

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

January 12, 2021

1pm via Zoom

Roster: Diane Viney (Chair), Geof Thompson, Michelle Hogman, Irene Ty, Colleen Cavanaugh, Karen Orlandi.

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

Kathy Douglas (Minister, Faith Formation)

Dave Jagger (Philanthropy and Stewardship Officer)

Ruthanna Mack (Admin Support)

Present: Diane Viney (Chair), Sula Anne Kosocky, Geof Thompson, Colleen Cavanaugh, Michelle Hogman, Irene Ty, Karen Orlandi, Diane Matheson-Jimenez, Kathy Douglas, Ruthanna Mack

Guests: Sula Anne Kosacky, Ryk Brown

Absent:

Welcome and Constitute Meeting: Diane V. welcomed everyone, with a special welcome to Sula Anne and Ryk.

Acknowledging the Land: The Land Acknowledgement was offered by Diane M-J.

Opening Worship: Karen Orlandi

Opening Motions:

Approval of Previous Minutes:

MOTION: Karen Orlandi/Irene Ty that the Horseshoe Falls Mission and Discipleship Commission approve the minutes from November 17, 2020 as circulated.

MOTION

CARRIED

Business Arising

1. Contact Information for Melva Snowling: We do have the correct contact information. She is not able to join us as long as we are meeting via Zoom. If at some point she can participate, we will welcome her back.

New Business

1. Email from Donald Brown, Treasurer of Brock Ecumenical Campus Ministry regarding 2021 Mission Support Grant:
It was noted at the September 15th, 2020 meeting that some applications from past grant recipients were missing, Brock ECM was among them. It was decided that Brock ECM needs to submit an application as a first step. Kathy to follow up with Donald Brown. Ruthanna to check with GCO regarding paying out a late MSG grant.
2. Westdale United Church is returning \$9,261 of unused Mission Support Grant money that was allotted to them in 2019 for 2020. They were unable to use the funds. This money will be added to the surplus funds available to HF M&D for distribution in 2021.
3. Request to Horseshoe Falls Executive for Sula Anne Kosocky and Ryk Brown to officially serve on Horseshoe Falls Mission & Discipleship. Expressions of Interest have been sent and forwarded to HF Executive.

Other Business:

1. Sula Anne Kosocky is interested in becoming the second United Church Rep on the Brock Ecumenical Chaplaincy Board. **Was there a next step to make this happen?**

Staff Reports:

- Diane Matheson-Jimenez: Minister for Social Justice

Kathy and I continue to serve on the planning team for the **Kitchen Sink series**, an initiative of Shining Waters, ARW, HF, WOW and Affirm United/S'Affirmer Ensemble. The planning team is busy recruiting facilitators, as well as chaplains, for the series which will resume in February and run until June. In order that we might pay the facilitators and chaplains for their time, we are requesting \$100 from each partner region. **See MOTION below regarding allocation of funds to program staff.**

Additionally, we are seeking folks willing to serve as chaplains for the events. Ryk and Sula Anne offered. I will follow up with them separately.

Thursday January 28 at 3:30 pm, I am meeting with a small group interested in education and **advocacy around the crisis in long term care facilities**. Commission members are welcome to participate and/or recommend folks in their network who

might like to engage with this topic. The idea will be an educational event and follow-up opportunities to engage in advocacy with elected officials. More information to come.

Monday January 18 at 4 pm, I will be meeting with staff and volunteer leaders across the country about the **climate justice resource, For the Love of Creation**. Irene isn't able to participate on the 18th, but is interested in follow up conversation about rolling out the resource in our region.

I gave the heads up that Diane will soon be hearing, at executive, about **racial justice training** – likely to happen in February – that all commissioners are expected to participate in. This will count for clergy needing racial justice training. More information to come soon.

Although the timing hasn't been negotiated yet, each Commission will have the opportunity, twice yearly, to have a **newsletter** dedicated to the content they wish to lift up. The Commission is encouraged to think about what material they might like to cover and what timing might work to best highlight our shared work.

Along similar lines, I am interested in creating some videos about ministries in our region that are doing something innovative, creative, brilliant...to keep focused on their mission, and engaged in their community. Ryk offered to share a story about his community. Commission members are invited to tap on the shoulder those who might have a story to share.

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

Kathy asked that the commission consider setting a discretionary budget amount for her use. Usually small amounts of money are needed to pay, for instance, honorarium for speakers. She and DMJ would appreciate the ability to offer funding for such without the need to come back to the M&D C every time for approval.

MOTION: Michelle Hogman/Geof Thompson that the HF Mission and Discipleship Commission allocate \$1000 (from the M&D Events Budget) to each program staff (Kathy Douglas and Diane Matheson-Jimenez, and in March 2021, Thérèse Samuel) for their discretionary use to to add flexibility to their work. Reports from each staff to follow with details regarding how the funds are used.

MOTION

CARRIED

Update from KD's desk

***A Taste of Palestine Event** A handful of enthusiasts are working to put together a two part zoom gathering. Part 1 will invite speakers to share cooking/food and stories

about life in Palestine. Part 2 will be a response to Part 1....how do we respond with justice to the Palestinian situation? To happen in mid February.

*Working with Kevin Steeper on an initiative to support **Pastoral Care**.....for clergy/paid accountable/volunteer lay persons who do or wish to do Pastoral Care in Community of Faiths. She is collecting a group or 'think tank' of folks who have passion for PC work....to meet, along with Kevin to determine how best to do this work.

*The Vision Fund from Nat'l church has granted \$5000 to a program supported youth and young adult programming. We will be paying youth/young adults to create 15 minute videos to use in youth ministry programming: **Creating Conversation:Voices of Youth/Young Adults in UCC**

Next Meeting: Tuesday, February 9th at 1pm via zoom

Worship by: Sula Anne