

Executive
Horseshoe Falls Regional Council
OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA

Supports, Connects, Empowers Communities of Faith

April 28, 2021, 5:30 PM 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, Diane Viney, Karen Orlandi (Acting Chair, Mission & Discipleship Commission)

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

Present: Kate Young, Robert Lawson, John Hurst, Judith Gilliland, Deborah Laforet, Wendy Lowden, Lorna MacQueen, Adrienne Robertson, Thea Sheridan-Jonah, Pat Tooley, Diane Viney, Karen Orlandi (Acting Chair, Mission & Discipleship Commission)

Regrets: Win Czum

Welcome and Constitute Meeting (President Kate)

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 & Opening Worship (President Kate)

Opening Agreements

Consent Docket

MOTION John Hurst / Diane Viney

Acceptance of the Consent Docket as Circulated/Amended

A. Enabling Motions/Proposals

- 1) That the proposed Agenda be approved as presented.
- 2) That the minutes of the March 24, 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) 1. pflag Halton Statement

MOTION CARRIED

Business Arising

MOTION Lorna MacQueen / Adrienne Robertson

That Horseshoe Falls Regional Council Executive direct the Executive Minister to compose a letter, for the President's signature, to communicate HFRC executive concerns that the precedent that was set last year, (ensuring that candidates who in mid March 2020 had expected to enter the order of ministry by July 1, 2020 were not penalised financially for the regional council being unable to hold Celebration of Ministries services in the usual timeline), will not be continued this year. That, given the pandemic situation in Ontario, it would be wise to continue with that precedent.

MOTION CARRIED

1. Commission Reports

- a. Covenant Commission (written report submitted and summarized by Adrienne Robertson)
 - i. Proposal #3: Lay-led Congregations

MOTION Adrienne Robertson/ Wendy Lowden

That HFRC Executive:

- 1) recruit, appoint and compensate (on a per hour basis to maximum total remuneration of \$15,000) an appointee to meet with communities of faith that the Covenant Commission identifies as lay-led congregations in the regional council;
- 2) direct the appointee to secure information from lay-led congregations between June 1st and October 31st as to how they explore faith, worship and serve as well as to how they connect with the wider life and mission of the United Church and to inquire what supports might be of benefit to them;
- 3) direct the appointee to prepare a report providing feedback on the topics listed in 2) above for the consideration of the Covenant Commission and Executive by November 30, 2021.

MOTION CARRIED

Kate Young, Robert Lawson, Cheryl-Ann Stadelbauer-Sampa, Lynne Allin and Adrienne Robertson will meet to have a conversation as to how to recruit and screen possible appointees.

b. Human Resources Commission (Pat Tooley)

An ongoing issue for the commission is a shortage of regional council liaisons. LLWL interviews have been held. Four United Fresh Start modules presented so far, with 25 trained facilitators across 3 regional councils. Hope to offer the same program next year.

c. Mission & Discipleship Commission (Karen Orlandi).

Karen shared her final report as Acting Chair, thanking the executive for being so welcoming while filling in for Diane Viney. The commission is engaged in narrowing down and exploring (with the help of guest speakers) what the commission can do to support 1492 Land Back Lane. Mission & Service grant deadline: September 1, 2021. Following her report, and with thanks for her work from the Executive, Karen left the meeting.

2. Ker Fulton Stone Tapleystown Report to Executive (Executive Minister) Written report and recommendations provided.

MOTION Deborah Laforet/ Adrienne Robertson

That the Executive of Horseshoe Falls Regional Council declares the congregations of Fulton-Stone and Tapleystown in a satisfactory state as of April 12, 2021;

That the Executive of Horseshoe Falls Regional Council declares the congregation of Ker United Church in a satisfactory state as of April 28, 2021, on the understanding that the Executive Minister will continue to function in the role of pastoral charge supervisor for a minimum of one year.

MOTION CARRIED

3. Racial Justice Resources: Proposal #1

Deborah Laforet, Karen Orlandi, Thea Sheridan-Jonah and Robert Lawson, have planned a detailed racial justice program involving a variety of media resources to engage the regional council. Starting in June, and every month up to and including September, a monthly book club, talking about anti-black racism, will be held. A movie night is also being planned, as well as utilization of other media. A similar program focusing on different aspects of racial justice will be offered; in Fall 2021: right relations, and Spring 2022: LGBTQ issues. Zoom platform to be used. The planning team will contact EDGE to confirm copyright requirements. To be publicized through newsletters, social media, perhaps at the regional council meeting in May. Executive expressed their enthusiasm and support for the detailed and exciting program being planned.

MOTION Deborah Laforet/ Thea Sheridan-Jonah

That registrants to the HFRC May, 2021 Regional Council meeting be invited to order books from GRESR (Grand River Educational and Spiritual Resources) from a select reading list. The purchase price of one book will be covered by the regional council.

MOTION CARRIED**New Business**

1. Regional Corporations

MOTION John Hurst / Lorna MacQueen

That a property corporation under the governance of Horseshoe Falls Regional Council be created as a not for profit charity for the purposes of being able to accept United Church property and assets as necessary; and that responsibility for the corporation creation be assigned to the Executive Minister and Treasurer.

MOTION CARRIED

2. pflag Halton Statement (Correspondence received)

The Executive **agreed** by consensus that two responses be prepared by Deborah Laforet and Thea

- a. to pflag that offers support; and
- b. to the School Board that is couched in terms of the ways in which we feel our common faith calls us to celebrate God's diversity, not simply tolerate it.

3. Trinity Hannon United Church – Title to Property: Proposal #2

MOTION Adrienne Robertson/ John Hurst

That HFRC Executive direct the Executive Minister to:

- a) Transfer the title of the property to The United Church of Canada;
- b) Enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with the General Council of The United Church of Canada outlining that the denomination will hold title while the regional council covers any costs connected with the ongoing management of the property, gives direction concerning the property, and determines the disbursement of proceeds from leasing or sale of the property.
- c) And cover any legal fees to accomplish the same.

MOTION CARRIED

4. Sabbatical proposal: Diane Blanchard. The Executive agreed to review and approve by email vote.

Continuing Priorities

1. May meeting – update

- a. Reschedule Celebration of Ministries Service for fall.
- b. Fall meeting date(s) Oct 14, 15, 16, 17

2. Executive as nominating committee: Create plan on how to nominate and find people to serve.

Reminder from Cheryl-Ann that the goal is to have people elected by regional council. Think about diversity, whose voice isn't here, isn't represented, who want to engage. Geographical location can be helpful, particularly with Covenant Commission. Brief discussion about discernment, slate/nominations. Agreed that further time should be directed to this discussion. President Kate asked that the Executive think about the possibility of a nominating committee.

Wendy Lowden referred the Executive to an excellent letter from the Moderator regarding May 2nd, the very first mental health Sunday. A really important issue, would like everybody to get on board. Maybe sometime in the future, Executive/Regional Council can tackle that issue as well.

Next meeting: No summer meetings unless emergent business, at call of chair (no executive meeting in May). Fall meeting will be called by new president.

Motion to adjourn: Deborah Laforet