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

**Horseshoe Falls Regional Council**

**of The United Church of Canada**

*Supports, Connects, Empowers Communities of Faith*

**DRAFT minutes**

***January 31, 2023 at 10:00 am   
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

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, ~~Irene Ty.~~

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

**Regrets:**  Ryk Brown, Irene Ty

1. **Acknowledgement of the Land/Territory - Kathy Douglas**
2. **Welcome to Jenny Stephens – Tri-Regional Evaluation**
3. **Opening Prayer/Worship – A blessing for when you’re feeling grouchy (Kate Bowler) - Diane Viney**
4. **Establishing/reminder of Equity Monitor and Pastoral Presence for our meeting(s): Geof Thompson**
5. **Approval of Agenda for *2023/01/31***

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

MOTION CARRIED

1. **MOTION by Sula / Geof that the Horseshoe Falls Regional Council Discipleship and Justice Commission accept Karen Orlandi back to active commission work from an educational leave of absence.**

**CARRIED**

1. **Approval of Minutes from 2023-01-10**

MOTION by Geof / Sula that the Discipleship and Justice Commission of Horseshoe Falls Regional Council approve the minutes of January 10, 2023.

MOTION CARRIED

1. **Record of Email Votes since the last meeting:**

Moved by Geof / Sula that the Horseshoe Falls Discipleship and Justice Commission approve the allocation of $ 3000 from the Events (or Meetings) Budget for Events Budget.

**CARRIED Sunday January 15, 2023 at 12:30pm**

**Kathy Douglas notes on the Worshiplude event:**

Worshiplude Team planners met yesterday and here is what we ended up with:

1. We have determined the cost of bus and driver to be at the top end $6000
2. Niagara Youth Festival is willing to cover $3000, if Horseshoe Falls D&J could cover the other half of $3000.
3. 50 participants will be accommodated
4. Worshiplude is one of the best youth programs I have participated in over many years of ministry with youth
5. -The bus trip is wonderful fun and great community building
6. -Taking a coach bus reduces risk (traffic, tiredness, weather, transportation in the city, and space to take lots of gear for comfort)
7. -It has been a long haul since we have been able to attract youth to come together and out to an event
8. -The youth meet with kids from across the region and the province.  Ottawa Winterlude is a great outdoor event.   The worship service offered for youth at Rideau Park is youth centred and lead.  We want no barriers to attendance
9. -This will be a Horseshoe Falls event but if we do not fill the bus with HF kids, we may offer to other areas along the way.

MOTION by Geof / Karen that the Horseshoe Falls Regional Council Discipleship and Justice Commission approve the record of this email vote as circulated.

CARRIED

**FOLLOW UP ON MOTION:**

THIS EVENT HAS BEEN SUBSEQUENTLY CANCELLED AND THIS MOTION WILL NOT BE FULFILLED.

1. **Funds available** *(As recorded in Events and Meetings Funds Tracking sheet in Dropbox)*
   1. **Events Fund balance available for 2023: $9,900**
   2. **Meeting Fund balance available as of the last meeting: $5,000**
2. **Business Arising:**
   1. Follow-up to supporting youth delegates to COP27 in Egypt from HF Executive (Diane & Sula)
   2. Follow-up to camps – no discussion at Executive (Diane & Sula)
3. **New Business:**
   1. **Welcome to in-coming Chair of HF D&J Commission**

**– Sula Kosacky (effective immediately post January 31st, 2023 meeting)**

* 1. Diane Viney will continue the work of this commission as a member.
  2. Preparation for Remit Presentation – UN Declaration (Thérèse Samuel) – A remit to empower the Indigenous Church to determine its own structure within the United Church. Background documents include: The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, Truth and Reconciliation Commission’s Calls to Action, Caretakers’ Calls to the Church. TRC Call to Action #48. Remit information will be sent in March 2023. Important for the Discipleship and Justice Commission to encourage Pastoral Charges to engage in the study documents and to vote.   
       
