**THE LIFE AND MISSION AGENCY COMMITTEE**

**November 2–3, 2020**

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|  | The Life and Mission Agency Committee met by Zoom on November 2 and 3, 2020. Cindy Stephenson welcomed everyone. |
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| **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF TRADITIONAL INDIGENOUS TERRITORY** | Robert Griffiths acknowledged that the meeting took place on the traditional lands of Indigenous Peoples. The LMA Committee recognizes a long and rich history which predates the establishment of European colonies and acknowledges the territory’s significance for the Indigenous peoples who lived, and continue to live, upon it and whose practices and spiritualities are tied to the land. The LMA Committee confirms its repudiation of concepts used to justify European sovereignty over Indigenous lands and peoples and reaffirms its commitment to healing and reconciliation with Indigenous people. |
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| **ATTENDANCE** | Life and Mission Agency Committee: Sampson Afoakwah, Janet Brewer (Women’s Mission Society), Charles Cook, Amanda Currie (Moderator of the General Assembly), Aubrey Hawton, Robert Griffiths (Atlantic Mission Society), Jinsook Khang (Assembly Council), Marion Lade, Cheryl MacFayden, Allyson MacLeod, Donna McIlveen, Andrea Perrett (PWS&D), Cathy Reid (Women’s Misison Society), Cindy Stephenson (convenor), Carol Stymiest (Assembly Council), Jo Szostak |
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| **GUESTS** | Maren McLean Persaud (Tuesday p.m.) |
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| **STAFF** | Allyson Carr, Jennifer de Combe, Carragh Erhardt, Ian Ross-McDonald, Karen Plater, Tim Purvis, Guy Smagghe, Barb Summers, Glynis Williams, Grace McCreary, Colleen McCue (recorder) |
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| **REGRETS** | Charles Cook, Vivian Ketchum, Jinsook Khang, Jeffrey Lackie |
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| **OPENING WORSHIP** | Andrea Perrett, PWS&D representative, led the Committee in worship. |
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| **ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA** | On **motion** of Marion Lade / Amanda Currie it was **agreed** that the agenda be adopted. |
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| **CONFLICT OF INTEREST** | Janet Brewer reviewed policy 2.1.4 Conflict of Interest and after a brief discussion, no conflicts were declared. |
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| **MINUTES** | On **motion** of Amanda Currie / Marion Lade it was **agreed** that the minutes of the October 15, 2020 LMA Committee meeting be approved as circulated. |
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| **ATLANTIC MISSION SOCIETY** | Robert Griffiths reported on the challenges and opportunities facing the Atlantic Mission Society and of finding new ways to keep connected. |
| **SEXUALITY AND INCLUSION PROGRAM** | Ian Ross-McDonald gave some history of the creatino of the Sexuality and Inclusion Program. Carragh Erhardt reported on the progress she has made and plans for an Advisory Committee, learnings to date and what is in the planning stages. Carragh shared information about the upcoming Rainbow Pathways online course scheduled for November 21 & 28 <https://presbyterian.ca/2020/10/13/rainbow-pathways-online-course/> designed for congregations. The course will be offered again in February 2021. Committee members welcome to follow up with Carragh with any questions or requests for further information. |
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| **LUNCH BREAK** | Amanda Currie offered grace. |
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| **LMA DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS** | Associate Secretaries met with Committee members in small groups to discuss departmental reports. The objective of the small group meetings was to deepen the LMA Committee’s shared understanding of the current work and priorities of the various departments.  Allyson MacLeod facilitated first report back session following small group meetings.  Jo Szostak facilitated second report back session following small group meetings. |
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| **Canadian Ministries** | Marion Lade reported back on the small group discussion regarding the departmental report of Canadian Ministries. Jen de Combe responded to additional questions. |
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| **Communications** | Robert Griffiths reported back on the small group discussion regarding the departmental report of Communications. Barb Summers responded to additional questions. |
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| **Justice Ministries** | Janet Brewer reported back on the small group discussion regarding the departmental report of Justice Ministries. Allyson Carr responded to additional questions. |
| **Presbyterian World Service & Development** | Cheryl MacFadyen reported back on the small group discussion regarding the departmental report of Presbyterian World Service & Development. Guy Smagghe responded to additional questions. |
