

The United Church of Canada  
Shining Waters Regional Council

**Minutes of a meeting of the  
Social and Ecological Justice Commission  
Tuesday, September 20, 2022**

The Social and Ecological Justice Commission of Shining Waters Regional Council met on September 20, 2022 at Grace United Church, 350 Grove St. E., Barrie. The meeting began at 11:00 a.m.

**Members Present**

Susan Eagle (Chairperson), Lois Brown, Esther Collier, Tina Conlon, Don Ford, Jennifer Gordon, Irene Green, Won Hur, Brian McIntosh, Bruce Sweet

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

**Welcome, check in and prayer**

Susan Eagle opened the meeting at 11:05 a.m. and offered as an opening, a reading from Walter Brueggemann's, *Reflection of Exodus 1:15*. There was a time of introduction and check-in.

Susan 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.

**Agenda**

There was an addition to the GC44 Proposal section on Israel Palestine.

**MOTION** by Brian McIntosh / Don Ford that the agenda be approved as amended.

**MOTION**

**CARRIED**

**Minutes**

**MOTION** by Don Ford / Esther Collier that the Minutes of the meeting of the Shining Waters Social and Ecological Justice Commission held June 29, 2022 be adopted as amended.

**MOTION**

**CARRIED**

**Regional proposals**

• OW/ODSP

letter to premier was sent out following passage of the proposal by the regional council.

OW/ODSP Media release – did not go out; the region has been relying on the national church for media releases however they no longer have up-to-date media contact information. Susan Eagle is working with the regional council communications person on a media release.

The letter to communities of faith and request for poverty advocates did go out. There have been nine names submitted to date. The request will be sent out again

### **GC44 Proposals**

- Decriminalization and harm reduction proposal was passed at GC44. Jeffrey is working on ways to implement the proposal along side General Council. A workshop is being prepared for congregations; Jeffrey suggested there be naloxone training at the regional council meeting.
- Environmental – passed by GC44 that ~~congregations reduce their carbon footprint by 80% by 2030.~~ **The United Church of Canada has committed the whole church to the aspirational goal of an 80% decrease in carbon emissions by 2030.**
- Israel / Palestine proposals were not passed by GC44; therefore, it falls to this Commission's action as passed at regional council meeting. The subcommittee on this topic will have conversation on this.

### **Ecological Subcommittee proposal**

A draft proposal was submitted by this subcommittee detailing the needs as they see them in relation to action going forward; how do we get information to the congregations? It was suggested to work with the Communities of Faith Commission on how to do that; host an informational meeting in November; use Faithful Footprints energy audit tool.

Don Ford and Won Hur and Bruce Sweet agreed to work on aspects of this.

November workshop – to tackle the proposal and timeline with information of tools and funding available. Date: Monday, November 21, 7 p.m. via Zoom.

Esther will put together proposed title and content for the workshop, and circulate it to the Commission.

Jeffrey Dale will find out which staff person at General Council is dealing with the climate proposal and possibly invite that person to a Commission meeting.

The Commission broke for lunch.

### **Updates**

Guaranteed Livable Income (GLI):

Tina Conlon reported that the small group has been meeting every month and giving updates; it was suggested that the signs that we have on GLI can be distributed anytime, perhaps for use leading up to the municipal elections.

Summer student projects related to commission:

Jeffrey reported there will be podcasts posted to the Shining Waters website that the students worked on; next summer this project will not be done in the same way; a learning was that a longer lead time is needed to plan an event;

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**Staff Reports - Jeffrey Dale and Kim Uyede-Kai**

Kim shared some links for events and resources, especially around Indigenous injustice; and a link on the Korean Peace Appeal. She spoke on the Presbyterian Church in the Republic of Korea (PROK) exchange held in the past and a request from them for a partner-in-residence opportunity; a task group from the Intercultural Diversity Commission is being formed to work on this.

Jeffrey reported that a number of regional councils in Ontario are hosting a book study on *The Encounters* by Hyeran Kim-Cragg for two weeks in October and two in November. He is working with two people that went through conversion therapy to have them host an event in our region. He is working with Canadian Shield and Shining Waters for a resource around issues such as guaranteed liveable income, etc. for municipal elections, etc.

**Municipal Election**

Susan Eagle shared a handout about the Barrie Homelessness and Housing Justice Network.

**MOTION** by Don Ford Ford / Irene Green that the Social & Ecological Justice Commission of Shining Waters Regional Council endorse the letter going to the Barrie City Council from the Barrie Homelessness & Housing Justice Network.

**MOTION**

**CARRIED**

Lois Brown and Bruce Sweet left the meeting.

**Other Commission Work through sub-committees**

- Homelessness (*Susan, Brian*)
- Poverty/Income Inequality (*Susan, Tina, Irene*)
- Anti-Racism (*Lois*)
- Right Relations (*Lois, Tina, Brian*)

Brian provided information on events around September 30<sup>th</sup>; LIRR is meeting on September 29<sup>th</sup> at 1 p.m.

- Environment (*Esther, Don, Won, Jennifer, Bruce, Susan*)
- Israel/Palestine (*Tina, Lois, Brian*)

**New Business**

- prison ministry and criminal justice – deferred to next meeting
- HIV/AIDS – deferred to next meeting

**Closing** Brian McIntosh gave a closing prayer and the meeting ended at 2:10 p.m.

**Next Meeting:** October 18, 2022