**Horseshoe Falls Regional Council Fall Meeting**

Friday, Oct 4 – Saturday, Oct 5, 2024   
  
**Online Meeting Workbook**

**Renewal and Transformation**

**A Season of Hope!**



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# Workbook Introduction

**Theme: Renewal and Transformation … A Season of Hope!**

### Purpose:Supports, Connects, Empowers Communities of Faith

**Priorities:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Assessment** | **Mission & Support** |
| Communities of Faith Support/Pastoral Relations | Children and Youth |
| Communications and Resources Support | Chaplaincy |
| Connecting/Meeting | Social Justice |

### Format and Process: Decision Making

The format for General Council proposals is being used for the regional meeting. The General Council approach involves three distinct stages in the decision-making process:

1. Listening/learning;
2. Discussion;
3. Decision.

In our regional council meeting we do not have the space or time to mirror these stages in the same way the General Council practices them.

In our proceedings, the steps will be:

1. The Presenter will outline:
   1. What is the issue? And,
   2. The suggested way in which the regional council might respond to the issue.
2. The President will inquire if there are questions for clarification. Please note this is for clarification only.
3. The President will then ask if there are changes or additions being suggested for the proposal.
4. Once there is significant agreement, the President will invite the Presenter to move the motion at which point the regional council enters the formal debate process.

# 

# BRAVE: Commitment to Community Safety

We strive, in this time of co-learning, to be brave by:

**B** *eing accountable for the impact of both our words and our silence*

**R** *eflecting on and naming our own biases*

**A** *ctively listening*

**V** *ocalizing questions that arise from our learning*

**E** *ncountering new ideas with curiosity and wonder*

# Horseshoe Falls Regional Council

# Affirming Ministry Vision Statement

**SAFETY. SANCTUARY. UNCONDITIONAL LOVE**

Striving to be faithful followers of Jesus in our time and place, Horseshoe Falls Regional Council will continue to remove barriers to participation in the life and work of the regional council and society, committing ourselves to be open to the Spirit.

Resisting all forms of oppression, we welcome and celebrate people of any sexual orientation and gender identity, and all others who are marginalized.

The Regional Council, Staff, Executive, Commissions, networks, and members commit to working toward fulfilling the vision statement by:

1. Continuing to remove barriers to participation in the life and work of Horseshoe Falls Regional Council.
2. Continuing to remove barriers to participation in society.
3. Committing to be open to the Spirit.
4. Resisting oppression.
5. Welcoming and celebrating people of any sexual orientation and gender identity.

# 

# Participation in a Virtual Meeting

If joining by Zoom, please review the following. How Zoom presents depends upon the device being used. Every participant is expected to know:

1. How to **mute** and **unmute** themselves;
2. How to turn their **video on** and **off**;
3. How to **rename themselves**;
4. How to **raise their hand**.

If you are not familiar with these options, there are zoom information tips on our website at: [Zoom](https://hfrcucc.ca/a-to-z-resources/) [resources.](https://hfrcucc.ca/a-to-z-resources/)

#### Please ensure you have updated to the latest version of Zoom. Otherwise, some meeting options might not work for you.

**Waiting Room**

When you first log into the meeting, you will be placed in a waiting room. As soon as the meeting is ready to start, you will be automatically admitted.

#### Participants

When you are admitted to the meeting, please go immediately to the **Participants list**. You will see your name listed BUT sometimes you are identified by the type of device you are using. The President will be recognizing people on the basis of the name that is shown. So, please change your name to read **First Name**/**Surname** by hovering over the mic and camera icons, click on **More**, then **Rename**.

*For example, Executive Minister, Mark’s iPhone might read: Mark’s iPhone. Mark would need to go to the* ***Participant list*** *and* ***change his name*** *to: Mark Laird (he/him). All participants are encouraged to* ***add their pronouns*** *after their name.*

Those who are at the meeting as a guest (not a voting participant) please add an x in front of your name. THIS IS IMPORTANT IF YOU ARE A NON-VOTING GUEST.

For example, if Mark was a guest, he would write his name as:

**x-Mark Laird.** This helps us with vote counting.

#### Mute

All participants will be automatically muted when they enter the meeting. Please ensure your microphone remains off. This reduces background noise and feedback and improves the quality of sound for everyone.

You will need to click on the **Mute** button to turn on your microphone if you are recognized by the President to speak in debate and when you move into breakout rooms.

#### Video

Please have your video on as you join the meeting! It is lovely to see everyone as the meeting begins. Once the meeting begins, please turn off your video. That way, you have some privacy if you move around and are not in danger of sharing unintentionally. This also helps with the stability of the Zoom call especially in places with unstable internet.

#### Thumbs Up/Thumbs Down

There may be times when the President wishes to informally poll the regional council concerning a proposed change. The President may ask for a thumbs up or thumbs down. These two icons are found under reactions.

#### Being recognized to speak

To be recognized to speak in the discussion time, first **please raise your hand** by clicking on the button labeled **Raise Hand**. Your digital hand will then be raised. The Zoom host will draw the President’s attention to your hand. The hand will be lowered by the meeting hosts after you have spoken.

#### Remember when the President calls you by name to:

1. **Unmute** your microphone
2. Turn on **video**
3. **State your name**; and
4. Your **community of faith** – be sure to add the location as we have a few Trinity United

Churches, Emmanuel United Churches, St. John’s United Churches …

#### Voting

This will be explained in the meeting. If you are a guest, please remember you do not vote.

#### Chat Box

Please reserve the chat box for the following:

1. Questions of **clarification**;
2. **Procedural concerns** and questions;
3. **Matters of privilege** (for example someone uses a term that is insulting to another who then wishes to bring that to the President’s attention re the conduct of the council).

Many of us have experience of meetings where the chat box served as the discussion space, which in fact turns it into commentary. Discussion happens among participants when the President recognizes the speaker. The Chat Box is a side conversation that is distracting and disruptive.

If you see a friend among the participants with whom you wish to chat, please feel free to **send a private message** to them. Go to Participants, enter their name or scroll to their name & click on it and then you can send them a private note!

#### Breakout Rooms

Participants will be invited to move into a breakout room at various times during the meeting.

To join the breakout room, participants must accept the **join invitation**. Once you enter the breakout room, unmute your microphone and turn on your video.

# 

# Equity Support Team Member Position Description

The members of the Equity Support Team are two or more individuals who might volunteer to be active participants at a United Church meeting or event. The Equity Support Team members are part of the leadership of a meeting or an event, and have responsibilities before, during, and after a gathering.

Equity realizes that in order to ensure fair treatment, access, opportunity, and advancement for all peoples, we need to identify and eliminate barriers that have prevented the full participation of some people and groups. Equity moves closer to justice, and it is part of the work of the church.

While working toward equity is a collective responsibility of everyone, the members of the Equity Support Team have a particular role in helping to name equity issues at gatherings.

#### Responsibilities

Before the meeting

* Attend planning team meetings, when possible, to help offer advice about equity- related issues and to help shape the planning process for the event or meeting.
* Receive background education and training on equity and receive an orientation to the Equity Support Team role.
* Offer advice about Web content, meetings, workshops, or events so that they follow established protocols for equity, accessibility, and communication-related issues; and that PowerPoint slides comply with an established font size protocol (as suggested by the 43rd General Council), and communicate a set of best practices for online and in- person meetings.
* Along with the planning team, clarify that the role of the Equity Support Team is different from the role of theological reflectors, chaplains, Elders, and other leadership roles that are present at a meeting or event.
* Share a contact phone number or equity e-mail with participants so they can be in touch with the Equity Support Members during the gathering.
* Be introduced to participants of the meeting in advance (by short video and/or by e-mail with a bio) so participants at the meeting might get to know the team members before the gathering takes place.

