

**THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA
TORONTO CONFERENCE**

**Minutes of a meeting of the
Executive of Toronto Conference
Wednesday, September 14, 2016**

The Executive of Toronto Conference met at the South West Presbytery office on Wednesday, September 14, 2016. The meeting began at 10:04 a.m. A quorum was present.

Members present

Audrey Brown (President), David Allen (Executive Secretary), Bryan Ransom (Past President), Eiko Hosaka (diversity), Sungmin Jung (South West), Angus MacLennan (Living Waters), Betty Lou McNabb (Living Waters), Lawrence Nyarko (diversity), Thérèse Samuel (Northern Waters), Catherine Smith (South West), Marg Smith (Living Waters), Hans van Nie (South West)

Regrets

Sharon Aylsworth (Toronto Southeast), Anne Hepburn (Toronto Southeast), Roger Hutchinson (Toronto Southeast), Martha Wood (diversity)

Absent

- (Northern Waters), - (Northern Waters)

Community building, listening to God

Constituting the Court and introductions

President Audrey Brown welcomed everyone and constituted the meeting in the name of Jesus Christ to conduct the business properly brought before it. She asked people to introduce themselves.

Worship/lighting the Christ candle/acknowledging the land

Hans van Nie from South West Presbytery led the opening worship. Betty Lou McNabb lit the Christ candle. The Executive acknowledged the land on which it was meeting, and Marg Smith lit the four directions candle. Hans spoke about the season of creation; this coming Sunday is “storm” Sunday. He read the gospel reading Luke 8:22ff. He made the connection between having faith and “I believe” using a credit card as an object lesson, “credit” having a root meaning of “credo”. He offered prayer.

Governance training

The Executive Secretary led a brief training session on policy governance.

Questions for evaluating the meeting

For this meeting, the Executive focused on two questions for evaluating its work: What voices have been heard? What voices have we not heard?

Adoption of agenda

MOTION by Lawrence Nyarko/Marg Smith that the agenda be adopted.

MOTION

CARRIED.

Affirming Ministry Task Group

In the absence of Affirming Ministry Task Group members, the Executive Secretary made a presentation on the required steps for becoming an Affirming Ministry. He focused on the vision statement and action plan that will be developed over the coming year.

The task group will be asked to lead a discussion in November on the vision statement and action plan and will prepare a draft statement for the February Executive meeting.

Monitoring and compliance with policies**Investment policy and Oikocredit**

The June Executive meeting had directed the Executive Secretary to bring further information and a proposal regarding the possibility of investing in Oikocredit. The Executive Secretary made a presentation assisted by Hans van Nie.

MOTION by Marg Smith/Therese Samuel that the Toronto Conference Investment Policy be revised to allow for impact investments (Appendix A), and that Toronto Conference provide educational resources to communities of faith to promote impact investing through Oikocredit.

MOTION

CARRIED.

Hans van Nie declared a conflict of interest and did not vote.

Appointment of Investment Manager

The Executive had been provided with an investment report from the current investment advisor (Appendix B).

MOTION by Betty Lou McNabb/Lawrence Nyarko that RBC Dominion Securities be the investment manager for Toronto Conference for the 2016/2017 Conference year.

MOTION

CARRIED.

Up-dating Signing Officers Policy

The Executive Secretary recommended a minor change to the Signing Officers policy to bring it into line with current practice.

MOTION by Angus MacLennan/Catherine Smith that the Signing Officers policy be amended to read "...and one or more Conference program ministers..."

MOTION

CARRIED.

Executive Secretary's report

The Executive Secretary's report (Appendix C) had a number of items where discussion was requested or up-dates given.

Explorer Project: Carol Hancock had provided a report on the 2016 iteration of the Explorer Project (Appendix D).

MOTION by Bryan Ransom/Angus MacLennan that the Executive approve funding for the Explorer Project for 2017 and 2018 at a maximum cost of \$75,000 per annum with the funds to come from the Conference Fund.

