**Discipleship and Justice Commission**

**Antler River Watershed**

**of The United Church of Canada**

*Holding and Encouraging Communities of Faith*

**APPROVED Minutes**

***2023/09/12 from 10 am to 12 noon  
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:** Elizabeth Marshall-Administration

Ruthanna Mack (on long term leave- keep her in your prayers)

Kathy Douglas - Minister, Faith Formation **(lead for our group July - Dec)**

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.

**Staff:** Kathy Douglas, Elizabeth Marshall

**Guest**: Jeffrey Dale

**Minutes**

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 Anishinabek, the Lenae-Lenapewauk, 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 are but a people in transition as we are on this earth for a short time. Help us to be good caretakers of this land, Creator. As well, we seek a new, a better relationship with the Previous and Future Occupiers of this land, and the land itself, one based in honour and deep respect.

1. **Welcome/Welcome Back – Think of something you are anticipating this fall/Opening Prayer *Richard***
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.***

1. **Approval of Agenda for September 12, 2023**

MOTION by *Anthony Smith* / *Tabitha Carey* that the Discipleship and Justice Commission of Antler River Watershed Regional Council approve the agenda as circulated.

CARRIED

1. **Approval of Minutes from June 20, 2023**

MOTION by *Robert Harris* / *Tabitha Carey* that the Discipleship and Justice Commission of Antler River Watershed Regional Council approve the minutes of June 20, 2023.

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: $5433 (as at August 30)**
   2. **Meeting Fund balance available as of the last meeting: $4875 (as at June 30)**
2. **Record of Email Votes since the last meeting:** none
3. **Business Arising:**
4. **Callers for Remit Process – “Promote the Vote” – Richard**

The commission discussed spreading awareness through 140 churches in the Regional Council. Twelve Communities of Faith have voted so far. Members on the commission were encouraged to share this with their congregations, as well as assist with calling churches for awareness.

1. **Volunteer to sit on the Social & Ecological Justice Group for ARW – Richard**

This position is still vacant.

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

Hopelyn Butler (from ARW) is a youth/young adult who has been working with Shining Waters RC to create “Queer Conversations”, a project for young people to help discover their own identity.  This program was funded by the Vision Fund up until now, matching funds that SW gave.  To complete the work, the commission have been asked to also contribute $500 toward the match for the next section of work. Jeffrey Dale shared additional information about Hopelyn’s past, present and future work on this project, and shared a draft version.

It fits our priorities or visions (Affirming work and supporting Youth and Young Adults).  One of our churches (FSA in London with leadership from Marilyn Arthur) is being asked to mentor Hopelyn in this work and test out her resource. Commissioners should decide if and how we want to support it.

The commission discussed supporting the project to complete, refine, and launch the piloting of the draft.

MOTION by *Robert Harris* / *Tabitha Carey* that the Antler River Watershed Discipleship and Justice Commission approve the allocation of $750.00 from the Events Budget for Hopelyn Butler’s Queer Conversations project, to be dispersed from First St. Andrew’s United Church.

CARRIED

1. **Review ARW Priorities**

**Social Justice and Outreach**

**Living out our Affirm mandate**

**Camps/Youth**

**Living into Right Relations**

**Setting a % of how we want to designate the M&S Grant funds?**

Options were discussed how to best discern Mission Support Grants. Richard will research ways the commission has made decisions in the past.

1. **Reports:**

* **Kathy** 
  + **Mission Support Grants**

Staff have been working to create a template/chart to help prioritize the needs and determine awarding grants. Kathy is meeting with Sarah Charters at the National church to discuss further. Lillian offered to join Kathy on this call, Thursday, September 21 at 2pm on Zoom.

* + **Pastoral Support Webinar with Heather Leffler**

A successful event with 26 people in attendance, and excellent response from congregations looking for support in Pastoral support. The webinar will be available on YouTube.

MOTION by *Tabitha Carey / Jim Haupt* that the Antler River Watershed Discipleship and Justice Commission approve the allocation of $ 75 from the Events Budget for a 1/3 portion of the honorarium (Total $225) to Heather Leffler for her leadership in the Pastoral Support/Visitation Webinar on Sept 6, 2023.

CARRIED

* + **Camp Accreditation in ARW**

Staff are looking to engage in more conversations and intentions given to how the region (our churches) can deepening support for camps. The commission is looking for an individual to engage with staff in this area.

Each region will need to ‘appoint’ an individual who will work with staff to visit ARW camps in the near future to complete an accreditation process.

* **Thérèse**
  + **Pride Flags**

Conversation was shared regarding UCC pride flags being available for congregations. This item will be deferred to the October meeting with more information from staff (TS).

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

Events Budget - $75.00 to Heather Leffler

Events Budget - $750.00 to Hopelyn Butler’s Queer Conversations (First St. Andrew’s UC)

1. 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 |
| June 20, 2023 | SJNORC | $1000 | $5433 |
| September 12, 2023 | *Queer Conversations* – Hoplyn Butler (to First St. Andrew’s UC) | $750 | $4683 |
| September 12, 2023 | Honorarium for Leadership in the Pastoral Support/Visitation Webinar | $75 | $4,608 |

1. 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:** Wednesday, October 11 @ 9am Executive, 10:30am Orientation for all, LUNCH, 1-3pm D&J C Meeting (In person/online) Lambton Centre Camp

Tuesday, November 14 @ 10 am on zoom (review Mission Support Grants)

1. **Closing Words – Richard prayed**
2. **Adjournment –** **The chair declared the meeting adjourned following the prayer.**

**ARW Priorities**

**Social Justice and Outreach**

**living out our Affirm mandate**

**Camps/Youth**

**Living into Right Relations**

**-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------**

**Items tabled for Future Meetings**

* **Thérèse**
  + **Pride Flags**

Conversation was shared regarding UCC pride flags being available for congregations. This item will be deferred to the October meeting with more information from staff (TS).