During the meeting

* At the beginning of the meeting, offer a covenant, equity agreements, intercultural lens questions, or other related protocols that can help work toward equity at the gathering.
* Be available (by phone or e-mail) to participants at the meeting who would like to share about any equity-related issues over the course of the meeting (including affirmation of processes, or hearing particular challenges that people are experiencing).
* Help work toward the full participation of peoples of all identities.
* Be attentive to microaggressions, unhelpful power dynamics, harm, intercultural conflicts, oppressive practices, and/or other inequities.
* If hurt or harm has been done in the course of a meeting, in most cases do not offer a direct intervention or interjection in the moment, but rather be in touch with the moderator or chair of the meeting and ask them to address the issue at another point during the gathering.
* Partway through the gathering and/or at the end of the gathering, offer advice and feedback on how the meeting has been functioning in terms of equity. It is helpful to offer some affirmation about what has been going well, and suggestions for a subsequent gathering.
* When reporting back to the meeting, point out any issues in a general way, and not specifically target individual people.

After the meeting

* Meet with staff and/or the planning team to offer feedback about equity for a subsequent meeting. These could name what has worked well and what should continue, as well as suggestions for improvement at a subsequent meeting.
* If possible, offer a written report of their insights and recommendations for a future meeting.

#### Background

The United Church of Canada, through its General Council, has made several commitments around equity in recent years. These commitments include the following:

* adopting [the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous](https://united-church.ca/social-action/justice-initiatives/reconciliation-and-indigenous-justice/un-declaration-rights) [Peoples](https://united-church.ca/social-action/justice-initiatives/reconciliation-and-indigenous-justice/un-declaration-rights) as the framework for reconciliation between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples
* adopting the [*Calls to the Church*](https://united-church.ca/community-faith/being-community/indigenous-ministries/calls-church)as the basis for a new relationship
* welcoming [people of all sexual orientations and gender identities](https://united-church.ca/community-faith/being-community/gender-sexuality-and-orientation) into full membership and ministry in the church
* committing to becoming [an intercultural church](https://united-church.ca/community-faith/being-community/intercultural-ministries)
* committing to becoming an open, accessible, and barrier-free church, where there is [full](https://united-church.ca/community-and-faith/being-community/disability-and-inclusion) [participation of people with disabilities](https://united-church.ca/community-and-faith/being-community/disability-and-inclusion)
* working toward functional bilingualism and ensuring that francophone ministries are an integral

part of the church’s identity, mission, and vision

* opposing discrimination of any kind on the basis of identity, and
* developing an anti-racism policy and committing to becoming an [anti-racist](https://united-church.ca/social-action/justice-initiatives/anti-racism) [denomination](https://united-church.ca/social-action/justice-initiatives/anti-racism).

All of these commitments are part of ongoing and sustained efforts for the United Church to continue to work toward equity, creating better places of belonging for people of all identities, to challenging power and privilege, and to live into God’s call to be the church.

# Section One: Check-In

### President Lennox Scarlett’s Message:

**Hello Siblings in Christ!**

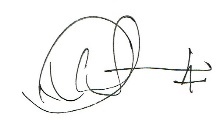
There is always a passage of scripture to spur us on as Christians, and for this season the Apostle Paul provides us with yet another Word to ponder. He writes in Phil. 2:1-2, “Therefore if you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any common sharing in the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, **2**then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind.” Wow! A Word in season. If there is ever a time for a community of sharing and the demonstration of one accord through compassion is now. Christendom has been under attack from various angles … inside and out, and as a region we have not gone unscathed.

With many communities of faith facing the scary prospect of closure, negotiating the turbulence of dwindling numbers, and dealing with the onslaught of many negative comments about the institution of the church, it’s clear there is much work to do. Perhaps a ministry of presence in the respective communities of our existence should be contemplated. What if there is reprioritizing of the vocation as presenters of God’s presence in the world? What if we cultivate the habits and liturgies that create the space and contours for that presence to be felt and known? Would that then redefine the place of the church?

My sense is that we wrestle with many things, not least of which is the consumerism of contemporary Christianity, which has unsurprisingly led to many communities of faith becoming more homogeneous than ever. So, when we go to churches that fit us (how we look, talk and worship) we will naturally be surrounded by people who look, talk and worship just like us. But homogeneity is not the biblical ideal. The power of the gospel is that of unifying diverse groups of people, breaking down the walls of hostility that naturally divide us (race, class, culture, gender, music preference, whatever). At a time when social media allows us to curate feeds and surround ourselves with people who agree with us and confirm our biases, this work becomes even more difficult. There is much work to do.

In this new season of Renewal and Transformation, we want to hear the stories from your communities of faith. We know some will be difficult to tell, but we also know that there are some which are filled with hope that will inspire us to keep going striving. The assignment right now may seem daunting, but let’s hear again the words of assurance offered to Joshua, “Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go” (Josh. 1:9). Let’s keep journeying together.

Looking forward to our engagement!

One Love,

Rev. Lennox Scarlett

President, Horseshoe Falls Regional Council

# Candidates:

# Jess Swance

# Ted Smith

**Peggy Bartlett**

*As at October 2024*

# In Memoriam

Rev. Edith Bolton, DLM

Rev. Bryan Melick, OM



# Community of Faith Life Cycle Changes

### Disbandment and Disbanding

***With thanks for their legacy and faithful service***

Vineland UC ceased to worship June 2024

York UC will cease to Worship Dec 2024

# Section Two: Congregational Support Commission

The Congregational Support Commission (CSC) carries primary responsibility for the relationship between communities of faith and the region and their partnership on matters requiring a decision by both the community of faith and the regional council, other than the pastoral relationship. The responsibilities of the Commission include:

* The articulation of ministry (Community of Faith Profile)
* The use of financial and property resources
* Local governance;
* The overall health and well‐being of communities of faith, such as changes in the life cycle, dealing with real property etc.

**If you have questions about any aspects of the life and work of your church,**

**the toolkits on the Horseshoe Falls website are a great place to start!**

: <https://hfrcucc.ca/toolkits>

**Pastoral Charge Supervision**

A new policy regarding Pastoral Charge Supervision came into effect on January 1, 2024. More information about this new policy can be found at the toolkit link above under Toolkit #10. A big thank you to those individuals who have taken on the role of Pastoral Charges Supervisors over the past year. Your time and dedication to this important role is appreciated and valued. We are always looking for those who would like to serve in this capacity! *If you are interested in becoming a Pastoral Charge Supervisor and are a member of the order of ministry or a lay representative to the region, please fill out and submit the interest form found in Toolkit #10.*

**Property**

Effective June 26, 2024 funds from the sale of a manse are no longer restricted. This includes past, present and future sales. These funds may be used for any purpose decided by the congregation. However, if the amount being withdrawn in a year equals $250,000 or 50% of net revenue used for assessment purposes (whatever is lower) this is a major asset transaction requiring regional council approval by the CSC.

In addition, regional council approval by the CSC is required if your Community of faith is entering into a lease of your property, applying for a loan from an extension council or any other party, as well as any “major renovation” (repair, work, addition, upgrade or capital improvement or like project) to your real property that is estimated or expected to cost the lower of 50% of net revenue used for assessment purposes for the prior calendar year or $250,000.00 or more. Detailed information can be found in Toolbox #5 using the Toolbox link above.

