**Executive**

**Horseshoe Falls Regional Council**

**of The United Church of Canada**

**Minutes**

**October 25, 2023, 4 PM**

**Via zoom**

**Roster:** Lennox Scarlett (President), John Hurst (Treasurer), Christina Crawford, James Grunden, Marilyn Johnston, Sula Anne Kosacky, Deborah Laforet, Wendy Lowden, Debbie McMillan, Pat Tooley, Yvonne Wright, Jane Capstick (CSC representative)

**Staff:** Mark Laird, Acting Executive Minister, Sue Duliban, Executive Assistant

**Regrets:** Deborah Laforet, Yvonne Wright

**Constitute Meeting:** President Lennox constituted 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.

**Welcome, Land Acknowledgement and Worship:** President Lennox welcomed all those gathered and offered a Land Acknowledgement, followed by a reading from Proverbs 3:5-6 and prayer.

1. **Consent Docket**

**MOTION:** Christina Crawford / Debbie McMillan

Acceptance of consent docket.

Any of the following matters that require discussion can be lifted from the consent docket and voted upon separately:

1. Enabling Actions
2. That the proposed Agenda be approved as presented.
3. That the minutes of the September 26, 2023 meeting be approved as distributed.
4. That motions be written and given to the Secretary.

B. Omnibus motion

Horseshoe Falls Regional Council (9) Omnibus motion – October 25, 2023

That the Horseshoe Falls Regional Council (9) Executive take the following action(s):

1. Wesley Urban Ministries Inc.

…. per the formal request of Wesley Urban Ministries Inc. of October 16, 2023 and September 27, 2023 Board of Directors draft Minutes to transition from a Category One organization of The United Church of Canada to a Legacy Incorporated Ministry pursuant to the Incorporated Ministries Policy of The United Church of Canada approve this request and begin formal discussions and procedures with Wesley Urban Ministries Inc. to move this corporation to Category 4 Legacy Incorporated Ministry status.

*This is based on the letter from Chair Julie Vernon, draft Board minutes of September 27, 2023, and receipt of other required documentation per the Incorporated Ministries Policy of The United Church of Canada.* **CARRIED**

1. **Business Arising**
2. East Plains United Church

No new information to present at this time. Acting Executive Minister Mark Laird noted he sent a letter to the minister at East Plains, but has not received any of the documents the executive requested.

1. Commission Reports

Congregational Support Commission (CSC) (Written report received)

CSC representative Jane Capstick referred to the written report from Chair Adrianne Robertson, bringing forward the CSC’s request to have a discussion around developing a hate crime response. How do we respond as a regional council? Some issues include follow up for those involved with potential help from Employee Assistance Program (EAP) (trauma counselling), legal advice, and who to call? While it is hoped the GCO will devise a national plan, it would be helpful to have a Regional Council Hate Crimes Response plan until a national plan is available.

Sula Kosacky noted the Discipleship & Justice Commission has dedicated funds to replace vandalized items, and an unofficial team that responds when a phone call is received; someone goes to the church, provides pastoral support.

President Lennox suggested this might require a collaborative effort between the three regional councils to pull the pieces together and develop a toolkit template. Suggested that 3 volunteers from HFRC work with staff and volunteers from other regional councils. Debbie McMillan and Jake Girton were named to the team.

Discipleship and Justice Commission: Chair Sula Anne Kosacky

The Discipleship and Justice Commission will meet October 31 to review applications for Mission Support grants. Same amount of money available as last year, but applications received total more than that amount. The Commission will be looking carefully at what their criteria are before reviewing the applications.

Human Resources Commission: No report.

UCW: Marilyn Johnston highlighted the upcoming UCW event “Human trafficking in our cities and rural communities”, November 18th, 1 pm, via zoom.

