

**The Vision of Toronto Southeast Presbytery is
to enable and support good, faithful and healthy communities of faith
within our member Pastoral Charges
and to provide opportunities for cross-congregational initiatives
where individuals from Congregations with shared calls to specific ministries may work together.**

**Toronto Conference
Toronto Southeast Presbytery
Minutes of the Executive Meeting**

Date: September 13, 2016

Time: 4:00 pm – 6:30 pm

Place: Apps Room, 963 Pharmacy Avenue, Scarborough, Ontario.

Present:

Executive Members: Paul Hutchison (Chair), Martha ter Kuile (Past-Chair), Marg Walker (Secretary), Randy Naylor (Nominations), Clyde Harris (Treasurer), Sharon Aylsworth (Member-at-Large), David McMaster (Member-at-Large), Lynella Reid-James (Member-at-large)

Staff: TSP: Anne Shirley Sutherland

Regrets: Hannah Lee (Member-at-Large)

Quorum was achieved.

1. OPENING: PRAYER AND COMMENTS, CONSTITUTION OF THE MEETING Paul Hutchison

Paul Hutchison called the meeting to order at 4 pm and lit a candle to remind us that we are here to do God's work.

Paul called the meeting to deal with such business as should properly come before us. Following a brief check-in, Paul invited everyone to reflect on the next three years and consider what we hope we can do.

Paul then offered a prayer.

2. AGENDA REVIEW / APPROVAL

The agenda was reviewed and a Nominations report added. This will be included each meeting.

3. STAFF REPORT

Anne Shirley Sutherland

Anne Shirley provided an overview of the work of presbytery. There are tasks that must be done in the areas of Pastoral Relations, setting budgets, property, amalgamations, Mission And Outreach annual grants, the PTCC Review Task Group and the Education and Students Team.

There are other tasks which are done well by other teams. To date the presbytery has not set clear priorities about where the future may be.

Presbytery has made funding decisions which indicate some priorities. These include projects or programs to revitalize and reenergize congregations, including 'Into The Promise' project; MAP Phases 1 & 2 with plans for Phase 3; new ministries such as Regent Park (Free Range) and Main and Danforth; and presbytery events which are culture changing initiatives.

There is a need for more coordination.

Anne Shirley has met with chairs to consider what in their mandate, they are not doing She noted that the Pastoral Relations subgroup had recently held a successful event for Retirees. Congregational Health

did a review of annual reports, but it hasn't been used by anyone.

She is encouraging each team to make a work plan and she plans to coordinate a meeting for the teams to think about integration, overlap and the need for communication. We have an opportunity to look at the big picture.

David Allen circulated a memo about compliance issues. These are no longer necessary when a congregation is in a call or appointment process. Wendy has gathered all of the information and Anne Shirley will ask her to follow up where necessary.

There have been several enquiries to share or develop positions together.

- There was a request from South West to share a youth ministry position. Toronto Southeast endeavours in youth ministry have not been successful. South West has now contracted to the GO project.
- There has also been a conversation about a shared justice position in the four presbyteries. This will be on the JGI future agenda.
- The HALO Project was a study to look at the economic impact of churches in their communities. Kingston Road was involved and Sharon told of their experience. It was a great deal of work, but the results show that churches contribute considerably to the economy in their area. Anne Shirley will provide information for our next meeting.

These topics generated discussion about work done in our individual congregations and a time to reflect on the culture of the churches in the presbytery.

It was noted that there is not a culture of churches getting together in TSP. How should this impact our work in the next three years?

Anne Shirley has contacted an individual who has a communication business. She has shared the report prepared last year and shown him some of our event flyers. She will arrange a meeting, including Paul to discuss this further and report.

4. REPORT FROM TASK GROUP TO REVIEW PTCC PROCESSES

Marg Walker

Marg reported that the task group has not completed the proposal for additional staffing which will have a well-defined, realistic focus on our mission together as the United Church in this part of the city.

The proposal will be presented at the October 11 executive meeting and if supported, will be sent to the PTCC Review Task Group. The Task Group will make recommendations to the November 8 executive for the November 15 plenary meeting.

5. WEST HILL

Members of the executive had received and read the Report of the Conference Interview Committee of its review of the ministry of Rev. Gretta Vosper.

The third recommendation of the Report is to explore ways to provide support to West Hill United Church throughout the formal hearing process.

Toronto Southeast has been invited to make a presentation at the meeting of the sub-Executive of Toronto Conference on September 15.

David Allen, Executive Secretary, hopes to meet with the congregation of West Hill on Sunday, September 18 if the sub-Executive has made a decision.

The executive expressed a range of opinions during the discussion. The executive agreed that we should offer support to the West Hill congregation, but no definite plans were suggested.

Martha will attend the meeting of the sub-Executive to present on behalf of the presbytery. Paul will also be present. She will indicate that there was a range of opinions offered, but the balance of opinion was for the conference to proceed with the recommendations. In particular, that the presbytery will offer support to the congregation.

6. TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR NEW MINISTRIES AND LEADERSHIP FUND & MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

Marg noted that the documents have been available to presbyters to review. The Fund will support New Ministries and Leadership Development initiatives in Toronto Conference.

MOTION Martha ter Kuile / Clyde Harris that the executive of Toronto Southeast Presbytery recommend that the Plenary approve the Terms of Reference for the New Ministries and Leadership Development Fund and the Memorandum of Understanding for the Operation of the New Ministries Development and Leadership Fund and PTCC at the September 20, 2016 meeting

CARRIED.

