**Executive**

**Horseshoe Falls Regional Council**

**of The United Church of Canada**

**Minutes June 28, 2023, 4:00 PM**

**Roster:** Lennox Scarlett (President), Robert Lawson (Past President), John Hurst (Treasurer), Christina Crawford, James Grunden, Marilyn Johnston, Sula Anne Kosacky, Deborah Laforet, Wendy Lowden, Adrianne Robertson, Pat Tooley, Yvonne Wright

**Staff:** Cheryl-Ann Stadelbauer-Sampa, Executive Minister, Sue Duliban, Executive Assistant

**Present**: Lennox Scarlett, Robert Lawson, John Hurst, Christina Crawford, James Grunden, Marilyn Johnston, Sula Anne Kosacky, Deborah Laforet, Wendy Lowden, Adrianne Robertson, Pat Tooley, Yvonne Wright

**Regrets:** Deborah Laforet

**Constitute Meeting:** President Lennox:I constitute this meeting in the name of Jesus Christ, the one true head of the Church and by the authority vested in me by Horseshoe Falls Regional Council for whatever business may properly come before it. The bounds of this meeting will be the Zoom call.

1. **Land Acknowledgement:** President Lennox shared aland acknowledgement prepared by children from his congregation who recently led Sunday service.
2. **Worship:** Lennox read and reflected upon Psalm 121 from The Message, closing with a prayer.
3. **Consent Docket**
4. Enabling Actions
5. That the proposed Agenda be approved as presented.
6. That the minutes of the June 15, 2023 meeting be approved as distributed.
7. That motions be written and given to the Secretary.
8. Appointment of James Grunden to Executive

It was noted that James’ preference for Executive on his Expression of Interest was missed and the slate assigned him to the Human Resources Commission in error. To honour his original Expression of Interest,

the Executive appoints James as a member and will confirm his appointment at the fall meeting of the regional council.

1. Confirmation of Payment to 2nd Line Bluegrass Band

That the Executive confirms the Regional Council Spring Meeting 2023 Planning Team’s decision to offer 2nd Line Bluegrass Band $1,600.

**MOTION:** Adrianne Robertson / John Hurst:That the consent docket be approved as circulated and read. **CARRIED**

Lennox Scarlett raised a question arising from the Executive Minister’s May accountability report. Is the executive privy to the proposed budget? It was confirmed that yes, the proposed budget was approved at the fall regional council 2022 meeting. Treasurer John Hurst noted that the regional council treasurers and staff have been working with GCO on getting regular reporting. Needs to be confirmed with GCO, but will likely be getting quarterly reporting – September 2023 likely earliest (would be the numbers up to June 2023).

1. **Community Building**

Having reviewed the evaluation report, which of the three items named—relationship, leadership and social justice—speaks to you and what ideas do you have to move it forward?

Members of the Executive were invited to share their takeaways from the evaluation report. Relationship was mentioned multiple times; the need for the regional council to be accessible, the continuing struggle to build relationship between congregations and the regional council, siloing, the feeling of isolation experienced by some communities of faith. Also noted though, that relationships require work and the regional council can provide resources, but can’t do all the work for folks.

Some suggestions to think about: holding a workshop on how to reach out and form relationships with neighbouring churches if have never tried to do so. Maybe for decisions like this one (how to move forward and act upon the evaluation report recommendations), engage regional reps at meetings – invite them to share ideas; engage their congregations in the questions.

To consider: how do we help people make the way forward smoother.

1. **Evaluation Follow-Up**

The report will be shared from the regional council office, in July when administrative staff are back up to a fuller complement (after vacation time taken). Will go to all regional council commissions at the same time.

a) Timeline for sharing information:

1. Share with Commissions: Full report & HF specific report and powerpoint (July 2023)
2. Share with Regional Council:

* letter from President and executive summary (summer 2023) in newsletter;
* recommendations with work assignments in workbook, full report & HF specific report, powerpoint; presentation at regional council fall 2023 meeting.

b) Follow-up conversation re establishing:

1. Task force re: clusters

Wendy Lowden, John Hurst, Yvonne Wright, Sula Kosacky will work to pull together a team (someone from each commission would be helpful). The team will prepare a plan on setting up clusters in the regional council, Initial suggestion being to map the region, place churches in deliberate cluster groupings. It was agreed that this plan would not be put in place unless the regional council feels it is a priority and would like to move ahead with it. It was noted that it is important to listen to congregations and not necessarily tell them to do clusters, but listen and get feedback. To be brought forward for consideration at the fall regional council meeting.

1. Task force re: day of fellowship November 2024

Suggested from President Lennox and Sula Kosacky: to have a gathering of all the churches in the regional council, have them come together in one place, eat, worship gather together in fellowship. Task force of perhaps 10 to 12 people to meet this summer to put together a plan of what the day would look like, steps to take over the next year to try to bring this together.

Cheryl-Ann Stadelbauer-Sampa advised that staff would not have the capacity to resource two HF regional council gatherings in the fall of 2024, given that the two other regional councils have fall meetings and there are also GC meetings in the fall and that should be taken into consideration when creating a plan outline. Staff could resource if this was combined with the regular fall meeting. A separate event would require volunteer resources.

The Executive **agreed** that a task force be formed, to meet in the summer and bring forward a proposal for a day of fellowship in November, 2024 to the fall 2023 regional council meeting.

