

THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA

MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE OF THE GENERAL COUNCIL

MINUTES

April 28 – May 1, 2006

The Executive of the General Council of The United Church of Canada met from 9:00 a.m. on Friday, April 28 to 3:30 p.m. on Monday, May 1, 2006 at the Toronto Marriott Airport Hotel, Toronto, Ontario. The Moderator, The Right Reverend Peter Short, presided.

ATTENDANCE

Voting Members

Lynn Boothroyd, Anne-Marie Carmoy, Marion Carr, Cindy Désilets, Dwaine Dornan, Diane Dwarka, David Giuliano, Leah Halliday, Dorothy Hemingway, Fannie Hudson, Linsell Hurd, Jim Jackson, Don Koots, Carmen Lansdowne, Heather Leffler, Stephen Mabee, Mary-Beth Moriarity, Marion Pardy, Scott Parsons, Barbara Rafuse, Paul Reed, Louise Rogers, Chuck Scott, Allan Seal, Dong-Chun Seo, Peter Short, Jim Sinclair, Michelle Slater, Norma Soble, Walter Sowa, Paul Stott, George Takashima, Martha ter Kuile, Stéphane Vermette, Donald Wachenschwanz, Kent Ward, Tarrance Whiteye, Christine Williams, David Woodall.

Corresponding Members

David Allen, Bill Bartlett, Michael Bourgeois, Debra Bowman, Wendy Bulloch, Bob Campbell, Bruce Faurschou, Ian Fraser, Catherine Gaw, Doug Goodwin, Bruce Gregersen, Carol Hancock, Cheryl Jourdain, Will Kunder, Rosemary Lambie, Sharon Larade, Lynn Maki, Reta Manuel, Janet McDonald, Fred Monteith, Kim Uyede-Kai, Reinerio Arce Valentin, Jean Wilson.

Regrets

Jim Blanchard, Doug Einarson, Allan Sinclair, Wanda West, Lois O'Neill, Peter Scott.

FRIDAY, APRIL 28, 2006

CONSTITUTING OF THE EXECUTIVE

The Moderator opened the meeting, welcoming the members and thanking them for their presence. Throughout the meeting the Moderator made introductions and noted those who were unable to attend including Peter Scott, Jim Blanchard, Doug Einarson, Lois O'Neill, Wanda West, and Allan Sinclair. The Moderator also introduced our global partner Dr. Reineiro Arce Valentin, Rector, Evangelical Seminary of Theology, Matanzas, Cuba and members of the First Nations - Alvin Dixon, Jim Angus, and Stan MacKay.

The Moderator introduced Carmen Lansdowne who was elected to the Central Committee of the World Council of Churches and whom the Executive will be covenanting with during worship. He also introduced the staff who will be covenanted: Vanda Orsini, Executive Officer, Information Technology Services; Bill Steadman, Executive Minister, Financial Stewardship; and Dan Benson, Executive Minister, Resource Production & Distribution.

The Moderator talked about the sacrifices of members to attend this meeting and remembered those at home who are behind everyone here. He invited the Executive to arrive and to retrace their steps in the journey and that we are blessed by the gifts of talent and Spirit with us today. A moment of silence was followed by song and prayer.

Throughout the meeting Lloyd MacLean lead music.

The Moderator constituted the meeting with the following words:

"Au nom de Notre Seigneur, Jésus-Christ, seul chef souverain de l'Église, et par l'autorité qui m'a été conférée par le 38ième Conseil général, je déclare ouvert, par la présente, l'exécutif du Conseil général et ses travaux dans l'intérêt du Royaume de Dieu."

"In the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ the only Sovereign head of the Church, and by the authority vested in me by the 38th General Council, I hereby declare this meeting of the 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: Jim Sinclair/Stephen Mabee

2006-04-28-349

Corresponding Members

In addition to the corresponding members appointed by the 38th General Council: (Global Partner, Chairperson of the Committee on Theology and Faith, Chairperson of the Agenda and Planning Committee, Elected Officer of the National United Church Women, Chairperson of The Observer Board of Directors, Chief Archivist, Conference Executive Secretaries/Speaker, General Council Ministers),

That the additional corresponding members for this meeting are: Jean Wilson, Reinerio Arce Valentin, Don Hunter, Martha Martin, and Elizabeth Brown.

Carried

Motion: Jim Sinclair/Kent Ward

2006-04-28-350

Administrative Staff

That the administrative staff for this meeting be Terry Beaumont, Diane Bosman, Robin Chen, Sarah Cooper, Mary-Frances Denis, Merjean Enriquez, Susan Fortner, Sarah Johnson, Joan MacGillivray, and Patti Rodgers and that the minute secretary for this meeting be Joan MacGillivray.

Reference and Counsel

That the following persons be the Reference and Counsel Committee for this meeting of the Executive of the General Council: Diane Dwarka, Martha ter Kuile, and David Woodall.

Agenda

That the Executive of the General Council adopt, as circulated, the agenda for this meeting of the Executive of the General Council and that changes to the agenda, which may be necessary as the meeting evolves, be made on the recommendation of the Business Committee.

Approval of Minutes of the Executive of General Council

That the Executive of General Council approve the minutes of the Executive of General Council meeting held on October 28 - 31, 2005.

Receiving Minutes of the Sub-Executive of General Council

That the Executive of General Council receive, for information, the minutes of the meetings of the Sub-Executive of General Council held November 21 and November 29, 2005 and January 9, January 31, February 28, and April 13, 2006.

Carried

Receiving Reports

Motion: Jim Sinclair/Kent Ward

2006-04-28-351

That the Executive of the General Council receive the following reports:

1. General Secretary's Report
2. Moderator's Report
3. Moderator's Advisory Committee
4. Permanent Committee on Finance (PC-FIN)
5. Permanent Committee on Governance Planning and Budgeting Processes (PC-GPB Process)
6. Permanent Committee on Ministry and Employment Policies and Services (PC-MEPS)
7. Permanent Committee on Programs for Mission and Ministry (PC-PMM)
8. Report of The United Church of Canada Foundation
9. Report of the Theology and Faith Committee

Carried

Motion: Don Koots/Kent Ward

That the Executive of the General Council approve Ken Clark, member of the Compensation Steering Committee, to be a corresponding member beginning Saturday afternoon for the Ministry and Employment Policies and Services Question and Answer time and for the Sessional Committee on Sunday.

Carried

WORSHIP

The Moderator and General Secretary celebrated communion worship and covenanted with the new member of the Executive Carmen Lansdowne and with staff: Vanda Orsini, Executive Officer, Information Technology Services; Bill Steadman, Executive Minister, Financial Stewardship; and Dan Benson, Executive Minister, Resource Production & Distribution.

Throughout the meeting Bob Campbell, Friend in Court, named and remembered family of members of the Executive in need of our prayers as well as people celebrating events. During the meeting Bob asked for the prayers of the Executive for Floyd Steinhauer and for Don Koots Father.

Marion Pardy, Past Moderator, assumed the chair for the Moderator's Accountability Report.

MODERATOR'S ACCOUNTABILITY REPORT

The Moderator noted that his Report will go to the Faith and Order Sessional Committee and he invited everyone who has questions and comments to submit them to the Sessional Committee. The Moderator also noted the Report from the Moderator's Advisory Committee.

The Moderator thanked Robin Chen for her work in the Office of the Moderator and for her care she gives to everyone wanting to talk or see the Moderator.

The Moderator noted the people who have allowed their names to be put forward for the office of the Moderator. He thanked and gave his gratitude to those willing to serve.

The Moderator invited everyone to the "kitchen party" and invited everyone to come and contribute their talents. He also invited people to complete the sentence "I remember" in order to weave the threads of our memories of this triennium.

As orientation to the hope for the 39th General Council 2006, the Moderator read part of the address that he gave at the Conference Presidents and Leading Elders meeting last month. He talked about the vision that will come from this Council, what is essential, and the hope that the Council will give clarity of purpose and work for the church.

Questions and responses were invited. Marion Pardy thanked the Moderator for his gifts to the General Council.

The Moderator resumed the chair.

GENERAL SECRETARY'S REPORT

The General Secretary presented his report and thanked the tradition of electing a Moderator and thanked the nominees for their willingness to participate in the Spiritual discernment of the General Council.

The General Secretary highlighted the resolution agreement before the Executive on the Residential Schools and the historic moment for the church, for the Aboriginal community, and for the country. He characterized this as being "at the end of the beginning".

He also mentioned the location for the 40th General Council (2009) which may come back later in the meeting.

