**Covenant Commission**

**Horseshoe Falls Regional Council**

**of The United Church of Canada**

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

**October 11, 2022**

**10:00 AM**

***Via Zoom***

**Roster:** (8) Adrianne Robertson, Jane Wyllie, Mary Anderson, Steven Lowden, Judy Chartrand, Shawn Bausch, Jane Capstick, Ross Gowan

**Staff Support:** Rev. Lynne Allin, Minister, Congregational Support and Mission

Michele Petick, Website Management & Administrative Support

Ruthanna Mack, Administrative Assistant, Mission and Finance (on leave)

**Present**: Adrianne Robertson, Jane Wyllie, Mary Anderson, Steven Lowden, Judy Chartrand, Jane Capstick, Ross Gowan, Lynne Allin, Michele Petick

**Regrets:**

**Absent:** Shawn Bausch

**Welcome and Constitute Meeting:** *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.*

The meeting was constituted and opened by **Adrianne Robertson**Choose an item.

**Acknowledging the Land: Mary Anderson**

**Opening Worship: Mary Anderson**

**Opening Motions:**

 Approval of Agenda:

MOTION by JudyChoose an item. / Jane C. Choose an item. that the agenda be accepted as amended. amended.

CARRIED

## **Approval of Previous Minutes**

MOTION by MaryChoose an item. /Steve Choose an item. that the Covenant Commission of Horseshoe Falls Regional Council approve the minutes of 2022-09-13 as circulated.

CARRIED

**Business Arising from the Minutes:**

**Consent Docket:**

Annual Reports:

Annual Reports received with thanks: Wesley United Church, Fruitland, Streetsville United Church and Kilbride United Church

Appointment of Pastoral Charge Supervisors:

Appoints Bill Sparling as pastoral charge supervisor for Palermo Pastoral Charge effective September 1, 2022

Background information re: Boiler at Silver Spire United Church, St. Catherine’s received with thanks.

Appoints Jim McKnight as pastoral charge supervisor for St. Andrew’s United Church, Niagara Falls from October 11, 2022 to December 31, 2022.

Appoints Wendy Lowden as pastoral charge supervisor for Cayuga United Church effective October 11, 2022.

**MOTION** by RossChoose an item. /Jane C. Choose an item. that the Covenant Commission of Horseshoe Falls Regional Council approve the consent docket.

CARRIED

**Property:**

**Harmony United Church, Brantford**

MOTION by Ross Choose an item. / Jane C. Choose an item. That the Covenant Commission of Horseshoe Falls Regional Council consent to the request from Harmony United Church, Brantford to access $22,000 from their restricted funds for the purpose of replacing 2 furnaces. Consideration of request to use restricted funds upgrading their telephone and internet system and upgrading to LED lighting, will be considered on receipt of an up to date financial viability worksheet and confirmation that they have consultation with Faithful Footprints to ascertain whether or not this work qualifies for a grant.

CARRIED

**Community of Faith Profiles:**

**St. Andrew’s United Church, Brantford**

MOTION by Jane C. Choose an item. /Mary Choose an item. That the Covenant Commission of Horseshoe Falls Regional Council approve the Community of Faith Profiles for St. Andrew’sUnited Church, Brantford and their request to seek a call/appointment for 2 full-time Ministers up to category F.

CARRIED

**Pastoral Charge Name Change:**

**Ryerson United Church, Hamilton**

MOTION by Jane W. / Steven Choose an item. / Choose an item. That the Covenant Commission of Horseshoe Falls Regional Council consent to the request from Ryerson United Church, Hamilton to change its name to Faith United Church, Faith Pastoral Charge effective September 28, 2022.

CARRIED

**Collaborative Ministry Agreement**

**Lowville United Church and Port Nelson United Church**

MOTION by Judy/Ross Choose an item. / Choose an item. That the Covenant Commission of Horseshoe Falls Regional Council approve the collaborative ministry agreement between Lowville United Church and Port Nelson United Church, pending approval by both congregations.

CARRIED

**Chair Report: Adrianne Robertson**

* Regional Council Report will be circulated at the Regional Council meeting this weekend.
* Regional Council Quiz test for Regional Council presentation at Fall Gathering Oct. 14 & 15

**Staff Reports:**

**UCC Insurance Letter**

* In-house insurance. United Protect will be given the option to transfer automatically to the new in-house insurance. Could save participants up to 15%. Expectations to maintain insurability. Direct the letter to Trustees

**Troy Mt. Carmel request coming for use of restricted funds**

* Robin Wilkie conversation.
* Planning to close at the end of 2022.
* It takes time to close a community of faith.

**Other** **Business:**

* **Financial availability for supply ministry.**
* ARW wants to see the finances because the congregants have been vacant, WOW is not requiring the financial availability for supply ministry. Mostly retired ministers fulfil the supply ministry requests.

MOTION Ross / Jane C. That the Covenant Commission of Horseshoe Falls Regional Council no longer requires a financial sustainability from communities of faith for the request for supply ministry.

CARRIED

* **Major asset threshold and major renovation amounts.**
* $200,000 or 50% of assessment purposes, it’s recommended to increase this amount to $250,000 with the increase in building costs and inflation.
* ARW was at $150,000 and is looking to increasing it to $200,000

MOTION Jane W. / Judy That the Covenant Commission of Horseshoe Falls Regional Council increase the major asset threshold to $250,000 effective January 1, 2023.

CARRIED

* **Affirm priorities from Orientation**
* To discuss at future meeting in November
* **Disbanding Care Team**
* Struggling with filling out forms and disbursements.

It would be good to have a team of people that can be a resource team to help closing congregations.

* Working with grief in the closing of a church is important work.
* Jane Capstick would like to do this work on behalf of the Commission.
* **Resource Pool**

- How do we put out a call to complete tasks for congregations.

- Invite people who speak well about their congregational experiences to share at the Spring Regional Council Meeting.

- This needs to be people beyond the lay representatives.

- People with experience disbanding, amalgamating, shared ministry, property, and archives are areas that could help congregations.

- Questions regarding lay reps and the lack of percentage from the congregational level.

* **Covenanting with congregations’ discussions**
* To discuss at future meeting in November

**Next Meeting:**

**Tuesday November 15th, 2022 at 10am via Zoom**

 Territorial Acknowledgement: Jane Wylie

Worship by: Jane Wylie Choose an item.