

The United Church of Canada
Shining Waters Regional Council

**Minutes of a meeting of the
Social and Ecological Justice Commission
May 16, 2023**

The Social and Ecological Justice Commission of Shining Waters Regional Council met on May 16, 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. Irene Green 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 Don Ford / Esther Collier that the agenda be approved as circulated.

MOTION

CARRIED

Minutes

MOTION by Lois Brown / Esther Collier that the Minutes of the meeting of the Shining Waters Social and Ecological Justice Commission held February 21, 2022 be adopted as circulated.

MOTION

CARRIED

Business Arising

Budget update

Susan reported that \$1,000 had been sent to the SJNOR and the commission still had money in the budget for future projects. ~~things they wanted to do, as they had made commitments for funding which had not yet been spent.~~

Shining Waters Banner

A draft of the banner was made and sent to the commission, and Susan asked for feedback.

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Statement regarding transgender and gender diversity hate

Jeffrey wrote a letter outlining the experience occurring in the world today, providing resources for people and theological reflection. The letter was sent to the Shining Waters Region.

Letter regarding Ontario Police College tuition and education requirements

The act ~~the government is~~ ~~they were~~ to revise ~~has~~ ~~had~~ not yet been activated. The Commission's ~~focus is~~ ~~mandate was~~ to suggest that ~~we are~~ ~~they were~~ not comfortable with waiving tuition or lowering educational requirements.

MOTION by Esther Collier / Irene Green that the Social & Ecological Justice Commission of Shining Waters Regional Council approved the Letter regarding Ontario Police College tuition and education requirements with the addition of the concern that enforcement ~~is~~ ~~was~~ being funded, but not social services to support those in need.

MOTION

CARRIED

Budget

Display Table

Esther proposed that a \$100 be set for the display table, noting that she could get 30 packets of native plant seeds. Susan suggested that the commission also put Ontario health coalition materials on this budget, as there might have to be some printing. She suggested \$200 be set aside for printing and other costs of setting up the display, and if they went over this amount that it would be discussed in the next meeting.

MOTION by Esther Collier / Don Ford that the Social & Ecological Justice Commission of Shining Waters Regional Council will give \$200 for seeds, and an additional \$200 for printing for the Display Table.

MOTION

CARRIED

Regional Meeting

There was a discussion about who would attend the regional meeting and what time the presentation of the community ministries would be.

Accountability Report from Commission

Brian said that the commission had approved \$4,000 for up to 4 participants for the fall tour, but they had actually only approved \$3,000 for that purpose, and \$1,000 for an educational event for this fall.

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Staff Reports - Jeffrey Dale and Kim Uyede-Kai

Jeffrey reported:

- That the United Church had decided those 30 years and under would lead social ecological justice, educational opportunities, and communities of faith throughout the Regional Council. It could range from artistic leadership to a simple, straightforward, educational presentation, and they were suggesting that each person receive about \$500 to do that, with the hope that it would go towards (but not be limited to) supplies, food, guests, speakers, honorariums, and advertising. The timeline for this was that June would be a time to prepare the literature and website, including applications and promotional materials, to get that out there; July would be advertising the opportunity; August would be the receiving of the applications; and September the beginning of the execution of the projects.

MOTION by Don Ford / Won Hur that the Social and Ecological Justice Commission of Shining Waters Regional Council will endorse educational opportunities and communities of faith throughout the Regional Council, with the suggestion that each person receive around \$500 to do artistic and educational presentations.

MOTION

CARRIED

- Jeffrey and Jay will work on the next steps of the artistic and educational project throughout the Regional Council.
- Jeffrey also reported that he is trying to figure out how to consolidate the congregational workshop on harm reduction and Naloxone training. Jeffrey listened to the opinions of the members about what to do and decided to come back with the idea again in June to let people know where it's at.

Kim reported:

- That the relations circle is not meeting every month as it used to; it was becoming too onerous to get speakers, agendas, and other things. Now they will meet potentially four times a year. On Thursday, June 1st, from 1 to 3 PM, they will have a speaker from the Moose Hide Campaign coming to talk about their work.
- That the 40 days of anti-racism are coming again this fall. Thus, writers have been conscripted, and are writing or being interviewed for that work. In terms of anti-racism, if people are looking for stories to either put into their worship services or study groups, there are eighty stories, and now there's going to be forty more. They are people's stories based on real situations in the United Church of Canada.
- That this is Asian Heritage Month, and if you are on Facebook, there's a film called Big Fight in Little China Town, which is a fairly new documentary about the Chinatowns in Vancouver, Toronto, and Montreal.

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Reports from sub-committees

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

Esther reported about the June 21 workshop and said that Jay ~~has worked~~ ~~works~~ really hard on the slide show. She reported that she will have a meeting this month about the workshop, and she will report back to the commission in the June meeting.

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

Susan reported that ~~she and Irene discussed Irene and she chatted a bit about~~ the Ontario Health Coalition Initiative, and ~~they are trying to have a their ballot vote on hospital privatization. ballot vote taken between now and May 28th.~~ She suggested putting materials on the display table at the regional meeting. ~~once they have~~ The United Church ~~has had~~ a long history with the Ontario Health Coalition.

MOTION by Brian McIntosh / Don Ford that the Social and Ecological Justice Commission of the Shining Waters Regional Council will endorse the Ontario Health Coalition's Initiative and encourage communities of faith to vote against privatization.

MOTION

CARRIED

Israel/Palestine (*Lois, Brian*)

Photo Exhibit update

Brian reported that the photo exhibit update is that they have a group of five people, some from Palestine, who are working on a planning team to use a ~~Citizens for Justice and Peace (CPJ) citizens for justice and peace in the Middle East~~ photo exhibit on colonialism in South Africa. In late September and early October, for around a week, they will be collaborating with Humber College. It is going to cost approximately \$500 to bring this photo exhibit to Toronto.

Exposure tour update

Brian reported that it is up to \$3,000 for four new participants, and we are supposed to have an application form available for anyone who wants to apply for use of \$700 and up to \$750.

Divestment Resource update

Brian reported that they have been working with Donna and Jeffrey to create a resource to put on the website. The resource isn't on the website yet because Donna is waiting for some names from Robin, but they expect it to be online for the next SEJC meeting..

Anti-Racism (Lois) – no report

Right Relations (*Lois, Brian*) – no report

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New Business

Correspondence

The human rights in Palestine correspondence. Lori's email ~~meal~~ was about urging members of the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and International Development (FAAE) ~~urging them~~ to vote in favor of an important Motion on Tuesday, May 16, 2023, that would be moved by MP Heather McPherson (Edmonton-Strathcona). The motion requests the Committee to conduct a study on the actions Canada should take to foster peace, respect human rights, and international law in the region. Susan said the notice was too short for us to respond, though sometimes we are able to act quickly. ~~vote was soon to close and that sometimes we must act quickly.~~

Closing

Susan Eagle gave a closing prayer and the meeting closed at 2:57 p.m.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, June 20, 2023, at 1 pm.

Meeting in September 19 in person. ~~See places and food.~~
~~Food on the display table.~~