

TORONTO CONFERENCE, THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA**MINUTES
OF THE 92nd ANNUAL MEETING
May 27-28, 2016**

The 92nd annual meeting of Toronto Conference took place on May 27-28, 2016 at the North Simcoe Sports & Recreation Centre and St. Paul's United Church, Midland. The theme was "Weaving Our Stories into God's Love".

FRIDAY, May 27, 2016**MORNING SESSION**Gathering music

Gathering music was led by Paul Rumbolt.

Welcome, honouring the land and constituting the Court

President Bryan Ransom welcomed people to the 92nd annual meeting of the Conference. The court acknowledged the Indigenous peoples on whose land the meeting was being held. Jake Charles of Georgina Island sang a song of welcome and Councillor Joanne Sandy representing the Chief of Christian Island First Nations welcomed people to the territorial lands of Beausoleil First Nation. The President constituted the meeting in the name of Jesus Christ to conduct business properly brought before it.

Worship and theme

The President introduced a number of presenters and led the meeting in worship and community building, assisted by Karen Hilfman-Millson. The focus was on the theme and right relations between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people.

Quorum

The Executive Secretary explained that the meeting required 175 people to obtain quorum. A count was conducted which found that 171 voting members present. Without quorum, the "meeting" became a "gathering" using warm and cool cards to get a sense of the direction to be taken; this would provide advice to the Conference Executive which would vote on any business items. The gathering AGREED that quorum would be checked again in the afternoon.

Opening guidelines

1. a) Bounds of the Court

the bounds of the court for this gathering of Toronto Conference be the North Simcoe Sports & Recreation Centre, Midland, Ontario and St. Paul's United Church, Midland, Ontario;

b) Roll of Conference

the roll of Toronto Conference for the 2015-2016 church year include:

i) members of the order of ministry who are on the rolls of the presbyteries within the jurisdiction of Toronto Conference;

ii) lay members of the United Church appointed by a presbytery as designated lay ministers to serve a pastoral charge or other presbytery recognized ministry within the jurisdiction of Toronto Conference; Candidates appointed to serve a pastoral charge, mission or outreach ministry; and the lay members of the United Church appointed to administrative or program staff positions by a court of the church or a General Council unit;

iii) lay members of the United Church elected by presbyteries;

iv) chairpersons of Conference committees, and the president of the Conference United Church Women.

c) Corresponding Members

corresponding members for this gathering be a) those persons who have been invited to be resource persons; b) Conference/presbytery staff; c) corresponding members of presbyteries within the jurisdiction of the Conference as defined in Section D.1.4 of *The Manual*.

d) Business Committee

the business committee be:

David Allen, Executive Secretary
Bryan Ransom, President
Audrey Brown, President-Elect

e) Parliamentarian

Beth Moore be appointed as parliamentarian.

f) Deadlines

that 9:00 p.m. on Friday be the deadline for new business and for questions on the accountability reports, and the budget.

g) Scrutineers

the head scrutineer be Rose Cambourne, and that scrutineers be the Conference/presbytery staff.

h) Minutes

the minutes of the 88th annual meeting of Toronto Conference be revised on page 11/12 – 303 Appendix H, in the biography of Jennifer Mountain, to read: ‘Rev. Eleanor Carr (ordained minister).’

the minutes of the 90th annual meeting of Toronto Conference be corrected on page 13/14 – 336 to read: ‘Nancy Hopkinson.’

the minutes of the 91st annual meeting of Toronto Conference be approved as printed in the *Record of Proceedings*.

i) Method of voting

unless the court decides otherwise, voting be done by show of warm and cool cards except for a secret ballot on decisions regarding those being ordained and admitted.

j) travel reimbursement

travel allowance be paid only to those not receiving a travel allowance, and that the travel rate be 41 cents per kilometre.

k) receive the following proposals

Proposals to Toronto Conference:

PTC 1 – General Council grant

PTC 2 – 2017-2019 Conference Budgets and Assessment

PTC 3 – Affirming Ministry

PTC 4 – World Religions as a Mandatory Requirement for Graduating with an Ontario Secondary School Diploma.

l) new business

new proposals will be considered in the order they are received.

m) sexual abuse consultants

that Cathy Hird, John Brown and Felicia Urbanski be the assigned consultants if any concerns are raised that would be covered by the church's policy on sexual abuse.

n) acting for President

that the President-Elect act as chair if the President is unavailable or is making reports.

o) reports

that all reports printed in the annual meeting resource book be received for information.

p) offerings

that only one financial offering be received at the Celebration of Ministries Service, and that it be given to Mission & Service.

q) chaplains

that Sungmin Jung and Ruth McDonald be the chaplains.

r) distributing materials

that material may be distributed only with the permission of the business committee.

s) speakers' limits

speakers on motions be limited to 90 seconds each, with the understanding that the President may show discretion to those for whom English is not their first language and/or those with communicative disabilities, disorders or difficulties (not limited to verbal speech impediments), or for those wishing to use a self-chosen interpreter.

t) agenda

that the agenda be adopted as printed.

