

The United Church of Canada  
Shining Waters Regional Council

**Minutes of a meeting of the  
Social and Ecological Justice Commission  
June 20, 2023**

The Social and Ecological Justice Commission of Shining Waters Regional Council met on June 20, 2023 via Zoom. The meeting began at 1:00 p.m.

**Members Present**

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

Staff: Jeffrey Dale, Rachael Howes, Celio de Andrade Santos

**Welcome, check in and prayer**

The chairperson opened the meeting, and welcomed everyone. Susan Eagle offered an opening prayer and gave an acknowledgement of the land. The chairperson 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 and confirmed quorum.

There was a time of check-in.

**Agenda**

**MOTION** by Irene Green / Don Ford that the agenda be approved as circulated.

**MOTION**

**CARRIED**

**Minutes**

**MOTION** by Lois Brown / Don Ford that the Minutes of the meeting of the Shining Waters Social and Ecological Justice Commission held May 16, 2023 be adopted with amendments.

**MOTION**

**CARRIED**

**Business Arising**

Shining Waters Banner

Susan reported that the commission now has two Shining Waters Regional Council banners. One was already used in the Barrie Pride Parade. Susan reported that the Banners were a donation and there were no commission costs.

The banners are available for borrowing by communities of faith hosting or participating in public events in their neighbourhoods. The banners will be kept at the regional office.

Letter regarding Ontario Police College tuition and education requirements

The United Church of Canada  
Shining Waters Regional Council

Susan will talk to Jeffrey to check if the letter was sent; if not, they will figure it out together.

Leading from the Heart: Youth Justice Opportunity (Jeffrey and Jay)

Jeffrey reported that advertising for Leading from the Heart: Youth Justice Opportunity will start in the fall. Jay reported that they will also be engaging people to be mentors. Each young adult (ages 15-30) will receive up to \$500 to develop their projects. The commission expects \$3,000 for this budget to benefit six young people.

**Budget**

Susan reported that there was no information about the budget except what was discussed at the Shining Waters Regional Council annual meeting's town hall. Susan noted that people recognized that the commission hadn't spent its full budget last year. Susan reported that when the commission meets in September, they will want to have a more thorough look at some of this subject and perhaps vision how the commission may utilize the budget effectively.

**Regional Meeting follow-up**

"Working for a Guaranteed Livable Income for All Canadians" Shining Waters Regional Council Meeting Proposal.

Susan reported that "Working for a Guaranteed Livable Income for All Canadians" proposal passed at the May regional council meeting. The commission needs to support and develop a strategy to engage communities of faith in their meetings with local municipal officials.

Esther reported that the ecological presentation at the regional council meeting had people interested in rethinking or reimagining the church building as a space where community can gather.

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

Jeffrey reported:

- Jeffrey met with Ross Wilson, a harm reduction advocate and spiritual care director in Ottawa. Jeffrey will work with Ross over the summer, and will utilize the \$500 harm reduction budget to create resources.
- Jeffrey met with Tay ChurchX to discuss a version of "Master Classes" for their website. The first would be Susan Eagle interviewing Lois Wilson.
- Working with Canadian Shield Regional Council's "MILC," (Manitou Intentional Learning Community), a social justice advocacy and education group in the North.

The United Church of Canada  
Shining Waters Regional Council

They do a lot of educational pieces, and the commission might want to start looking at a conversation with them and seeing ways of working together.

- Summer students include: one (Hannah) working on right relations, one (Hopelyn) working on the Queer youth resource book, three (Emily, Erika, Michelle) working at the Bees for Peace camps at nine sites across the region.

**MOTION** by Won Hur / Brian McIntosh that the Social and Ecological Justice Commission of Shining Waters Regional Council will allow a video for Susan to interview Lois to create something similar to the ‘Master Classes’ for the United Church.

**MOTION**

**CARRIED**

Kim reported:

- That a couple of people asked whether the Inter-Cultural Diversity Commission could start to grow a network around disability work in the region. One of the topics discussed was the interest in having a book study on the book, “My Body is not a Prayer Request, Disability, Justice in the Church.” This initiative will be happening in the fall, and the region will be invited to participate.
- At the last meeting of the Right Relations Circle, people from the *Moose Hide Campaign* explained what their organization is and how others maybe part of their campaign. The *Moose Hide Campaign* focuses on missing and murdered indigenous women. Moose Hide pins are free, and people are encouraged to wear them.
- The Right Relations Circle is connected with Wasauksing United Church. Wasauksing is proudly hanging the Shining Waters Regional Council pride flag on the church’s wall. There is also a local pride parade in Wasauksing and the United Church hosts a barbecue at the end of the pride parade for the community.
- The Governments of Canada and Ontario have reached a proposed 10 billion dollars settlement with the "Robinson here on Treaty Litigation Fund," which represents twenty-one Indigenous bands.
- Celio will be sending out a Mailchimp campaign with many resources about Indigenous people with videos, podcasts and books for the month of June.

### Reports from sub-committees

**Ecological** - Esther Collier, Don, Won, Jennifer, Susan

June 21 Workshop planning.

Conversation occurred around questions and concerns relating to the June 21<sup>st</sup> workshop. This conversation included: deadlines, work loads, and future planning for the next ecological event in November.

**Homelessness and Poverty/Income Inequality** (Susan, Brian, Irene)

(ISARC, GLI National Group)

The ISARC coalition had a retreat and the focus was on planning for the next year.

The United Church of Canada  
Shining Waters Regional Council

Ontario Health Coalition campaign

The Ontario Health Coalition had a successful campaign for their province-wide community referendum. At the annual meeting, the commission had a ballot box, where a number of people participated.

Advocates Network in City of Barrie prohibition motion (attachments)

A Barrie City Council Member, brought a motion without notice prohibiting people from providing food, tarps, tents, and water to anyone on any public land. Causing issues for social service organizations (Busby Centre) and community groups. The penalties are up to \$100,000 fine. Susan is working with community organizations in the city. This was received as information.

Homelessness and Poverty/Income Inequality (Susan, Brian, Irene)

**Israel/Palestine (Lois, Brian)**

Photo Exhibit update

Brian reported that there will be a poster about the photo exhibit, which is going to happen in late September, early October and that the exhibit will happen at the Lowerdale Church.

Exposure tour update

Brian reported that he will work with Jeffrey after the month of June for the application of funds.

**Closing**

Susan Eagle gave a closing prayer and the meeting closed at 3:25 p.m.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, September 19, 2023, at 11:30 am to 3 pm.

Meeting in September 19 in person.