**Horseshoe Falls Regional Council**

**of The United Church of Canada**

***Supports, Connects, Empowers Communities of Faith***

**Horseshoe Falls Regional Council**

**Fall 2021 Virtual Meeting**

***Be Bold, Be Brave***

**Minutes of October 14 and October 16, 2021**

The Horseshoe Falls Regional Council was called to meet on Thursday, October 14, and Saturday, October 16, 2021 online via Zoom, with approximately 105 in attendance each day.

***Meeting Session: Thursday October 14, 2021, 6:30 – 8:30 PM***

**Welcome and Land Acknowledgement**

President Robert Lawson welcomed everyone and led an acknowledgement of the territory. President Robert then shared a meditation, interplaying his theme of Be Bold, Be Brave with T.S. Eliot’s poem, “The Hollow Men”.

**BRAVE, Affirm Statement**

Diane Matheson-Jimenez introduced and presented BRAVE – Commitment to Community Safety. And the tri-regional councils’ Affirming Ministries Vision Statement was shared.

**Worship, Lighting of the Christ Candle**

Wendy Lawson led worship building on the theme and Hymn: *Will You Come and Follow Me #567 VU*, was shared.

**Constitute Meeting**

President Robert Lawson declared the meeting constituted 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.

**Opening and Procedural Motions** (Proposal #1)

Wendy Lawson, Agenda and Business Chair, provided an overview of Proposal #1 – Opening & Procedural Motions.

**MOVED:** Wendy Lowden, **SECONDED:** Cheryl-Ann Stadelbauer-Sampa

That the Horseshoe Falls Regional Council adopt the following as the consent docket:

1. Adopt the agenda as circulated and authorize the Agenda and Business Committee to make any changes as necessary;
2. Approve the minutes of the meeting of 2021-05-27-29;
3. Receive the minutes of the following meetings of the
4. Executive

2021-08-20

2021-07-07

2021-04-28

1. Covenant Commission;

2021-07-29

2021-07-22

2021-07-15

2021-06-29

2021-06-08

2021-05-20

2021-05-11

2021-05-06

2021-04-13

1. Human Resources Commission

2021-05-26

2021-04-28

1. Mission and Discipleship Commission

2021-03-16

for information.

*Note:  Minutes are posted on the website* [*www.hfrcucc.ca*](http://www.hfrcucc.ca)*“About” page*

1. Appoint Judith Gilliland as Parliamentarian;
2. Appoint Wendy Lowden as Chair, Agenda and Business Committee,
3. Name President Robert Lawson, Chair Agenda and Business Committee Wendy Lowden, Past President Kate Young,  Executive Minister Cheryl-Ann Stadelbauer-Sampa, and Executive Assistant Sue Duliban, as the Agenda and Business Committee;
4. Name regional council staff members as scrutineers;
5. Set the bounds of the meeting as the zoom call and the sanctuary of St. Paul’s United Church, Paris, Ontario;
6. Make the designated representative from any United Church ministry, other than a congregation, which has been invited to become a community of faith by entering into a covenant with the regional council, a member of the regional council for this meeting (Section C.1.2 c);
7. Make all guests corresponding members;
8. Set the deadline for new business to be submitted to the Agenda and Business Committee as 6:00 p.m., Friday, October 15, 2021.
9. Receive the written reports in the workbook.
10. Adopt the following method for dealing with proposals for action by the regional council

Step One:

The Presenter will outline:

1. What is the issue? and
2. The suggested way in which the regional council might respond to the issue.

Step Two:

The President will inquire if there are questions for clarification. Please note this is for clarification only.

Step Three:

The President will then ask if there are changes or additions being suggested for the proposal. Using warm and cool signals, the regional council will seek to come closer to agreement on how to respond to the issue.

Step Four:

Once there is significant agreement, the President will invite the Presenter to move the motion at which point the regional council enters the formal debate process.

1. Adopt the following method for dealing with proposals for action by the General Council:
   1. A proposal from a member of the regional council

See item 12. This constitutes a proposal from the regional council and will be handled as such.

* 1. A proposal from the council of a community of faith:

Step One:

The Chair, Agenda and Business will identify the proposal. A representative of the community of faith will have an opportunity to identify:

* + 1. What is the Issue? And
    2. The suggested way in which the General Council might respond to the Issue.