The General Secretary updated staff changes and the announcements from Stephen Chambers who has accepted a call to Chalmers United Church in Kingston. He noted that, in order that there continues to be leadership for the Faith Formation and Education Unit, Harry Oussoren will be filled in the interim by Harry Oussoren. Bruce Gregersen will provide staff support to the Committee on Theology and Faith.

The General Secretary gave his appreciation to the membership of the Executive and to the staff at this final meeting of the Executive of the General Council for the triennium. He talked about moving toward the General Council and the work still to be done and he encouraged

collaboration that honours the best of both committee members and staff. He also thanked the Executive for confronting ways that subvert us from working in the most helpful ways.

Motion: Jim Sinclair/Kent Ward

2006-04-28-352

From	Date	Regarding	Suggested action
1. Rev. Dr. Richard Hollingsworth, Minister, Braeside Pastoral Charge CORR – 2	April 10, 2006	Pension Plan – request disbursement of monies in excess of 10% to address world wide social justice/outreach	To chair, Charles Black, Pension Board
2. Rev. Peter Wyatt, Principal, Emmanuel College CORR – 3 - 4	April 19, 2006	Recommendations re ECL-CC	To Leadership for Ministry Sessional Committee (for information and refer to the General Secretary
3. Rev. Canon Eric B. Beresford, President, Atlantic School of Theology CORR – 5 - 8	April 19, 2006	Recommendations re ECL-CC	
4. Bruce J. Hutchinson, Acting Principal, Queen's Theological College CORR – 9	April 26, 2006	Recommendations re ECL-CC	

Carried

Motion: Jim Sinclair/Kent Ward

2006-04-28-353

5. Ad Hoc Committee of M.Div. Students, Queen's Theological College CORR – 10 – 12	March 18, 2006	Recommendations re ECL-CC	To Leadership for Ministry Sessional Committee (for information and refer to the General Secretary
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Carried

The Moderator thanked and recognized Muriel Duncan, editor of The United Church Observer, for her years of gifted service to the church.

BIBLE STUDY

Reinerio Arce Valentin shared the Bible Study he presented to the Assembly of Cuba Council of Churches on the theme “A church whose mission is prophetic testimony”.

Kent Ward made announcements from the Business Committee throughout the meeting.

Lloyd MacLean led the singing grace before meals.

RESIDENTIAL SCHOOLS

Alvin Dixon, Jamie Scott, and Cynthia Gunn, members of the Residential Schools Steering Committee, were introduced.

Jamie Scott talked about the milestone settlement agreement between the government and the church and its historical significance to bring closure to a sad chapter in Canadian history. He also noted that participation by the United Church in negotiations with the federal government has been guided by the 6 principles adopted by the Executive of the General Council in October 2003.

Alvin Dixon spoke about welcoming the settlement agreement to bring closure to Survivors. Aboriginal groups and survivors have expressed approval of the agreement. Alvin called the agreement “the shining rock that offers light to the path to more healing and reconciliation”.

Jamie Scott reviewed the overall settlement agreement and the financial obligation of the United Church. Cynthia Gunn reviewed what this agreement means in terms of indemnity for the United Church. She also noted that the United Church will continue to participate in healing and reconciliation components such as the Truth and Reconciliation process.

The Moderator expressed thanks and acknowledged this milestone as the end of a beginning. This agreement was forwarded to the Congregational Mission and Justice Sessional Committee.

PERMANENT COMMITTEE ON PROGRAMS FOR MISSION AND MINISTRY

Diane Dwarka, chair of the Permanent Committee on Programs for Mission and Ministry, reported on some of the work of the Permanent Committee.

Diane noted that Steven Chambers and Richard Choe are concluding their ministries at the General Council Office. She offered appreciation to Harry Oussoren for taking on the interim role of Executive Minister in Faith Formation and Education and George Takashima for the interim role of Executive Minister, Ethnic Ministries.

World Methodist Council Statement on the Doctrine of Justification

Gail Allen reviewed the affirmations made in the joint declaration on the doctrine of justification including its history and the request from the World Council of Churches. Gail noted several questions and concerns including the lack of a multi faith context; our inter faith ecumenism work; and the doctrine of sin expressed in the documents. She also noted the continuing commitment to live in a world as a united and uniting church.

Proposal 13, the joint declaration, was referred to the Faith and Order Sessional Committee.

PERMANENT COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY AND EMPLOYMENT POLICIES AND SERVICES

Linsell Hurd, member of the Permanent Committee on Ministry and Employment Policies and Services (PC MEPS), read a statement from Jim Blanchard, chair PC MEPS, who was unable to attend.

Jim, in his statement, noted that each group report faced conflicting and contradictory views. He noted that there were often previous decisions made that were unclear or confusing. Also, views within the committee were often incompatible with one another. As a result, the recommendations put forward are considered by the committees to be in the best interests of the

church as a whole. He noted that it is often not possible to meet the needs of everyone but to allow the Holy Spirit to lead and show the way.

Linsell invited table groups to generate questions from the reports coming forward.

Kent Ward proposed and the Executive agreed to the following changes in the agenda:

- The Residential Schools agreement will be discussed in plenary at 5:30 p.m. this afternoon rather than go to a Sessional Committee.
- Governance Evaluation will move to Saturday at 4:00 p.m.

COMMON GROUPS

Martha ter Kuile introduced the common groups and invited people to talk about:

- What are your hopes/expectations for this meeting?
- What do you need from this meeting?

PERMANENT COMMITTEE ON GOVERNANCE, PLANNING AND BUDGETING PROCESSES

Martha ter Kuile, chair of the Permanent Committee on Governance, Planning and Budgeting Processes, thanked the members of the committee for the work done over the past triennium. She reviewed the work of the Permanent Committee and the 9 proposal going to the Faith and Order Sessional Committee.

The Executive was asked to fill in the response sheets with questions for the Sessional Committees.

PERMANENT COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Don Hunter, member of the Permanent Committee on Finance, reviewed the accountability report and the 2 proposals from the Permanent Committee. He noted that the financial health of the church and the preliminary financial results are good and the success of the Mission and Service Fund. The Permanent Committee will continue to meet with the United Church Foundation. They also met with the insurance broker and the investment group and were satisfied with the results from both.

Don reviewed the budget assumptions and principles approved at the April 2005 meeting of the Executive. He highlighted the 2 proposals that will go to the Stewardship and Resources Sessional Committee and noted that the Permanent Committee took the advice of the Executive from the last meeting. In the Fund Policy the Permanent Committee did elaborate on the theological background and incorporated a mechanism to avoid depleting the reserves.

The Executive spent time in table groups discussing the proposals with questions and response forms to the Sessional Committee.

GENERAL COUNCIL 39 (2006) AGENDA AND PLANNING

Deb Bowman, chair of the 39th General Council 2006 Agenda and Planning, gave an update on General Council. The video from the Moderator inviting and informing Commissioners on the work of the Council was shown. Deb noted the need for a mix of Commissioners including

those who can sustain conversations around broad concepts and who can rest comfortably in an unknown time. Work is still being done on how to capture the depth of sharing heard including the possible use of “message groups” similar to those used at the World Council of Churches. The draft agenda for General Council was reviewed with an invitation to affirm or question.

Deb reviewed the work of the Business Processes Planning Team which looked at the work going to General Council using with reference to Sections 505 and 524 of *The Manual*. These sections outline the work that the General Council must do and the work that can be done by its Executive.

Deb also noted the excellent work of the Local Arrangements Committee. There were no questions from the Executive.

RESIDENTIAL SCHOOLS

The Moderator talked about the “bitter sweet” moments of the Residential Schools presentation heard earlier. Time was spent in table groups followed by questions and comments.

Comments included the concern that claimants are made aware that they do not need to pay a contingency fee. This information will be shared widely including investment strategies. Another comment was that the church encourage educational institutions to access the historical records to update their curriculum. This includes updating text books.

Motion: Stephen Mabee/Leah Halliday

2006-04-28-354

That the Executive of the General Council approve the Indian Residential Schools Settlement Agreement;

And direct its officers to sign the Agreement on behalf of The United Church of Canada.

Carried - unanimously

Motion: Martha ter Kuile/Dwaine Dornan

2006-04-28-355

That the Executive of the General Council give an expression of profound appreciation to the members of the Residential Schools Steering Committee and staff, for their

- Careful consideration of the matters related to the Residential Schools legacy.
- Leadership in advising this and previous Executives of the General Council
- Their persistence in negotiating according to the Six Principles discerned by the Church.