1. **Reports**
2. Congregational Support Commission (Written report received). Chair Adrianne Robertson referred the executive to her written report, noting that there will be one summer meeting on July 25.
3. Discipleship and Justice Commission: Chair Sula Kosacky highlighted some of the work of the commission, including the Kids Across the Region program. The commission also ordered 50 new Pride flags with HF logo on them, so will immediately replace any church’s flags that have been vandalized. Sent 3 already.
4. Human Resources Commission (Written report received for May 2023) Chair Pat Tooley highlighted that the survey working group continuing to work on next steps. Adrianne sat in on a meeting. liaison training happened. Member of the commission has expressed interest in serving as liaison coordinator. Another member agreed to coordinate scheduling of exit interviews. Hope to provide some intentional training regarding LLWLs being allowed to preside at funerals. They can, with permission sought from minister of community of faith. Honourarium has been increased for United Fresh Start facilitators.

President Lennox asked if work is being done in trying to engage retired ministers. Confidentiality issues in reaching out, if contact info is not public, Pat noted. Suggested: utilizing the UCC Yearbook for contact information.

1. **Volunteer Recruitment Team** (Approved at June regional council meeting)

Establishing a Recruitment Team to assist with fall orientation event and to promote recruitment of lay representatives from congregations.

Sula Kosacky, President Lennox and Robert Lawson, will serve as volunteer recruitment team to work towards preparing a slate for spring 2024.

1. **Dates and Times to be confirmed**
2. Executive meetings to continue: 4th Wednesday of month, 4:00 p.m.

Wendy Lowden left the meeting.

1. Fall Orientation: date, time and location for fall orientation

Date: Tuesday, Sept 26 at the Regional Council Office, Hwy 6, Carlisle. Recommended agenda for the day:  9 AM: Executive meeting

10 AM: Orientation

Noon: lunch

12:45 PM: Commission meetings

Adrianne Robertson left the meeting.

1. **Proposal 1**: Trustees

**MOTION:** Yvonne Wright / Pat Tooley

That the Executive of Horseshoe Falls Regional Council:

1. Take the following action concerning People’s Memorial Church:
2. Appoint William Leighfield, Rev. Martha Lockwood and Rev. Diane Walker as the Trustees for People’s Memorial Church, Ridgeway, effective June 26, 2023.
3. Direct the Trustees to
4. forward required church records to Archives,
5. prepare the building for sale seek the approval of the Congregational Support Commission to list and to sell, and
6. to forward the proceeds and any other financial resources to the regional council to satisfy the outstanding loan to the congregation with the balance to be disbursed according to regional council property policy;
7. Provide a $1,000 gift to the United Church ministry named by each Trustee at the conclusion of the process as per the policy adopted April, 2023.

b) Take the following action concerning Garnet U.C.

1. Appoint Mike Arnold, Ross Gowan and Gary Pattersonas Trustees for Garnet U.C. effective immediately
2. Direct the Trustees to consult with the municipality to determine the future of the building and any steps necessary to facilitate the transfer of the property including the cemetery;
3. Also direct the Trustees to work with the leadership of Garnet U.C. re forwarding records to the Archives;
4. Instruct the Trustees to forward funds remaining to the regional council for disbursement; and
5. Provide a gift to the United Church ministry named by each Trustee at the conclusion of the process as per the policy adopted April, 2023.

**CARRIED**

1. **Incorporated Ministries** – C-A
   1. Wesley Urban Ministries Update – Executive Minister

Cheryl-Ann Stadelbauer-Sampa presented, mainly for information, a powerpoint that she had shared with Wesley Urban Ministries. The powerpoint outlined for the Wesley board to consider: is Wesley better served by continuing with and strengthening its connection to UCC as a Category 1 Corporation or by becoming a Legacy Corporation? Both require an investment of time and legal resources. It makes sense to decide which path to follow before taking further action on Supplementary Letters Patent or Bylaws. No action for the Executive to take at this time; don’t know what Wesley’s board will decide.

b. Quest Learning: Cheryl-Ann asked if anyone on the Executive has had contact with Quest Learning or has any information about the corporation to let her know. She has had no engagement with them and is trying to get a response as their information is not current and they are not submitting any of their required reports. However, no action for the Executive to take at this time.

Prior to going on sabbatical, Cheryl-Ann will update Acting Executive Minister Mark Laird on any developments.

John Hurst noted the Halton Extension Council is closing down and summarized some learnings. Local volunteers age, whereas TUCC is a professionally run organization. Older organizations such as extension councils tend to be parochial in nature making streamlining difficult.

1. Anticipate having the draft business trust agreement with Kindred Works soon and need to approve it and approve transfer of properties into it. Cheryl-Ann Stadelbauer-Sampa will follow-up with GCO legal counsel.
2. To consider at Tri-Regional Executive meeting in December.

* Cycle of meetings: do we need monthly Executive meetings or could we move to bimonthly? The Executive agreed by consensus to keep to monthly executive meetings, (if the agenda can be kept tight).
* Shared Ministry Agreement: staff and office space to be reviewed at tri-regional exec meeting.

No scheduled meeting for July or August, but a meeting may be called at the discretion of the Executive Minister and/or President.

Adjournment.