

The United Church of Canada
Shining Waters Regional Council

**Minutes of a meeting of the
Intercultural Diversity Commission
April 24, 2023**

The Intercultural Diversity Commission of Shining Waters Regional Council met on April 24, 2023 by video conference. The meeting began at 6:00 p.m.

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

Staff: Kim Uyede-Kai

Regrets: Joel Aguirre, John Joseph Mastandrea

Welcome, Land Acknowledgement, Opening Reflection, and Prayer

Amy Lee welcomed everyone and lit a candle. Innocent Karuhanga 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

The agenda was approved by consensus as circulated.

Sharing Circle

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

Minutes

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

Staff Updates – Kim Uyede-Kai

Kim reported:

- After further conversation with the person who inquired whether anti-ableism could be a part of the Intercultural Diversity Commission, the two of them are going to get together to talk about where there could be a place for that, without taking away from the work of this commission; perhaps a little network, and then eventually they could connect with this commission.
- She has had a request for an anti-racism conversation for white folks, like the one held a couple of years ago before the regional meeting. She has asked a couple of people to be on a steering committee to frame that kind of conversation probably for the Fall.

Regional Council meeting – intercultural diversity presentation

The intention of the presentation is to present to the region, segments of historical aspects from our different cultural traditions in the context of Canada. That way, we help them understand that when we talk about the history of Canada, our stories are also a part of that history. To be able to bring those small segments will help them understand that Canadian history is so much bigger than the kind of history that they have had. Therefore, interculturality is also about these other stories

and histories that they don't know about. We're going to talk about equity and interculturality and those two require that we know about those other communities that we are coming into relationship with.

Kim, John Joseph, and Nestor are going to meet one more time to finalize the presentation.

Seoul Presbytery PROK - update

On April 20th the group had a good conversation with John Egger. From that conversation, it appears that we are starting again with the relationship-building with PROK. So, what we received is now too old because it is a previous group of people who designed it. We don't want it to be so specific that we are tied because then it's not a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). A new MoU will be much more general and not as specific with particular programs, but open to what each side is committed to supporting so then it becomes a real agreement as opposed to us responding to their agreement. We will re-work the Memorandum of Understanding. We want to be clear that we want to build a relationship between Shining Waters and Seoul Presbytery (south). The key right now is to focus on the relationship-building and to take our time to build that relationship.

New Business

There was no new business to come to the meeting.

Next meeting

Monday, May 29, 2023, 6:30-8:30 p.m. Innocent Karuhanga and Hedy Baker-Graf send regrets, and Néstor Medina may be unable to attend. Moon Ja and Amy will work together on the land acknowledgement and opening reflection for the meeting.

Closing

Amy Lee offered a closing prayer and the meeting closed at 7:00 p.m.