

The United Church of Canada  
Shining Waters Regional Council

**Minutes of a meeting of the  
Intercultural Diversity Commission  
June 20, 2022**

The Intercultural Diversity Commission of Shining Waters Regional Council met on June 20, 2022 by video conference. The meeting began at 6:00 p.m.

Present: Joel Aguirre (from 6:25), Hedy Baker-Graf, Innocent Karuhanga, Amy Lee (Chair), Néstor Medina, John Joseph Mastandrea (until 6:45), Moon Ja Park.

Regrets: Paul Rose.

Staff Support: Kim Uyede-Kai

**Welcome**

Amy welcomed Hedy Baker-Graf as a new commission member.

**Land Acknowledgement, Opening Reflection, and Prayer**

Néstor Medina gave a land acknowledgement and an opening reflection and prayer.

**Check In**

Commission members introduced themselves to Hedy.

**Agenda**

The agenda was approved by consensus.

**Minutes of May 30, 2022**

The minutes were approved by consensus.

**Correspondence**

Commission members shared comments on an email letter received in reaction to the regional council statement issued in May 2022. The regional statement was drafted by this Commission, agreed unanimously, and after final regional approval by the President, was posted and shared online and in the region. This process of issuing a regional statement is the same for all commissions.

Extensive discussion followed on the contents of the letter. There was strong agreement that statements are made in a moment in time and that no statement is perfect. All commission members were in agreement with the statement. Criticism is expected but the commission will not shy away from making statements when racial atrocities happen. Discussion also took place about different understandings of the Martin Luther King Jr. quote used and how dark and light imagery has become racially interpreted over the years.

Some commission members shared their personal experiences of racism in the safe space of the commission.

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Several points were raised to include in a response letter. Incorporating these key points, a response letter from the commission will be drafted and circulated to commission members for feedback and edits before sending out. The letter will include an invitation for the writer of the letter to have a conversation with the commission if they are willing.

**Staff Update** (*Kim Uyede-Kai*)

GC44 can be viewed on YouTube July 22-24. The Rev. Dr. Carmen Lansdowne has been nominated as the only Moderator nominee. The Indigenous Church proposals will be voted on.

**Budget 2023**

September 30 is the deadline for draft commission budgets. Because the Intercultural Diversity Commission (IDC) is still getting started, a less detailed draft budget will be shared on the September 19 Commission meeting agenda for approval. The 2023 budget for IDC is \$35,000.00.

**Closing**

The Lord's Prayer was sung with Amy's video recording. The meeting closed by consensus at 7:45 p.m.

**Next meeting**

Monday, September 19, 6-8 p.m.

Land acknowledgement and opening reflection and prayer: Moon Ja Park.