**Congregational Support Commission**

**Horseshoe Falls Regional Council**

**of The United Church of Canada**

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

***APPROVED Minutes***

***February 13, 2024***

***10:00am***

***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, Mary Anderson,Steven Lowden,Judy Chartrand,Jane Capstick,Ross Gowan,Karen Tobey

**Regrets:** Jane Wyllie, Shawn Bausch (joined part way)

**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:** Mary Anderson

**Opening Worship:** Mary Anderson

**Opening Motions:**

**Approval of Agenda:**

MOTION by Judy Chartrand / Jane Wyllie that the agenda be accepted as circulated.

**Corresponding Members:** Greg Smith-Young, Growth Animator

MOTION by Ross Gowan / Steve Lowden That Congregational Support Commission of Horseshoe Falls Regional Council make Greg Smith-Young, Growth Animator, a corresponding member for this meeting. CARRIED

Greg introduced himself to the Commission and outlined his role as a Growth Animator. The three main areas of work are: Renew, Create, Invite.

**Consent Docket:**

## Approval of Previous Minutes

Approval of Minutes from November 30, 2023

Approval of Minutes from December 12, 2023

Approval of Minutes from January 9, 2024

Approval of Minutes from January 23, 2024

Email Motion:   
February 3, 2024 - Steve Lowden, Acting Chair

MOTION: Moved by Ross Gowan and seconded by Mary Anderson that the Horseshoe Falls Congregational Support Commission approve the application from Grace United Church, Dunnville for a Church Modernization Grant of $5,000 for Kitchen Safety Upgrades.

CARRIED

Appointment of Pastoral Charge Supervisors:

1. Appoint Peggy Bartlet as Pastoral Charge Supervisor for Colborne Village Pastoral Charge, Simcoe effective Feb 6, 2024
2. Appoint Brian Vickers as Pastoral Charge Supervisor for St. Paul’s Pastoral Charge, Dundas effective January 19, 2024
3. Appoint Brian Elder as Pastoral Charge Supervisor for Lynnville Pastoral Charge effective February 6, 2024
4. Appoint Sula Kosacky as Pastoral Charge Supervisor for Fifty Pastoral Charge effective January 15, 2024
5. Appoint Ted Smith as Pastoral Charge Supervisor for Waterford Pastoral Charge effective March 1, 2024
6. Appoint Adrianne Robertson as Pastoral Charge Supervisor for Burford Pastoral Charge effective April 1, 2024

Annual Reports Received

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Faith Centennial, Selkirk |  |
| Jarvis Community Church |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |

Self Assessment Received

* Smithville United Church

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

**Commission Membership**

MOTION by Mary Anderson / Steve Lowden That the Congregational Support Commission of Horseshoe Falls Regional Council accept the request from Jane Wyllie for a leave from the commission until June 2024, and request approval for this leave from the Executive.

CARRIED

Adrienne will send a card to Jane with condolences and gratitude.

**Business Arising From the Minutes**

St. Paul’s United Church, Oakville

Cheryl-Ann Stadelbauer-Sampa has reached out to Creedence and Co. to arrange for a mediation session for St. Paul’s United Church board and the Congregational Support Commission. No date has been set.

MOTION by Steve Lowden / Mary Anderson That the Congregational Support Commission of Horseshoe Falls Regional Council agree to cover the costs for Phase 1 and 2 of the mediation process with St. Paul’s United Church, Oakville as set out in the Proposal from Creedence and Co. dated February 8, 2024 and request that Horseshoe Falls Regional Council Executive cover the cost for phase 3 ($5,000-$6,000).

CARRIED

**Financial Viability**

Sydenham-Heritage United Church, Brantford

MOTION by Ross Gowan / Karen Tobey That the Congregational Support Commission of Horseshoe Falls Regional Council having reviewed the financial viability worksheet for Sydenham-Heritage United Church, Brantford approve the request to hire an Intentional Interim Minister to be reviewed after 12 months.

