

Mission and Discipleship Commission
Horseshoe Falls Regional Council
OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA
Connecting, Supporting, Transforming

December 4, 2019

Emmanuel UC, Hamilton 1:30pm

Roster:

| | | |
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| Diane Viney DLM diane@sainta.ca | Colleen Cavanaugh colleencavanaugh@yahoo.com | Michelle Hogman OM michellehogman@gmail.com |
| | Irene Ty OM irene@bellnet.ca | |

Staff Support: Kim Uyede-Kai (Minister, Right Relations and Indigenous Justice)

Kathy Douglas (Minister, Faith Formation)

Joan Tuchlinsky (Minister, Social Justice)

Present: Geof Thompson, Joan Tuchlinsky, Kathy Douglas, Kim Uyede-Kai, Ruthanna Mack, Irene Ty, Michelle Hogman, Colleen Cavanaugh

Regrets: Diane Viney

Welcome and Constitute Meeting: Kathy Douglas opened the meeting and asked folks to introduce themselves.

Acknowledging the Land: Kim acknowledged the land and reiterated that we need to commit to living in Right Relations.

Opening Worship: Kathy offered a prayer.

Opening Motions:

Approval of Previous Minutes:

Joan reviewed the October 11, 2019 minutes for the group.

MOTION by Michelle Hogman/Colleen Cavanaugh that the Mission and Discipleship Commission of Horseshoe Falls Regional Council approve the minutes of 10-11-2019 as circulated.

MOTION

CARRIED

The group decided that DRAFT minutes will be posted in Dropbox and then approved at the next meeting.

New Business**1. Agenda items:**

- Membership/recruitment
- 2020 Mission Support grants
- Colleen – Resource Centre update
- Social Justice Network covenant (see appendix)
- Resource pool
- Affirm – something that is HF M&D work
- Youth –
- Definition of Terms

2. Membership/recruitment

Irene suggested that we might need subgroups or clusters that would report to this Commission. For example: Intercultural work and youth

Michelle mentioned that her areas of interest are racial justice and Right Relations and children and families.

Colleen mentioned Right Relations and LGBTQ issues.

It was suggested that Commission members look for others who may be interested in being on the Commission or in being in the Resource Pool.

Geof will re-work letter crafted for the Regional newsletter.

Geof also suggested that the group approach folks who worked on Social Justice at Presbytery to see if they could participate in the Commission work or the Resource Pool.

3. 2020 Mission Support Grants

Kim reviewed the MSG grants that were approved by the Horseshoe Falls Executive.

For next year's process it was suggested that each member of the Commission research one of the MSG applicants and present it to the group.

Joan talked about the timing of the Grants – could we change the deadline for 2021?

4. Social Justice Network (Ontario) Covenant

Joan gave an overview of the SJN covenant. She noted that that the Network was looking for Reps. She also noted that the Network is looking for a \$1500 contribution from each Region. No decision was made on that point.

The SJN covenant is in Appendix A at the end of these minutes.

5. Resource Centre

Colleen would like the Regions to know about the Resource Centre. She would like to be able to have a display at all three of the Regional Meetings.

6. Irene gave an overview of SCM – a faith based and social justice based organization at the University of Toronto. This group needs funding.

7. Future Agenda Items:

Social Justice Network follow up

Definition of terms (eg. Faith formation)

Youth

Next Meeting: Tuesday, February 25th at 10:00 am via Zoom

Appendix A : Social Justice Network Covenant:

COVENANT
of the
SOCIAL JUSTICE NETWORK of ONTARIO REGIONS

of The United Church of Canada

(formerly the Coordinating Committee of Ontario Conferences – CCOC
& the Social Justice Network of Ontario Conferences - SJNOC)

I. COVENANT MEMBERS

Those represented within the Covenant:

- Regional Councils of The United Church of Canada located within Ontario

Corresponding members:

- staff from the Church in Mission Unit of the General Council Office

II. PURPOSE

Regions of The United Church of Canada, whose boundaries lie within the Province of Ontario, hereby covenant together to form the Social Justice Network of Ontario Regions (SJNIOR):

- to collaborate and provide a collective presence of The United Church of Canada concerning socio-economic issues and concerns which impact Ontarians.