**Communities of Faith**

**Vulnerable Congregations**

The CSC recognizes that many communities of faith are beginning to see signs that their finances and volunteer resources are declining. A Webinar about Vulnerable Congregations was held in March to help communities of faith engage in conversation and explore options about the future of congregational life. If you are interested in learning more, a recording of this webinar can be found here <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Xssm5ta30-Y&list=PLBcwukBM7j-Ae4Cjl6Z3Qr2eHzDnxPjKf&index=45&t=113s>

**Good News Story**

The commission would like to lift up and celebrate the work of eight United Churches in Oakville who have formed a cluster and have been meeting and working together over the last year.   
(Glen Abbey, Maple Grove, Munn’s, Palermo, St. John’s, St. Paul’s, Trinity and Walton)   
The Cluster is working towards a better understanding of what they can be together, not only to serve their individual congregations but also as a shared presence in the community.  Conversations around collaboration, communication and meeting together continues with a focus this year on The United Church’s 100th Anniversary celebrations, Collective Outreach opportunities and Food Security. Introductions have been made to committee chairs within churches. The cluster promotes one another's special worship services, bible/book studies, joint confirmation classes, fellowship and fundraising events through a twice monthly newsletter. They worshipped together over the summer and four of the churches are investigating collaboration that has a formal arrangement. One person remarked: *“It’s enlightening to see how we are all similar but we also have differences. Yet it feels like we belong together.  It’s a joy being and seeing old friends even if we hadn’t met before.”*

**Collaborative Ministry Agreements (Newly approved or Terminated)**

* Bethesda United Church and Ryerson United Church, Ancaster (ended by mutual agreement)
* Rockton United Church, Sheffield United Church, Lynden United Church & Freelton-Strabane United Church

**Sales of Property**

* Vineland United Church
* Listed for Sale:

St. Paul’s United Church, Oakville  
 York United Church, York

**Disbanded Communities of Faith**

* Trinity Pastoral Charge, Thorold
* Faith United, Milton
* Elcho Pastoral Charge, Wellandport

***The Commission meets monthly on the second Tuesday. All documentation that is needing approval must be sent to the Congregational Support Minister for the commission’s review no later than the first of the month.***

Many thanks to Lynne Allin for her faithful dedication and expertise in her role as Congregational Support Minister. Lynne is on Sabbatical from September to November 2024 and we are grateful to Ann Harbridge and John Neff who are supporting the work of the commission during this time.

In May we said goodbye to Judy Chartrand and Mary Anderson as they ended their term on the CSC. Thank you both for your commitment as well as the wisdom you shared throughout your service to the region. We welcomed three new members in June: Doug Caldwell, Barb McGill and Kate Young. Other members of the CSC include: Shawn Bausch, Jane Captstick, Ross Gowan, Steve Lowden, Karen Tobey and Jane Wyllie

Respectfully Submitted,

Adrianne Robertson

Adrianne Robertson, Chair

**Human Resources Commission**

**Human Resources Commission Report**

The Human Resources Commission for HFRC for the current year are Richard Bott (Co-Chair and representative to the Executive) Barbara Duffin (co-ordinator for Liaisons) Joanne Hedge (currently on leave) Sandra Litt (representative to the LLWL working group), Mòrar Murray-Hayes (facilitator of Retiree events), Allison Playfair, Ted Smith, Sue Stephen (Co-Chair),

Heather Weaver Orosz, Jeff Werner, and Michael Veall.

We extend thanks to Commission members whose terms were completed, or who resigned during the past year: Doug Caldwell, Cathy Dilts, and Pat Tooley, our former Chair, for their tireless work while serving on the HRC.

The Human Resources Commission (HRC) is made up of members of ordered ministry and lay people and is supported by Micol Cottrell, Pastoral Relations Minister

HRC works primarily in the area of pastoral relations, including support for ministers and communities of faith in search, support for Ministry & Personnel committees, support for a new pastoral relationship with the United Fresh Start program, appointment of ministers for short-term needs, licensing and support of Licensed Lay Worship Leaders (LLWL), training and networking with Liaisons who represent the Region in searches, and staying connected with Retirees.

Pastoral Relations resources are on the [Pastoral Relations Toolkit](https://hfrcucc.ca/toolkits/) page.

The HRC meets via zoom on the fourth (4th) Wednesday of the month from 1-3 p.m., and has evolved such that in addition to the important work of approving calls and appointments, time is dedicated monthly to the topics of Liaisons, LLWL’s and Retirees.

As Liaisons take on more responsibilities working with Search Committees, training is being updated and offered to them and plans are in place for providing networking sessions. Barb Duffin (contact: <mailto:shem@cogeco.ca>) has taken on the role of Coordinator of Liaisons.

LLWL’s have identified a need for ongoing training and networking. Work is being done on creating a service that can be used in home communities of faith to recognize LLWL’s when they are licensed. Their video will be shown at the Conference meeting.

Two (2) LLWL’s have recently completed their training and their licensing will be recognized at the Conference meeting. Six (6) LLWL’s are in the process of having their licensing renewed.

Sandra Litt (contact: [littsandra@gmail.com](mailto:littsandra@gmail.com)) is the HRC member on the LLWL working group.

**NOTE: The LLWL Working Group is in need of three (3) more members:** one (1) from each of the following groups, Ordered Ministry, LLWL, and a Lay Person. These members do not need to be members of HRC. If interested, please contact Micol Cottrell.

Mòrar Murray Hayes (contact: [morarmur@gmail.com](mailto:morarmur@gmail.com)) continues to be the Coordinator for connecting with Retirees within the Region offering opportunities for Retirees to gather and remain connected whether on zoom or in person. It is noted that in person meetings would best be facilitated within the geography of our previous presbyteries.

For more information on the work of HRC, specifically, dates, times and locations of training and or networking opportunities please watch the HFRC Newsletters.

Finally, we extend our appreciation and thanks to Micol Cottrell, Minister, Pastoral Relations, for his support and guidance, to Pretima Kukadia-Kinting, Administrative Assistant, Communication and Records (currently on leave) and to Michele Petick for working with us in Pretima’s absence and recording our meetings and supporting our work with timely responses to our many questions.

*Sue Stephen (she/her) Richard Bott (he/him)*

Co*-*Chair, Human Resources Commission Co-Chair, Human Resources Commission

**Discipleship and Justice Commission**

The work of the Discipleship and Justice Commission is to support through providing funds, connecting people, providing information and training, and raising awareness: faith formation events, social justice events, camping ministries, chaplaincies, and right relations work. The Discipleship and Justice Commission also receives applications for Mission Support grants to support ministries throughout the region, and awards grants with funds made available each fall.  
  
In the fall of 2023 we awarded $160,000 in Mission Support grants to churches, camps, and chaplaincies around the region, supporting year round ministries, new part time ministries, short term programs, and one-time events.  
  
In the coming weeks we will set our decision making strategies, and decide our granting priorities, and then in November we will award 2024 grants.  
  
Furthermore, in 2024 we have supported events like:

Kids Across the Region  
UCC 360 Antiracism Program

Duty of Care 101 Webinar

Music Ministry Webinar

UNJPPI Training Event – Palestine Land Exercise

“Fishbowl” Intercultural Communication Exercise

And we hope to support other events this fall by making financial support available to support individuals wishing to attend wider church events.   
  
The Discipleship and Justice Commission is supported by a number of our tri-regional staff:   
Kathy Douglas, Minister of Faith Formation; Therese Samuel, Minister of Right Relations and Social Justice; and John Egger, Minister of Social Justice. We are also thankful to have the administrative support of Krista Ford.  
  
