**Congregational Support Commission**

**Horseshoe Falls Regional Council**

**of The United Church of Canada**

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

***APPROVED Minutes***

**November 14, 2023 7 pm**

***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 Assistant

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

**Regrets:** Jane Wyllie,Mary Anderson

**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:** Karen Tobey

**Opening Worship:** Karen Tobey

**Opening Motions:**

 **Approval of Agenda:**

**MOTION** by Judy Chartrand / Ross Gowan that the agenda be accepted as circulated.

CARRIED

**Corresponding Members:**  N/A

**Consent Docket:**

## Approval of Previous Minutes

Approve the minutes of October 17, 2023 as circulated.

Appointment of Pastoral Charge Supervisors:

- Appoints Wendy Lowden as Pastoral Charge Supervisor to Lynnville United Church effective January 1, 2024

- Appoints Brian Donst as Pastoral Charge Supervisor to Ker United Church effective September 22, 2023

- Appoints Fred Monteith as Pastoral Charge Supervisor to Sydenham-Heritage United Church, Brantford effective November 14, 2023

- Appoints Ted Smith as Pastoral Charge Supervisor to Delhi United Church effective January 1, 2024

Annual Reports Received

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| Garnet United Church, Hagersville | Grace United Church, Dunnville |
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Self Assessment Received

**MOTION** by Steve Lowden / Shawn Bausch that the Congregational Support Commission of Horseshoe Falls Regional Council approve the consent docket.
CARRIED

**Report from Ross Gowan and Shawn Bausch regarding Use of Restricted Funds:**

Work on the document up to this point was presented regarding criteria in order to access restricted funds as well as an appeal for feedback. Feedback will be considered when completing the document at a later date. More discussion will be had at a later date as well.

**Collaborative Agreements**

Freelton-Strabane, Rockton Sheffield and Lynden Pastoral Charges

**MOTION** by Shawn Bausch / Judy Chartrand that the Congregational Support Commission of Horseshoe Falls Regional Council approve the collaborative agreement between Freelton-Strabane Pastoral Charge, Rockton Sheffield Pastoral Charge and Lynden Pastoral Charge, pending approval by the congregations.

CARRIED

Rockton Sheffield and Lynden Pastoral Charges

**MOTION** by Steve Lowden / Shawn Bausch that the Congregational Support Commission of Horseshoe Falls Regional Council approve the collaborative agreement between Rockton-Sheffield Pastoral Charge and Lynden Pastoral Charge pending approval by the congregations.

CARRIED

**Community of Faith Profiles:**

**Transitions**

Trinity United Church, Thorold

**MOTION** by Steve Lowden / Jane Capstick that the Congregational Support Commission of Horseshoe Falls Regional Council having reviewed the proposal from Trinity United Church, Thorold regarding the disbursements of funds, consent to the following: 33% of the total assets upon disbanding will be allocated as follows: 69% Cave Springs Camp, 29% Westminster United Church, St. Catherine’s and 2% Thorold Flying Dragons Air Cadets.

CARRIED

**Property**

Silver Spire United Church, St. Catharines

 **MOTION** by Steve Lowden / Ross Gowan that the Congregational Support Commission of Horseshoe Falls Regional Council consent to

1) The loan agreement dated November 7, 2023 between Silver Spire United Church, the municipal address of which is 366 St. Paul St. St. Catherine’s, ON L2P 3N2 and the Niagara Presbytery Extension Council, the terms of which are as follows:

* Niagara Presbytery Extension Council shall advance to Silver Spire United Church a loan of $100,000 at an Interest rate of 4% over five years
* Niagara Presbytery Extension Council shall advance an additional $80,000 as an ‘open’ loan at an interest rate of 4% with a maximum term of five years
* Both loans are to be repaid monthly, principal and interest
* Unrestricted payments are permitted on the ‘open’ loan at any time and will reduce the balance accordingly
* Both loans are secured by a mortgage of $180,000 against Silver Spire United Church, St. Catherine’s as Mortgagor and the Niagara Presbytery Extension Council as Mortgagee
* Securing the mortgage is at the expense of Silver Spire United Church
* When total indebtedness is reduced to $40,000 the loan will convert to a long-term non-productive loan, with no interest, no payments to be repaid only when any portion of the church property is sold and still secured by the existing mortgage.

2) If the congregation should decide to disband while this mortgage remains on the property, then the amount owing will be subtracted from the amount of money available for disbursement by the congregation according to the Horseshoe Falls Regional Council Property Policy.

3) These funds are to be used for expenses related to the replacement of the church boiler system.

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

CARRIED

Grace United Church, Dunnville

 Update – Grace UC are exploring the option of severing a strip of land and selling it to the adjacent home owner. They also need to upgrade their kitchen to meet fire code and are investigating funding options.

Emmanuel United Church, Hamilton

 Update – Emmanuel UC are looking at severing a piece of property to sell as building lots. Met with Kris Tavella and Miriam Bowlby for input. Also interested in improving rental potential. Lots being sold could significantly limit future development option.

**Other** **Business:**

Payment of Pastoral Charge Supervisors Policy

 **MOTION** by Shawn Bausch / Karen Tobey that the Congregational Support Commission of Horseshoe Falls Regional Council approve the Pastoral Charge Supervisor Policy with a start date of January 1, 2024.

 CARRIED

Steve Lowden abstained.

Current pastoral charges will be made aware via email with a letter from Adrianne. All new charges will be made known as needed.

New Vision United Church, Hamilton

 Update – There is an invitation to join their board meeting November 15, 2023 at 6:30pm. Shawn Bausch volunteered to represent the commission.

East Plains United Church, Burlington

 Update – East Plains UC is still working to finalize agreements with the daycare. It would be beneficial to have a meeting with their board. Jane Capstick volunteered to potentially represent the commission at this meeting.

Disbanding of Community of Faith - UCC Foundation Document

 Update – UCC Foundation Document has been prepared to help disbanding Communities of Faith learn about the options provided by the UCC Foundation to create a legacy.

**Executive Report – Adrianne Robertson/Jane Capstick**

Adrianne will look at the minutes from the Executive meeting and will update the commission about the Hate Crime Response Policy at a later time.

**Staff Report:**

- Financial Tracking

**Next Meeting:**  December 12, 2023 at 10am

 Territorial Acknowledgement: Ross Gowan

 Worship by: Ross Gowan