**Congregational Support Commission**

**Horseshoe Falls Regional Council**

**of The United Church of Canada**

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

***APPROVED Minutes***

**October 17, 2023 at 10:00 am**

***Via Zoom***

**Roster:** (8) Adrianne Robertson, Jane Wyllie, Mary Anderson, Steven Lowden, Judy Chartrand, Shawn Bausch, Jane Capstick, Ross Gowan, Karen Tobey

**Staff Support:** Rev. Lynne Allin, Minister, Congregational Support and Mission  
Elizabeth Marshall, Administrative Support

**Present**: Adrianne Robertson, Mary Anderson, Steven Lowden, Judy Chartrand, Shawn Bausch, Jane Capstick, Ross Gowan, Karen Tobey

**Regrets:** Jane Wyllie

**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 Shawn Bausch / Judy Chartrand that the agenda be accepted as circulated.

CARRIED

**Review of Toolkit 2 – Community of Faith Profile**

**Consent Docket:**

## Approval of Previous Minutes

That the minutes of September 12, 2023 be approved as circulated

That the minutes of September 26, 2023 be approved as circulated

**MOTION** by Ross Gowan / Steven Lowden that the Congregational Support Commission of Horseshoe Falls Regional Council approve the consent docket.

CARRIED

**Collaborative Agreements**

Fairview United Church, Brantford

The Congregational Support Commission of Horseshoe Falls Regional Council acknowledges that the collaborative agreement between Fairview United Church, Brantford and Knox United Church, Ayr has ended with both communities of faith grateful for the time spent working together.

**Property – Restricted Funds**

Sheffield United Church

MOTION by Karen Tobey / Steve Lowden that the Congregational Support Commission of Horseshoe Falls Regional Council approve the request from Sheffield United Church to access up to $40,000 from restricted funds for church hall renovations to support a hospitality and community outreach ministry.

CARRIED

Harmony United Church, Brantford

MOTION by Steve Lowden / Mary Anderson that the Congregational Support Commission of Horseshoe Falls Regional Council having considered the request from Harmony United Church to access an additional $15,904.25 from restricted funds for increased costs related to the accessibility renovations, the commission recommends that the congregation use unrestricted funds and fundraising to cover this expenditure.

CARRIED

Fonthill United Church

- Correspondence in response to approval to use up to $25,000 from restricted funds for a one time use to balance the operating fund. It was suggested that another request may happen.

The Commission recognized the need for parameters for approving restricted fund use. Steven and Ross agreed to work on this to discuss at the next meeting.

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

- Extension Council Loan Procedure

Silver Spire United Church, St. Catharines

MOTION by Jane Capstick / Shawn Bausch That the Congregational Support Commission of Horseshoe Falls Regional Council rescind the motion of June 13, 2023 which read:

“**MOTION** by Jane Capstick / Jane Wyllie that the Congregational Support Commission of Horseshoe Falls Regional Council approve the loan application from Silver Spire United Church to the Niagara Presbytery Extension Council for $100,000 to replace their boiler. Fifty percent to be repaid based on terms to be negotiated, and remaining 50 percent to be repaid when the property is sold.” due to the fact that these terms had not been approved by the Niagara Presbytery Extension Council.

CARRIED

MOTION by Ross Gowan / Shawn Bausch That the Congregational Support Commission of Horseshoe Falls Regional Council give pre-approval to Silver Spire United Church, St. Catherines to enter into a loan agreement with the Niagara Presbytery Extension Council for $100,000 toward the cost of replacing their boiler. Terms and conditions to be approved by the Congregational Support Commission once decided by the Council and Board of Trustees for Silver Spire United Church.

CARRIED

- St. Paul’s United Church, Oakville

There are some concerns raised regarding the plans of the congregation moving forward. The Commission stressed the importance of following the process and engaging the resources available to the Commission to best support the congregation. Discussion was shared about the importance of communication with all churches about how property is held within the United Church of Canada.

- Regional Council Fall Gathering  
The Commission discussed some comments and personal findings of the Fall meeting that took place. There are some misconceptions regarding the amount of support and resources that the Regional Council has available.

**Executive Report**

Adrienne provided a brief update.

**Staff Report – Items tabled for next meeting:**

- Collaborative Ministry

- Payment of Pastoral Charge Supervisors

- Covenanting with Amalgamated Congregations

**Next Meeting:**  Tuesday, November 14th at 7pm

Worship by: Karen Tobey