     Reference links:

**The UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples**<https://united-church.ca/social-action/justice-initiatives/reconciliation-and-indigenous-justice/un-declaration-rights>**Truth and Reconciliation Commission (including the Calls to Action)**<https://united-church.ca/social-action/justice-initiatives/reconciliation-and-indigenous-justice/truth-and-reconciliation>**The Calls to the Church**<https://united-church.ca/community-and-faith/being-community/indigenous-ministries/calls-church>**To read the proposals**, visit <https://commons.united-church.ca/>Then select the following: Governance > General Council > 44th General Council > 3. Proposals > Theme - Nurture the Common Good.And then select the document you wish to read:GS10 - Living into ReconciliationNIC01 National Indigenous Circle—Restructuring of Indigenous Church.

**MOTION** by Geof / Karen that the Horseshoe Falls Discipleship and Justice Commission work forward to form a project nominally called “Get out the Vote” to encourage congregations to review and learn about the upcoming remit and to vote on the remit in the Horseshoe Falls region.

CARRIED

* 1. Tri-Regional Affirm Network follow-up (see Correspondence)

Tri-Region Affirm Network looking for a report of progress from the commission on Affirming work.

Thérèse Samuel will bring a report from the meeting to the next meeting of this commission to review.

1. **Correspondence –** Tri-Regional Affirm Network Email – from Michelle Owens
2. **Jenny Stephens Question Period for the HF D&J Commission.**

Review:

* **Governance structure**
* **Staffing model**
* **Support to Communities of Faith**
* **RC Stated Goals**

Discuss **- Strengths, weakness, assistance required from Regional Council to fulfil this commissions work?**

**The review objectives are to assess:**

1. The effectiveness and efficiency of the governance structure

2. The effectiveness and efficiency of the three-region shared staffing model

3. The effectiveness of providing support to Communities of Faith

4. The extent each Regional Council is meeting stated goals

**Goals of Horseshoe Falls Regional Council:**

**Purpose:** Supports, Connects and Empowers Communities of Faith

**Values:** Love Unconditionally, Seek Reconciliation, Risk Courageously

**Commitment to:** Affirming, Anti-Racist

* + - 1. **Efficiency and Effectiveness pertaining to the responsibilities of the Horseshoe Falls Discipleship & Justice Commission.**
* Efficiency and effectiveness seem to be the same thing. The question could be ‘how are we doing’?
* Efficiency (technical) for anticipated or expected outcome and how efficient we were in getting that task done. Effectiveness (organic) seems to be transformative, did it have an effect on people we serve.

**2. Purpose Statement for Horseshoe Falls Regional Council: *“Supports, connects and empowers Communities of Faith”* - How does this commission relate to this purpose statement?**

* In order for us to be fully effective and fully efficient we need to connect with the Communities of Faiths, we are connected more to the Regional Council than we are to the CoF’s. We need to focus on individual Communities of Faith.
* We have a lot of work to do. There’s low trust in some of the communities of faith and that's a barrier we need to work to overcome.
* Something happened to Communities of Faith who became disconnected when the structure changed. ‘We don’t know who to talk to anymore’ seems to be a common thought. Communities of Faith can take on some of the responsibility to reach out to the Regional Council for support.
* Build relationships.
* A resistance to adapt to the new governance within Communities of Faith.
* Regional Council is not considered ‘a friend’ or ‘partner’ but rather a structure that took something away from them (CoF’s).

1. **3. Regional Council Value Statements: “*Love Unconditionally, Seek Reconciliation, Risk Courageously”* - How do these values affect the work of this commission?**

* Communities of Faith may or may not be connecting with each other. Regional Council seems more like the School Superintendent that CoF’s need to ask for permission of, sort of like a gatekeeping relationship.
* As a Commission member we interact with CoF’s by granting money.
* The events we fund are run by program staff of the Regional Council.
* Gatekeeping. Is an impactful image felt by many. Also, Regional Council is seen as having the “power” to close small churches.

1. **4. How do the Commitments: “*Affirming, Anti-Racist”* affect your work in this Commission and making culture shifts.**

- This Commission has been given the responsibility of overseeing issues and causes covering the whole purpose statement of the Regional Council; social justice, right relations, youth, CoF’s, Ministry Personnel, etc. a large task.