MOTION

CARRIED.

Some hesitation was expressed about non-summer Explorations, but the Executive was willing to keep the door open to this option.

Questions: Executive members had an opportunity to ask questions about any aspects of the Executive Secretary's report.

Five Oaks and Grand River: The Executive would like to have a usage report from Grand River Spiritual and Educational Resources on a presbytery-by-presbytery basis. If the report can include usage by groups, that could be helpful, e.g. UCW, youth groups, Bible studies, right relations, etc. The message the Executive is giving to Grand River is that it will decide whether to maintain or remove funding for 2017. This will be an agenda item for the November Executive meeting.

Incorporated ministries: The Executive Secretary will provide an up-date on how the new General Council policy is being lived out, problems, etc. This will be an agenda item for the November Executive meeting.

Social justice position: Does Conference have a role in a social justice position? The Executive Secretary explained that a social justice position is not in the current budget; the position could be created if the budget were adjusted to cover the costs.

Technology problems: Executive members expressed the hope that the current solutions to IT problems will be successful.

Intercultural position: A question was asked about the intercultural ministry position. This was funded by South West Presbytery; the presbytery decided to not renew the contract after the end of June, 2016.

Gretta Vosper: The Executive Secretary gave a brief up-date on the review of the Rev. Gretta Vosper.

Lunch

Sungmin Jung led grace at 11:58 a.m.; the meeting resumed at 12:45 p.m.

Business matters to be considered by the Executive

Minutes

MOTION by David Allen/Lawrence Nyarko that the Executive approve the minutes of the June 8 and July 13, 2016 meetings

MOTION

CARRIED.

Right relations

The Executive had received a report on right relations activities (Appendix E). Past-President Bryan Ransom spoke about the ceremonies commemorating the 30th anniversary of the church's apology to Aboriginal peoples. Several questions were asked about the right relations report including the lack of Indigenous representation at the LIRR meeting on September 16 when the Ontario-Quebec fellowship is meeting. Thérèse spoke positively about the Returning to Spirit program.

Correspondence

The Executive had a lengthy discussion to understand the background of the proposed letter to the General Council regarding benefits for ministry personnel. Any letter that is written will be copied to presbyteries as a reminder of their oversight of the congregations; the congregations involved will be named.

MOTION by Bryan Ransom/Catherine Smith that the Executive receive the correspondence report (Appendix F) and adopt the recommendations for action.

MOTION

CARRIED.

Another item of correspondence will come to the November Executive meeting. Maritime Conference is offering an investment opportunity and is wondering whether Toronto Conference might be interested in it.

Omnibus motion

MOTION by Betty Lou McNabb/Catherine Smith that the Toronto Conference Executive take the following actions:

a) Interim Ministry

... on the advice of its Conference Interview Committee, which has reviewed the application (IM) and references from the applicant; met and interviewed the applicant's request for initial designation as an Interim Minister hereby designate Rev. Karen Hilfman Millson as eligible to serve as an Intentional Interim Minister with the following conditions: for a period of five years; and that a presbytery within Toronto Conference assign a trained, experienced intentional Interim Minister as a mentor during her first intentional Interim Ministry to meet with her on a regular basis during the first term of her appointment; and that quarterly reports from Rev. Karen Hilfman Millson and the mentor be sent to the appropriate committee of the presbytery. The mentor should be assigned in discussion with Rev. Karen Hilfman Millson and the presbytery.

... on the advice of its Conference Interview Committee, which has reviewed the application (IM) and references from the applicant; met and interviewed the applicant's request for initial designation as an Interim Minister hereby designate Rev. Lorraine Hill as eligible to serve as an Intentional Interim Minister with the following conditions: for a period of five years; and that a presbytery within Toronto Conference assign a trained, experienced intentional Interim Minister as a mentor during her first intentional Interim Ministry to meet with her on a regular basis during the first term of her appointment; and that quarterly reports from Rev. Lorraine Hill and the mentor be sent to the appropriate committee of the presbytery. The mentor should be assigned in discussion with Rev. Lorraine Hill and the presbytery.

