

**The Vision of Toronto Southeast Presbytery is
to enable and support good, faithful and healthy communities of faith
within our 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: December 13, 2016

Time: 4:00 pm – 6:30 pm

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

Present:

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

Staff: TSP: Anne Shirley Sutherland

Regrets: Martha ter Kuile

Quorum was achieved.

1. OPENING: RECOGNITION OF THE LAND, CONSTITUTION OF THE MEETING AND PRAYER

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 continued with the words 'As the United Church gathered in this time and place, we draw this meeting of Toronto Southeast Presbytery together to deal with such business as should properly come before us.'

He offered the recognition of the Land. As we meet, we acknowledge that we gather upon the traditional territories of the Mississauga Anishinaabeg, Haudenosaunee and Wendat indigenous peoples, the original nations of this land who continue to cry out for justice

Check-in. Paul shared a power point about the innkeeper and the marvel of Jesus' birth.

Paul then offered a prayer.

2. AGENDA REVIEW

The agenda was reviewed.

3. STAFF REPORT

Anne Shirley provided an overview of the staff report. This included an overview of the year's work of the Teams and noted areas for future planning. She challenged the executive about the role of the executive as we move into 2017.

Churches in transition

Anne Shirley reported that Church of the Master will be disbanding the end of June; Bedford Park is building a relationship toward merging with Northlea in January; Presteign-Woodbine and Leaside have voted to amalgamate in June but will start worshipping together at Christmas; and St. John's is in conversations but aiming toward an amalgamation in June also.

Each of these have two people accompanying them and the 4 teams connect regularly with Neil Young who is overseeing the process.

There are now about a dozen fewer ministry position in this presbytery that when it began in 2009. And 8 -10 less ministry positions by June of this year. And that many less presbyters.

How does this impact our structures?

In the future there is a need to address the health and capacity issues so that stuck or struggling congregations can become more active. At the same time, some congregations will be coming to an end and hoping to leave a special legacy. Lastly but maybe firstly, some congregations who are vibrant need to be celebrated and asked to share - their wisdom. A health plan will look very different for each. This is our challenge.

What is revitalization for us and how might that work be furthered?

New challenge is to integrate all the pieces we have begun so that they form a strategy and so that we can clearly articulate where our path is leading and why.

How does the UCC assess and reassess if congregations are healthy?

With Beth Baskin's resignation, the executive will await a request from JGI about the funding in place for the Social Justice project.

Anne Shirley expressed disappointment that the plan for the learning communities did not happen in the fall. There are conversations with South West and there is the possibility of an event with Allan Roxburgh to reboot the project.

Anne Shirley noted that one of the gaps in the United Church is the lack of training we have for "new ministries". A conversation is starting with others – Anglicans, Edge, TUCC about this need.

She offered a picture of all the pieces. The pieces indicate that lots of the parts of the puzzle are active albeit not totally coordinated or not with a clear vision statement that sets direction.

Do we want to draw the pieces together? What is the staff role in that? The role of the Executive?Moderator's visit:

The Moderator's Visit is being organized by the Events Group. Randy reported that a draft plan for an evening event and a day time event have been forwarded to Toronto Conference and to the Moderator's Committee for consideration. The dates will be determined based on the Moderator's availability.

East End Ministry

After discussion about the East End Ministry transition team, it was decided to update the motion from the November executive meeting to indicate that this team is made up of a representative from Mission Strategy, Congregational Health, Finance and Property and Pastoral Relations, but not an executive member. The team should provide guidance and direction to the East End Ministry.

MOTION: Clyde Harris / Randy Naylor THAT the transition team of representatives from Mission Strategy, Congregational Health, Finance and Property and Pastoral Relations provide strong guidance and direction to the East End Ministry to ensure a successful transition to a shared ministry. The team will not include a member of the executive.

CARRIED.

MOTION: Lynella Reid-James / Randy Naylor THAT the staff report be received with great thanks to Anne Shirley for the report.

CARRIED.**4. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION**Update on visit to West Hill

The Chair noted that a visit is planned in the new year, but no further information was available at this time.

Discussion about funding requests from Mission and Outreach

At the November plenary, Mission and Outreach asked for confirmation from the Executive that the TSE would fund the \$8,970 shortfall in Mission Support funding for Indigenous Ministries allocated to TSE at the Mission Support Consultation.

Clyde reported from the Finance and Property Committee that the request could be taken from the surplus fund for this year, but expressed concern about the future.