III. MUTUAL ACCOUNTABILITY

Member courts will fulfill this covenant by:

- Appointing 2 representatives and 1 regional staff person
- Making a financial contribution based upon an annual assessment

APPENDIX A

**SOCIAL JUSTICE NETWORK OF ONTARIO REGIONS
NETWORK OPERATIONS**

A. THE SJNOR WILL:

Examine the social justice issues that exist in the Province of Ontario with reference to their implications for the United Church of Canada, its people and the wider community;

Prayerfully discern what actions to take towards deeper understanding, redress of injustices and just alternatives;

Seek to work with government or non-governmental organizations to develop action plans and make recommendations for just, healthy, environmentally nurturing solutions.

B. OPERATING PROCEDURES

Convenorship for the SJNOR will be vested in co-chairs who will serve two-year terms. Co-chairs should have their respective terms staggered to ensure continuity. Any co chair can serve for a maximum of two consecutive terms.

The SJNOR will meet a minimum of twice yearly. Meetings may be conducted by means of video conference.

Agendas will usually include time for sharing of member court social justice activity and reports from coalitions and task group representatives related to the SJNOR.

Policy decisions rest within the member courts of the church. Representatives to the SJNOR will be communication links with those courts.

Strategizing and decision-making within the SJNOR

(i.e. formulation and implementation of church policies and SJNOR's actions) will be by consensus with an understanding that consensus will not necessarily mean complete agreement but insufficient disagreement to block the decision.

Tasks (such as recording, duplication, distribution, agenda preparation, meeting arrangements, research, analyses, resource development and collection, supervision support) will be undertaken by SJNOR members on a shared basis.

Decision-making between meetings will be undertaken by consulting all member courts' representatives for feedback. Any action will take into account this consultation.

Any member court is free to act unilaterally but should take into account the potential effects upon other member courts. Unilateral action will not imply action on behalf of others.

An orientation to the SJNOR's history, covenant, operating procedures and current activities will be provided for new representatives.

Collection, disbursement, recording and reporting services for operating funds will be provided by the General Council's Mission Through Finance Unit.

C. COLLECTIVE ACTION

The SJNOR will take joint social justice action: This could be accomplished in any of the following ways:

- a) the member courts may endorse and support one regional council in taking a particular initiative;
- b) the member courts may agree on more than one regional council on a joint study or action of vital interest; or
- c) the members may agree to work and speak together, through the SJNOR.

The SJNOR may consider the initiative of one member court but decide not to endorse or support the effort leaving that member court free to take its own action.

The SJNOR will provide leadership representatives on behalf of The United Church of Canada in Ontario for occasions related to SJNOR's social justice agenda.

The SJNOR will designate representation to ecumenical social justice coalitions and task groups functioning within the province of Ontario, such as the Inter-Faith Social Assistance Reform Coalition (ISARC) or KAIROS. Arrangements for support such as orientation, expenses, supervision, accountability and communication mechanisms with the SJNOR, etc. will be undertaken.

D. COMMUNICATION

The SJNOR will facilitate the sharing of The United Church of Canada's social justice policy.

The SJNOR will provide an annual report to each member court. These reports are to contain actions taken, future agenda items and financial operations.

E. MEMBER COURT CONTRIBUTIONS

Each member court will appoint two representatives to the SJNOR. Each member court will clarify the terms of that appointment. In addition, it is hoped that there would be a staff person from the member court.

Each member court will make an annual financial contribution to the SJNOC.

Through their representative(s), member courts will share information, analyses and strategies related to their social justice issues, concerns and activities.

Member courts will assume primary responsibility for SJNOR tasks within their resource capacity on a rotating basis.

12-04-2019

HF CC 19-8

j

11-1-2019
2:30 PM

THE SOCIAL JUSTICE NETWORK OF ONTARIO REGIONS

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF MEMBER COURT REPRESENTATIVES

Representatives will contribute their unique gifts to the work of the SJNOR as a proactive participant.

Representatives will act as an essential communication link between their member court and the other member courts by means of:

- a) attendance at SJNOR meetings
- b) regular reports at SJNOR meetings
- c) reports to the SJNOR between meetings of relevant concerns and actions
- d) regular SJNOR reports to their member court including an SJNOR annual report.

Representatives will relay their member court's social justice concerns to the SJNOR's agenda.

Outgoing representatives will brief their successors of the SJNOR's covenant, communication needs with the member court, and the member court's responsibilities.