

**Mission and Discipleship Commission**  
**Horseshoe Falls Regional Council**  
**OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA**  
***Connecting, Supporting, Transforming***  
***October 19, 2021***  
***2-4pm***  
***via Zoom***

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**MINUTES**

**Roster:** Diane Viney (acting Chair), Geof Thompson, Michelle Hogman, Irene Ty, Colleen Cavanaugh, Ryk Brown, Karen Orlandi, Sula Anne Kosacky, Phyllis Buchner

**Staff Support:** Diane Matheson-Jimenez, Minister, Social Justice  
Kathy Douglas, Minister, Faith Formation  
Dave Jagger, Philanthropy and Stewardship Officer  
Thérèse Samuel, Minister Right Relations and Social Justice  
Ruthanna Mack, Administrative Assistant, Finance (Leave of Absence)  
Michele Petick, acting Administrative Assistant R789

**Present:** Diane Viney (acting Chair), Geof Thompson, Michelle Hogman, Irene Ty, Colleen Cavanaugh, Phyllis Buchner, Diane Matheson-Jimenez, Kathy Douglas, Thérèse Samuel, Michele Petick

**Regrets:** Sula Anne Kosacky, Ryk Brown

**Welcome and Introductions:** Diane Viney

**Acknowledging the Land:** Karen Orlandi acknowledged the Land that we live and work on with this reflection:

Today we lift up and affirm the beauty, the integrity and truth of the culture, language, traditions of the original peoples of the lands upon which we meet. Here, where this Christian church camp now stands, the Anishinabewaki, Haudenosaunee, the Mississauga, the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation and the Attiwonderonk Peoples gathered, feasted and celebrated births, deaths, harvests, the changing seasons, their joys and sorrows. They lived together with the other peoples of this land under the Dish with One Spoon Wampum Agreement and it was very good.

When the colonizers, and representatives of Imperial greed arrived in this land they used the banner of the Christian church to subjugate and oppress the peoples of this land. In 1792 this land came under the jurisdiction of the Between the Lakes Treaty, number 3 negotiated between the British Crown and the Mississaugas of the Credit. The Settlers, the Colonizers, were wrong, and the Indigenous People of these lands continue to suffer under the legacy of residential schools, administered by the church, working for the government. They continue to suffer under the Indian Act. They continue to suffer under the systemic racism that exists within our government systems.

As Silver Spire United Church we embrace the Calls to Action for the Church from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and have put into our Strategic plan, our commitment “to develop ongoing education strategies to ensure that their respective congregations learn about their church’s role in colonization, the history and legacy of residential schools and why apologies to former residential schools students and their families and communities were necessary.”

Hear the good news – The Anishnaabe, Mississauga and Haudenonesee communities are strong, alive and filled with a vision of the future that is filled with laughter and joy, and they’re willing to take us along, if we’re willing to go with them! To quote the Polaris and Juno award winning Wolastoq musician Jeremy Dutcher, “We are in the midst of an Indigenous Renaissance in this country!”

Today listen to a program, an online Pow-Wow, some Indigenous Music which is everywhere these days, maybe some Iskwe, some Buffy St. Marie, Strong Water Women, or Snotty Nosed Rez Kids. Watch a documentary, listen to One Dish One Mic, read a book – but above all – CELEBRATE; Laugh and Eat. If there’s anything I’ve learned about Indigenous culture is that there’s always laughter and food.

In the honour of the original custodians of this land, I welcome you today to Cave Springs United Church Camp – Bouzhou! Welcome!

**Opening Worship:** Diane Viney

Dear Lord, grant us the wisdom to make sound decisions for your world. Help us to honour you with our work today and everyday. Amen.

**Opening Motions:**

Approval of the agenda:

MOTION: By Geof Thompson/Phyllis approve the agenda as discussed

**Appointment of a Meeting Equity Monitor:**

A person who notices participants in a meeting who are overwhelmed or quiet, a person to monitor questionable interactions.

An equity person can notice whose voice is not being heard. Can something be reframed to notice expressions we are using and making the space as safe as possible and to have a person in place for participants to reach out to maintain inclusive nature of the space.

**Kathy Douglas will sit in as Equity Monitor for this meeting as a new concept and idea.**

Approval of the meeting minutes of 2021-04-13:

MOTION: Geof Thompson/Michelle Hogman

**CARRIED**

Approval of meeting minutes of 2021-09-14:

MOTION: Phyllis Buchner/Michelle Hogman

**CARRIED**

**Business Arising:**

None

**New Business**

**A. Email from Rev. Paul Shepherd**

*Author of Evolving Christianity: Using scientific thinking to evolve Christianity to fight racism and other social diseases.* Spend the next month reviewing the book, there might be something worthwhile to learn and share. Possibility of doing an author series. Geof Thompson, Diane Viney and Colleen Cavanaugh is willing to evaluate and critical review of the book.

