**Covenant Commission**

**Horseshoe Falls Regional Council**

**of The United Church of Canada**

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

***APPROVED MINUTES***

**December 13, 2022**

**7pm**

***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

**Present**: Adrianne Robertson, Mary Anderson, Steven Lowden, Judy Chartrand, Shawn Bausch, Jane Capstick, Brian W. (Fenwick), Gary van Bruchem (Fenwick)

**Regrets:** Jane Wylie

**Absent:** Ross Gowan

**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

**Acknowledging the Land:** Adrianne Robertson

**Opening Worship:** Adrianne Robertson

**Opening Motions:**

Approval of Agenda:

MOTION bySteven/Mary that the agenda be accepted as circulated.

CARRIED

**Corresponding Members**

MOTION by Judy/Steve that Brian Walker and Gary van Bruchem of Fenwick United Church be corresponding members of the Horseshoe Falls Covenant Commission at this meeting.

CARRIED

**Fenwick United Church,**

MOTION by Jane C. / Mary That the Covenant Commission of Horseshoe Falls Regional Council consent to the request from Fenwick United Church to access up to $80,000 from restricted manse funds over then next five years in order to complete the repairs including those identified in the Shoalts Engineering Report.

CARRIED

## **Approval of Previous Minutes**

MOTION by Steve/Judy that the Covenant Commission of Horseshoe Falls Regional Council approve the minutes of 2022-11-15 as circulated.

CARRIED

**Business Arising from the Minutes:**

None

**Consent Docket:**

**That the following motion be confirmed as circulated by email:**

November 23, 2022

Moved By Mary Anderson / Judy Chartrand that the Horseshoe Falls Covenant Commission set the disbanding date for Cawthra Park United Church as December 31, 2022 with thanks for their faithful ministry and ongoing legacy.  Carried

**Financial Reports:**

**Greystone United Church, Fulton**

Update on investment of proceeds from the sale of property received with thanks.

**Appointment of Pastoral Charge Supervisors:**

* Fred Monteith as Pastoral Charge Supervisor for Grand River Pastoral Charge, effective
* Barrie Bain as Pastoral Charge Supervisor for Chapel of The Delaware, effective immediately
* Bill Thomas as Pastoral Charge Supervisor for People’s Memorial Pastoral Charge, Ridgeway effective November 30, 2022.

**Amalgamation Date**

That the amalgamation date for Mount Zion, Renton and Old Windham United Churches be set as January 1, 2023

**MOTION** byJudy/Jane C. that the Covenant Commission of Horseshoe Falls Regional Council approve the consent docket.

CARRIED

**Community of Faith Profiles:**

**Ker United Church**

MOTION by Steve/Mary That the Covenant Commission of Horseshoe Falls Regional Council having reviewed the community of faith profile for Ker United Church, approve their request to search for ministry personnel for 10 hours per month, up to category F.  
CARRIED

**Wesley United Church, Welland**

MOTION by Shawn/Mary That the Covenant Commission of Horseshoe Falls Regional Council having reviewed the community of faith profile for Wesley United Church, Welland approve their request to search for ministry personnel for 40 hours per week, up to category F.

CARRIED

**Property/Finance:**

**Ker United Church**

MOTION by Jane C./Steve That the Covenant Commission of Horseshoe Falls Regional Council approve the request from Ker United Church to access up to $62,000 from restricted funds for the purpose of replacing 18 windows in the church.

CARRIED

**People’s Memorial United Church, Ridgeway**

MOTION by NAME / NAME That the Covenant Commission of Horseshoe Falls Regional Council consent to the request from People’s Memorial United Church, Ridgeway to enter into an agreement with Horseshoe Falls Regional Council for a loan of $10,000 to be repaid upon the sale of the property, and with the expectation that the congregation will make a decision regarding their future by April 30, 2023.

**Held For further consideration.**

**East Plains United Church, Burlington**

MOTION by Jane C./Judy That if requested by East Plains United Church, Burlington the Horseshoe Falls Covenant Commission consents:

(1) to the mortgage of certain Real Property, the legal description of which is the real properties owned by EPUC and known municipally as 375 Plains Road East, Burlington and 363 Plains Road East, Burlington (the “Properties”), and the municipal address of which is 375 Plains Road East and 363 Plains Road East, Burlington, pursuant to an agreement between the Trustees of East Plains United Church, a congregation of The United Church of Canada, as “Debtor,” and HFRC, as “Creditor,” dated the 12th day of 12th month, 2022, and subject to regional council approval, the terms of which are as follows:

for a mortgage of $540,000, the terms would include the interest rate (5.46% per year), two-year term, interest payments only.

(2) The Real Property referred to in the above resolution is within the bounds of Horseshoe Falls Regional Council;

(3) The said Real Property is held by the Trustees of East Plains United Church, a congregation of The United Church of Canada and part of the East Plains Pastoral Charge, in trust for East Plains United Church as a part of The United Church of Canada;

CARRIED

[**Other**](about:blank) **Business:**

**United Church Rural Ministry Network**

**MOTION** byJane C. / Steve that the Covenant Commission of Horseshoe Falls Regional Council approve a grant of $500 to the United Church Rural Ministry Network.

**CARRIED**

**Pastoral Charge Supervisor – Payment**

**MOTION** byJudy / Jane C. that the Covenant Commission of Horseshoe Falls Regional Council approve in principle the proposal that communities of faith will be responsible for paying pastoral charge supervisors an hourly rate for their time, beginning July 1, 2023 with details to be finalized in consultation with the HF executive.

**CARRIED**

**Discussion: Email Votes**

* Email motion for votes will come from the Chair of the Commission
* 48 hours to complete the vote, discussion can include the request for a meeting (two people need to request a meeting)
* No new topics can go to email votes
* Email motions that are carried are included as business arising in the next meetings agenda
* Real estate issues are the most pressing issues

**Executive Report – Adrianne Robertson**

**Affirm Initiatives**

Section A Encourage communities of faith to make use of available resources, including the Affirm Network, to discuss issues of inclusion and diversity

Section B Encourage conversations with ecumenical and interfaith groups and community partners, especially with our full-communion partners regarding best practices

Section E Encourage communities of faith to engage in conversations about making safer spaces within the church and community for people of any sexual orientation or gender identity.

* We can use these as directives in the work of this commission. IE In a lease agreement asking tenants to respect the theology of the United Church as an Affirming organization welcome to 2SLGBTQ people.
* Title and commission name change “**Congregational Support Commission**”

**Staff Reports:**

* Meeting with HF Lay Reps, 59 people attended, very positive experience
* Meeting with PCS, 30 people attended, good gathering to check in with people, explained the change that PCS need to be at congregational meetings
* Deficit Dilemma, Zoom meeting coming up with John Neff and Brenna Baker, lots of interest in this event so far
* Amalgamation Resources, Will Wheeler resources, ie lighting and taking lanterns from the old church to new church
* Kindred Works January 18th or Thursday, January 26th, trying to set up a meeting to learn more about Kindred Works for all the Congregational Support Commissions. Will advise when the date is.

**Next Meeting:** January 10th, 2023 at 10am

Territorial Acknowledgement: Jane Wylie

Worship by: Jane Wylie