

The United Church of Canada
Shining Waters Regional Council

**Minutes of a meeting of the
Intercultural Diversity Commission
February 27, 2023**

The Intercultural Diversity Commission of Shining Waters Regional Council met on February 27, 2023 by video conference. The meeting began at 6:00 p.m.

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

Staff: Kim Uyede-Kai

Welcome, Land Acknowledgement, Opening Reflection, and Prayer

Amy Lee welcomed everyone, and lit a candle. Hedy Baker-Graf gave an acknowledgement of the land, and an opening prayer and reflection.

The Commission acknowledges a commitment to being a safe place for all people to gather and participate in our Region.

Agenda

Under Correspondence, an item was added: *Invitation to a new initiative-Bold Discipleship for Common Good.*

The agenda was approved by consensus as amended.

Sharing Circle

The commission members had a time of sharing joys and concerns.

Minutes

The minutes of the Commission meeting held January 23, 2023 were approved by consensus, as circulated.

Correspondence

Kim had circulated an email that Amy Lee had received which was sent to the Korean United Church Association and the Chinese United Church Network from Eric Tusz King, Jeff Steckley, Bob Richards, and Carol Hennigar (4 Amigos), with an invitation to a new initiative titled, *Bold Discipleship for Common Good.* Kim asked the Commission to review the email with an intercultural diversity lens for Shining Waters Regional Council.

The email described the initiative;

... will be creating two (possibly three) small communities of practice – groups of 5-6 people who will journey together with intention and accountability, exploring and deepening their own spirituality, courageous discipleship and growing in their abilities to extend healing responses to the global disruption that is currently upon us. An experienced facilitator of Discipleship Communities of Practice will guide the groups in building transformative relationships and competencies will meet on-line for one hour, twice a month, for 12-18 months.... Participants will be requested to contribute \$100 each which will be applied to offset facilitator fees.

The Commission discussed the correspondence and there were questions about who the facilitators are and what Commission goals would be achieved in that group that would warrant us funding or participating in this kind of initiative. The email was received by Amy on February 22nd and a response is required by March 3rd. It was felt that the time-sensitive invitation was a last-minute effort to include diversity. It was also mentioned that the use of the label '4 Amigos' is troubling and shows a lack of awareness of who they are writing to.

The Commission decided not to take any action on the correspondence.

Staff Updates – Kim Uyede-Kai

Kim reported;

- On February 19th there was a covenanting service with Rev. Woong Youm and North York Korean United Church. Good Tree Korean United Church also participated. The willingness of these two very different communities of faith to be ministry partners is a very exciting intercultural experiment.
- The Alberni findings of unmarked graves took a lot of energy, to be with those findings. It is only the first phase of the scanning of 12 hectares out of 100 hectares on the grounds of the Alberni residential school. Because government records were not reliable, the graves were discovered through interviews with survivors and narratives, so that's where they knew where to look which says a lot about the importance of oral history.

Nominations: vacancies on the commission

Commission members whose terms are ending have agreed to stay for a second term. The Commission does have four vacancies as the mandate is for up to 12 members. The Commission members were asked to think of people who have a diversity that could benefit this group.

Regional Council meeting

This Commission is to plan a 70-minute equity presentation for the 2023 Regional Council Annual Meeting (May 26-28, North Bramalea United Church). There was some discussion around ideas for the presentation. It was decided to have an in-person meeting over a meal, to discuss and plan the presentation. Amy and Kim will make arrangements for a place, and a date was set for March 13 at 6 p.m.

Joel Aguirre left the meeting.

Korean language translations - update

Kim reported that the translations on Pastoral Relations Search and Selection Guidelines and Ministry and Personnel Committee Guidelines have been done, but there needs to be a glossary of definitions. The team is meeting next week to go over what needs to be included, to make sure there is clarity. There are some words that can not be translated, so they will be in English. Amy mentioned that the proofreader will be paid and she will submit that fee to the region.

Seoul Presbytery PROK - update

Kim reported that John Egger, is former overseas personnel who has returned from working in Seoul Presbytery. He has offered himself to the region to meet or have him speak somewhere so

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we can start formulating what a Memorandum of Agreement would look like. The latter can be a small group with the people who have decided they want to be a part of a Memorandum of Agreement, but we could also invite him to a larger event within the region as well, maybe with this Commission hosting in conjunction with a congregation. He is available in April, so we would have to get it booked. Amy and Kim will meet with John to figure out what is available.

Next meeting

Monday, March 27, 2023, 6:00-8:00 p.m. John Joseph Mastandrea will provide the opening prayer and land acknowledgement.

Closing

The Commission members said the Lord's Prayer in their own language, and the meeting closed at 7:50 p.m.