2. a) Editing of Record of Proceedings

the power to edit the *Record of Proceedings* of this 92nd annual meeting of Toronto Conference be given to the Executive Secretary.

b) Authority to the Conference Executive

the Executive of Toronto Conference be empowered to transact any unfinished business of this 92nd annual meeting of Toronto Conference and to transact any business that the Conference has the power to transact, subject to the limitations of Section D.3.1.4 of *The Manual*.

Regrets

The Executive Secretary noted that a number of people had sent regrets for the meeting. Their names will appear in the minutes of this meeting.

Living Waters		Gwen Nicol-Macdonald	OM
Tina Bax	Lay	Judith Oliver	OM Retired
Cora Brodie	Lay	Neil Parker	OM
Linda Butler	OM	Patti Rodgers	DLM
Kay Cho	OM Retired	David Shearman	OM
Barbara Creelman	DLM		
Liz Cunningham	OM	South West	
Chris Fahrner	Lay	Mark Aitchison	OM
Pat Gale-MacDonald	OM	Kathryn Ariss-Pater	OM
Carol Hancock	OM Retired	Lynne Curtin	OM Retired
William Haughton	OM	Jordan Davis	Lay
Catherine Hawkins	Lay	Connie denBok	OM
Barb Hendren	Lay	Andrew Garrett	Lay
Erin Kennelly	Lay	Bonnie Greene	Lay
Nancy Knox	OM	Norm Greene	OM Retired
Esther Lewis	Lay	Norm Hennig-Pereira	OM
Warren McDougall	OM	Lori Hill	OM
Betty-Lou McNabb	DM	Debbie Johnson	OM
Reid Pettit	Lay	Lionel Ketola	OM
Joanne Purchase	Lay	Michael Kooiman	OM
Bruce Roffey	OM	Youngmi Lee	Lay
Marg Smith	OM Retired	Doug McLeod	OM
Linda Wheler	OM	Jane Morgan	Lay
Douglas Whidden	OM Retired	Tim Pater	Lay
		Lloyd Paul	OM
Northern Waters		Glenn Smith	OM
Christina Beirnes	Lay	Richard Tamas	OM
Diane Dier	OM		
Jackie Fiske	Lay	Toronto Southeast	
Violet Hill	Lay	Jo Aitken	Lay
Heather McCarrel	OM	Leslee Alfano	OM
Kara McCluskie	DLM	Dorothy Amos	Lay
Kristal McGee	OM	Ann Atkey	Lay
Elizabeth McKinlay	OM Retired	George Bartlett	Lay

Milton Basil	OM	David McMaster	OM
Diane Bennett-Jones	OM	Sarah Miller	OM
Michael Blair	OM	Bruce Misener	OM Retired
Barry Brooks	OM Retired	Ruth Noble	OM
June Cavers	Lay	Aubrey Peterson	Lay
Tom Clarke	Lay	Marion Pope	DM Retired
Sue Comish	Lay	Heather Power	OM
Michael Cottrell	OM	Luba Rascheff	Lay
Julie Crann	Lay	Winston Roach	Lay
Karen Dale	DM	Cynthia Scott	OM Retired
Lorrie Daly-Price	OM	Joan Silcox-Smith	OM
Marc Doucet	OM	Anne Simmonds	OM
Sandra Evan-Jones	OM	Meriel Simpson	OM
Bill Ford	OM	Vicki Smith	Lay
Fred Graham	Lay	Gordon Sople	Lay
Alan Hall	OM	Andrew Stirling	OM
Lauren Hodgson	OM	Paul Stott	Lay
Ann Howes	OM	John Suk	OM
Roger Hutchinson	Lay	Wing-Haan Tam	Lay
Paul Hutchison	OM	John Taylor	OM
Wendy Jarvis	Lay	Kumar Thangarajah	Admittand
Lorna Joblin	OM Retired	Peter Thompson	OM
Abigail Johnson	OM	Susan J. Thompson	OM Retired
Ian Johnston	Lay	Ila Vaculik	Lay
Mary Joseph	OM	Gretta Vosper	OM
Bill Kervin	OM	Marni Whitaker	Lay
John King	Lay	Barbara White	OM Retired
Linda Kuschnik	OM	Wayne White	Lay
Alan Lai	Admittand	Ralph Carl Wushke	OM
Pam Lock	Lay	Neil Young	OM

Greetings, announcements and grace

Louise Leck of the St. Paul's United Church, Midland local arrangements committee brought greetings from the congregation and gave information about the site.