MOTION: Clyde Harris / Hannah Lee THAT the executive agrees to fund the \$8,970 shortfall in Mission Support funding for Indigenous ministries allocated to TSE at the Mission Support Consultation from the surplus fund for this year.

CARRIED.

At the November plenary meeting, Deborah Hart reported that the request for funds for the Tamil Mission was reduced to \$5,500 with the expectation that the presbytery would take greater responsibility and provide financial support of \$16,000 for the ministry in 2017.

There is a three-person support team for the Tamil Mission: Rob Selby, Pam Lock and Bill Ford is mentor to Kumar Thangarajah.

Following discussion, the executive requested that Anne Shirley speak with the support group for the Tamil Mission and request that the Mission establish a longer term plan, start an application process for funding from our PTCC fund and speak with Executive.

Grant application to PTCC for a staffing

The Chair and secretary met with David Allen and Anne Shirley to continue the development of an application. The request is based on the Mission Statement of the presbytery, the Five Priorities of the Mission Strategy Framework and the continuing Mission Articulation (MAP) program.

The executive agreed to the concepts, but details need further development.

5. REPORTS FROM TEAMS / COMMITTEES

Treasurer's Report

Clyde reported that there has been good activity in the Teams during 2016. He reviewed the financial report for December 2016.

MOTION: Clyde Harris / Lynella that the executive of Toronto Southeast Presbytery, on the recommendation of the Finance and Property team receive the financial report dated December 9, 2016 as presented.

CARRIED.

Eight congregations have not submitted their final assessments. Clyde is following up.

Clyde reviewed a draft of the 2017 budget. The exec asked that \$1,000 be added to the Executive budget line to support the Moderator's Visit

Update re: congregation plans for remit

Most congregations have responded with plans. A very few have said they might need help. Seven congregations have not yet responded to requests from the executive members.

Information has been shared with the congregations who are merging, closing or amalgamating about voting on the remits. The following information was received from Cynthia Gunn. If a congregation disbands before June 2017, their votes will not be counted. If a pastoral charge amalgamates before the return date, the newly amalgamated pastoral charge will be counted as part of the total number of pastoral charges for remit purposes. If it votes before it amalgamates, that vote cannot be counted. However, the newly amalgamated pastoral charge is entitled to vote, and that vote will be counted.

6. CORRESPONDENCE

	Date Received	Topic	Action
1	Nov 17, 2016	Letter from D Allen re: Diakonia request to speak Remit #6, One Order of Ministry	TSP decision is not to forward
2	Nov 24, 2016	Letter of approval from PTCC for East End and MAP Phase II grants	FYI
3	Nov 23, 2016	PTCC memorandum of understanding – signed	FYI
4	Dec 1, 2016	NW letter requesting a meeting of PTCC (Dec 1/2016)	FYI
5	Nov 24 & Dec 6, 2016	PTCC Grant application from Kingston Rd (Nov 24/2016)	FYI forward to PTCC review Team

6	Dec 6, 2016	2017 – request to Admins for AGM items	Admin
7	Dec 7, 2016	AGM 2017 – presbytery reports – info coming Feb/17	Secretary
8	Dec 7 2016	Chris Levan expanded & Clarified motion for plenary	discussion
9	Dec 7, 2016	Email from David Allen re: Beth Baskin leaving for a GC position	discussion
10	Dec 8, 2016	Re: Joan Silcox-Smith appointed to Judicial Committee	FYI
11	Dec 13, 2-16	Email from Susan Jackson, Information & Statistics Coordinator, 2015 Statistics	FYI

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

CARRIED.

7. APPROVAL OF MINUTES of October and November Executive Minutes

MOTION: Lynella / Sharon that the minutes of the October 11, 2016, 2016 Executive meeting, the October 20, 2016 special Executive meeting and the November 8 Executive meeting be approved as presented.

CARRIED.

8. RECEIPT OF MINUTES of November 15 Plenary Meeting

MOTION: Hannah / Lynella that the minutes of the November 15, 2016 Plenary meeting be received.

CARRIED.

8. OTHER BUSINESS

The executive discussed a draft process for the motion at January plenary Paul had prepared. The discussion will continue at the January executive meeting.

9. ADJOURNMENT

With the agenda complete, the chair declared the meeting adjourned at 6:10 pm. Paul offered thanks for the work of the executive and our staff. He closed the meeting with prayer.

NEXT EXECUTIVE MEETING: Tuesday, January 10, 4-6:30 pm at 963 Pharmacy Ave.

Rev. Dr. Paul Hutchison

Chair: Toronto Southeast Presbytery

Margaret Walker

Secretary: Toronto Southeast Presbytery