**Discipleship and Justice Commission**

**Antler River Watershed**

**of The United Church of Canada**

*Holding and Encouraging Communities of Faith*

**APPROVED MINUTES**

***2023/06/20 at 10 am   
via Zoom***

**Roster:** Richard Auckland (Chair), Linda Badke, Tabitha Carey. Robert Harris, Jim Hatt, James Haupt, Joshua Lawrence, Lilian Patey, Doug Peck, Anthony Smith.

**Staff Support:** Ruthanna Mack-Administration

Kathy Douglas - Minister, Faith Formation

Thérèse Samuel – Minister for Right Relations and Social Justice

John Egger - Minister, Social Justice

Stephen Iverson – Community of Faith Stewardship Support

**Present**: Richard Auckland (Chair), Linda Badke, ~~Tabitha Carey~~. Robert Harris, Jim Hatt, James Haupt, Joshua Lawrence, Lilian Patey, Doug Peck, ~~Anthony Smith~~. *Guests*: Rushini Ponniah-Goulin from Windsor Mission and Laurie Logan from Kenesserie Camp attended for the time of their respective presentations only.

Ruthanna Mack; Kathy Douglas, Thérèse Samuel, John Egger, ~~Stephen Iverson~~,

**Minutes**

1. **Acknowledgement of the Land/Territory –** Richard shared a reflection on acknowledgment of territory. Joshua shared a reading from Richard Wagamese as a spiritual reflection.
2. **Welcome (Introductions – Introduce yourself, and share about someone you admire and why you admire them.)Opening Prayer *Richard***

\*We opened the floor to Rukshini Ponniah-Goulin at 10:30 a.m. to share some of the work at the Windsor Mission. **There is a recording of this presentation and Rukshini will provide us with her ppt**. As one of our MS Grant applicants and receivers, we are glad to hear about the outreach work done by Windsor Downtown Mission.

**\***Laurie Logan joined us at approximately 11:15 a.m. to share with us the work at Kenesserie Camp. Working hard to fundraise and progress with processing registration etc in easier ways. Big challenges in finding senior staff. (life guards etc needed) Still in process of hiring….not many but ‘good’ leadership. Accolades to Director Dan Richards. Big reliance on MS Grants to help subsidize registration. There continues to be great to erosion and this will require moving cabins and dining hall.

**Kathy wondered/proposed** Would a ‘jump on a bus/car pool and visit the camps’ in action event be helpful in reminding the churches (Communities of Faith) about the camp ministry?

1. **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.***
2. **Approval of Agenda for June 20, 2023**

MOTION by *Linda/Joshua* that the Discipleship and Justice Commission of Antler River Watershed Regional Council …

MOTION  **CARRIED**

**5)Approval of Minutes from May 2, 2023**

MOTION by *Joshua/Richard* that the Discipleship and Justice Commission of Antler River Watershed Regional Council …

MOTION **CARRIED**

1. **Approval of Minutes from March 9, 2023**

MOTION by *Linda/Jim Haupt* that the Discipleship and Justice Commission of Antler River Watershed Regional Council

MOTION **CARRIED**

1. **Funds available** *(As recorded in Events and Meetings Funds Tracking sheet in Dropbox)*
   1. **Events fund balance available as of the last meeting: $6913**
   2. **Meeting Fund balance available as of the last meeting: $4875**
2. **Record of Email Votes since the last meeting: none**
3. **Business Arising:**
4. **Global Heating – report attached; Consider the question: How could the D&J Commission amplify the message in the report?**

The commission struggled with how to offer support and response to share we are trying to get information out to wider church and local church. Richard will respond to this letter with support from information this commission offers.

1. **Health Coalition (deferred from our May meeting):**

This vote/item is over. How does this commission bring these political and justice issues to the front and how do we support those doing the work beyond these commission members?

1. **Indigenous Church Remit Update**

Before the regional councils met, Thérèse and Cathy Hird met with the chairs of the Discipleship and Justice commissions of Horseshoe Falls and Antler River Watershed. Both were keen to support the remit process and agreed that pastoral charges would need to be contacted in order to help them with the process.

After the three regions had met, we met again and were joined by Cheryl-Ann Stadelbauer-Sampa, Mark Laird (he’ll be stepping in to the executive minister role when C-A is on sabbatical), and the new staff person John Egger. At this meeting, we refined our sense of the process to include an initial email with follow up phone calls. Admin staff will prepare a contact list for us, and a newsletter will go out around the time of the National Indigenous Spiritual Gathering to inform about the remit process and encourage people to engage with Indigenous communities over the summer and fall. Thérèse will prepare a webinar to be held before the regions vote on the remit.

Cheryl-Ann pointed out that this is an opportunity for the three commissions to engage with communities of faith. The review that was just completed highlighted this disconnect. Therefore, it is hoped that members of the commissions will take on the role of contact person for a few congregations, say between four and ten, as we are comfortable.

