**Discipleship and Justice Commission**

**Antler River Watershed**

**of The United Church of Canada**

*Holding and Encouraging Communities of Faith*

**DRAFT MINUTES**

***2024/06/13 at 2 pm***    
***in person at St Andrews United Church, Chatham and 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~~. ~~Robert Harris~~, Jim Hatt,    
James Haupt (online), Joshua Lawrence, Lillian Patey (in California online), Doug Peck.    
***(cross out those not in attendance)*** 

**Staff:**  ~~Kathy Douglas,~~ Thérèse Samuel, ~~John Egger, Brenna Baker, Greg Smith-Young, Elizabeth Marshall~~ ***(cross out those not in attendance)***

**Agenda**

1. **Acknowledgement of the Land/Territory – completed during orientation session**

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 – completed during orientation in the morning**
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 June 13, 2024**

MOTION by Linda Badke */ Jim Hatt* that the Discipleship and Justice Commission of Antler River Watershed Regional Council accept the agenda as distributed.

MOTION CARRIED

1. **Approval of Minutes from May 7, 2024**

Amendments:

MOTION by Jim Hatt/ Linda Badke that the Discipleship and Justice Commission of Antler River Watershed Regional Council approve the minutes of May 7, 2024 as circulated. (These are posted in Sharepoint under the meeting on May 7, 2024)

MOTION CARRIED

1. **Funds Available (see fund details below)**
   1. **Events fund balance available as of the last meeting: $5,350**
   2. **Meeting Fund balance available as of the last meeting: $3,000**
2. **Record of Email Votes since the last meeting: none**
3. **Business Arising:**
   1. **Pride Stickers -** Thérèse has these, contact her if you or someone you know wishes some; ~$750 + tax; how do we distribute them? newsletter request through Therese – Richard to draft note to go in newsletter
   2. **Volunteer Recruitment Committee – Jim Hatt – haven't met as of yet; upcoming meeting**
   3. **Dresden Landfill article submitted for newsletter (Wanda Winfield)**
4. **Correspondence**
   1. **Supervised Consumption Sites (open letter) & possible action (forwarded for insertion in the newsletter at the Tri-Regional Meeting, shared with those interested)**
   2. **Letter of thanks from UNJPPI (see below)**
5. **New Business:** 
   1. **Presentation by St Vincent de Paul Society**
   2. **Reviewing the Evaluation of ARW’s and specifically, the Discipleship & Justice Commission’s operations (see “Going Deeper - Section 7”) – Richard & Kathy – deferred from May 7, 2024 meeting – deferred to September**
   3. **Request from UNJPPI via Diane Blanchard**

**MOTION: That the Discipleship and Justice Commission of Antler River Watershed Regional Council support the Palestine Land Exercise with a grant of $1500 from our Events Budget.**  
**MOVED: Linda Badke** **SECONDED: Joshua Lawrence** **Carried**

**MOTION: That the Discipleship and Justice Commission of Antler River Watershed Regional Council support the attendance of Joshua Lawrence & Team (3 in total) to attend the “Faith in a Time of Genocide” Conference in Toronto using funds from our Events Budget.**  
**MOVED: Jim Hatt** **SECONDED: Jim Haupt** **Carried**

* 1. **Petition – Gaza Action – check to see if it has been published in the ARW newsletter – put in again**
  2. **New Staff Liaison as of July 1 - Thérèse Samuel**
  3. **Thank you to Kathy for being our go-to person this past year!!!**
  4. **Election of Chairperson for the Discipleship & Justice Commission of ARW**

**MOTION: To elect Lillian Patey and Joshua Lawrence as co-chairpersons for the**  **Discipleship & Justice Commission.**  
 **MOVED: Jim Hatt** **SECONDED: Linda Badke** **Carried**

* 1. **D & J Commission representative to Executive**

**MOTION: To elect Linda Badke as the Discipleship and Justice Commission representative to the Executive of Antler River Watershed Regional Council.**  
**MOVED: Lillian Patey** **SECONDED: Joshua Lawrence** **Carried**

**I. St Vincent de Paul – ecumenical project undertaken by them; other avenues for funding; we do want to support them in some fashion; probably would not qualify for a Mission Support Grant – perhaps via Facebook – to discuss in September (with ties to United Church); we value their work, share with our local (London) churches**

