

**THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA
TORONTO CONFERENCE**

**Minutes of a meeting of the
Executive of Toronto Conference
Wednesday, April 11, 2018**

The Executive of Toronto Conference met at the Toronto Conference office on Wednesday, April 11, 2018. The meeting began at 10:02 a.m. A quorum was present.

Members present

Audrey Brown (President), Bryan Ransom (Past-President), Jody Maltby (Executive Secretary), Sharon Aylsworth (Toronto Southeast), Gail Hamblin (South West, Henry MacLeod (South West), Betty Lou McNabb (Living Waters), Lawrence Nyarko (diversity), Anne Hepburn (Toronto Southeast), Angus MacLennan (Living Waters), Kristal McGee (Northern Waters), Thérèse Samuel (Northern Waters)

Regrets

Terry Davies (Living Waters), Ed Elliotson (Northern Waters), Eiko Hosaka (diversity), Jessica Stevenson (diversity)

Absent

Roger Hutchinson (Toronto Southeast), - (South West)

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.

Worship/lighting the Christ candle/acknowledging the land

Lawrence Nyarko led worship and acknowledged the traditional territory on which the Executive gathered, with Betty Lou McNabb assisting. He spoke about Luke 24: 36-40 and encouraged the Executive not to be fearful in the midst of change.

Questions for evaluating the meeting

For this meeting, the Executive focused on the following questions:

What voices have been heard? What voices have we not heard? What have we done or not done that's going to make a better church? What will be our legacy?

Adoption of agenda

MOTION by Anne Hepburn/Betty Lou McNabb that the agenda as circulated be adopted.

MOTION

CARRIED.

Corresponding Members

MOTION by Angus MacLennan/Henry MacLeod that Rose Cambourne be made a corresponding member for this meeting.

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 about the entire report.

- Funding for Gibimishkaadimin: A Reconciliation Journey

MOTION by Angus MacLennan/Lawrence Nyarko that the Executive approve the funding request of up to \$10,000 for Gibimishkaadimin: A Reconciliation Journey (Appendix B) for each of the years 2018, 2019, 2020, and 2021, funds to come from the Conference Fund, pending conversation with Toronto United Church Council (TUCC) about partnering in the funding.

MOTION

CARRIED.

- Budget for the annual meeting

MOTION by Betty Lou McNabb/Anne Hepburn that the Executive approve the revised budget (Appendix C) amount of \$100,525 for the annual meeting, additional funds to come from the Conference Fund.

MOTION

CARRIED.

The Executive Secretary provided an update on proposals coming to the annual meeting.

CONSENSUS was that there will be a single motion to forward all the proposals with no recommendations. We will begin with table group discussion to canvas whether folks need an opportunity to talk about any of them in detail. Those that need more discussion

will be pulled from the motion and given time in table groups and on the floor of plenary for discussion. We may consider offering webinars to allow an opportunity for education ahead of the meeting as well.

The Executive Secretary reminded the Executive of the meeting on April 23 to continue the conversation about how the assets of the Conference and presbyteries will be allocated as we move into the new regional structure. Please confirm your attendance with Linda Gray.

There was discussion about the Financial Consultation in June. Concern was expressed that each Conference/presbytery or corporation is allowed to send only one representative which is not appropriate to ensure that we bring a broad perspective. Conferences and presbyteries without assets are not included at all which raises concern about who is being heard. It was noted that this feels like colonialism happening within the church.

It was AGREED that the Executive Secretary would send a letter to the Remit Implementation Task Group through David Allen expressing our concern that not all voices are being heard. It was also lifted up that in any discussion of equitable sharing of resources, Toronto Conference holds up the lens of right relations and diversity, particularly areas of marginalization to inform our understanding of equity.

It was AGREED that we will try to be strategic and work together with presbyteries so that the five representatives we are sending from Conference and presbyteries offer a broad perspective. The Executive Secretary was asked to confirm who received the recent invitation, add strategic representation to the agenda of the meeting of the Chairs and Secretaries, and convene a meeting of all Toronto Conference participants (including those from Presbyteries of Toronto Conference Corporation (PTCC) and Toronto United Church Council (TUCC)).

MOTION by Betty Lou McNabb/Sharon Aylsworth that the Executive Secretary be the representative of Toronto Conference at the consultation June 15 – 17, 2018 in London, Ontario

MOTION

CARRIED.

Relationship with The Presbyterian Church in the Republic of Korea (PROK)

The Executive reviewed the proposed Memorandum of Agreement from PROK.

MOTION by Lawrence Nyarko/Sharon Aylsworth that we accept the proposal for a Memorandum of Agreement between the Toronto Conference of The United Church of Canada and the Seoul Presbytery of The Presbyterian Church in the Republic of Korea (Appendix D).

MOTION

CARRIED.

The Executive directs the Executive Secretary to ensure that discernment occurs about funds to be set aside and where each of the four commitments in the Memorandum needs to be housed to ensure follow through.

