**Executive**

**Horseshoe Falls Regional Council**

**of The United Church of Canada**

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

**MINUTES**

April 24, 2024, 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, Adrianne Robertson, Yvonne Wright

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

**Regrets:** Lennox Scarlett, Wendy Lowden, Debbie McMillan

**Constitute Meeting:** Acting President Deborah Laforet

*I constitute this meeting in the name of Jesus Christ, the one true head of the Church and by the*

*authority vested 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.*

**Land Acknowledgement & Check-in:** Acting President Deborah Laforet

# Worship: Mark Laird

# Opening Agreements

## Consent Docket

**MOTION**: Adrianne Robertson / Marilyn Johnston

To approve the Consent Docket

A. Enabling Actions

1. That the proposed Agenda be approved as presented.

2. That the minutes of the meeting of March 6, 2024 be approved as distributed.

3. That motions be written and given to the Secretary.

B. Confirmation of email vote

March 20, 2024

MOTION: John Hurst /Deborah Laforet

The Executive of Horseshoe Falls Regional Council agrees to approve the following:

a. That the ARW/WOW and HF Regional Councils subsidize the Audacious Hope event registration fee by $325 for the first 100 registrants from any of the three Regional Councils.

b. That the ARW/WOW and HF Regional Councils share equally the cost of the subsidized registration fee for the first 100 participants who register for Audacious Hope from ARW, WOW, or HF Regional Councils.

c. That the ARW/WOW/HF Executives direct the Executive Minister and Regional Council Treasurers to pay the registration fee subsidy out of applicable grants or unrestricted reserves. CARRIED.

C. Correspondence Received

1. Remit Project Summary (Thérèse Samuel, Minister Right Relations & Social Justice, and John Egger, Minister Social Justice)

2. Remit Reach-Out Coordinators Final Report (Cathy Hird, Sula Kosacky, Richard Auckland).

3. UCC Foundation: notification of grant, in the amount of $400.00 has been sent to HFRC. Gift from the Annie D. Bennett Trust.

4. Learning Fund Grant: Irene Ty. For information only. Grant in the amount of $300.00 approved by Administrative Assistant, Finance, and Executive Assistant (per HFRC Executive motion, meeting of November 22, 2023).

D. Omnibus Motion

Horseshoe Falls Regional Council (9) Omnibus motion – April 24, 2024

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

a) QUEST Learning Centre for Religious Literacy

…pursuant to the Incorporated Ministries Policy of The United Church of Canada approve the request of QUEST Learning Centre for Religious Literacy to dissolve the corporation on or after June 30, 2024 and begin the winding up of the charity per its decision of March 10, 2024.

This is based on the formal request of the board, the draft GENERAL MEETING MINUTES of March 10, 2024, and receipt of other required documentation per the Incorporated Ministries Policy of The United Church of Canada.

**CARRIED.**

**Business Arising**

1. Commission Reports
2. Congregational Support Commission. Chair Adrianne Robertson referred to the written report she submitted. Noted that the vulnerable congregations workshop was well received and beneficial to those who participated.
3. Discipleship and Justice Commission: Chair Sula Kosacky noted that the March meeting of the commission was entirely consumed by remit reach-out work.
4. UCW
5. : The UCW annual meeting will be April 27, at Grace United, Burlington, talking about transition and change. Richard Bott will lead the morning service. Brenna Baker is the afternoon speaker. Sixty-seven women will be attending.

Marilyn Johnston’s term as UCW president ends at the April 27th meeting. Wanda Kelly is the incoming UCW president and will be the UCW representative to HFRC Executive for the next two years.