Step Two:

Because proposals from another council cannot be edited or amended, the Chair

Agenda and Business will move:

*That the Horseshoe Falls Regional Council agrees with the proposal.*

If the regional council agrees, the proposal is automatically passed on to General Council.

If the regional council does not agree, then the Chair, Agenda and Business will move:

*That the Horseshoe Falls Regional Council pass on the proposal to the General Council*

Please note Manual Section F.1.3.1 which reads: “If the regional council does not agree with a proposal it normally passes it on to the General Council only if there is a compelling reason.”

Step Three:

For any proposal being forwarded to the General Council, the President will ask if there are any recommendations from the regional council to accompany the proposal.

**MOTION CARRIED**

**Community Building: “Be Bold, Be Brave”**

Diane Matheson-Jimenez and Thérèse Samuel, led community building time in small groups naming bold and brave figures from the Bible, identifying actions considered to be brave and bold, and pondering how God might be inviting Horseshoe Falls Regional Council and its members to be brave and bold. New technology was explored when the gathering created a WordCloud.

**United Property Resource Corporation: Tim Blair, CEO of United Property Resource Corporation**

Tim Blair, Chief Executive Officer of the United Property Resource Corporation (UPRC), which is a wholly owned entity of the United Church of Canada, shared a UPRC video outlining the exciting work of the corporation. Following the video, he answered some general questions from meeting participants, including examples of rural and small projects, and how UPRC works with various communities of faith.

**Budget 2022 & Finance: John Hurst, Treasurer**

Treasurer, John Hurst, gave an overview of the regional council finances noting that 2021 is on track with budget and should finish close to plan. The budget for 2022 reflects the same income as 2021 from Assessments grants, the Mission and Service grant and planned transfers. The transfers are from the operating reserve to fund growth programs (learning grants and resources for Commissions) and from the property fund (the regional council’s share of disbanding property) to support .5 of one staff position. John noted that total expenses for 2022 are $16,000 higher than in 2021. Most of the increase is staff cost of living and miscellaneous changes ($11,400) and the remaining increase in cost is building expenses and miscellaneous costs ($4,100).

**Reviewing 2020 and 2021 Year-to-Date Financial Statements**  (Proposal #2)

**MOVED:** John Hurst, **SECONDED:** Steve Lowden

That the Horseshoe Falls Regional Council:

1. Receive the internal 2021 operating statement to date for information;
2. Direct the Executive to deal with the 2020 Auditors’ Report; and
3. Direct the Executive to forward the 2020 Auditors’ Report via email to the roll of this meeting once it is approved.

**MOTION CARRIED**

**Appointment of Auditors** (Proposal #3)

**MOVED:** John Hurst, **SECONDED:** Yvonne Wright

That Horseshoe Falls Regional Council names PWC to perform the 2021 audit of Horseshoe Falls Regional Council at the General Council Office.

**MOTION CARRIED**

**Operating Budget 2022** (Proposal #4)

**MOVED:** John Hurst**, SECONDED:** Wendy Lowden

That Horseshoe Falls Regional Council

1. Endorse the following principles used to develop the budget:
   1. Due to the pandemic, churches learned how to gather virtually for worship and for meetings. This significantly reduced carbon emissions and also respected the time of regional council representatives and staff. The budget reflects an expectation that the majority of meetings involving the regional council, its leaders and its staff will be virtual gatherings. Meeting and travel budgets have been adjusted accordingly.
   2. As in 2021, every effort was made to sustain a similar level of Mission and Service available for grants.
   3. Operating expenses have been increased by 2%.
   4. Salaries reflect anticipated increases within the salary grid along with cost of living increments.
   5. Expenses incurred in dealing with matters under Section J: Oversight and Discipline of the Manual will be funded from the Unrestricted Operating Reserve as these fluctuate in numbers and cost.

And

2. Adopt the proposed 2022 budget authorizing the Executive to adapt as necessary within the above guidelines.

**MOTION CARRIED** (74 for/1 against)

**MOVED:** Cheryl-Ann Stadelbauer-Sampa, **SECONDED:** John Hurst

That the order of the day be extended by 15 (fifteen) minutes.

**MOTION CARRIED** (73 for/3 against)

Wendy Lawson reminded the court that the deadline for new business is Friday, October 15th at 6 PM.