In 2023, our support staff encouraged the chairs of Discipleship and Justice from Antler-Rivers Watershed, Western Ontario Waterways, and Horseshoe Falls regions to connect and share ideas about how we do the work of supporting faith formation and social justice in our three regions. That relationship and collaborative spirit came together this spring to pilot a new position in support of our camping ministries. In response to concerns raised in the summer camp season 2023, we worked out a pilot position for a part time mental health counseling professional who would be available by phone to provide advice and support to camp senior staff across all tri-regional camps if mental health concerns came up in 2024. We will be hearing the report on that project and making recommendations for next year in the coming weeks.  
  
  
*Sula Kosacky*

Chairperson, Discipleship and Justice Commission

# Section Three: Meeting Materials

# 

# Agenda for theFall Gathering 2024 Online Meeting

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Friday, October 4 | 6 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. |
|  | Proposal 1: Opening & Procedural Motion |
|  | Welcome, Constitute Meeting, Land Acknowledgement |
|  | Introduction of Meeting Leadership |
|  | Opening Worship |
|  | Community Building |
|  | Presentation on Admissions Process by Marlene Britton |
|  | HR Commission Presentation |
|  | Closing Worship |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Saturday, October 5 | 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. |
|  | Welcome Back |
|  | Opening Worship |
|  | CS Commission Presentation |
|  | GC45 Proposals |
|  | Proposal 3: |
|  | Proposal 4: Remit |
|  | Property Policy presentation |
|  | Break: 5 minutes |
|  | Budget 2025 |
|  | Introduction of Candidates |
|  | D & J Commission Presentation |
|  | Stewardship video |
|  | Youth Delegates to GC45 video |
|  | Lunch: 45 minutes |
|  | Canadian Bible Society Presentation |
|  | Wesley Urban Ministries presentation |
|  | GC45 Proposals continued |
|  | Unfinished/New Business |
|  | Closing Motion |
|  | Closing Blessing and Adjournment |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Sunday, October 6 | 3 p.m. |
|  | Celebration of Ministries Service  St. Andrew’s United Church  95 Darling Street, Brantford, ON |

# Proposal #1 – Opening & Procedural Motion

**Title:** **Opening and Procedural Motion**

**Origin:** Executive Minister

**What is the issue?**

The regional council must establish the procedures by which it will conduct business.

**Why is this issue important?**

This clarifies and confirms the way in which decision-making will happen.

**How might the regional council respond to the issue?**

The regional council might adopt the following as a consent docket:

1. Adopt the agenda as circulated and authorize the Agenda and Business Committee to make any changes as necessary;
2. Approve the minutes of the meeting of 2024-05-25;
3. Receive the minutes of the following meetings of the
4. Executive

24-05-02

1. Congregational Support Commission

2024-07-30

2024-06-26

2024-06-18

2024-05-14

2024-04-18

2024-03-19

2024-02-13

1. Human Resources Commission

2024-06-24

2024-01-24

2023-12-12

2023-11-22

2023-10-25

2023-09-26

1. Discipleship and Justice Commission

2023-11-28

2023-10-31

*Note:  Minutes are posted on the website* [*www.hfrcucc.ca “About” page*](http://www.hfrcucc.ca )

1. Confirm the appointment of Jess Swance to the Discipleship & Justice Commission
2. Confirm the appointment of Barbara Creelman to the Human Resources Commission
3. Confirm the appointment of Kim Shantz to the Human Resources Commission
4. Appoint Nicholas Forrester as Parliamentarian;
5. Appoint Wendy Lowden as Chair, Agenda and Business Committee;
6. Name Tessica Hawkshaw to serve as Equity Support Team Member;
7. Name President Lennox Scarlett, Chair Agenda and Business Committee Wendy Lowden, Executive Minister Mark Laird, and Executive Assistant Max Watkinson, as the Agenda and Business Committee;
8. Set the bounds of the meeting as the zoom call, and the Horseshoe Falls Regional Council Office, 1552, Hwy 6 N., Hamilton, Ontario, and the sanctuary of St. Andrew United Church, 95 Darling St., Brantford, Ontario;
9. Make the designated representative from any United Church ministry, other than a congregation, which has been invited to become a community of faith by entering into a covenant with the regional council, a member of the regional council for this meeting (Section C.1.2 c);
10. Make all guests corresponding members;
11. Set the deadline for new business to be submitted to the Agenda and Business Committee as 9:00 a.m., Saturday, October 5, 2024.
12. Adopt the following method for dealing with proposals for action by the regional council

Step One:

The Presenter will outline:

1. What is the issue? and
2. The suggested way in which the regional council might respond to the issue.

Step Two:

The President will inquire if there are questions for clarification. Please note this is for clarification only.

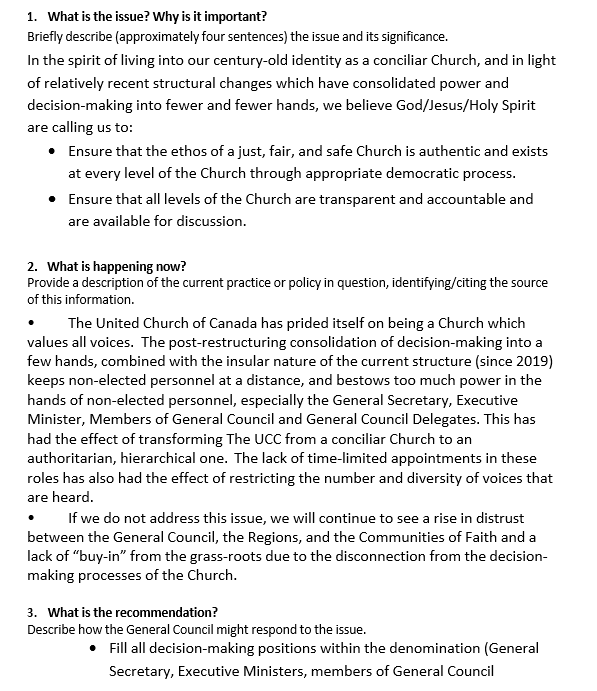
Step Three:

The President will then ask if there are changes or additions being suggested for the proposal. Using warm and cool signals, the regional council will seek to come closer to agreement on how to respond to the issue.

Step Four:

Once there is significant agreement, the President will invite the Presenter to move the motion at which point the regional council enters the formal debate process.

# Proposal #2 – Enhancing our Conciliar Church

**Enhancing our Conciliar Church  
Origin: Rev. Amadeus Pyralis**

### 

### 

# Proposal #3 – Senior Management Accountability

# Senior Management Accountability

# Origin: Rev. Amadeus Pyrallis

# 

# 

# 

# Proposal #4 – Remit and Proposal Integrity Policy

# Remit and Proposal Integrity Policy

### Origin: Rev. Amadeus Pyralis

### 

### 

### 

# Proposal #5 – Finance

**Title: Reviewing 2024 Year-to-Date and Adopting 2025 Operating Budget**

**Origin:** Treasurer

**What is the issue?**    
Transparency and accountability are key elements of financial management in any charity. It is important that the regional council is guided by these principles and models these practices for the communities of faith within its bounds. The regional council needs to understand both the strengths and challenges of its financial situation to be able to function effectively in the present and to ensure it is well positioned for the future.

Establishing a budget for 2025 is one step in this process and will guide the Executive in its management of regional council resources.

**Why is this issue important?**   
The regional council is still becoming familiar with its financial situation and its financial reporting.

Income

The regional council receives two grants to fund its operation:

***Assessment Grant*:** For Governance and Shared Services

***Mission and Service Grant:*** For Mission and Ministry

The regional council also receives funds from:

1. Investment income
2. 50% grant from Archives Reserve to cover its costs
3. Regional council share (25%) of proceeds of disbanding congregations.