Midland Deputy Mayor Mike Ross brought greetings on behalf of the mayor and the Town of Midland.

President-Elect Audrey Brown made a number of introductions and announcements, noting newcomers and visitors, along with those who had been at 20 or more annual meetings.

Paul Rumbolt led the court in a singing grace.

AFTERNOON SESSION

Blanket exercise

Most of the afternoon was devoted to the blanket exercise with leadership from Ed Bianchi and Jennifer Henry of KAIROS.

Break and gathering music

Following a break, Paul Rumbolt led some gathering music.

Quorum check

The scrutineers conducted a check of quorum. Quorum was met. The annual meeting was now in session.

Opening motion

1. MOTION by Audrey Brown/Ross Leckie that...

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b) Roll of Conference

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d) Business Committee

the business committee for this 92nd annual meeting be:

David Allen, Executive Secretary
Bryan Ransom, President
Audrey Brown, President-Elect

e) Parliamentarian

Beth Moore be appointed as parliamentarian.

f) Deadlines

that 9:00 p.m. on Friday be the deadline for new business and for questions on the accountability reports, and the budget.

g) Scrutineers

the head scrutineer for this 92nd annual meeting be Rose Cambourne, and that scrutineers be the Conference/presbytery staff.

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PTC 4 – World Religions as a Mandatory Requirement for Graduating with an Ontario Secondary School Diploma.

l) new business

new business proposals will be considered in the order they are received.

m) sexual abuse consultants

that Cathy Hird, John Brown and Felicia Urbanski be the assigned consultants if any concerns are raised that would be covered by the church's policy on sexual abuse.

n) acting for President

that the President-Elect act as meeting chair if the President is unavailable or is making reports.

o) reports

that all reports printed in the annual meeting resource book be received for information.

p) offerings

that only one financial offering be received at this meeting at the Celebration of Ministries Service, and that it be given to Mission & Service.

q) chaplains

that Sungmin Jung and Ruth McDonald be the chaplains for this annual meeting.

r) distributing materials

that material may be distributed only with the permission of the business committee.

s) speakers' limits

speakers on motions be limited to 90 seconds each, with the understanding that the President may show discretion to those for whom English is not their first language and/or those with communicative disabilities, disorders or difficulties (not limited to verbal speech impediments), or for those wishing to use a self-chosen interpreter.

t) agenda

that the agenda for this 92nd annual meeting of Toronto Conference be adopted as printed.

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the power to edit the *Record of Proceedings* of this 92nd annual meeting of Toronto Conference be given to the Executive Secretary.

v) Authority to the Conference Executive

the Executive of Toronto Conference be empowered to transact any unfinished business of this 92nd annual meeting of Toronto Conference and to transact any business that the Conference has the power to transact, subject to the limitations of Section D.3.1.4 of *The Manual*.

MOTION

CARRIED.

Introduction of ordinands, admittands and Designated Lay Ministers

The President invited Kirsty Hunter, chair of the Interview Committee to present the candidates for ordination, admission and Designated Lay Ministry. Kirsty made some brief introductory remarks.

Before each candidate addressed the court, all assembled sang one verse of a hymn significant to the candidate.

Voting on candidates

The President asked Kirsty Hunter, chair of the Interview Committee, to move the motions on those recommended for ordination and admission. Ballots were distributed. Kirsty led the court in prayer. Members of the court marked their printed ballots as each motion was presented.

Ordination:

MOTION by Kirsty Hunter/Lorraine Newton-Comar that Debbie Boukydis-Grant be ordained by Toronto Conference on May 28, 2016 at this 92nd annual meeting.

MOTION by Kirsty Hunter/George Moore that Alexander Constable be ordained by Toronto Conference on May 28, 2016 at this 92nd annual meeting.

