**Discipleship and Justice Commission**

**Antler River Watershed**

**of The United Church of Canada**

*Holding and Encouraging Communities of Faith*

**DRAFT MINUTES**

***2023/11/14 at 10 am   
via Zoom***

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

**Staff Support:**  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

Elizabeth Marshall - Administration

**Present**: Linda Badke (Acting Chair), Tabitha Carey, Robert Harris, Jim Hatt, James Haupt, Joshua Lawrence, Lillian Patey, Doug Peck

**Regrets:** Richard Auckland, Anthony Smith

**Staff:** Brenna Baker, Kathy Douglas, Krista Ford, Thérèse Samuel, ~~John Egger,~~ Elizabeth Marshall

**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 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 relationship with the Previous Occupiers of this land, one based in honour and deep respect.

Let us be reminded that we live, work, and have our being on the traditional lands of Indigenous Peoples.

The lands where we live, learn and work hold the ancestral connections and stories of Indigenous peoples since time immemorial.  However, colonization has orchestrated the displacement of First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples from their ancestral lands and hindered their ability to be good relations with the land.  Indigenous peoples are actively maintaining and strengthening their relationships with the land which are grounded in respect, reciprocity, and resiliency. (<https://www.uoguelph.ca/land-acknowledgement>)

The original peoples have sought to walk gently on this land, and we endeavor to follow their example. We seek a new relationship with First Nation peoples through Truth and Reconciliation and we actively seek Right Relations based in honour and with deep respect.

1. **Welcome/Opening Devotion – Matthew 25:35-36 - *Linda Badke***
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.***
3. **Approval of Agenda for November 14, 2023**

MOTION by Jim Haupt / Jim Hatt that the Discipleship and Justice Commission of Antler River Watershed Regional Council to accept the agenda as distributed/amended.

MOTION CARRIED

1. **Approval of Minutes from October 11, 2023**

MOTION TABLED

**Declaration of Conflict of Interest:**

Jim Hatt – Downtown Mission, Chaplain  
Linda Badke – London Chaplaincy, Volunteer

1. **MS Grants:**
   1. **Review of grant applications, discussion, and discernment of grant allocations.**

The priorities established for Antler River Watershed are social justice and outreach (living out our Affirm mandate), camps/youth, and living into right relations. The commission is looking for projects that align with these priorities. Another high priority discussed is investing in people through innovating positions to strengthen ministries.

There is $150,000 available to grant, with applications requestion more than double the amount at $311,912. The difference is $161,912. Members were encouraged to look at each application individually. The commission chose to breakdown the applications by category to discuss.

**CAMPS – Kee-Mo-Kee, Kenesserie Camp, Lambton Centre, Pearce Williams**

It was agreed that investing in staffing positions should be a priority in delivering programming through camps. Camps historically find it more difficult to raise money for operations and staff salaries as people are less motivated to give towards those important roles. In this situation, MS Grants cannot be used for capital projects, but are very inclined to support staff roles. Camps are invaluable ministries and a priority of the region. If all camps are given the amount requested, this would total $124,500 ($25,500 left in the funds available). It was suggested to give each camp 50% of the amount requested. Sharing staff positions between camps was discussed to reduce costs. Some of the difficulties could be distance. Retention of these positions is also a challenge, whereas a full-time position might be more attractive.

**RESOURCE CENTRES**

With great discussion, the outcome for the Resource Centres was that they do not align with the priorities of the region and would not be supported this year.

**LARGE PROJECTS – 5 Oaks, The Hub, Downtown Mission, ELUCO**

Jim Hatt declared conflict of interest and removed himself for the conversation regarding the UC Downtown Mission of Windsor. Jim returned after comments were shared and a figure was suggested.

**CHAPLAINCIES – London Community Chaplaincy, Ridgetown Chaplaincy**

Linda Badke declared conflict of interest as a volunteer for the London Chaplaincy. Kathy took over as Chair. After discussion and a suggestion of $10,000 towards the London Chaplaincy, Linda resumed the role as the meeting Chair.

**Please see the summarized comments in the chart below for the outcomes discussed for each individual application.**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Organization** | **Amount Requested** | **Amount Allocated  to be granted** | **Comments** |
| Five Oaks | $10,000.00 | $10,000 | Great Intercultural work with other denominations and First Nations to deliver meaningful programming. |
| Camp Kee-Mo-Kee | $9,500.00 | $9,500 | Touches on each of the priorities listed, pleased with on-going programs, significant participation, exciting to continue to invest and cultivating young leaders. Always ask for a different focus in creative ministries, prioritizing investing in people. |
| Christian Resource Centre | $5,000.00 | $0.00 | No longer aligning with the region’s priorities. Other funding sources was suggested in the last granting cycle. |
| ELUCO | $25,000.00 | $13,000 | Has supported for 39 years and would like to continue to support. However, the commission does not see the sustainability, and would like more planning for raising funds and visioning for future initiatives. |
| Grand River Resource Centre | $5,000.00 | $0.00 | No longer aligning with the region’s priorities. Other funding sources was suggested in the last granting cycle. |
| Kenesserie Camp | $25,000.00 | $14,250 | After the hardships of the previous season, the allocation of funds will support the camp be sustainable. |
| Lambton Centre | $50,000.00 | $28,250 | Considerable growth, programming offered outside of summer season, and the camp is used well. Supporting the camp with the salary for their Executive Direction. The commission felt a lot of momentum through the application and want to continue to support that momentum. |
| London Community Chaplaincy | $18,000.00 | $10,000 | Important role with new supports for youth, young families, and parents. |
| Pearce Williams | $40,000.00 | $20,000 | Providing programs all year round, supporting an Indigenous advisor position, although would like to see a plan with new ways of connecting and a lot more visioning for the future. There is staff support available for this type of work for camps to connect better. |
| Ridgetown Chaplaincy | $4,000.00 | $4,000 | Important ministries to support young people which is a high priority within the region. |
| Siloam UC London | -- | -- |  |
| TUC Kitchener - The Hub | $25,000.00 | $20,000 | Creating safe and inclusive spaces for young people, and finding creative ways forward by forming decentralized networks. |
| UC Downtown Mission of Windsor Inc. | $49,956.00 | $21,000 | Another long-term mission supported by the region. The commission is unable to commit to a multi-year grant (the amount requested was entered in the spreadsheet at 50% for a one-year commitment). |
| Total: | $266,456.00 | $150,000 | TOTAL AVAILABLE: $150,000 |

* 1. MOTION by *Lillian Patey/Jim Haupt* that the Discipleship & Justice Commission award grants for 2024 in the amount of $150,000 to the organizations as listed in the summary sheet above.

MOTION CARRIED

Difficult decisions were made with the limited funding available. It was noted that the region does not anticipate more funding in future years and that programs or ministries which have depended on funding may face less support from the region.

Stewardship Support Staff, Brenna Baker, shared that the funding available for Mission Support Grants start at the congregational level. Funds weren’t cut, the giving was decreased. If commissioners or volunteers are concerned with this, it is important to go to your congregations and encourage them to donate to M&S which is shared locally to these ministries, and nationally. Brenna is available as a support person to help with this.

Jim Hatt offered to sign the letter to the London Chaplaincy to excuse Linda Badke from that duty as a conflict of interest. Linda will write letters to the remaining list of recipients.

1. **Next Meetings:**

2024 – January 16, March 5, May 7, June 4, September 10, October 8 (MSG Review), November 5

1. **Closing Words**
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**

1. **Approval of Minutes from October 11, 2023**

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