

**THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA
TORONTO CONFERENCE**

**Minutes of a meeting of the
Executive of Toronto Conference
Wednesday, September 12, 2018**

The Executive of Toronto Conference met at the South West Presbytery Office on Wednesday, September 12, 2018. The meeting began at 10:09 a.m. A quorum was present.

Members present

Audrey Brown (President), Bryan Ransom (Past-President), Jody Maltby (Executive Secretary), Terry Davies (Living Waters), Kristal McGee (Northern Waters), Angus MacLennan (Living Waters), Henry MacLeod (South West), Betty Lou McNabb (Living Waters), Thérèse Samuel (Northern Waters)

Regrets

Sharon Aylsworth (Toronto Southeast), Gail Hamblin (South West), Anne Hepburn (Toronto Southeast), Eiko Hosaka (diversity), Roger Hutchinson (Toronto Southeast), Lawrence Nyarko (diversity), Jessica Stevenson (diversity)

Absent

- (South West), Ed Elliotson (Northern Waters)

Guests

Rose Cambourne (staff); Charles Donley, Nick Walker (The Presbyteries of Toronto Conference Corporation)

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

Henry MacLeod lit the Christ candle, the diversity candle and the four directions candle. He acknowledged that we gather on the traditional territory of Indigenous peoples, most recently the Mississaugas of the New Credit. He shared a reading from 'dwelling places' by Lucinda Secret McDowell, based on Psalm 84:2. The Executive reflected on how our souls are today.

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 Betty Lou McNabb/Terry Davies that the agenda be adopted.

MOTION

CARRIED.

Corresponding Members

MOTION by Angus MacLennan/Terry Davies that Charles Donley and Nick Walker be made corresponding members for this meeting.

MOTION

CARRIED.

Discussion with Presbyteries of Toronto Conference Corporation (PTCC)

- Presbytery Funds

Charles Donley shared that the consensus seems to be that PTCC will continue in operation and will accept grant applications from the presbyteries until December 31, 2018. These applications could have enactment dates within the next two years, to give some continuity to programs that are dependent on funds. PTCC will receive, but not act on, applications for funding beyond 2020, pending approval of regions.

The expectation is that there will eventually be a new operating agreement with the two regions but in the meantime, PTCC will be able to operate.

Concern was expressed as to whether Region 8 fully understands the current practice of capital contribution in order for the fund to continue to be available.

MOTION by Kristal McGee/Angus MacLennan that the Executive of Toronto Conference agrees that, for the purpose of the Operating Agreement dated October 1st, 2010 as amended April 20th, 2016, between PTCC, Toronto Conference and the four presbyteries, Region 10 is successor to Toronto Conference, Living Waters Presbytery, Toronto Southeast Presbytery and South West Presbytery and that Region 8 is successor to Northern Waters Presbytery.

MOTION

CARRIED.

MOTION by Terry Davies/Bryan Ransom that the Executive of Toronto Conference endorse the concept that, in due course, the funds of Living Waters Presbytery, Toronto Southeast Presbytery and South West Presbytery will merge into one fund for Region 10 and the fund of Northern Waters Presbytery will become the fund of Region 8.

MOTION

CARRIED.

- New Ministries Development and Leadership Fund

The Past-President reminded the Executive of the history of this fund, which emerged in 2014 out of the Property Consultation. This fund is available to programs and ministries through all four presbyteries. The parties to the Memorandum of Understanding, dated November 23rd, 2016 are Toronto Conference and the four presbyteries.

We would like to encourage all the presbyteries that this fund remain intact and seek that both Region 10 and Region 8 be part of the fund together.

