**Mission and Discipleship Commission**

**Antler River Watershed Regional Council**

**of The United Church of Canada**

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

***APPROVED MINUTES***

***November 9, 2022 10 a.m. (approximation)
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 (minute taker)

 Thérèse Samuel – Minister for Right Relations and Social Justice

 Brenna Baker - Stewardship and Gifts Officer

 Michele Petick-Administration

 Ruthanna Mack-Administration

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

Staff: Brenna Baker, Kathy Douglas, ~~Thérèse Samuel, Michele Petick, Ruthanna Mack~~ ***(cross out those not in attendance)***

**Agenda**

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. 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.

**Land Acknowledgement referred to Eileen and Grafton Antone, members of the Oneida of the Thames, for their review. No response to date.**

1. **Welcome Brenna Baker – Stewardship and Gifts Officer**

 **Great resources for all.** [**https://arwrcucc.ca/stewardship-gifts/**](https://arwrcucc.ca/stewardship-gifts/)

1. **Welcome (There is a recording of this in drop box)-London Community Chaplaincy-Pam Cullen attended as a guest to share their work/ministry…allowing us to learn more about them. Two locations-Limberlost and Southdale.** [About | London Community Chaplaincy](https://londoncommunitychaplaincy.com/about/)

**Inspiring story. Not a lot of money needed to make big change. Local folks, living in low-income housing asked the faith communities of London for more support. An ecumenical group that included UCC came together to support. In two locations they have been given ‘office’ space from municipality (biggest financial supporters because of this) for this work. Having ‘housing’ on the team is a great asset to the clients. 30 years has passed and it continues to grow with various supporters and seasons of leadership. NO government funding…and considered tiny but open every day in both locations. Lots of volunteers and lots of support from Faith Communities…who keep responding to need.**

**Caution about speaking despairingly about housing so Pam is cautious in speaking of this. Social housing is filled with high priority needs as the wait list is long. These folks often have a lot of healing and other needs. With the shifting reality of poverty…very few people are able to move out and the list of need for housing grows or never changes. No one moves out and they choose to stay. 6,000 on waiting list! And no solution pending.**

**Supporting these families requires a lot of diverse support. Culturally, class, mental health, physical ability, requires a lot of work to build community but it does happen!! LCC is not solution but a Presence! Folks are not left ALONE.**

**Children/Youth programs are very successful programs**

**Rooted in presence. Started by grassroots. (A faith story)**

**How can we help?**

 **Collections of stuff**

 **Volunteering in a place that has needs clearly present.**

 **Need for homecooked meals in the freezer at the LCC**

 **Support the youth group programming**

 **Ask Pam to come and preach/speak in our communities**

1. **Opening Prayer –**Richard offered a prayer.
2. **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.***

**We do not have Quorum so no motions can be passed**

1. **Approval of Agenda for November 9, 2022 (as amended)**

MOTION by Robert/Tabitha that the Mission and Discipleship Commission of Antler River Watershed Regional Council approve the agenda for November 9, 2022.

MOTION pending CARRIED

1. **Approval of Minutes from October 18, 2022**

MOTION Robert/JoshuaNamethat the Mission and Discipleship Commission of Antler River Watershed Regional Council approve the Minutes from October 18, 2022.

MOTION Pending-CARRIED

1. **Business Arising:**
2. **Email MOTION: Moved by Robert Harris, Seconded by Tabitha Carey and carried by email vote: That the ARW Mission Support Grant applications be accepted with thanks, and that the award amounts as noted in the spreadsheet "**Summary of ARW 2023 Mission Support Grant Applications. Award Amounts**" be accepted.**

**Pending acceptance**

1. There is a shortfall for Youth Rally (November 4-7, 2022) even though it was cancelled

o   $266 per region is required to cover the deposit for Lambton Centre.

o   **Moved Tabitha that Robert Council Mission and Discipleship Commission approve the payment of $266 from the Events Budget to Lambton Centre United Church Camp to cover the deposit for Youth Rally, (November 4-7, 2022).** Pending-

1. ·      Reimburse Vanessa Spence for expenses incurred and not collected from YATS event in April/May of 2022.

§  Motion:         **Moved Joshua/Tabitha that ARW Council Mission and Discipleship Commission approve the payment of $255 from the Events Budget expenses incurred by Vanessa Spence during the *YAT Forum April 29th-May1st 2022.*** Pending-Choose an item.

1. ·       c/  Request to support a youth COP27 Delegates from our area to the meetings in Egypt (November 8-18)

o   My proposal is asking from between $500-$1000 per region

(Details regarding this are below in highlighted section.  I would be pleased to respond to any of your questions re this)

o   Proposed Motion          **Moved Robert/Joshua that ARW Council Mission and Discipleship Commission approve the payment of $1000 from the Events Budget to support the expenses of**[**Tia Kennedy**](https://can01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.kairoscanada.org%2Fintroducing-tia-kennedy-youth-delegate&data=05%7C01%7CKDouglas%40united-church.ca%7C92e2cde88fdf4e6411f108dabc42e822%7Ccf18b5a826784011931215f0f7157574%7C0%7C0%7C638029292812016309%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=gnx4XisluEtK%2FndDalVnMsiN8YMYntKQAx0AzM3Bhuw%3D&reserved=0)**, Oneida Nation of The Thames and Walpole Island First** **Nation, as Delegate to COP 27 in Egypt.** Pending-Choose an item.

**Discussion. Tia invited to speak and share with us, wider area (other M&D’s), regions with reflections and insights.**

Addendum – background to the request

Dear For the Love of Creation working group members, Kathy Douglas

We are quickly approaching the COP27 meetings where world leaders will come together to discuss a global response to the climate crisis.