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| **International Ministries** | Andrea Perrett reported back on the small group discussion regarding the departmental report of International Ministries. Glynis Williams responded to additional questions. |
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| **Ministry & Church Vocations** | Amanda Currie reported back on the small group discussion regarding the departmental report of Ministry & Church Vocations. Tim Purvis responded to additional questions.  On **motion** of Amanda Currie / Sampson Afoakwah it was **agreed** that the nomination of Wally Hong to the MCV Advisory Committee be approved. |
| **Stewardship & Planned Giving** | Donna McIlveen reported back on the small group discussion regarding the departmental report of Stewardship & Planned Giving. Karen Plater responded to additional questions. |
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| **Program Support and Administration** | Carol Stymiest reported back on the small group discussion regarding the report of Program Support and Administration. Ian Ross-McDonald responded to additional questions.  Committee members expressed thanks to all Associate Secretaries for their hard work and leadership. |
| **WOMEN’S MISSION SOCIETY** | Cathy Reid reported on the challenges and opportunities facing the Women’s Mission Society and of finding new ways to keep connected. |
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| **PWS&D** | Andrea Perrett reported on the work of Presbyterian World Service & Development. Andrea reported on PWS&D’s international Covid response, emergency support following the devastating explosions in Beirut Lebanon, a food security program in Afghanistan, refugee sponsorship, and the groth of the PWS&D Champions network. |
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| **CLOSING PRAYER** | The day’s meeting ended with a prayer led by Donna McIlveen. |
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|  | **TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2020** |
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| **DAY TWO** | The LMA Committee gathered at 11:00am on Tuesday, November 3rd to continue meeting. |
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| **MORNING PRAYER** | The day’s meeting began with a gathering prayer led by Cheryl MacFadyen. |
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| **LMA FINANCE REPORT** | Ian Ross-McDonald and Colleen McCue reviewed the mission and ministry supported by LMA funds with expenditures to Q3 2020.  Ian Ross-McDonald and Jen de Combe reviewed the grant application process, the Canadian Ministries Grants committee, oversight of grant funds and examples of use of various Canadian Ministries funds. |
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| **MODERATOR’S REPORT** | Amanda Currie reflected on the extension of her term as Moderator and the importance of pastoral messages of support and hope at this time. She spoke of special initiatives undertaken to encourage the church such as: Walk and Pray with the Moderator; Talk with the Moderator; Presbyterians Sharing Sunday; Ride for Refuge to support PWS&D. Amanda will invite Presbyterians to participate in an online gathering at the beginning of Advent <https://presbyterian.ca/2020/11/03/advent-with-the-moderator/>  Committee members expressed appreciation to Amanda for her ministry and assured her that they will be upholding her in prayer. |
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| **ASSEMBLY COUNCIL** | Carol Stymiest report on the work of Assembly Council. |
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| **LUNCH BREAK** | Marion Lade offered grace. |
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| **SEEING THE SPECTRUM: MINISTRY DURING THE PANDEMIC** | Tim Purvis shared a presentation regarding the PCC national office pastoral call project. He reviewed the pastoral care issues and ministerial self care issues that are emerging and some of the challenges and blessings that ministers are experiencing during the pandemic. |
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| **PLANNING FOR UPCOMING MEETINGS** | LMA Committee online meetings may be called for January and February 2021 to review General Assembly reports and overture responses to General Assembly.  An online meeting of the LMA Committee will be planned for March 1-2, 2021. |
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| **MEETING DEBRIEFING AND EVALUATION** | Committee members were encouraged to complete the online evaluation form for the meeting. |
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| **OTHER BUSINESS** | Committee members expressed appreciation to Cindy for her leadership during this Committee meeting. |
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| **WORSHIP** | The Committee members were joined by The Reverend Maren McLean Persaud, Associate Minister of Children and Youth at Grace Presbyterian Church (Calgary, AB), for a service of worship. The service began with an Acknowledgement of Traditional Indigenous Territory led by Janet Brewer. |
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| **ADJOURNMENT** | The LMA Committee meeting was adjourned following the closing worship. |