

Mission and Discipleship Commission
Horseshoe Falls Regional Council
OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA
Supports, Connects, Empowers Communities of Faith

Draft Minutes
January 21, 2020

Zoom Call

Present: Irene Ty, Colleen Cavanaugh, Geof Thompson, Michelle Hogman

Staff Support: Kathy Douglas Faith Formation staff; Joan Tuchlinsky Social Justice staff; Dave Jagger, Stewardship and Gifts Officer, General Council staff

Regrets: Diane Viney and Ruthanna Mack

Welcome and Introductions:

Kathy welcomed and Joan offered a brief prayer.
Introductions were made.

Agenda Check:

The agenda was reviewed and items were added.

Approval of Minutes:

The December 4, 2019 minutes were accepted as circulated

Joan:

Community Outreach or Congregational program? Joan shared some information about a HF congregation that has a spirituality-through-art program it shares with another United Church. The financial committee of the hosting congregation was calling it community outreach and initially wanted to charge rent. If attendees wanted to make a substantial donation to the program to keep it financially- accessible to others, they could not get a tax receipt. The program does not advertise in the wider community. It is attended by UC members of the two churches and they may have a couple others people attend. Region staff's opinion is that this is a congregational program and therefore should not pay rent and can issue receipts. This is just an FYI if M&D Commission members hear about other situations where this may be pertinent.

Affirm update: Joan met with Pegi Ridout from the Affirming Ministries Network last week. She will be attending the Affirming Ministries Network meeting on Thursday. Currently regions are provisionally Affirming with the expectation the regions will do more work on this. The Network plans to present a plan at the next region meeting. Michelle – should M&D Commission present this at Region meeting? Others agreed. Takes pressure off Affirm Network and people may feel freer to ask questions. Demonstrates region's commitment to this work. Joan take to Affirm meeting.

Joan take to Affirm meeting: Geof – Trinity U.C. Grimsby cong. ask Affirm come and do intro sermon and start process.

Dave – are we thinking like a commission or a committee? Check in with Regional Executive on where this decision is being made and how is the M&D Commission involved? With Affirm Network? Joan will follow up with Cheryl-Ann.

Dave Jagger, Stewardship and Gifts Officer for Horseshoe Falls Region (as well as ARW and WOW):

Resource Tools available: Called to Be the Church now available! Worship resources – 5 weeks. Keyed to Sundays after Easter. Based on Book of Acts. Andrew Hyde at (Ecumenical Campus Ministry at University of Guelph (ECM) and Lisa Leffler (diaconal ministry student ECM) created the resource. Worship sampler in resource. www.stewardshiptoolkit.ca

Each congregation should have one by now. Dave is also available to be a resource and he has more copies. There are also resources for legacy work. They have a resource to help prepare will and guides to help get Legacy work set up at a congregation. Minute for Mission 2020 books available. Giving catalogue also available. Resources available online.

Stewardship Buzz workshop has been held at a couple HF congregations. Local leadership from communities of faith get together to talk stewardship, stewardship as a spiritual practice, etc. Dave plans to do some more in early spring in Niagara area. If you are aware of congregations who are willing to host (cheap food and venue!) encourage them to contact Dave. Geof suggests that this should be an ongoing task of commission to raise the issue of stewardship to do God's mission.

Grant Writing Workshop: Kathy will send a poster re: Grant-writing workshop happening in March. For congregations, camps, chaplaincies, etc.

M&D Commission Recruitment: Min. of 7 and maximum of 12 for commission. 1/3 ordered and 1/3 lay. Need to be a member of a United Church congregation.

After considering the expression of interest of Melva Snowling and her accompanying documents, the **Horseshoe Falls Mission & Discipleship Commission recommends that Melva Snowling be appointed to the HFRC M&D Commission effective immediately.** Joan will forward to Kate Young and the Executive, with Sue Duliban and Diane Viney copied in.

Geof will forward an expression of interest form to the person he knows and they can complete it and send to Diane.

Kathy reported that Karen Orlandi, currently a diaconal student, will be filling out an expression of interest once she graduates and is commissioned in May.

WOW M&D Commission recommended that they have a booth at the upcoming region meeting. Geof suggested having one booth for all three region M&D Commissions.

Even if we have a booth we need our own literature to say what our own priorities are. Geof would be happy to be part of staffing the booth. Once the region meeting agenda is available Geoff will approach M & D Commission members to fill time slots.

M & D Commission letter – would be good to have available at a booth. Kim had suggested that it would not be best practice to share commission member emails on it. Region staff emails can be on it. Kathy will remove commission member emails. Ruthanna will be asked to clean up the fonts, etc. Kathy will then forward to the commission for final review.

National Church Update: Joan will forward to the commission National Church info pertinent to their work.

Mission and Service Grants process:

Kathy gave some background and said three region staff are working on the process. Kathy will forward grant applications that may be ongoing so we can start to think about how we are going to spend the money. We also have \$10,000. and we are trying to figure out the criteria for using that money. Helps pay for costs members incur, events being help in our region, etc.

Michelle suggesting that M&D Commission make decision about how the \$10,000. will be dispersed and we share decision with Executive.

Spirituality event at Five Oaks last fall came through Hamilton Presbytery Resource Centre and the Resource Centre had some money for that at that time.

Mission Council of Hamilton Presbytery: Geof has been asked to be one of the board members. We don't believe that this is a conflict and it will be good to have someone from M&D Commission on this board. www.missioncouncil.ca.

Vacation Bible School: If you are a Hamilton-area church, consider being a VBS location. Colleen suggested that she can send any promotion of that out through the Resource Centre.

Resource Centre: A Holocaust survivor will be the guest speaker at a local speaking event. Colleen will provide more details as they become available.

United Church Signage: Joan put forward the idea of each M&D Commission purchasing a United Church sign that could be used at area protests, events, etc. by region members or staff. Joan will get quotes. Geof suggested that you can get permissions and download computer files that can be printed at local library or print shop. Joan will follow up with Geoff.

Setting M&D Commission meetings: Set meetings for next 2 or 3 months. Joan will send out to commission.

Next meeting: Tuesday, Feb. 25 at 10 a.m. by Zoom call.

Kathy closed in prayer.