MOTION by Bryan Ransom/Terry Davies that the Executive of Toronto Conference agree to the following:

- that the New Ministries Development and Leadership Fund continue for two years beginning January 1, 2019 and operate according to the current terms of reference;
- as per the Memorandum of Understanding dated November 23rd, 2016, between PTCC, Toronto Conference and the four presbyteries, that Region 10 be the successor for Toronto Conference, Living Waters Presbytery, Toronto Southeast Presbytery and South West Presbytery and that Region 8 be the successor for Northern Waters Presbytery;
- the grant selection committee will be housed in Region 10 with grant applications accepted from both Region 10 (for $\frac{3}{4}$ of the fund as at December 31st, 2018) and Region 8 (for $\frac{1}{4}$ of the fund as at December 31st 2018);
- that there be two people from Region 8 on the grant selection committee during this interim period;
- that Region 10 be asked to include the grant selection committee in its governance structure;
- as of January 1, 2019 and during the interim period, Region 10 may choose to contribute to the fund for Region 10 and Region 8 may choose to contribute to the fund for Region 8; and
- during this interim period, Region 10 and Region 8 will discuss how they would like the fund to continue beyond 2020.

MOTION

CARRIED.

Lunch

The Executive broke for lunch at 11:42. Henry MacLeod offered grace from the book “A Year of Grace” by William S. Kervin.

The Executive reconvened at 12:45 p.m.

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.

- Remit Implementation Funding Decisions
 - Legacy Funding Freeze – The Executive agreed in principle not to approve further legacy funding unless exceptional circumstances arise. The intent is to provide sufficient funds for the new regions to be able to function effectively.
 - Transfer of Conference Fund to new regions

MOTION by Betty Lou McNabb/Kristal McGee 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.

MOTION

CARRIED.

- Seoul Presbytery of The Presbyterian Church in the Republic of Korea (PROK)

The Executive accepted the recommendation of the Executive Secretary not to designate funds at this time for the ongoing relationship with PROK. We have identified this relationship as a significant priority for Region 10, but acknowledge that there is a delicate balance between approving short-term funding for ministries and work that has been supported in the past and making commitments on behalf of the region regarding long-term priorities. The first allows the region to focus on the big picture while assuring ministries and programs of their needed financial support for 2019.

- Explorer Program (Appendix B)

The Executive offered feedback on proposed questions for former Explorers. The initial impetus of the program may have been encouraging consideration in ministry, but it is much more about faith formation and a stronger sense of ministry in life – not necessarily paid accountable ministry. It is more of an immersion experience. The success of the program should not be measured by the number of participants who go into ministry as a vocation.

For this reason, the questions should not create the lens that the program is about ministry formation. We would remove the first two questions and start with question 3. We would also include a question about a deeper understanding of active discipleship.

- Reflecting on your experience, how did being an Explorer change your understanding of faith? church? ministry? leadership?
- Can you share a spiritual experience from your time in the program?
- Did your experience enable you to see a different side of the church and of yourself?
- What has been your biggest learning from being an Explorer, especially now that you've been able to reflect for a couple of years?
- How has the Explorer Program impacted your sense of your role in the church and the broader community?
- Has this experience given you any inclination to pursue active ministry?

We wonder if there might be more participation if the program was not as vocationally focused. Consider instead a focus on this United Church of ours – explore it!

- Staffing Update – The Executive Secretary provided an update on staffing decisions that have been made to-date and the experience of staff in the midst of these decisions.
- The Executive Secretary reported that the attempt to recall the Conference Annual Meeting on July 12, 2018 by conference call was unsuccessful, as we did not achieve quorum. Tracy Odell attended GC43 as an Observer and provided positive feedback about the experience, while also lifting up important and helpful learnings about accessibility.

Business matters to be considered by the Executive

Minutes

MOTION by Terry Davies/Henry MacLeod that the Executive approve the minutes of June 6, 2018 and July 12, 2018; and receive the sub-Executive minutes of June 13, 2018 and July 12, 2018/August 8, 2018

MOTION

CARRIED.

Business Arising from the Minutes

- Funds requested by Toronto Southeast Presbytery from the sale of Victoria Park United Church

There was a full discussion about the request from Toronto Southeast Presbytery regarding \$600,000 from the sale of Victoria Park United Church. The Executive agreed to defer a decision to November so that representatives from Toronto Southeast Presbytery can participate.

Correspondence

MOTION by Bryan Ransom/Betty Lou McNabb that the correspondence report (Appendix C) be received and the recommended actions be taken.

MOTION

CARRIED.

