**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**

***2023/03/07 at 2:00 pm   
via Zoom***

**Roster:** Sula Anne Kosacky (Chair, as of Feb 1, 2023), Diane Viney, Ryk Brown, Phyllis Buchner, Michelle Hogman, Karen Orlandi, Geof Thompson.

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

Thérèse Samuel – Minister, Right Relations and Social Justice

Brenna Baker – Community of Faith Stewardship Support

Michele Petick-Administration

Ruthanna Mack-Administration

Position Vacant - Minister, Social Justice

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

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

**Agenda**

1. **Acknowledgement of the Land/Territory - Sula**
2. **Opening Prayer/Worship;** Geof
3. **Establishing/reminder of Equity Monitor and Pastoral Presence for our meeting(s)**   
   **Irene Ty**
4. **Approval of Agenda for March 7th, 2023**
5. MOTION by Geof Thompson/Michelle Hogman that the Discipleship and Justice Commission of Horseshoe Falls Regional Council approves the agenda as circulated.

MOTION CARRIED

1. **Approval of Minutes from 31 January 2023**
2. MOTION by Geof Thompson/ Phyllis Buchner that the Discipleship and Justice Commission of Horseshoe Falls Regional Council approve the minutes of January 31, 2023 as circulated.

MOTION CARRIED

1. **Funds available** *(As recorded in Events and Meetings Funds Tracking sheet in Dropbox)*
   1. **Events fund balance available as of the last meeting: $9900**
   2. **Meeting Fund balance available as of the last meeting: $5000**
2. **Record of Email Votes since the last meeting:**  
   **None**

1. **Business Arising:**
   1. **Upcoming remit documents and discussion - Thérèse**  
      Pastoral Charges have 1 year to reply to the remit  
      Not voting is a ‘no’ vote
   2. **Commission mandate – Effectiveness and Efficiency?**
      1. What did we learn from discussion with Jenny and Bill?
      2. Time to review   
         - still dealing with ‘restructuring’ - may take a generation to deal with the change. Folks don’t like paying the extra fees.  
         - Connecting with the congregations: have not seen a community profile; only done when they are looking for a new minister  
         - Community Profiles are received by the Congregational Support Commission   
         - Low trust of the Regional Council: view them as meddling;  
         - maybe need a chance for the commissions to work together   
         - may have to wait it out; need to work on relationship  
         now emphasis on ‘ideas’ - need to find ways to connect with people  
         - our commission: not close to grass roots, not as aware of the churches around us.
2. **New Business:**
   1. **Does the name Discipleship and Justice clearly describe to communities of faith what this commission does?**  
      yes, name change has helped, helps focus our work  
      maybe need terms like child, youth,   
      may need to work to provide clarity  
      Stewardship? Yes, it’s a Justice issue
   2. **Ideas and Opportunities for Creativity and Leadership**  
      **eg. maybe develop networks – green network, community meals networks**  
      **ACTION: brainstorm and send to Sula over the next month**
3. **Reports:**

**Kathy**

1. Working with folks around **Refugee Advisory Groups**. For people hoping or currently doing refugee work. There will be zoom gathering to bring those involved in refugee sponsorship.

**Creating a Refugee Advisory Network in ARW, HF and WOW**

ARW, HF, and WOW Regional Councils wants to support the Communities of Faith who are doing and/or wish they were doing Refugee Sponsorships.

We want to celebrate and encourage the immense contributions and dedication our church communities have provided as safe havens for vulnerable refugees around the world.

We want to help support refugee sponsorship ministry. As rewarding as this work can be, we are aware that it requires great energy and long hours of work. There is a steep learning curve and lots of struggles to overcome.

Join a Zoom Call

Creating an Refugee Advisory Network

in ARW, WOW and HF Regional Council

DATE and TIME

Zoom link (registration)

**Who should attend this gathering?**

o Those who have a long and rich history in Refugee Sponsorship

o Those who are hoping to offer this ministry in their context

o Those who need support in this ministry

**2 Kids Across the Regions Event**  June 16-18 at Camp Bimini. Built on Children at Conference (London Con) this event offers short camp experience for kids trying overnight camp, leadership development for teens and young adults, a community building opportunity for Children and Youth Ministry folk. In an effort to ‘rebuild’ our region wide events, and children ministry in general we want to reduce barriers. Cost is one barrier. If all three D&J Commissions subsidize this camp at $500 each we can keep the participant fee between $75-$100. Watch for poster and registration.

MOTION by Diane Viney/Geof Thompson that the Horseshoe Falls Discipleship and Justice Commission approve the allocation of $500 from the Events Budget for Kids Across the Regions Event (June 16-18, 2023 at Camp Bimini. This will act as a subsidy to reduce participant fees.  
  
3. Working with For the Love of Creation <https://fortheloveofcreation.ca/earth-week/>

4 During Earth Week 2023 (April 16–23), The United Church of Canada is joining with numerous sibling denominations and faith-based organizations under one banner, Together for the Love of Creation. During Earth Week, we invite you to hold events to pray, learn, and act for climate justice.