CARRIED

**Community of Faith Profile**

MOTION by Steve Lowden / Judy Chartrand That the Congregational Support Commission of Horseshoe Falls Regional Council having reviewed the community of faith profile for Jarvis Community Church (including Wesley United Church) approve the request to create a ministry personnel position, 40 hours per week up to category F, pending clarification of the relationship of Nanticoke Pastoral Charge to the Ecumenical Shared Agreement.

CARRIED, Ross Gowan abstained

**Governance**

Wesley United Church, Fruitland (Stoney Creek)

- Report from Pastoral Charge Supervisor regarding annual meeting concerns

Jane Capstick offered to support the Pastoral Charge Supervisor and congregation, to come up with some strategies moving forward. The Commission would like clarification on the procedures of calling a congregational meeting for the church.

**Transitions**

Fonthill and Fenwick United Churches

The amalgamation team has concluded that this is not the right option for their congregations. They will continue to explore ways to expand their collaborative ministry.

York United Church, York

The congregation has voted to disband and cease worship on Dec 29, 2024.

MOTION by Ross Gowan / Mary Anderson That the Congregational Support Commission of Horseshoe Falls Regional Council approve the request from York United Church to disband, with the final date of worship to be December 29, 2024. The disbanding date to be set once all assets have been disbursed.

CARRIED

**Property**

New Vision – update  
Set up a meeting with New Vision’s Board. Adrienne Robertson, Mary Anderson, and Lynne will attend.

**Updates**

Binbrook-Blackheath

Lynne has reached out with options to explore.

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

1. **Response from Trillium United Church**
2. **Investment Policy re: Property Sales**

**MOTION** by Choose an item. / Choose an item. that the Congregational Support Commission of Horseshoe Falls Regional Council establish a policy that any real estate transaction generating in excess of $100,000 net requires the prior submission of an investment policy for the review of the Commission.

This item will be tabled for the next meeting. It was suggested that this might be something expected of all Communities of Faith.

1. **List of Redevelopment Projects in HF with Kindred Works**

This list will be updated regularly to keep the commission advised regarding projects.

1. **Vulnerable Congregations Report**
   1. Only covered time period 2016 to 2019
   2. Warning signs

* An annual deficit for three or more years consecutively
* Annual expenses running 30% higher than revenue
* Cash and Long-term investments less than three times the annual deficit
* Occupancy costs 30% or more of annual expense
* Staffing costs greater than 60% of total expense

c. HF Highlights

REVENUE

• 11% of congregations saw charitable giving fall more than 30%

• 29% of congregations saw rental income fall by more than 30%

• 8% of congregations saw total revenue fall by more than 30%

EXPENSE

• 45% saw occupancy costs increase by more than 30%

• 25% saw compensation costs rise by more than 30%

• 12% saw total expenses increase by more than 30% COVID Year One

• 71% saw charitable giving decline

• 39% saw a decline in rental revenue

• 75% saw a decline in total revenue

Hold an online gathering by Zoom on March 21st at 7:00pm. This should be sent to all congregations.

1. **List of CoF with a manse**

Twelve in total (15 in ARW).

1. **List of Churches that applied for a GCO loan to cover CEBA Loan**

Cave Springs Camp and New Vision UC, Hamilton.

1. **Restricted Fund Policy**

Shawn, Adrienne & Lynne will meet.

**Executive Report**

**Staff Report:**

Mark Laird will be the EM at the time of the next meeting.

**Next Meeting:**  March 12th at 7:00pm

Territorial Acknowledgement: Lynne

Worship by: Lynne

**Affirm Initiatives**

Section A Encourage communities of faith to make use of available resources, including the Affirm Network, to discuss issues of inclusion and diversity

Section B Encourage conversations with ecumenical and interfaith groups and community partners, especially with our full-communion partners regarding best practices

Section E Encourage communities of faith to engage in conversations about making safer spaces within the church and community for people of any sexual orientation or gender identity.