

Present: Deborah Laforet (Chair), Jean Bethune, Margaret Blewett, Christina Paradela, Ted Smith, Sybil Wilson, Kate Young, Cheryl-Ann Stadelbauer-Sampa (Executive Minister), Sue Duliban (Executive Assistant), Diane Blanchard (Minister, Pastoral Relations)

Regrets: Rhonda Johns, Robert Lawson

Opening Worship, Check-in, Acknowledgement of Territory

Meeting called to order by Deborah Laforet, Chair

Deborah reflected on a poem written by the Moderator, followed by check-in and Halton's Acknowledgement of Territory. Ted Smith closed with prayer.

Minutes of Meeting of February 27, 2019

Accepted as written.

Business Arising from Minutes

1) Native Peoples Retreat request for funding

There was some discussion that this could fit into the M&S supplementary application. Also how would this relate to the decision that indigenous ministry funding is separate? It was suggested that there would be an exception to completing any application for this year.

MOVED: Margaret Blewett, **SECONDED:** Sybil Wilson

That Horseshoe Falls Regional Council is prepared to support the Native Peoples Retreat request for funding at a minimum level of \$2,000. The Regional Council requests that a budget be prepared and submitted by April 15th. The Regional Council is willing to consider further support and will encourage ARW and WOW regional councils to participate. **CARRIED**

2) March 2 gathering update

Feedback received was quite positive. Agreement that it was a wonderful day, the weather didn't prevent anyone from coming, and a flexible and friendly congregation provided a welcoming and hospitable atmosphere. It was remarked that a lot of clarity happened. Close to 200 people attended.

3) Mission & Service – application form, supplementary.

The form has been circulated. No submissions have been received at the Regional Office as of this date. There were comments that it was difficult to access the form. To ensure good communication, it was suggested that a note/newsletter be sent out next week letting folks know issues are being addressed and the website will be coming really soon (at which point the form can be loaded onto the website). C-A will follow-up on website implementation.

4) Consensus decision making

The idea of implementing consensus decision making within the transition commission was discussed. Should it start now? Try it and then pass on wisdom to the incoming commissions/executive?

MOVED: Christina Paradela, **SECONDED:** Jean Bethune

That the Horseshoe Falls Transition Commission proceed from this point onward making decisions by consensus. **WITHDRAWN**

There was wide ranging discussion on this issue. As this particular group is a transition group, the question was raised; why would they take the time to move to this model when almost at the end of their term? It was also pointed out that there are various models on consensus decision making and moving to a new model without a blueprint or having been educated about the possibilities might not be helpful.

The commission members also recognized that decisions thus far have been made in a consensus like manner.

The motion was withdrawn.

It was felt that the new commissions can determine for themselves whether or not to follow consensus decision making. It was suggested that it would be helpful to educate the incoming commissions/executive on various consensus models and that an educational piece could be put on the website. Cheryl-Ann and Deborah agreed to undertake to find more resources pertaining to consensus decision making.

5) Expressions of interest

From expressions of interest received thus far, it would appear that after sorting out interests and limitations, it would not be possible to fully populate the commissions. Follow-up phone calls to those communities of faith who haven't submitted an expression of interest will be undertaken to remind them of the need to submit an expression of interest and to offer any assistance. The period for receipt of expressions of interest will be extended.

Cheryl-Ann, Robert and Sybil will do an initial sort and the commission agreed to meet May 8 at 9:30 a.m. at the Regional Office to populate the commissions.

The transition commission agreed to continue their work until the May regional meeting and then name the regional council executive and commissions by that time. It was agreed that this year the executive and commissions will be appointed and only the regional council president will be elected and that the elections can be done differently at future annual meetings.

Cheryl-Ann suggested that an event be planned for June for the current transition commission and the new commissions and regional council executive.

Business Carried Forward

1) Affirming Ministries

The affirming network has been meeting and it was felt there was a need for Horseshoe Falls regional council to connect. It was agreed that Pegi Ridout (a member of the Affirming network) be invited to the next meeting to update the transition commission.

2) Confidentiality Agreements were signed.

3) Property Policy

Cheryl-Ann presented an overview of concepts regarding revenue, operating expenses, and assets. She noted that property is an asset and has the potential to invest in ministry or generate income. Three main areas where policy needs to be determined.

Major renovations: There needs to be a threshold for major renovations above which the regional council needs to be consulted. Additionally, spending of assets/reserves requires a threshold.

Amalgamations of congregations: Congregations hold all their assets for their use during their lifetime. When congregations amalgamate, all assets become jointly owned and in general nothing becomes surplus

Disbanding of congregations: When congregations disband the date is important: assets remaining after the disbanding date become remaining property for the region to decide. In general, net proceeds are used by the ministries of the United Church.

Disbursement of assets (possibilities):

Indigenous ministry

Assessments

Archives
M&S (current & endowment)
Congregation's wishes
Regional share

The following property policy principles were agreed upon:

- 1) Major renovations (capital improvements), or use of unrestricted assets
Above what percentage of net revenue used for the assessment base will trigger talking to the commission: either 50% or 60%. Further discussion will be undertaken.
- 2) In the event of amalgamations, assets will not be declared surplus. Instead, it will be required that assets follow the congregation into the amalgamation.
- 3) For disbanding congregations, the disbursement of assets as follows:

Indigenous ministries	10%
Archives	2%
M&S	25% (10% current & 15% endowment)
Congregation's wishes	33% (a UCC ministry)
Regional share	25%

Sample motions on property will be brought forward for next meeting.

