**Horseshoe Falls Regional Council**

**of The United Church of Canada**

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

**Horseshoe Falls Regional Council Spring 2022 Hybrid Meeting**

***Be Bold, Be Brave***

**Minutes of May 26, May 27, and May 28, 2022**

The Horseshoe Falls Regional Council was called to meet virtually on Thursday, May 26 and Friday, May 27, and online via Zoom and in person on Saturday, May 28, 2022, with approximately 110 total participants in attendance each day.

***Meeting Session: Thursday, May 26, 2022, 7:00 – 9:00 PM, online via Zoom***

**Welcome, Land Acknowledgement and Opening Prayer**

President Robert Lawson welcomed everyone and led an acknowledgement of the territory and opening prayer.

**BRAVE, Affirm Statement**

President Robert reviewed BRAVE – Commitment to Community Safety, and the tri-regional councils’ Affirming Ministries Vision Statement.

**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 him 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 2021-10-16;
3. Receive the minutes of the following meetings of the
4. Executive

 2022-01-26

 2022-02-23

 2022-03-23

 2021-11-27

2021-11-24

2021-09-22

1. Covenant Commission;

2022-04-12

2022-03-08

2022-02-08

2022-01-20

2022-01-11

2021-12-14

2021-12-02

2021-11-18

2021-11-09

2021-10-12

2021-09-14

1. Human Resources Commission

 2022-03-23

 2022-02-23

 2022-01-26

 2021-12-10

 2021-10-27

 2021-09-22

1. Mission and Discipleship Commission

2022-01-18

2022-02-08

2022-01-18

2021-11-16

2021-10-19

2021-09-14

for information.

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

1. Appoint Kate Young as Parliamentarian;
2. Appoint Wendy Lowden as Chair, Agenda and Business Committee,
3. Name President Robert Lawson, Chair Agenda and Business Committee Wendy Lowden, 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 Meridian Community Centre, Fonthill, 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 9:00 a.m. Saturday, May 28, 2022.
9. 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.

**MOTION CARRIED**

**General Council Office Greetings**

Dr. Japhet Ndhlovu, Executive Minister, Church in Mission, brought greetings from the General Council Office.

**Our Words Matter: Reconsidering the Word “Mission”**

During the Thursday evening session, the regional council considered the word “mission”. Teresa Burnett-Cole, a member of the National Indigenous Council and General Council Executive and Thérèse Samuel, Minister, Social Justice and Right Relations, led a thought-provoking discussion/presentation. The regional council learned that the word is rare in the Bible and, in fact, completely absent in some translations. The word is associated with an experience of Christianity that has been harmful for Indigenous people. Regional council members offered alternate words to the word “mission” to form an electronic word cloud.

Wendy Lawson reminded the court that the deadline for new business is Saturday, May 28, at 9 AM.

President Robert Lawson closed with prayer.

The meeting session was adjourned for the evening with a planned resumption on Friday, May 27th at 5:00 PM.

***Meeting Session: Friday, May 27, 2022, 5:00 PM – 7:00 PM, online via Zoom***

**Welcome, Land Acknowledgement**

Robert Lawson welcomed all in attendance and led an acknowledgement of the territory.

**Worship**

Worship focused on anti-bullying, was led by Ryk Brown and Gail Fricker, who partnered with Minister, Social Justice, Diane Matheson-Jimenez, and Minister, Pastoral Support, Kevin Steeper, to prepare this session. Dramatic re-enactments of scripture were interspersed with video vignettes outlining how regional staff support Ministry and Personnel Committees and Ministry Personnel.

**Pastoral Relationships Thriving with Equity Project**

Marcie Gibson outlined this project, inviting engagement from ministry personnel and communities of faith. The study will be done through a combination of on-line surveys, focus groups and one-on-one conversations to seek to find patterns, common stories and wisdom in order to know how better to support ministry personnel and communities of faith.

**Staff Support Committee Message**

Staff Support Committee Chair, John Smith, thanked the staff team, making special note of Diane Blanchard, Minister, Pastoral Relations, who is retiring August 31, 2022.

**Introduction of Micol Cottrell**

Pat Tooley, Human Resources Commission Chair and Staff Support Committee representative, introduced Rev. Micol Cottrell, who will be joining the regional council staff team as Minister, Pastoral Relations.

**Korean Peace Appeal**

The National Council of Churches in Korea has challenged The United Church of Canada to add 10,000 signatures to the *End the Korean War Campaign* by the summer of 2022. Regional council staff Kathy Douglas, Minister Faith Formation and Diane Matheson-Jimenez, Minister Social Justice, partnered with Yujene Oh of Thorold United Church and YongSeok Baek of St. David’s, Queenston, to outline the challenge to the UCC, provide an overview of the history of the Korean War and encourage the regional council to sign the petition.

Wendy Lawson reminded the court that the deadline for new business is Saturday, May 28, at 9 AM.

President Robert closed with a benediction.

The meeting session was adjourned for the evening with a planned resumption on Saturday, May 28th at 9:30 AM.

**Meeting Session: Saturday, May 28, 2022, 9:30 AM – 4:00 PM, online via Zoom and in-person at the Meridian Community Centre, Fonthill, ON**

The regional council’s first hybrid meeting opened with refreshments at 8:30 AM for those in person at the Meridian Community Centre in Fonthill. For those joining via zoom, Deborah Laforet served as the online community host.

President Robert Lawson welcomed all back, both online and in person, and led worship with a message based on Ezra 10:4, “Be Bold, Be Brave, Stand Up and be an Ezra”.