Omnibus motion

MOTION by Terry Davies/ Thérèse Samuel that the Toronto Conference Executive take the following actions:

- a) Return to Active Standing

...on the advice of the Conference Personnel Ministers and Executive Secretary, hereby recognize that The Rev. Christopher White be returned to active standing to the order of ministry of The United Church of Canada as an ordained minister per Section I 1.2.2b of *The Manual* effective September 1, 2018.

- b) Central King Seniors Residence

...approve the Central King Seniors Residence 2018-2019 Board of Directors

Mary Louise Ashbourne
 Alex Gribben
 David Hewitt
 Ella Jackson
 Joyce Klamer
 Michael Kooiman
 Jon Lee
 Taye Maddison
 Lang Moffat
 Bob Putnam

c) Lake Scugog United Church Camp

...approve the Lake Scugog United Church Camp 2018-2019 Board of Directors

Janet Adamson
Ken Andras
Karen Hamilton
Jim Lilly
Shannon Lundquist
Tim Magwood
Sally Jo Martin
Melody Onuoto
Carol Rhynas
Patti Smith
Myriam Theodule

d) Mount Albert United Church Senior Citizens' Foundation

...approve the Mount Albert United Church Senior Citizens' Foundation 2018-2020 Board of Directors

Anne Cooper
Henry De Jong
Alan Mainprize
Anne Perrin
Betty Sanders
Lynda Young

e) The Presbyteries of Toronto Conference Corporation

....approve The Presbyteries of Toronto Conference Corporation 2018-2019 Board of Directors

Charles Donley
Evelyn Hill
Jamie Holtom
Mary McKeen
John Ostime
Harry Ramsaran
Nick Walker
Kent Ward

f) Toronto United Church Council

...approve Toronto United Church Council 2018-2019 Board of Directors

Barry Butwell
Brian Heinmiller
Wendy Jarvis
Bill Jermyn
Michael Kooiman
Ross Leckie
Hannah Lee
Ted Meyers
Doug Smith
Grant Williams

... that consent be given to Toronto United Church Council to sell the property known as 25 Sewell's Road, Malvern, Toronto

g) Wilmar Heights United Church Non-Profit Homes Inc.

...approve Wilmar Heights United Church Non-Profit Homes Inc. 2018-2019 Board of Directors

David Almack
Marc Cengiz
Trevins Fonseca
Neil Harris
Bridie Lane
Bob Pomeroy
Patricia Shearer

h) Fred Victor Centre

...that consent be given to obtain bridge financing of \$2,000,000 to fund a deposit in the event a strategically appropriate property is found for purchase prior to the sale of 86 Lombard.

MOTION

CARRIED.

Corresponding Member

MOTION by Angus MacLennan/Terry Davies that Rose Cambourne be made a corresponding member.

MOTION

CARRIED.

Review of Investment Policy, Investment Update, and confirmation of Investment Manager to December 31, 2018

Rose reported that most of the assets of Toronto Conference are currently liquid or will be liquid by the end of the year to allow for easy transfer to the regional structure.

The Executive received the report from the investment advisor (Appendix D) and reviewed the investment policy. No changes were made.

MOTION by Bryan Ransom/Betty Lou McNabb that RBC Dominion Securities be the investment advisor for Toronto Conference to December 31, 2018.

MOTION

CARRIED.

Conversation on GC43

Members of the Executive shared their experience of GC43.

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:

- We are starting to let go of responsibility because we know that responsibility is going to our people
- We heard a lot about finances
- We missed the voices from Toronto Southeast Presbytery and our diversity representatives
- Hearing the impact of reorganization and implementation – we heard about the vocation of Explorers and also the vocation of folks who have had gainful employment with the Conference
- It is resonating with me the names that are not on the list
- In the last few months, I have been overwhelmed by the work of the presbytery staff to help prepare for the move to the regional structure – appreciation for the great work that has been done by the staff with no knowledge of whether they would be continuing.
- Appreciation for worship today
- We are thinking of Henry MacLeod and Catherine Smith in their change of locale
- Things will still happen and be here, with a different name and different people but it will be a blessing

Closing

With the business completed, the President declared the meeting ended at 2:43 p.m.
Henry MacLeod offered a blessing.

Audrey Brown
President

Jody Maltby
Executive Secretary

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