

**THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA
TORONTO CONFERENCE**

**Minutes of a meeting of the
Executive of Toronto Conference
Wednesday, February 8, 2017**

The Executive of Toronto Conference met at the Northern Waters Presbytery office on Wednesday, February 8, 2017. The meeting began at 10:01 a.m. A quorum was present.

Members present

Audrey Brown (President), Bryan Ransom (Past President), David Allen (Executive Secretary), Sungmin Jung (South West), Angus MacLennan (Living Waters), Lawrence Nyarko (diversity), Dennis Posno (Northern Waters), Catherine Smith (South West), Hans van Nie (South West)

Regrets

Sharon Aylsworth (Toronto Southeast), Anne Hepburn (Toronto Southeast), Eiko Hosaka (diversity), Roger Hutchinson (Toronto Southeast), Betty Lou McNabb (Living Waters), Thérèse Samuel (Northern Waters), Marg Smith (Living Waters), Martha Wood (diversity)

Absent

- (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 everyone to introduce themselves.

Worship/lighting the Christ candle/acknowledging the land

Lawrence Nyarko led the opening worship. The President lit the Christ candle and the four-directions candle. Lawrence read Matthew 5:23-24 and focused his message on right relations and restoration of relationships.

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 Angus MacLennan/Catherine Smith that the agenda be adopted with the addition of two items from the Nominations Committee.

MOTION

CARRIED.

Monitoring and Compliance with Policies

Executive Secretary's report

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

Members had an opportunity to ask questions. Questions were asked about the potential social justice position and the Mid-Winter Conversations about Ministry.

Review of Compliance policy

The Executive reviewed its policy on compliance. No changes were made.

Revisions to financial policies

The Executive discussed several changes to the financial policies.

MOTION by Lawrence Nyarko/Bryan Ransom that the Executive approve changes to the financial policies as outlined in Appendix B.

MOTION

CARRIED.

Business matters to be considered by the Executive

Minutes

MOTION by Bryan Ransom/Angus MacLennan that the Executive approve the minutes of the November 9, 2016 Executive meeting and receive for information the sub-Executive minutes from its meeting of January 19, 2017.

MOTION

CARRIED.

Affirming Ministry material

Following the discussion at the November Executive meeting, the Affirming Ministry Task Group drafted a vision statement and plan of action. The Executive discussed both documents and made one change in the vision statement; comments will be invited and the next version will come to the Executive meeting in April.

The Executive discussed how other voices get heard around this topic, e.g. theologically conservative people, ethnic ministries. This concern will be brought to the attention of the discussion facilitator at the annual meeting.

The two draft documents will be put on the Conference's website to request feedback. They will also be sent to presbyteries and Conference committees/task groups inviting feedback. The documents will be translated into a number of non-English languages used within the Conference. Responses will be requested in enough time to have the responses for the April Executive meeting.

Correspondence

The Executive reviewed the correspondence list.

MOTION by Catherine Smith/Sungmin Jung that the Executive receive the correspondence report (Appendix C) and adopt the recommendations for action.

MOTION

CARRIED.

The Executive had a discussion about the kind of programming it does, in light of the decision in 2009 that program work would be done within the presbyteries. At the April Executive meeting, the Executive Secretary will have drafted clarification/rationale for the Conference engaging in any program work. At present the two main program areas are right relations and the exchange with the Presbyterian Church in the Republic of Korea.

Grand River Spiritual and Educational Resources/AVEL

The September Executive meeting had requested a report on Grand River Spiritual and Education Resources/AVEL. See Appendix A.

A proposed motion from the November Executive meeting was:

...that Toronto Conference give notice to Grand River Spiritual and Educational Resources Inc. that the Toronto Conference grant will end on December 31, 2017.

After reviewing the report, the following motion was made:

MOTION by Hans van Nie/Dennis Posno that Toronto Conference give notice to Grand River Spiritual and Educational Resources Inc. that the Toronto Conference grant will end on December 31, 2017.

MOTION

CARRIED.

The Executive Secretary will gather further information about the communities of faith within Toronto Conference that are using the AVEL service. The Conference may decide

to pay individual memberships for communities of faith that have been using the service. This figure will be included in the preliminary 2018 budget.

Omnibus motion

MOTION by Bryan Ransom/Dennis Posno that the Toronto Conference Executive take the following actions:

a) Admission Recommendation

...on the advice of its Conference Interview Committee, which has completed its examination of the applicant, recommend Yong Shik Kim for admission into the Order of Ministry in The United Church of Canada as an ordained minister at the 2017 meeting of Toronto Conference, May 26-27, 2017, subject to the satisfactory completion of all admission requirements.