Betty Lou McNabb reported there is a project that is supported by the Living Into Right Relations Circle that needs significant funding. The Circle was invited to prepare a proposal for consideration at the June meeting.

Lunch

The Executive broke for lunch at 12:05 p.m. Betty Lou McNabb offered grace.

The Executive reconvened at 1:05 p.m.

Affirming Ministry Update

Anne Hepburn spoke to the report of the Affirming Ministry Task Group (Appendix E). Anne is meeting again with the planning group for the national Affirming Conference in July which includes the Affirm AGM.

The main thing right now is to take the discussion and vote from the Conference annual meeting last year and put feet under it so that the action plan for the work of being Affirming continues into 2019, possibly in partnership with neighbouring regions.

A letter from Affirm United was received by all Conferences indicating that none of the Conferences will carry their designation as Affirming into the new structure. The Staff Leaders discussed this at their meeting in early March which resulted in London Conference responding to Affirm United to express concern about this decision and request that, where a new region consists of previously Affirming Conferences, that region would be designated Affirming on a provisional basis and given eighteen months, until June 2020, to submit a new vision statement and action plan to maintain its status. The hope is that the wisdom of London Conference will be accepted.

It was recommended to have prepared stickers with pronouns available at the Affirm table at the annual meeting in May and invite folks to pick them up and add to their name tags. If funds are needed to cover this, it could come from the annual meeting budget. Anne will follow up with the Executive Secretary.

Business matters to be considered by the Executive

Minutes

MOTION by Henry MacLeod/Lawrence Nyarko that the Executive approve the minutes of the January 17, 2018 Executive meeting and receive for information

the sub-Executive minutes from its meeting of January 17, 2018.

MOTION

CARRIED.

Audited 2017 Financial Statements

MOTION by Betty Lou McNabb/Anne Hepburn that the Executive receive the 2017 audited financial statements (Appendix F) and name MNP as the auditors for 2018 with duties to be assigned at a future date.

MOTION

CARRIED.

MOTION by Anne Hepburn/Sharon Aylsworth that the cap of the Conference Fund be increased to \$5 million to cover actual and potential commitments beyond 2018.

MOTION

CARRIED.

Correspondence

MOTION by Henry MacLeod/Kristal McGee that the correspondence report (Appendix G) be received and the recommended actions be taken.

MOTION

CARRIED.

Omnibus motion

MOTION by Angus MacLennan/Thérèse Samuel 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 (Andrew) Kun Young Lee for admission into the Order of Ministry in The United Church of Canada as an ordained minister at the 2018 meeting of Toronto Conference, May 25-26, 2018, subject to the satisfactory completion of all admission requirements.

b) Interim Ministry Designation

... on the advice of its Conference Interview Committee, which has reviewed the application (INT101); met and interviewed the applicant regarding the request for continuing designation as an Interim Minister hereby designate The Rev. Douglas duCharme as eligible to continue serving as an Interim Minister until March 7, 2023.

... on the advice of its Conference Interview Committee, which has reviewed the application (INT101); met and interviewed the applicant regarding the request for continuing designation as an Interim Minister hereby designate The Rev. Leslie Sedore as eligible to continue serving as an Interim Minister until March 7, 2023.

c) Affirming Ministry Task Group

...that Andrea Wheaton and Thérèse Samuel be named as members of the Affirming Ministry Task Group.

d) Lakeside United Church Trustees

...that the Executive acknowledge Rose Cambourne, Bruce Chappell, Jim Keenan, Harry Ramsaran and Jane Sullivan, Trustees of the former Lakeside United Church and discharge them with thanks for their work.

e) Madill United Church Trustees

...that the Executive acknowledge Rose Cambourne, Catherine Hawkins, Bev Kell, Ted Meyers, and Jane Sullivan, Trustees of the former Madill United Church and discharge them with thanks for their work.

f) Beginning Again Richmond Hill

...approve the Beginning Again Richmond Hill 2017-2018 Board of Directors

Shahin Akter
Elizabeth Jack
Jennifer Lai
John Sguigna
Carol Thompson
Mel Thompson
Timothy Yeung

g) Church of the Master Homes Corporation

...approve the Church of the Master Homes Corporation 2016-2017 Board of Directors

Elaine Dalziel
Robert Fletcher
Janice Graham
Bennett Olegasegram
Mathew Peltier

h) Hillcrest Lodge Corporation

... approve Hillcrest Lodge Corporation 2016-2017 Board of Directors

John Bobyk
Don Crawford
Cam Davidson
Sharon Hepditch
Michael Jones
Barry Keen
Jim Saunders
Dave Stinson
Susan Walma

... approve the addition of Jennifer Booth and Elizabeth Reid to the 2016-2017 Hillcrest Lodge Corporation Board of Directors

... approve Hillcrest Lodge Corporation 2017-2018 Board of Directors

John Bobyk
Jennifer Booth
Don Crawford
Cam Davidson
Sharon Hepditch
Michael Jones
Barry Keen
Elizabeth Reid
Jim Saunders
Dave Stinson
Susan Walma

i) Kingsway-Lambton Homes for Seniors, Inc.