As you know, For the Love of Creation is supporting two youth delegates to join with the KAIROS delegation of both Indigenous and global partners. They leave on November 8! FLC’s delegates are [**Tia Kennedy**](https://can01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.kairoscanada.org%2Fintroducing-tia-kennedy-youth-delegate&data=05%7C01%7CKDouglas%40united-church.ca%7C92e2cde88fdf4e6411f108dabc42e822%7Ccf18b5a826784011931215f0f7157574%7C0%7C0%7C638029292812016309%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=gnx4XisluEtK%2FndDalVnMsiN8YMYntKQAx0AzM3Bhuw%3D&reserved=0)**, Oneida Nation of The Thames and Walpole Island First** **Nation** and [Yusra Shafi,](https://can01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.kairoscanada.org%2Fintroducing-yusra-shafi-youth-delegate&data=05%7C01%7CKDouglas%40united-church.ca%7C92e2cde88fdf4e6411f108dabc42e822%7Ccf18b5a826784011931215f0f7157574%7C0%7C0%7C638029292812016309%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=lvqeGwlRruhn%2FYdP3jmtduzrTinJQFfFAyG7zxHxDDM%3D&reserved=0) International student from Kuwait at University of Toronto in Psychology and Environmental Behaviour, intern at Development and Peace. You can read about FLC’s delegates in more detail by clicking on the links in their names.

In response to our summer appeal, four FLC member organizations made financial contributions to support Tina and Yusra’s travel costs to Egypt – thank you! **We are part way there, but still need an additional $6,500 to cover trip expenses.**

**Is your organization in a position to support FLC’s youth delegates to COP27?**

If your organization is able to contribute, please be in contact with Randolph Haluza-Delay: RHaluza-Delay@kairoscanada.org

In gratitude for your support,

Katharine Sisk

For the Coordinating Committee

Ps. Join us on the morning of November 3 for [Voices to COP27 / Des voix à COP27 / Voces a la COP27](https://can01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.kairoscanada.org%2Fevent%2Fvoices-to-cop27&data=05%7C01%7CKDouglas%40united-church.ca%7C92e2cde88fdf4e6411f108dabc42e822%7Ccf18b5a826784011931215f0f7157574%7C0%7C0%7C638029292812172564%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=q3qAmjkLphMc3IOEqYj13zclQdsfT2RuIIsvSbyIO9I%3D&reserved=0), to hear from the delegates live.

Katharine Sisk

Senior Program Coordinator, Justice Ministries

The Presbyterian Church in Canada

1-800-619-7301 ext. 250

Presbyterian.ca/justice

1. **Sticky Note Exercise from September 7, 2022 (to be revisited when** all staff are with us)

**Discussion. What will be our priority?**

1. **-We would like to support an event in London area for Conversion Therapy. An event combining the efforts of Shining Water, Marilyn Arthur (3 London Congregations), and Hopelyn Butler (one of our Youth Forum Intern GC44) is being planned. We hope to offer financial and time to this project/program.**

**As well.**

**-We will ask our camps to share with us, what they are doing around gender diversity concretely and theologically at their camp. Kathy will invite them to consider how they could share this us and even beyond our commission. Ask them what we could do to help them in this ministry.**

**-Robert raised concerns about how many in our communities continue to use and misuse scriptures to ‘slam/hurt/damage’ folks around gender diversity. How might this commission work on that.**

1. **Correspondence:**
2. **New Business:**
3. Name change: **Discipleship and Justice Commission** – discussion

Not a lot of time for this. Richard wishes there was consistency across all regions on the names for commissions. It would make it easier. Most were ok with the name suggestion.

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
1. FYI – Housing crisis podcasts from the Hub and Trinity United in Kitchener as shown during the Regional Gathering (FYI)
2. **Further Review/Discussion – issues arising from General Council concerning the M&D Commission**

      a. principle-based approach to Social Justice

      b. Palestine-Israel

      c.  decriminalizing illicit substance abuse

      d. challenging anti-Semitism

      e. recognition of Armenian genocide

1. **Reports: (not enough time)**
* **ARW Region Social and Ecological Justice Network - Linda**
* **Kathy**
* **Thérèse**
* **Ruthanna/Michele**
* **other**
1. **Next Meetings:**

**Tuesday, December 13 @ 10 a.m.**

1. **Closing Prayer -**
2. **Adjournment**

**ARW Priorities**

**Social Justice and Outreach-living out our Affirm mandate**

**Camps/Youth**

**Living into Right Relations**

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**Items tabled for Future Meetings**

**Examples of Motions**

* **For Money** Moved by (mover/seconder) that the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Mission and Discipleship Commission approve the allocation of $\_\_\_\_\_\_ from the Events Budget for \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
* **For Email voting**

You are being asked to vote on the following motion;MOTION: That the XYZ Commission of 123 Regional Council approves the project of ABC United Church to whatever purpose they’ve requested.You have the opportunity to ask questions for clarification and offer comments by email. You will then be able to vote yes or no to the motion. You can vote any time beginning now and up to the closing date for the vote. You can change your vote at any time up to the close of voting. Please ‘reply all’ on any comments, questions and your vote. If two or more members of the commission have concerns about addressing this by email, we will set up a brief zoom meeting to consider the request.The closing date for the vote will be whatever date and time that can’t be less than 48 hours, but also shouldn’t be too long. We require a quorum of ?? people from the Commission to respond by that date for the vote to be valid. Please let me know if you have any questions and thanks for your participation.