1. Annie D. Bennett Grant

**MOTION:** Yvonne Wright / Adrianne Robertson

The Executive of Horseshoe Falls Regional Council agrees to give authorization to the Disciple and Justice Commission to disburse the $400.00 gift received from the Annie D. Bennett Trust in accordance with the terms of the Trust. **CARRIED.**

1. Volunteer Recruitment Team Mandate

**MOTION:** Christina Crawford / Sula Kosacky

The Executive of Horseshoe Falls Regional Council Executive approves the Volunteer Recruitment Committee Mandate as presented and directs that the Mandate be added to the HFRC Governance Handbook. **CARRIED.**

1. Day of Fellowship: Sula Kosacky provided a brief update. Per staff, there are 44 registrants so far. A save the date package has just been sent out. An AV team and hospitality team are lined up. If anyone is aware of a United Church that has a liturgical drama or dance group, please let Sula or President Lennox know. Needed: 9 or 10 more volunteers to set up and take down lunch tables and chairs. Hope can do a little more promoting and get people’s attention.

Question raised: what is the number of people need to break even for cost. Not a metric introduced to the planning team, Sula commented. Event planning has been approached purely from the perspective of offering a time for people to gather, share community and fellowship.

Other ways to promote: promo package to send to ministers/admins to share with congregations. Those who are unable to register online or run into technical difficulties, can reach out to staff member Michele Petick. Suggested as something to consider, a registrant number when it is not viable to proceed.

1. Regional Council Evaluation breakout room discussions: document in Sharepoint:

Debbie McMillan, Yvonne Wright and Deborah Laforet met to look over the document and prepare the report.

It was agreed that the team will work to put the report in chart form, as a better tool for people to read. The report will be added to the spring meeting workbook. To speak to it at the meeting.

The team will also meet to discuss how to present the report at the spring meeting. Suggested: review highlights/what has been accomplished and next steps. Including possibly creating a task group follow up on what is recommended in the document, ie. bring recommendations to Commissions, executive, staff, etc. and follow up on whether there has been change, if change was needed, and if initial concerns have been addressed. And also perhaps adding a check-in on progress to every executive agenda.

**New Business**

1. Proposal 1: Sabbatical Proposal

**MOTION**: Sula Kosacky / Yvonne Wright

That the Executive of Horseshoe Falls Regional Council approve the Sabbatical Proposal presented by Minister, Congregational Support, Lynne Allin, and authorize her sabbatical leave from Sept 1, 2024 – November 22, 2024. **CARRIED.**

Ann Harbridge (WOWRC Congregational Support Commission Chair/covered for John Neff in his absence last year) will cover Lynne’s portfolio during her sabbatical, on a part-time basis, with support from John Neff and Mark Laird.

1. Staff Update (Mark Laird)

Pretima Kukadia-Kinting is currently on leave. Michele Petick, as of April 1, is working fulltime picking up the e-newsletter and various tech pieces. Krista Ford will be working fulltime picking up Human Resources Commission (ARW, HF, WOW) minutes and ARW Congregational Support minutes. Elizabeth Marshall’s contract to cover Ruthanna Mack’s portfolio ends at the end of June. In July, Krista will take over that portfolio (which includes office site management and picking up regional council mail) and continue fulltime.

1. Elcho Trustees

Elcho United Church, Wellandport have made the decision to disband and have turned their property over to the regional council. The commission set a disbanding date of April 9, 2024. This will now fall under the Executive’s responsibility to appoint trustees and deal with remaining property. There is also a cemetery involved.

**MOTION:** Adrianne Robertson / Yvonne Wright

That the Executive of Horseshoe Falls Regional Council appoint Sula Kosacky, Joh Hurst and Paul Miller as the Trustees for Elcho United Church Wellandport. **CARRIED.**

It was suggested that those appointed to as Elcho trustees reach out to the People’s Memorial United Church trustees appointed by the regional council, for guidance on next steps.

1. Next regular meeting: May 22, 2024. Date to be held open, but will meet only if there is urgent business that can’t be dealt with via email vote.

With Deborah Laforet and Marilyn Johnston’s terms on Executive coming to a close, Mark Laird, as the newest person at Executive, thanked them for the time they served on the Executive, the gifts they brought to the gathering and the leadership and wisdom they shared.

Save the Date: June 26, HF Exec and Exec/Commissions Orientation, Regional Council Office.

**Adjournment 4:53 PM**