...on the advice of its Conference Interview Committee, which has completed its examination of the applicant, recommend Ricardo Teixeira Silva for admission into the Order of Ministry in The United Church of Canada as an ordained minister at the 2017 meeting of Toronto Conference, May 26-27, 2017, subject to the satisfactory completion of all admission requirements.

...on the advice of its Conference Interview Committee, which has completed its examination of the applicant, recommend David Cameron Watts for admission into the Order of Ministry in The United Church of Canada as an ordained minister at the 2017 meeting of Toronto Conference, May 26-27, 2017, subject to the satisfactory completion of all admission requirements.

b) 736 Outreach Corporation

...that Toronto Conference consent to the request of 736 Outreach Corporation to dissolve by surrendering its charter after its assets have been distributed and its final income tax return has been filed and assessed effective January 27, 2017.

c) Camp Ahshunyoong – operating as Camp Big Canoe

... based on advice received from the lawyer retained by Toronto Conference to review by-laws, and from General Council Staff, approve the General By-laws with Amendments of the incorporated ministry known as Camp Ahshunyoong-operating as Camp Big Canoe with the understanding that the word eighteen in clause 18 is actually the word fifteen and this correction will be made at the corporation's earliest convenience.

d) The Massey Centre for Women

...approve The Massey Centre for Women 2016-2017 Board of Directors

Omo Akintan
Jessica Amey
Oliver Blunn
Amy Davies
Jennifer Dockery
Silke Dorego
Kris Hollenberg
Justine Humphries
Linda Palmer
Eddy Popp
Hilary Smee
Rachel Solomon
Stephanie Wang

e) Oakwil Non-Profit Homes Corporation

... approve the addition of Dave Hanna as a member of the Oakwil Non-Profit Homes Corporation 2016-2017 Board of Directors.

f) Wesley Mimico Place

...approve Wesley Mimico Place 2016-2017 Board of Directors

Ross Cullingworth
Michaela Jones
Karen Kowal
Harry Oussoren
Geraldine Rochefort
Kent Williams

g) Victoria Memorial United Church, Honeywood, Northern Waters Trustees and Proceeds

1. ... based on the request of Northern Waters Presbytery whose Congregational Life Commission disbanded Victoria Memorial United Church, Honeywood as of November 29, 2016, and advice received from the lawyer retained by Toronto Conference to review property matters, the congregation-appointed trustees of Victoria Memorial United Church are hereby directed:

- i. to transfer all funds under their control to Toronto Conference, including the proceeds of sale of the Horning Mills United

- Church property and the Victoria Memorial United Church manse property and all other money held in trust by such trustees; and
- ii. to deliver to Toronto Conference a financial accounting for each of such sale transactions; and upon completion of such deliveries the trustees shall be discharged of their duties as trustees with the thanks of The United Church of Canada for their faithful service.
2. ...based on the request of the Congregational Life Commission of Northern Waters Presbytery, Toronto Conference appoints Rose Cambourne, Bruce Gregersen, Ann Harbridge, John Neff and Dennis Posno as trustees of Victoria Memorial United Church, Honeywood effective February 8, 2017
3. ... based on the request of Northern Waters Presbytery, the Conference-appointed trustees are hereby directed to complete the distributions of the net sale proceeds from the sale of the property of Horning Mills United Church that the congregation-appointed trustees failed to fully complete, including without limitation:
- i. transferring 90% of the net sale proceeds to the trustees of Badjeros United Church, with 50% of such funds to be held by the Badjeros trustees and used for capital purposes and the balance to be released for general use; and
 - ii. distributing the remaining 10% of such net sale proceeds to registered charities supported by the congregation in accordance with the congregation's wishes if that information is provided by the congregation or otherwise to such other registered charities as Toronto Conference considers appropriate
4. ...based on the request of Northern Waters Presbytery the Conference-appointed trustees are hereby directed to:
- i. utilize the net sale proceeds from the sale of the Victoria Memorial United Church, Honeywood manse as follows:
 - a) change the title of the cemetery properties to all be in the name of the board of trustees for Honeywood Cemetery,
 - b) demolish and remove the church building,
 1. sell, if possible, the contents of the church,
 2. donate the "Queen Victoria" stained glass window to the Dufferin County Museum & Archives
 3. consider the sale of brick and/or steel roofing,
 4. sell the land, if possible, or donate it to The Board of Trustees for Honeywood Cemetery,
 5. ensure that the cemetery and its board is not associated with the United Church,
 6. ensure that there are funds available for the perpetual care of the cemetery.

- c) after all expenses use the remainder of the proceeds according to the Toronto Conference policy,
- ii. All other surplus cash monies be donated to Badjeros United Church.

