**Discipleship and Justice (Mission and Discipleship) Commission**

**Horseshoe Falls Regional Council**

**of The United Church of Canada**

*Supports, Connects, Empowers Communities of Faith*

**APPROVED MINUTES**

***2023/January/10th at 2:00 pm   
via Zoom***

**Roster:** Diane Viney (Chair), Ryk Brown, Phyllis Buchner, Michelle Hogman, Sula Anne Kosacky, Karen Orlandi (LOA until further notice), Geof Thompson.

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

Thérèse Samuel – Minister for Right Relations and Social Justice

Brenna Baker – Community of Faith Stewardship Support

Michele Petick-Administration

Ruthanna Mack-Administration

Position Vacant - Minister, Social Justice

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

Kathy Douglas, Thérèse Samuel, Brenna Baker, Michele Petick, Ruthanna Mack

**Regrets:** Karen Orlandi, Phyllis Buchner

**Agenda**

1. **Acknowledgement of the Land/Territory - Geof Thompson** (Donnalea Williams)
2. **Opening Prayer/Worship – Diane Viney** (Susan Lukey)
3. **Establishing/reminder of Equity Monitor and Pastoral Presence for our meeting(s)**

1. **Approval of Agenda for *2023/01/10***

MOTION by Michelle / Irene that the Discipleship and Justice Commission of Horseshoe Falls Regional Council as circulated.

MOTION CARRIED

1. **Approval of Minutes from 2022-11-01**

MOTION by Geof / Michelle that the Mission and Discipleship/Discipleship and Justice Commission of Horseshoe Falls Regional Council approve the minutes of November 1, 2022 as circulated.

MOTION CARRIED

1. **Funds available** *(As recorded in Events and Meetings Funds Tracking sheet in Dropbox)*
   1. **Events Fund balance available for 2023: $10,000**
   2. **Meeting Fund balance available for 2023: $5,000**
2. **Record of Email Votes since the last meeting:**
   1. Moved by Irene Ty/Karen Orlandi that Horseshoe Falls Mission & Discipleship Commission approve the payment of $266 from the Events Budget to Lambton Centre United Church Camp to cover the deposit for Youth Rally.   
      MOTION CARRIED November 24, 2022

Moved by Irene Ty/Karen Orlandi that Horseshoe Falls Mission & Discipleship Commission approve the payment of $225 from the Events Budget expenses incurred by Vanessa Spence during the YAT Forum April 29th - May 1st, 2022.  
MOTION CARRIED November 24, 2022

* 1. Request to support a youth COP27 Delegates from our area to the meetings in Egypt (November 8-18, they are there now). Kathy's proposal is asking from between $500-$1000 / Region. (Kathy has provided details below which are highlighted).

**Proposed Motion:** Moved name/name that Horseshoe Falls Mission and Discipleship Commission approve the payment of $?? from the Events Budget to support the expenses of Tia Kennedy, Oneida Nation of The Thames and Walpole Island First Nation, as Delegate to COP 27 in Egypt.

NOT CARRIED  
   
**OUTCOME:** this motion was to be tabled until our next meeting at which time we will have discussion and then vote.

Discussion was had about an ongoing focus on the work and purpose of this commission. Specifically, if this commission supports organizations outside of CoF’s that the United Church of Canada chooses to support. Diane Viney will take this clarification to the Executive Council.

* 1. Karen Orlandi made the motion, seconded by Geof Thompson that Horseshoe Falls Mission and Discipleship Commission accept the applications of the various organizations as documented, and to approve Mission Support Grants for those groups/organizations, in the amounts discussed and as outlined below. NOTE: Irene Ty declared a conflict of interest and was not part of the discussion or vote for this email motion.

MOTION CARRIED. November 14, 2022

Five Oaks Centre - $10,000

Brock U Ecumenical Chaplaincy - $10,000

Delta UC Hamilton-Sunday School Coordinator - $2,500

Delta UC Hamilton–Pantry - request $500 - $1,000

Grand River Spiritual and Educational Resource Center - $12,000

McMaster Campus Ministry Council-request $6,000 - $6,000

St. John’s UC of Georgetown and Glen Williams – Food for Life- $5,000

St. John’s UC of Georgetown and Glen Williams – Ev’s Kitchen - $1,000

TUC Kitchener (The Hub) - $40,000

Wesley Urban Ministries - $42,500

Westminster UC, Mississauga – Sunday School Coordinator - $10,000

* 1. Motion by Michelle Hogman/Karen Orlandi.

