

**Horseshoe Falls Regional Council**  
**OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA**  
*Supports, Connects, Empowers Communities of Faith*  
**Fall 2024 Meeting**

The Horseshoe Falls Regional Council was called to meet on Friday, October 4<sup>th</sup> and Saturday, October 5<sup>th</sup>, 2024; with approximately 100 participants joining via Zoom.

**Note:** after every Motion was made and seconded, and discussion had, and the President called for the vote: those in favour, those opposed, abstentions, the count included both those in the court and those on line before action was declared.

**Meeting Session: Friday, October 4<sup>th</sup>**  
**6:00 pm – 8:35 pm**

**Proposal 1: Opening & Procedural Motion**

**MOTION:** Wendy Lowden / Yvonne Wright

That the regional council 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 2024-05-24-25;
3. Receive the minutes of the following meetings of the
  - i. Executive
    - 24-04-24
    - 24-03-06
    - 24-02-26
    - 24-02-06
    - 24-01-24
    - 24-01-13
    - 23-12-13
    - 23-11-22
    - 23-10-25
    - 23-09-26
  - ii. Congregational Support Commission
    - 2024-01-23
    - 2024-01-09
    - 2023-12-12
    - 2023-11-30
    - 2023-11-14
    - 2023-10-17
    - 2023-09-26
    - 2023-09-12
    - 2023-08-17
    - 2023-07-25
    - 2023-06-14
  - iii. Human Resources Commission
    - 2023-06-28

## iv. Discipleship and Justice Commission

2023-09-26

2023-05-30

for information.

*Note: Minutes are posted on the website <https://hfrucc.ca/meeting-minutes/>*

4. Appoint Nicholas Forrester as Parliamentarian;
5. Appoint Wendy Lowden as Chair, Agenda and Business Committee and Recording Secretary;
6. Appoint Max Watkinson Recording Secretary;
7. Name Tessica Hackshaw to serve as Equity Support Team Member;
8. Name President Lennox Scarlett, Chair Agenda and Business Committee Wendy Lowden, Executive Minister Mark Laird, Recording Secretary Max Watkinson, Parliamentarian Nicholas Forrester, as the Agenda and Business Committee;
9. Name John Neff and Michele Petick as on-line hosts.
10. Name Christina Crawford as Chaplain.
11. Name the Chair Agenda and Business Committee and Parliamentarian as scrutineers;
12. Set the bounds of the meeting as the zoom call, and the Regional Council Office, 1552 Hwy 6, Carlisle, ON;
13. 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);
14. Make all guests corresponding members;
15. Set the deadline for new business to be submitted to the Agenda and Business Committee as 9:00 a.m., Saturday, October 5<sup>th</sup>.
16. Adopt the following method for dealing with proposals for action by the regional council
  - Step One:  
The Presenter will outline:
    - A) What is the issue? and
    - B) 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.

**CARRIED.**

President Lennox welcomed all attendees and opened the meeting with a Land Acknowledgment, recognizing the historic connection of the indigenous peoples to the land and their contributions to the country.

President Lennox introduced the Leadership Team to the court, noting the absence of Kevin Steeper who was unable to attend due to a family matter.

Tessica Hackshaw, Equity Support Team Member, presented the Affirming ministries vision statement and commitment to safety.

President Lennox asked the court who was attending a Horseshoe Falls Regional Council meeting for the first time and the following raised their hands: Jennifer P. (las name?), Max Watkinson, Bruce McKay.

**Worship:** Sula Kosacky led the court in worship, reflecting on privilege, appreciation, gratitude and perspective.

**Community Building:** the court was put into breakout rooms where folks could share what their communities of faith had planned to mark the upcoming Centennial of the United Church of Canada. Participants returned after 25-minute breakout sessions and shared some of their ideas with the court.

**Admissions Presentation:** Marlene Britton, Sarah Bruer, Beverly Tyhurst gave a presentation discussing how admission ministers enter ordered ministry in the United Church of Canada. The court participated in some trivia about admission ministers in Horseshoe Falls. Some discussion and sharing of experience took place. Good news stories were shared, including a video testimony from Rev. Wonder and Pine River United Church in Huron-Kinloss, ON (Western Ontario Waterway region). Participants were then sent to breakout rooms to discuss the following questions:

- 1) What stood out for you from the quiz about admission ministers in relation to our region?
- 2a) How do you feel about the reality that there are 44 ministers struggling to find appointments based largely on race?
- 2b) How does this challenge the myth in our denomination that there aren't enough ministers?
- 3) Imagine a fictional community of faith called Deep Bold Daring United Church that is searching for their next minister. How might they both be a blessing to and be blessed by sharing ministry with someone in the Admission process?

Discussion ensued after returning from the breakout rooms.

**Human Resources Commission Report:** Richard Bott and Sue Stephen gave a brief overview of the HR Report.

**In Memoriam/CoF Lifecycle Changes:**

Vineland United Church  
Ceased Worship June 2024

Rev. Bryan Melick  
April 3, 1949 – June 16, 2024

York United Church  
Will cease worship December 2024

Rev. Edith Bolton  
January 6, 1932 – May 21, 2024

President Lennox led the court in prayer for disbanded churches, Bryan and Edith.

