

**Congregational Support Commission  
Horseshoe Falls Regional Council**

**OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA**

*Supports, Connects, Empowers Communities of Faith*

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*September 10, 2024 - 7 pm*

*APPROVED Minutes*

*Via Zoom*

**Roster:** (8) Adrienne Robertson, Jane Wyllie, Steven Lowden, Shawn Bausch, Jane Capstick, Ross Gowan, Karen Tobey, Kate Young, Barb McGill, Doug Caldwell

**Staff Support:** Rev. Lynne Allin, Minister, Congregational Support Minister (on sabbatical)

Rev. Ann Harbridge, Acting Congregational Support Minister

Michele Petick, Administrative Assistant

**Present:** Adrienne Robertson, Jane Wyllie, Steven Lowden, Shawn Bausch, Jane Capstick, Ross Gowan, Kate Young, Barb McGill, Doug Caldwell, Mark Laird, (HF Executive Minister), John Neff (WOW Congregational Support Minister), Ann Harbridge (Acting HF Congregational Support Minister), Michele Petick (Staff Support)

**Regrets:** Karen Tobey

**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 Adrienne Robertson, Chair

**Acknowledging the Land:** Steven Lowden

**Opening Worship:** Steven Lowden

**Opening Motions:**

**Approval of Agenda:**

MOTION by Jane Capstick / Shawn Bausch that the agenda be accepted as circulated/amended.

CARRIED

**Corresponding Members:** Mark Laird, Executive Minister

**Consent Docket:**

Approval of Previous Minutes

Minutes of [July 30, 2024](#) as circulated

Email Motion:

Email Motion August 22, 2024 HF CSC

**Motion** by Ross Gowan/Steven Lowden that the Congregational Support Commission of Horseshoe Falls Regional Council approve the Technology Grant Application from Delhi United Church for a total of \$1,500 for upgrades to support the Rural Connect program. Carried

(documents have been sent to Maria Pimpinella for processing)

Appointment of Pastoral Charge Supervisors:

- Rev. Kate Young to Trinity United Church, Oakville effective September 1, 2024
- Rev. Evan Swance-Smith to Melrose United Church, Hamilton effective September 1, 2024
- Rev. Keith Haggerman to Ryerson United Church, Ancaster effective September 1, 2024
- Rev. Lynne Allin to St. Andrew’s United Church, Niagara Falls for one meeting August 21, 2024
- Rev. Donalee Williams to Jordan Station United Church, effective September 1, 2024

Annual Reports Received


Self Assessment Received

**MOTION** by Steve Lowden / Barb McGill an item. that the Congregational Support Commission of Horseshoe Falls Regional Council approve the consent docket.

CARRIED

**Conversation with Executive Minister Mark Laird Re: Property Policy**

- At the Fall Regional Council, we will be discussing Property issues.

- Explaining the Regional Trust and to understand that if a congregation disbands it won't necessarily be sold.
- This could create income streams for the future.
- Will review current Property Policy.
- What does the Regional Council do with the portion of the sale of a church. Defined it should be used to support communities of faith.
- - 33% to the United Church ministry(ies) of the community of faith's choosing (provided a registered charity)
  - 2% to Archives
  - 15% to Indigenous Ministries in response to the Calls to the Church (received GC43) to support Indigenous Ministries and to upgrade Indigenous real property
  - 10% to current year Mission and Service
  - 15% to Mission and Service Endowment Fund to provide for the future
  - 25% to the regional council to enable it to provide ongoing support and resources to communities of faith.
- How can we use those funds in new ways? Currently the funds are invested (in compliance with the Investment Policy).
- Some of these property funds are used for wages to pay staff in the Regions.
- Some funds are used to pay outstanding assessments.
- Some funds are used in Right Relations work with Indigenous Ministry events ie Five Oaks gathering.
- Break out rooms will be opened for folks at the HF RC Fall Meeting asking "What do people think a good use of property funds?"
- How can we support communities of faith with funds that can be accessible through the property fund?
- HF has a nominal amount of unrestricted reserves available for use.
- Let the Regional Representatives dream about how the funds might be used. Reference to Bare Naked Ladies song "If I had a Millionaire Dollars".
- HF RC currently has a few properties that have not been sold and won't be sold and are waiting on future development.

### **Collaborative Agreements**

### **Community of Faith Profiles:**

Winona, Fifty United Church (originally tabled June 26/24 - original documents in June 26 folder) [Re Fifty United Church - Church Hub Profile Draft.msg](#), [Lillian's Financial Report - July 2024.pdf](#)

MOTION by Kate Young / Steve Lowden That the Congregational Support Commission of Horseshoe Falls Regional Council having reviewed the additional financial information for the community of faith profile for Fifty United church, Winona approve the request to hire ministry personnel under an annual appointment for up to 40 hours per week up to category C or financial equivalent.

CARRIED

### **Transitions**

- Faith, Milton is ready to disburse funds as they cease operations

### **Property**

- **York UC** – Sale approved on June 19/24 has fallen through due to zoning issues. Property is back on the market for sale.
- **Lynden** [Bell Tower Repair & Loans](#), [Statement of account](#), [Financial Statement](#), [Estimate](#)  
MOTION: Steven Lowden / Jane Wyllie that the Congregational Support Commission of Horseshoe Falls Regional Council retroactively approve the request of the trustees for the loan from the Hamilton Presbytery Mission Council to Lynden Pastoral Charge in the amount of \$17,500 at no interest, payable at \$250.00/month until paid.

CARRIED

MOTION: Kate Young / Jane Capstick that the Congregational Support Commission of Horseshoe Falls Regional Council approve the request of the Trustees of Lynden United Church to apply to Hamilton Presbytery Mission Council for an interest free loan in the amount of \$20,000 payable at \$250/month until paid.

CARRIED

MOTION: Shawn Bausch / Jane Capstick that the Congregational Support Commission of Horseshoe Falls Regional Council approve the request of the Trustees of Lynden United Church to proceed with the removal of the bell and cupola from Lynden United Church and repair the existing tower, at a cost of \$87,196.00 (including HST).

CARRIED

### **Other Business:**

- Cluster & Collaboration Report (Oakville) – from Greg Smith Young, Growth Animator

- Evaluating Access to Restricted Funds (Sub Committee) **Shawn/Jane C/Kate/Barb**  
[Evaluating Access to Restricted Funds DRAFT 4 July 22 2024.docx](#)

### **Executive Report**

- One day retreat next week to meet new members and team building and to talk about what's coming up.
- **Staff Report:**  
We need to prepare a report for the fall regional meeting – Adrienne (by September 25<sup>th</sup>) Report could include the following
  - Share disbursement policy.
  - Reminder of Leases need to be approved by the Congregational Support Commission.
  - Extension Councils.
  - Good News Stories.
  - Thank Pastoral Charge Supervisors.
  - 10 Minutes verbal presentation. Quiz ie collaboration Jane C/Shawn

**Next Meeting:** Tuesday October 8<sup>th</sup>, 2024 in-person 11am with lunch meeting (Jane C will look into a place to meet show up with your own coffee).

Territorial Acknowledgement: Shawn Bausch

Worship by: Shawn Bausch

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### **Accessing Restricted Funds Resource:**

[Evaluating Access to Restricted Funds](#)

### **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.

### **Sample Motion:**

MOTION by Choose an item. / Choose an item. That the Congregational Support Commission of Horseshoe Falls Regional Council ... .

