**Horseshoe Falls Regional Council**

**of The United Church of Canada**

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

**Horseshoe Falls Regional Council Spring 2023 Hybrid Meeting**

**“Be Bold, Be Brave”**

Minutes of June 8 and June 10, 2023

The Horseshoe Falls Regional Council was called to meet online on Thursday, June 8, 2023 and online and in person on Saturday, June 10, 2023, with approximately 111 total participants in attendance each day.

***Meeting Session Thursday June 10, 7 – 8:30 PM***

**Welcome and Land Acknowledgement**

President Robert Lawson welcomed all in attendance and shared a Land Acknowledgement.

**Constitution of Meeting**

President Robertopened the meeting 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. The bounds of the meeting will be the Zoom call and the Meridian Community Centre, Fonthill, Ontario and the sanctuary of Wesley United Church, Welland, Ontario;

**Opening & Procedural Motion (Proposal 1)**

**MOTION:** Wendy Lowden / Cheryl-Ann Stadelbauer-Sampa

That the regional council adopt the following as a 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 2022-10-14-15;
3. Receive the minutes of the following meetings of the
4. Executive

23-04-26

23-04-25

23-03-22

23-02-22

23-01-25

22-12-07

22-11-26

22-11-23

22-10-26

22-09-28

1. Congregational Support Commission

2023-04-06

2023-03-14

2022-12-13

2022-11-15

2022-10-11

2022-09-13

Covenant Commission

2022-07-12

1. Human Resources Commission

2023-04-26

2023-03-29

2023-02-22

2023-01-25

2022-11-23

2022-10-26

2022-09-28

2022-08-24

2022-06-29

1. Discipleship and Justice Commission

2023-04-11

2023-03-07

2023-01-31

2023-01-10

Mission and Discipleship Commission

2022-11-01

2022-09-28

for information.

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

1. Confirm the appointment of Irene Ty to the Discipleship and Justice Commission;
2. Confirm the appointment of Cathy Dilts to the Human Resources Commission;
3. Confirm the appointment of Alison Playfair to the Human Resources Commission;
4. Appoint Paul Shepherd as Parliamentarian;
5. Appoint Wendy Lowden as Chair, Agenda and Business Committee;
6. Name Tessica Hackshaw to serve as Equity Support Team Member;
7. 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;
8. Name regional council staff members as scrutineers;
9. Set the bounds of the meeting as the zoom call, the Meridian Community Centre, Fonthill, Ontario and the sanctuary of Wesley United Church, Welland, Ontario;
10. 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);
11. Make all guests corresponding members;
12. Set the deadline for new business to be submitted to the Agenda and Business Committee as 5:00 p.m. Friday, June 9, 2023.
13. 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. **CARRIED**

**BRAVE, Affirm Statement and Introduction of Meeting Leadership**

Tessica Hackshaw, Equity Support Team Member, shared BRAVE: Commitments to Community Safety and raised up the Affirm Statement.

**Opening Worship**: President-Elect Lennox Scarlett offered a brief reflection and prayer.

A video message from Moderator Carmen Lansdowne was shared.

**Community Building**

*"Working Towards Reconciliation”* Breakout rooms were assigned for a community building discussion focussed on answering the following questions: What are you becoming? How are you being different now that we are many years into reconciliation?

**Remit Foundations**

Thérèse Samuel, Minister, Social Justice referred to the Remit resources in the meeting workbook and shared three videos. First a portion of a video conversation with Cathy Hird and Maggie Dieter, a non-linear way of learning through dialogue and story. The second video, a more linear learning format, was a PowerPoint presenting background information on the Remit. The final video was from Martha Pedoniquotte sharing a bit about herself and her role at GCO and what the Remit may mean to Indigenous people in the United Church. Thérèse noted that the whole video presentation will be available to congregations by mid June.

**Volunteer Recruitment (Proposal 2)**

**MOTION:** Wendy Lowden / Cheryl-Ann Stadelbauer-Sampa

That the Horseshoe Falls Regional Council agrees to:

1. Endorse the HFRC Executive’s action in naming a recruitment committee to bring a slate for election at the June 2023 meeting of the Regional Council; and
2. Authorize the Executive to
   1. Establish a mandate for a volunteer recruitment team and add this to the Governance Handbook.
   2. Appoint members to this team.
   3. Establish the practice of bringing a diverse slate of members for election to the Executive and Commissions at the spring meeting of the Regional Council. **CARRIED**

Agenda & Business Chair Wendy Lowden reminded those gathered of the deadline for new business: Friday June 9, 5 PM.

The meeting session closed with prayer led by President Robert.

***Meeting Session Saturday, October 15,* 9:30 AM – 12:30 PM**

Fellowship and welcoming music from 2nd Line Bluegrass opened the Saturday session.