Carried

Jamie Scott, Alvin Dixon, and Murray Whetung expressed, on behalf of the Residential Schools Steering Committee, sincere appreciation to the Executive for their ongoing trust and support.

The Executive asked that this appreciation also be expressed to former members of the Residential Schools Steering Committee.

The Moderator led prayer and Murray Whetung closed with a blessing.

Stan McKay invited the members of the Executive to greet the day at a Sacred Fire led by Elder Wes Whetung.

GENERAL SECRETARY SUPERVISION DIALOGUE

Motion: Kent Ward/Norma Soble

2006-04-28-356

That the voting members of this Executive move in camera to receive the report of the General Secretary's Supervision Committee on the annual performance review of the General Secretary.

Carried

Motion: Kent Ward/Jim Jackson

2006-04-28-357

That the Executive of the General Council rise from the in camera session.

Carried

Following the General Secretary Supervision dialogue, the Moderator met with the Elected Members.

SATURDAY, APRIL 29, 2006

The Executive gathered for a Sunrise Ceremony and Sacred Fire. Elder Wes Whetung, led the ceremony as the Spiritual Leader. Tarrance Whiteye was the firekeeper and Cheryl Jourdain spoke for the water with assistance from Lorna Pawis. The Moderator thanked the Elders for their invitation to this Ceremony.

Fred Monteith updated the Executive on the peaceful demonstration at Caledonia yesterday which included a clergy presence. The Moderator reminded the Executive to continue to hold all the people at Caledonia in their prayers.

ABORIGINAL MINISTRIES

Alvin Weget, Elder from Kispiox sang and introduced the Aboriginal Ministries proposal with the assistance of members of the Aboriginal Consultation Follow-up Design Team Jim Angus, former Moderator Stan McKay, Gloria Cook, and Murray Whetung, Elder and member of the Residential Schools Steering Committee. Supporting the presentation were members of the Executive Tarrance Whiteye and Carmen Lansdowne and staff members Laverne Jacobs, Cheryl Jourdain, and Lorna Pawis.

Alvin Weget reminded the Executive of the Apology in 1986 and stressed that "the time has arrived" and "it is time" to walk side by side. Murray Whetung, Gloria Cook, and Stan McKay shared memories from the Apology including remembrance of the deep sense of inheritance of history, the Spirituality values that are held sacred, and the traditional teachers that have blessed the United Church with ceremony including Dolly Lansdowne and her daughter Carmen.

Murray Whetung led the Lord's prayer in Ojibway and the Moderator gave the thanks of the Executive for the message. He noted that the proposal will go to the Congregational Mission and Justice Sessional Committee.

STATEMENT OF FAITH

Michael Bourgeois, Steven Chambers, and Alvin Dixon, members of the Committee on Theology and Faith presented the report. Michael reported and reviewed the work mandated by the 37th General Council (2000) to develop a Statement of Faith.

A concern was raised that the French constituencies have not had a chance to comment on the Statement of Faith and request a delay so that all members of the United Church could comment.

- it was noted that the Statement of Faith will be translated into French for the General Council workbook. The first draft was widely circulated in French and this draft includes the feedback to the first draft.

In table groups, the following questions were discussed:

1. Is there anything about the proposed Statement of Faith that should be explained more fully?
2. Is there any information or background missing from the accompanying report, which will form the basis of our report to the General Council? Is there anything in the accompanying report that should be changed or deleted?
3. What questions do you have about the proposed Statement of Faith or the accompanying report, especially questions that you think Commissioners to the 39th General Council 2006 will also have?
4. Should the relationship of the Basis of Union to other United Church theological, educational, and liturgical resources be clarified? If so, how?
5. What would you suggest that the General Council direct the Committee on Theology and Faith to work on during the next triennium?
6. What other concerns, questions, or comments do you have?

Table groups reported back and some comments included:

- Concern that information is not always widely circulated to the whole constituency was expressed. There was a suggestion that this information be marked to ensure that the information is circulated.
- Some found the headings helpful and they be reinserted for educational purposes.
- There was a concern about needing to see through the lens of other cultural groups including translation into other languages, who is the target audience, and study guide.

GENERAL SECRETARY SUPERVISION DIALOGUE

Kent Ward gave an update from the in camera session last night and reported on the following motion:

Motion: Paul Reed/Kent Ward

2006-04-28-358

That the Executive of the General Council:

Affirm the work of the General Secretary Supervision Committee and request them to continue to refine the Performance Evaluation Process and;

Express our appreciation and affirmation of the leadership of Jim Sinclair in the role of General Secretary, General Council.

Carried

BUDGET 2007-2008

The General Secretary introduced the budgeting process and gave a brief introduction. He noted his responsibility to bring a budget forward. He noted the budget assumptions and principles approved at the October 2005 Executive and that the initial draft based on these assumptions

contains a projected gap between projected income and expenses of \$800,000 or 2% of the total budget.

Ian Fraser, General Council Minister, gave an overview of funding the work of the church beginning with the money raised in congregations to final work. He gave examples of several next steps towards a balanced budget and asked where we go from here.

Table groups were asked to look at options for the 2007 Budget and were asked the following:

1. When closing the \$800,000 gap, what advice does your table group offer on the following options?

Option A) Remove equal amounts from Grants and GCO Operations

Option B) Remove the entire amount from GCO Operations

Option C) Remove the entire amount from Grants

Option D) Remove ~550,000 from GCO Operations and the remaining 250,000 from Grants

2. If part of the gap (\$250,000) is to be closed from Grants, what advice does your table group offer on the following options?

Option A) Per GCE April 2005, retaining increases for Mission Support and Conference Grants

Option B) Distribute proportionately across all grants

Option C) Maintain at 2006 levels

Questions and concerns were raised and the following was a concern.

- Specific projects such Emerging Spirit are funded from the Reserve. The current mandate from General Council is to maintain the current programs and services. Until the priorities of General Council are known, there can be no shifts in work or resources.
- The options presented to table groups are based on recommendations from the Permanent Committee on Finance but it was noted that the Executive could take a different direction or approach.

Table Groups gave their response sheets to the Business table,

The Moderator thanked Ian Fraser for his report and picture of the overall budget.

Throughout the meeting the Moderator thanked and introduced members of the staff who were present.

WORLD COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

Carmen Lansdowne introduced the members who were with her in Porto Alegre, Brazil at the 9th Assembly in February 2006. Carmen shared and gave some personal reflections of her experiences including who she is and what she represents. She also presented the report (Appendix A) that she gave at the Assembly.

IN MEMORIAM GIFTS - November 2005 – March 2006

Let us gratefully acknowledge the following members of our Church family who have left bequest gifts, annuity residues and insurance proceeds to The United Church of Canada.

Mission and Service

William Hanna Barkwell
 Rev. Garland Brooks
 Gerald Calhoun
 Inez Carter
 Edith Clare
 Douglas Roy Conlon
 Margaret Elizabeth Cummings
 Hazel Davey
 Valerie Drane
 Muriel Eastwood
 Rosina Elliott
 Nettie Melvina Gordon
 Lillian Griffin
 Annie Elizabeth Harvey
 Clarence William Harvey
 Gordon Westaway Hilborn
 Delnor Horsefield
 Rev. Charles Judd
 David G. Kilpatrick
 Helen Knox
 Annie Philathea Langford
 Lawrence Langford
 Edna Laird
 Jean Lovelace
 G. Irene Lund
 Duart MacLean

Mission and Service

Thelma Elaine Madill
 Margaret Evangeline Mahon
 Dorothy McCutcheon
 Charles Misener
 Bertha Mina Morrow
 Kathleen Munro
 Hazel Mutton
 Marie Jean Myrick
 Jean Northey
 Viola Osthoff
 Carmen Overing
 Ida Julia Olive Prince
 Margaret Rayner
 Dorothy Roulston
 Rita Mary Seccombe
 Isabel Corinne Scott
 Evelyn Sims
 Lyla Smith
 Marjorie B. Spence
 Eleanor Tilbury
 Rev. Florence Ward
 Florence Wilson
 Margaret Jean White
 Dorothy Young

Pension Fund

Katherine F. Bielby
 Kenneth P. Jull
 Isabel Corrine Scott

United Church of Canada

Daisy Isobel Angove
 Donald Frederick Archibald
 Ada G. Couling
 Bellva E. Crowell
 Marion Charlotte Dewar
 Rev. Dr. Clifford Elliott
 Nick Evasiuk
 Elsie Lillian Jeffcott
 Ailsa Margaret Little
 Luella McCleary
 Dorothy Perry
 Ida Pearl Renwick
 Janet Robertson
 George Ryrie
 Mary Pearl Sidwell
 Margaret Speakman

Division of World Outreach

Marion Bentley
 Carroll G. M. Fraser
 Margaret Gairns
 Laura L. Love
 Ruth Winkler
 Rev. Roy Wilson

Division of Mission in Canada

Kay Munro
 Lillian Massey Treble

BIBLE STUDY

Reinerio Arce Valentin continued his leadership in Bible Study. Yesterday he shared reflections and reactions from the last meeting of the Cuban Council of Churches including the three key words – power, Holy Spirit, and witness.

