

THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA
MEETING OF THE GENERAL COUNCIL SUB-EXECUTIVE
MINUTES
Tuesday, October 8, 2024 (video conference call)

The Sub-Executive of the General Council of The United Church of Canada held a meeting by video conference call on Tuesday, October 8, 2024.

Voting Members: Richard Bott, Teresa Burnett-Cole, M Chorney, Michael Blair, Carmen Lansdowne

Resource: Jennifer Janzen-Ball, Japhet Ndhlovu, Cheryl-Ann Stadelbauer-Sampa, Tyler Lodge

Welcome

The General Secretary opened the meeting of the Sub-Executive in prayer, praying for peace in the Middle East, and wisdom as the Sub-Executive conducts the meeting.

Constituting the Meeting

The Moderator constituted the meeting: "Au nom de Notre Seigneur, Jésus-Christ, seul chef souverain de l'Église, et par l'autorité qui m'a été conférée par le quarante-quatrième Conseil général, I hereby declare this meeting of the Sub-Executive of the General Council to be in session for the work that may properly be brought before it to the glory of God."

Procedural Motions

Motion: Michael Blair/ Teresa Burnett-Cole

2024-10-08-133

That Tyler Lodge be appointed recording secretary, and that Cheryl-Ann Stadelbauer-Sampa, Jennifer Janzen-Ball, and Japhet Ndlovu be named as resource staff for this meeting of the Sub-Executive of the General Council.

Moved: Carried

Minutes of the Sub-Executive of the General Council

Motion: Richard Bott/M Chorney

2024-10-08-134

That the minutes of the last Sub-Executive meeting, held on June 19, 2024, be approved.

Moved: Carried

GS 104 Authorizing Action for a Principle-Based Approach to Justice Work in the United Church of Canada with Regards to Palestine - Israel

The Moderator invited the General secretary to introduce GS 104 Authorizing Action for a Principle Based Approach to Justice Work in the United Church of Canada with Regards to Palestine - Israel. The General Secretary gave an overview of the report, along with some history, and listed the recommendations as follows.

Recommendations: Given the experience of using the principles and the need for clarity and decision by the General Council, the Sub-Executive of General Council:

- Bring to the General Council's attention the dilemma posed by the General Council's two decisions, each of which agree on the value of applying a principle-based approach to justice work in The United Church of Canada but lack clarity as to who will apply the principles concerning a Just Peace in Palestine and Israel; Confirm with the General Council that, in adopting a principle-based approach to justice work, the General Council understood itself to be authorizing the General Secretary, as the senior staff and administrative officer of the General Council (The Manual D.4.2.3d) to act on the principles. Ask the General Council Direct the General Secretary to report to the Executive of General Council how the principles are being applied and the learning;
- a) In preparation for the 2024 annual meeting of the 44th General Council meeting, host a learning session to deepen the Commissioners' understanding of the principles and how they are used.
 - b) Provide guidance to the Council on the disposition of proposals GCE 04, CS01, SW09, FSL01, PM02, RC1501, SW02 Peace in Palestine and Israel, and New01 Join the Apartheid Free Communities Movement Proposal received by the Executive of General Council May 10-11, 2024.

There was considerable discussion and time for questions and comments.

Motion: Richard Bott/ Teresa Burnett-Cole

2024-10-08-135

As directed by and with the insights of the Executive of the General Council, that the Sub-Executive of General Council:

- a) Receive the report of the General Secretary and forward it to the 2024 Annual Meeting of the 44th General Council.
- b) Direct the General Secretary, as the senior staff and administrative officer of the General Council (The Manual D.4.2.3d) to continue to report to the Executive of General Council on the advocacy work related to Palestine and Israel and how the principles were applied, and to provide any learning to the Theology Inter-Church Interfaith Committee
- c) Affirm that the application of the Principles allows for the adoption of the strategies of the Boycott, Divestment and Sanction(BDS) Movement and the ability to respond positively to the request of New 01 - Join the Apartheid Free Communities Movement (Proposal received by the Executive of General Council May 10-11, 2024), joining the consensus of the international human rights community in recognizing and rejecting Israel's apartheid system of laws and legal procedures towards the Palestinian people and refer proposals GCE 04, CS01, SW09, FSL01, PM02, RC1501, SW02 Peace in Palestine and Israel to the General Secretary as part of the process to guide the church's response.

Carried

The Moderator thanked all those present for their presence and input in the meeting and invited Japhet Ndhlovu to close the meeting in prayer.

Carmen Lansdowne, Moderator

Michael Blair, General Secretary