The M and D Commission of Horseshoe Falls provide up to $100 in financial support for the February 27 and March 28 Lenten studies “Jesus’s Encounters with the Powerful and Powerless” and “Cycle of Gospel Living” to be hosted on CHURCHx

MOTION CARRIED Jan 2, 2023

MOTION by Geof / Ryk approve the record of these email votes by Geof / Ryk as circulated.

CARRIED

1. **Business Arising:**
   1. Tabled motion (7 c above) regarding supporting youth delegates to COP27 in Egypt MOTION NOT CARRIED
2. **New Business:**
   1. Upcoming Tri-Regional review by Jenny Stephens and Bill Allen Tuesday, January 24th or January 31st at 10am … Tuesday January 31st, 2023 at 10am confirmed.
   2. Camps – Geof Thompson

* Look at the relationship between Regional Council and this Commission and The United Church camps.
* There may be a problem where the presbytery model didn’t address camps well and may still be an issue now with the Regional Council model.
* The Camps clearly fit both the mandate of the Regional Council and this Commission.
* They seem to be funding themselves in the same way a Church does. There could be problems with this model.
* Suggesting perhaps Mission and Service go towards downtown ministries and camp ministries.
* Is this commission to consider and fund support things other than communities of faith? Camps seem to be falling through the cracks because they are not a “church”.
* There are ministries that are not “communities of faith” this commission does support.
* Camps have been officially designated as communities of faith.
* The United Church is rich in property with camp lands.
* Camps do their own fundraising and COVID has been a substantial cost to them.
* We need to message from this commission that camp ministry is vital to support and we suggest increasing ways CoF’s may support camp ministry.
* Recommendation that Geof, Michelle and Sula work on a proposal for some wording moving forward into this messaging to a broader audience.
* Suggest to reach out also to Ryerson Camp to participate in this conversation as they are also in the Horseshoe Falls region.  
  1. Name change to our Commission – Horseshoe Falls Regional Council Discipleship & Justice Commission (as discussed from the Fall Executive Meeting)
* Concerns of the major body executing change and not looking for conversation at different levels before going ahead and making changes.
* Diane Viney will convey to the Executive the concerns of changes being made without considerable consideration or conversation at all levels.
* This may be a small change but it effects our relationships.
* There was no urgency for this decision and was done on a short timeline.  
  1. Karen Orlandi – her schedule won’t be able to make it to meetings, should she go on inactive list for 4 months or resign/re-apply?

MOTION: Moved by (Geof / Ryk) that the Horseshoe Falls Discipleship and Justice Commission supports Karen Orlandi in her education and put her on leave until further notice.

CARRIED

1. **Correspondence**
2. **Reports:**

* **Kathy**
* Working with folks around Refugee Advisory Groups. For people hoping or currently doing refugee work. Gathered a think tank from all three regions to create a strategy for folks looking for support.
* Camps in hearts and minds and they are communities of faiths and we need to encourage them to come to Regional gatherings to raise up their voices for support not just financially.
* Tia Kennedy follow up of COP27, hoping to prepare a debrief session to share her learnings and experiences with all three regions.
* Asked to do a confirmation class or retreat. Why do we do it? How do we do it? For younger folks. And looking at supporting new members of all ages to churches.
* Duty of Care practices. Working with Amy Crawford from GCO. These guidelines have not been updated in some time. Some programs and resourcing we are hoping will be available through ChurchX.
* Continuing Palestine/Israel Justice work. It is active work in the Horseshoe Falls region with folks like Curtis Marwood and Spire United Church. Justice making needs to be the goal as asked of by the national church. Looking to bring together diverse voices and the justice work we do.
* **Thérèse**

