**Congregational Support Commission**

**Horseshoe Falls Regional Council**

**of The United Church of Canada**

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

***Approved Minutes***

**March 14, 2023**

**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

Ruthanna Mack, Administrative Assistant

**Present**: Adrianne Robertson, Jane Wyllie, Mary Anderson, Steven Lowden, Judy Chartrand, ~~Shawn Bausch~~, Ross Gowan, Ruthanna Mack, Lynne Allin

**Regrets:** Jane Capstick

**Absent:**

**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 by Steve Lowden/Jane Wyllie that the agenda be accepted as circulated/amended.  
CARRIED

**Corresponding Members:**

**Approval of the minutes lifted**

## Approval of Previous Minutes

MOTION: Mary Anderson/Ross Gowan the Congregational Support Commission of Horseshoe Falls Regional Council approve the minutes of February 14, 2023 and February 23, 2023 as circulated.   
CARRIED   
Mention of April 29, 2023– Steve can’t attend Need to revisit this event, see Other business

**Consent Docket:**

**Email Motion:** Sale of Freelton United Church  
Date: March 1, 2023  
 Motion by Judy Chartrand/Mary Anderson that that the Congregational Support Commission of Horseshoe Falls Regional Council consent (1)to the Sale certain Real Property, the legal description of which is 155Freelton Road, Freelton Ontario City of Hamilton Lot 35, 36, 37 Plan 330Flamborough City of Hamilton and the municipal address of which is[155 Freelton Rd, Freelton](https://can01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.google.com%2Fmaps%2Fsearch%2F155%250D%250A%2BFreelton%2BRd%2C%2BFreelton%3Fentry%3Dgmail%26source%3Dg&data=05%7C01%7CRMack%40united-church.ca%7C7b8ef60ee2f942462c6708db1a660398%7Ccf18b5a826784011931215f0f7157574%7C0%7C0%7C638132799260843920%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C2000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=IK27QMcdWhywL7I7T51I9wuNF0lFu9d8ENVtWiGPlQo%3D&reserved=0) pursuant to an agreement between the Trustees of Freelton Strabane United Church a congregation of The United Church of Canada, as Seller and St Ignatious Knanaya Jacobite Church Toronto as Buyer dated the Feb 25 2023 and subject to regional council approval, the terms of which are as follows:

Sale Price: One Million and Twenty Five Thousand dollars ($1,025,000.00)

Deposit: Seventy-Five Thousand dollars ($75,000.00) Balance to be paid on losing

Closing Date May 20 2023

Conditions:  
 Exclusions: 6 Stained Glass Windows (4 tall, 1 circular and 1 eye brow window) Other Conditions:

That the Horseshoe Falls Regional Council be given 5 working days to approve the sale (2 )The net proceeds from the sale to be held by the Trustees of Freelton Strabane United Church, a congregation of The United Church of Canada and part of the Freelton Strabane United Church Pastoral Charge, in trust for the use and benefit of the congregation of Freelton Strabane United Church as a part of The United Church of Canada. The net proceeds shall be held in a restricted fund with interest available to the congregation and use of principal requiring consultation and consent from Horseshoe Falls Regional Council.

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

(4) The said Real Property is held by the Trustees of Freelton Strabane United Church, a congregation of The United Church of Canada and part of the Freelton Strabane United Church Pastoral Charge in trust for Freelton Strabane United Church as a part of The United Church of Canada.

**CARRIED**

Appointment of Pastoral Charge Supervisors:

Rev. James Grunden to Bowman United Church effective immediately

Doug Jones to St. David’s-Queenston United Church effective March 1, 2023

Diane Walker to Central, Port Colborne, effective immediately

Annual Reports Received

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Delta United Church | Erin United Church |
| St. Andrew’s United Church | Faith United Church |
| Fenwick United Church | St. John’s United Church |
| Fonthill United Church | Grace United Church, Niagara on the Lake |
| Fork’s Rd East, United Church & Morgan’s Point | Waterford United Church |

Self Assessment Received

Grace United Church, Caledonia

**MOTION** byMary Anderson/Judy Chartrand that the Congregational Support Commission of Horseshoe Falls Regional Council approve the consent docket.  
CARRIED

**Collaborative Agreements**

Stoney Creek and Pioneer Memorial United Churches, Hamilton

MOTION by Jane Wyllie/Ross Gowan That the Congregational Support Commission of Horseshoe Falls Regional Council give consent to the collaborative agreement between Stoney Creek and Pioneer Memorial United Church and affirm the 2016 Ecumenical Shared Ministry with St. Columba Presbyterian Church, pending congregational approval. CARRIED

Discussion Re: St. Marks ESM

After a brief review, Lynne suggested folks have a bit of time and put this to an e-vote  
Adrianne will put out an email vote Wednesday March 15 and then folks will have until Friday to vote

**Community of Faith Profiles:**

Port Dover – Woodhouse Pastoral Charge

MOTION by Judy Chartrand/Ross Gowan That the Congregational Support Commission of Horseshoe Falls Regional Council, having reviewed the community of faith profile for Port Dover- Woodhouse Pastoral Charge, consent to the creation of a full-time ministry position up to category F.

CARRIED

Southminster United Church, Niagara Falls

MOTION by Steve Lowden/Jane Wyllie That the Congregational Support Commission of Horseshoe Falls Regional Council having reviewed the community of faith profile for Southminster Pastoral Charge consent to the creation of a full-time ministry position up to category F.

CARRIED

**Transitions**

Garnet United Church

MOTION by Steve Lowden/Judy Chartrand That with thanks for their ministry, the Congregational Support Commission of Horseshoe Falls Regional Council accept the request from Garnet United Church to disband with the final worship service to be held April 16, 2023 and the church property to be managed by Horseshoe Falls Regional Council.

Discussion: Garnet doesn’t want to be responsible for the sale or for severing the cemetery (the Municipality will be taking the cemetery). They want Horseshoe Falls Regional Council to be responsible for that.  
The congregational minutes are in Dropbox  
Regional Council would be appointing 3 trustees and hiring a property management company to manage the situation  
Still need to approve sale documents.  
  
CARRIED

People’s Memorial United Church, Ridgeway

MOTION by Jane Wyllie / Ross Gowan That with thanks for their ministry, the Congregational Support Commission of Horseshoe Falls Regional Council accept the request from People’s Memorial United Church, Ridgeway to disband with the final worship service and management of church property to be decided.

CARRIED

**Grant Application**

Nations Uniting

MOTION by Steve Lowden/Ross Gowan That the Congregational Support Commission of Horseshoe Falls Regional Council approve the Technology Grant application from Nations United for the amount of $1050.00 for the purchase of a new television to support their ministry.

CARRIED

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

Annual Report Review Form  
 - Lynne provided a summary of the form  
 - discussion around how long it takes to complete  
 - What does this commission want to know about congregations?  
 - and what will they do with that information?  
 - Lynne: General Trends or Database of information  
 - also to highlight governance issues  
 - Adrianne: summary: short form with comments  
 - Mary suggested that they take it away again for another meeting

PCS Payment Policy

-in Dropbox  
-Working on PCS training  
-maybe for discussion on our day away

Agenda for Day Away April 29  
Tri-Regional Evaluation feedback by then?  
Collaborative work being done in Oakville

**Executive Report**

**Five Oaks/Region new position for Social Justice**

**Staff Report:**

Many disbanding congregations

**Next Meeting:**  Date: April 11/ 2023 7pm zoom

Territorial Acknowledgement: Lynne Allin

Worship by: Lynne Allin

**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.