

**THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA  
SHINING WATERS REGIONAL COUNCIL**

**Minutes of a meeting of the  
Intercultural Diversity Commission  
Tuesday, February 23, 2021**

The Intercultural Diversity Commission of Shining Waters Regional Council met on Tuesday, February 23, 2021 by video conference. The meeting began at 4:00 p.m. Until the commission members have been established through the Nominations Committee of the region, the Intercultural Diversity Circle will continue to meet.

**Members Present**

Tina Conlon; In Hack Jung; Victor Kitagawa; Amy Lee (Co-Chair); Isaac Kamta; Lark Hoon Kim; Andrew Lee; John Joseph Mastandrea; Eric Asamoah Nyarko; Francis Nyarko (Co-Chair); Charles Olango; Moon-Ja Park; Dong Chun Seo; Yoon Ok Shin; Kim Uyede-Kai (staff).

**Regrets:** Jingle Ayupan.

**Welcome, Acknowledging the Territory, and prayer**

The co-chairperson, Amy Lee, welcomed everyone, gave an acknowledgement of the land and commitment to healing broken relationships, lit a candle and led in a prayer. Eric Nyarko led in scripture reading of Matthew 4:1-11 in Akan and shared a devotion and prayer.

**Constituting the meeting**

The co-chairperson, Amy Lee, constituted the meeting in the name of Jesus Christ.

**Agenda**

**MOTION** by John Joseph Mastandrea / Lark Kim  
that the agenda be approved as circulated.

**MOTION**

**CARRIED**

## **Minutes**

**MOTION** by Moon-Ja Park / Eric Nyarko  
that the minutes of the January 26, 2021 meeting of the circle be approved.

**MOTION**

**CARRIED**

## **Business Arising**

### **Intercultural Diversity Commission (IDC) policy draft**

Moon-Ja Park reported that the draft policy for the new Intercultural Diversity Commission had been on the agenda of the January Regional Council Executive meeting. After a discussion, the draft policy was tabled for decision at the February Executive meeting. Once the policy has been approved the Nominations Committee will begin its work seeking nominations.

## **New Business**

### **Regional Council priorities conversation gathering**

Co-chairs Amy Lee and Francis Nyarko, John Joseph Mastandrea, and Kim Uyede-Kai as staff, attended a Zoom gathering with Commission and committee chairs and regional council staff reporting on their mandate and work to date. The Grants Committee, with John Joseph as Chair, are moving towards increasing anti-racism awareness and diversity in their committee membership and priorities, as are other Commissions and committees.

### **Toronto United Church Council**

John Joseph gave a brief history of the 130-year-old Toronto United Church Council, originally restricted to Toronto area applicants. Following the restructuring into regional councils, they now open to a wider regional reach. There are no grants presently designated for intercultural ministries.

John Joseph offered to have a conversation with Eric Nyarko to help Ghana Calvary Methodist United Church with a grant application.

### **Ethnic Ministries (EM) designations**

Yoon Ok Shin and Lark Kim questioned the continued use of “EM” designation when the United Church has voted to become an intercultural church. Discussion followed, including a historical designation for ethnic cultural-linguistic churches. There are no Year Book or other official designations for “intercultural churches”.

### **Community of Faith highlighted updates**

Ghana Calvary Methodist United Church's pipe broke and flooded the church. They called on Toronto United Church Council to help with cleaning up, assessing the damage and repairs.

Ministères Protestant Francophone de Toronto (MPFT) held their first congregational annual meeting, elected officials, and is meeting and worshipping online.

Uganda Martyrs Church meets on Zoom. More than 30% of the members are new to Canada, so children's online education is challenging without computers.

Victor Kitagawa mentioned the recent passing of the Rev. Lenore Beecham, former overseas personnel to Korea, and long-time supporter of Ethnic Ministries in Toronto Conference. Amy Lee led in a prayer of thanks for Lenore's ministry.

### **Adjournment and Closing Prayer**

**MOTION** by Moon-Ja Park / Lark Kim  
That the meeting be adjourned.

**MOTION**

**CARRIED**

The meeting closed with prayer led by Francis Nyarko. The meeting ended at 5:20 p.m.

### **Next meeting**

The next meeting of the Intercultural Diversity Commission will be held by Zoom video conference on Tuesday, March 30, 2021 at 4:00 - 5:30 p.m.

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Amy Lee, Co-Chair  
Francis Nyarko, Co-Chair

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Kim Uyede-Kai, notetaker

