

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

**APPROVED Minutes**

**January 18, 2022 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, Karen Orlandi, Geof Thompson, Ryk Brown, Phyllis Buchner, Thérèse Samuel, Kathy Douglas, Diane Matheson-Jimenez, Michele Petick

**Regrets:** Irene Ty, Sula Anne Kosacky

**Invited Guest:** Vanessa Spence

**Agenda**

- 1) Acknowledgement of the Land/Territory – Karen Orlandi**
- 2) Opening Prayer/Worship - Diane Viney *What makes God smile?***
- 3) Establishing/reminder of Equity Monitor and Pastoral Presence for our meeting(s)**

Kathy Douglas recommends to rotate the role. Taking opportunities to learning about trusting and safer spaces around equity or language. Mindful of unheard voices. Who might need a check in. A “heart monitor” present at each meeting. Review before adjournment

  - Karen Orlandi will act as heart monitor for today’s meeting.
- 4) Guest - Vanessa Spence will answer questions regarding proposal YAT Forum & Youth Rally Project Proposal**
  - Youth events, in-person.
  - Great success from previously known as Youth Forum group that led opportunities to learn about conference meetings and general council meetings of the United Church of Canada.
  - Established for young adults and youth.

- Connect with God, nature, one another, church and community.
- Create space to make these changes and to be seen and heard.
- Looking for support and financial endorsement.
- Looking to manage a self-sustaining program that will not run a deficit.
- Looking at opportunities to fundraise.
- Looking for a centrally located and accessible location to run the events.
- Currently meeting at Pearce Williams in Fingal, Ontario near St. Thomas.
- 20 people are on the planning team.
- Tiered system payment structure to remove financial barriers to participation.

**5) Approval of Agenda for January 18, 2022**

MOTION by Geof / Ryk that the Mission and Discipleship Commission of Horseshoe Falls Regional Council as circulated.

CARRIED

**6) Approval of Minutes from November 16, 2021**

MOTION by Phyllis / Colleen that the Mission and Discipleship Commission of Horseshoe Falls Regional Council as circulated.

CARRIED

**7) Ryk Brown – Update on Day Care Facility at East Plains United Church**

- Impressed on the operation after in-person visit.
- Comprehensive engagement with local mission.
- A congregation willing to risk financial investment and courage to serve the local community.
- Renovated roughly half the facility to incorporate a day care centre. Investment was roughly one million dollars.
- Connecting with the community.
- Well done funding source to self-sustain church congregations.
- Long vision for this investment model.
- Looking to arrange a group tour. The centre Director welcomes the Commission to a virtual tour. February's meeting may a good time to have this tour.
- Looking to do more outreach programs for the community like a breakfast program.
- Could be some partnership opportunities.
- The day care centre is a corporation. The Board of Directors are community members and some are members of the church Council.
- Located in the basement of East Plains UC under the Christian Education wing.
- Ryk Brown will connect for the tour.

**8) Business Arising:**

- Staff Discretionary Spending (Diane) - follow-up from HF Executive
  - fiduciary responsibility of staff and volunteers, the system will be maintained as it stands
- SJNORC - in need of Horseshoe Falls Representative
  - Social Justice Network of Ontario Regional Council
  - With upcoming provincial elections, important work to be done.
  - Please reach out to people who might be interested in this opportunity.

**9) New Business:**

- Discussion of YAT Forum and Youth Rally Project

MOTION by Ryk / Geof that the Mission and Discipleship Commission of Horseshoe Falls Regional Council endorse and support the proposal by Vanessa Spence for YAT Forum and Youth Rally Project Proposal as submitted.

CARRIED

- **Mission Support Supplementary Grant**
  - Diane Matheson-Jimenez will put the grant applications into DropBox for further discussion.
  - Schedule Meeting February 8<sup>th</sup> 2pm to discuss grant applications.
- **Bill C-4 Propaganda**
  - Karen Orlandi will circulate a call to action regarding cruel and inhumane language and ideas in “A Call to Biblical Morality” originated in the USA and coming more recently from a church in Edmonton.
  - Need to show an alternative to this type of thinking.
  - Cautious of giving more attention to negative propaganda.
  - Acknowledge that we have an opportunity to amplify unconditional love.
  - Write our own “Call to Action” and distribute it far and wide. Diane Matheson-Jimenez, Geof Thomson and Diane Viney will work on writing the call to share with PIE celebration in March. Michele Petick to create a graphic. Diane Matheson-Jimenez will contact to set a working meeting.

