

Present:	Deborah Richards, Co-Chair	Pacific Mountain Region
	Alwin Maben, Executive	Pacific Mountain Region
	Kathy Yamashita, Co-Chair	Chinook Winds Region
	OhWang Kwon, Executive	Chinook Winds Region
	Taylor Croissant	Chinook Winds Region
	MiYeon Kim	Chinook Winds Region
	Chelsea Masterman, Secretary	Northern Spirit Region
	Dorcas Muketha Kanana, Executive	Northern Spirit Region
	Gail Allan	Northern Spirit Region
	Natalka Dreichel	Northern Spirit Region
Deborah Hoekstra	Northern Spirit Region	
Peter Kugba-Nyande	Northern Spirit Region	
Lloyd Nyarota	Northern Spirit Region	
Tazvionepi Nyarota	Northern Spirit Region	
Carolyn Woodall	Northern Spirit Region	
Salesi Takau, Executive	Living Skies Region	
Damber Khadka, Executive	Prairie to Pine Region	
Susan Weppler	Prairie to Pine Region	
Julie Graham, Staff	Living Skies, Prairie to Pine and Northern Spirit Regions	
Regrets:	Kay Quon, Elder	Northern Spirit Region
	Mathias Ross, Executive	Living Skies Region
	Bill Millar, Executive	Prairie to Pine Region
	Chris Mah Poy, Staff	Pacific Mountain and Chinook Winds Regions

1. Authority: This is a regularly scheduled Annual General Meeting of the Western Intercultural Ministry Network of the United Church of Canada called by the chairperson, Deborah Richards.
2. Welcome and Call to Order: Deborah Richards called the meeting to order at 3:23pm MT.

3. Approval of Agenda for AGM:

MOTION: Acceptance of Agenda
M/S Salesi Takau / Alwin Maben

Be it resolved that the Western Intercultural Ministry Network accepts the agenda as distributed.

Carried

4. Approval of Minutes of AGM – November 29, 2022

- a. Deborah Hoekstra requested DUIM be written out as Deepening Understanding for Intercultural Ministry, in 8.a.i.1.

MOTION: Acceptance of Minutes of November 29, 2022 Annual General Meeting, with amendment to 8.a.i.1. to state the meaning of the acronym DUIM, which stands for Deepening Understanding for Intercultural Ministry.

M/S Kathy Yamashita / Chelsea Masterman

Be it resolved that the Western Intercultural Ministry Network accepts the minutes of the November 29, 2022 Annual General Meeting as amended.

Carried

5. Key Highlights from the past year: Deborah Richards. (Report attached: Appendix 2)

6. Introduction of Executive Members:

Present:	Deborah Richards, Co-Chair	Pacific Mountain Region
	Kathy Yamashita, Co-Chair	Chinook Winds Region
	Chelsea Masterman, Secretary	Northern Spirit Region
	Alwin Maben, Executive	Pacific Mountain Region
	OhWang Kwon, Executive	Chinook Winds Region
	Dorcas Muketha Kanana, Executive	Northern Spirit Region
	Salesi Takau, Executive	Living Skies Region
	Damber Khadka, Executive	Prairie to Pine Region
	Julie Graham, Staff	Living Skies, Prairie to Pine and Northern Spirit Regions
Regrets:	Kay Quon, Elder	Northern Spirit Region
	Kurt Katzmar, Elder – has resigned	Northern Spirit Region
	Mathias Ross, Executive	Living Skies Region
	Bill Millar, Executive	Prairie to Pine Region
	Chris Mah Poy, Staff	Pacific Mountain and Chinook Winds Regions

7. Review of Western Intercultural Ministry Network Mission Statement, Terms of Reference and Mandate documents: Kathy Yamashita.

a. Mission Statement:

MOTION: Acceptance of Mission Statement

M/S Kathy Yamashita / Alwin Maben

Be it resolved that the Mission Statement is accepted as read.

Carried

b. Mandate:

- i. Correction added to update “Intercultural Ministry Committee” in Terms of Reference, Mandate, point 3 to “Western Intercultural Ministry Network”

MOTION: Acceptance of Terms of Reference with amendment to Terms of Reference, Mandate, third bullet point, updating “Intercultural Ministry Committee” to “Western Intercultural Ministry Network.”

