

Present: Deborah Laforet (Chair), Jean Bethune, Margaret Blewett, Christina Paradela, Sybil Wilson, Kate Young, Cheryl-Ann Stadelbauer-Sampa (Executive Minister), Sue Duliban (Executive Assistant), Lynne Allin (Minister, Congregational Support and Mission), Pegi Ridout (Affirming Ministries Network)

Regrets: Rhonda Johns, Robert Lawson, Ted Smith

Opening Worship, Check-in, Acknowledgement of Territory

Meeting called to order by Deborah Laforet, Chair

Sybil Wilson led worship, beginning with an Acknowledgement of the Mississauga and Haudenasanee Territories. She read from Luke 24 and a passage from “Everyday Skeptics” on loitering; asking what loitering we may have done over Easter, Lent, anytime, and were our eyes opened.

Minutes of Meeting of March 27, 2019

Accepted as written, with the correction of the spelling out of “ministry personnel” on page 17.

Business Carried Forward

1) Affirming Ministries

Pegi Ridout spoke on the work of the Affirming Ministries Network. The network has representatives from the three regions. In Horseshoe Falls:

- Communities of Faith with active reps. on the committee: Applewood; New Vision
- + with reps on the email list: Barton Stone-Mount Hope, Port Nelson
- Affirming Ministries in Horseshoe Falls Region: those above + Five Oaks
- In Horseshoe Falls region, 5 of 143 communities of faith are Affirming, which is 3.5%.
- Nationally the percentage is 7.2%
- Their goal is to move toward the national average.

Encouraging communities of faith to become Affirming is a challenge. The oft-heard refrain is “We’re welcoming. Why do we need to be Affirming?” In the fall, the Network will put together a list of communities of faith that might be approached as possibilities. Several committee members are compiling information about the process used in their congregations. Others are offering workshops for places that want to get started.

The Network has been looking at the Affirming Ministry Statements from Hamilton, London, and Toronto, and would like to put these together into a statement can be voted on at the 2020 annual meeting of each region. The Network wants to declare their commitment to being Affirming early in their identity, but also recognize the need for education, especially for those new to the Affirming process. Their time on the plenary agenda at this year’s meeting will be used for that purpose, likely introducing the statements.

In addition, Affirming will be offering a workshop on Saturday evening. Provision for preferred pronouns will be included in the name tag design, and committee members will be identified with rainbow stickers as safe persons. They will have a display - and also be at Skylight.

Business Arising from Minutes

1) Mission & Service supplementary grants – applications received.

A zoom call will be scheduled to review the applications submitted.

2) Expressions of interest – update

Transition commission members have been contacting communities of faith who have not had representatives submit an expression of interest. Phone calls have been time consuming, so members have begun emailing. Margaret and Sybil sent a letter, application form and governance handbook and suggested if there were any questions to get back to them. They have had some replies already.

- 3) Agenda for region time at annual meeting
Region only time to include nature of the covenant between communities of faith and the regional council; congregational self-assessment; election of a president. Honouring of retirees/jubilands to be done during region time. Celebration of retirees/jubilands and presentation of certificates to be done when all three regions are together. Celebration of ministries – all regions together. Single vows from OV and Candidacy Board.

Correspondence

- 1) Introduction to Governance and Mission (copy of report) – presented for information
- 2) Inaugural meeting information for Moderator – presented for information

Congregational Life Cycle and Property (Covenant Commission)

- 1) Stamford Lane United Church – Individual Learning Grant application
MOVED: Kate Young, **SECONDED:** Jean Bethune
That the request for an Individual Learning Grant for the Stamford Lane Rainbow Ringers Handbell Choir in the amount of \$800.00 (8 members at \$100.00 each) be approved. **CARRIED**
- 2) Melrose United Church – Living Faith Story
Horseshoe Falls Regional Council affirmed the Melville United Church Living Faith Story.
- 3) Fonthill United Church – Community Profile
Horseshoe Falls Regional Council affirmed the Fonthill United Church Community Profile.
- 4) Norval United Church
MOVED: Margaret Blewett, **SECONDED:** Kate Young
That Horseshoe Falls Regional Council gives permission to Norval United Church to change the lender on their \$50,000.00 loan for their green initiative work from the bank to Toronto United Church Council. **CARRIED**
- 5) Port Rowan pastoral charge supervisor
The current pastoral charge supervisor wishes to step down. Lynne Allin and Cheryl-Ann to review and present a name at the next meeting.