Expenses

Expenses are reported according to the ministry they support to help illustrate how the regional council is using its assets to meet its priorities. The budget categories and the staff positions assigned to each are listed below. AA refers to Administrative Assistant.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Ministry** | **Purpose** | **HF’s Share of the following Positions** |
| Regional Operations | Operation of the regional council | Executive Minister  Executive Assistant  .5 Administrative Assistant (AA), D&J and Finance |
| Communities of Faith | Partnering with congregations | Minister, Congregational Support |
| Pastoral Relations | Supporting the formation and nurture of healthy pastoral relationships | Minister, Pastoral Relations  .5 AA, Communication and Records |
| Communication | Newsletters, Websites | .5 AA, Communication and Records  .8 AA, Website Management |
| Connecting | Providing opportunities to come together including regional council meetings | Minister, Pastoral Support |
| Faith Formation | Nurturing discipleship | Minister, Faith Formation  .25 AA, D&J and Finance |
| Chaplaincy | Supporting ministries in post secondary settings |  |
| Social Justice | Seeking to be faithful in the world | .5 Minister, Social Justice  .5 Minister, Social Justice and Right Relations  .25 AA, D&J and Finance |
| Right Relations | Deepening understand and relationship with Indigenous Ministries | .5 Minister, Social Justice and Right Relations |
| Office Operations | Office supplies and equipment |  |
| Building Expenses | Cost to maintain building |  |
| Emerging Ministries | Unbudgeted expenses responding to an emerging situation or to the regional council’s exercise of discipline. |  |

The regional council has established an investment policy and created an investment portfolio that it anticipates will help address the gap between increasing expenses and diminishing grants.

**What might the regional council do?**

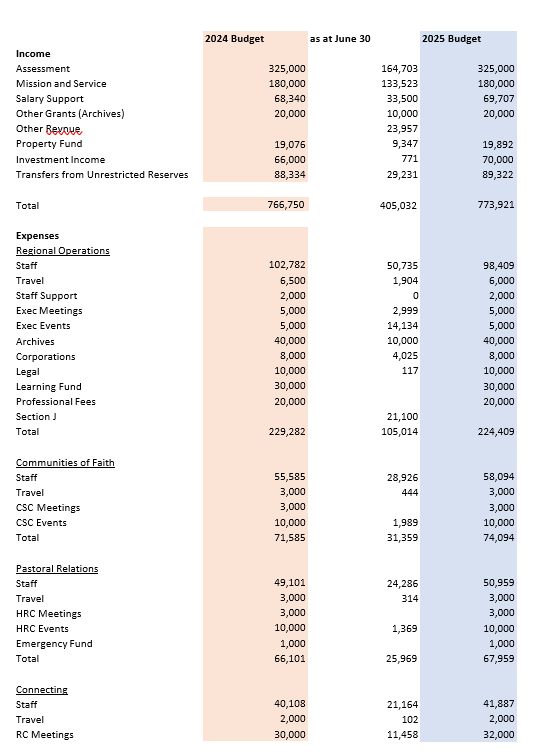
The regional council might:

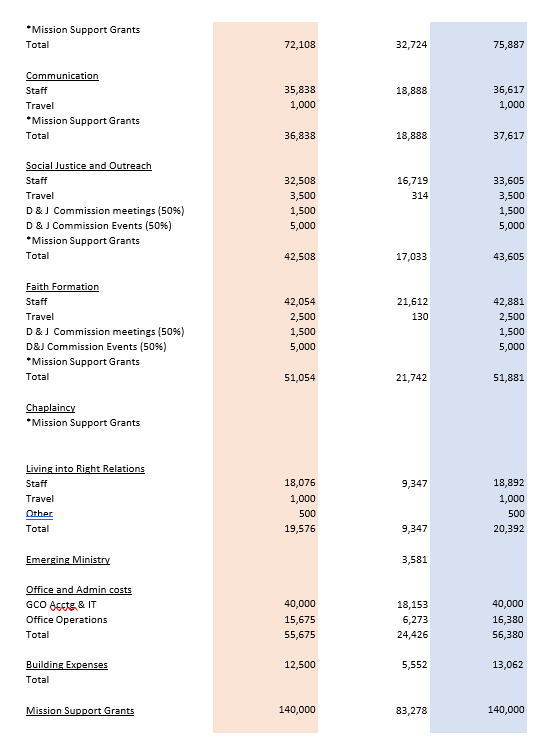
1. Receive the internal 2024 operating statement to date for information;
2. Direct the Executive to deal with the 2023 Auditors’ Report
3. Endorse the following principles for the 2025 budget:
   1. Operating expenses increased by 4.5% for inflation and as the basis for investment income.
   2. Prioritize Mission & Service grants.

4. Appoint KPMG.LCP as auditors for the 2024 Financial Year.

5. Adopt the proposed 2025 budget authorizing the Executive to adapt as necessary within the

above guidelines.







# 

Financial statements of

**DRAFT 2R**

**Updated Aug 6, 2024**

**Horseshoe Falls Regional Council of**

**The United Church of Canada**

December 31, 2023

**Horseshoe Falls Regional Council of The United Church of Canada**

December 31, 2023

**DRAFT 2R**

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Statement of operations 5

Statement of changes in fund balances 6

Statement of cash flows 7

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**Horseshoe Falls Regional Council The United Church of Canada**

Statement of financial position as at

(amounts in Canadian dollars)

**DRAFT 2R**

**(updated Aug 06, 2024)**

**December 31,**

**2023**

December 31,

2022

**Operating**

**Fund**

**Restricted**

**Funds (Schedule 1)**

**$**

**Property**

**Funds**

**Total**

Total

**$**

**$**

**$**

$

**Assets** Current Cash

Accounts receivable (note 5) Short term investments (note 6) Prepaid expenses

**306,085**

**102,872**

**1,531,829**

**-**

**-**

**-**

**-**

**-**

**-**

**-**

**-**

**-**

**306,085**

**102,872**

**1,531,829**

**-**

796,604

112,890

351,604

3,642

**1,940,786**

**-**

**-**

**1,940,786**

1,264,740

Due from/to other funds Investments (note 7)

Investments and promissory notes in a business trust (note 8) Loans receivable (note 9)

Capital assets (note 10)

**(1,074,952)**

**498,731**

**- 347,840**

**-**

**219,196**

**-**

**-**

**-**

**-**

**855,756**

**- 9,944,378**

**- 87,343**

**- 498,731**

**9,944,378**

**347,840**

**87,343**

- 1,114,488

- 304,110

93,055

**1,712,405**

**219,196**

**10,887,477**

**12,819,078**

2,776,393

**Liabilities and fund balances**

Current

Accounts payable and accrued liabilities (note 11) Fund balances

Internally restricted - Schedule 1 Externally restricted - Schedule 1 Unrestricted

**62,685**

**-**

**-**

**62,685**

49,773

**-**

**- 1,649,720**

**1,712,405**

**205,857**

**13,339**

**- 219,196**

**-**

**- 10,887,477**

**10,887,477**

**205,857**

**13,339**

**12,537,197**

**12,819,078**

202,863

18,065

2,505,692

2,776,393

**Approved on behalf of the Regional Council Executive**

**Regional Executive Minister**

**President**

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements

Page | 4

**Horseshoe Falls Regional Council The United Church of Canada**

Statement of operations for the year ended

(amounts in Canadian dollars)