M/S Kathy Yamashita / Susan Wepler

Be it resolved that the Terms of Reference is accepted as amended.

Carried

- c. A discussion about updating “ethnic” to align with current United Church language of “ethnocultural” was held.

MOTION: Amendment to Terms of Reference so that anywhere it states “ethnic” will be updated to “ethnocultural”.

M/S Taylor Croissant / Susan Wepler

Be it resolved that the Terms of Reference are amended so that anywhere it states “ethnic” will be updated to “ethnocultural”.

Carried

8. Discussion: What are 3 actions that this network can undertake in next 2-3 years to engage Communities of Faith and Regional Councils in taking steps toward continuing to fulfill the vision of being an intercultural church? Deborah Richards facilitated this discussion, in which we broke into table groups and reported back to the larger group. Highlights of the discussion include:

- a. Deborah Richards: “The church is having problems with what it means to be an intercultural church and how to get that done.” Nestor Medina at a 40 Days of Engagement on Anti-Racism panel of which Deborah Richards was part.
- b. Group 1
- i. Encourage BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, People of Colour) members to run for moderator
- ii. Encourage local intercultural strategies
- c. Group 2
- i. Communication between regions re: scheduling

- ii. Build a database of knowledgeable folks
 - iii. Deep spirituality: what can be done to raise possibility of sharing honest and authentic stories in safe spaces?
 - iv. Bold discipleship: advocacy – advocate that this work comes to yearly gatherings to raise it up. Do more to raise awareness.
 - v. Daring Justice: request each regional council have a frank discussion regarding exclusion of people of colour in context of empty pulpits in Western Canada
- d. Group 3
- i. Promotion: regional councils promote WIMN through their websites so each region knows the network exists and is working on this
 - ii. Education: resources are needed in faith communities to promote intercultural practices in faith communities, accessible to all ministers in faith communities without cost or in agreement with faith community itself. Prayers, videos related to intercultural vision.
 - iii. Promotion at General Council – General Council needs to recognize WIMN as supporting the United Church of Canada as a whole, not only Western Canada
- e. Group 4
- i. Encourage dying/diminished local faith communities to open their doors to migrant communities to make use of
 - ii. Migrant ministers are a gift to the church, but when called into ministry the question is always “are you a good fit”? How can migrant ministers be a good “fit” if they come from a different culture? How can the church better recognize the gifts they bring?
 - iii. How to help migrant ministers to find a call? Can WIMN play a wider role in placing migrant ministers in churches with no ministers? Eg: try an immigrant church, even just for 3 years. Even matching program didn’t work because of fit.

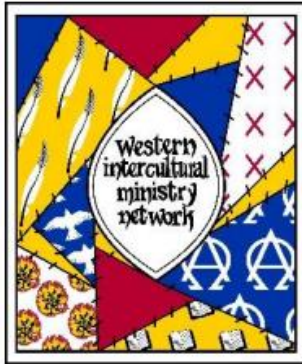
9. Adjournment 4:25pm MT

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah Richards, Co-Chair
Kathy Yamashita, Co-Chair

Chelsea Masterman, Secretary

Appendix 1: Mission Statement and Terms of Reference, as amended



Mission Statement and Terms of Reference

The Western Intercultural Ministry Network,
The United Church of Canada

Approved at the annual meeting, 17 November 2020.

In 2012 the General Council of the United Church of Canada declared that it would become an intercultural church and in 2020 declared it would strive to be an anti-racist church. By this we understand that we are affirming the very beginning of our faith which was born in a time which was richly coloured by people from many different countries and traditions and faiths. When we affirm and welcome a variety of traditions and faith expressions, our understanding of God and of each other is deepened.

