

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

Tuesday, April 28, 2020
 Zoom

Roster:

Diane Viney DLM diane@sainta.ca	Colleen Cavanaugh colleencavanaugh@yahoo.com	Michelle Hogman OM michellehogman@gmail.com
Melva Snowling msnowling@cogeco.ca	Geof Thompson geothompson@xplornet.com	
	Irene Ty OM irene@bellnet.ca	

Staff Support: Diane Matheson-Jimenez (Minister, Social Justice)

Kathy Douglas (Minister, Faith Formation)

Present: Diane Viney (chair), Michelle Hogman, Colleen Cavanaugh, Irene Ty, Geof Thompson, Kathy Douglas, Diane Matheson-Jimenez, Ruthanna Mack

Regrets:

Absent: Melva Snowling

Welcome and Constitute Meeting: Diane Viney welcomed everyone and made special welcome to Diane Matheson-Jimenez.

Acknowledging the Land: Kathy read the following Land Acknowledgement: Easter is a time of renewal and we are celebrating that the power of God can draw out of death new life and new hope. That vision calls us to seek reconciliation with the first peoples of this land.

We seek forgiveness for the devastation that contact with Europeans brought with it. Our ancestors were like a pandemic destroying the culture, religious practices and leadership structure of the first peoples. We brought small pox, measles and others diseases as well as a lust for land that clearly wasn't ours to possess. Many of us have not repented of the destruction that these diseases nor the damage our prejudices continue to inflict. Both still ravage these nations.

Repentance is an act of hope. Despite hundreds of years of harm, there is still reason to hope for resurrection and healing.

So it is that we acknowledge that we are gathered on the traditional territory of the Haudenosaunee, Anishnabe, the Neutral Nation and the Mississaugas of New Credit. Our gain has come at a great cost to these peoples.

Some day may all celebrate as new life is breathed into relationships that have felt and regularly feel, crucified.

Written by Gary Clark, Forest Hill United Church, Kitchener

Opening Worship: Colleen mentioned Jessie Thistle's book From the Ashes. Michelle read an article written by Jessie from Toronto Life. Colleen closed with prayer.

Opening Motions:

Approval of Previous Minutes:

MOTION that the Mission and Discipleship Commission of Horseshoe Falls Regional Council approve the minutes of 03-24-2020 as circulated.

MOTION Passed by consensus

New Business

1. Cave Springs Camp: Board Member rep needed from Commission. Geof Thompson volunteered for that position.
2. COVID-19 Motion: by Colleen Cavanaugh/Geof Thompson That the Horseshoe Falls Regional Council Mission and Discipleship Commission grants permission, in this unprecedented time, to the HFRC Executive to complete work on behalf of the Commission should the Mission and Discipleship Commission be unable to meet quorum.

MOTION CARRIED

3. Grant Monies: There was a discussion around the disbursement of funds left over from the 2020 Mission Support Grants. Diane MJ and Kathy will do some research into which outreach ministries might be considered and to what documentation would be required to disburse these funds. Ruthanna will get the dollar figure from General Council Staff.
4. Camps: Kathy
 - Think Muskoka camp proposal (see Appendix A below):
MOTION: by Geof Thompson and Michelle Hogman that the HF M&D Commission grant \$2500 (to come out of the \$10,000 budget for M&D work) towards the Think Muskoka Proposal.
MOTION CARRIED
 - Camps are still not sure whether they will open this season due to COVID-19. They are worried about Health and Safety protocols and whether they can afford them.
 - The Traveling Summer Day Camp has been cancelled. Eight Hundred dollars of Mission Support money will be coming back to the Commission.
5. Youth Ministries: There is an overall sense of being overwhelmed. There is also a concern around layoffs and working during the lay off.
6. Diane Viney agreed to connect with Melva Snowing before the next meeting,
7. Diane Viney will talk to the Executive about accepting new members to the Commission now that the General Meeting is cancelled.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, May 26th at 10 am via Zoom

Worship by: Irene Ty

Diane Viney closed with Prayer

Appendix A:

Proposal: Regional Camping Ministries

Prior to the outbreak of COVID-19, the Regional Councils of Antler River Watershed, Horseshoe Falls and Western Ontario Waterways had already recognized a concern regarding the sustainability of the eleven camps within their geographic areas. Regional Staff requested that Think Muskoka Consulting (in partnership with Thomas Appleyard Consulting) prepare a proposal that addresses this concern. At this point in the outbreak, it is still unclear if the Ontario Ministry of Health will allow any provincial summer camps to open – either for a shortened season, or for any season at all.

Objectives

- To create the opportunity for open discussions about the role and the purpose of the camp experience as it relates to the overall mission of the United Church of Canada
- To gather financial data and registration statistics to better understand each camp operation;
- To conduct site tours to learn about each individual camp program;
- To bring together key players – staff, volunteers and camp leaders – to discuss sustainability;

- To communicate clearly in a cooperative and efficient manner.
- Finally, when the summer season is over and we know whether we had the experience of “camp” in 2020, the goal of the fall gathering of the gathering will include “Reflection” “Recovery”, “Rejuvenation”.

Summary Objective:

To develop specific, clear recommendations on organizational and financial structures and strategies to ensure financial viability.

Principles

Think Muskoka Consulting and Thomas Appleyard Consulting commit to these principles:

- Respecting the need for confidentiality;
- Valuing the knowledge and expertise of staff and volunteers.

Phase One

1. Regional Staff provides, in email form, any and all relevant data, reports and minutes of meetings in order to help educate the facilitators on the current status of each camp operation.
2. Over the course of the next three months, an online survey is prepared and sent to all camp board members in order to glean more information about each camp operation.
3. At some point in the next three months, facilitators conduct a meeting, either in person or by technology (Zoom) to bring together:
 - a. key staff from Youth Programming
 - b. one representative from each of the three regional Mission and Discipleship Commissions
 - c. one Board member from each camp
 - d. one program staff from each camp

The purpose of the meeting:

- examination of the impact of COVID-19 on the camp season of 2020;
- clarification of goals and purpose of camping as it relates to the greater mission of the United Church of Canada
- clarification of the status quo
- clear direction for the next phases of the project.

Phase Two

Over the course of the next few months, facilitators conduct a “Fresh Eyes Tour” at each site. Facilitators plan to visit the first few sites together and then do individual tours of the remaining camps.

Phase Three

Facilitators organize a 24-hour retreat in the fall of 2020 to bring together regional staff and key players from each camp operation. The purpose of the retreat:

1. Reflection, Recovery and Rejuvenation after the 2020 season;
Presentation of data and information collected
2. Facilitated discussion about the path to sustainable camping

Phase Four

Facilitators prepare a written report with recommendations.

Phase Five (optional)

Facilitators conduct a meeting to assist key players in mapping the “Next Steps”.

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