5. Upon completion of all responsibilities, the Conference-appointed trustees shall be discharged of their duties as trustees with the thanks of The United Church of Canada for their faithful service.

h) Former Glen Ayr Congregation property sale

1. ...approve the sale of the property located at 55 and 59 Brimorton Drive, Scarborough, on the terms set out in an Agreement of Purchase and Sale dated January 12, 2017 (“Agreement”) between The Trustees of the Property of the Former Glen Ayr Congregation of The United Church of Canada (the “Trustees”) and The church of God Sabbath-Keeping (Scarborough);
2. ...authorize the Trustees to execute and deliver the Agreement of Purchase and Sale and to take all actions reasonably necessary to complete the sale, including proceeding with the removal of the underground tank in order to satisfy a condition of the sale; and
3. ...authorize the Executive Secretary of Toronto Conference to approve on behalf of Toronto Conference any amendments to the Agreement that may be reasonably necessary or desirable in order to complete the closing of the sale.

MOTION

CARRIED.

Lunch

The Past-President offered grace at 11:58 a.m.; the meeting resumed at 12:33 p.m.

General Council restructuring

The Executive Secretary gave a brief up-date on General Council restructuring.

London Conference has invited other Conferences to take part in a discussion about the future shape of regions within Ontario if the regional council remit passes. The Executive discussed the initiative, whether to participate, and who would be involved.

The Executive AGREED that Toronto Conference will participate in the inter-Conference discussion about regions; the President will attend; each presbytery will be asked to name one of the GC42 commissioners from their presbytery to attend, or someone else appointed by the presbytery. One of the Conference Personnel Ministers will attend since

other Conferences have named their personnel ministers as participants. Conference will pay the associated costs.

Presbytery reports

The Executive discussed the questions it wishes to ask presbyteries for their 2017 reports to Conference.

PROK visit and partnership

The Executive reviewed the draft itinerary for the 16 visitors who will be coming to Toronto Conference in May from the Presbyterian Church in the Republic of Korea (PROK). The group that had journeyed from Toronto Conference had met recently and asked the Executive to give its input on what partnership might include when talking about the PROK.

Following discussion, the Executive agreed that the topic of partnership will be resumed at the September Executive meeting after the visit from the PROK people and after the results of the three-council remit are known.

Right Relations

The Executive discussed the report that had been written on recent right relations activities (Appendix D).

June Executive meeting

The Executive Secretary is required to be at a series of General Council meetings during the week when the Executive would normally meet. The Executive discussed whether to have an in-person meeting or a conference call meeting on an alternate date.

The Executive AGREED to try an electronic meeting over a smaller matter, and that the full Executive meeting be moved to Monday, June 19.

Nominations

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

Member of Judicial Committee Executive: Each Conference is invited to submit one name for election by the General Council to the Executive of the Judicial Committee. Having consulted with the Conference's four persons on the Judicial Committee, the following motion was made:

MOTION by Bryan Ransom/Catherine Smith that Toronto Conference nominate Paul Stott as a member of the Executive of the General Council's Judicial Committee.

MOTION

CARRIED.

President-Elect position: The 2017 annual meeting is the time to elect a President-Elect who would take office at the 2018 annual meeting. The Nominations Committee has made two broadcast announcements about the position, but to date there are no nominees. The committee wonders whether a factor is the uncertainty about how long the position will last, depending on the remit on the new regional council system. If the remit passes, the President-Elect would become President for six months. If the remit is defeated, the President-Elect would serve the usual term of office.

MOTION by Catherine Smith/Lawrence Nyarko that the Executive recommend to the 2017 annual meeting of Toronto Conference that the terms of office for the current President and Past-President be extended by one year until the results of the remit on a three-council system of governance are known, and that the President and Past-President discuss how the presidential duties will be shared in the additional year of their terms of office.

MOTION

CARRIED.

Discussion items named by Executive members

Presidents/Leading Elders meeting: The President will be attending a meeting with the Presidents or Presidents-Elect and the Leading Elders or Leading Elders Elect from the other Conferences. She asked for discussion of items on their agenda. Effective leadership will be a topic; the President will raise again her desire for a giving app.

Property sales and use of funds received: Angus MacLennan asked for discussion about how property sales are handled and how the funds are distributed. The Executive agreed that property decisions are within the purview of presbyteries. Conference and the Presbyteries of Toronto Conference Corporation receive money following presbytery decisions.

Evaluation

The Executive returned to the questions for evaluating the meeting. The following comments were made:

- Missed hearing from Betty Lou and Marg about a couple of items
- Toronto Southeast Presbytery was absent and Northern Waters Presbytery had a stand-in member
- Appreciated Lawrence's and Sungmin's comments regarding the affirming ministry material

Closing

With the business completed, the President declared the meeting ended at 2:16 p.m. She offered a blessing.

Audrey Brown
President

David W. Allen
Executive Secretary