1. **New Business**
2. Proposal 1: Funding for Ontario-Quebec Native People’s Retreat at Five Oaks

**MOTION**: Marilyn Johnston / Debbie McMillan

The Executive of HFRC agrees to:

A. Provide $732.58 to Five Oaks toward the costs of the 2023 Native People’s Retreat

1. Set aside $2000 to support the Native People’s Retreat in 2024, and to give time for Nations Uniting to fully explore the current and emerging possible sources for funding
2. Be willing to consider engaging in future discussions with Nations Uniting and Ontario Quebec circle about Native People’s Retreat, and if no further funding is to be provided for this to give notice to Nations Uniting.

**CARRIED**

1. Proposal 2: Assessment for Troy Pastoral Charge

When a congregation disbands their national assessment needs to be paid for the calendar year that they disbanded in. The Troy Pastoral Charge disbanded but did not declare that they hadn’t paid the full assessment. This money should have been taken first out of the assets of the Pastoral Charge before money was dispersed according to the property policy. This did not happen. It is important to make sure accounts are settled both outside and inside the church. It is the executive’s role to ensure the finances of the regional council are in place.

**MOTION:** Pat Tooley / John Hurst

The Horseshoe Falls Regional Council Executive agrees to pay the 2023 unpaid national assessment for Troy Pastoral Charge of $2,108 out of the Regional Council’s property fund. **CARRIED**

1. Proposal 3: Living into Right Relations-Glenco Grant/Nations Uniting

Acting Executive Minister Mark Laird gave background on this situation. In 2019 there were grants approved by Glenco Grants through HFRC which due to unforeseen circumstances only got paid out 50%.

There was discussion about accountability and the obligations of granting organizations. Concern was expressed about the problem seeming to come from mismanagement; Glenco could have come to the executive before they made their decision. Suggested that it might be worth having a conversation about why this decision was made, what provision is made for promises entered into and is this going to happen again.

**MOTION**: John Hurst / Debbie McMillan

The Horseshoe Falls Regional Council Executive agrees

1. To offer the remaining $5000 of the original Glenco Grant to Nations Uniting.
2. That the money is to come out of the property fund of Horseshoe Falls Regional Council.
3. If the original grant money provided by a granting organization is no longer available, that other funding from the regional council be explored.

**CARRIED** 1 Abstention: James Grunden

1. Proposal 4: Proposal from UCC Foundation

**MOTION**: John Hurst / Jane Capstick

That the Horseshoe Falls Regional Council Executive agrees

1. That the Regional Council, when appropriate, recommends congregations and communities of faith explore the options the Foundation provides.
2. That if a congregation or community of faith chooses to work with the Foundation, the Regional Council will allow a transfer of assets to the Foundation knowing that the agreement between the congregation and Foundation will specifically name that the Regional Council is to be consulted about the assets should a congregation or community of faith disband or cease to exist.

**CARRIED** 1 Abstention: Sula Kosacky

1. Adding a director to BUEC (Brock University Ecumenical Chaplaincy)

Suggested names to replace Sybil Wilson and Sula Anne Kosacky as directors to Brock University Ecumenical Chaplaincy to be brought forward to a future meeting of the executive. Sybil and Sula’s service to BUEC to be recognized at the spring 2024 regional council meeting. President Lennox will speak to staff about sharing the need for directors (one mp, one lay) with the wider body through the newsletter; so those interested in this ministry can put their name forward for consideration.

f. Feedback from regional council evaluation conversations at HFRC meeting

Once all groups have provided their notes to Acting Executive Minister Mark Laird, the notes will be compiled into one document to be shared with the executive. Executive can then decide how to share those notes broadly.

g. Day of Fellowship for 2024 – for information

President Lennox provided an update about the event. Tentative date: Saturday June 8th, 2024. Work still being done to pull the event together. The planning team is led by convenor Sula Kosacky, Gabrielle Heidinger is secretary. Not been able to pin down a venue at this point. Looking at the possibility of a church. There will be a youth and children component. By February the team should have clear details about how the event will unfold.

Adjournment

Next meeting: November 22, 2023, 4 PM, via zoom