...approve the Kingsway-Lambton Homes for Seniors, Inc. 2017-2018 Board of Directors

Jane Bright
Charles Donley
Dan Dupak
Gale Hughes
Priscilla Knight
David Macdonald
James T. Paradine
Gregory Service

j) Oakwil Non-Profit Homes Corporation

...approve the Oakwil Non-Profit Homes Corporation 2017-2018 Board of Directors

Dave Hanna
Bill Newman
Anna Ploughman
Ivor Roberts
Debra Schieck

... approve the addition of Ken Graham to the 2017-2018 Oakwil Non-Profit Homes Corporation Board of Directors

... approve the addition of Bernie Meagher to the 2017-2018 Oakwil Non-Profit Homes Corporation Board of Directors

k) St. Matthew's Bracondale House

...approve St. Matthew's Bracondale House 2017-2018 Board of Directors

Penny Bird Rudder
Irving Cho
Paul Handley
Lynne Lamb
Marty Linton
Linda Macdonald
Dana Markle
Christopher Neuman
Marija Padjen
Christine Pearce
Rob Wepler

l) Simcoe Presbytery Camp (Camp Simpresca)

...approve the Simcoe Presbytery Camp (Camp Simpresca) 2017-2018 Board of Directors

Richard Austin
Brian Cooper
Lucas Cooper
Paul Cooper
Keri Craftchick
Sarah Draper
Colin Elliott

Sarah Fairman
Taylor Poulin
Charolette Reynolds

... based on advice received from the lawyer retained by Toronto Conference to review by-laws, and from General Council Staff, approve the By-law Number One of the incorporated ministry known as Simcoe Presbytery Camp (Camp Simpresca)

MOTION

CARRIED.

Review of Digest of Actions

The Executive reviewed the Digest of Actions and offered suggestions to the President for inclusion in the Executive Accountability Report to the annual meeting:

- our legacy gift to Anishnawbe Health Centre
- funding for Gibimishkaadimin: a Reconciliation Journey.
- Decisions to fund vocational assessments for people in discernment for the candidacy process and training for those entering a new team ministry in a community of faith.
- The Mandate of the Affirming Ministry Task Group with the addition of item 5.
- The fact that the Executive actively engaged in discussions of boundaries and staffing for the new regions.
- Acknowledge our struggle with what it means to share resources and affirm the willingness to share resources. As noted earlier, Toronto Conference holds up a lens of right relations and diversity, particularly areas of marginalization, in developing an understanding of equity, and is committed to ensuring that all voices are heard in a discussion of the sharing of resources.
- Our ongoing commitment to being in relationship with PROK.

The final version of the digest of actions will be presented to the annual meeting.

Nominations report

The Executive Secretary provided an update on the process for preparing a slate for the annual meeting of the six remaining General Council Commissioners. Members of the Executive were encouraged to tap people on the shoulder to consider putting their name forward for the pool for the Denominational Executive, while acknowledging the challenge of considering this without knowing what will be needed in the regions as well.

Discussion items named by Executive members

There was one discussion item named in advance that was addressed during the Executive Secretary's report.

One item was offered at the meeting. It was AGREED that the mileage rate for Toronto Conference would remain at \$0.41/km.

Upcoming dates of Executive meetings: June 13th in Living Waters or by video conference. The general feeling was that we will need to meet in person in June.

Evaluation

The Executive turned to the questions for evaluating the meeting. For this meeting, the Executive focused on what voices have been heard? What voices have we not heard? What have we done or not done that's going to make a better church? What will be our legacy?

The following comments were made:

- The voices that have not been heard are the Conferences that have not been invited to the consultation in June – this is very disheartening – but what we've done about that may help to make a better church.
- We missed Eiko's voice today and Jessica's.
- Heard the voice of our partners in South Korea and how they would like us to live in relationship with them.
- Heard that there are people that we know who are in leadership roles and we trust them, and there are people we don't know. There is going to be some continuity and also some surprises and both are good.
- It is interesting to be in this place; we like the known and we like the relationship. We are going to be moving into the roughness of a new community.
- Appreciated worship this morning, good reflection.
- Good conversation at lunch about the appreciation for special diets being met and we hope this will become more normative and we can trust that what will be provided will be adequate and enough.
- Very aware as we are shifting into these communities, that we are focused on Region 10 and partly Region 8 but that we need to also remember Regions 9 and 11. Toronto Conference is not just becoming Region 10.

Closing

With the business completed, the President declared the meeting ended at 2:33 p.m. Lawrence Nyarko offered a blessing.

Audrey Brown
President

Jody Maltby
Executive Secretary