

Dear Horseshoe Falls Regional Council,

“That All May Be One” -- this is the prayer Jesus offers for his followers in John 17. His words are captured in the Latin ***“Ut Omnes Unum Sint”*** and in the Mohawk ***“Akwe Nia’Tetewa:Neren”*** on the crest of The United Church of Canada. This is at the centre of our understanding of what it means to be the church. To be the church is to be in relationship because we cannot be the church in isolation.

In our denomination, the visible expression of this is the regional council. The responsibilities assigned to the regional council are those that have an impact that stretch beyond any one ministry. The attached [Governance Handbook](#) sets out how Horseshoe Falls Regional Council will fulfill these responsibilities. Section C of the Manual 2019 is an appendix. The opening of Section C outlines the membership of the regional council including the number of representatives per community of faith.

Since drafting this [Governance Handbook](#), members of the Transition Commission have had an opportunity to meet with representatives from Indigenous Ministries in our region. There may be some refinements to strengthen the relationship between Indigenous Ministries and the regional council. While the Handbook indicates the assignment of responsibilities will not alter without input from a meeting of the regional council, the way in which these responsibilities are fulfilled may change. We are in a new stage of our life together and it is important to evaluate, learn from, and be responsive to our experience.

Until the structures are operational, any decision that requires regional council input comes to the Transition Commission. The Commission meets the 4th Wednesday of the month. Please direct requests either to Commission Chair Deborah Laforet at deborah@stpaulsoakville.com or to Executive Minister, Cheryl-Ann Stadelbauer-Sampa at CSampa@united-church.ca.

Please review the [Governance Handbook](#) and attached appendix. The Commission is hoping the regional council will benefit both from the wisdom of those who served in Presbytery and Conference and the fresh insights of those who might now feel drawn to becoming a regional council representative. A [Position Description](#) for the Regional Council Representative is enclosed.

Communities of Faith are asked to make the selection of their regional council representatives one of the priorities of their Nominating Committee. Please prayerfully discern who has the gifts

and interests to serve.

All Regional Council Representatives and ministry personnel are asked to complete and submit the [Expression of Interest](#) form to pkukadia@united-church.ca indicating how they would like to be engaged in the life of the regional council. Please submit these forms as soon as possible and no later than **February 28th**.

Ministry Personnel are reminded that a mandatory element of any position description is that ministry personnel are actively involved in the life of the regional council and/or General Council. (Pastoral Relations Resources)

Communities of Faith are reminded of their responsibility for “helping to fund the cost of sending members to the meetings of the regional council (Manual 2019, Section B 2.1.5) and to include this in their budget. **Horseshoe Falls Regional Council is holding its first gathering March 2nd from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at St. Andrew’s United Church in Georgetown.** The Annual Meeting of the regional council will be May 24th –26th in Port Elgin. There may be an event the evening of May 23rd or representatives may wish to travel that day to be ready for start of the meeting. Support will be needed for travel, accommodation and the registration cost. This will likely be similar to what was provided in the past where an annual meeting involved overnight accommodation. There may also be one or two additional day-long meetings per year within the region. The cost for such meetings would just be travel within the region.

We look forward to receiving the [Expression of Interest](#) (to pkukadia@united-church.ca) from Regional Council Representatives so that the experience we have shared of planning new ways to be together is one we will soon share with the ministries of Horseshoe Falls Region as we live into Jesus’ prayer for us and seek to fulfill our purpose statement as a region:

Supports, Connects, Empowers Communities of Faith

The Transition Commission
Horseshoe Falls Regional Council

[Regional Staff Office](#)

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