**Discipleship and Justice Commission**

**Antler River Watershed**

**of The United Church of Canada**

*Holding and Encouraging Communities of Faith*

**APPROVED MINUTES**

***2023/03/09 at 10 am   
via Zoom***

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

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

Thérèse Samuel – Minister for Right Relations and Social Justice

Brenna Baker – Community of Faith Stewardship Support

Ruthanna Mack-Administration

Position Vacant - Minister, Social Justice

**Present**: Richard Auckland (Chair), ~~Linda Badke~~, ~~Cheryl Bolton~~, Tabitha Carey. ~~Robert Harris~~, ~~James Haupt,~~ Joshua Lawrence, ~~Anthony Smith.~~ Jeffrey Dale, Jenny Stephens, Diane Matheson-Jimenez, Kathy Douglas, Thérèse Samuel, Brenna Baker, Ruthanna Mack

**Minutes**

1. **Acknowledgement of the Land/Territory – Joshua to share (Reminder that we will take turns sharing our own take on the Land Acknowledgement at future meetings)**

**Tabitha Carey will do the Land Acknowledgement for next time**

1. **Welcome/Opening Prayer - with spring upon us, be prepared to share one word that would describe your mood today**
2. **MOTION: To make Jenny Stephens, Diane Matheson-Jimenez, and Jeffrey Dale Corresponding Members for this meeting. They can be part of the discussion, without a right to vote.**

**Moved: Tabitha Carey** **Seconded: Joshua Lawrence**  
**MOTION** **CARRIED**

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 9, 2023**

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

MOTION CARRIED

1. **Approval of Minutes from January 10, 2023**

MOTION by Tabitha Carey/Joshua Lawrence that the Discipleship and Justice Commission of Antler River Watershed Regional Council adopt the draft minutes (as amended) from January 10, 2023.

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: $#####**
   2. **Meeting Fund balance available as of the last meeting: $#####**
2. **Record of Email Votes since the last meeting:**
3. MOTION by *Linda Badke/Jim* Haupt that the Discipleship and Justice Commission of Antler River Watershed Regional Council approve the minutes of December 13, 2023

CARRIED via email vote Jan. 21/23

1. MOTION: Joshua Lawrence/Jim Haupt that we support a donation of $587 to the Women’s retreat 2023 (Ann Corbet) from our events budget.

CARRIED via email vote Jan. 21/23

1. **Business Arising:**
2. **From our September meeting regarding the Affirm action, we need to think about how we have enacted Affirm in our Commission**  
   **Follow up with camps as to what they are doing vis a vis Affirm and accessiblility**
3. **Correspondence:**

**a) thank you email from ELUCO (shared via email previously)**

1. **New Business:**
2. **Presentation by Diane Matheson-Jimenez on Social Justice Network of Ontario Region (SJNORC) (approximately 10:20 a.m.) – 10 minutes + 5 for discussion**  
   **Covenant was prior to formation of the Regions. Need to figure out who relates to the SJNORC and who pays the fee. Now passed to ARW to pay. Need to have someone from the commission be a rep on that group.**

**See the “Cheryl-Ann Antler” & “SJNORC Covenant” documents in Dropbox**

**MOTION: To continue support of the Social Justice Network of Ontario (SJNORC) in the amount of $1000 for 2023 from the Events budget**

**MOTION: Tabatha Carey/Joshua Lawrence** **CARRIED**

**Questions: concern of lack of clean drinking water for Indigenous communities**  
 **SJNORC – information body mainly**  
 **If we’re giving you $1000 what are you going to do with that money?**

**MOTION: To appoint ... to SJNORC to represent the region and report back to the Discipleship & Justice Commission on SJNORC’s activities.**

**Moved/Seconded:** **Confirmed/Not confirmed**

**Motion Tabled**

**Richard will put it out the Commission via email.**

1. **Presentation by Jeffrey Dale, Shining Waters Region on Substance Use**

**– 15 minutes + 5 for Q & A**  
 **General Council: working towards harm reduction for those who use**  **substances.**

[**https://www.united-in-learning.com/index.php/webinars/recordings/402-**](https://www.united-in-learning.com/index.php/webinars/recordings/402-seeking-to-reduce-harm-recordings) **seeking-to-reduce-harm-recordings**   
  
 **- interest in addressing the obstacles with using Naloxone Kits**  
 **- hoping to build a network across the country concerning drug use**   **and harm reduction**

**Notes from Jefferey to follow**

**Presentation by reviewer – Jenny Stephens – approx. 45 minutes**

1. **Presentation by Thérèse Samuel on** United Church’s adoption of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the UC’s repudiation of the Doctrine of Discovery and terra nullius.  (deferred)

### FYI - Advertisement for the new position which will further support our Commission’s work:

### [Minister, Social Justice/Partner Program Director-Southwest Ont. RC/Five Oaks](https://united-church.ca/opportunities/minister-social-justicepartner-program-director-southwest-ont-rcfive-oaks)

The Regional Councils of Southwest Ontario of The United Church of Canada and Five Oaks Centre is seeking an individual to fill the role of Minister, Social Justice/Partner Program Director on a full-time basis (35 hours per week) for a two-year term.