He noted the 4 questions reflected on at the Cuban Council of Churches and asked whether these are the same questions that the Executive would reflect on in table groups.

- Are we truly faithful witnesses?
- Are we truly a church that witnesses prophetically?
- Are we filled with the Spirit of God or are there other spirits that dominate us?
- Are we ready to allow ourselves to be truly filled with the power of the Spirit of God?

Table groups reflected on the questions and reported back to the Executive including:

- More than one witness and the need to share our understanding and faith.
- Lost oral tradition, read the Bible but don't know it in the heart.

- Prophetic witness difficult because not popular message. Instead of asking who we are alienating, instead ask who are we empowering.

PERMANENT COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY AND EMPLOYMENT POLICIES AND SERVICES

Linsell Hurd introduced the members of the Permanent Committee on Ministry and Employment Policies and Services Elizabeth Brown, Dwaine Dornan, Ken Clark, and the staff people who support the Committee.

Table groups reviewed the work of the Permanent Committee with questions and answers prior to the work going to the Leadership for Ministry and Stewardship and Resources Sessional Committees. Linsell reminded that much of the work of the Permanent Committee has previously been before the Executive.

Responses to questions from the table groups included:

- It was noted that if the proposal on the Compensation Models is approved in principle, there will be more work to address meld allowances for high cost living in both remote and urban areas.
- Sabbatical leave for interim ministries has implications still to be resolved and this would be a top priority for a Task Group on Interim Ministry. It was also noted that this is always part of the agenda of the Permanent Committee.
- Designated ministry would partially replace Congregational Accountable Ministry and Congregational Accountable Ministry will be used for specific functions such as Parish Nurses where specific training and qualifications are needed.
- The Compensation Models Project recommendation for a denominationally funded salary administration system would address the pay equity issue regarding different compensation for males and females. However it would change the Basis of Union and more study is needed.
- In Designated Ministries the questions is where does the accountability and recognition lie, it could be either the presbytery or the congregation.
- The proposed Sexual Abuse Policy is a shift and the concern is to protect not just the institution but to protect individuals from future abuse. It was noted that if there is evidence of abuse it is the responsibility of the courts of the church to investigate and take the complaint forward.
- That women are paid less than men is a significant justice issue that needs to be addressed. The administration of a central payroll would provide the information necessary to address this issue.

GOVERNANCE EVALUATION

Walter Sowa presented the results from the Self-Evaluation of the Executive that was completed at the last Executive meeting. He presented a priority action list based on the responses to the questionnaire (Appendix D) and emphasized the need for better orientation, especially for members who join mid term. The results will assist in both the operations and governance. People who did not fill out a questionnaire at the last meeting were invited to still do so. It was noted that the information from this survey will be used by the Permanent Committee on

Governance, Planning and Budgeting Processes as they work on the fall orientation of the Executive. This survey will also be provided to the Redesign Evaluation Task Group.

PERMANENT COMMITTEE ON PROGRAMS FOR MISSION AND MINISTRY

The Ethnic Ministries Unit, celebrating its 10th year, reviewed a transformative vision for the United Church through an Intercultural Ministries Task Group. Diane Dwarka introduced Adele Halliday, Richard Choe, and Karl Lam from the Ethnic Ministries Unit.

It was noted that Proposal PMM7 on a Transformative Vision for The United Church of Canada was moved to the Congregational Mission and Justice Sessional Committee.

Bill Steadman, Joan Wyatt, and Ted Reeve addressed the proposal on the Outcomes for Ministry Leadership. Joan Wyatt outlined what will happen if the Executive adopts the proposal including:

- Clarity of the United Church expectations for ministry leadership education
- A transparent learning process for candidates
- Clear criteria for judicatory processes
- Discernment for continuing education and lay leadership courses.

It was noted that correspondence related to this proposal will also be before the Sessional Committee. The Executive received clarification to questions on the report.

Questions were responded to and referred to the Sessional Committee.

EMERGING SPIRIT

Keith Howard, Lesley Harrison, Aaron McCarroll Gallegos, and Shirley Welch joined the Executive for the Emerging Spirit presentation.

Keith Howard gave an update including the rationale for the media plan including the results from the research, the major communication challenge to get the message out, and the benefits of the campaign. Lesley Harrison reviewed the work of the impact teams from across the church and the congregational welcoming and regional training events which will work with other initiatives undertaken by the General Council Office, Conferences, and presbyteries.

Endorsement for this enlarged approach will be part of the work in the Congregational Mission and Justice Sessional Committee.

After dinner the Moderator hosted a triennium “kitchen party”.

SUNDAY, APRIL 30, 2006

The Moderator welcomed the Executive to this day and opened with a prayer.

PERMANENT COMMITTEE ON GOVERNANCE, PLANNING AND BUDGET PROCESSES

Work Flow To and From the General Council

Martha ter Kuile presented and reviewed the proposal. She noted that approving this proposal would mean that work can only come to the General Council from its Executive, the General Secretary, or the Conferences, presbyteries, and pastoral charges. Also General Council will send all work to either its Executive or the General Secretary.

Whereas the Executive of the General Council adopted a process for “how work gets assigned and done” and “how it returns” for the General Council (motion 2003-04-25) and

Whereas a review of the experience with these processes at the 38th General Council (2003) suggests the following principles and practices be adopted for the 39th General Council 2006 to enhance these processes

Motion: Martha ter Kuile/Paul Reed

2006-04-28-359

That the Executive of the General Council adopt the following principles, practices, and pathways:

Principles

1. Oversight for work/actions of elected members rests with elected members.
2. Oversight for work/actions is at a level of accountability consistent with the nature of the work/action.
3. Oversight for the work/actions of staff rests with the General Secretary
4. Allocation of resources (staff, financial) to support the work/actions of elected members rests with the General Secretary.

Practices

Work/action items from the General Council:

1. Are assigned by elected members.
2. Subsequent assignment or re-assignment is done by elected members
3. Can be assigned to only one place at a time.
4. Can be assigned;
 - a. For **policy** to the Executive of the General Council, which may re-assign work to:
 - one of the four Permanent Committees or
 - the General Secretary or
 - a task group which the Executive may establish from time to time
 - b. For **implementation** to the General Secretary
 - c. For **further study** and report back to the General Council
 - d. For **consideration** by the Executive of the General Council in conjunction with the strategic plan
5. Following assignment and before any work is undertaken a proposal for the work to be undertaken will be provided to the Executive.
6. Clarification of intent of the General Council action, if necessary, will be provided by the Executive.
7. The flow of items to the General Council follows a similar path in the reverse direction.

Pathways

The following paths define the flow of work “from” the General Council:

1. The General Council assigns work to the General Secretary
2. The General Council assigns work to the Executive of the General Council and the Executive of the General Council may further assign the work to one of the four permanent committees or the General Secretary or a task group

The following paths define the flow of work “to” the General Council:

1. The Conferences, presbyteries or pastoral charges may direct proposals to the General Council
2. The previous General Councils may direct work to the General Council (Record of Proceedings (ROP))
3. The Executive of the General Council may direct work to the General Council (minutes)
4. The General Secretary may direct work to the General Council

Carried

Deb Bowman reviewed the business process for work going to General Council and the goal to discern “God’s yearning for the United Church”. Deb noted that Sections 505 and 524 in *The Manual* outlines the work that must go to the General Council and the work that its Executive is able to do. She concluded with instructions for how the Sessional Committees do their work.

SESSIONAL COMMITTEES

The Executive moved into Sessional Committees with the following work in each.