... on the advice of its Conference Interview Committee, which has reviewed the application (IM) and references from the applicant; met and interviewed the applicant's request for initial designation as an Interim Minister hereby designate Rev. L. Allan Lynk as eligible to serve as an

Intentional Interim Minister with the following conditions: for a period of five years; and that a presbytery within Toronto Conference assign a trained, experienced intentional Interim Minister as a mentor during his first intentional Interim Ministry to meet with him on a regular basis during the first term of his appointment; and that quarterly reports from Rev. L. Allan Lynk and the mentor be sent to the appropriate committee of the presbytery. The mentor should be assigned in discussion with Rev. L. Allan Lynk and the presbytery.

b) 736 Outreach Corporation

....approve 736 Outreach Corporation 2015-2016 Board of Directors

Raymond Harris
Deborah Hart
Robert Metcalf
Beth Moore
Margaret Sumadh
Frank van de Water
Wayne White

....approve 736 Outreach Corporation 2016-2017 Board of Directors

Raymond Harris
Deborah Hart
Robert Metcalf
Beth Moore
Margaret Sumadh
Frank van de Water
Wayne White

c) Central King Seniors Residence

...approve the Central King Seniors Residence 2016-2017 Board of Directors

Mary Louise Ashbourne
Alex Gribben
Ella Jackson
Joyce Klamer
Michael Kooiman
Jon Lee
Taye Maddison
Lang Moffat
Bob Putnam
Don Thompson

d) Church of the Master Homes Corporation

... approve the addition of Bennett Olegasegram to the Church of the Master Homes Corporation 2016-2017 Board of Directors

e) Hope Senior Centre – Danforth

...approve the Hope Senior Centre – Danforth 2016-2017 Board of Directors

Pauline Campbell
Eunice Connell
Sandra Madgett
Judith Powell

f) Kingsway-Lambton Homes for Seniors, Inc.

...approve the Kingsway-Lambton Homes for Seniors, Inc. 2016-2017 Board of Directors

Charles Donley
Dan Dupak
Gale Hughes
Priscilla Knight
David Macdonald
James T. Paradine
Gregory Service

g) Oakwil Non-Profit Homes Corporation

....approve the Oakwil Non-Profit Homes Corporation 2016-2017 Board of Directors

Ralph Dunham
Bill Newman
Aris Pakalns
Anna Ploughman
Ivor Roberts
Debra Schieck

h) The Presbyteries of Toronto Conference Corporation

....approve The Presbyteries of Toronto Conference Corporation 2016-2017 Board of Directors

Charles Donley

Evelyn Hill
Jamie Holtom
Julia Lobsinger
Mary McKeen
John Ostime
Harry Ramsaran
Nick Walker

i) Residences at St. Andrews (Georgetown) Corporation

... approve the addition of Bob Meads and Jennifer McLaughlin to the Residences at St. Andrews Georgetown Corporation 2016-2017 Board of Directors

j) St. Matthew's Bracondale House

....approve St. Matthew's Bracondale House 2016-2017 Board of Directors

Christopher Bee
Penny Bird Rudder
Paul Handley
Lynne Lamb
Marty Linton
Linda Macdonald
Christopher Neuman
Marija Padjen
Christine Pearce
Rob Weppler

k) Thornccliffe Chapel Housing Corporation

....approve Thornccliffe Chapel Housing Corporation 2016-2017 Board of Directors

Brian Abner
Lewis Banks
Bill Burleigh
Adrian Clark
Russell English
Richard Hazzard
Jennifer Lukas
Edith-Ann Shantz
Mary Ellen Steele

1) Toronto United Church Council

....approve Toronto United Church Council 2016-2017 Board of Directors

Barry Butwell
Ken Clarke
Peter DeVita
Janice Franklin
Brian Heinmiller
Wendy Jarvis
Bill Jermyn
Ross Leckie
Hannah Lee
John Joseph Mastandrea
Norm Seli
Susan Smith
Wing-Haan Tam

MOTION

CARRIED.

Nominations

Past-President Bryan Ransom presented a number of items on behalf of the Nominations Committee.

Process for electing GC43 commissioners:

MOTION by Bryan Ransom/Catherine Smith that Toronto Conference adopt the following process for electing commissioners to the 43rd meeting of the General Council:

Conference will have 30 commissioners in 2018. 24 commissioners will be nominated through the four presbyteries to be elected at the 2017 annual meeting (three lay/three ordered or DLM per presbytery, plus alternates), with the remaining six commissioners to be elected at the 2018 annual meeting based on a slate of nominees to be presented by the Conference's Nominations Committee and/or nominees from the floor.

MOTION

CARRIED.

Appointments and nominations

MOTION by Angus MacLennan/Catherine Smith that the Executive of Toronto Conference take the following actions based on recommendations from its Nominations Committee:

...appoint Carole Bennett to a three-year term (2016-2019) as the convenor of the stewardship/Mission & Service consultation.

...appoint Jessica McCrae as a sexual abuse policy consultant.

...appoint Bryan Ransom as chair and Marg Smith as one of the Conference representatives to the New Ministries Development and Leadership Fund's Grant Review Committee, and that Sharon Aylsworth be approached as the second Toronto Conference representative to the Grants Review Committee.

...nominate Joan Silcox-Smith (order of ministry) and Paul Stott (lay) as Toronto Conference representatives to the General Council's Judicial Committee.

MOTION

CARRIED.

General Council restructuring

The Executive Secretary gave a brief up-date on General Council restructuring. Presbyteries will be given a list of the communities of faith who have voted on the remits. The reports will cover the periods ending October 31, 2016, January 31, 2017 and March 31, 2017.

Terms of reference task group

Past-President Bryan Ransom spoke to the terms of reference for the leadership development fund and the operating agreement with the Presbyteries of Toronto Conference Corporation. Executive members offered expressions of thanks to those who had helped to draft the two documents, including Tom Clarke who died in July. Tom had been one of the Conference representatives to the task group.

MOTION by Hans van Nie/Sungmin Jung that Toronto Conference approve the terms of reference for the new ministries development and leadership fund and the operating agreement with the Presbyteries of Toronto Conference Corporation (Appendix G).

MOTION

CARRIED.

Discussion items named by Executive members

There were no discussion items named by Executive members that had not been covered elsewhere in the agenda.

Sungmin Jung spoke about the exchange visit with the Presbyterian Church in the Republic of Korea. He mentioned the case where a person is in prison. Could the Toronto Conference group visit the prison? This will be investigated.

Evaluation

The Executive returned to the questions for evaluating the meeting.

What voices have we heard?

- Having Betty Lou back is wonderful.
- We heard the voice of one of our members who had been a part of the Unitarian church.
- Heard deep theological reflection from Hans.
- Recognized the struggle for care and justice, e.g. the review of Gretta Vosper.
- Heard from marginalized people, e.g. the discussion on Oikocredit and the Korean prisoners.
- Heard voices of love and care.
- Heard the voices of justice and sharing, e.g. sharing wealth through the new fund's terms of reference.
- We're acting from a voice of privilege, e.g. working to build hope.

What voices have not been heard?

- We don't have what we need to know where to go.
- We're struggling with how to open up to other voices.
- Young people's voices.
- Two permanent members from Northern Waters Presbytery.

Closing

With the business completed, the President declared the meeting ended at 2:17 p.m. Catherine Smith offered a blessing.

Audrey Brown
President

David W. Allen
Executive Secretary