtual meetings:**

* + Travelling accessibility can be a good reason to meet online.
  + Travel, meals, accommodation expenses are covered for commission members.
  + Follow up on the process of reimbursement for commission members
  + Eight months of the year meetings were held online and four meetings held in person for the previous London Conference.
  + Consideration of environmental cost.
  + Suggest meeting in person twice a year near the London/St. Thomas area.

**2) Clarifying our Role as a Commission/Goals of the Commission going forward**

* How do we make space for creating more connections for the commissions to do this work.
* We need to look at ways to spread out the work, just not with staff programming but internally with leadership from commission members.
* Learning and development opportunities for commission members.
* Social Justice learning experiences could be a way to outreach to larger communities, ie Syrian crisis, Affirming Ministries, Refugee hosting.
* Setting up networks to provide guidance in getting needs filled, not just through funds.
* How does “discipleship” work in the M&D commission … could be theological reflections at events and programs.
* Oxford Ministries is doing refugee work, the commission could look at ways to collaborate.
* Resource pools need to be utilised more effectively going forward.

**Learning about our members of the Commission:**

* **What is your greatest area(s) of passion and curiosity in the Mission and Discipleship portfolio?**
* Community work, local community based,
* Care and reciprocate care, sustainable projects because people are invested, setting up relationships are crucial in our neighbourhoods.
* Justice issues, Indigenous and Celtic connections to the earth and becoming self-sustaining with people and the planet.
* Anti-oppression work, disability and church.
* Anti-racism, right relations and 2SLGBTQ+ work.
* Congregational mission and vision, people of God in rural settings.
* Have inhibitions, get excited about something, ie refugees.
* Integration of the 2SLGBTQ+ folk into our lives and work in church.
* How to best support 2SLGBTQ+ folks in our communities.
* Refugee support.
* Fundraising.
* Youth and youth ministries.
* Climate Justice and the environment.
* Poverty.
* Food Justice.
* Camping ministries.
* **What area do you find most concerning? In what way does it concern you?**
* Churches are dying off, and becoming irrelevant.
* How do we be the light and share that light with the community around us.
* How do we keep the doors open of rural churches.
* Perception of what a rainbow flag outside a church can mean to people who don’t do church or have been hurt by church.
* **What area do you most want to learn more about? (It could be an area you know little about and are curious, or an area that you have developed some knowledge in and want to grow).**

- Learning about drug culture re: local needs ie harm reduction.

- Learn more about the conflicts in Palestine.

- Learn about gender identification, being able to receive everyone regardless of gender or no identifying gender. Welcoming, inclusive and safer spaces.

- Learn more about climate justice.

- Learn and share awareness about Senior citizen fraud, anti-fraud awareness.

**Richard Auckland resumes Chair**

1. **Re: Finances - please check Dropbox for two files:**

* the Events and Meetings Budget Tracking which I believe I have got up to date, in the 2022 Meetings folder.
* The Spring Right Relations Funding Totals in the Sept 7, 2022 meeting folder in the Dropbox.
* Coming out of Exile event will not happen until next year (2023), the budgeted funds for that event could be used for other events this year.
* Tabitha, Anthony and Thérèse to discuss potential programming for 2SLGBTQ+ inclusion work beyond Affirming like queer church activities.

1. **Moved by** Anthony/Jim that the Antler River Watershed Regional Council Mission and Discipleship Commission approve the allocation of $100 from the Events Budget for honorarium for Kenji Marui. Kenji was a presenter at GC44 Youth Forum Intern Retreat at Five Oaks on August 17, 2022.  His total honorarium will be $300, split between all three regions.

**CARRIED**

1. **FYI - Funds from our MEETINGS budget** can be used to support professional development/learning of any commissioner (us), but it would just need to come to the commission for approval first. Expenses are submitted to Krista Ford for mileage, meals, receipts etc. Regional staff will send out submission requirements with expense form.
2. **Review of Mission Support Grants on Tuesday, October 18th @ 10 a.m.**

* Review each application which will appear in ARW Dropbox
* Template that you can use to organize your thoughts on each applicant
* Come prepared to discuss and then decide how to apportion the funds

1. **FYI – Housing crisis podcasts** from the Hub and Trinity United in Kitchener. Richard will provide more information when the links are available to the podcasts.
2. **Review/Discussion – issues arising from General Council** concerning the M&D Commission, think about and discuss at November M&D meeting.

      a. principle-based approach to Social Justice

      b. Palestine-Israel

      c.  decriminalizing illicit substance abuse

      d. challenging anti-Semitism

1. e. recognition of Armenian genocide
2. **Reports:**

* **ARW Region Social and Ecological Justice Network – Linda**

**-** no report

* **Kathy**

**-** most funds requested are honorariums

- budgeting roughly $1,000 for Faith Formation programs for a year

- Youth Rally being planned most folks are from the ARW region but will spread over the regions.

- Pastoral Care team support with Ann Corbett

- UNJPPI representation in ARW, youth and young adult event for Palestine-Israel awareness.

- Church Administrator Gathering was very successful and meaningful to the participants.

- The camps had a great summer, snags were staff, and having experience staff, campers’ numbers down.

- Three interns from ARW helped out with GC44, most helpful with Palestine- Israel and Affirming issues.

- Picking up work on Refugee Sponsorship.

* **Thérèse**

**-** Working on establishing living into right relations networks.

- Anti-Racism workshop event will be held on Feb 7 and March 7, 2023 it is a single event with Selam Debs for the first session and Alcris Limongi for the second.

* **Ruthanna/Michele**
* **other**

1. **Next Meetings:**
2. **Wednesday, October 18th @ 10 a.m.** (to review Mission Support Grants)
3. **Wednesday, November 9th, 2022 @ 10 a.m.**  
   **Tuesday, December 13 ???, 2022 @ 10 a.m.**
4. **Closing Prayer - Anthony Smith**
5. **Adjournment**