Faith and Order

Task Group for the Strategic Planning Process

Principles for the Terms of Reference of Committees and Task Groups

Review of the Terms of Reference for the Nominations Committee

39th General Council 2006 Business Processes

Recommendations for an Enhanced Role for the General Council and Greater Communication between General Council Meetings

General Council Commissioners – consistency in membership between General Council and its Executive

Roles and Relationships – Elected Members and Staff

Staff as Corresponding Members

Terms of Reference – Moderator’s Advisory Committee

The Remit Formula from the Manual Committee

That We May Know Each Other: Statement on Christian–Muslim Relations

Report of the Anglican – United Church Dialogue

Response to the World Methodist Council Statement on the Doctrine of Justification

Moderator’s Accountability Report

General Secretary’s Accountability Report

Congregational Mission and Justice

Emerging Spirit

Presentation by the Aboriginal Membership of The United Church Canada

GCE Assignment of Petition 20 and Report #9
A Transformative Vision for The United Church of Canada
Revision of Appendix IV
Living Faithfully in the Midst of Empire
Water: Life before Profit
Relationship of The United Church of Canada to Aboriginal Spirituality: Circle and Cross
Digest of the Actions of the 38th General Council related to the Work of the Permanent Committee, Programs for Mission and Ministry
Proposal for a Joint [Ecumenical] Working Group on Ecumenical Shared Ministries

Leadership for Ministry

Police Records Check policy, change of implementation date
Designated Ministry
Isolation in Ministry
Lay Presidency at the Sacraments
Retirement
2007 Travel Reimbursement Rate
Amendments to Human Resource Policy 1.4 Job Evaluation
Petition 92 Continuing Education Funding
Sexual Abuse Policy and Procedures
Accreditation of the Education Centres
Outcomes for Ministry Leadership

Stewardship and Resources

2007 Budget Assumptions
Fund Policy
General Council Office Accommodation Task Group
General Council Office Communications Strategy-Project Funding
Task Group on the General Council Grant to Conferences
Re-design Evaluation-Project Funding
Appointment of Members and Directors for The United Church of Canada Foundation
The Compensation Models Project recommends

- Denominationally Funded Salary Administration System
- Centralized Payroll Service
- Comprehensive Salary
- Redesigned Salary Structure for Ministry Personnel
- Compensation be augmented in Exceptional Circumstances

Compensation Models Project Funding
Administrative Standards for Seniors' Homes – Long Term Care Facilities and Seniors' Apartments – Independent Living Units

SERVICE OF APOLOGY AND APPRECIATION

The Very Reverend Marion Parry presided at a service of Apology and Appreciation to Women in Ministry affected by the Disjoining Rule. Elizabeth Eberhart-Moffat gave a reflection and the General Secretary offered the prayer for repentance and forgiveness (Appendix B). Wilma Cade gave words of response to the apology (Appendix C).

During the service, members of the Executive and guests placed a stone in a bowl to remember the women who played an important part in our lives. Elizabeth Eberhart-Moffat presented the bowl of stones to the General Council Office as one of its precious objects to remember, in a sacramental way, this important memory.

REDESIGN EVALUATION

Martha ter Kuile introduced the members of the Redesign Evaluation Task Group - Jean Brown, Moses Kanhai, Heather Leffler, Joan Wyatt, Jim Sinclair, and Janet McDonald.

Janet McDonald gave an update on the work of the Group including reviewing the mandate. Part of the Group's work is to clarify the expectations of the stakeholders. The Committee has met with the Senior Leadership Team and would like to ask the same question of the Executive of the General Council. Table groups talked about the "hopes and expectations for the Redesign Evaluation" with responses recorded in the table groups and forwarded to the Task Group.

Janet asked that all notes be passed on to the Task Group and invited the members of the Task Group to introduce themselves to the Executive.

STEWARDSHIP AND RESOURCES SESSIONAL COMMITTEE

Don Koots reported on the work of the Stewardship and Resources Sessional Committee.

Compensation Models Project - Centralized Payroll Service (Proposal MEPS 2)

Motion: Don Koots/Norma Soble **2006-04-28-360**

That the 39th General Council 2006

1. Receive the Compensation Models Project Report and accept as the theological principles for compensation: justice, fairness, equality, sustainability and consistency.
2. Affirm in principle, the proposal for a centralized payroll service and this proposal be referred to the Executive of the General Council for oversight and decision-making with respect to its implementation.

Carried

Compensation Models Projects – Comprehensive Salary (Proposal MEPS 3)

Motion: Don Koots/Christine Williams **2006-04-28-361**

That the 39th General Council 2006

Affirm in principle the proposal that ministry personnel be paid a comprehensive salary instead of a base salary plus housing allowance/housing and that the proposal be referred to the Executive of the General Council for oversight and decision-making with respect to its implementation.

Carried

Redesigned Salary Structure for Ministry Personnel (Proposal MEPS 4)

Motion: Don Koots/David Giuliano **2006-04-28-362**

Affirm in principle the proposal to implement a redesigned salary structure for ministry personnel and that the proposal be referred to the Executive of the General Council for oversight and decision-making with respect to its implementation.

Carried

Compensation be augmented in Exceptional Circumstances (Proposal MEPS 5)

Motion: Don Koots/Don Wachenschwanz

2006-04-28-363

Affirm in principle the proposal to set up a centrally administered vehicle to compensate those (i) in exceptionally high-cost, remote locations and (ii) clergy couples where one is restricted from claiming a clergy residence education and be referred to the Executive of the General Council for oversight and decision-making with respect to its implementation.

Carried

Compensation Models Project Funding (Proposal MEPS 6)

That, contingent upon General Council 39 (2006) approving the recommendations, the Executive of the General Council recognizes that additional resources, both human and capital, will be required to implement the recommendations, and

That up to \$250,000 be provided from the Executive of the General Council Reserve ~~Project~~ Fund annually for up to three years to enable the Ministry of Employment Policies and Services to:

- Move from the development stage of the compensation project to the transition and implementation stages,
- Absorb the initial implementation costs associated with the recommendations especially with respect to centralized payroll, and
- Roll out the recommendations over several years; and

That interim progress reports from the Permanent Committee on Ministry and Employment Policies and Services be presented to the Executive of the General Council at each meeting to allow the Executive of the General Council to provide oversight to the implementation of the recommendations.

Motion: Don Koots/Dong-Chun Seo

2006-04-28-364

To postpone definitely Proposal MEPS 6 to the fall meeting of the Executive of the General Council.

Carried

Denominationally Funded Salary Administration System (Proposal MEPS 1)

Whereas the Compensation Models Project has recommended a Denominationally Funded salary administration system.

Whereas this may be an opportunity to more fully live out the principles listed in the report.

Whereas as a Denomination it is our desire to share resources faithfully.

Whereas it is the role of General Council to determine the direction of the Church.

Whereas this would be a major shift in the policy of the Church.

And whereas further development of this model involves significant use of General Council Office time and resources,

Motion: Don Koots/Walter Sowa

2006-04-28-365

Therefore, the Executive of the General Council recommends to the 39th General Council 2006 that no action on the Denominationally funded salary administration system be taken at this time, until progress is made on the other proposals of the Compensation Models Project Report.

Carried

Following dinner the Moderator read Psalm 117.

2007 Budget Assumptions (Proposal FIN 1)

Motion: Don Koots/Scott Parsons

2006-04-28-366

That the Executive of the General Council approve the 2007 budget assumptions, and

That the 2007 Budget be prepared utilizing the following assumptions:

1. Mission and Service Unified Fund revenues are estimated at \$30,000,000.
2. Draws from the Mission and Service Operating Fund be set at \$3,400,000.
3. Draws from the Reserve Fund be set at \$2,250,000.
4. Total Revenues be set at \$38,918,000 including draws from reserves and funds, sales from resources and other income.
5. Salaries, benefits, and conference grants include both a cost of living increase and salary step increases.
6. Mission Support Grants receive a cost of living increase for the salary component.
7. Total Expenses are not to exceed \$38,918,000 matching expenditures with revenues.
8. The General Secretary be directed to reduce expenditures by \$558,000 from General Council operations to meet the criteria established in assumption number 7.
9. When reducing expenditures, the General Secretary is to be guided by the following principles:
 - a. Expenditure reductions to be seen as budget adjustments rather than transformational or setting new directions, pending the direction of General Council 39 and the priorities of the Executive of the General Council following.
 - b. Expenditure reductions should not result in a downloading of expenses to other courts of the Church.

Carried

Fund Policy (Proposal FIN 2)

Motion: Don Koots/Norma Soble

2006-04-28-367

That the Executive of the General Council approve the Fund Policy as submitted below.

Policy:

Guiding Principles:

- deliberate and not defensive policy;
- long term planning and strategic support;
- reserves viewed in aggregate;
- past practices may no longer be relevant;
- flexibility needed to respond to changes;

- simple and easy to manage.

Overall Guidelines:

- All four major funds will be treated as one reserve;
- The reserve will not drop below 30% of General Operating Expenses.