**Upcoming Events**

* Registration for **Antiracism series** 10 AM Tuesdays with Selam Debs Feb 7 and Alcris Limongi March 7   
  <https://catalog.churchx.ca/product?catalog=UILX1150>
* Registration platform is being prepared for the **Lenten Study** Tuesdays Feb 28 and March 28:  
  save the date, and refer to the CHURCHx basic catalog; when the course is available it will be found here:  
  [https://catalog.churchx.ca/catalog?pagename=UILx](https://can01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fcatalog.churchx.ca%2Fcatalog%3Fpagename%3DUILx&data=05%7C01%7CTSamuel%40united-church.ca%7Cf540631f7aa6420e0aac08daef78021d%7Ccf18b5a826784011931215f0f7157574%7C0%7C0%7C638085595954295600%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=my8adqCWHb4n4kHmfkj55DIW67X4eNylP6%2B3bKtZAvw%3D&reserved=0)

**CHURCHx platform**

* CHURCHx was built from the ground-up as a non-profit social enterprise to resource diverse church institutions. It will be used for all programs provided by the national church, and can be used by regions for educational programs and for connecting committees/commissions/networks. It includes a secure place to share documents for programs. Once you register with CHURCHx, you will be able to access the documents and information for any programs/committees that you are a registered in on CHURCHx.
* CHURCHx cost is about $1 per registrant for courses where no registration fee is charged, and 20% of registrations for one where a fee is charged. When there is a registration fee, they do all the administration of registration fees.
* For the upcoming Antiracism and The UCC workshops with Selam Debs on Feb 7 and Alcris Limongi on March 7 will be switching over to CHURCHx (still using Zoom).

**Online Lenten Study (via Zoom):**

* Tues Feb 28th **Jesus’s Encounters with the Powerful and Powerless-** Engage participants to reflect on biblical stories of Jesus’s encounter with the powerful and powerless people of his time. In the process, they explore what the Gospel calls them to do about the power difference in their own contexts.
* Tues March 28th – **Cycle of Gospel Living**: A presentation to help participants understand where they are in the Cycle of Gospel Living and what they are called to do to create a justice community. Connecting the themes of cross and resurrection to our lives and justice-seeking.

***An Observation:*** In email correspondence it was noted that decisions seem to be about money. I noticed that as well. I am curious about how that fits with the Commission’s expectations/sense of its role

* **Brenna**
* **Ruthanna/Michele**

- Ruthanna Mack will return as administrative support to this commission at the next meeting.

* **Other**

1. **Summary of Fund Expenses or Adjustments made at this meeting or email votes:***(To be recorded in Events and Meetings Tracking form in Dropbox)*

EVENTS FUND:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **2023 Events Budget** | |
| **Description of Expense or Adjustment** | **$** |
| Funding for Lenten Study Feb 28 and Mar 28, 2023 to be hosted on CHURCHx | 100.00 |
| (Other items from email votes to be updated to the 2022 budget, and not the 2023?) |  |
|  |  |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **2023 Meetings Budget** | |
| **Description of Expense or Adjustment** | **$** |
|  |  |

1. **Next Meetings:** Tuesday January 31st, 2023 at 10am
2. **Closing Words**
3. **Adjournment**

**HF D&J Priorities**

**Children & Youth**

**Chaplaincy**

**Social Justice**

**Items tabled for Future Meetings**

**Examples of Motions**

***For Money***

Moved by (mover/seconder) that the Horseshoe Falls Discipleship and Justice Commission approve the allocation of $\_\_\_\_\_\_ from the Events (or Meetings) Budget for \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

***Email voting Template***

You are being asked to vote on the following motion;**MOTION**: Moved by (mover/seconder) that the Horseshoe Falls Discipleship and Justice Commission approve the allocation of $\_\_\_\_\_\_ from the Events (or Meetings) Budget for \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. *(or wording appropriate to the context)*

**VOTING WILL CLOSE** at *time and date (allowing at least 48 hours).* Please vote by replying to *the Chair*. You can vote at any time before the closing date and time, and are free to change your vote at any time until the voting closes.

**QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS** are welcomed, and must be visible to all voting members.

**CANCELLING EMAIL VOTE**: If two voting members object to making this decision by email, a meeting will be scheduled to discuss it.

**QUORUM:** We require a quorum from the Commission to respond by the closing time for the vote to be valid.

**RESULTS:** After the close of voting, the Chair will send an email to everyone with the results of the vote.

*Please let me know if you have any questions and thanks for your participation.*