

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

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**November 16<sup>th</sup>, 2021 at 2pm**

**via Zoom**

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

**Staff Support:** Diane Matheson-Jimenez - Minister, Social Justice

Kathy Douglas - Minister, Faith Formation

Thérèse Samuel – Minister for Right Relations and Social Justice

Dave Jagger - Stewardship and Gifts Officer

Michele Petick-Administration

Ruthanna Mack-Administration

**Present:** ~~Diane Viney (Chair), Colleen Cavanaugh, Michelle Hogman, Irene Ty, Karen Orlandi, Geof Thompson, Ryk Brown, Sula Anne Kosacky, Phyllis Buchner, Diane Matheson-Jimenez, Kathy Douglas, Thérèse Samuel, Dave Jagger, Michele Petick, Ruthanna Mack,~~  
Rev. Krista Hilton (Guest)

**Agenda**

**1) Acknowledgement of the Land/Territory - Karen Orlandi**

Reference “One is born into history, not into a void.” *A Map to the Door of No Return: Notes to Belonging* - Dionne Brand

**2) Opening Prayer/Worship - Colleen Cavanaugh – *Is your life balanced?***

**3) Rev Krista Hilton, Chaplain – she/her (Guest)**

**Brock University Chaplaincy - presentation**

- Faith and Life Centre on site surrounded by nature, hard to find on campus.
- Alphie’s Trough was named after Sir Isaac Brock’s horse.
- It is accessible with a ramp.

- Offers a study space and a fire pit.
- This fall offered “The Sanctuary Course” a 10-week program talking about the intersections between mental health and faith (delivery method: online).
- Social connections being planned like an evening at the “Painted Turtle”.
- Outreach includes active involvement with the Sexual Violence Prevention Committee
- Ministry presence on campus at Brock University, meeting with students one on one.
- Upcoming programs for 2022 include: Engaging a Queer Christianity, Decolonizing the Bible, The Bible and Poverty, Human Rights in the Philippines, Faith and Racial Justice, Faith and Economic Justice, faith and Ecological Justice.
- Looking forward to meeting more in-person in the new year.
- Contact Krista at: [nb\\_khilton@brocku.ca](mailto:nb_khilton@brocku.ca)

**4) Establishing/reminder of Equity Monitor and Pastoral Presence for our meeting(s):**

Kathy Douglas

The role of Equity Presence is to make every effort to ensure that content, process and the unfolding of a meeting or event like this meeting offers equity and accessibility for all involved.

This role is introduced at the beginning so that folks know how to access support if something is not working for them or if there is a problem with creating a trusting space. That doesn’t mean no discomfort...it means an equitable sharing of space and voice.

Contact me in chat privately if you wish.

If you prefer to contact me after this event an email will work as well. The equity presence might interrupt the process to challenge or clarify that equity might be at issue.

**5) Approval of Agenda for November 16, 2021**

MOTION by Name / Name Ryk / Geof that the Mission and Discipleship Commission of Horseshoe Falls Regional Council accept the agenda.

MOTION

CARRIED

**6) Approval of Minutes from October 19, 2021**

MOTION by Name / Name Geof / Michelle that the Mission and Discipleship Commission of Horseshoe Falls Regional Council accept the minutes.

## MOTION

## CARRIED

**7) Business Arising:****a. Barton Stone and Mount Hope – Geof Thompson**

- Grants to this church was roughly \$25K to see through the start of this new ministry.
- They are at the beginning of this ministry.
- Places lacking for meeting on the Mountain.
- Looking to turn their facility in to a community centre.
- Looking to put many agencies and groups into the building to cross pollinate services available on the Mountain.
- They are following the guidelines of the new vision statement of the United Church.
- They are not putting a basket over their light.
- The potential is delightful.

**b. Report on the Book by Paul Shepherd – Geof Thompson, Colleen Cavanaugh, Diane Matheson-Jimenez, Michelle Hogman**

*Evolving Christianity: Using scientific thinking to evolve Christianity to fight racism and other social diseases*

- PHD Physicist turned minister.
- Putting religion over Christianity
- Six principles profound and simple.
- An example: “Jesus is a Mentor not a Messiah”.
- Perhaps a book study hosted by the commission.
- Important to put resources out there for people to engage.
- Contact Kathy Douglas for Faith Formation consideration.

**c. Empowering staff for discretionary spending**

Karen Orlandi to send a note to Chair, Diane Viney to bring this to the Executive.

**d. East Plains Daycare – Diane Matheson-Jimenez**

- An affordable daycare in Burlington.
- Close to Aldershot train GO station.
- They have been restricted due to COVID.
- Looking for financial support.
- Looking to grow and live in to a new mission including lunch programs.

- They have invited the M & D Commission for a virtual tour of the facility.
- December 14<sup>th</sup> as a proposed date for a virtual tour organised through the Day Care Director for the Commission members to attend next meeting.
- Ryk Brown will organise an in-person visit (within their visiting guidelines/policies) before then.

**e. Multi-Faith Statement of Solidarity**

- The Tri-Region Affirm Network is looking for support in way of a written and signed letter from the Commission.
- <https://hfrcucc.ca/multi-faith-statement-of-solidarity/>

MOTION Ryk / Geof THAT a written letter will be sent in support of the Multi-Faith Statement of Solidarity to Sadhana: Coalition of Progressive Hindus and Hindus for Human Rights.

CARRIED

**8) New Business:**

None

**9) Reports:**

- **Kathy**
  - **Music Ministry Support Round Table for Advent/Christmas ideas** November 22 @ 7
  - Hoping to create a series of three in Jan/Feb- (I may be asking for honorariums for this. Hard to do until I have committed facilitators)
    1. Tech and music
    2. Job description and support
    3. Theology of music in worship with focus on professional and/or fully participatory
  - **Advent/Christmas Resources**- pageants, liturgies, books, resources, tech supports, and best of all....names of people to call for help
  - **Love of Creation**- series of webinars called.....Climate Conversations for new year...I will be looking for endorsement and maybe \$
  - **Camps**- Working remarkably hard to manage through a second summer of 'no kids'. They need support-which could come in the way of \$/donations, prayers, people (volunteers for one offs, for more dedicated board members and for members of the corporation (restructuring of our governance and new government regulation for incorporated ministries.... they need corporate members (CA calls them fan clubs) to fulfil the requirements of bylaws.

- Cave Springs has a new building. Expensive and impressive. Consider using it.
- Ryerson is hoping to build a pool...never had one but not able to access Lake Erie.
  
- **Diane**
- Social Justice **SJNORC: Social Justice Network of Ontario Regional Councils**, Horseshoe Falls does not have a representative, if you are interested the network is looking for a rep.
- In the new year resources will be pooled for provincial social justice advocacy before the provincial election.
- Investigation of the former **Mohawk Institution** has begun. There will be significant impacts to the communities, let's be mindful how can we support our siblings.
- Ground penetrating is being done now. Digging will be done in the spring.
- Diane will be off in December on vacation time.
  
- **Thérèse**
- Actively working on the Right Relations events finishing up for the Fall.
- Looking forward to initiatives coming out of the fall events.
- Upcoming Right Relations event focus may include art and storytelling.
  
- **Ruthanna/Michele**
- None
  
- **Other**
- Karen Orlandi reminded the Commission about Indigenous work and event planning for the new year and invitation to attend After Dark sessions in St. Catharines at Silver Spire United Church – topics include Sex, Money, Politics

**10) Next Meetings:** January 18<sup>th</sup>, 2022 – 2pm

**11) Closing** – Michelle Hogman

**12) Adjournment** – Phyllis Buchner