**DRAFT 2R**

**(updated Aug 06, 2024)**

**December 31,**

**2023**

December 31,

2022

**Operating**

**Fund**

**Restricted**

**Funds (Schedule 1)**

**Property**

**Funds**

**Total**

Total

**$**

**$**

**$**

**$**

$

**Revenues (note 12)**

General Council Office assessment funded grants Mission and support grants

Ontario Regional Council Archive grants Other grants

Net proceeds from disbanding congregations Interest income, donations and other revenue

**401,375**

**240,000**

**21,956**

**-**

**- 10,408**

**-**

**-**

**-**

**-**

**-**

**-**

**-**

**-**

**-**

**- 364,943**

**-**

**401,375**

**240,000**

**21,956**

**- 364,943**

**10,408**

434,825

240,000

19,743

9,056

- 47,187

**673,739**

**-**

**364,943**

**1,038,682**

750,811

**Expenses (note 12)**

Salaries, benefits and continuing education Grants

Meetings and travel Office administration

Ontario Regional Council Archives fees General Council Office service fees Amortization

Professional fees Resources

Property and insurance Bank Charges

Other expenses

**396,423**

**148,133**

**37,134**

**4,148**

**43,912**

**44,541**

**- 58,509**

**16,162**

**16,044**

**1,394**

**5,074**

**- 16,449**

**161**

**-**

**-**

**-**

**-**

**- 500**

**-**

**-**

**-**

**17,788**

**233,770**

**-**

**-**

**-**

**- 5,712**

**-**

**-**

**-**

**- 2,108**

**414,211**

**398,352**

**37,295**

**4,148**

**43,912**

**44,541**

**5,712**

**58,509**

**16,662**

**16,044**

**1,394**

**7,182**

340,892

164,750

28,027

14,124

39,486

43,585

5,712

14,731

14,104

10,017

519

1,732

**771,474**

**17,110**

**259,378**

**1,047,962**

677,679

Net revenues, before item below

**(97,735)**

**(17,110)**

**105,565**

**(9,280)**

73,132

Loss from a business trust less interest on promissory notes (no

**-**

**-**

**(105,622)**

**(105,622)**

-

Investment returns

**94,675**

**-**

**-**

**94,675**

19,573

**Net revenues**

**(3,060)**

**(17,110)**

**(57)**

**(20,227)**

92,705

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements

Page | 5

**Horseshoe Falls Regional Council The United Church of Canada**

Statement of changes in fund balances for the year ended

(amounts in Canadian dollars)

**DRAFT 2R**

**(updated Aug 06, 2024)**

**December 31,**

**2023**

December 31,

2022

**Operating**

**Fund**

**Restricted**

**Funds (Schedule 1)**

**$**

**Property**

**Funds**

**Total**

Total

**$**

**$**

**$**

$

**1,668,158**

**-**

**- (3,060)**

**(15,378)**

**220,928**

**-**

**- (17,110)**

**15,378**

**837,534**

**- 10,050,000**

**(57)**

**-**

**2,726,620**

**- 10,050,000**

**(20,227)**

**-**

2,635,406

(1,491)

- 92,705

-

**Fund balances, beginning of year**

Net transfers to church related entity

Gain on sale of beneficial interest in properties (note 8) Net revenues

Interfund transfers (Schedule 1)

**1,649,720**

**219,196**

**10,887,477**

**12,756,393**

2,726,620

**Fund balances, end of year**

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements

Page | 6

**Horseshoe Falls Regional Council The United Church of Canada**

Statement of cash flows for the year ended

(amounts in Canadian dollars)

**DRAFT 2R**

**(updated Aug 06, 2024)**

**December 31,**

**2023**

December 31,

2022

**Total**

Total

**$**

$

**Cash flows from operating activities**

Net revenues Non-cash items

Amortization

Accrued interest on loans

Accrued interest on promissory notes Loss from a business trust Investment net returns

**(20,227)**

92,705

**5,712**

**(7,642)**

**(159,699)**

**265,321**

**(94,675)**

5,712

(4,110)

-

- (19,573)

**(11,210)**

74,734

Changes in non-cash working capital: Accounts receivable

Prepaid expenses

Accounts payable and accrued liabilities

**10,018**

**3,642**

**12,912**

(31,204)

(3,642)

(507,341)

Total cash provided by (used in) operating activities

**15,362**

(467,453)

**Investing activities**

Decrease in loans receivable Decrease in investments Capital assets additions Short term investments Issuance of promissory notes

**(36,088)**

**685,998**

**- (1,155,791)**

**(10,050,000)**

(200,000)

(600,000)

-

-

-

Total cash used in investing activities

**(10,555,881)**

(800,000)

**Financing activities**

Transfer to church related entities

Gain on sale of beneficial interest in property Total cash provided by financing activities

**- 10,050,000**

(1,491)

-

**10,050,000**

(1,491)

Total cash provided (used) Cash, beginning of year **Cash, end of year**

**(490,519)**

**796,604**

(1,268,944)

2,065,548

**306,085**

796,604

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements

Page |7

**Horseshoe Falls Regional Council The United Church of Canada**

Schedule of Restricted Fund Balances for the year ended

(amounts in Canadian dollars)

**DRAFT 2R**

(updated Aug 06, 2024)

**Transfer to church related entities**

**January 01,**

**2022**

**Balance**

**December 31, 2023**

**Balance**

December 31, 2022

Balance

**Revenue**

**Expenses**

**$**

**$**

**$**

**$**

$

$

**Internally Restricted** Mission & Ministry Fund Learning Grant Fund

**205,857**

**(2,994)**

**-**

**-**

**-**

**-**

**- 2,994**

**205,857**

**-**

205,857

(2,994)

**202,863**

**-**

**-**

**2,994**

**205,857**

202,863

**Externally Restricted** The Ker Tapleytown Fund Sisters Together Fund Annie D. Bennett Trust

**(10,159)**

**11,775**

**16,449**

**-**

**-**

**-**

**- (661)**

**(16,449)**

**10,159**

**2,225**

**-**

**- 13,339**

**-**

(10,159)

11,775

16,449

**18,065**

**-**

**(17,110)**

**12,384**

**13,339**

18,065

**Total**

**220,928**

**-**

**(17,110)**

**15,378**

**219,196**

220,928

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements

Page | 8

**Horseshoe Falls Regional Council of The United Church of Canada**

Notes to the financial statements December 31, 2023

(amounts in thousands of Canadian dollars)

**DRAFT 2R**

**1.**

**The Horseshoe Falls Regional Council of The United Church of Canada**

The purpose of Horseshoe Falls Regional Council of The United Church of Canada (“the Regional Council”) is to be responsible for providing leadership and resources to the pastoral charges within its boundary in order that the life and work of Jesus Christ may be known in The United Church of Canada (“The Church”) and in the world.

The Regional Council is the regional headquarters in the Niagara Falls region of southern Ontario for The Church and was established as a result of the restructuring of The Church on January 1, 2019. The Regional Council is an unincorporated entity and, is a Canadian registered charity exempt from income tax.

The Regional Council is a partner in a cost sharing agreement with Antler River Watershed Regional Council (“Antler”) and Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council (“Western”), which includes sharing costs for regional operating activities, events, workshops and, property capital and operating expenses at various rates of participation (note 10).

**Basis of presentation**

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations (“ASNPO”) established by the Chartered Professional Accountants of Canada (“CPA Canada”).

*Fund accounting*

The Regional Council uses the restricted fund method of reporting restricted donations. The funds are described as follows:

*Operating Fund*

This fund records the day-to-day operations of the activities under the control of the Regional Council, which include governance and, development and delivery of programs to support: pastoral relations; local faith communities; social justice and outreach ministries; faith formation; and right relations ministries. This fund includes contributions, donations, bequests, grants and other receipts of the Regional Council for specific and general purposes. These resources are unrestricted.