Recruiting for contact people has begun, and seven people from WOW have stepped forward. Given there are 140 pastoral charges, we hope to have fifteen contact people. Suggestions of people to follow up with are more than welcome.

Thérèse will share with Cathy monthly updates on which CoFs have voted.

The timeline has been emailed to all the commission members.

1. **Correspondence:**
2. **New Business:**

**Please send Richard ideas about recruitment for this commission**

**Linda Badke is wishing to step off as rep for Social and Ecological Justice group in ARW. If someone wishes to take her place, please let Richard know.**

**Cyclone Freddie…information from Bill Butt and asking for prayers. We will be sure to send details to go on FB. And maybe newsletters. Richard will follow up on that.**

1. **Reports:**

* **ARW Region Social and Ecological Justice Network - Linda**
* **Kathy**
  + **YOUTH Program for this summer across the church**

The Church in Mission has hired Climate Motivators (high school) as part of Canada Summer Jobs program. They have also hired 3 Young Adult Coordinators. Our regions have had successful candidates. These young people will work in their communities of faith, in their communities and across Canada to effect Climate Justice.

The three coordinators are, Skylar Boylan from Bermuda-Nova Scotia RC, **Conor Russell, Western Ontario Waterways, and Thea Sheridan-Jonah, originally from Horseshoe Falls** and now residing in Pacific Mountain.

Here are the selected Motivators:

Kaleo Duncanson-Hales - Canadian Shield, working with St. Andrew's UC, North Bay

Ellia Perdue - East Central Ontario, working with Cambridge Street UC, Lindsay

Kara Burke - East Central Ontario, working with Cambridge Street UC, Lindsay

**Dan Kapenda - Horseshoe Falls, working with Trillium UC, Cambridge**

**Jackson Rukundo - Horseshoe Falls, working with Trillium UC, Cambridge**

**Magdalen van der Wijst - Horseshoe Falls, working with Norval UC, Norval**

**Matthew Tyhurst - Horseshoe Falls, working with St. Andrew's UC, Georgetown**

**Sifa Kanyamuneza - Horseshoe Falls, working with Trillium UC, Cambridge**

Leo Salamon - Living Skies, working with St. Martin's UC, Saskatoon

Ben Johnson - Pacific Mountain, working with Kamloops UC, Kamloops

Anna Ramsey - Prairie to Pine, working with Knox UC, Brandon

Elijah Kanhai - Prairie to Pine, working with UC in Meadowood, Winnipeg

Tord Mitchell - Prairie to Pine (identifies Indigenous), working with Knox UC in Brandon

Kyla Mills - Bermuda-Nova Scotia, working with Bethany UC, Hammond's Plains

Danna Finnie - Shining Waters, working with Sparrow Lake Camp and Kingston Road UC, Toronto

These folks will have a very busy summer from July 3-August 25, working together online and in their local communities of faith, as well as spending two weeks together at Camp Pringle from July 24-August 4. A general overview of the summer looks like:

We are working with GC Communications staff to develop some ways to tell the church, other youth, and others engaged in climate justice about what is happening. We will be encouraging the motivators and local communities of faith to use the #UCCanclimatemotivators to tell about their experiences. Please watch for and repost anything you see to spread the word!

* **Thérèse**

1. Antiracism UCC 360- Follow-up sessions with Rev. Alcris Limongi for June-Sept Previously approved May 2nd: $500 from ARW DJ Commission DJ Commission. These have been postponed to Jan, 2024. This will come out of the 2024 budget instead.
2. Summer plans: Vacation July 23-Aug 11; Will likely be at Lambton Centre Camp Aug 20-25
3. Fishbowl Gathering- Regional Council in partnership with The Hub- Tentative Date Tuesday Sept 26, 2023, evening. See below

**Fishbowl Gathering- Regional Council in partnership with The Hub- Tentative Date Tuesday Sept 26, 2023, evening.** **Background**: Post-COVID, Youth leaders struggle to put together groups. A message often heard from many youth in the church is that what’s being offered doesn’t work for them. Being an intercultural church includes finding ways to bridge communication between different age groups/generations.

**Goal**- To offer a forum that brings together youth and adult leaders in the church, and allows the two groups to hear one another and be heard by one another, and to consider what might be the Spirit’s invitation to the church for youth ministry at this time.

**Program outline-** This online gathering will use a “fishbowl” process in which

* Questions will be prepared in advance, and provided to the participants
* Youth will have an opportunity to reflect in a small circle about their concerns, questions and hopes, etc. for their involvement in church, and for adult leaders to hear.
* Adult leaders will have the opportunity to share their concerns, questions and hopes, etc. for the youth to hear.

Each group will be invited to reflect on what they have heard and consider possible next steps.