**Welcome Back, Land Acknowledgement**

President Robert offered gratitude for the gift of gospel bluegrass music provided by 2nd Line, and offered thanks as a Land Acknowledgement and shared a prayer.

**Worship**

President Robert offered a meditation on his time as President and striving to be bold and brave. He closed with the New Creed.

**Intro of leadership team & Introduction of folks new to the Regional Council**

President Robert introduced the leadership team and then invited those new to the Regional Council ,as willing, to introduce themselves (both in person and on zoom). The following introduced themselves to the gathering: Jessica Swance, Roxanne Cosby, Christina Crawford (St. Paul’s Milton), Tessica Hackshaw (Emmanuel Hamilton), Richard Bott (Grace Burlington), Joe Hopkins (Streetsville UC), Beth Barrett (Fairview Brantford), Evan Swance-Smith (Westdale Hamilton) , Gerry Sieg (St. Stephens on the Hill Mississauga), Douglas Wilford (Wesley Welland), Evelyn Butler (Westminster, Mississauga), Gabby Heidinger, Jeanne Wilson.

**Community Building: Getting to Know Your Neighbours**

Those gathered were invited to answer questions provided and have conversation, in breakout rooms and table groups, to get to know their neighbours better.

**Remit Foundations Q&A: Thérèse Samuel, Minister, Social Justice**

Follow up on questions. Many of the questions focused on the process, the sharing of resources/education and specifics such as dates for votes. Resources will be shared throughout the regional council and with congregations. The fall 2023 meeting is when regional council will vote. Pastoral charges have up until March 31, 2024.

Yvonne Wright offered a prayer to the gathering.

A 10 minute break was taken.

**In Memoriam**

A video presentation honoured “friends, colleagues & leaders” who guided and served the church with their living: Rev. W. Dale Allison OM, Rev. Susan Jackson OM, Rev. Robert Warren Johnson OM, Rev. Rawlier Arnold Quammie OM, Rev. Valerie Joyce Reed OM.

**Community of Faith Life Cycle Changes**

A video presentation honoured the following communities of faith:

Disbandment, with thanks for their legacy and faithful service: Garnet United Church, Hagersville.

Name Change, Ryerson United Church to Faith United Church, Hamilton. With a note from Faith United Church:

“For 114 years, we were proudly known as Ryerson United Church.

Due to the connection between Egerton Ryerson and the residential schools, our congregation has decided to change our name to Faith United Church, as an act of reconciliation with our Indigenous Community.

We invite you to celebrate the new name with us and a bright future as a community of Faith. We will continue on with all of our tradition, as well as create new ones as we move forward in Faith.”

Amalgamations & Name Change: Mt. Zion United Church, Renton and Old Windham United Church, Simcoe

Amalgamated as Colborne Village United Church, Simcoe.

President Robert shared a prayer of thanks for all.

**Ministry in the Streets**

Guest speaker Rev. Karen Orlandi spoke passionately on what is stopping us from being the best church we can be.

**Executive and Commissions Slate (Proposal 3)**

**MOTION:** Sula Anne Kosacky / Lennox Scarlett

That the Horseshoe Falls Regional Council approve the slate prepared by the Recruitment Team as presented:

Executive/Commissions Slate (Terms are 3 years, renewable once)

Executive

Christina Crawford (DM, First term to 2026)

Congregational Support Commission

Karen Tobey (Lay, First term to 2026)

Discipleship and Justice Commission

Jake Girton (Lay, First term to 2026)

Joe Hopkins (OM, First term to 2026)

Mervyn Russell (Lay, First term to 2026)

Human Resources Commission

James Grunden (OM, First term to 2026)

**CARRIED**

**Grace:** Kathy Douglas, HFRC Minister Faith Formation, led those gathered in a sung grace “Thank you God for giving us food”.

**Lunch break**: noon to 1 PM.

**Welcome Back** with music from 2nd Line Bluegrass.

The following dates were highlighted: June 9 & 10, 2023, HFRC Spring Meeting (Hybrid) at the Meridian Community Centre, Fonthill.

**Bravery as a Leader**

The Very Rev. Richard Bott spoke on bravery as leaders; bravery is recognizing what you can do and doing it. Asking those gathered to reflect on what are your touchstones for your faith, your ministry.

**Introduction of candidates**

Tanya Cameron, Vocational Minister for HFRC, introduced in turn HFRC candidates, Gabrielle Heidinger and Joe Hopkins, with a biography of their experience, learning & beliefs. Rev. Laura Fouhse, Vocational Minister for Northern Spirit, Living Skies and Prairie to Pine Regional introduced Yujene Oh, with a biography of Yujene’s experience and gifts.

