

**Toronto Conference Executive
July 12, 2018
By Conference Call**

Proposed agenda

From the Executive's policy on principles of conduct... The goal of spiritual discernment is to receive God's guidance.

1. Take time to become settled in God's presence.
2. Listen to others with your entire self (senses, feelings, intuition, imagination, and rational faculties).
3. Do not interrupt.
4. Pause between speakers to absorb what has been said.
5. Do not formulate what you want to say while someone else is speaking.
6. Speak for yourself only, expressing your own thoughts and feelings, referring to your own experiences. Avoid being hypothetical. Steer away from broad generalizations.
7. Listen to the group as a whole – to those who have not spoken aloud as well as to those who have.
8. Generally, leave space for anyone who may want to speak a first time before speaking a second time yourself.
9. Hold your desires and opinions – even your convictions – lightly.

Constituting the Court and Opening Prayer

Adoption of agenda

MOTION by / that the agenda be adopted as circulated.

Business matters to be considered by the Executive

a) Financial Support for Indigenous Ministries

Background:

If the remits are enacted, funding for Indigenous Ministries will be decided by the National Aboriginal Ministries Circle. We have learned that the money that is going to the Aboriginal Ministries Circle will cover only the Mission Support grant that has been received by each Indigenous Ministry in 2018. As Mission Support grants have decreased, Toronto Conference and its presbyteries have provided financial support to three Indigenous Ministries with whom we are in relationship: Georgina Island Pastoral Charge, Christian Island Pastoral Charge and Toronto Urban Native Ministries. We have been asked if we will be offering support for 2019-2020.

In 2018, the Conference gave \$18,750 and the 4 presbyteries gave \$40,492 (10,123 each) for a total of \$59,242. Some of the presbyteries may have already approved funds while others have not and will not do so until September, if at all. But the Indigenous Ministries need to know about our support sooner than that as they will be making decisions in August for a two-year funding cycle of 2019 and 2020.

The Executive Secretary is recommending that the Executive approve funding of up to \$60,130.63 for 2019 and \$61,032.59 for 2020. This will cover the amount of the presbyteries if they do not approve funding and includes a 1.5% increase for each year which is in line with the salary scale.

MOTION by / that the Executive of Toronto Conference approve funding of up to \$60,130.63 for 2019 and \$61,032.59 for 2020 to be forwarded to the Aboriginal Ministries Circle to top up the Mission Support Grants for Georgina Island Pastoral Charge, Christian Island Pastoral Charge and Toronto Urban Native Ministries, funds to come from the Conference Fund.

b) Disposition of Assets of Victoria Park United Church

Background:

Toronto Southeast Presbytery has forwarded a Plan of Disposition of Assets by Victoria Park UC, which closed on June 30, 2018.

Under section G.1.5.7 of *The Manual*, if there is any remaining congregational property after a congregation disbands, it is up to the Conference, after consulting with the presbytery, to decide how to use that property for the benefit of the United Church. Toronto Southeast Presbytery has confirmed that they do not wish the property to be held for future ministry use.

According to the Property Policy of Toronto Conference (found at page 3-41 of the Policy Handbook), the Executive may consider

- Any proposed use made by the congregation and accepted by the presbytery for the mission of the congregation or the wider United Church; and
- requests from the presbytery based on the following:
 - a) A statement from the presbytery indicating how the granting of funds for a particular ministry falls within the mission strategy of the presbytery
 - b) A description of the process presbytery used to determine its support for the request

- c) A description of the financial situation of the particular ministry including revenue, expenses, and all other sources of income related to the specific request.

A copy of the request from Toronto Southeast Presbytery and the Toronto Southeast Presbytery Major Capital Fund Policy is attached.

MOTION by / that the Executive of Toronto Conference approves the request from Victoria Park United Church for the disposition of approximately \$634,000 from the sale of the VPUC Property, as follows:

- a) Approximately \$600,000, being 20% of the estimated net sales price of the VPUC property (perhaps \$3 million) as an allocation to the Toronto Southeast Presbytery Major Capital Fund, Policy 2017-001, held at Toronto United Church Council, and
- b) Distributions to various charities supported by VPUC in the past:
- I. The Bluffs Food Bank \$15,000
 - II. Yorkwood Community Church \$15,000
 - III. Eastminster United Church \$ 4,000

c) Freeze on Legacy Funding

If the remits are enacted by the 43 General Council, the Executive Secretary is recommending that the Executive consider a freeze on further legacy funding. Now that the Regional Transition Commissions have begun to meet, responsibility for planning beyond December 31, 2018 should shift to these bodies and they need to understand what funds will be available to support work in the new structure.

d) Transfer of Funds to the New Regions

If the remits are enacted by the 43 General Council, the Executive Secretary is recommending that the Executive adopt the following method of distributing the funds remaining in the Conference Fund as of December 31, 2018:

- that the total number of pastoral charges in Toronto Conference be determined as at November 1, 2018, along with the percentage of these pastoral charges that will be transitioning into each of the following regions: Region 8, Region 9, Region 10, Region 11; and
- that each of these regions receive a comparable percentage of the funds remaining in the Conference Fund as of December 31, 2018.

The Executive may prefer to consider items c) and d) in September.

Closing prayer/benediction