**Mission and Discipleship Commission**

**Horseshoe Falls Regional Council**

**of The United Church of Canada**

***Holding and Encouraging Communities of Faith***

***APPROVED MINUTES***

***September 28, 2022 at 1 p.m.  
HYBRID following our morning orientation session at Bethel Stone United, Paris or via Zoom***

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

**Staff Support:** Kathy Douglas - Minister, Faith Formation Minister, Thérèse Samuel – Minister for Right Relations and Social Justice, ??? - Stewardship and Gifts Officer, Michele Petick-Administration, Ruthanna Mack-Administration (loa)

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

Staff: Kathy Douglas, Thérèse Samuel, Michele Petick, ~~Ruthanna Mack~~

**Acknowledgement of the Land/Territory - Thérèse**

**Welcome/Opening Prayer – Kathy**

**With fall upon us, it is a change in season, and as individuals what are you looking forward to?**

**Reminder of Equity Monitor and Pastoral Presence for our meeting(s) *We all serve in this capacity keeping each other’s words and actions in check.***

1. **Approval of Agenda for September 28, 2022**

MOTION by Karen/SulaName / Name that the Mission and Discipleship Commission of Horseshoe Falls Regional Council approve the agenda for September 28, 2022.

MOTION CARRIED

1. **Approval of Minutes from June 7, 2022**

MOTION by Geof/Karen Name / Name that the Mission and Discipleship Commission of Horseshoe Falls Regional Council approve the Minutes from June 14, 2022.

MOTION CARRIED

1. **Business Arising:**
2. Response to morning orientation session – feedback

– Focus on Affirming Ministries

1. Five Oaks correspondence re reallocation of funds sent by Diane Viney.
2. **Correspondence:**
3. Diane Matheson-Jimenez, Social Justice Minister notification of resignation from HF.

– celebration was held

1. **New Business:**
2. **Clarifying our Role as a Commission/Goals of the Commission going forward**

* The Commission’s focus has been around finances and helping support projects.
* Consider how the Commission members be a part of the work in the communities of faith.
* The Covenant Commission has an Events budget and that budget can be used for continuing education for Commission members. Roughly $8,000 left for this year.

1. **In person vs virtual meetings**- Meet in-person, hybrid, online

* Environmental costs to consider
* Time costs to consider
* Weather considerations
* Always a Hybrid option available.
* One meeting a year in-person like for the Mission and Support Grants
* Mission and Support Grants meeting might be more business like on Zoom

- Half in-person and half online.

- Relationship building in-person  
- One in-person relationship building meeting and the rest via Zoom with Hybrid always available.

MOVED BY: Geof/Sula that the Horseshoe Falls Mission & Discipleship Commission have a mixture of in-person and virtual meetings at roughly 50/50 percent and that we remain flexible to change where the meeting will be held with hybrid option always available.

CARRIED

**C) Learning about our members of the Commission:**

* What is your greatest area(s) of passion in the Mission and Discipleship portfolio?
* Mission & Service grants and the granting process
* Hearing about the projects asking for grants and being part of the process
* Policy
* Harm Reduction
* Indigenous Relations
* 2SLGBTQ+
* Anti-Racism
* Mental health within our communities and outside of our doors
* Social Justice (from workers rights to individual rights)
* Affirming congregations, open to all marginalized communities
* UCW (United Church Women)
* Camps, for youth, kids and families
* **What area do you find most concerning? In what way does it concern you?**

- United Church is not the building it’s the people … we are having trouble defining this and are too beholden to our properties and older buildings.

- The success of camps.

- Communication, and how the work this Commission do can get shared with communities of faith.

- All levels hold things intention. We say this, but do that.

- Calls to Action for the TRC, ie singing *God Save the King*

- Roles of advocacy and ally ship approach status quo traditional mainstream.

- Social Justice work could seem our presentation could make the audience defensive or triggered.

- We can do better with voices of advocacy on a path that shares power.

- Perhaps a dinner could be arranged to increase awareness about the Mission & Discipleship Commission, invite 3 or 4 interested people from each community of faith as an information session.

- Concerned about migrant workers in Simcoe county

* **What area do you most want to learn more about? (It could be an area you know little about and are curious, or an area that you have developed some knowledge in and want to grow).**

- How to understand the Mission & Discipleship portfolio

- Social Justice and Right Relations

- Accessibility

- Functions for the Commission

- The function of Regional Council

- Social Justice issues

- Faith Formation

1. **Re: Finances - please check DropBox for two files:**

* the Events and Meetings Budget Tracking which I believe I have got up to date, in the 2022 Meetings folder.
* The Spring Right Relations Funding Totals in the Sept 28, 2022 meeting folder in the Dropbox

1. Moved by Karen/Geof that the Horseshoe Falls Regional Council Mission and Discipleship Commission approve the allocation of $100 from the Events Budget for honorarium for Kenji Marui. (Kenji was a presenter at GC44 Youth Forum Intern Retreat at 5 Oaks on August 17, 2022.  His total honorarium will be $300, split between all three regions.