**Closing Worship:** Irene Ty led the court in a prayer response (Come and Fill Our Hearts with Your Peace – MV #16)

Session ended 8:35 p.m.

**Meeting Session: Saturday, October 5, 2024**

**9:00 a.m. – 1:49 p.m.**

The Saturday session was opened by President Lennox, with Debbie McMillan leading worship, speaking of softening our hearts.

**Congregational Support Commission Report:** Adrienne Robertson, Jane Capstick, Shawn Brausch  
Presenters led the court in a trivia game to test collective knowledge of the role of the CSC. Shared some of the duties of the commission, rental policies/procedures, what happens to funds after a CoF disbands etc.

Executive Minister Mark Laird addressed the court to clarify that GC proposals are voted on by the region and taken to the General Council meeting to be voted on there. It can still be sent if it doesn't pass in the Regional meeting, and discussed other policy and procedures regarding General Council proposals.

**Proposal #2: Enhancing our Conciliar Church**

**Motion:** Amadeus Pyralis/Alison Miculan

Discussion ensued about the proposal with a robust contribution of the court.

**TABELED.**

**MOTION: Karen Toogood/Mervyn Russell**

That the court extend the order of the day from 2 p.m. – 3 p.m.

It was discussed that more time may be needed to properly address the GC45 Proposals. Some expressed concern of extending the day when they have other commitments. Also stated that they did not want the proposals to be left to the Executive to deal with.

**CARRIED.**

**MOTION: Mervyn Russell / Geof Thompson**

Forgo discussion and to move the vote on Proposal #2

Mervyn answered several questions from the court. Discussion took place, with some in favour and some against.

**NOT CARRIED.**

Discussion for Proposal #2 moved to 1:15 p.m.

**Property Policy** - Executive Minister Mark addressed the court, asking for feedback outside of the meeting regarding funds from disbanded congregation's property sales that comes to the region and potential uses for it.

Wendy Lowden led the court in prayer for clarity and guidance.

**Financial report/2025 Budget:** John Hurst and Mark Laird presented the financial report and 2025 budget, citing no major discrepancies.

**MOTION: John Hurst / Mark Laird**

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:
  - a. Operating expenses increased by 4.5% for inflation and as the basis for investment income.
  - b. Prioritize Mission & Service grants.

4. Appoint KPMG LLP. as auditors for the 2024 Financial Year.
5. Adopt the proposed 2025 budget authorizing the Executive to adapt as necessary within the above guidelines.

**CARRIED.**

**Introduction of Candidates:**

Jess Swance was introduced by Tim Hackborn and addressed the court via video.

Ted Smith and Peggy Bartlett, DLMS being ordained, were introduced in a Powerpoint presentation.

**Discipleship and Justice Commission Report:** Joe Hopkins presented the report, highlighting the commission's 3 priorities – youth & children, social justice and chaplaincy. A video about Norval United Church in Georgetown's day camp programming was played.

**Stewardship video:** a video presentation was played from Brenna Baker

**GC45 Youth Delegates video:** a video presentation was played from Matthew Tyhurst

**MOTION: Wendy Lowden / Mark Laird**

To confirm the appointments of the following names to the respective commissions:

Jeff Werner - Human Resources Commission

Parker Neale - Congregational Support Commission

Richard Bott - Human Resources Commission

Barb Duffin - Human Resources Commission

Mary Anderson - Congregational Support Commission

**CARRIED.**

**Wesley (formerly Wesley Urban Ministries) Presentation:** watched a video from Celeste Weston and Rashed Afif, discussing the work Wesley does and asking for support.

**Canadian Bible Society:** Jacob Birch and Kevin Schlecter led the court in prayer, discussed the work of the Canadian Bible Society translating and distributing the Bible, discussed Bible engagement and access.

**Proposal #2 cont'd**

Discussion ensued, citing the General Council deadline is April 1, 2025, there is still time to hold a meeting to focus on these specific proposals to allow for more time for discussion, preparation, clarification and refinement. Consider finding a more creative way of meeting to facilitate conversation for clarification. Potentially form a team to review proposals for structure/inaccuracies before presenting them again to Regional Council.

**MOTION: Alison Miculan/LarryMcRae**

That Horseshoe Falls Regional Council table the discussion of all GC45 proposals and hold another meeting to deal with proposals only. The date of this meeting to be determined by the Executive.

**CARRIED.**

**MOTION: Alison Miculan/Norene Anderson**

That Horseshoe Falls Regional Council extend deadline for GC45 proposals, deadline date to be determined by the Executive.

**CARRIED.**

Proposal #6: Closing Motion

**MOTION: Wendy Lowden / Mark Laird**

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 to discuss the GC45 proposals in early 2025;
4. Direct the Executive to plan and convene a meeting of the Regional Council in the spring of 2025;
5. 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.
6. 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.

**CARRIED.**

Meeting adjourned 1:49 p.m.