**Candidates Address the Court**

Gabrielle Heidinger, Joe Hopkins and Yujene Oh individually shared their reflections on how they are living into the HF theme ““Be Bold, Be Brave!” in their ministry in inspiring and engaging videos.

Gabrielle will be serving at St. Andrew’s, Brantford. Joe is serving at Streetsville UC, and Yujene is serving at Trinity, Thorold.

A short break was taken with cupcakes served.

**LLLWL Presentation**

A time of covenanting with newly Licenced Lay Worship Leaders, Mary Parsons and Jeanne Wilson, followed by a presentation of a certificate and gift from President-Elect Lennox Scarlett.

**Celebrating Anniversaries and Jubilands**

The following anniversaries of Ordination, Admission, Commissioning, and Recognition were celebrated:

**5 Years**

Dawn Hill DLM

Robert Lawson OM

**10 Years**

Kim Belanger DLM

Andrew Crowell OM

Karen Eade OM

Barbara Fullerton OM

Marcie Gibson DM

Janet Kennedy OM

**15 Years**

Philip Gardner OM

Debra McGill OM

Debora McMillan OM

Edward Vance OM

**20 Years**

Laura Borgerson OM

Brian Donst OM

Margot Feyerer OM

Jeong-Woo Lee OM

Brenda Otawa DM

Kathryn PhillipsOM

Irene Ty OM

**25 Years**

Jane Beers OM

Linda Clark DM

Deborah Johnson OM

Janet Petrie OM

**30 Years**

Judith Bowman OM

Judith Gilliland OM

Douglas Moore OM

Charles Pendleton OM

Stanley StaintonOM

Jane Wyllie OM

**35 Years**

Joan Adams OM

Nora Fueten OM

Keith Hagerman OM

William MacKinnon OM

Murray Rounding OM

Harvey Tobey OM

**40 Years**

Judith Barker OM

Lesley Clare OM

Richard Hollingsworth OM

Lorna MacQueenOM

Sheila Murray OM

Gary Patterson OM

Kathryn Southon OM

**45 Years**

Catherine Ellarby OM

Robert Rennie OM

Robin WilkieOM

The following Jubilands were honoured and celebrated

**50 Years**

David Pritchard OM

Franklin Walker OM

**55 Years**

Wayne Irwin OM

Ronald Pierce OM

Gary Quart OM

**60 Years**

Merrill Graham OM

Marilyn Hunter OM

**61 Years**

Murray Barnet OM

Theodore Lutz OM

Ronald Pocklington OM

Donald Raffan OM

**62 Years**

William Bell OM

Keith Hawkes OM

Johannes Huntjens OM

Walter Martilla OM

**63 Years**

J. Cedric Arnold OM

William Sparling OM

**66 Years**

Pat Ashwin OM

Jim Campbell OM

**67 Years**

Philip Cline OM

**68 Years**

Lorne O'Neill OM

**71 Years**

Francis ChisholmOM

**72 Years**

D. Graham Tipple OM

**74 Years**

Ward Kaiser OM

William Thorneloe OM

**Staff Anniversaries**

Pat Tooley, HFRC member on the Staff Support Team, graciously recognized and thanked Sue Duliban and Ruthanna Mack on the 10th Anniversary of their service with the United Church of Canada.

**Honouring retirees**

Retirees Barbara Fullerton OM, Paul Ivany OM, Sheila Murray OM, Ann Stafford OM shared reflections on their ministry in a video presentation. President Robert thanked Barbara, Paul, Sheila and Ann for their ministries and presented Barbara and Ann, who were able to be at the in person gathering, with a gift of appreciation.

**Covenanting with Newly Elected Executive/Commission Members**

President Robert led a covenanting service with newly elected and continuing Executive & Commission

**Courtesies**

President Robert offered thanks to all who worked to make the meeting possible.

**Thanking President** Wendy Lowden thanked President Robert for his leadership and guidance.

**Closing Motion (Proposal 4)**

**MOTION:** Wendy Lowden / Adrianne Robertson

The regional council agrees to:

1. Entrust any unfinished business from its June 8 and June 10, 2023 meeting to the Executive;
2. Authorize the Executive to fill any vacancies on the understanding that appointments will be confirmed at the next spring regional council meeting;
3. Direct the Executive to plan to convene a meeting of the regional council in the fall of 2023; 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 June 8 and June 10, 2023 meeting of the Horseshoe Falls Regional Council at the close of the Celebration of Ministries Service on Saturday, June 10, 2023.

**CARRIED**

**Closing Blessing:** President Robert

**Meeting Adjourned**

Following the meeting the Celebration of Ministries Service and Installation of the new President was held at Wesley United Church, Welland.