

Executive
Horseshoe Falls Regional Council
OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA

Supports, Connects, Empowers Communities of Faith

Wednesday, April 15, 2020, 2 p.m., via zoom

Roster: Kate Young (President), John Hurst (Treasurer), Deborah Laforet (Past Chair), Margaret Blewett, Robert Lawson, Lorna MacQueen, Lena Medeiros, Adrienne Robertson, Nancy Risto, Thea Sheridan-Jonah, Pat Tooley, Garry Van Bruchem, Diane Viney

Staff Support: Cheryl-Ann Stadelbauer-Sampa, Executive Minister, Sue Duliban, Executive Assistant

Present: Kate Young (President), John Hurst (Treasurer), Deborah Laforet (Past Chair), Margaret Blewett, Robert Lawson, Lorna MacQueen, Lena Medeiros, Adrienne Robertson, Thea Sheridan-Jonah, Pat Tooley, Garry Van Bruchem, Diane Viney

Regrets: Nancy Risto

Welcome and Constitute Meeting (Kate Young)

I constitute this meeting in the name of Jesus Christ, the one true head of the Church and by the authority invested in me by this meeting of the Horseshoe Falls Regional Council for whatever business may properly come before it. The bounds of the meeting will be the Zoom call.

Acknowledging the Land (Kate Young)

Friends this Pandemic has highlighted for the first time in a generation the connectedness of the world. Our health and future is entwined with the health and future of every person on the planet. Perhaps it will lead us to the understanding that just as our present is linked with all people so too are we linked to our past. Our history as a country is linked with how we have treated the First Peoples of this land. History and The Truth and Reconciliation Commission reveals the immeasurable damage done to the First Peoples of Canada when we disrespected their culture, teachings, and stewardship of the land. As we seek health and wholeness from COVID-19 disease may we never cease to work toward wholeness in the relationship and standing with the First Peoples of this land. One step toward this reconciliation is to acknowledge that we are gathered on the traditional territory of the many First Nations. Our gain has come at great cost to Indigenous people. So let us extend ourselves in heart and mind and work toward reconciliation with all the people who call this land home. May we live with respect on this land, and live in peace and friendship with all its peoples. Gary Clark-WOWRC

Opening Worship President Kate asked the group to share how they are worshipping during this time and closed with prayer.

Consent Docket

Any of the following matters that require discussion can be lifted from the consent docket and voted upon separately.

A. Enabling Motions/Proposals

1. That the proposed Agenda be approved as presented, with the addition of the Native Peoples Retreat.
2. That the minutes of the March 18, 2020 zoom meeting be approved as distributed.
3. That motions be written and given to the Secretary.

B. To receive the correspondence and address it as it arises in the agenda

1. Hamilton Travelling Summer Day Camp – notice of cancellation.

C. Actions

To confirm Horseshoe Falls as the supervising regional council for the incorporated ministry of Five Oaks Christian Workers Centre.

MOTION Adrienne Robertson / Diane Viney

That the Consent Docket for Horseshoe Falls Regional Council Executive meeting of April 15, 2020 be adopted. **CARRIED**

Business Arising

1. Commission reports

- a. Covenant Commission (Adrienne Robertson): The commission made a motion that should the commission be unable to achieve quorum due to illness, that the Executive be empowered to make decisions on the recommendation of the remaining members of the commission. Also extended access to restricted funds for the purpose of meeting ADP payroll to May and June. The commission also suggested encouraging communities of faith offering alternatives to in-person worship services during this time to invite those with no minister to join them.
- b. Human Resources Commission (Pat Tooley): The commission will meet again next week. Have been reviewing position descriptions, renewal appointments, etc.
- c. Mission & Discipleship Commission (Diane Viney): The commission will meet again next week. Regional council staff are working on the Mission Support Grant application.

2. Staff Support Committee: Pat Tooley

Diane Matheson-Jimenez, half-time Minister Social Justice, has returned to work. Interviews to fill the vacant half-time position have been put on hold.

3. Native Peoples Retreat

The Native Peoples Retreat has been cancelled for this year. How should the grant money given for the retreat by HFRC be handled?