**10) Reports:**

- **Kathy**

1. Music Ministry Events upcoming
2. Kairos Involvement- Ecumenical work for climate justice. I am UCC person at many of the meetings. There are national staff involved at some levels too. I am training to be a trainer of Facilitators for Climate Conversations. Hoping that our regions will benefit.
3. UCW at executive levels...AGM and Tri-Regional Gatherings Speaks to strong community and belonging
4. Continuing theme of need or struggle. Loneliness and loss/need of belonging. Depression and grief in our time and community of faiths. Depressed church. Opportunity that pandemic unveils. As FF Minister what does my work look like and the priorities of it.

- **Diane**

- Work percolating around Anti-Bullying along with Thérèse and Kevin Steeper.
- Workshop will be available in the regions. Skill building around anti-bullying in the church.
- Rue McDonald and Otis Bell proposed Lenten series "Coming Out of Exile". Reclaim ritual and reclaiming stories. \$3,000 (\$1,000 apprx. per region). Is this worth pursuing? Potentially too late for Lent 2022. Could be a resource for 2023.

MOTION Geof / Michelle that the Horseshoe Falls Mission & Discipleship Commission support staff support person, Diane Matheson-Jimenez to continue to explore and give potential financial support of up to \$1,000 for a project *Coming Out of Exile* with Rue McDonald and Otis Bell as outlined.

CARRIED

- **Thérèse**

- Fund procedure proposal.
- Budget Update and Tracking for meetings and setting aside of funds to be added to meeting Agenda template.

**Examples:**

**Before Business Arising: Budget Update**

<b>Fund:</b>	<b>\$ Set Aside (Event/mtg details TBA)</b>	<b>\$ final Approval</b>	<b>\$ Remaining</b>
<b>2022 Events Fund (\$10,000 available for 2022)</b>		\$400	\$9,600
<b>2022 Meeting Fund (\$ ??? Available for 2022)</b>			\$7,900

At the end of business: budget tracking for this meeting:  
(Note monies being returned or re-allocated are in parenthesis)

<b>2022 Events Expenses or Adjustments Program:</b>	<b>\$ Set Aside</b>	<b>\$ Approved</b>
Winter-Spring Right Relations Events		\$700
Coming out of Exile (Lenten Theme study)		\$1,000
<b>2022 Meeting Expenses or Adjustments:</b>	<b>\$ Set Aside</b>	<b>\$ Approved</b>
N/A		

**Proposed Right Relations Winter-Spring Events**, budget estimates (knowing that costs can vary)

**Acknowledging the Territory-**

Leader estimate \$250; Elder estimate \$250 Tobacco and Gifts \$60

**Together in Art/ Together in Prayer: Tobacco Tie / Together in Story**

one of the three topics will be chosen

Leader estimate \$250; Elder \$250; Tobacco and Gifts \$60

**Follow-up to TRC Sessions**

Leader Estimate: \$500; Elder \$250; Tobacco and Gifts \$60

Costs will be split between the three regions.

Rounded up, budget request: \$700 from each Regional Council (total \$2100)

Suggested motion for request of funds:

MOVED by (Geof /Colleen) that the Horseshoe Falls Mission and Discipleship Commission *approve the allocation* of \$700 from the Events Budget for three Winter/Spring 2022 Right Relations Events: Acknowledging the Territory; Together in Art or Tobacco Tie or Story Sharing; and a follow-up to the TRC Sessions.

CARRIED

- Ruthanna/Michele

None

- other

### **11) UCW: Phyllis Buchner**

Plans are in place for a Tri-Region event on February 12/22 at 10:00 via Zoom. Worship leader -Kathy Douglas and program leader Rev. Michael Brooks "From Despair to Hope"

and the HFUCW AGM at St. Paul's, Dundas on Sat. Apr. 23, 2022 - hopefully this will be an in person gathering.

and National UCW gathering in Sydney N.S. on July 11-15, 2022. The Theme is "Continuing in Hope" - scripture reference Hebrews 6:19. This ties into the National UCW five-year project=Women For Change -Zambia

### **12) Next Meetings:**

#### **Supplementary Grants Discussions:**

**February 8, 2022 - 2pm**

and

**February 15<sup>th</sup>, 2022 - 2pm**

### **13) Closing & Equity Monitor Meeting Review**

### **14) Adjournment**