**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**

***2024/10/17***

**Roster:** Sula Anne Kosacky , Mervyn Russell, Joe Hopkins, Jake Girton, Geof Thompson. Lahring Tribe, Irene Ty, Parker Neale, Jess Swance, Donalee Williams

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

Thérèse Samuel - Minister, Right Relations and Social Justice

John Egger - Minister, Social Justice

Krista Ford – Finance Administration

Greg Smith-Young

Brenna Baker

**Present** Kathy Douglas, Parker Neale, Jess Swance, Krista Ford, John Egger, Donalee Williams, Geof Thompson, Brenna Baker, Irene Ty, Mervyn Russell, Sula Anne Kosacky

**Agenda**

1. **Acknowledgement of the Land/Territory;** Sula
2. **Opening Prayer/Worship;** Sula
3. **Establishing/reminder of Equity Monitor and Pastoral Presence for our meeting(s) –** Irene Ty
4. **Approval of Agenda for Oct 17th, 2024**Amended to ad a new point a) under point 10 New Business to include a space to discuss Conflict of Interest.

MOTION by *Geof Thompson / Parker Neale* that the Discipleship and Justice Commission of Horseshoe Falls Regional Council approve the Agenda of Oct 17th 2024 as amended.

MOTION          **CARRIED**

1. **Approval of Past Minutes from Sept 26th, 2024, meeting**

MOTION by *Irene Ty / Geof Thompson* that the Discipleship and Justice Commission of Horseshoe Falls Regional Council approve the minutes of Sept 26th 2024 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: $7465**
   2. **Meeting Fund balance available as of the last meeting: $3,000**
2. **Record of Email Votes since the last meeting:** None
3. **Business Arising:**
4. **Approval of April 25, 2024**

MOTION by *Mervyn Russel / Geof Thompson* that the Discipleship and Justice Commission of Horseshoe Falls Regional Council approve the minutes of April 25th 2024 2024 as circulated.

MOTION          **CARRIED**

1. **Correspondence: Letter from Diane Blanchard**

Diane sent a letter of support thanking the commission for the funding and asked if the commission wanted to send 1 or 2 people to the event. There are some commission members are planning to attend.

1. **New Business: Setting Priorities for Distribution of Mission Support funds.**
2. **Conflict of Interest**  
     
   John Egger touched on the conflict of interest piece, noting it would be helpful in deciding if you have a conflict if you ask, “Do you or someone in your immediate family have financial gain from receiving a Mission Support Grant?”  
     
   At the time of the last D&J meeting not all application has been made yet, so it was hard for the commission to say who would have a conflict.  
     
   It was decided that all commission members can participate in tonight’s discussion to review Mission Support grant Priorities and practice but anyone with a conflict would not participate in the actual funding decision meeting.  
     
   MOTION by *Jess Swance / Mervyn Russel* that all members of the Discipleship and Justice Commission of Horseshoe Falls Regional Council can participate in the general discussion tonight, Oct 17th 2024 about Mission Support grants but that everyone who is connected to an application will have a conflict of interest and must excuse themselves from the decision meeting on Nov 7th 2024.  
   MOTION **CARRIED**
3. **Review of how HFRC D&J has set priorities in the past**

There was general discussion about the priorities with questions being posed such as “Why do people give money to M&S for grants, does the application fit those reasons.” For past applicants did they provide a follow up storey after receiving the grant, sharing how they spent the money.  
Is the program sustainable, are they applying for other grants in other areas or other partners.  
Look at year over year applications for changes, if change was expected was there?

Mervyn left the meeting at 7:00pm

It was noted that the priorities of the commission are **Children and Youth, (Faith Formation?) Chaplaincy, Social Justice.**Discussion continued around a priority order within the priorities, it was determined that all are important and that funding should be used to support applications that are directly related to those priorities but treated equially.

1. **Seed money for new project or ministry/ongoing support for existing ministry**

It was discussed that each application should be judged on its own, and that there won’t be a priority to support new applicants over ones who have previously applied or vice versa.

1. **Should there be consideration of Mission Support money given in the past, if so is it favorable to continue support?**

The question was posed, do we consider continuing ongoing applications differently than new ones. Do we want to make sure that people get a chance at funding vs the same ones over and over. It was suggested to take each application on a case by case basis and make a decision. It was noted though that previous applicants need to report on how the money was used.