*Internally Restricted Funds*

Internally restricted funds (see Schedule 1) account for transfers, approved at meetings by the executive, to various reserve accounts and the individual transactions charged to these reserves in support of selected ministries. These funds are included in the statement of financial position under the caption “Restricted Funds”.

*Externally Restricted Funds*

Externally restricted funds (see Schedule 1) have specific restrictions placed by the donors on the initial contributions (“capital”) and the use of investment income accruing to these funds. These funds are included in the statement of financial position under the caption “Restricted Funds”.

*Property Funds*

These funds account for net proceeds from disbanding congregations, allocations from the Operating Fund and investments in a business trust including promissory notes. These funds from disbanding congregations are used to provide assistance with grants to The Church’s ministries, communities of faith, learning events and, other church related entities and programs. These funds also support staffing of the various ministries of the Regional Council. These funds include accrued interest income on the promissory notes received from a business trust and the equity losses from the business trust.

**2.**

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**Horseshoe Falls Regional Council of The United Church of Canada**

Notes to the financial statements December 31, 2023

(amounts in thousands of Canadian dollars)

**DRAFT 2R**

**3.**

**Significant accounting policies and practices**

The significant accounting policies followed by the Regional Council with respect to its regional accounts are as follows:

*Cash*

Cash includes cash held for liquidity purposes in bank accounts and term deposits or similar instruments that can be redeemed at any time for face value plus interest accrued to the redemption date.

*Financial instruments*

Financial assets and financial liabilities are initially recognized at fair value, adjusted for transaction costs. Except for investments, the Regional Council subsequently measures all its financial assets and financial liabilities at amortized cost. Financial assets measured at amortized cost include, accounts and loans receivables. Financial liabilities measured at amortized costs include accounts payable and accrued liabilities.

Investments are carried at fair value. The purchase and sale of investments are accounted for using settlement date accounting. Investment management fees are expensed as incurred.

The funds held with an investment manager are part of the Regional Council's long term investment strategy and are classified as long-term investments, irrespective of liquidity.

*Loans receivable*

Loans receivable are made to support existing congregations, ministers and candidates for ministry in their pursuit of education and leadership development. The loans, recorded at cost, are generally non-interest bearing with no specific terms of repayment unless otherwise specified.

*Investments and promissory notes in a business trust*

Investments in a business trust include promissory notes and are accounted for using the equity method as explained further in note 8. Under the equity method of accounting, the Regional Council recognizes all earnings and losses from its business trust. Accrued interest income from the promissory notes is recognized annually in the statement of operations and included in the caption “Loss from a business trust less interest on promissory notes”. The investment is written down when, in the opinion of management, there has been a significant change in expected timing or amount of future cash flows from the investment.

*Capital Assets and Amortization*

Capital assets are stated at acquisition cost. Amortization is provided on a straight-line basis over: 10 years for building improvements, furniture and fixtures; and 25 years for building.

*Revenue Recognition*

Revenue consists primarily of grants from The General Council Office of The United Church of Canada (“the GCO”) and contributions from disbanding congregations as they dispose of their property and distribute their net assets. Grants received from the GCO are recognized in the fiscal year in which they are received. Net proceeds from disbanding congregations are recognized as revenue when received or receivable based on the date of the passing of the Regional Council motion to disband the congregation. Registration fees from the semi-annual general meetings, workshops and events are recognized in the period in which they occur.

Interest income on loans receivable is accrued and recognized as specified in the loan agreements. Net investment returns are recognized as earned and comprise; interest and dividend income; fair value changes; and investment management fees.

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**Horseshoe Falls Regional Council of The United Church of Canada**

Notes to the financial statements December 31, 2023

(amounts in thousands of Canadian dollars)

**DRAFT 2R**

**3.**

**Significant accounting policies and practices (continued)**

*Use of Estimates*

The preparation of financial statements requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect: the reported amounts of assets and liabilities; disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements; and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reporting period. The Regional Council makes estimates in determining significant accrued liabilities and the recoverability of loans and promissory notes receivable. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

**4.**

**Financial instruments risk disclosures**

The main risks the Regional Council’s financial instruments are exposed to consist of market risk (including interest rate risk, price risk and currency exchange risk), credit risk and liquidity risk. The investment committee was formed by the Executive Committee and has established a Statement of Investment Policies and Procedures (“SIPP”), which it uses to manage the above-noted risks. There have been no significant changes to the above noted risk exposures from 2022.

The following describes the various risks and how the Regional Council addresses such risks:

*Market Risk*

Market risk is the risk that the fair value or future cash flows of a financial instrument will fluctuate because of changes in market prices. Market risk is comprised of interest rate risk, currency risk and other price risk. Management manages this risk with a diversified investment portfolio.

*Interest Rate Risk*

Interest rate risk refers to the risk that the fair value of financial instruments and future cash flows associated with the instruments will fluctuate due to changes in market interest rates. The Regional Council’s exposure to interest rate risk arises from its interest-bearing assets.

*Currency Risk*

Currency risk is the risk that the fair value of future cash flows of a financial instrument will fluctuate due to changes in foreign exchange rates. The Regional Council does have investments denominated in foreign currency (2023 – 12.9%; 2022 – 7.6% of total investments), subject to SSIP limits.

*Other Price Risk*

Other price risk refers to the risk that the fair value of the financial instruments will fluctuate because of changes in market prices (other than those arising from currency risk or interest rate risk), whether those changes are specific to the individual instrument or its issuer or factors affecting all similar instruments trading in the same market. The Regional Council is exposed to market risk through its investment in fixed income, equity and money market securities. Management manages this risk by selecting securities that are diversified as to industry and geography.

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**Horseshoe Falls Regional Council of The United Church of Canada**

Notes to the financial statements December 31, 2023

(amounts in thousands of Canadian dollars)

**DRAFT 2R**

**4.**

**Financial instruments risk disclosures (continued)**

*Credit Risk*

The Regional Council is exposed to credit risk resulting from the possibility that counterparties default on their financial obligations, or if there is a concentration of financial obligations which have similar economic characteristics that could be affected by changes in economic conditions, such that the Regional Council could incur a financial loss. The Regional Council’s maximum exposure to credit risk is represented by the carrying values of its cash, accounts receivable, loans receivable, promissory notes and money market instruments. The Regional Council’s cash is on deposit with a Canadian Chartered bank and therefore the Regional Council is not subject to significant credit risk. The Regional Council’s accounts receivable, loans receivable and promissory notes include amounts due from related parties and HST rebates. There is no significant exposure to credit risk.

*Liquidity Risk*

Liquidity risk is the risk that the Regional Council cannot meet its commitments when they become due. Liquidity risk also includes the risk of the Regional Council not being able to liquidate assets in a timely manner. The Regional Council’s management manages this risk by reviewing expected cash flow requirements through its budgeting process, anticipating investing and financing activities and holding assets that can be readily converted into cash.

**5.**

**Accounts receivable**

Accounts receivable, totaling $102,872 (2022- $112,890), of which $93,316 (2022 –

$109,808) consist of amounts receivable from related parties, Antler and Western, for shared costs of property, office expenses, AGM and specific workshops and events.

**6.**

**Short term investments**

Short term investments totaling $1,531,829 (2022 - $351,604) consist of Canadian GIC’s maturing within the next 12 to 24 months and a high interest savings account balance. They are used to support operating cash flow fluctuations and near-term projects. The investment returns totaling $24,435 (2022 - $1,604) are included in the total returns on the statement of operations and in short term investments in the statement of financial position.