- This could be part of the problem with the disconnect between the RC’s and CoF’s.

- Many CoF’s feel that the majority of the work needs to be done by the RC’s

- The Commissions need to connect and communicate with each other more.

- We could use more people to do this work. More volunteers and staff.

- On culture shift - who says what culture needs to shift? A tendency within our denomination is for some to indicate to others what they believe/ought to believe. But, what if someone disagrees? One likely option is they have to disengage.

- Congregational Support and Human Resource Commissions have a connection to Communities of Faith more so than Discipleship & Justice Commission.

- Hopefully a connection to the Communities of Faith and the commission members can me made through this commission’s work.

- This commission may not be a direct connection to the Communities of Faith but can be a bridge to getting priority messages out.

**5. What’s the balance of the commission’s energy after its main responsibility of granting money? What do you want the balance to be? Time to discuss Big Picture ideas?**

- The season of fall is very much taken up with the work of Mission Support Grants.

**6. Is it clear the Governance structure you adhere to and are accountable to? Where are reports sent from this commission?**

- A report is presented at Executive each month.

- Accountable to the Regional Council and the Executive.

- This Commission wanted to have monies available in preparedness for the program staff and future events without needing approval and the Regional Council Executive would not approve it.

- I would have thought we were accountable to the communities of faith - maybe through the regional council?

- An annual report goes to the Regional Council as a whole from this commission and participate in Regional Council meetings and presentations.

**7. What kind of decisions does this Commission have full autonomy? And what decisions need to be passed along to Executive or Regional Council for approval? Is there always adequate information to make a decision?**

- We have decision making autonomy over mission support grants.

- Not always have enough information, inquiry helps to find out more about issues especially when they require funding.

**8. How are networks supporting this work? –** for consideration

**9. How is the staff supporting this work? –** for consideration

**10. Regional Council offers workshops, website and communication content. Does this Commission take responsibility for the creation of the workshops or content on the websites, social media like YouTube?**

- It seems that staff are responsible for creating workshops.

- Staff were asked to do workshops so as to limit the number of volunteers involved in a project.

- How much does this Commission do to make the workshops happen?

1. - Discipleship and Justice approves the funding for the events like workshops ie Right Relations, Lenten Study, Worshiplude.

- It seems from the introductions that people joined this commission because of their passion for issues not to just simply approve money.

- Not sure we have a way of evaluating the effectiveness of the "workshops".

1. **Reports:**

* **Kathy**

None

* **Thérèse**

Reminder of the upcoming events, registration is still open or invite others who may have missed the invitation:

* **Register for Antiracism series** 10 AM Tuesdays with Selam Debs Feb 7 and Alcris Limongi March 7 [https://catalog.churchx.ca/product?catalog=UILX1150](https://can01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fcatalog.churchx.ca%2Fproduct%3Fcatalog%3DUILX1150&data=05%7C01%7CMPetick%40united-church.ca%7C00703341eec245abdc2608db03b9b4c0%7Ccf18b5a826784011931215f0f7157574%7C0%7C0%7C638107868352783992%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=senaaoca3GPz3rbISN2N%2FecxPJU1cCJIPcJyscRSHw4%3D&reserved=0)

* **Register for the Lenten Study** Tuesdays Feb 28 and March 28:

<https://catalog.churchx.ca/product?catalog=UILX6000&utm_source=United-in-Learning&utm_campaign=02503fa7d4-UiL_230116&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_b151b1ffa7-02503fa7d4-189464643&goal=0_b151b1ffa7-02503fa7d4-189464643&mc_cid=02503fa7d4&mc_eid=133b2def54>

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

Ruthanna Mack will be returning to support the administrative work of this commission at the March 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 Worshiplude $3,000 event cancelled | 0.00 |
|  |  |
|  |  |

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

1. **Next Meetings:** March 7, 2023 at 2pm
2. **Closing Words: Geof Thompson**

**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.*