

The United Church of Canada
Shining Waters Regional Council

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

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

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

Staff: Kim Uyede-Kai

Regrets: Joel Aguirre

Welcome, Land Acknowledgement, Opening Reflection, and Prayer

Amy Lee welcomed everyone and lit a candle. John Joseph Mastandrea gave an acknowledgement of the land, and an opening reflection.

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

Agenda

One item was added to the agenda; under *New Business*: a request from Isaac Kamta for a gathering of regional ministry personnel for whom English is a second/third language. The agenda was approved by consensus as amended.

Sharing Circle

The commission members had a time of sharing community and community of faith news.

Minutes

The minutes of the Commission meeting held February 27, 2023 were approved by consensus, as circulated.

Correspondence

Draft Proposals for Regional Council Meeting

The commission received two proposals around community ministries for review and feedback before being submitted to the regional council meeting in May. Each Shining Waters commission and the Executive are being asked for feedback on the proposals. Kim reviewed some background, and the commission members had discussion. The feedback provided by the commission members will be shared with the community ministries task group.

Commission Report for regional meeting

Kim and Amy are working on a draft of an annual report of the Commission for the regional council meeting.

Staff Updates – Kim Uyede-Kai

Kim reported:

- A new staff person, administrative support Kathleen Wolfe, started with the region on March 15th.
- *Toronto the Good? Negotiating Race in the Diverse City*, by Shana Almeida, is a new book Kim has found that she recommends. It is a fascinating read from the City of Toronto perspective. The author is a former staff person with the City of Toronto who interviewed several staff to talk about their experience of race and being racialized in the City of Toronto staff.

Shining Waters Executive – update on Commission Minutes received – Moon Ja Park

Moon Ja is a member of the Shining Waters Executive and at their recent meeting they received copies of this commission's Minutes. She reported that there were comments and feedback of appreciation and amazement that the commission has done so much in a short time.

Nominations: vacancies on the commission

The commission members were asked if they had any suggestions for people to fill the vacancies; it works well if you can tap people on the shoulder and say they might find this work interesting and what they have to contribute. There has been interest expressed by a white person with a disability and the commission had discussion about expanding in that direction.

Regional Council meeting – intercultural diversity presentation

At the dinner meeting on March 13th, commission members looked at the big picture and everyone contributed a lot of information and feedback. So, it would be helpful now to have a few people work away at the details, fine tune it, fit it into the timeframe, and bring it back to the commission for final approval. Néstor, Kim and John Joseph will work on that. There will be specific parts where they will need all the commission members' input and will also need all the commission's participation and support.

Seoul Presbytery PROK - update

On March 8th, Kim and Amy Lee had a meeting with John Egger, former overseas personnel returned from PROK Seoul Presbytery. They shared stories that could support this commission's mission. He would be able to meet with the Commission to talk about the Memorandum of Understanding with PROK Seoul Presbytery, and talk about what the expectation might be from PROK's end and how we might prepare something from our end. It was decided to meet on April 20th at 6:30 p.m. at College Street United Church.

Moon Ja Park left the meeting.

New Business

Request from Rev. Isaac Kamta

A request was received from Rev. Isaac Kamta for a gathering of ministry personnel for whom English is a second or third language. There were similar gatherings held under the old Conference structure. There was a question of whether this is the work of a network or this commission. It was also pointed out that if it's only for ministers for whom English is a second or third language, it means the young ethnic ministers can not attend, because English is their first language. So, it

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might have to be expanded for ‘ethnic visual minority’ ministers in all United Churches so it would be inclusive. There was discussion around topics of conversation that could support such ministry personnel at such gatherings.

There was support to having an event perhaps in the Fall of 2023 and this will be placed on an upcoming meeting Agenda.

Next meeting

Monday, April 24, 2023, 6:00-8:00 p.m. Innocent Karuhanga will provide the opening prayer and land acknowledgement.

Closing

As a closing, Amy Lee shared a video recording of her singing, *The Lord Bless Thee and Keep Thee* and the meeting closed at 8:00 p.m.