**Closing Prayer**

President Robert Lawson closed with prayer.

The meeting session was adjourned for the evening at 8:45 PM with a planned resumption on Saturday, October 16th at 9:30 AM.

***Meeting Session: Saturday October 16, 2021, 9:30 AM – 12:30 PM***

Attendees (new to HFRC or not) were invited to take a moment to introduce themselves, verbally or in the chat or both, and were encouraged to name the best thing about fall to them.to you!

**Welcome, Land Acknowledgement and Opening Worship**

Robert Lawson welcomed all in attendance and led an acknowledgement of the territory. He led a brief worship, including acknowledgement of LLWLs with a video presentation.

**Human Resources Commission Highlights**

A written report sharing the ongoing work of the commission was provided by Chair Pat Tooley. Through a slide presentation, the commission introduced the court to the Licensed Lay Worship Leaders process and to those who have been licensed by the regional council.

**Introduction of Janice Pow DLM candidate**

Tanya Cameron, Office of Vocation, introduced Janice Pow to the regional council.

**Address to the Court: Janice Pow**

Janice Pow shared an energetic, enthusiastic and inspiring address to the regional council.

**Covenant Commission Highlights**

Acting Chair Dianne Everitt reviewed the nature of the commission’s work with a slide show.

**In Memoriam**

With thanksgiving for the ministry they offered and for the witness they provided, the regional council remembered these ministers with a video presentation:

Rev. Dr. Alan Charles Minarcik OM

Rev. Dora MacCallum-Sadler DM

Rev. Peter Hoyle OM, a member of Canadian Shield Regional Council, who served many years in Halton Presbytery, Hamilton Conference.

**Community of Faith Life Cycle Changes**

The regional council celebrated the following community of faith life cycle changes:

Greystone United Church, Fulton, an amalgamation of Fulton & Tapleytown United Churches and

Sinclairville Community Church, an amalgamation of Sinclairville and Caistorville United Churches.

**Mission & Discipleship Commission Highlights**

Diane Viney, Chair of the Mission & Discipleship Commission, shared highlights of the commission’s work with a video that included commission members naming a piece of work they have valued.

**Stewardship Presentation**

A video presentation by Dave Jagger, Stewardship & Gifts Officer, outlined the donations to Mission & Service (M&S), emphasized some of the many projects & initiatives which have benefitted from the United Church’s M&S fund, and outlined the *Called to be the Church* modules

**11 AM Break . 11:10 AM Meeting Resumed.**

**Community Building: Connecting & Engaging in the Life of the Wider Church**

Diane Matheson-Jimenez and Dianne Everitt moved to a time of discerning the regional council’s call to develop and strengthen relationships in the region and beyond, and a second WordCloud was created.

**GC44 Proposals**

No GC44 proposals were received.

**Closing Motions** (Proposal #5)

**MOVED:** Wendy Lowden, **SECONDED:** Kate Young

That Horseshoe Falls Regional Council

1. Entrusts any unfinished business from its October 14-17, 2021 meeting to the Executive;
2. Authorizes the Executive to fill any vacancies on the understanding that appointments will be confirmed at the next regional council meeting;
3. Directs the Executive to plan to convene a meeting of the regional council in the spring of 2022; and
4. Entrusts the Executive and Commissions with the responsibilities and authority of Horseshoe Falls Regional Council in accordance with the Manual of The United Church of Canada and the Governance Handbook of the Horseshoe Falls Regional Council.
5. Closes the October 14-17, 2021 meeting of the Horseshoe Falls Regional Council at the close of the Celebration of Ministry Service on Sunday, October 17th, 2021.

**MOTION CARRIED**

**Closing Courtesies**

President Robert offered courtesies, thanking so many who stepped up when he was ill. Thanks were given to the planning and staff team who helped with the meeting: Judith Gilliland, Wendy Lowden, Yvonne Wright, Pat Tooley, and staff John Neff, Sue Duliban, Michele Petick, Diane Matheson-Jimenez, Thérèse Samuel, and Cheryl-Ann Stadelbauer-Sampa. President Robert thanked all who participated and came online.

**Closing Prayer & Final Blessing**

President Robert Lawson offered a closing prayer and final blessing.

The agenda having been completed, the meeting adjourned.