Operational Budget Support:

- Budget support for on-going operations shall equal a four year rolling average of bequests and investment income earned from the fund. This would support overall funding requirements as well as specific projects of the GCE. The formula defines the upper limit available for budget support, but the GCE at its discretion may limit the total amount available. The incremental portion of individual gifts exceeding \$1 million will be excluded from the formula and added to the floor for reserves providing a mechanism to help replenish reserves. As The Foundation of The United Church of Canada matures, the requirement to reserve the incremental portion of gifts over \$1 million diminishes and this clause will disappear after five years in 2011.

Strategic Planning and Capital Spending Support:

- Strategic initiatives shall be funded from current reserves contingent on reserves being above 30% of operational expenses while continuing to meet operational requirements;
- Programs and projects to be funded should have a timeline established when approved. There should be a specific period to be funded before becoming an on-going program requiring operational budget support or the program should have a time specific life.
- Residential School liabilities will continue to be paid from reserves.

Criteria:

The Morrison Bequest is for the mission work of the church in Canada and it is not intended to support operating deficits.

The UCRF is used to accumulate unbudgeted revenue that has no specifically designated beneficiary, such as legacies, income from estates and residue from matured annuity contracts.

The M&SOF receives designated Mission & Service bequests and annuities and supports the operating budget on the basis of the following formula: 75% of the prior year balance subject to the overall guidelines in this policy.

The Residential School Fund exists to pay residential school litigation settlements and associated expenses.

Carried

General Council Office Accommodation Task Group (Proposal GS 1)

Whereas the General Council occupies office space in leased premises at 3250 Bloor Street West.

Whereas the lease on this space expires March, 2015

Whereas planning for future accommodation requires substantial lead time.

And whereas *The Manual* s.524(t) provides that the Executive of the General Council shall have the duty and power “to supervise and to regulate the office accommodation of the General Council working units”

Motion: Don Koots/Christine Williams

2006-04-28-368

That the Executive of the General Council direct the General Secretary to draft terms of reference (including mandate, membership and meeting expectations) for a Task Group accountable to the Executive of the General Council, which would facilitate the work of the Executive with regard to the office accommodation of the General Council working units, and that the draft terms of reference be available for review for the November 2006 meeting of the Executive.

Carried

General Council Office Communications Strategy - Project Funding (Proposal GS2)

Whereas the development and implementation of a communications strategy for the General Council Office is a priority of the General Secretary.

Whereas such strategy needs to be provided for communicating the work and actions of the General Council, its Executive and the General Council Office to the varied constituencies of:

- Members and adherents of the United Church of Canada
- Church Courts – Pastoral Charges, Presbyteries and Conferences
- General Council Executive, its Committees and Commissioners of the General Council
- Ministry Personnel, Employees of the General Council and retirees
- Other organizations affiliated with the United Church of Canada
- Governments
- The public

Using a variety of media including:

- Print
- Audio-visual
- Web
- News media

Whereas the General Secretary has undertaken a review and assessment of current capacities with respect to communications in the General Council Office and this assessment has provided a number of recommendations as well as a set of goals and strategies.

Whereas a key recommendation is the establishment of a Communications Office and the creation of a position of Senior Communications Advisor.

Whereas the General Secretary believes it is wise to build on the capacity of existing resources rather than committing to permanent hiring at this time.

Motion: Don Koots/Paul Reed

2006-04-28-369

The Executive of the General Council authorize an expenditure of up to \$60,000 in 2006 and up to \$100,000 in 2007 from the United Church of Canada Reserve for the purpose of contract employment to implement a communications strategy and build capacity of existing communications resources for the General Council Office.

Carried

Task Group on the General Council Grant to Conferences (Proposal GS3)

Whereas it has been years since the Executive of the General Council reviewed the purpose of the General Council Grant to Conferences,

And whereas significant questions are being raised about both the purpose and size of this Grant

Motion: Don Koots/David Giuliano

2006-04-28-370

That the Executive of the General Council establish a Task Group on the General Council Grant to Conferences with the terms of reference to be drafted by the General Secretary for consideration by the Sub-Executive by June 30, 2006,

- the members to be recruited in the 2006 fall cycle of our nominations process,
- and for the Task Group to deliver an interim report to the May 2007 meeting of the Executive of the General Council.

Carried

Re-design Evaluation-Project Funding (Proposal GS8)

Whereas in June 2000, when approving changes to the General Council Office and governance designs, the Executive of the General Council directed that an evaluation of the re-design be undertaken at a future date but not within five years of implementation.

Whereas the Executive of the General Council has established A Task Group to oversee this evaluation work.

Whereas the terms of reference for this Task Group envision the possibility of engaging external resources to undertake some of the work of the evaluation.

Whereas the Task Group began to meet in January 2006, has considered the scope of its work, and determined that external resources are warranted.

Whereas the Task Group has prepared specifications for this work in the form of a Request for Proposal and obtained a budgetary estimate for this work.

Whereas such work fits within the parameters of the Project Fund of the Executive of the General Council.

Whereas the Project Fund is established at \$150,000 per year and there are no commitments for the Fund for 2006 or 2007 to date.

Motion: Don Koots/Don Wachenschwanz**2006-04-28-371**

The Executive of the General Council approve an expenditure of up to \$25,000 in 2006 and up to \$25,000 in 2007 from the Project Fund of the Executive of the General Council, to be used for external resources for the Redesign Evaluation Task Group.

Carried**Appointment of Members and Directors for The United Church of Canada Foundation (Proposal GS9)**

The by-laws of The United Church of Canada Foundation, approved by the Executive of the General Council at its meeting of April, 2002, require that Members of the Foundation be approved by the Board of Directors of the Foundation and by the General Council (Foundation By-law 2.1), and that Directors be approved by the General Council (Foundation By-law 4.1).

Whereas the following persons have agreed to serve on the Board of Directors of The United Church of Canada Foundation, subject to their confirmation by the Executive of the General Council.

Motion: Don Koots/Dong-Chun Seo**2006-04-28-372**

That the Executive of the General Council approve the appointments of Marion Best, Fred Braman, Tim O'Neill and Doug Einarson as Members and Directors of The United Church of Canada Foundation.

Carried**Administrative Standards for Seniors' Homes – Long Term Care Facilities and Seniors' Apartments – Independent Living Units (Proposal PMM 10)****Motion: Don Koots/Scott Parsons****2006-04-28-373**

That the Executive of the General Council adopt the report entitled *The United Church of Canada Administrative Standards for Seniors' Homes – Long Term Care Facilities, Seniors' Apartments – Independent Living*, and determine that these shall be the standards for all seniors homes/seniors apartments using the name of The United Church of Canada; and

That the responsibility for accreditation and oversight for the implementation of the Administrative Standards for Seniors Homes and Seniors Apartments be delegated to the Permanent Committee, Programs for Mission and Ministry.

Carried

Jim Jackson thanked the members of the Stewardship and Resources Sessional Committee for their work.

LEADERSHIP FOR MINISTRY SESSIONAL COMMITTEE

Mary-Beth Moriarity thanked the members of the Sessional Committee for their work and gave the report of the Committee.

Isolation in Ministry (Proposal MEPS 8)**Motion: Mary-Beth Moriarity/Paul Stott****2006-04-28-374**

That the Executive of the General Council forward the Isolation in Ministry Report to the 39th General Council 2006 for information.

That the Executive of the General Council affirm the purpose and overall direction of the report believing implementation will lead to reduced ministry isolation, a more positive morale among ministry personnel, and a healthier work climate.

That the Executive of the General Council proposes to the 39th General Council 2006 that it affirm the purpose and overall direction of the Report.

That the Executive of the General Council table the following recommendations of the Isolation in Ministry Report:

1. Initiate and fund programs that assist presbyteries, ministry personnel and pastoral charges in the creation and sustaining of faithful, healthy pastoral relationships.
2. Provide a nationally administered program that will equip presbyteries with paid ministers whose sole function is to deliver pastoral care and vocational support to ministry personnel and their families.
3. Institute a national policy to provide programs and funding that promote collegial, supportive relationships among ministry personnel based on their call to a common vocation.
4. Institute a national policy to adequately resource the educational programs of the denomination in order to ensure that ministry personnel receive educational support from discernment to retirement thereby continuing to affirm the principle of an educated ministry.
5. Institute a national policy to provide appropriate communication technology in order to provide networking capabilities among all ministry personnel.
6. Institute a national compensation system that recognises education, years of service and special circumstances.
7. Institute the policy of clearly defining the roles and relationships of paid accountable leaders within the governance and employment structure of the United Church of Canada, with clear lines of accountability and authority.
8. Revise *The Manual* as necessary to accommodate these changes.

Carried

Lay Presidency at the Sacraments (Proposal MEPS 9)

The proposal was presented with discussion. Concerns raised included the lack of a theological statement and ecclesiology issues.

The General Secretary was asked for an opinion about whether the decision regarding the lay presidency at the Sacraments had already been made at the 38th General Council 2003. The General Secretary stated that, in his opinion, the lay presidency at the Sacraments had not been decided in its complete form and it is a question for the Executive of the General Council to address.

There was discussion about the theological rationale which was part of the Permanent Committee on Ministry and Employment Policies and Services report.

Whereas Resolution 9.2 from *Ministry Together: A Report on Ministry for the 21st Century* concerning lay presidency at sacraments was referred to the Division of Ministry Personnel and Education for further work in conjunction with the Committee on Theology and Faith, and

Whereas Resolution 9.3 from *Ministry Together: A Report on Ministry for the 21st Century* was approved by the 37th General Council (2000), establishing guidelines for courts of the church when considering those to administer the sacraments, and

Whereas the 38th General Council (2003) referred Petitions 103, 104, 105, and 107 and the feedback and responses of Commission B to the Executive of the General Council for consideration by the Task Group on Lay Presidency at the Sacraments, and

Whereas the Interim Report on Lay Presidency at the Sacraments was received and the 38th General Council (2003) direct the Task Group to bring a final report and recommendations to the 39th meeting of the General Council (2006), and

Whereas the Lay Presidency at the Sacraments Task Group has submitted its final report with recommendations;

Motion: Mary-Beth Moriarity/Paul Stott

2006-04-28-375

That the Executive of the General Council forward the Lay Presidency at the Sacraments report to the 39th General Council 2006.

That the Executive of the General Council propose that the 39th General Council 2006 establish an office to be known as Sacraments Elder and instruct the General Secretary to:

1. Create a standard set of outcomes for the course for Sacraments Elders to be shared with Conferences for their use upon request;
2. Examine General Council policies for recruiting and retaining paid accountable ministers with a view to supplying sufficient ministry personnel licensed to administer the sacraments.
3. Revise *The Manual* to include licensing procedures for Sacraments Elders as recommended in the Lay Presidency at the Sacraments Report.

Discussion on the motion took place with time in table groups.

Motion: Kent Ward/Paul Reed

2006-04-28-376

That this motion be referred to the Reference and Counsel Committee.

Carried

Correspondence

Motion: Mary-Beth Moriarity/Paul Stott

2006-04-28-377

That the Executive of the General Council receive for information correspondence items #2 (CORR 3-4), #3 (CORR 5-8), #4 (CORR 9), and #5 (CORR 10-12).

Carried

It was noted that the General Secretary will respond to the correspondence with the information that it was received for information with information on the action of the Executive of the General Council.

Outcomes for Ministry Leadership (Proposal PMM 12)

Paul Stott reviewed the feedback from the court and the revisions made by the Sessional Committee to incorporate these concerns. Discussion on the proposal took place and concerns were raised. It was noted that the correspondence from the theological colleges expressed a concern regarding the financial implications on not on this proposal.

Motion: Mary-Beth Moriarity/Paul Stott

2006-04-28-378

That the Executive of the General Council forward to the 39th General Council 2006 the Leadership Outcomes framework report for information.

That the Executive of the General Council recommend that the 39th General Council 2006 approve a leadership outcome framework model as the statement of minimum requirements for the preparation of Ordered ministers in The United Church of Canada and direct the General Council Executive to refine the leadership outcomes framework model in light of the visioning of the 39th General Council 2006.

That the Executive of the General Council propose to the 39th General Council 2006 that those parts of *The Manual* pertaining to the theological study be changed to reflect the shift to a Leadership Outcomes framework.

Carried

Stéphane Vermette requested that his vote against the motion be recorded.

MONDAY, MAY 1, 2006

The Moderator began the morning with Psalm 117.

Bob Campbell, Friend in Court, asked for the prayers of the Executive for Don Koots' Father.

Kent Ward reviewed the agenda for the morning. The time for Kerygma Café was adjusted to allow time to work on the Sessional Committee reports.

Leadership for Ministry Sessional Committee

Mary-Beth Moriarity reviewed the motion referred to Reference and Counsel.

Motion: Mary-Beth Moriarity/Paul Stott**2006-04-28-375**

That the Executive of the General Council forward the Lay Presidency at the Sacraments report to the 39th General Council 2006.

That the Executive of the General Council propose that the 39th General Council 2006 establish an office to be known as Sacraments Elder and instruct the General Secretary to:

1. Create a standard set of outcomes for the course for Sacraments Elders to be shared with Conferences for their use upon request;
2. Examine General Council policies for recruiting and retaining paid accountable ministers with a view to supplying sufficient ministry personnel licensed to administer the sacraments.
3. Revise *The Manual* to include licensing procedures for Sacraments Elders as recommended in the Lay Presidency at the Sacraments Report.

David Woodall reported on the work of the Reference and Counsel Committee and brought the following amendment.

Motion to Amend: David Woodall/Diane Dwarka

That the Executive of the General Council forward the Lay Presidency at the Sacraments report to the 39th General Council 2006, drawing particular attention to the following paragraphs (MEPS 83-84)

Polity

The United Church of Canada is conciliar, meaning that its structural constitution belongs to councils that complement each other in governing the Church. Authority and responsibility reside in the General Council for determining doctrine and polity, in the Conferences for ordering and designating ministry, in the Presbyteries for ensuring accountability in ministry and in the Sessions (or comparable congregational courts) for overseeing the administration of the sacraments.

Ministry

Ministry is shared throughout the United Church. Upon the baptized and those received into full communion rests a commitment to ministry that informs the discipleship of the *laos*, the whole people of God. Diverse gifts are offered and recognized for the upbuilding of the local community of faith, for the church universal and for the world in which the church is set. Amidst the *laos*, the United Church, through call, discernment and preparation, identifies those whom it sets apart variously by ordination (to Word, Sacrament and Pastoral Care), commissioning (to Education, Service and Pastoral Care) and designation to particular functions. Ordained, Diaconal and Lay Pastoral Ministers comprise this group which is augmented by Lay Pastoral Ministers in Training, Student Interns, Candidate Supplies, Intern Supplies, Student Supplies and Diaconal Supplies.

Sacraments

The United Church acknowledges two sacraments: Baptism and The Lord's Supper (Holy Communion). A range of theological images undergird the perception of the sacraments in the United Church. Baptism signifies God's grace by incorporating souls into a covenanted

community to which they belong. Holy Communion variously quickens and mediates the dynamics of remembrance, celebration, covenant, renewal, atonement, pledge of the Messianic banquet, community and a political act. They are signs and seals of the covenant created by the life, death and resurrection of Christ. They are means of grace by which Christ quickens, strengthens and comforts faith. They are ordinances by which the United Church confesses Christ and is "visibly distinguished from the rest of the world". (Basis of Union). Their administration and observance call for signs of that distinction.

Presidency

Many conditions obtain for the sacraments to be rightly administered. Among them is the requirement of a presider, one who officiates. It is for the sake of order that the United Church grants authority to persons to preside. The presider signifies the ministries of Christ, the church universal and the assembled community.

Authority and Accountability

Authority to preside at sacraments in the United Church is granted ex officio to Ordained Ministers. Conferences regularly give licenses to administer the sacraments to Diaconal and Lay Pastoral Ministers and exceptionally to the other designated ministries. Conditions for the granting of such license are usually some form of covenanted ministry and engagement in paid accountable ministry and appropriate training. In the opinion of the General Secretary of the General Council: "The Session and Conference have separate and distinct responsibilities in relation to the Sacraments under our Polity....While the Conference determines who may administer the Sacraments, the Session determines when and how the Sacraments are to be administered within the Congregation."

Availability of Ministry Personnel

The question of lay presidency at the sacraments arises when two expectations are not met:

1. That there will be sufficient ministry personnel available and positioned to administer the sacraments to all congregations
2. That congregations shall according to need, i.e., regularly and frequently, have access to the administration of the sacraments

It is evident that the United Church has either not recruited or not distributed ministry personnel to an extent sufficient to meet expressed needs.

Further that the General Council instruct the General Secretary to:

1. Determine an appropriate qualification process for this position including a standard set of outcomes for the course for Sacraments Elders, to be shared with Conferences for their use upon request;
2. Revise *The Manual* to include licensing procedures for Sacraments Elders as recommended in the Lay Presidency at the Sacraments Report.
3. Examine General Council policies for recruiting and retaining paid accountable ministers with a view to supplying sufficient ministry personnel licensed to administer the sacraments.

