**Discipleship and Justice Commission**

**Antler River Watershed**

**of The United Church of Canada**

*Holding and Encouraging Communities of Faith*

**APPROVED MINUTES**

***2024/03/05 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.

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

 Thérèse Samuel — Minister for Right Relations and Social Justice

 John Egger — Minister, Social Justice

Brenna Baker – Community of Faith Stewardship Support

Greg Smith-Young — Growth Animator

Elizabeth Marshall — Administration

**Present**: ~~Richard Auckland (Chair)~~, Linda Badke, Tabitha Carey (chair for this meeting), Robert Harris, Jim Hatt, James Haupt, Joshua Lawrence, Lillian Patey, Doug Peck

**Staff:** Kathy Douglas, Thérèse Samuel, John Egger, Brenna Baker, Greg Smith Young,
Elizabeth Marshall

**Regrets:** Richard Auckland

**Agenda**

1. **Acknowledgement of the Land/Territory –** Kathy opened with a land acknowledgement and opening prayer.

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 Prayer -** Please keep in your prayers, the innocent people who have been affected so greatly by conflicts around the world whether in the Ukraine/Russia, Israel/Palestine or elsewhere. May peace and cooler heads prevail.

Greg Smith-Young introduced himself as one of the Growth Animators. He invited each of the members to introduce themselves as well.

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 March 5, 2024**

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

MOTION CARRIED

1. **Approval of Minutes from November 14, 2023**

MOTION by *Jim Hatt* / *Robert Harris* that the Discipleship and Justice Commission of Antler River Watershed Regional Council approve the minutes of November 14, 2023, as amended.

MOTION CARRIED

1. **Funds Available (see fund details below)**
	1. **Events fund balance available as of the last meeting: $9,500**
	2. **Meeting Fund balance available as of the last meeting: $3,000**
2. **Record of Email Votes since the last meeting: N/A**
3. **Business Arising:**
	1. **MS Grants Update (December) -** have been forwarded to National Office for distribution
	2. **Representative from D&J Commission to serve on the Volunteer Recruitment Committee for ARW –** Jim Hatt offered to serve on the committee which has met once so far (end of January). There is discussion to have two representatives so that one person from the commission is present at each meeting. This committee is shared between all three regions.

Some discussion was shared about the difficulty of recruitment in both the regionally and local levels, opening ideas on how to engage more people effectively. Kathy talked about Cheryl-Ann’s presentation on recruitment and membership which has had a positive response. An example is that there are people in congregations who aren’t aware that they can be involved at a regional level.

1. **Correspondence - N/A**
2. **New Business:**
	1. **Overview of Sharepoint**There is a presentation available to go help acquaint members with Sharepoint. Some learning styles might be better suited to give it a try. Reach out to Kathy & Thérèse for assistance. After a show of hands, there is a wide range of comfort levels using Sharepoint. Kathy will connect with Richard to see if a training session of some sort could be provided for those who are interested.
3. **Reports:**
* **ARW Region Social and Ecological Justice Network - Linda**Linda was unable to attend.
* **Kathy -** the report is in Sharepoint to review. Reach out to Kathy to inquire.

MOTION by Joshua Lawrence / Jim Hatt that the Antler River Watershed RC Discipleship and Justice Commission approve the allocation of $75 from the Events/Meetings Budget for 1/3 contribution of honorarium for Rev Jeffrey Dale for leadership with Music Ministry Webinar held Monday, March 4.
CARRIED

Kathy shared that there were 20 people in attendance at this event. It was found that approximately 30 minutes of worship includes music. Most churches surveyed have volunteer or part-time musicians. There is an interesting correlation between the impact that music brings to people in worship, while considering the limited resources (administrative, financially, etc.) to purposefully include music in appropriate ways.
* **Thérèse -** shared an update on her report.Audacious Hope **-** as leaders in D&J, this is an energizing youth event to know and share. It was previously known as “Rendez-vous.”

There was some discussion regarding purchasing pride stickers to be given out to churches, or other potential ways to share that the region is affirming. Some options included:
- a message to share that ARW and certain communities of faith within are affirming
- a link to find more information about affirming ministries in ARW
- a simple message or scripture to affirm people in that moment

It was decided that a few members could talk further about these options and come back to the commission with a proposal. Doug Peck, Robert Harris, Tabitha Carey, and Jim Hatt offered to be part of this. Individuals will think further before collaborating ideas together. Thérèse is staff support for this initiative.
1. **Summary of Fund Expenses or Adjustments made at this meeting or email votes:**
**Events/Meetings Budget:** $75.00 for 1/3 contribution of honorarium for Rev Jeffrey Dale for leadership with Music Ministry Webinar held Monday, March 4.
2. **ARW D&J Events Budget for 2024**

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| **2024 Events Budget**  | **$10,000**  |
| **Description of Event/Program**  | **Date**  | **Amount**  | **Remaining**  |
| UCC 360 Antiracism Program – Alcris Limongi  (deferred from June 20, 2023, anticipated program moved to 2024)  | TBA  | $500.00  | $9,500.00  |
| Music Ministry Webinar – Honorarium, Rev. Jeffrey Dale | March 4th | $75.00 | $9,425.00  |
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| TOTAL REMAINING:  | $9,425.00  |

1. **ARW D&J Meetings Budget for 2024**

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| **2024 Meetings Budget**  | **$3,000**  |
| **Description of Meeting/Expense**  | **Date**  | **Amount**  | **Remaining**  |
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| TOTAL REMAINING:  | $3,000  |

**Next Meetings:** 2024 –May 7, June 4, June 13th – orientation, September 10, October 8 (MSG Review), November 5

1. **Closing Prayer -** Lillian
2. **Chair Declares Meeting Closed**

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**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**

- Proposal for pride stickers

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