

Executive
Horseshoe Falls Regional Council
OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA
Supports, Connects, Empowers Communities of Faith

AGENDA

February 24, 2021, 5:30PM via zoom

Roster: Kate Young (President), Robert Lawson (President Elect), John Hurst (Treasurer), Judith Gilliland, Deborah Laforet, Win Czum, Wendy Lowden, Lorna MacQueen, Adrienne Robertson, Thea Sheridan-Jonah, Pat Tooley

Karen Orlandi will be representing the Mission & Discipleship Commission at this meeting

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

Present: Kate Young (President), Robert Lawson (President Elect), John Hurst (Treasurer), Judith Gilliland, Win Czum, Wendy Lowden, Adrienne Robertson, Thea Sheridan-Jonah, Pat Tooley, Karen Orlandi

Regrets: Deborah Laforet, Diane Viney, Lorna MacQueen

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 vested 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)

Opening Worship (Wendy Lowden)

Wendy share a Lenten reading entitled "Shadows" and led the group in prayer.

Opening Agreements

Consent Docket

MOTION Adrienne Robertson / Judith Gilliland

Acceptance of the Consent Docket:

- A. Enabling Motions/Proposals
 - 1. That the proposed Agenda be approved as presented.
 - 2. That the minutes of the January 27, 2021 meeting be approved as distributed.
 - 3. That motions be written and given to the Secretary.
 - B. To receive the following correspondence and address it as it arises in the agenda
 - 1. Approval of a Learning Fund Grant Application for Licenced Lay Worship Leader course submitted by Mary Parsons to cover the cost for Unit 2 of the Licenced Lay Worship Leader course, in the amount of \$249.99.
 - 2. Donation of Funds from the Estate of Anne Fairfax (For information)
- Thank you note sent to the executor of the estate by Kate Young.

MOTION CARRIED

Business Arising

- 1. Commission Reports
 - a) Covenant Commission (Adrienne)

Requests for support/information from Congregations is HIGH and include the following areas: Profile and Living Faith Story, Collaborative Ministry Options, Thinking about Amalgamation, Thinking about Disbanding, Property Transactions Basics, Self-Assessment *Moving forward we are looking at how we might respond to these requests by creating webinars to cover these topics for congregations to use as a resource.*

Resource Pool: We are still working on recruiting companions; need more ‘feet on the ground’ so to speak to work with congregations who request support

Big Picture work: How and when we complete annual reviews of congregations(living faith stories/self assessments/annual reports), Pastoral charge supervisors; how to organize/remuneration for their work

Property Development/Transactions in HF working with United Property Resource Corporation (UPRC)

(we would like to use one of our newsletters to let folks in the region know about the ongoing work with property development): Binkley, Hamilton; New Vision, Hamilton; Westdale, Hamilton – initial conversations; Trinity Hannon, Hamilton; First Grantham, St. Catherines; Westminster, St. Catherines – initial conversations; Westminster, Mississauga; St. James Waterdown; Norval UC, Georgetown; Cawthra Park, Mississauga; St. Stephen’s on the Hill, Mississauga; Christ First, Mississauga

Others proceeding without UPRC: East Plains, Burlington – Daycare; Appleby, Burlington – sale of adjacent land; Mt. Carmel Troy – Sale of building; St. John’s – Sale of Glen Williams property (not yet approved); Mountainview, St. Catherines – Holding VTB mortgage

- b) Human Resources Commission (Pat Tooley): The commission met the afternoon of February 24. Normal processing of HR Commission business. Pat noted there are currently about 25 churches in the regional council with vacancies. There are now 25 LLWLs in the regional council and an LLWL representative on the commission, Lennox Scarlett. Note for Kate Young and Robert Lawson: when to schedule a regional council service of worship to recognize LLWLs – part of the spring meeting or later this year?
- c) Mission & Discipleship Commission (Karen Orlandi): The commission could use a couple more members. A commission representative is sitting on the Brock Ecumenical Chaplaincy Board. The commission did award some grant monies to the Brock Chaplaincy, is looking at engaging in the Landback 1492 protest in Caledonia. We all have our social justice calling but how do we find it.

2. Racial Justice Training

The Executive agreed to proceed with participating in the United Church’s racial justice training as a group, with commission members and available staff, with a commitment to complete the training before the regional council meeting in May. Cheryl-Ann will finalize dates. Preference: 2 Saturdays, and 2 weekday evenings.

MOTION Robert Lawson / John Hurst

That Horseshoe Falls Regional Council Executive approve the expenditure of \$2,500 for racial justice training to be completed before the regional council May meeting.

MOTION CARRIED

3. Retreat: Follow-up discussion (moved from Continuing Priorities)

The Executive shared takeaways from the retreat.

Robert: Called to discern during retreat – a lot of work. Not just nice sounding words.

Judith: Thought more time would be spent on what is executive work and how do new executive members fit into it.

Overall it was felt the retreat was beneficial and of value. Question now: how to take the retreat a step further, build trust and relationship with communities of faith, and communicate to communities of faith.

Post retreat discussion to be revisited at the next regular executive meeting

Any further thoughts on concrete ways the executive can work together, can be emailed to Kate.

There was brief discussion about the heavy workload in the covenant commission, due mainly to property matters, both in terms of volume and complexity.

Question was raised how does an executive member bring something forward to be discussed at an executive meeting. Cheryl-Ann advised a conversation with the president about a desire to raise a topic for discussion. A decision item should be put into proposal form.

New Business

1. 2022 Assessments (For Discussion Only)

Cheryl-Ann shared a powerpoint regarding 2022 assessments. While the Executive will not be making a decision about this, the topic will be on the agenda and has potential impact for Horseshoe Falls.

President Kate left the meeting and John Hurst took over the chair.

Discussion on the potential impact of increased assessments continued, including the suggestion that this issue be on the spring meeting agenda. It was felt further time should be devoted to the discussion, and that a meeting focussing only on the 2022 assessments be scheduled. Staff will set up a time for a discussion of this topic only.

Cheryl-Ann wanted to acknowledge that the recent Tri-Regional United Church Women gathering “A Step Toward Diversity”, had 170 plus attend and was amazing. Kudos to the leadership team.

Continuing Priorities & Future Discussion Items

1. Affirm

Save the Date: June 6th, Affirm worship service in celebration of regional councils becoming affirming (tri-regional).

2. Regional Council Meetings: 2021

Questions to be addressed in planning the May 29 meeting: what do you hope for this meeting to do? Do we want a session to build on Sen Sinclair's talk, time set aside for community building, other educational topics we want to raise, LLWL recognition? Celebration of new ministry? Election of General Council Commissioners has to be done at the May meeting. More than one day? A theme for the meeting? What to launch around connection. Have some big things to organize that require thoughtful conversation.

Agreed to have a meeting to set priorities/plan on March 11th. Check with President Kate to see if she has a planning committee.

Motion to Adjourn: Wendy Lowden

Next meeting

March 27, 2021, 5:30 PM via zoom

Worship: Deborah Laforet