**7.**

**Investments**

Investments total $498,731 (2022 - $1,114,488) and consist of equities and options. Included in equity and options are USD securities totaling $261,261 (2022 - $110,792) in Canadian dollars or 12.9% (2022 – 7.6%) of the total managed investments. The net investment returns were $70,240 (2022 - $17,969) and are included in the total returns on the statement of operations and included in investments in the statement of financial position.

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**Horseshoe Falls Regional Council of The United Church of Canada**

Notes to the financial statements December 31, 2023

(amounts in thousands of Canadian dollars)

**DRAFT 2R**

**8.**

**Investments and promissory notes in a business trust**

On August 9, 2023 the Regional Council established a business trust, the Horseshoe Falls Regional Trust (“HFRT”) with a trustee, The United Property Resource Corporation Trustee Inc. (UPRCT Inc.). The trustee is wholly owned by United Property Resource Corporation (UPRC), which is itself wholly owned by The Church. On September 6, 2023, The Church acquired, the titles of two abandoned church properties from the trustees of the congregations and transferred its beneficial interest in these properties to the Regional Council in a nominee agreement. The Regional Council then sold its beneficial interest in the vacant properties to HFRT on September 6, 2023 for two promissory notes totaling $10,050,000, being the exchange amount agreed between the parties, which was based on independent appraisals.

The gain on sale of the beneficial interest in the two properties totaled $10,050,000 and is included in the statement of changes in fund balances.

The two promissory notes totaling $10,050,000 bear annual interest at 5%, payable in full on demand by the Regional Council. Accrued interest totaling $159,966 was capitalized to the investment and promissory notes in a business trust on the statement of financial position.

The Regional Council retains a beneficial interest in HFRT and control of HFRT was deemed to reside with the Regional Council as a result of The Church’s ownership of UPRC, who in turn owns the trustee of HFRT. As all parties to these transactions are under common control, the Regional Council has elected to equity account for its investment in HFRT and has recorded a loss of $265,321 on the statement of operations, included in the loss from a business trust less interest on promissory notes on the statement of operations. This loss was capitalized to its investment in a business trust on the statement of financial position.

The Regional Council’s investment in the business trust totaling $9,944,378 is comprised of:

a.

b.

c.

Two promissory notes totaling $10,050,000; Plus, accrued interest of $159,699; and

Less, current year losses totaling $265,321.

**9.**

**Loans receivable**

Loans receivable total $347,840 (2022 - $304,110) and are all with related parties. Interest is accrued as specified in the loan agreements and capitalized to the principal which is included in the statement of financial position. No provision has been made for these loans.

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**Horseshoe Falls Regional Council of The United Church of Canada**

Notes to the financial statements December 31, 2023

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**10.**

**Capital assets**

Capital assets comprise a 66.67% share of the property of the former Hamilton Conference and building improvements since January 1, 2019. As agreed, Antler, Western and the Regional Council occupy the property and share equally in funding the operating cost of the property.

Only Western and the Regional Council have an ownership interest of 33.33% and 67.67%, respectively. In the Regional Council, the property is carried at book cost as of January 1, 2019 and all property improvements less accumulated amortized costs as follows:

**2023**

**Accumulated**

**Amortization**

**Net Book**

**Value**

**Cost**

**Capital Assets**

**$**

**86,852**

**17,352**

**5,032**

**6,667**

**$**

**17,370**

**8,684**

**2,506**

**-**

**$**

**69,482**

**8,668**

**2,526**

**6,667**

**Building**

**Furniture & Fixtures Building improvements Land**

**115,903**

**28,560**

**87,343**

2022

Accumulated

Amortization

Net Book

Value

Cost

Capital Assets

$

86,852

17,352

5,032

6,667

$

13,896

6,946

2,006

-

$

72,956

10,406

3,026

6,667

Building

Furniture & Fixtures Building improvements Land

115,903

22,848

93,055

**11.**

**Accounts payable and accrued liabilities**

Accounts payable and accrued liabilities, totaling $62,685 (2022 - $49,773), include related party payables and accruals to the GCO and the Ontario Regional Council Archive Fund totaling

$33,647 (2022 – $22,040).

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**Horseshoe Falls Regional Council of The United Church of Canada**

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**12.**

**Related party transactions**

*Grant and other revenue*

The Regional Council received assessment and mission support grants totaling $641,375 (2022 - $674,825) from the GCO; and $21,956 (2022 - $19,743) from the Ontario Regional Council Archive Fund, a joint program of The GCO and Ontario regional councils, for 50% of the annual archive fees. Additional program related grants of $nil (2022 - $9,056) were received from The United Church of Canada Foundation (“the Foundation”). During the year other revenue was received from church related entities totaling $nil (2022 - $44,177)

*Net proceeds from disbanding congregations*

Net proceeds from disbanding congregations totaling $364,943 (2022 - $nil) were received from disbanding congregations, and represent 67% of funds raised by the congregations. These net proceeds are subject to the Regional Council’s policy requiring such proceeds to be distributed and retained as follows:

1. 12.0% to the Indigenous Ministries of The Church;
2. 10.0% to the Mission & Service Fund of The Church;
3. 15.0% to the Mission & Service Endowment Fund managed by the Foundation;
4. 5.0% to the Ontario Regional Council Archives Fund; and
5. 25.0% retained by the Regional Council.

The disbanding congregations distribute 33.0% of the funds raised to local ministries and these funds are not included in the statement of operations.

*Expenses*

Grants and fees were paid to related parties as follows from:

1) Operating Fund:

a)

b)

$140,000 (2022 - $160,000) of grants to church related entities;

$44,541 (2022 - $43,585) of fees to The GCO for accounting services, information technology support and incorporated ministries administration;

$43,912 (2022 - $39,486) of fees to the Ontario Regional Council Archive Fund for archival services; and

$7,833 (2022 - $3,500) of non-mission support grants to church related entities.

c)

d)

1. Property Funds
   1. In 2023, $233,770 (2022, $nil) of grants were accrued or issued to The Church and the Foundation as a result of the above noted distribution policy for disbanding congregations.

**13.**

**Net transfers (to) from existing and former church related entities**

The Regional Council disbursed funds totaling $nil (2022 - $1,491) to a church related entity.

**14.**

**Interfund transfers**

Interfund transfers are set out in Schedule 1 of these financial statements.

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**Horseshoe Falls Regional Council of The United Church of Canada**

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**15.**

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# 

**Comparative figures**

Certain comparative figures in the statement of financial position and statement of cash flows were reclassified to conform to the current year’s presentation.

# Proposal #6 – Closing Motion

**Title:** **Closing Motion**

**Origin:** Executive Minister

**What is the issue?**

The work of the regional council continues between regional council meetings.

**Why is this issue important?**

The regional council must be clear how the work will continue.

**What might the regional council do?**

The regional council might

1. Entrust any unfinished business from its October 4-October 6, 2024 meeting to the Executive;
2. Authorize the Executive to fill any vacancies on the understanding that appointments will be confirmed at the next spring regional council meeting;
3. Direct the Executive to plan to convene a meeting of the regional council in the spring of 2025;
4. Entrust the Executive and Commissions with the responsibilities and authority of Horseshoe Falls Regional Council in accordance with *The Manual* of The United Church of Canada and the Governance Handbook of the Horseshoe Falls Regional Council.
5. Close the October 4-October 6, 2023 meeting of the Horseshoe Falls Regional Council at the close of the Celebration of Ministries Service on Sunday, October 6, 2024.

Notes: