

**THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA
TORONTO CONFERENCE**

**Minutes of a meeting of the
Executive of Toronto Conference
Wednesday, June 8, 2016**

The Executive of Toronto Conference met at St. Paul's United Church, Orillia in Living Waters Presbytery on Wednesday, June 8, 2016. The meeting began at 10:08 a.m. A quorum was present.

Members present

Audrey Brown (President), David Allen (Executive Secretary), Bryan Ransom (Past President), John Brown (Toronto Southeast), Brian Goodings (Northern Waters), Anne Hepburn (Toronto Southeast), Eiko Hosaka (diversity), Roger Hutchinson (Toronto Southeast), Sungmin Jung (South West), Angus MacLennan (Living Waters), Lawrence Nyarko (diversity), Thérèse Samuel (Northern Waters), Catherine Smith (South West), Marg Smith (Living Waters), Martha Wood (diversity)

Regrets

Betty Lou McNabb (Living Waters), Hans van Nie (South West)

Absent

- (Northern Waters)

Corresponding members

Sharon Aylsworth (potential in-coming Toronto Southeast representative)

Community building, listening to God

Constituting the Court and introductions

President Audrey Brown welcomed everyone to the meeting, 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

Angus MacLennan from Living Waters Presbytery led the opening worship beginning with Marg Smith reading Luke 10:25-37. Angus offered a commentary on the parable of the Good Samaritan and prayed. Marg lit the Christ candle and the four directions candle. The Executive acknowledged the land on which it was meeting.

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 Marg Smith/John Brown that the agenda be adopted.

MOTION

CARRIED.

Corresponding members

MOTION by Angus MacLennan/Lawrence Nyarko that Sharon Aylsworth be made a corresponding member of this meeting.

MOTION

CARRIED.

Monitoring and compliance with policies

Review of policies

The Executive reviewed the Conference's investment policy in accordance with its policy on reviewing policies. The Executive also reviewed documentation about investing in Oikocredit.

MOTION by Catherine Smith/Angus MacLennan that Toronto Conference support investing in Oikocredit and that the Executive Secretary return to the September meeting with information to allow for decision-making.

MOTION

CARRIED.

Executive Secretary's report

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

Affirming Ministry work: The Executive Secretary explained that the Affirming Ministry Task Group will be an order of the day for the September Executive meeting as it does the work authorized at the Conference's annual meeting. No budget has been assigned to the task group for its work, but expenses are being monitored.

Grand River Spiritual and Educational Resources, Inc.: Toronto Conference is one of the partners in the book store and AVEL operation at Five Oaks. The board of directors is recommending that Grand River wind up operations. There will be some closing costs

including severance for staff. Some of this may be paid from the 2017 Conference grant to Grand River.

Five Oaks: There was a suggestion that the highlights of this meeting could include a summary of Conference's recent actions regarding Five Oaks including the gift to pay off the Five Oaks line of credit.

Living Waters Presbytery office renovations: A letter was received from Living Waters Presbytery expressing concern about the cost of the renovations that might take place at the Guthrie location. The Executive engaged in a lengthy discussion.

MOTION by Lawrence Nyarko/Marg Smith that the Executive reconsider its November 4, 2015 motion regarding renovations to the Guthrie property.

MOTION TO RECONSIDER

CARRIED.

MOTION by Roger Hutchinson/Angus MacLennan that the Executive authorize the Executive Secretary to proceed with renovations to the Living Waters Presbytery office with funding of up to \$200,000 to come from the Conference Fund.

MOTION by Brian Goodings/Bryan Ransom that the motion be tabled.

MOTION TO TABLE

CARRIED.

MOTION by Anne Hepburn/Bryan Ransom that the Executive make a decision on the renovations to the Living Waters Presbytery office after a quote has been received.

MOTION

CARRIED.

Election of GC43 commissioners: The Executive Secretary recommended that the election of most of the commissioners to the 43rd meeting of the General Council take place at the 2017 annual meeting.

MOTION by Marg Smith/Sungmin Jung that the Executive authorize the Nominations Committee to develop a process for electing commissioners to the 43rd meeting of the General Council, and that the process be approved by the Executive at its September, 2016 meeting.

MOTION

CARRIED.

Executive members asked a number of other questions about the Executive Secretary's report.

Business matters to be considered by the Executive

Minutes

MOTION by Catherine Smith/Bryan Ransom that the Executive approve the minutes of the May 6, 2016 meeting and receive the sub-Executive minutes of April 19, 2016.

MOTION

CARRIED.

Right relations

The Executive Secretary reported briefly on right relations plans. A bus trip to Sudbury in August to mark the 30th anniversary of the church's first apology to Aboriginal people will not take place because only seven people expressed interest in being on the bus. A number of people will be attending on their own; the Conference will be represented by Past-President Bryan Ransom and the Executive Secretary.

One grant has been given to a congregation working on a right relations event.

Correspondence

MOTION by Bryan Ransom/Marg Smith that the Executive receive the correspondence report (Appendix B).

MOTION

CARRIED.

Omnibus motion

MOTION by Catherine/Angus that the Toronto Conference Executive take the following actions:

a) Suitability for Ministry of Applicant for Admission

...on the advice of its Conference Interview Committee, which has reviewed the application and references from the applicant and has met and interviewed the applicant for admission on March 30, 2016, hereby recognize the Rev. Joel Aguirre as suitable to proceed in the admission process to the order of ministry of The United Church of Canada as an ordained minister.

...on the advice of its Conference Interview Committee, which has reviewed the application and references from the applicant and has met and interviewed the applicant for admission on March 30, 2016, hereby recognize the Rev. Alan Lai as suitable to proceed in the admission

process to the order of ministry of The United Church of Canada as an ordained minister.

...on the advice of its Conference Interview Committee, which has reviewed the application and references from the applicant and has met and interviewed the applicant for admission on May 4, 2016, hereby recognize the Rev. Mizeki Mndola as suitable to proceed in the admission process to the order of ministry of The United Church of Canada as an ordained minister.

b) 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. Sue Campbell 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. Sue Campbell and the mentor be sent to the appropriate committee of the presbytery. The mentor should be assigned in discussion with Rev. Sue Campbell 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. Richard Choe 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. Richard Choe and the mentor be sent to the appropriate committee of the presbytery. The mentor should be assigned in discussion with Rev. Richard Choe 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. Jim Keenan 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. Jim Keenan and the mentor be sent to the appropriate committee of the presbytery. The mentor should be assigned in discussion with Rev. Jim Keenan 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. Ian Manson 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. Ian Manson and the mentor be sent to the appropriate committee of the presbytery. The mentor should be assigned in discussion with Rev. Ian Manson 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. Fran Ota as eligible to serve as an Intentional Interim Minister with the following conditions: for a period of five years; Living Waters Presbytery (or other 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. Fran Ota and the mentor be sent to the appropriate committee of the presbytery. The mentor should be assigned in discussion with Rev. Fran Ota 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. Neil Parker 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. Neil Parker and the mentor be sent to the appropriate committee of the presbytery. The mentor should be assigned in discussion with Rev. Neil Parker and the presbytery.

... on the advice of its Conference Interview Committee, which has reviewed the application (INT101); met and interviewed the applicant

regarding the request for continuing designation as an Interim Minister hereby designate the Rev. Douglas duCharme as eligible to continue serving as an Interim Minister until June 12, 2018.

c) The Church of the Master Homes Corporation

...approve The Church of the Master Homes Corporation 2015-2017 Board of Directors

Elaine Dalziel
Robert Fletcher
Janice Graham
Rex Mouland
Mathew Peltier

d) Fairlawn Neighbourhood Centre

...consent to the transfer of all Fairlawn Neighbourhood Centre's remaining assets to Fairlawn Avenue United Church after all its liabilities have been satisfactorily discharged; and

...Toronto Conference consent to the surrender of the charter and the dissolution of Fairlawn Neighbourhood Centre once it has completed the transfer of its remaining assets to Fairlawn Avenue United Church and satisfied all its reporting requirements and other obligations.

e) Humbervale Christian Outreach Foundation Inc.

... approve the Humbervale Christian Outreach Foundation 2016-2017 Board of Directors

Robert Armstrong
Bruce Boyd
Robert Dunn
Elizabeth Ferrie-Richardson
Nelson Gowdy
John Hanna
George Klempa
Marjorie McKay
Cecil McKay
John Nicholson
Anne Sword
Lois Thompson
Charlotte Waller

f) Residences at St. Andrews (Georgetown) Corporation

... approve Residences at St. Andrews Georgetown Corporation 2016-2017 Board of Directors

Paul Annabelle
Scott A. Brandt
Noel Duignan
Inga Lavoie
Marilyn Mitton
Joe Oatman
Monique Porlier

g) St. Matthew's (Richmond Hill) Non-Profit Homes

... approve St. Matthew's (Richmond Hill) Non-Profit Homes 2016-2017 Board of Directors

Neil Hunking
Rick McKinley
Brian Stanger

h) Nominations

... appoint Mary Elizabeth Piercy as the Settlement and Pastoral Relations Committee Diaconal representative for a first term of 2016-2019

i) Trinity Glen Housing Corporation (formerly United Church Developments, York Presbytery)

... based on advice received from the General Council lawyer and staff, approve the agreement to recognize Trinity Glen Housing Corporation (formerly United Church Developments, York Presbytery) as a legacy incorporated ministry effective June 8, 2016.