7. REQUEST FOR TASK GROUPS

Anne Shirley Sutherland

When congregations are in transition, the process is governed by the Toronto Southeast Policy Number/Designation: 2015 – 001: Amalgamations, Closing and other Transitions: Presbytery Processes and Decision Making.

MOTION: Marg Walker / David McMaster that Anne Shirley Sutherland be requested to set up and train Presbytery Consultative Task Groups (PCTG) to work with St. John's and Bedford Park United Churches during their transitions.

CARRIED.

8. TREASURER'S REPORT

Clyde Harris

Clyde reported that expenses are ahead of other years, which is good, but it is still important to ensure that projects and programs identified in each team's budgets are completed.

Most congregations are up-to-date on their assessment payments.

MOTION: Clyde Harris / David McMaster that the executive of Toronto Southeast Presbytery, on the recommendation of the Finance and Property Team, receive the financial report dated September 7, 2016 as presented and forwarded to the plenary on September 20, 2016.

CARRIED.

9. NOMINATIONS

Randy Naylor

Randy reported that there are significant vacancies in the presbytery teams. There is an immediate need to fill the following positions: the chairs of Property and Finance and Inter-Church/Inter-Faith; a male ordered minister to the Committee on Sexual Abuse; a lay and an ordered minister to serve on the Grant Review Committee for the New Ministries Development and Leadership Fund. There is a pending vacancy for a secretary for the Mission and Outreach Team for June, 2017.

The Rev. Lorrie Daly-Price is to be elected at the September plenary as a member of the E&S Team.

The Nominations Team requires members. At this time, Randy relies on staff and the executive for help.

MOTION: Randy Naylor / Lynella Reid-James that the report of Nominations be accepted and forwarded to the plenary on September 20, 2016.

CARRIED.

10. PLANNING FOR PLENARY

Paul Hutchison

The agenda for the plenary meeting was reviewed.

There will be a time for announcements about presbytery events after the break. One person will be assigned to make the announcements which will also be on the monitors. Anne Shirley will have responsibility to coordinate this.

Following the installation of Paul as Chair, an update regarding the Report of the Interview Committee of its Review of the ministry of the Rev. Gretta Vosper will be made. The executive said that they all will keep Gretta and the congregation of West Hill in their prayers.

A survey will be given to those present to learn about the plans of our congregations regarding the Remits. A follow up email survey will be sent to those who do not respond. It is important that each congregation respond, since no response is considered a 'no' vote.

10. CORRESPONDENCE

| Date Received | Topic | Action |
|-----------------|--|---|
| June 20, 2016 | List of 6 CoFs with no 2015 Stats | Wendy: will follow up with an email |
| June 20, 2016 | Email questions from John DiPede (West Hill) around 1. quorum and 2. who can raise concerns about ministry personnel. | Martha responded by email. No further response required. |
| July 19, 2016 | Toronto Conference invitation to chairs & secretaries to a consultation on part-time ministry on Wed. Sept 28 th 9:30am-1pm | Paul, Marg: Also PR – Ian is planning to go & also part-time ministers invited |
| Aug 12, 2016 | Massey Centre Summer 2016 Newsletter | FYI |
| August 23, 2016 | New Ministries and Leadership Development Fund & Memorandum of Agreement | To Executive & plenary |
| June 28, 2016 | PTCC Investment Final Summary for 2015 - July 28, 2016 & PTCC Presidents Report for 2015 July 2015 to June 2016 | To Executive, Finance & Property and Mission and Outreach. |
| Sept 2, 2016 | Five Oaks Newsletter | FYI |
| Sept 8, 2016 | Report of Conference Interview Committee of its review of the ministry of the rev. Gretta Vosper | FYI |

MOTION: Marg Walker / Sharon Aylsworth that the correspondence be accepted for information and action taken as indicated.

CARRIED.

11. MINUTES of June 14, 2016 executive meeting and June 21, 2016 plenary meeting.

MOTION: Marg Walker / -Sharon Aylsworth that the minutes of the June 14, 2016 Executive meetings be approved as presented.

CARRIED.

MOTION: Marg Walker / Sharon Aylsworth that the minutes of the June 21, 2016 Plenary meetings be received.

CARRIED.

12. SECRETARY FOR THE OCTOBER 11 EXECUTIVE MEETING

Marg will be away for the meeting. Lynella agreed to take the minutes.

13. FYI & FOR RECOGNITION AT THE SEPTEMBER 20 PLENARY

Kelly Colwell & Sheryl Johnson received the Bill and Anna Jentsch Endowment. The Bursary's purpose is to support women in ministry for their Ph.D studies.

Peter (Sheng Ping) Guo, a member of Knox – Agincourt received The Victor Blatherwick Memorial Bursary. This Fund goes to a member of The United Church of Canada who is enrolled in full-or part-time studies leading to an academic doctorate suitable for teaching in a United Church theological college to for his pursuit of doctoral studies.

We are saddened by the deaths Tom Clarke and Doug Varey.

Adjournment

With the agenda complete, the chair declared the meeting adjourned at 6 pm and invited closed the meeting with prayer.

NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, October 11, 4-6:30pm at 963 Pharmacy Ave.

Rev. Dr. Paul Hutchison
Chair: Toronto Southeast Presbytery

Margaret Walker
Secretary: Toronto Southeast Presbytery