**Community Building**

At table groups and in breakout rooms online, the regional council shared and discussed how they felt the church and their community of faith has been brave during the past year.

**Address to the Court**

President Robert introduced President Elect nominees Wendy Lowden and Lennox Scarlett, who each addressed the court.

Utilizing new voting software online and in person, as well as paper ballots in person, the regional council elected Lennox Scarlett as President Elect.

Kate Young presented the slate for executive/commissions for 2022-2023. Some of those who offered to serve return for a second term. In future, renewal for a second three-year term will not need to come to the regional council meeting because people will have been selected by the regional council and not the Transition Commission.

**MOTION**: Amadeus Pyralis, **SECONDED**: Judith Gilliland

That the following be appointed to these offices:

Executive

Treasurer, John Hurst (2nd term)

President-Elect, Lennox Scarlett

Covenant Commission

Adrianne Robertson OM (2nd term)

Jane Wyllie OM (2nd term)

Ross Gowan

Jane Capstick OM

Human Resources Commission

Pat Tooley (2nd term)

Susan Stephen (2nd term)

**MOTION CARRIED**

Stewardship, Mission & Service, and Beyond

A video by Dave Jagger, Stewardship and Gifts Officer, was shared. Gratitude was the theme of the presentation, which was posted to the YouTube channel.

**In Memoriam**

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

Paul William Henning Doughty, Candidate for Ordained Ministry

Bonnie May Driver, Former President, Hamilton Conference

Rev. Daniel Ezra Manning

**Community of Faith Life Cycle Changes**

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

Amalgamation of Thorold South-Allanburg United Church and Elm Street United Church, St. Catharines. To be called Elm Street United Church.

Amalgamation of Mountainview United Church and First Grantham United Church. To be called Trillium United Church, St. Catharines

Change of name of Bethel-Cooks Mills Pastoral Charge to Bethel Pastoral Charge, Port Colborne,

following the disbanding of Cooks Mills United Church in 2020.

**Anniversaries and Jubilands**

The anniversaries of ministry personnel being admitted, recognized, commissioned or ordained were celebrated. Special congratulations to the following Jubilands:

50 Years

Elliston Bridger, Gordon Crossfield

55 Years

Stephen Mabee, Stephen Shantz, Arthur Tobey

60 Years

Murray Barnet, R. Theodore Lutz, M. Ronald Pocklington, Donald Raffan

61+ Years

William Bell, P. Keith Hawkes, Johannes Huntjens, Walter Marttila, J. Cedric Arnold, Wilma Cade, William Sparling, J Ashwin, K. James Campbell, Philip Cline, Lorne O’Neill, Frances Chisholm, D. Graham Tipple, Ward Kaiser, William Thorneloe.

President Robert Lawson offered a prayer of thanks for our in memoriams, community of faith life cycle changes, our jubilands and those celebrating anniversaries.

**Retiree**

Diane Blanchard was the only retiree to be recognized at the regional council this year. A video of Diane reflecting on her years of service was shared and she was honoured with a presentation of a plant for her garden by President Robert Lawson.

The regional council was reminded of the retirement celebration for Diane the afternoon of June 29th at the regional council office.

Following an hour-long break for lunch, the meeting resumed.

**MOTION:** Cheryl-Ann Stadelbauer-Sampa, **SECONDED:** Deborah Laforet

That all paper ballots be destroyed.

**MOTION CARRIED**

**UCW**

Marilyn Johnston, the newly elected UCW president for Horseshoe Falls, brought greetings and spoke about the UCW’s national gathering in Sydney, NS to celebrate the UCW’s 60th anniversary.

No unfinished or new business was brought forward.

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

That the regional council

1. Entrust any unfinished business from its May 26-28, 2022 meeting to the Executive;
2. Authorize the Executive to fill any vacancies on the understanding that appointments will be confirmed at the next regional council meeting;
3. Direct the Executive to plan to convene a meeting of the regional council in the fall of 2022; and
4. Entrust 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. Close the May 26-28, 2022 meeting of the Horseshoe Falls Regional Council at the end of the Saturday, May 28, 2022 session.

**MOTION CARRIED**

A video showcasing the work and development of Cave Springs Camp in Beamsville was shared.

Following the video, attendees joined in a lively rendition of the camp song “I’ve Got Peace Like A River”, with actions.

**UCC “Then Let Us Sing” Project**

Sarah Lough shared a video and answered questions from attendees about Then Let Us Sing! , a new online hymnal and music resource from United Church Publishing House, <https://thenletussing.ca/> . It will be available in the fall of 2024.

**Licenced Lay Worship Leaders: Introduction and Covenanting**

HFRC Licenced Lay Worship Leaders and the work of the Licenced Lay Worship Leader Resource Team was introduced in a video.

The regional council then covenanted with several of our newly Licensed Lay Worship Leaders, both online and in-person. Cathy Dilts, a member of the LLWL Resource Team, reflected that the LLWL’s are called to be brave, called to step up, “you are all Ezras”.

**Courtesies**

President Robert offered courtesies; thanking all involved including the planning and staff team, the Agenda & Business Committee, the tech team of Grant Williams, Maynard Bauman and Fred Zehr, online community host Deborah Laforet and musician Bill Outred.

Executive member, Yvonne Wright thanked President Robert for his work and guidance.

**Great Thanksgiving/Communion**

President Robert Lawson offered a final blessing.

The agenda having been completed, the meeting adjourned.