5. YAT Forum: Surface Pressure SAVE: Friday, April 28 - Sunday, April 30

Lambton Centre, Lambton Shores

**Thérèse**

1. **Antiracism series**
   1. Reporting here although it was a program paid for by Executives
   2. Feb 7th 208 were registered, 148 came. Next session is the morning of March 7th. Will share a verbal update at the meeting.
   3. Registration at the time of writing is 222. People asking for the video were told to register.
   4. Registration is still open. People who register now can watch the video and attend on Mar 7.: <https://catalog.churchx.ca/product?catalog=UILX1150> Video is available until April 6.
   5. Due to concerns about readability, and a privacy concern, the video was edited.
   6. Selam’s administrator made an error in setting up the meeting, which resulted in some not able to enter and the meeting had to be closed and re-opened again. She completed the session and 111 stayed to the end. The video is available for all who had to leave early to see what they missed
   7. CHURCHx made it possible to send a note to all 208 people with one click. Without CHURCHx it would have taken 15-20 minutes to send emails in batches of 15.
2. **Registration still open for the Lenten Study** (Tues Feb 28 and Mar 28):
   1. Feb 28, Session 1: 39 registered, 30 attended.
   2. Mar 28 session still open for registrations:
3. <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>
4. In the United Church of Canada, March 14 is PIE Day, also called National Affirming Day.  
    Several regions are collaborating to support a workshop that evening. The guest is a highly regarded 2Spirit (Indigenous) speaker. Click the link for info about the session: [PIE Day Workshop - Ozhawa Anung Kweon - Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council (wowrcucc.ca)](https://wowrcucc.ca/pie-day-workshop-ozhawa-anung-kweon/) Our Tri-regional Affirming Network has endorsed it.
5. Networks:
   1. Tri-Regional Affirming Network: I suggest the commission also reach out to the Affirming Network. They have a lot on their plate and are doing an awesome job supporting communities of faith in the process. Robin Sherman is Chair and Deborah Laforet is Secretary.
6. Emerging Events:
   1. Possible event being planned for Fall, 2023: Online “Fishbowl” with 8 Youth/Young Adults from The Hub, and 8 Seniors who are leaders from various congregations. I am in talks with Adam Cresswell from The Hub/Trinity UC Kitchener on initial plans.
   2. Presentation at the three regional spring meetings, in preparation for the remit vote.

**Brenna:**  
**Easter M&S Resources:** Will be available on M&S website: <https://united-church.ca/worship-theme/mission-and-service-worship>

* “For the Love of Creation” is a worship service for the Sunday after Easter (Earth Week) that highlights how M&S is confronting climate change and inspires communities of faith to make a difference. Great for a lay-led service, and could really be used anytime.

* **Mission and Service Impact Stories** If you know of a partner in mission that’s doing great things or have a great story from one of our grant recipients, please let me know. The folks that write the stories are looking for fresh examples of Mission and Service donations at work.
* **Spring Stewardship Modules:**

**Stewardship Best Practices (Module 1)** starts week of March 20. Learning Teams are invited to register to learn about how to cultivate stewardship as a year-round, on-going spiritual practice in your community of faith. The course is four 2-hour sessions learning with a cohort, incorporating hands on work like writing a case for support, how to communicate your vision, etc. Space is limited so register now! Here’s the registration and more info: <https://www.united-in-learning.com/index.php/ctbtc/445-ctbtc-mod-1-stewardship-best-practices>

* Includes a customized report for your congregation and on-going coaching.
* **Getting Started in Stewardship –** the first step in your stewardship journey.This webinar gives a quick overview of the Called to be the Church: The Journey stewardship program and resources. Individuals may attend this and then determine if they’re ready to form a team and continue the process.

Offered next on May 2 at 6:30pm

* Registration is open here: <https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=qLUYz3gmEUCTEhXw9xV1dAO0ht3KpoFDrfiQuQ8iIvNURFpYTk1GVk1WN1g5NEJTMENYRFpWMDVBMS4u>
* **Module 2 – Setting Up Your Giving Program –** This is a two week series designed for congregations planning a stewardship campaign for the fall. It discusses inviting people to give, what should be in the invitation package, and how to thank people in a meaningful way. This module next begins the week of May 15 and each community of faith would need a learning team of 3-4
* **Ruthanna/Michele**
* **Other**

1. **Correspondence:**
   1. **Social Justice Network of Ontario Regional Councils**
      1. MOTION by Geof Thompson/Michelle Hogman that the Discipleship and Justice Commission of Horseshoe Falls Regional Council support the SJNORC Network in the amount of $1000.

Choose an item.

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** | **$9900** |
| $500 to Kids across the region | $9400 |
| $1000 SJNOR | $8400 |
|  |  |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **2023 Meetings Budget** | |
| **Description of Expense or Adjustment** | **$5000** |
|  |  |

**Phyllis: Looking forward to April Annual General Meeting of the UCW**

**Next Meeting Date: April 18th 2pm**

1. **Closing Words**
2. **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.*