CARRIED

1. Moved by Sula/Geof that the Horseshoe Falls Regional Council Mission and Discipleship Commission approve the allocation of $75 from the Events Budget for honorarium for Kelly Moores (Kelly is offering leadership at a Children and Youth Ministry Webinar for September 28 and 29, 2022)  
     
   CARRIED
2. **Review of Mission Support Grants on November 1, 2022 at 2PM – on Zoom**

* Review each application which will appear in Dropbox
* Template that you can use to organize your thoughts on each applicant
* Come prepared to discuss and then decide how to apportion the funds
* Contact Kathy or Thérèse if you have any trouble with the DropBox

1. FYI – Housing crisis podcasts from the Hub and Trinity United in Kitchener

<https://hubleadership.podbean.com/>

1. Review/Discussion – issues arising from General Council concerning the M&D Commission

      a. principle-based approach to Social Justice

      b. Palestine-Israel

      c.  decriminalizing illicit substance use

      d. challenging anti-Semitism

      e. recognition of Armenian genocide

1. **Reports:**

* **Phyllis – UCW**
* Marilyn Johnson HF UCW President, certificate received $39,335 M&S for 2021
* The Healing Fund is the UCW focus for the next five years.
* Individual memberships are now available as many UCW units have disbanded.
* 41 people went from Horseshoe Falls to UCW 60th in Sydney
* **Kathy**
* Mission Support Grants- This is challenging, time consuming work for this commission.  Please set aside energy and time for the review and decision on those.  IF anyone needs help with drop box or accessing MS Grants 2023, call me.

* The UCC and Kairos, working with the Love of Creation program is holding a series on COP27 (Conference of all Parties).  Please see link below, <https://fortheloveofcreation.ca/event/road-to-cop27-fall-webinar-series/>
* From this work around COP 27 there is a request for reps from each region to sit on the Animator’s Circle to make ‘real’ the climate justice work.   I will be looking for a rep from each region to consider this. IF you know of anyone, please let me know.

* The Interns GC44 Youth Forum Delegates have been recorded as they share their ‘Passion Projects’  I have those recordings.  Many of these justice projects were around Gender Justice. Gender Justice, Food Justice, Climate Justice, Clobber Texts (certain texts, five or six passages have been used from the bible to batter 2SLGBTQ communities), Love Thy Queer Neighbour videos and social media.  There is a nice connection with this for meeting our priorities around Indigenous, Climate, and Gender issues … supporting Youth and Young Adults.
* Work of Palestine and Israel issues is well represented here in Horseshoe Falls. I am working with a group here to create a video using Canadian UCC youth/young adults and Palestinian Youth where they simply connect and share what life is like in their world/communities.
* Bringing together camp directors from across the regions for a lunch and meeting. This is for connection and sharing of resources and experiences this summer.
* **Thérèse**
* **Covenanting service with the Chapel of the Delaware**. Past Moderator and 40+ guests with several members of the community of faith present in attendance at the service. Still debriefing this significant event. Discerning what will be shared about the event.
* **Racial Justice Event** will be held on Feb 7 and March 7, 2023 it is a single event with Selam Debs for the first session and Alcris Limongi for the second. The regions are paying for this event. Looking at the UCC 360 degrees with the lenses Selam will show us how to use.
* **Right Relations work** - October 5th a session video with Martha Pedoniquotte, COMMUNITY CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT COORDINATOR (CCDC), INDIGENOUS MINISTRIES & JUSTICE UNIT, UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA and how work is done for right relations for worship leaders. Funded by the Human Resources Commission.
* **Considering Remits** waiting for direction from General Council
* **Martha Pedoniquotte art event** perhaps in November art session, painting on Orange Shirts a design Martha created.  
    
  **Ruthanna/Michele**
* None
* Karen Orlandi will be a participant on the Anti-Racism working group at the end of October 19-21st with the Canadian Council of Churches Justice and Peace Commission. She has prepared a report she will present to the CCC.

1. **Next Meeting:**

- Regional Council Meeting October 14 & 15 – provide a report and recording from the HF M&D Commission.

- November 1 at 2pm to review Mission Service grant applications via Zoom.

1. **Closing Prayer – Diane**
2. **Adjournment**