Pastoral Relations (Human Resources Commission)

- 1) Approving calls/appointment
 - a) **MOVED:** Kate Young, **SECONDED:** Margaret Blewett
That Horseshoe Falls Regional Council approve the appointment of Marcie Gibson (DM) to Grand River United Church, part-time (20 hours per week), effective April 1, 2019 to December 31, 2019 or when the called minister returns from restorative care according to the terms set out in the signed record of appointment. **CARRIED**
 - b) **MOVED:** Sybil Wilson, **SECONDED:** Kate Young
That Horseshoe Falls Regional Council approve the extension of the appointment of Jeff Davison (OM) to Trinity United Church, Acton, part-time (13 hours per week), effective April 1, 2019 to May 31, 2019 according to the terms set out in the signed record of appointment. **CARRIED**
 - c) **MOVED:** Sybil Wilson, **SECONDED:** Margaret Blewett
That Horseshoe Falls Regional Council approve the call of Jim Cairney (OM) to St. Paul's United Church, Dundas, full-time, effective August 1, 2019 according to the terms set out in the signed record of call. **CARRIED**
- 2) Request for a change in pastoral relations
 - a) **MOVED:** Kate Young, **SECONDED:** Margaret Blewett
That the request for a change of pastoral relations from Rev. Peg Turner from the Barton Stone-Mount Hope pastoral charge effective June 30 when the current appointment ends be approved. **CARRIED (One abstention)**

- b) **MOVED:** Kate Young, **SECONDED:** Margaret Blewett
That the request for a change of pastoral relations from Rev. Ann Stafford from the Barton Stone-Mount Hope pastoral charge effective June 30 when the current appointment ends be approved. **CARRIED (One abstention)**
- c) **MOVED:** Christina Paradela, **SECONDED:** Sybil Wilson
That the request from Tansley United Church, Burlington to end the pastoral relationship with Rev. Stephen Huntley be approved by Horseshoe Falls Regional Council. The end date of the pastoral relationship to be 90 days from the date the regional council took action. **CARRIED**
- d) **MOVED:** Kate Young, **SECONDED:** Sybil Wilson
That the request from St. Stephen's United Church, Burlington to end the pastoral relationship with Rev. Alison Playfair be approved by Horseshoe Falls Regional Council. The end date of the pastoral relationship to be 90 days from the date the regional council took action. **CARRIED**
- 3) Appointment of liaisons
- a) **MOVED:** Sybil Wilson, **SECONDED:** Jean Bethune
That the following regional liaisons be appointed:
Ted Smith as regional liaison for Mt. Zion-Renton
Ted Smith as regional liaison for Port Rowan
Brenna Baker as regional liaison for Carlisle-Kilbride. **CARRIED**
- 4) Approving vacancy profile
- a) Horseshoe Falls Regional Council agreed to affirm the Smithville United Church position description and express thanks for the support of the interim ministry.

Commission Planning

1) HF budget

Cheryl-Ann referred to two different types of formatting and asked the transition commission which format they found to be helpful. It was agreed that the narrative format budget was clearer. It was asked if a balance sheet from 2018 would need to be approved at annual meeting. As the regional council is a body that started January 1, 2019, it was thought it would not be required. Cheryl-Ann will speak to finances at the annual meeting. Two further financial pieces were discussed: authorization of discretionary spending for Cheryl-Ann and authorization of a ceiling when entering into negotiations for services in response to complaints received.

MOVED: Sybil Wilson, **SECONDED:** Margaret Blewett
That Horseshoe Falls regional council authorize a discretionary spending limit of up to \$2,000.00 for Cheryl-Ann Stadelbauer-Sampa, Executive Minister. **CARRIED**

MOVED: Sybil Wilson, **SECONDED:** Christina Paradela
That Horseshoe Falls regional council authorize Cheryl-Ann Stadelbauer-Sampa, Executive Minister, to enter into negotiations for services in response to complaints received for up to \$3,000.00, the amount and service provider to be confirmed at the next meeting of the regional council commission or the regional council executive. **CARRIED**

2) Property policy – draft policy motions

The regional council understands itself in partnership with the local congregation and with the wider United Church of Canada in the fulfillment of its responsibilities concerning the real and personal property of congregations. The regional council will communicate its policy clearly and be available for consultation and discussion with congregations when they are making decisions in co-operation with the regional council.

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

...that in accordance with Manual Section C.2.6(a)ii, Horseshoe Falls Regional Council defines "other major assets" as any item or group of items under consideration in the accrued amount or evaluation of 50% of the net assessment income figure recorded at December 31 from the prior calendar year... or \$200,000.00 whichever is the lessor.