**Opening Date:** 2023-03-01  
**Closing Date:** 2023-03-20

1. **FYI - Recruitment of lay people to join the Regional Council (and the Commissions)**

* **Be intentional. Be invitational. Consider individuals who might join our ranks.**

1. **Reports:**

* **ARW Region Social and Ecological Justice Network – Linda (no report at this time)**
* **Kathy (written report)**  
  1. Working with folks around Refugee Advisory Groups. For people hoping or currently doing refugee work. There will be zoom gathering to bring those involved in refugee sponsorship.
* 2. Kids Across the Regions Event June 16-18 at Camp Bimini. Built on Children at Conference (London Con) this event offers short camp experience for kids trying overnight camp, leadership development for teens and young adults, a community building opportunity for Children and Youth Ministry folk. In an effort to ‘rebuild’ our region wide events, and children ministry in general we want to reduce barriers. Cost is one barrier. If all three D&J Commissions subsidize this camp at $500 each we can keep the participant fee between $75-$100. Watch for poster and registration.
* Moved by (mover/seconder) that the Horseshoe Falls Discipleship and Justice Commission approve the allocation of $500 from the Events (or Meetings) Budget for Kids Across the Regions Event (June 16-18, 2023 at Camp Bimini. This will act as a subsidy to reduce participant fees.
* 3. Working with For the Love of Creation <https://fortheloveofcreation.ca/earth-week/>

Together for the Love of Creation Online Session

Zoom: Tuesday, March 7 at 12:30 pm ET

With Moderator, Carmen Lansdowne

During Earth Week 2023 (April 16–23), The United Church of Canada is joining with numerous sibling denominations and faith-based organizations under one banner, Together for the Love of Creation. During Earth Week, we invite you to hold events to pray, learn, and act for climate justice.

Ready to take action? On Tuesday, March 7, 2023, at 12:30 p.m. EST, come learn more, brainstorm possibilities, and hear from Moderator, Carmen Lansdowne at the Together for the Love of Creation Zoom session.

* 4. YAYA Gathering in Winnipeg. I have been away at this I the first weekend in March.
* 5 YAT Forum 2023 YAT Forum: Surface Pressure SAVE: Friday, April 28 - Sunday, April 30, Lambton Centre, Lambton Shores
* Do you love to be inspired, challenged to think, meet new people & hang out with good friends??? Do you enjoy being in an open & welcoming community where you are free to be completely yourself? Faith, fellowship and connection is what YAT Forum is all about.

✤ Kenji Marui ✤ Doug Peck ✤ Marilyn Arthur ✤   
 Deadline for registration is April 14!

* **Thérèse (written report)**

1. Antiracism series

Reporting here although it was a program paid for by Executives

Feb 7th 208 were registered, 148 came. Next session is the morning of March 7th. Will share a verbal update at the meeting.

Registration at the time of writing is 222. People asking for the video were told to register.

Registration is still open. People who register now can watch the video and attend on Mar 7.: https://catalog.churchx.ca/productcatalog=UILX1150 Video is available until April 6.

Due to concerns about readability, and a privacy concern, the video was edited.

Selam’s administrator made an error in setting up the meeting, which resulted in some not able to enter and the meeting had to be closed and re-opened again. She completed the session and 111 stayed to the end. The video is available for all who had to leave early to see what they missed

CHURCHx made it possible to send a note to all 208 people with one click. Without CHURCHx it would have taken 15-20 minutes to send emails in batches of 15.

2. Registration still open for the Lenten Study (Tues Feb 28 and Mar 28):  
 Feb 28, Session 1: 39 registered, 30 attended.  
 Mar 28 session still open for registrations:

3. In the United Church of Canada, March 14 is PIE Day, also called National Affirming Day.

Several regions are collaborating to support a workshop that evening. The guest is a highly regarded 2Spirit (Indigenous) speaker. Click the link for info about the session: PIE Day Workshop - Ozhawa Anung Kweon - Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council (wowrcucc.ca) Our Tri-regional Affirming Network has endorsed it.

4. Networks:

a. Tri-Regional Affirming Network: I suggest the commission also reach out to the Affirming Network. They have a lot on their plate and are doing an awesome job supporting communities of faith in the process. Robin Sherman is Chair and Deborah Laforet is Secretary.

5. Emerging Events: Possible event being planned for Fall, 2023: Online “Fishbowl” with 8 Youth/Young Adults from The Hub, and 8 Seniors who are leaders from various congregations. I am in talks with Adam Cresswell from The Hub/Trinity UC Kitchener on initial plans.

