

For discussion – funds for education

Background: excerpt from April 19, 2017 Executive minutes

Program work at the Conference level

The February Executive meeting requested a rationale for why Conference would be involved with program work, given the decision in 2009 that it would not do so. The Executive Secretary had prepared a discussion paper and recommendations (see p. 16/17-551). Following discussion, two actions were taken.

MOTION by Marg Smith/Betty Lou McNabb that the Executive acknowledge that from time to time it will decide intentionally to do program work in specific areas.

MOTION

CARRIED.

The Executive directed the Executive Secretary to develop a policy for Conference Fund use that could cover educational purposes. This will be on the June Executive meeting agenda.

Proposal: See policy handbook p. 5-7

...that the guidelines for use of the Conference Fund be amended by adding:

9. Education: Support for groups, institutions or communities of faith offering educational events that focus on Toronto Conference priorities or that contribute to understanding United Church history, current or future challenges, or leadership development.

Thoughts/recommendations behind the proposal:

1. suggest that the amount be \$50,000 per year with a maximum grant of \$5,000;
2. funds would not be available for individuals; using a recent example that came to the Executive, Conference might contribute to the cost of a study tour, but would not pay for an individual's participation in the trip;
3. Conference priorities would change from time to time but right now would include Affirming Ministry and partnership activities with other denominations; program work arising from the motion, above, would be considered a priority, similar to the work previously done around refugee sponsorship and settlement; right relations activities are covered in a separate part of the Conference Fund guidelines;
4. The remaining items encourage the church to think more broadly about the United Church's past and more importantly, its future.

5. The grants for the remaining items would be available throughout the church, i.e. not limited to Toronto Conference. A number of years ago Conference wrote to educational institutions letting them know that we had funds available. Only one or two ever responded.