MOTION John Hurst / Garry van Bruchem

That the Native Peoples Retreat retain the grant money given for the 2020 event with the understanding that this money is to be held over for use for next year's retreat. **CARRIED**

Cheryl-Ann will write the organizers and let them know the decision.

New Business

1. Proposal #1: Regional Council Meetings

There was some discussion as to whether an in person meeting will even be possible in the fall. Cheryl-Ann said that the presumption is that it will be possible. She noted that those who would have been recognized in the spring will receive all the authority of their office, as well as any relative pay increase, as of July 1. Their celebration will happen at a later date. Cheryl-Ann added that the concern is if a fall date/venue is not selected and an in person meeting is possible, there might not be space available. Space booked can always be cancelled.

It was agreed that a backup plan for meeting electronically should be prepared. Details regarding electronic meetings/voting, backup plan will be discussed further at a later date.

Horseshoe Falls Regional Council Executive **agreed** by consensus to

- a) Affirm its preference for an in-person meeting in 2020 provided public health guidelines permit;
- b) Extend that in-person meeting from the previously scheduled one day to two days to allow for business and the Celebration of Ministry;
- c) Change the date of the meeting from the proposed October 24th to November 13th-14th in Fonthill at the Meridian Community Centre.

For 2021: Consider a tri-regional meeting in Port Elgin in May, 2021 provided theme speaker, the Honourable Senator Murray Sinclair can reschedule. Some discussion regarding theme speaker, possibility of meeting separately. To clarify the preference of the Executive, a motion was made.

MOTION John Hurst / Robert Lawson

That Horseshoe Falls Regional Council Executive affirms having a tri-regional meeting in Port Elgin, May 2021, with theme speaker, the Honourable Senator Murray Sinclair. **CARRIED**

2. Proposal #2: Government Assistance

Governments are establishing programs to provide support for small businesses including not-for-profits like the regional council. However, programs are evolving and it is not yet clear exactly what might be available to the regional council. The goal of the proposal is to provide a means for the regional council to access the assistance without needing to reconvene the Executive. Note: The plan would be to engage all three in this process but this prevents the process from being stalled if one of the three is not available.

MOTION Margaret Blewett / Adrienne Robertson

Horseshoe Falls Regional Council Executive authorizes any two of the following three, the President, the Treasurer and the Executive Minister, to apply for government assistance for which the regional council is eligible. **CARRIED**

3. Staff Support Committee Mandate

MOTION Pat Tooley / John Hurst

Horseshoe Falls Regional Council Executive endorses the Staff Support Committee Mandate and directs that it be added as an appendix to the Governance Handbook. **CARRIED**

4. Social Media Guidelines

MOTION John Hurst / Margaret Blewett

That Horseshoe Falls Regional Council Executive adopt the proposed Social Media Guidelines. **CARRIED**

5. Cancellation of Hamilton Summer Travelling Day Camp; Mission Support Grant cancellation, unused funds

The first two quarters of the Mission Support Grant monies were paid out. The last two were cancelled. Financial accounting for the program was through Carlisle United Church.

MOTION Thea Sheridan-Jonah / Diane Viney

That Horseshoe Falls Regional Council Executive looks forward to receiving the final accounting for the Hamilton Summer Travelling Day Camp; that the Executive is committed to Carlisle United Church not being out of pocket for this in any way and that any unspent balance will be distributed to the two donors on the proportion of their donation. **CARRIED**

6. Executive Minister's Accountability Report (received for information)

It was agreed to receive the Executive Minister's Accountability Report for information.

7. Support for communities of faith during COVID-19

Cheryl-Ann noted that the regional council is trying to keep up with the shifting policies/programs being developed and keep communities of faith informed. The goal is not to complicate further a difficult situation for congregations.

A denominational loan program will be rolled out. Cheryl-Ann emphasized that there is no pot of money for this loan program, the denomination will be going to run a \$7 million line of credit.

Noted re: finances. Have a good handle on regional council operating expenses, a detailed profit and loss report will be needed though.

Motion to Adjourn: Deborah Laforet

Next meeting: Wednesday, May 20, 4 p.m. – 6 p.m. via zoom.