

# Discipleship and Justice Commission Report

Horseshoe Falls Regional Council Fall Meeting, Oct. 3-5, 2024

The work of the Discipleship and Justice Commission is to support through providing funds, connecting people, providing information and training, and raising awareness: faith formation events, social justice events, camping ministries, chaplaincies, and right relations work. The Discipleship and Justice Commission also receives applications for Mission Support grants to support ministries throughout the region, and awards grants with funds made available each fall.

In the fall of 2023 we awarded \$160,000 in Mission Support grants to churches, camps, and chaplaincies around the region, supporting year round ministries, new part time ministries, short term programs, and one-time events.

In the coming weeks we will set our decision making strategies, and decide our granting priorities, and then in November we will award 2024 grants.

Furthermore, in 2024 we have supported events like:

Kids Across the Region  
UCC 360 Antiracism Program  
Duty of Care 101 Webinar  
Music Ministry Webinar  
UNJPPI Training Event – Palestine Land Exercise  
“Fishbowl” Intercultural Communication Exercise

And we hope to support other events this fall by making financial support available to support individuals wishing to attend wider church events.

The Discipleship and Justice Commission is supported by a number of our tri-regional staff: Kathy Douglas, Minister of Faith Formation; Therese Samuel, Minister of Right Relations and Social Justice; and John Egger, Minister of Social Justice. We are also thankful to have the administrative support of Krista Ford.

In 2023, our support staff encouraged the chairs of Discipleship and Justice from Antler-Rivers Watershed, Western Ontario Waterways, and Horseshoe Falls regions to connect and share ideas about how we do the work of supporting faith formation and social justice in our three regions. That relationship and collaborative spirit came together this spring to pilot a new position in support of our camping ministries. In response to concerns raised in the summer camp season 2023, we worked out a pilot position for a part time mental health counseling professional who would be available by phone to provide advice and support to camp senior staff across all tri-regional camps if mental health concerns came up in 2024. We will be hearing the report on that project and making recommendations for next year in the coming weeks.