MOTION by Kirsty Hunter/Nina Fulford that Meg Jordan be ordained by Toronto Conference on May 28, 2016 at this 92nd annual meeting.

MOTION by Kirsty Hunter/Norm Seli that Linda Newnham be ordained by Toronto Conference on May 28, 2016 at this 92nd annual meeting.

MOTION by Kirsty Hunter/Dale Burkart that Lawrence Nyarko be ordained by Toronto Conference on May 28, 2016 at this 92nd annual meeting.

MOTION by Kirsty Hunter/Jeff Werner that Kathy Underwood be ordained by Toronto Conference on May 28, 2016 at this 92nd annual meeting.

Admission:

MOTION by Kirsty Hunter/George Moore that Amy Crawford be admitted by Toronto Conference to the order of ministry of The United Church of Canada on May 28, 2016 at this 92nd annual meeting.

MOTION by Kirsty Hunter/Roy Nicol-Macdonald that Tessica Hackshaw be admitted by Toronto Conference to the order of ministry of The United Church of Canada on May 28, 2016 at this 92nd annual meeting.

The scrutineers gathered the ballots.

Honouring Designated Lay Ministers

Kirsty Hunter introduced three persons who have been recognized by presbyteries as Designated Lay Ministers – Barbara Creelman (unable to be present), recognized by Living Waters Presbytery; Doreen Mason, recognized by Living Waters Presbytery; and Barry Rieder, recognized by South West Presbytery. Doreen and Barry addressed the court.

Ballot results

The Executive Secretary reported that the votes had all been positive regarding the candidates for ordination and admission. The court responded with applause.

MOTION by David Allen/Audrey Brown that the ballots be destroyed.

MOTION

CARRIED.

Honouring of retirees

President-Elect Audrey Brown introduced ministers who are retiring. Those retiring were Mark Aitchison, Leslee Alfano, Linda Butler, Sheila Campbell (present), Ross Carson (present), Diane Dier, Heather Graham (present), Carol Hancock, Jim Keenan (present), Warren McDougall, Deborah McKellar, George Moore (present), Kathleen Mowat, Brian Nicholson, Linda Petrides (present), Young Rhee (present), Joseph Smiley, and Stephen Willey. The court sang a verse of a hymn that is meaningful to the retiree, and each retiree addressed the court.

Announcements and grace

President-Elect Audrey Brown made a number of announcements. Audrey thanked Fred Parsons for accompanying the hymns. Grace was led by Paul Rumbolt.

EVENING SESSION

Workshops

The evening began with workshops on the following topics – Striving to be Allies: Biblical Witness and Current Practice led by Jennifer Henry, Executive Director of Kairos Canada; Living in to the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* led by Ed Bianchi, Programs Manager of Kairos Canada; Wampum: Reading the Talk led by Brian Charles an off-reserve Band member of the Chippewas of Georgina Island; Duty to Consult led by David J. Stinson, registered professional planner and a partner in Incite Planning.

Vespers and Story Café

The evening concluded with vespers led by Karen Hilfman-Millson, Paul Rumbolt and Karen Warner. Paul Rumbolt invited people to join in a Story Café.

SATURDAY, May 28, 2016

MORNING SESSION

Gathering music

Gathering music was led by Paul Rumbolt.

Service of Remembering

Chaplains Sungmin Jung and Ruth McDonald led a time of worship, including a remembrance of congregations which had closed or amalgamated, those who had died in the last year and the brokenness of relations between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people in Canada.

Workshops

The morning session continued with workshops. Everyone had opportunity to attend a different workshop than they had the day before.

Right Relations

Jennifer Henry and Lorna Pawis led the court in some reflective time regarding right relations between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people.

Announcements and grace

President-Elect Audrey Brown made a number of announcements, and Paul Rumbolt led grace.

AFTERNOON SESSION

Gathering music

Gathering music was led by Paul Rumbolt.

The President welcomed everyone back to the gathering.

Jubilands

The President asked jubilands to stand and the court offered a round of applause to thank them for their years of ministry.

Questions on accountability reports

Members of the court had an opportunity to submit questions about items in the various accountability reports. No questions were received.

Quorum

Before the business session began, the scrutineers counted to ensure that there was quorum. Quorum was not reached (171 voting members were present) but upon a recount when additional people were rounded up, quorum was achieved.

Proposal to Toronto Conference #1 – General Council grant

President-Elect Audrey Brown made a brief presentation on the proposal.