4) Draft covenant between regional council and community of faith

The current draft was felt to be more businesslike, not covenantal. It was suggested that this would be something to be discussed at the annual meeting and then brought to congregations. C-A noted that the covenant with Indigenous Ministries will have to be done differently, as they are deciding where they will be after their summer meeting

Correspondence

1) Archives Consultation Invitation letter

A request for Horseshoe Falls regional council to provide representation to an Archives & Record Keeping Consultation in June 2019 was received. Hugh Tope will be invited to represent Horseshoe Falls Regional Council at the Archives & Record Keeping Consultation.

2) Remembrance bill

MOVED: Kate Young, **SECONDED:** Christina Paradela

That Cheryl-Ann Stadelbauer-Sampa and Deborah Laforet prepare a letter of support and invite communities of faith to do the same and send to their local MP. **CARRIED**

3) General Secretary ruling

Cheryl-Ann will follow-up on the ruling by the General Secretary on membership which indicates the right to vote can be extended to lay only if there is an equal number of ministry personnel. Cheryl-Ann will discuss and get clarification on this ruling.

Congregational Life Cycle and Property (Covenant Commission)

1) Cave Springs Camp

Cheryl-Ann will connect with Kathy Douglas and follow-up with the Cave Springs board, regarding a possible partnership with the Rotary Club of Lincoln.

Pastoral Relations (Human Resources Commission)

1) Approving calls/appointments

MOVED: Kate Young, **SECONDED:** Margaret Blewett

That Horseshoe Falls Regional Council approve the following:

Peggy Bartlett (DLM) renewal of appointment to the Hagersville-Springvale Pastoral Charge effective July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2022 according to the terms set out in the signed record of appointment.

Rev. Dr. Gordon Crossfield (OM ret.) renewal of appointment to Elm Street United Church, St. Catharines effective July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020 according to the terms set out in the signed record of appointment.

Dianne Everitt (candidate) provisional call to Bethany and Fenwick United Churches effective July 1, 2019 according to the terms set out in the signed record of call.

Valerie Pitt (DM ret.) extension of appointment to First Grantham United Church, St. Catharines to June 30, 2019.

Cheryl Wood-Thomas (OM) renewal of appointment to St. John's Stevensville Pastoral Charge effective January 1, 2019 to June 30, 2019 according to the terms set out in the signed record of appointment.

CARRIED

2) Requests for a change in pastoral relations

MOVED: Kate Young, **SECONDED:** Christina Paradela

That Horseshoe Falls Regional Council approve the following

A request for change in pastoral relations from David Catton (OM), Wesley, Fruitland, effective June 30, 2019 for the purpose of retirement.

A request from Leigh Olson (OM) for a change in the pastoral relationship between between her and West Plains United Church, Burlington effective June 30, 2019, in order to seek a call or appointment.

CARRIED

(Diane Blanchard noted that there was interest at West Plains in having intentional interim ministry. Rev. Olson followed a minister who had served there for 16 or more years.)

3) Approving and appointing liaisons

MOVED: Sybil Wilson, **SECONDED:** Ted Smith

The following regional liaison appointments be approved by Horseshoe Falls Regional Council:

Christina Paradela for St. Andrew's, Hamilton.

Garry van Bruchem for Smithville United.

Robert Lawson to continue as a regional liaison (presbytery appointed) for St. Paul's, Paris with Diane Blanchard to train a search team.

Mel Matthias for St. Stephen's United Church, Burlington.

CARRIED

Liaisons are required for:

Sydenham-Heritage, Brantford

Tansley United, Burlington

4) Approving vacancy profile

A Living Faith Story and request to approve a vacancy at Smithville United Church has been received.

MOVED: Kate Young, **SECONDED:** Margaret Blewett

That Horseshoe Falls Regional Council affirm the Smithville United Church Living Faith Story.

CARRIED

It was agreed to thank Smithville United for their profiles and note a position description for the vacancy was not received. It was further agreed that the Interim Ministry final report should be circulated to the regional council for review, as well as a position description prior to approving the vacancy. However, the

community of faith can begin working with the appointed regional liaison, so as not to delay the process. A conference call or email vote can be undertaken once the above noted paperwork is received.

Other Business

1) Annual meeting update

Jean Bethune, as planning committee member, provided an update on planning for the annual meeting. Theme speaker is Cameron Trimble. The celebration of ministries and honouring of retirees/jubilands will be a joint celebration. Nice mix of time of all three regions together and individually. One or two people will be needed to work with Jean and Deborah on the agenda for the region's time frame. Further discussion of the regional agenda to be held at the April meeting.

2) Minister, Social Justice

It is anticipated that a search will be authorized in June for a part-time vacancy to cover the maternity leave of Diane Matheson-Jimenez.

3) Presbytery assets

Cheryl-Ann asked for direction regarding the assets held by former Hamilton Conference, which are to be shared with the regional councils of Horseshoe Falls and Western Ontario Waterways. Horseshoe Falls regional directed Cheryl-Ann that assets be held until maturity and then cashed out. General Council Office will invest any monies as part of the regional financial plan. Transference of all documentation will be undertaken when the audit is complete.

4) Engage Difference! Deepening Understanding for Intercultural Ministry, Toronto June 24-28

Cheryl-Ann is asking for additional support across the three regions so that staff who would like to attend can do so.

MOVED: Margaret Blewett, **SECONDED:** Sybil Wilson

That \$300.00 per regional staff member be provided to enable attendance at the Deepening Understanding for Intercultural Ministry gathering June 24-28. **CARRIED**

Meeting adjourned.

Next Meeting: April 24, 2019, Barton-Stone United Church, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.