

Conference Executive Accountability Report

Toronto Conference Executive begins each meeting by constituting the meeting in the name of Jesus Christ, and opening in prayerful worship that includes lighting a Christ candle and acknowledging the land. The people who gather around the table (literally or by phone) are appointed by each presbytery and/or represent the diversity of our Conference community. They keep two questions in their minds and hearts as they work through the business: “What voices are we hearing?”, and “What voices are absent from our discussions?”

All of these factors contribute to the business of being Toronto Conference. Our work is guided by our faith, informed by our different experiences of privilege and attended to by our knowledge that none of us have all the answers.

The people who sit on Executive work hard; they take time away from their other work and lives to consider the business properly brought before us. It is never easy work, but together we discern and celebrate, we seek the wisdom of one another and the surprise of the Spirit in our midst. We are supported by the careful work of our staff, who take care of the logistics of our meeting space and our physical needs and who bring us the background information and big picture questions that help us to form and enact policies that are relevant and consistent.

Our work is evident in the minutes of Toronto Conference Executive and sub-Executive available to you. This year, we lift up to you these specific items as they represent a small picture of what we do.

- On your behalf we have continued to support the Explorer project, an initiative that enables young people to explore ministry as career in communities around our country. This project is funded by our Conference and open to young adults from across the United Church.
- We have participated in a continuation of the partnership of The United Church of Canada and The Presbyterian Church in the Republic of Korea (PROK), by visiting Seoul Presbytery with 16 members of our Conference, and planning for a return visit of a similar PROK group to our community.
- We have supported training for intentional interim ministers and appointed many to this careful work across our Conference.
- A major topic at last year’s annual meeting was whether a review should take place regarding the Rev Gretta Vosper. That review took place and a recommendation has gone to the General Council that a formal hearing be held to consider placing her name on the Discontinued Service List (Disciplinary)
- We have continued to seek justice in our support of right relations in our Conference and our nation.
- We have listened to the voices of those who call us to the work of the Affirming process, and recognizing the desire to ensure that all feel included in the circles of our love.

- Richly blessed with financial resources, we seek what our ancestors in faith sought – to provide space for sacred work and to that end have finished a long process of developing terms of reference for the New Church Development and Leadership Fund.

This is the work that we have prayerfully and faithfully done and we present it to you for your consideration.

I:\CONFERENCE\Governance\Executive\Material for next meeting\2016-2017\2017 05 04 conference call\TCE
Accountability report updated.docx