6. Presentation at the three regional spring meetings, in preparation for the remit vote.

\* \* \* \* \* \* \*

I have added an intro to the Doctrine of Discovery to the presentation that was offered last meeting. Here is the link to background info for that.

ADDITIONAL BACKGROUND INFORMATION TO THE REMIT:

The United Church Repudiation of the Doctrine of Discovery

Backgrounder and 2012 Motion to Repudiate the Doctrine of Discovery (united-church.ca)

[Backgrounder and 2012 Motion to Repudiate the Doctrine of Discovery (united-church.ca)](https://united-church.ca/sites/default/files/2022-08/doctrine-discovery-backgrounder-motion.pdf)

[The Doctrine of Discovery | CMHR (humanrights.ca)](https://humanrights.ca/story/doctrine-discovery)

**Thérèse's report additional note:**

* i. approx 110 people attended this session ( am not sure of exact number).
* ii. numerous challenges with tech.
* iii. there was also more material than we were able to include in the session.
* iv. In conversations about 3 more sessions, Alcris and I would co-plan and co-facilitate, would offer Alcris an honorarium of $500 per session
* v. If going ahead, will ask for an official motion possibly by email.
* **Brenna**  
  **Easter M&S Resources:** Will be available on M&S website: <https://united-church.ca/worship-theme/mission-and-service-worship>

“For the Love of Creation” is a worship service for the Sunday after Easter (Earth Week) that highlights how M&S is confronting climate change and inspires communities of faith to make a difference. Great for a lay-led service, and could really be used anytime.

**Mission and Service Impact Stories** If you know of a partner in mission that’s doing great things or have a great story from one of our grant recipients, please let me know. The folks that write the stories are looking for fresh examples of Mission and Service donations at work.

* **Spring Stewardship Modules:**
* **Stewardship Best Practices (Module 1)** starts week of March 20. Learning Teams are invited to register to learn about how to cultivate stewardship as a year-round, on-going spiritual practice in your community of faith. The course is four 2-hour sessions learning with a cohort, incorporating hands on work like writing a case for support, how to communicate your vision, etc. Space is limited so register now! Here’s the registration and more info: <https://www.united-in-learning.com/index.php/ctbtc/445-ctbtc-mod-1-stewardship-best-practices>

Includes a customized report for your congregation and on-going coaching.

**Getting Started in Stewardship –** the first step in your stewardship journey.This webinar gives a quick overview of the Called to be the Church: The Journey stewardship program and resources. Individuals may attend this and then determine if they’re ready to form a team and continue the process.

* Offered next on May 2 at 6:30pm
* Registration is open here: <https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=qLUYz3gmEUCTEhXw9xV1dAO0ht3KpoFDrfiQuQ8iIvNURFpYTk1GVk1WN1g5NEJTMENYRFpWMDVBMS4u>

* **Module 2 – Setting Up Your Giving Program –** This is a two week series designed for congregations planning a stewardship campaign for the fall. It discusses inviting people to give, what should be in the invitation package, and how to thank people in a meaningful way. This module next begins the week of May 15 and each community of faith would need a learning team of 3-4.
* **Ruthanna**
* **Other**

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 FUND:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **2023 Events Budget** | |
| **Description of Expense or Adjustment** | **$** |
| January - Women’s Retreat (approved at January Meeting/via email vote) – event deferred   to fall Ann Corbet recipient | $587 |
| SJNORC | $1000.00 |
|  |  |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **2023 Meetings Budget** | |
| **Description of Expense or Adjustment** | **$** |
| January – donation in memory of Glenda MacMillan | $125 |

**Next Meetings:** May 9, June 13, September 12, October 10 (to review Mission Support Grants), and November 14

1. **Closing Words**
2. **Adjournment**

**Jenny Stephens’ Bio**

Jenny is United Church clergy and a member of WOW as she lives in Cambridge with Mocha, her 13-year-old Wheaten Terrier. She retired at the end of April 2022 from the Office of Vocation (OV) at the General Council Office where she facilitated drawing the learning from previous projects to design the OV. OV has specific responsibility and collaborates with regional councils around ministry formation, admission, and oversight and discipline of ministry personnel. Hiring staff, training volunteers and getting the OV up and running was fun! 16 years as Conference Personnel Minister in Hamilton Conference informed the design and approach. Ministry in Neepawa and Area larger Parish in Manitoba for 4 years provided opportunity to test the call to ordination and lots of learning about team ministry and rural life. Settled in Underwood-Wesley pastoral charge (former Bruce presbytery) and serving for 7 years allowed more engagement in rural life along with presbytery and Conference Ministry, Personnel and Education type work. Then the move to the Hamilton Conference Office and another great team.

**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**