1. To this end, in 2019 the Western Intercultural Ministry Network was born from the ashes of the Alberta and Northwest Conference and Edmonton Presbytery Intercultural committees. Our mission is to extend the vision of intercultural ministry to the five Western regions of the United Church of Canada.
2. We will endeavour to work closely with General Council in their Intercultural Ministry support for the whole of the United Church of Canada. At the same time, we hope to bring together those who are doing intercultural ministry work in their regions.
3. We hope to educate the mainstream United churches about the issues experienced by people who are marginalized because of race, sexual orientation and gender identity, disability and poverty. We will work toward holding an annual educational event featuring speakers who can teach us about becoming an intercultural church.
4. We hope to build a relationship with Indigenous peoples in order to learn about their histories, traditions and spiritualities.
5. We hope to continue support for ministry personnel who have come to Canada to work in the United Church and must navigate its culture and policies as they seek to become fully accepted in the United Church of Canada. We intend to petition the Office of Vocation and federal and provincial governmental agencies to improve their policies to fully support immigrant ministers in the United Church of Canada.
6. This mission statement is a work in progress and will need to be reviewed and approved at each general meeting.

Terms of Reference

Mandate

- To nurture and support the ministries of Ethnocultural Congregations, Migrant Congregations, and those of visible Minority Clergy and Laity in mainstream Congregations of the United Church of Canada's five western Regions: Living Skies, Prairie to Pine, Northern Spirit, Chinook Winds and Pacific Mountain.
- To enable these ministries to participate fully in the life of The United Church of Canada
- To empower the constituents of the Western Intercultural Ministry Network to participate in the General Council Mandate, "Towards becoming an Intercultural Church."
- To advocate for persons navigating the immigration process and provide supports to enable integration into life in Canada.

Membership

- Chairperson, Secretary and either past chair or chair elect to act as Co-Chairperson
- At least one member from each of the member Regions and one member from each of the ethnocultural, affirming and migrant ministries. Intercultural ministry working groups within our five Regions will be welcome to appoint a member.
- The recruitment of network members will take into account the diversity of peoples in the United Church.
- There will be an attempt to rotate the leadership amongst the diversity of the groups represented in our network on a three yearly basis.
- Elders may be named in recognition of wise and faithful contribution from a longstanding former committee member. The Elder will have full corresponding privileges

Accountability

- The Ethnocultural congregation representatives shall report about their church matters and will support and respond to the goals set by the Network
- The Network will maintain a connection with General Council and the Regional executives of the United Church of Canada

Meetings

- A General meeting and Educational event will be held once a year, lasting 2-3 days
- Other meetings may be held electronically as called by the Chairperson or two members of the Network with at least two weeks notice.

Financial Support

- We will petition each Region to assist their representatives with travel expenses.
- We will request funding from each Region to support the cost of the Annual General meeting and Educational event.

Review

- These terms of reference shall be reviewed and accepted annually at a general meeting.

Appendix 2:

WIMN Annual Meeting – October 20, 2023 – Notes – Highlights of WIMN Activities – 2022 – 2023

1. Discussions continued in the past year on the WIMN mandate and TOR and how the network is addressing these. The discussions confirm that education on intercultural vision is key work of this network. This education focus is delivered through continuing Coffee Chai events and this in person event. The network did not have its usual coffee chai sessions in the past year, choosing to focus on delivering this first face-to-face event since 2019.
2. The network sees broadening its involvement in other UCC intercultural and anti-racism work as key and members of the network have done so in various ways, including contributions of written reflections to the 40 Days on Engagement on Anti-Racism series.
3. The network has been asked from time to time throughout the year to disseminate information about opportunities to serve on UCC committees or working groups to the network and to encourage persons in the network to discern their involvement and submit nominations to these groups.
4. Since June 2023 the WIMN Executive has been liaising with Emo Yango, Identity and Mission Network Coordinator at GCO, and responding to invitations to participate, along with other ethno-cultural networks with the UCC, in discussions that contribute to the strategic plan development. Specifically WIMN and other ethno-cultural networks have been asked to discern what a long-term national support would look like for these networks. These discussions have included meetings of the network executive with Emo Yango, as well as participation of representatives from WIMN in online and a face-to-face discussion in Toronto in early October on this topic. WIMN has a unique voice at the table as the group is the only intercultural network that is formed across several Regions. The network is happy to contribute to this work and will review the outcomes of the October 2023 in person meeting, at upcoming meetings. One outcome of these discussions is that moving forward, ethno-cultural network leads will meet online quarterly and there are plans in place to meet once per year (in October) in person.

Deborah Richards

October 20, 2023