

## **Report of the Spring Meeting of the Horseshoe Falls Regional Council May 27 and 29, 2021**

### **Saturday Session**

The session was called to order by president Kate Young at 8:30 am with a discussion of BRAVE. BRAVE is a behavioural covenant which requires that we go beyond just being nice to one another. It demands that we **Be** accountable for our words, **R**eflect on our own biases, **A**ctively listen, **V**ocalize our questions, and **E**ncounter new ideas with curiosity and wonder.

A brief worship service following with a virtual choir singing, “Morning Has Broken” as the group reflected on how much we miss the opportunity to worship in song.

A slate of commissioners from Regional Council to General Council was acclaimed. Though there are, as yet, no Indigenous Commissioners, there are four diversity commissioners in the group.

Break Out Rooms were formed to discuss three questions:

1. How have you and your community of faith engaged with Regional Council since its formation?
2. What do you see as the barriers to further and deeper engagement with the region?
3. What do you think communities of faith need to know about Regional Council?

Transcripts of the discussion will be collated and made available at a later date.

A video on Anti-Racism was shown as part of our commitment to a church free of racism. A summer series of books, poetry, films etc on the subject will be open to all. Please see the HFRC fb page or website for details.

A slate of representatives to the Executive and to Standing Committees

was acclaimed, as well as both lay and ministry delegates to the next meeting of General Council, after which President-Elect, Robert Lawson addressed the court, speaking on the theme of bravery. He was followed by the General Council Moderator.

The Skylight Management Team shared a video about their celebratory festival of performances, discussions, campfires and nature walks. The festival, which takes place at Five Oaks, has been postponed from July 17 till the end of August. It is open to all and is pay as you are able. Further details to come.

Erik Mathieson, Chair of Finance, gave a presentation on regional finances, with an emphasis on the move away from assessment by enrolment to the much fairer assessment by revenue, excluding asset sales proceeds, bequests, capital campaigns, insurance and revenue for outreach. He stressed the importance of annual statistics being done promptly and accurately and talked about the potential of the property we hold to finance our future. He pointed out that assessment is now standardized across all sixteen regions and that the Finance Committee is prioritizing affordable housing opportunities and the embracing of technology. The slides shown will be made available to congregational treasurers and finance chairs who wish to view them.