1. **Should there be a consideration of whether this is a congregation or a different type of ministry?**

It was discussed that there was no favour or priority for one type of application over the other.

1. **Should there be a consideration of the size of the grant requested?**

Several commission members shared their opinions on if it made more sense to give larger grants to few or smaller grants to more. Again it was noted to look at all the information from all applicants to make decisions and not look at one differently than another based on the amount of the request.

1. **What if there is money left over?**

In the instance there is money not given out, the remaining funds could be returned to the Region, the commission could decide to over fund one or some applicants, or the application process could be opened back up to allow for more applications to be received.

In closing the discussion about the Mission Support Grant process, Brenna encouraged all commission members to take time and really read and review the applications before the meeting, to pray and really think about the applications and what they are asking and what they are planning to do with the funding.  
  
The applications along with the master spreadsheet of previous years funding will be posted to Sharepoint at least 1 week before the meeting on Nov 7th.  
  
As Sula will have a conflict of interest for that meeting and will not be in attendance, it was discussed who would chair the meeting. Sula is going to reach out to Joe to see if he will.  
  
The total granting amount for this year will be the same as last year $140,000.

1. **Reports:**
   1. **Kathy -**

Kathy talked about the Faith in a time of genocide land exercise event that will be happening and if anyone from the commission is attending, they will be asked to submit their expenses along with receipts after the event. A motion or email vote will be done if required to approve amounts.

Kathy is also working on an advent and Christmas preparation round table event. It will be a zoom gathering sharing ideas with one another.

* 1. **Therese –** not present
  2. **John**

John touched briefly on the Engage Different event coming up at Five Oaks in November, and ask the commission how they would consider supporting registrations with bursaries for those interested in attending.  
  
MOTION by *Geof Thompson / Irene Ty* that the Dicipleship and Justice Commission of Horseshoe Falls Regional Council support applicants to the Engage Different educational event by granting $500 bursaries for up to 14 people to attend.  
MOTION **CARRIED**

* 1. **Lahring -** not present
  2. **Other reports**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 2024 Events Budget | | | $10,000 |
| **Description of Event/Program** | **Date**   Approved | **Amount** | **Remaining** |
| UCC 360 Antiracism Program – Alcris Limongi    (deferred from June 20, 2023, anticipated program moved to 2024) | 2023 | $500.00 | $9,500.00 |
| Music Ministry Webinar – Honorarium, Rev. Jeffrey Dale - March 4th | Feb 29, 2024 | $75.00 | $9,425.00 |
| Duty of Care 101 Webinar – honorarium for Terri Sparling - April 23/24 | Mar. 21, 2024 | $75.00 | $9,350.00 |
| Kids Across the Regions, 2024 at Camp Bimini  **up to** $1 000 (a third of the contribution) | June 17, 2024 | $1,000 | $9,250 |
| UNJPPI training event, Palestine Land Exercise, Thursday, October 31st 2024, in Toronto **up to** $1500 (a third of the contribution) | June 20, 2024 | $1,500 | $7,750 |
| **of $560 from the Events Budget toward a second pilot online “fishbowl” workshop for an intercultural (i.e. cross-generational) fishbowl sharing between youth and adult leaders in congregations.** | June 26, 2024 | $560 | $7,190 |
| **POSTPONED -** UCC 360 Antiracism Program – Alcris Limongi | Sept 26th, 2024 | ($500) | $7690 |
| Honorarium to Michelle Owens for Boundary training | Sept 26th, 2024 | $225 | $7465 |
| Bursary for Engage Different Education event.$500 bursaries for up to 14 people. | Oct 17th 2024 | Up to $7000 | $465 |
| **TOTAL REMAINING:** | | | **$465** |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **2024 Meetings Budget** | |
| **Description of Expense or Adjustment** | **$3,000** |
|  |  |

1. **Chair for next meeting** Joe ?
2. **Next Meetings: Nov 7th, 2024 – M&S Grant meeting, Nov 28th, 2024**
3. **Closing Words -** Sula
4. **Adjournment –** meeting adjourned at 8:05pm

**HF D&J Priorities**

**Children & Youth**

**Chaplaincy**

**Social Justice**