

Horseshoe Falls Regional Council

OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA

Supports, Connects, Empowers Communities of Faith

The Horseshoe Falls Regional Council was called to meet on Saturday, November 9, 2019 at the Meridian Community Centre, 100 Meridian Way, Fonthill, ON L0S 1E6

Introduction, Acknowledgement of Land & Call to Order

President Kate Young opened the meeting in the name of Jesus Christ, the one true head of the church, and by the authority invested in her by Horseshoe Falls Regional Council, calling the meeting of Horseshoe Falls Regional Council to order for whatever business may properly come before it.

Opening worship

Deborah Laforet led opening worship.

Proposal #1 Consent Docket

MOVED John Hurst / **SECONDED** Barb Fullerton

That Horseshoe Falls Regional Council:

- 1) Adopt the agenda as circulated and authorize the Business and Agenda Committee to make any changes as necessary;
- 2) Appoint Margaret Bain as Parliamentarian;
- 3) Name President Kate Young, Parliamentarian Margaret Bain, and Executive Minister, Cheryl-Ann Stadelbauer-Sampa as the Business and Agenda Committee;
- 4) Set the bounds of the meeting as the Dr. Gary and Mall Accursi Room of the Meridian Community Centre in Fonthill;
- 5) Make all guests corresponding members;
- 6) Accept the registration as the roll of this meeting;
- 7) Confirm the following appointments made by the Executive to provide the Executive and Commissions with sufficient members to manage their work:

Executive: Thea Sheridan-Jonah

Covenant Commission: Mary Anderson, Doug Mills, Kathi Phillips, Carolyn Smith

Human Resources Commission: Callie Archer, Joanne Hedge, Pat Tooley

Mission and Discipleship Commission: Irene Ty

- 8) Adopt the following method for dealing with proposals:

Step One:

The Presenter will outline:

- A) What is the issue? and
- B) The suggested way in which the regional council might respond to the issue.

Step Two:

The President will inquire if there are questions for clarification. Please note this is for clarification only.

Step Three:

The President will then ask if there are changes or additions being suggested for the proposal. Using warm and cool cards, the regional council will seek to come closer to agreement on how to respond to the issue.

Step Four:

Once there is significant agreement, the President will invite the Presenter to move the motion at which point the regional council enters the formal debate process. **CARRIED**

Community Building

A Horseshoe Falls themed Jeopardy game was held to build community and further knowledge of the regional council. The game was hosted by Adrienne Robertson, with contestants Robert Lawson, Christina Paradela, and Carolyn Smith, scorekeeper Sue Duliban, and judge C-A Stadelbauer-Sampa.

Following Jeopardy, Robert Lawson led the group in a “sorting hat” quiz – based on the Harry Potter books/movies. The quiz encouraged the group to consider “How are you called to be the church as a member of the new Horseshoe Falls Regional Council?”, and to discern in a lighthearted way, where in the new region their gifts might best be used.

Introduction of Joan Tuchlinsky

Robert Lawson, a member of the interview team for the Minister, Social Justice position, introduced Joan Tuchlinsky, the successful candidate for the position. Joan spoke briefly regarding the importance of the appropriate use of gender identity.

Affirming Network

Pegi Ridout Joyce provide a brief summary of the Affirming Network (an affirming network shared among three regional councils) and a few of its activities undertaken since the May meeting. At the Annual meeting, an action plan will be presented to regional council.

Table group exercise: Listen as the Affirm statement is read, what word or 2 pops out at you. Read it again, and then share with table one sentence about why that word or phrase important.

Webinars/workshops to be offered over coming winter/spring to think about the statement and affirming ministries process.

The nationwide Affirm Network meeting will be held in London, Ontario in July 2020 at First St. Andrew’s (coinciding with London’s Pride Parade). All are encouraged to consider attending that event.

Proposal #2 Election of General Council Commissioners

Deborah Laforet spoke to this proposal outlining the process for election of General Council Commissioners from the Horseshoe Falls Regional Council (ARWRC). It was noted that the regional council will elect 12 Commissioners to attend the 44th General Council July 21-25, 2021 in Calgary, Alberta. The regional council President will also attend.

(Lunch break 12:15 – 1 pm)

Discussion of Proposal #2 resumed following lunch.

President Kate Young asked for any questions of clarification; for which several points of clarification were raised. President Kate Young asked for any changes or additions to the proposal.

Changes and additions suggested:

That two Indigenous commissioners be included. After much debate, President Kate Young asked for response using warm and cool cards. Response indicated: cool.

Add one more space to A)2), from 4 to 5. Response using warm and cool cards: cool.

Designate 2 spots for first time GC commissioners. Response using warm and cool cards: cool.

Change wording to A) 2) to: Four (4) Commissioners who self-identify as meeting the areas of diversity outlined in the *Manual 2019*; **with attention to diversity of ability both visible and invisible**. Response using warm and cool cards: warm.

MOVED Deborah Laforet / **SECONDED** Walter Reid

That the Horseshoe Falls Regional Council (ARWRC) adopt the process (Proposal #2) to elect General Council 44 commissioners with additional wording to A) 2) as agreed:

- A) Have an initial round of voting to elect:
- 1) One (1) Indigenous Commissioner.
The process to secure nominations for these positions to be determined in consultation with Indigenous ministries.
 - 2) Four (4) Commissioners who self-identify as meeting the areas of diversity outlined in the *Manual 2019*, with attention to diversity of ability both visible and invisible.
- B) Have a second round of voting to elect the balance of Commissioners. Any positions not filled in the first round will be filled by the second. Any nominees not elected in the first round will be on the ballot for the second round.