1. **Reports:**
   1. **Window Clings Motion- to be sent out for Email vote.**
   2. **Fishbowl Event in Thérèse’s report- to be sent out for Email vote**
2. **ARW D&J Events Budget for 2024**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **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 |
| Supporting the Affirm Mandate - merch (e.g., stickers, flags, apparel) | May 7th | $3000.00 | $6,425.00 |
| Kids Across the Regions 2024 at Camp Bimini | June 7/8 | $1000.00 | $5,425.00 |
| Duty of Care 101 – Honorarium: Terri Sparling | April 2024 | $75.00 | $5,350.00 |
| Support the Palestine Land Exercise | June 13 | $1500 | $3,850.00 |
| Support the attendance of Joshua Lawrence & Team (3 in total) to attend the “Faith in a Time of Genocide” Conference in Toronto (amount not yet specified) | June 13 | \* amount TBD | $3,850.00\* less amount TBD |
| **TOTAL REMAINING:** | | | **$3,850.00** |

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

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

1. **Next Meetings:** 2024 –September 10, October 8 (MSG Review), November 5
2. **Closing**
   1. **Equity Monitor Check-in**
   2. **Closing Words from Chair**
3. **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**

- Listed

***See Motion, Email Motion and Fund Recipient templates below…***

**TEMPLATES**

***Sample Motion:***  
***MOTION by*** *name* / *name* that the Discipleship and Justice Commission of Horseshoe Falls Regional Council …  
Choose an item.

***Financial Motions:***

MOTION by *mover/seconder* that the Horseshoe Falls Discipleship and Justice Commission approve the allocation of $\_\_\_\_\_\_ from the Events/Meetings Budget for \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

***Email voting Template:***

You are being asked to vote on the following motion;

**MOTION**: Moved by (mover/seconder) that the Horseshoe Falls Discipleship and Justice Commission approve the allocation of $\_\_\_\_\_\_ from the (Events / Meetings) Budget for \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. *(or wording appropriate to the context)*

**VOTING WILL CLOSE** at *time and date (allowing at least 48 hours).* Please vote by replying to *the Chair*. You can vote at any time before the closing date and time, and are free to change your vote at any time until the voting closes.

**QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS** are welcomed, and must be visible to all voting members.

**CANCELLING EMAIL VOTE**: If two voting members object to making this decision by email, a meeting will be scheduled to discuss it.

**QUORUM:** We require a quorum from the Commission to respond by the closing time for the vote to be valid.

**RESULTS:** After the close of voting, the Chair will send an email to everyone with the results of the vote.

*Please let me know if you have any questions and thanks for your participation.*

***LETTER to FUND RECIPIENT:***

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ *(Date)*

Dear \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_,

On behalf of the Discipleship and Justice Commission of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Regional Council, I am pleased to inform you that the commission has approved a grant of $\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ *(organization)* for \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_(*program or event*).

Our financial department requires a void cheque so that this payment can be processed for direct deposit. Please forward it as soon as possible.

We also request that after the event you send us a brief reporting to give us a snapshot of how this program is making a difference in God’s world.

Sincerely,

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

June 8, 2024

ARW Justice and Discipleship Commission

c/o Richard Aukland, chair

Dear Richard and Commissioners,

Thank you for allowing me to join your commission meeting in May to offer UNJPPI as a resource for the churches and members of Antler River Watershed as we grapple with the violence in Gaza and the ongoing impact of the state of Israel’s policies of apartheid and now - plausibly according to the International Court of Justice - genocide. UNJPPI which was formed in 2012 has been keeping informed, advocating for the church’s voice to be heard and offering resources to the United Church as together we learn and speak for justice and peace. Although we often feel powerless, our role is to listen to the most vulnerable, people of Palestine, and speak with the moral authority we have.

I also shared with you two opportunities that UNJPPI is offering:

1. A “train the trainers” event on Thursday, October 31 from 10 to 3:30 in Toronto for teams of 3 to experience and learn to lead the **Palestine Land Exercise**. Similar to the Blanket Exercise that helped so many people understand the impact of settler-colonialism on the indigenous people of Turtle Island/Canada, the Palestine Land Exercise will be an important educational process for people in our churches and communities.
2. The conference **“Faith in a Time of Genocide”** on Friday, November 1 and Saturday, November 2 at the Garden Hilton Hotel at Pearson Airport where we will join in bible study, reflection on our faith, learning and finding avenues for faithful action.

It was suggested, at the meeting I attended, that the three regional councils of southern Ontario, through your commissions, could sponsor the day of training for the Palestine Land Exercise. That would be financial support of $1500 for each regional council. Such support would be deeply appreciated and would enable us to bring the crafters of the PLE from Halifax where they have already launched a very successful training. We could offer the training day to teams without cost to them, as volunteers who will subsequently donate their time to facilitate learning.

The UNJPPI planning team would be thrilled to receive such financial support from you.

As we continue to prepare for these important events, we invite your prayers for this work and we invite you to actively seek one or two teams of people who could take the PLE training and some folks to attend the conference from Antler River Watershed Regional Council.

With gratitude and solidarity in Christ,

Diane Blanchard

Co-chair, UNJPPI