

**Covenant Commission**  
**Horseshoe Falls Regional Council**  
**OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA**

*Supports, Connects, Empowers Communities of Faith*

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**Approved Minutes**

**May 20, 2021**

**via Zoom 9-10am**

**Present:** Chair, Adrienne Robertson, Mary Anderson, Steve Lowden, Alison Miculan, Doug Mills, Kathi Phillips, Amadeus Pyralis, Ted Smith, Jane Wylie

**Regrets:** Carolyn Smith, Staff members: Lynne Allin and Ruthanna Mack

**Staff Support:** Cheryl-Ann Stadelbauer-Sampa, Executive Minister

**Welcome and Constitute Meeting:**

Chair Adrienne called the meeting to order saying:

*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.*

**Acknowledging the Land:**

Chair Adrienne shared the land acknowledgement used at a recent meeting by Ruthanna Mack:

*Here we acknowledge that the lands and waters in the regions where we live and work and play are the ancestral homes of indigenous people who have been here long before the first settlers and colonizers arrived. I invite you to pause for a moment and think about the original peoples of the place where you are. And know that their relationship has been one of love and care for these lands and waters. We want to acknowledge that as church we have a painful relationship with these peoples. Our work is do our part in building right relationships with the indigenous people, with each other and with the land and waters.*

*Also, at this time, it would be remiss not to acknowledge that we are called to stop and remember and acknowledge the violence caused by overlapping histories and legacies of slavery and oppression. May these acknowledgements renew in us our commitment to persist in anti-racism and anti-oppression practices.*

**Opening Worship:**

Acknowledging how weary church leaders are, Adrienne's opening worship was a reading focused on the renewing power of the feast of Pentecost.

**Opening Motion:**

Approval of Agenda:

MOTION by Jane/Kathi that the agenda be accepted as circulated. CARRIED.

**New Business:**East Plains United Church

1. MOTION by Doug/Alison that the Covenant Commission of Horseshoe Falls Regional Council approve in principle the application of East Plains United Church for a United Church Capital Assistance Loan of \$150,000., recommended to be interest free, and request that East Plains United Church provide detailed financial information prior to final approval. CARRIED.

It was agreed to circulate the financial information by email. If Commission members would like to meet to discuss it, they are asked to advise Adrienne and Cheryl-Ann and a meeting will be arranged. If the information satisfies questions, then the Covenant Commission will consider finalizing approval with an email vote.

2. MOTION by Steve/Kathi that the Covenant Commission of Horseshoe Falls Regional Council commends East Plains United Church for its efforts to provide a space for a non-profit daycare and reminds East Plains that any transactions involving major assets or real property as identified in the regional council policies found at [Congregational Support Toolkits - Horseshoe Falls Regional Council \(hfrcucc.ca\)](http://CongregationalSupportToolkits-HorseshoeFallsRegionalCouncil(hfrcucc.ca)) requires the prior approval of the regional council. CARRIED.

Lynden United Church

Chair, Adrienne reported that she had connected with Pastoral Relations Liaison Allison Playfair and Lynden United governing body Chair Greg MacPherson. Adrienne had also consulted with Commission member, Alison, as the congregation Alison serves, Copetown United Church, had discussions with Lynden United Church. To date, Adrienne has not talked with Pastoral Charge Supervisor, Robin Wilke.

Adrienne advised Chair Greg of the Covenant Commission's concern about Lynden United Church's financial situation and its ability to support a half-time pastoral relationship. Chair Greg indicated that the governing body had been consulted on the documentation submitted but had not met to approve it.

It was agreed that it would be beneficial for the Covenant Commission to meet with members of the governing body and potentially also of the Search Team from Lynden United Church at the June 8<sup>th</sup> meeting. Adrienne will arrange.

**Adjournment**

MOTION by Steve that the meeting be adjourned. CARRIED.