Participants will be given questions for reflection and feedback, to be returned following the session.

**Who:**

* *Leaders/planning group* are Adam Cresswell of The Hub/Trinity UC, Kitchener, and triregional staff Thérèse Samuel and Kathy Douglas.
* *Potential participants will be invited to apply:*
* 8 Youth connected with The Hub and other UCCs in the regions (exact age of youth is to be determined, likely approx high school to 20s)
* 8 adult leaders .

Participants will be asked to agree in advance to sharing reflection/feedback following the session.

This is to be a pilot project. Reflection and feedback from facilitators and participants will be used to discern whether to consider offering future sessions.

Honorarium: $105 per participant

Youth would each receive an honorarium

* Adults who are not being paid for their participation (i.e. not in paid accountable ministry) would also receive an honorarium.

Budget for 16 participants: $1680 = $560 per Regional Council.

***MOTION:* Moved by Jim Haupt/Linda that the ARW Discipleship and Justice Commission approve funding of $560 from the Events Budget toward a pilot online “fishbowl” workshop for an intercultural (i.e. cross-generational) fishbowl sharing between youth and adult leaders in congregations.  
MOVED CARRIED**

1. Affirming Network Request:

***Projected Costs*** for the Affirming Ministries Annual Meeting:

Registration for the weekend $ 125 ($95 for Saturday only).

A limited number of billets are available, and there is also a block of rooms set aside at the Double Tree hotel, which cost $219 per night plus tax = 261.75 per night with taxes. With tax that would be 523.50 for two nights.

Return transportation by train costs $300.00 from Toronto plus return travel from home to Toronto would. The train takes the better part of a day, and air transportation would likely cost at least $600. Mileage would be about $600. (I wonder if there might be someone from Toronto that could carpool.)

So, overall cost would be:

$600 Travel

$125 registration

$525 Accommodation or $0 if they billet.

**MOTION by Bob/Jim Haupt That the Discipleship and Justice Commission of Antler River Watershed support a member of the Tri-Regional Affirming Ministries Network to travel to Montreal for the Affirm United Annual General Meeting in Montreal with $420 from their Events budget.**MOVED CARRIED

***FURTHER CONSIDERATION for this and/or future years: Delegate from Regional Councils***

Each RC that is Affirming Ministry is eligible to send a voting delegate who can attend online. I asked the presidents whether they consider sending a voting delegate and have not heard back. Delegates can attend either in person or online. If a representative from the Affirming Ministries Network goes, they could represent their RC, but there would be two other RCs who could designate a delegate .

* **John-no report**
* **Stephen-not present**
* **Ruthanna-no report**
* **Other – no other reports**

1. **Update of Funds with Expenses or Adjustments made at this meeting or email votes:***(To be recorded in Events and Meetings Tracking form in Dropbox)*

ARW D&J **Events Budget** for 2023

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Meeting Date** | **Program:** | **$ Approved** | **Remaining** |
| **--** | **EVENTS ALLOCATION FOR 2023 is: $10,000** |  | **$10, 000** |
| January 21, 2023 (email) | Women’s Retreat (approved at January Meeting/via email vote) – event deferred   to fall Ann Corbet recipient | $587.00 | $9413 |
| March 24, 2023 | SJNORC 2023 | 1000 | $8413 |
| April 8, 2023 | Outdoor Ministries Institute | 400 | $8013 |
| April 8, 2023 | YATS | $1000 | $7013 |
| April 8, 2023 | Kids Across the Region | $500 | $6513 |
| May 2, 2023 | YATS cancelled | -$1000 | $7513 |
| May 2, 2023 | “MarioKart Tournament/Fun Day with a Cause” | $100 | $7413 |
| May 2, 2023 | UCC 360-Antiracism series | $500 | $6913 |
| June 20, 2023 | UCC 360 Antiracism Series is being deferred to 2024 budget | ($500) | $7413 |
| June 20, 2023 | Youth/Adult Leaders Fishbowl Conversation workshop | $560 | $6853 |
| June 20, 2023 | Affirming Network representative to Affirm United 2023 AGM | $420 | $6433 |
|  |  |  |  |

ARW D&J **Meetings Budget** for 2023

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Meeting Date** | **Meeting:** | **$ Approved** | **Remaining** |
| **--** | **MEETINGS ALLOCATION FOR 2023 is: $5000** |  | **$5000** |
| Jan 10, 2023 | Donation to Girl Guides of Canada in memory of Glenda MacMillan | $125 | $ 4875 |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |

1. **Next Meetings:** September 12, October 10 (to review Mission Support Grants),   
   and November 14
2. **Closing Words -Richard prayed**
3. **The chair declared the meeting ended following the prayer.**

**ARW Priorities**

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

**Camps/Youth**

**Living into Right Relations**

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