CARRIED

MOVED: Jean Bethune, **SECONDED:** Sybil Wilson
Major Renovations

...that in accordance with Manual Section C.2.6(a)ii, Horseshoe Falls Regional Council defines "major renovations" as any repair, work, addition, upgrade or capital improvement or like project to the real property of a congregation or pastoral charge estimated or expected to cost the accrued amount or evaluation of 50% of the net assessment income figure recorded at December 31 from the prior calendar year... or \$200,000.00 whichever is the lessor, including without limitation applicable taxes, design, permits, project management and commissions.

CARRIED

MOVED: Sybil Wilson, **SECONDED:** Kate Young
Sale of Real Property

.....that in accordance with Manual Section C.2.6(a)l, Horseshoe Falls Regional Council will normally request that the net proceeds from the sale of real property be held as a restricted fund with only the interest available without prior regional council approval.

CARRIED

MOVED: Christina Paradela, **SECONDED:** Margaret Blewett
Amalgamation

That in accordance with Manual Section G.1.4.5., Horseshoe Falls Regional Council will normally not declare the property of amalgamating congregations' surplus.

CARRIED

MOVED: Kate Young, **SECONDED:** Jean Bethune
Disbanding

...that in accordance with Manual Section C.2.6(a), Horseshoe Falls Regional Council adopts the policy that funds received from the property of a disbanding congregation be disbursed in the following manner::

Reimbursement of holding/maintenance/disposal costs
Covering unpaid past assessments and current year assessment
Repaying any congregational indebtedness

33% for the congregation to direct to United Church of Canada ministries such as neighbouring congregations, United Church outreach ministries, United Church camps, United Church extension councils, The United Church of Canada Foundation or any of the following:

12 % designated for Indigenous ministries
10% designated for Mission and Service (current year)
15% for Mission and Service Endowment Fund
5% for Archives
25% for Regional Council

A congregation may give an amount equal to x% to from it share to a non-United Church ministry provided the congregation can demonstrate having previously supported this ministry to this extent and that the ministry is a registered charity.

CARRIED

- 3) Governance Handbook addition OV Governance Handbook addition
MOVED: Christina Paradela, **SECONDED:** Margaret Blewett
To honour the separation of oversight and discipline of ministry personnel established by the Office of Vocation and in recognition of the work attached to Office of Vocation roles, those members serving with the Board of Vocation or the Committees of the Office of Vocation will not be considered for the decision-making bodies of the regional council executive and regional council commissions. Their involvement as members of a resource pool would be most welcome if their Office of Vocation duties allow for such a time commitment. **CARRIED**
- 4) Celebration of Ministries motion
MOVED: Kate Young, **SECONDED:** Sybil Wilson
That Antler River Watershed Regional Council will hold its celebration of ministry to ordain, commission and to admit new members to the Order of Ministry as approved by the Office of Vocation and having met all requirements of the Manual (2019) on Saturday, May 25th, at 3:30 p.m. at the UNIFOR Family Education Centre in partnership with Horseshoe Falls Regional Council and Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council. **CARRIED**

Other Business

- 1) Cave Springs Camp Capital Assistance Grant
MOVED: Kate Young, **SECONDED:** Jean Bethune
That Horseshoe Falls Regional Council endorse the Cave Springs Camp 2019 Camp Improvement Grant application, to be forwarded to the General Council for consideration. **CARRIED**
- 2) All Native Circle Conference
MOVED: Margaret Blewett, **SECONDED:** Jean Bethune
That financial support up to and not exceeding \$2,000.00 be provided towards the cost of the All Native Circle Event to be held at Oneida. **CARRIED** (One opposed)
- 3) Could the transition commission members be subsidized for the AGM? This question was raised and the Executive Minister advised that in recognition of the time commitment given by the transition commission members 2018-2019, the participant's cost for each commissioner attending the regional meeting will be covered.

4) Communication issue

There was some discussion regarding publishing the minutes of the transition commission. There is an impression amongst some in the region, that the transition commission is operating in secret – that perhaps a digest or highlights of minutes could be circulated. It was pointed out that there is and has been regular communication through the email newsletters. It was agreed that the minutes be posted on the website once it is up and running. C-A wondered about crafting a humorous newsletter from regional staff and commission, 5 things I wish I knew. It was felt this was a valid idea, but that such a newsletter would have to be carefully worded so that it would not read as an apology.

Meeting Adjourned

Next meetings:

May 1 – zoom call to review M&S supplementary grant applications

May 8 – at Regional Office to populate commissions

May 14 – as needed for unfinished business