

Executive
Horseshoe Falls Regional Council
OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA

Supports, Connects, Empowers Communities of Faith

Wednesday, May 20, 2020, 4 pm, 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, Nancy Risto, Thea Sheridan-Jonah, Pat Tooley, Garry Van Bruchem, Diane Viney

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.

Kate invited all to check-in as comfortable.

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

Kate read a devotion by Ann Richards, "Standing the World on Its Head" from the book "600 Blessings and Prayers: From around the world" 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.
2. That the minutes of the April 15, 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. Toronto United Church Council (TUCC) Letter of invitation to name two representatives to TUCC for 2020/2021 and to attend the annual meeting on June 4.
2. Five Oaks AGM: request to assist in covering cost of required technical expertise

MOTION Deborah Laforet / Lorna MacQueen

That the Consent Docket for Horseshoe Falls Regional Council Executive meeting of May 20, 2020 be adopted. **CARRIED**

Business Arising

1. Proposal #4 – Nov. 13-14 Regional Council Meeting

Brief discussion regarding the merits of holding the meeting online given the continuing health situation and the risks involved in having a large in-person meeting in the fall (even if permitted to do so).

MOTION John Hurst / Lorna MacQueen

The HF Executive agrees to:

- 1) Hold the fall 2020 meeting online;
- 2) Cancel any reservation for space to enable the provider to book other events;
- 3) Set a date for the meeting (recommendation from Stephen Fetter is to extend over a few days such as for example hosting two hour sessions throughout that week plus the celebration of retirees and new ministries); working with the published dates of Nov. 13-14 as a starting point.
- 4) Direct the President, Executive Minister and Executive Assistant to present a plan at the June meeting of the Executive that includes a potential date for a celebration of ministry provided provincial and public health guidelines permit. **CARRIED**

2. Populating commissions/voting

MOTION Diane Viney / Deborah Laforet

The Horseshoe Falls Regional Council Executive agrees that terms of office for executive/commission members be extended until the regional council can meet and vote on any new representatives.

CARRIED

As the Mission and Discipleship Commission is under populated and there are two people who are willing to serve now, the Horseshoe Falls Executive **agrees** to entertain those two names for consideration and approval by email vote. Once the vote has been concluded, those people can be appointed to the Mission and Discipleship Commission (assuming the vote is in favour of the appointments).

3. Commission reports

- a. Covenant (Adrienne Robertson): The commission has been having weekly meetings. Last meeting was quite lengthy, close to two hours. Adrienne reviewed the work the commission is doing, including: engaging with many congregations who are facing an unknown future, dealing with property matters and reviewing UCC loan applications. Three UCC loan applications were submitted and reviewed using the criteria the commission has established. Two were approved and one was turned down as it didn't meet the criteria.
- b. Human Resources (Pat Tooley): In addition to handling appointments, etc., the commission voted that should they fail to reach quorum for any given meeting, the work of the Human

Resources Commission will be referred to the Horseshoe Falls Regional Council Executive that month. The wage subsidy program was also discussed. Diane Blanchard is drafting a letter to M&P Committees re: exhaustion of leadership and the need to support them.

- c. Mission & Discipleship (Diane Viney): Commission member Geof Thompson has been appointed to be on the Cave Springs Camp board. The commission meets May 21 and will be reviewing application(s) for unspent mission support grant funds (approximately \$54,000).

MOTION Adrienne Robertson / Margaret Blewett

In light of the pandemic, and being unable to comply with the in person requirements of the Horseshoe Falls Regional Council Governance Handbook, the Horseshoe Falls Regional Council Executive strongly urges all regional council bodies to meet by telephone conference or any other technological means that allow the participants to interact in real time (other than in person), until further notice. **CARRIED**

Cheryl-Ann noted that she took action on the Executive's behalf; advising Westdale United Church to keep the Mission Support grant money they received to cover the halftime amount of the minister's salary from McMaster University Chaplaincy during his planned sabbatical, to use when he is able to take his sabbatical (postponed due to the pandemic). Executive agreed.

4. Financial Updates

John Hurst noted that money that might have been spent with meetings (hotels, mileage, etc.) has not been utilized and he anticipates the regional council will wind up with a surplus this year.

Cheryl-Ann noted that everyone (communities of faith) made April payroll. Regional council update: it looks like Mission & Service funds for 2021 will be reduced by 17%, approximately \$50,000. This has an implication on the staff position that is currently open. Tentative plan is for presidents, treasurers and Cheryl-Ann to meet and figure out some key budget pieces around staff complement, etc. at some point over the summer.

New Business

1. Toronto United Church Council (TUCC) invitation to meeting

The Executive **agrees** to name Kate Young and John Hurst as representatives from Horseshoe Falls Regional Council to Toronto United Church Council (TUCC) for the June 4th Annual Meeting of the corporation.

2. Five Oaks request

Discussion regarding the request from Five Oaks to cover the cost of outside technical assistance in running the Five Oaks Annual General meeting online on June 7th (the cost was not stated).

Executive members wondered why Five Oaks could not pay for this assistance themselves or perhaps find a volunteer to assist in the administration of the meeting. There was no disagreement with the idea of Five Oaks getting an administrator for the meeting. Rather, the question was if the money is provided, what precedent is being set for the regional council? It was noted that many other communities of faith are dealing with the challenge of learning and administering new technology on their own and not coming to regional council for financial assistance. Unfortunately, they cannot all be assisted financially in the administration of that technology. If funds are provided, will the regional council be able to do it for others?

It was also raised up that if Five Oaks staff are finding themselves stressed, money isn't the only way to resolve stress; is there another way that the regional council can support them, rather than just financing?

The Executive **agrees by consensus** to receive the correspondence from Five Oaks and directs the Executive Minister to contact Five Oaks, to explain that we are concerned that we would be setting a dangerous precedent by providing financial support for their meeting when we don't have the capacity to extend that same financial support beyond them to communities of faith and other corporations. But we are concerned for them and we continue to encourage Five Oaks to advise us of other ways we might support their ministry.

It was suggested that recruiting Stephen Fetter to provide a tutorial to all pastoral charges on how to run an online annual general meeting might be helpful. It was agreed to carry this idea forward to the fall meeting agenda.

3. Proposal #1 – Incorporated Ministries

MOTION John Hurst / Robert Lawson

The Horseshoe Falls Regional Council Executive agrees that

- 1) the authorized borrowing limit for incorporated ministries be set at \$100,000.; and
- 2) any application for a United Church of Canada Pandemic Response Bridging loan from an incorporated ministry will be:
 - a) Reviewed by the Covenant Commission for completeness so that it meets the same standards as applications by a congregation; and
 - b) Referred to the Executive for decision-making in light of the Executive's responsibility for oversight of corporations. **CARRIED**

4. Proposal #2 – Supporting Change

MOTION Garry Van Bruchem / Pat Tooley

The HF Executive authorizes the Executive Minister to spend up to \$3,000.USD from the regional council meetings budget line to secure an online session with Rev. Cameron Trimble, preferably in partnership with Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council and Antler River Watershed Regional Council, to equip leaders to discern the learnings from this period and to use them for renewal and transformation in their local setting. **CARRIED**

5. Proposal #3 – Support for Global Appeal

MOTION Lorna MacQueen / Margaret Blewett

Horseshoe Falls Regional Council Executive authorizes the Executive Minister to:

- a) Forward \$2,500 to the United Church of Canada COVID-19 Global Relief; and
- b) Share the story of this donation in the Facebook group and next newsletter. **CARRIED**

Motion to Adjourn: Margaret Blewett

Next Executive Meeting: June 17, 3:30 p.m. via zoom