MOTION

CARRIED.

Annual meeting follow-up

There was no unfinished business from the Conference's annual meeting. Executive members made a number of comments about the meeting:

- Table groups were great.
- Sound needs to be improved.
- Fans in the church are needed.
- Volunteers were amazing.

- Could the meeting have been downstairs and the food upstairs? The ceiling is very low.
- Liked workshops.
- The President and Executive Secretary did a good job explaining process.
- The Conference Interview Committee members didn't get ballots; did that have any impact on quorum?
- Did we lose quorum because we were in Midland?
- The West Hill congregation provided lots of support for its proposal.
- There was less intercultural sensitivity compared to previous year.
- It was good to have youth at many of the tables.

Lunch

Marg led a singing grace at approximately 12:30 p.m.; the meeting resumed at 1:10 p.m.

Appointment of sub-Executive and Nominations Committee

Executive members discussed who would serve on the sub-Executive and the Nominations Committee.

MOTION by Anne Hepburn/Brian Goodings that the Executive of Toronto Conference elect a sub-Executive for 2016/2017 consisting of the following people:

President Audrey Brown
 Past-President Bryan Ransom
 Executive Secretary David Allen
 Angus MacLennan (Living Waters)
 Thérèse Samuel (Northern Waters)
 Catherine Smith (South West)
 Sharon Aylsworth (Toronto Southeast) and
 Eiko Hosaka (diversity representative).

MOTION

CARRIED.

MOTION by Sungmin Jung/Lawrence Nyarko that the Executive name the following people as members of the Nominations Committee for 2016/2017:

Bryan Ransom (Past-President)
 Marg Smith (Living Waters)
 Thérèse Samuel (Northern Waters)
 Catherine Smith (South West)
 Anne Hepburn (Toronto Southeast)
 Martha Wood (diversity representative).

MOTION

CARRIED.

General Council restructuring

The Executive Secretary gave a very brief up-date on General Council restructuring. He has been named as a member of the group looking at various scenarios based on whether remits pass or fail.

Terms of reference task group

Past-President Bryan Ransom reported that the September Executive meeting will be asked to pass motions supporting the terms of reference for the leadership development fund and the operating agreement with the Presbyteries of Toronto Conference Corporation.

Discussion items named by Executive members

Angus MacLennan asked a question about the Conference's travel rate. The General Council rate will be 39 cents per kilometre beginning January 1, 2017.

MOTION by Angus MacLennan/Bryan Ransom that the Conference travel rate be 41 cents per kilometre.

MOTION

CARRIED.

The Executive Secretary will be in touch with the presbyteries regarding the rate they wish to use in 2017.

Evaluation

The Executive returned to the questions for evaluating the meeting.

What voices have we heard?

- Roger mentioned a book *Deconstructing Tourism – Who Benefits?*
- Appreciated seeing the pride flag at the church.
- Appreciated seeing the welcome sign from the children of St. Paul's.
- Bryan Ransom mentioned the banner that now travels with the President.

What voices have not been heard?

- We're missing having Betty Lou McNabb with us.
- In a congregational setting, one member felt that her voice was not heard during Asian Heritage Month.
- Aboriginal voices and Five Oaks were not heard when we discussed the future use of the Five Oaks land.
- Didn't hear the voice of the Dalston Crown Hill congregation when we talked about the renovations to the Living Waters Presbytery office.

- When discussing a piece of correspondence, we heard from one person about Five Oaks, but not from Five Oaks itself.

Past-President Bryan Ransom offered prayer.

Thanks to retiring members

The President expressed gratitude for the service of John Brown and Brian Goodings, both of whom are leaving the Executive on June 30 at the completion of their terms of office.

Closing

With the business completed, the President declared the meeting ended at 1:44 p.m. Marg Smith offered a blessing.

Audrey Brown
President

David W. Allen
Executive Secretary