**B. Thank you from Randy Mackenzie**

Grand River Spiritual and Educational Resources (Grand River Bookstore) (in Dropbox)

**C. Barton Stone – Mount Hope UC**

Amalgamated a year ago. They are turning into a hub centre rather than just a church. Similar to Silver Spire United. They are hiring a Community Resource Coordinator. Offer support from the commission, it is a three-year trial program. Contact them perhaps with a note or letter of interest and offer to share in the experience in a way of being helpful. More discussion will be needed at the next meeting of the Commission. More details will be available at that time.

**D. Possibly invite grant recipients to share their experiences with the Commission.**

Some recipients would love the opportunity to speak to the Commission about their ministry. A real opportunity to connect with these communities and an opportunity to support the work and develop deeper relationship.

**E. Supplementary Grant Funds**

- Deadline changed to beginning of February 01, 2022.
- Send communication out for supplementary grants.
- How much is available and develop a shorter application form.
- In the past a maximum of \$10,000 could be applied for suggestion for no maximum amount.
- \$46,300 is available for supplementary grants.
- Publish the amount available in invitation to apply communication.

MOTION: Geof Thompson/Karen Orlandi we direct the staff to advertise that there is \$46,300 grant money still available and that people apply as soon as possible.

**CARRIED****1) Reports:****Kathy:**

- Requiring money for honorariums for webinars for youth and young adults who will be speakers and providing leadership. Some are doing it as a volunteer and we'd like to give them a gift card as thanks.
- Webinar example with much interest: "How do you do worship with children outside."
- Will be sharing sabbatical experience about pilgrimage. Inviting Robin McGauley and Kerrie Perry with labyrinth experience.
- Youth Forum Intern positions (eight-week position) being offered in each region to attend General Council 44 which will be online. Goal to have the presence and voice of youth at General Council 44.

- Video Series coming up from youth within the United Church regarding social justice, mental health and homelessness. Series launch on social media and newsletters soon.
- Vanessa Spence of WOW region creating a forum for youth and young adults, looking to host an event every year to bring youth together, to vote on who will be commissioners to go to region and general councils. Proposal will be coming. Young adults event in the spring and youth event in the fall.

#### **Diane**

- Affirming Network met last month and talked about having conversation with the Commission about Affirming and an invitation to engage in this work.
- Grant education event My Main Street along with Carla Leon from Edge, an opportunity for not for profits for placemaking (ie cleaning up main street, putting a labyrinth, accessibility, how are you making your space opening and inviting to congregate, intercultural spaces) from \$25K to \$250K for work that has already been done. \$8M is available, applications due November 1<sup>st</sup>.
- \$400 required for the Carol Kilby event for Earth Day April 2022.

MOTION: Geof Thompson/Colleen Cavanaugh that an additional \$200 be dispersed on the request of Diane Matheson-Jimenez for payment to Carol Kilby for Earth Day events 2022.

#### **CARRIED**

#### **Thérèse**

- Update on Indigenous Justice events went very well.
- Looking at the TRC calls of action.
- Connecting with elders in Indigenous Communities of Faith for sessions going forward.
- November 1<sup>st</sup> event vigil coming up "Together in Song", a number of indigenous and non-indigenous leaders involved together in reconciliation.
- Chapel of the Delaware, Nations Uniting, New Credit and Grand River indigenous are examples of Community of Faith ministries.
- Indigenous Community of Faith voices were absent from the recent Regional Council meeting of Horseshoe Falls. The Commission discussed how we can get the Mission and Discipleship Commission involved in developing relationships that are indigenous and non-indigenous. For upcoming meetings planning teams could consider this. Thérèse will send a report of where the indigenous Communities of Faith are

located within the Region. The Commission could offer one person of the commission to the planning team. The chair of the commission can bring this noticing to the next Executive meeting.

**Michele**

- Updating the Mission and Discipleship website page along with staff team at HFRC.

**2. UCW - Phyllis Buchner from the Regional Gathering**

Meeting quarterly.

Nothing to share at this time.

Looking forward to an in-person meeting at St. Paul's in Dundas in April 2022.

**3. Memorial Service for Jackie Childerhose:**

Long-time manager of the Grand River Book Store. To be held at Five Oaks- November 1<sup>st</sup> at 11:45am.

**4. Adjournment**

**Next Meeting:** November 16th, 2021 at 2pm

**Closing Prayer:** Diane Viney