

The United Church of Canada
Shining Waters Regional Council

**Minutes of a meeting of the
Intercultural Diversity Commission
May 30, 2022**

The Intercultural Diversity Commission of Shining Waters Regional Council met on May 30, 2022 by video conference. The meeting began at 6:00 p.m.

Present: Joel Aguirre, Amy Lee (Interim Chair), Néstor Medina, Moon Ja Park

Kim Uyede-Kai (staff)

Regrets: Innocent Karuhanga, John Joseph Mastandrea

Welcome / Opening

Amy Lee welcomed everyone, and constituted the meeting in the name of Jesus Christ. Kim Uyede-Kai gave a land acknowledgment and a safe space statement.

Kim Uyede-Kai gave an opening prayer.

Agenda

The agenda was approved by consensus.

There was a time of check-in.

Minutes

The Minutes of the Commission meeting held on April 25, 2022 were approved by consensus.

Business Arising from Minutes

Budget

In the April meeting the one big budget item was identified as language translation of policies, procedures, handbooks, etc. with the most urgent being Korean translation. Lack of information has caused misunderstandings and miscommunications about what the United Church does and what the policies are. Other possible budget items included an event, but language translation had the most clarity in order to attach a dollar amount.

The Commission will start working towards a concrete budget around translation, i.e. \$0.30 per word for the first 1,000 words and then \$0.25 per word after 1,000.

Language translation

Several policies and handbooks were identified that could be priority. After discussion, the Commission identified six initial policies and handbook pieces: pastoral relations, admission to the order of ministry, model trust deed, Mission & Service and stewardship, and two pastoral relations handbooks. Once the translations are done, they can be used as a tool for education.

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There are a few experienced English to Korean United Church translators that are available; a proofreader is also needed. Woong Youm and YunJung Kim have experience in translating United Church processes. Amy and Moon Ja also suggested Taeil Yang.

2022 Budget Planning and Approval

At its meeting on May 27-28, the regional council approved a draft budget showing the Intercultural Diversity Commission budget of \$35,000 for 2023 and a projection for 2024, 2025, 2026. The Commission discussed having a detailed plan for the next few years, e.g. workshops, resources, in-person gathering (2023).

Anti-Racism Regional Council Statement

The Intercultural Diversity Commission issued a Regional Statement on Anti-Black and Anti-Asian Hate, Racism and Violence on May 14th. It was suggested that the Commission create something that communicates how the commission is against any form of discrimination or racism that includes all racialized groups; how do we balance speaking to one event, and knowing that we are also responsible to speak to the larger social context. At the next commission meeting the Commission can develop guidelines for how we respond and when.

Staff Updates – Kim Uyede-Kai

- Kim thanked the Commission members for being so engaged and being quick in responding to the anti-racism statement drafts;
- The four Commissions of Shining Waters Regional Council are slowly finding ways where their work intersects. This Commission is very clear that there needs to be some interplay between the work of the commissions, e.g. Intercultural Diversity has similar concerns to Social and Ecological Justice.
- Two new members will be joining this Commission in the fall – Hedy Baker-Graf and Paul Rose.

Continued Conversation on Terminology/Language

Poem by John Joseph:

WE ARE THE BUILDERS

(inspired by Genesis 11:1-9, Acts 2:1-21)

We are the builders

The whole earth, rumble, showdown, two teams, build a city, go down, confuse their language, kneel, confusion, understanding,

We are the builders

The Whole had one language

God, humanity, heaven tower, Noah, Moses, people of Israel, human team

We are the builders

Come let us make bricks

Progression, digression, all of humanity, God's intentions, God purpose, human detour, confuse, scatter, understand, clarify, God's ways, God gifts, God love

We are the builders

They spoke in other languages

Awesome power, revealed, band of disciples, together, Jesus life, human, spirit talk, living Christ, minority, majority, gather early,

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We are the builders
Love one another. Start now, show me, Christ life, revelation, incarnation

We are the builders
Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Love me, love is God is, grace, compassion,
keep love, command now, word keep
We are the builders.

The Commission thanked John Joseph for creating the poem. There were comments that we have to do more work, and really spell out the mutual growth that can happen when different communities come together as well as the recognition of the messy character of interculturality, and the recognition of the Divine Spirit at work within those moments and in other faith traditions, as mentioned in earlier meetings.

Cultural Dates

Kim Uyede-Kai has started a calendar of significant events and special days marked by the diversity of regional communities. She encouraged the Commission to add special days that they know. It can also be used as an educational resource.

Closing

The members of the Commission recited the Lord's Prayer in their own language. The meeting closed at 7:45 p.m.

Next Meeting

Monday, June 20, 2022. 6:00-8:00 p.m.
Opening prayer and land acknowledgement: Néstor Medina.

