

January 18, 2022

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

**Minutes of a meeting of the
Social and Ecological Justice Commission
Tuesday, January 18, 2022**

The Social and Ecological Justice Commission of Shining Waters Regional Council met on January 18, 2022 by video conference. The meeting began at 1:00 p.m.

Members Present

Susan Eagle (Chairperson), Lois Brown, Tina Conlon, Cameron Watts

Staff: Jeffrey Dale, Kim Uyede-Kai, Rachael Howes

Regrets: Moon-Ja Park

Welcome, check in and prayer

The chairperson welcomed everyone and opened with a reading from author, Keri Wehlander. She gave an acknowledgement of the land, and acknowledged our commitment to being a safe place for all people to gather and participate in our Region.

The chairperson constituted the meeting in the name of Jesus Christ.

There was a time of check-in.

Agenda

One item to add under New Business regarding annual congregational meetings.

MOTION by Cameron Watts / Tina Conlon that the agenda be approved as amended

MOTION

CARRIED

Minutes

MOTION by Lois Brown / Tina Conlon that the Minutes of the meeting of the Shining Waters Social and Ecological Justice Commission held December 7, 2021 be adopted as circulated.

MOTION

CARRIED

Business Arising

A public letter to Mayor John Tory re: action to help the homeless – request for signature/endorsement

- this letter came to the Commission's attention between meetings;

- it is a Toronto-based letter; there was not full support of the Commission for it, so it was not signed by the Commission.
- Tina Conlon spoke about her concerns with the letter which she had shared by email with the Commission
- Cameron Watts brought the Commission up to date on Faith in the City's response; they are holding a rally on January 20th.
- it was decided to send out information to the region about the rally being held on January 20th as well as the Shelter Housing Justice Network's Shelter Crisis TO Digital Toolkit
- Susan reported that the Barrie churches sent a letter to the City of Barrie regarding changing the temperature criteria for opening their warming centres. The City subsequently changed their criteria.
- it was decided to send out an email to the region asking churches to find out what the temperature criteria and policies are for warming centers in their own municipality and to advocate for change.

Mid-Winter Event – *Susan Eagle and Jeffrey Dale*

The social justice clergy gathering will be held March 8, 9:30 a.m. to noon via Zoom. Speakers will be Rob Oliphant and Eleanor Scarlett. There was discussion about the format, content, etc.

Nominating Process

The Nominations Committee meets January 27th.

Justice for workers (item deferred from December meeting) - *Tina*

This item is regarding decent hours and scheduling for long-term care workers, equal pay/benefits regardless of status (temp/contract workers, migrants). Tina indicated there is nothing to report at this time. She will forward information to the Commission as she receives it.

Reach Out Response Network, follow-up – *Tina Conlon*

This is regarding non-police response to mental health crisis. Tina reported that no action has been taken yet; they are having another meeting on February 20th. There was discussion around how the Commission can respond, and this item will be monitored going forward.

COP26 Climate Summit, follow-up

Susan Eagle has not been able to get in touch with Joy Kennedy to invite her to speak to an agenda item at a future Commission meeting; Kim Uyede-Kai offered to get contact information.

Staff reports – *Jeffrey Dale and Kim Uyede-Kai*

Jeffrey reported:

- he is having a meeting with PalNet for what will go on the Shining Waters website around Israel/Palestine
- the region is working on PIE day – Jeffrey and Susie Henderson are working with affirming congregations to create a video about how they are living out their affirming ministry and then will host a PIE day event on March 14th in the evening;
- conversion therapy – there is now a national conversation therapy recovery organization with non-profit status; Jeffrey is working with them.
- a worship resource is going out the first week of February focussing on environmental grief.

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Kim reported

- an intercultural diversity and right relations resource list will be going up on Shining Waters website;
- she is working on a Black history month resource that will be ready for February
- anti-Asian racism is still alive and threatening but not well known;
- January 25th there will be a national Zoom meeting, an info session on newcomers from Hong Kong, to learn more about what kind of communities the newcomers will be entering.
- Living into Right Relations (LIRR) Circle – Jonathan Hamilton-Diabo will be speaking to the Circle on January 26th at 10 a.m. speaking about relationships between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people.

SJNOR Report – *Tina Conlon*

Their next meeting is on January 27th. Tina will identify items that come out of the meetings to bring to this Commission.

GLI Report - Circulation of letter (follow-up from December) – *Susan Eagle*

At the December meeting the Commission endorsed this but it was not circulated.

The matter will come back to the next Commission meeting

New Business:

Annual congregational meetings – Susan Eagle asked the commission about identifying something the Commission thinks is important and sending it out to the region’s communities of faith asking them to talk about it at their annual meetings.

Cameron Watts left the meeting.

MOTION by Tina Conlon / Lois Brown that the Social and Ecological Justice Commission of Shining Waters Regional Council make a request to communities of faith that at their annual general meetings they commit to an action in the coming year around homelessness, anti-racism, or environmental action, under the *Daring Discipleship* section of The United Church of Canada’s Mission, with details to be worked out for suggested actions to be included, and in collaboration with the Intercultural Diversity Commission.

MOTION

CARRIED

Closing: Lois Brown offered a closing prayer, and the meeting closed at 3:05 p.m.

Next Meeting: February 15, 2022, 1 pm – Opening reflection will be given by Tina Conlon.

Items being monitored:

- Reach Out Response Network re: non-police response to mental health crisis