Proposal #3 to HFRC June 3 2026

Proposal name: Funding For Camps

Origin: Cave Springs Camp, Board of Directors

1. **What is the issue? Why is it important?**
   Congregations have supported United Church camps for decades as they provide outdoor ministry for faith development, especially in the first third of life. With the decline in Sunday Schools and youth weekly programs, camping is a means for our children and youth to experience faith-based activities.

2. **What is happening now?**
   As congregations diminish in size, there is less funding for camps. Camps have strained operating budgets, due to fewer donations from congregations.

   When congregations disband, they may designate up to 32% of net proceeds from sale of buildings to United Church Charities such as camps. Some are very supportive of camps. Others have limited energy to designate funds, or may even lack trustee energy to manage the congregation disbanding and selling property.

3. **What is the recommendation?**
   That Horseshoe Falls Regions establish a policy that 20% of net proceeds from disbanding congregations, be directed to the camps in Horseshoe Falls Region.
   (ie. Ryerson Camp in Vittoria (Norfolk) and Cave Springs Camp in Beamsville (Lincoln))

4. **Background information:**
   The United Church of Canada has called for an increased emphasis on the faith formation in the first third of life.
   General Council 45, in August 2025, resolution COM09
   A Call for Strengthening Camping Ministries as Central to Faith Formation within The United Church of Canada…………
   "As camping ministry enthusiasts, we believe God/Jesus/The Holy Spirit is calling on The United Church of Canada to help change the mindset and engagement of the whole Church to invest in Camping Ministries as central to our collective work of faith format"
   per webpage https://generalcouncil.ca/search?search_api_fulltext=COM09

5. **How does this proposal help us to live into our church's commitments on equity?**
   The principal of equity is supported by Christian Camps, who offer access for all.

The current procedure reads

that in accordance with Manual Section C.2.6(a), Horseshoe Falls Regional Council adopts the policy that funds received from the property of a disbanding congregation be disbursed in the following manner:

- Reimbursement of holding/maintenance/disposal costs
- Covering unpaid past assessments and current year assessment
- Repaying any congregational indebtedness
- 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.

Be changed to read

that in accordance with Manual Section C.2.6(a), Horseshoe Falls Regional Council adopts the policy that funds received from the property of a disbanding congregation be disbursed in the following manner:

- Reimbursement of holding/maintenance/disposal costs
- Covering unpaid past assessments and current year assessment
- Repaying any congregational indebtedness
- 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
- 5% to Mission and Service Endowment Fund to provide for the future
- 15% to the regional council to enable it to provide ongoing support and resources to communities of faith.
- 20% to the operating budgets of camps within Horseshoe Falls Region.