OPPOSED 3 MOTION CARRIED

Regional Council Commissions Overview

Executive Minister Cheryl-Ann Stadelbauer-Sampa introduced the regional council staff: Lynne Allin, Minister Congregational Support and Mission; Diane Blanchard Minister Pastoral Relations; Sue Duliban, Executive Assistant; Pretima Kukadia-Kinting, Administrative Assistant Communication and Records; Ruthanna Mack, Administrative Assistant Mission & Hospitality; Joan Tuchlinsky Minister Social Justice; Kevin Steeper, Minister Pastoral Support; Kim Uyede-Kai Minister Right Relations & Indigenous Justice. Kathy Douglas, Minister Faith Formation, was unable to attend.

Kate Young invited each of the commissions to present a brief overview of their work. Covenant Commission Chair Adrienne Robertson, and Human Resources Commission Chair Allison Playfair provided brief updates. In the absence of a Mission & Discipleship Commission Chair, Kate Young provided an overview. Attendees were encouraged to complete the HF Covenant Commission information sheets supplied to each table.

Proposal #3 Financial Matters: Unrestricted Gifts

John Hurst (Treasurer) spoke to this proposal. The regional council is the beneficiary of funds from certain of the Presbyteries and Hamilton and Toronto Conference that preceded it. These funds are unrestricted and can be used as the regional council determines.

Kate Young asked if there were any questions of clarification; some questions were asked for understanding of some line items and clarity was provided.

MOVED John Hurst / **SECONDED** Judith Gilliland

That the Horseshoe Falls Regional Council:

- 1) Establish an operational reserve of \$200,000.
- 2) Draw \$35,000 from the unrestricted reserve in 2020 to:
 - a) Provide each Commission with a budget of up to \$10,000 per year to offer events or to engage in programs of its choosing;
 - b) Provide \$5,000 to cover any honoraria offered to Officers of the regional council

- 3) Cover the costs associated with any emerging situation such as an investigation or review from the reserve;

Proposal #3 Financial Matters: Unrestricted Gifts (continued)

- 4) Set aside up to \$30,000 for 2020 as an investment in leaders fund with the terms to be established by the Executive so that the funds can be available to support lay members and ministry personnel to participate in learning opportunities and to provide for leadership development and for skill development. **CARRIED**

Proposal #4 Financial Matters: Operating Year to Date

John Hurst presented the year-to-date (October 31, 2019) financial statements.

Kate Young asked if there were any questions of clarification, in response to which a few questions were raised.

MOVED John Hurst / **SECONDED** Joanne Hedge

That the Horseshoe Falls Regional Council receive the 2019 Operating Statement as at October 31, 2019 for information. **OPPOSED 1 MOTION CARRIED**

Proposal #5 Financial Matters: Budget 2020

John Hurst presented the proposed budget for 2020. The 2019 budget was based on costs available from 2017-2018 and estimates of expenses. The 2020 budget is based on actual salary figures as anticipated and reflects the costs incurred this year with an increase of 3%. The reporting is over four columns to track funds that have specific purposes such as assessment and Mission and Service.

Kate Young asked if there were any questions of clarification; some questions were asked for understanding of some line items and clarity was provided.

MOVED John Hurst / **SECONDED** Rob ? (Did not give last name, only from Old Windham – not on registration list)

That Horseshoe Falls Regional Council adopt the 2020 Operating Budget. **CARRIED**

Proposal #6 Auditors

John Hurst reported that as our regional council financial administration is managed by the General Council accounting team, using the General Council auditors, PWC, is recommended.

Several points/queries were raised and discussed including: was there a bidding process, what is the anticipated cost. John Hurst and Cheryl-Ann Stadelbauer-Sampa noted that there was not a bidding process; given the complicated nature of this year's audit it was felt using auditors familiar with church and charity reporting would be beneficial. Cost is not known.

MOVED John Hurst / **SECONDED** Jean Bethune

That Horseshoe Falls Regional Council appoint the General Council auditors, PWC, to perform the 2019 audit of Horseshoe Falls Regional Council. **OPPOSED 2 MOTION CARRIED**

MOVED Lynn Godfrey / **SECONDED** Donald Duke

That for the 2020 Horseshoe Falls Regional Council audit, a call for bids be issued and at least three bids be received.

OPPOSED 2 MOTION CARRIED

MOVED Christina Paradela / **SECONDED** John Hurst

That the order of the day be extended by 15 minutes.

CARRIED

Covenant with Communities of Faith update

Lynne Allin, Minister Congregational Support and Mission, shared a powerpoint presentation providing an overview of several aspects of the community of faith covenant with the regional council (a covenant template was provided with the meeting workbook). Lynne also outlined some of the details regarding the community of faith profile worksheets and Living Faith Story, as well as the annual self-assessment checklist. She emphasized that the Covenant Commission is there to help you with questions/resources.

Closing Motion

MOVED Jeff Werner / **SECONDED** Margaret Bain

That the responsibilities and authority of Horseshoe Falls Regional Council be entrusted to its Executive and Commissions in accordance with *The Manual 2019* of The United Church of Canada.

CARRIED

Closing Worship

The agenda having been completed, the meeting concluded. Garry van Bruchem offered a theological reflection and the meeting closed with song and prayer.

Meeting adjourned at 3:15 pm.