MOTION by Ross Leckie/Lawrence Nyarko that this 92nd annual meeting of Toronto Conference approve that the 2016 and 2017 General Council grants be reduced to \$0 and request the General Council to redirect those funds to assist other Conferences to remain viable.

MOTION CARRIED.

Proposal to Toronto Conference #2 – 2017-2019 Conference budget and assessments

The Executive Secretary made brief remarks regarding the 2017 budget and the years that follow, and answered questions.

MOTION by Linda Parsons/Martha Wood that this 92nd annual meeting of Toronto Conference approve the 2017 budget and receive for information the projected budgets for 2018 and 2019.

MOTION CARRIED.

Proposal to Toronto Conference #3 – Affirming Ministry

Cynthia O'Connell, a member of the Affirming Ministry Task Group, made a brief presentation on the proposal.

MOTION by Cynthia O'Connell/Martha Wood that this 92nd annual meeting of Toronto Conference authorize the Conference Executive to develop an affirming ministry vision statement and action plan to be presented at the 2017 annual meeting.

MOTION CARRIED.

Proposal to Toronto Conference #4 – World Religions

Ross Carson from York Pines United Church made a presentation on the proposal and answered questions for clarification.

MOTION by David Allen/Audrey Brown that Toronto Conference of The United Church of Canada recommend to the Government of the Province of Ontario that a course in World Religions be mandatory for students graduating with an Ontario Secondary School Diploma.

MOTION

DEFEATED.

New Business #1 – rescinding sub-Executive motion

The Executive Secretary outlined the process to be followed when dealing with the next item of business. Members of the Conference's Interview Committee left the court, thus causing quorum to be lost. The gathering continued to discuss the proposal.

Randy Bowes, chair of West Hill United Church, made a brief presentation on the proposal. Martha ter Kuile, chair of Toronto Southeast Presbytery, spoke about the presbytery's response to the proposal. The Executive Secretary answered a number of questions for clarification

Members of the Conference Interview Committee returned to the court, thus re-gaining quorum.

Secret Ballot

MOTION by David Allen/Audrey Brown that any votes regarding New Business #1 be conducted by secret ballot and that the results be made known.

MOTION

CARRIED.

MOTION by David Allen/Audrey Brown that Toronto Conference reconsider the April 1, 2016 motion made by the Conference's sub-Executive to reinstate the review of Rev. Gretta Vosper as originally ordered on May 11, 2015.

MOTION

DEFEATED.

The vote was 51 in favour, 100 opposed with three spoiled ballots.

MOTION by David Allen/Mark Winger for the ballots to be destroyed.

MOTION

CARRIED.

Announcements

President-Elect Audrey Brown made a number of announcements during the time of waiting for the ballot results.

Reflections from General Secretary Nora Sanders

The President then welcomed General Secretary Nora Sanders who addressed the court on where she had heard the stories and seen glimpses of God at work in the world during the meeting.

Appreciations

President-Elect Audrey Brown thanked a number of people and offered a special thank you to President Bryan Ransom for his service over the last two years. She presented a gift to him. The court responded with applause.

Closing prayers

The President offered a word of thanks to everyone and the staff, Executive Secretary David Allen, the Conference Executive and offered prayer to close the afternoon session.

EVENING SESSIONCelebration of Ministries service

The 92nd annual meeting of Toronto Conference concluded with the Celebration of Ministries service at St. Paul's United Church, Midland. President Bryan Ransom presided, assisted by Executive Secretary David Allen, President-Elect Audrey Brown and Karen Hilfman-Millson. Jennifer Henry delivered the message. Six people were ordained – Debbie Boukydis-Grant, Alexander Constable, Meg Jordan, Linda Newnham, Lawrence Nyarko and Kathy Underwood. Amy Crawford and Tessica Hackshaw were admitted to the order of ministry of The United Church of Canada. Designated Lay Ministers, Doreen Mason and Barry Rieder, who had been recognized by their presbyteries, participated in the service. Barbara Creelman, DLM could not be present.

Nora Sanders, Dong Chun Seo, Didier Rousseau and Kelly Colwell read scripture; the texts were 1 John 4:7, Baruch 5:7 and Isaiah 61:1-4. Musical leadership was provided by Bob Bruer, Paul Rumbolt, Victoria Warwick and a choir made up of St. John's United Church, Elmvale, St. Paul's United Church, Midland and members of the Conference.

Audrey Brown was installed as President of Toronto Conference.

Bryan Ransom
President

David W. Allen
Executive Secretary