Carried

Motion as amended - Carried

Motion: David Woodall/Diane Dwarka**2006-04-28-379**

That the Executive of the General Council propose that the 39th General Council 2006 instruct the Committee on Theology and Faith to undertake a thorough reflection on Ministry and Sacraments, to serve as context for the further development of these processes.

Carried

It was noted that this completes the work of the Sessional Committee that needs to go to General Council.

Scott Parsons, on behalf of the Executive, thanked the Sessional Committee for their work.

FAITH AND ORDER SESSIONAL COMMITTEE

George Takashima thanked the members and staff who worked in the Sessional Committee and reviewed their work.

General Council Commissioners – consistency in membership between General Council and its Executive (Proposal GPBP 7)**Motion: George Takashima/Cindy Désilets****2006-04-28-380**

That the Executive of the General Council bring a proposal to the General Council which would

1. review the formula in *The Manual* Section 423 regarding the number of Commissioners to each General Council.
2. And that *The Manual* be revised to suggest that Conferences name as Commissioners their Conference representatives to the Executive (incoming, continuing and outgoing) and the incoming Conference President and Leading Elders in addition to the number of commissioners determined by the formula.
3. And that *The Manual* be revised to suggest that Conferences name as Commissioners voting members of the Executive of the General Council as recommended by the General Secretary in addition to the number of commissioners determined by the formula.

Carried**The Remit Formula (Proposal GS 11)**

Cynthia Gunn gave background on this proposal, including the safeguards within the Basis of Union. It was noted that any changes would need an Act of Parliament and therefore it is necessary return to the remit formula used prior to 1990. Since 1990 several remits have been adopted using the new formula but only one of these remits would have failed using the old formula. The effect of this remit was to give the General Council the authority to implement changes to ordination vows without a remit however the General Council has never used this authority. The result is that *The Manual* will need to be changed to the original wording. The question discussed was whether to bring this remit forward again.

The General Secretary was asked for a ruling on whether the United Church acted ultra vires in changing the remit formula. The General Secretary ruled that the remit was ultra vires on the basis of opinions from outside legal counsel and the reasons are to follow.

Motion: George Takashima/ Stéphane Vermette 2006-04-28-381

That the Executive of the General Council request that the 39th General Council 2006 authorize a remit to add to the Basis of Union 11.3 the possibility of General Council providing alternative Ordination and Commissioning Vows in the by-laws in order to test the will of the United Church in this matter.

Defeated

That We May Know Each Other: Statement on Christian–Muslim Relations (Proposal PMM 1)

Motion: George Takashima/Lynn Boothroyd 2006-04-28-382

That the Executive of the General Council forward to the 39th General Council 2006 the report and proposal *That We May Know Each Other: Statement on Christian-Muslim Relations*.

Carried

Proposal attached in Appendix E.

Report of the Anglican – United Church Dialogue (Proposal PMM 4)

Motion: George Takashima/Cindy Désilets 2006-04-28-383

That the Executive of the General Council accept the Report of the Anglican-United Church Dialogue; and

That the Executive forward for information the Report of the Anglican-United Church Dialogue to the 39th General Council 2006; and

That the Executive authorize the continuation of this Dialogue.

Carried

39th General Council 2006 Business Processes (Proposal GPBP 5)

Motion: George Takashima/Cindy Désilets 2006-04-28-383

That the Executive of the General Council direct the General Council Agenda and Planning Committee to use plenary and up to three commissions to facilitate the work of the 39th General Council 2006 and that the work of the commissions be assigned thematically and that the assignment of commissioners to commissions be by table group to a commission using a random procedure.

Carried

Nominations Report (Proposal GS 12)

Motion: George Takashima/Lynn Boothroyd 2006-04-28-384

That the Executive of the General Council appoint the following people to the committees and task groups or as representatives of the United Church (with the stated terms):

Archives and History Committee (August 2009)

- Peter Douglas (OM MNWO), Chairperson

Audit Committee (August 2009)

- Edward Hooey (L Tor), Chairperson – 2nd term
- John Wallace (L Mtu) – 2nd term
- Sandro Colasacco (L BC) – 2nd term
- Stewart Hudson (L Mar) – 2nd term

Congregational Stewardship Development Committee (June 2009)

- Terry Shillington (OM ANW)

Education for Church Leadership Coordinating Committee (June 2009)

- Anna Constantin (OM BC)
- Tim Scorer (SA BC)
- Thomas Harding (OM BC)
- Barbara Martin (OM ANW)

Re-appointments (June 2008)

- Peter McKellar (OM BQ), Chairperson – 2nd term
- Guy Matthews (OM N&L) 2nd term

Executive of the General Council - Members at Large (August 2009)

- Allan Seal (L M&O), under 30 - 2nd term
- Leah Halliday (L ANW), under 30 - 2nd term
- Sheryl Johnson (L MNWO)
- Ted Kostecki (SA Lon)

Faith Formation for All Ages Committee (June 2009)

- Alison Wainwright (SA BC) – 2nd Term
- Alex Pirie-Hay (L Mar) – 2nd Term
- Maya Landell (L Lon) – 2nd Term
- David Robertson (OM ANW) – 2nd Term
- Bev Buckingham (SA Ham)
- Sally Bullas (O Sask)
- Eileen Lavigne (L M&O)

Funding the Work of the Church Task Group (Dec 2007)

- Donald Wachenschwanz (OM M&O)
- Bob Burrows (OM BC)

GCE Agenda, Planning and Business Committee (August 2009)

- Debra Bowman (OM BC), Chairperson of the Business Table

Gender Justice Advisory Committee (August 2009)

- Moses Kanhai (L Sask), Co-Chairperson– 2nd term
- Maureen Finlayson (L Mar), Co-Chairperson – 2nd term
- Susan Butler-Jones (DM MNWO) – 2nd term
- Barbara Curzon (DM Ham)– 2nd term

- Victoria Fillier (L BQ) – 2nd term
- Catherine Gutjar (L Mtu) – 2nd term

Gender Justice and Partnership Monitoring Committee (June 2009)

- Shelly Manley-Tannis (OM Sask)

General Council Agenda and Planning Committee (Dec 2009)

- Michelle Slater (OM BC), Chairperson

General Secretary Supervisory Committee

- Glen Bailey (L M&O) – 2nd term (August 2009)
- Walter Sowa (L Ham) – 2nd term (August 2007)

Global Partnership Advisory Committee (June 2009)

- Justine Kiwanuka (L MNWO)
- Heather Fraser (L Lon)

Re-appointment (June 2008)

- Flo Morson (L Tor) – 2nd Term

Healing Fund Council (June 2009)

- Frank Evans (L ANC)
- Puckwiss (Sharon) Johnson (L BQ)
- Martha Pedoniquotte (L Ham)
- Adeline Samson- Harvey (DM ANC)
- Maxine Blacksioux (L ANC)
- Jim White (L BC)
- Sophia Jamieson (L ANC)
- Phil Skylar (L ANC)

Justice, Peace and Creation Advisory Committee (June 2009)

- Chelsea Masterman (L ANW)
- Sarah Angus (L M&O)
- Gail Johnson (L Tor)

Ministry Vocations Committee (June 2009)

- Anne Manikel (DM BC)
- Harry J. Whitehorne (OM N&L)
- Olga McKellar (LPM Lon)

New Congregations and Ministries Task Group (June 2009)

- Mark Collins (OM BC)
- Solly Kakegamic (LPM ANC)
- Christopher White (OM BQ)
- Jo Anne Knobbe (OM Sask)

PC – Finance (August 2009)

- Hubert Norman (L N&L) - 2nd term
- Neil Young (OM Ham) - 2nd term
- Ted Alexander (L Lon) - 2nd term
- Bev Kostichuk (L Sask)
- Edison Bardock (L ANW)
- Donald Wachenschwanz (OM M&O)

PC - Governance, Planning and Budgeting Processes (August 2009)

- Martha ter Kuile (OM M&O), Chairperson – 2nd term
- Mark Ferrier (OM Ham) – 2nd term
- Jean Wilson (OM BQ) – 2nd term
- Warren Bruleigh (OM ANW)
- Gordon Staples (L Tor)
- Fredrick Sheffer (L M&O)

PC - Ministry and Employment Policies and Services (August 2009)

- Jim Blanchard (L Mar), Chairperson – 2nd term
- Alison West (OM Sask) – 2nd term
- Tracy Murton (L BC) – 2nd term
- Peter Hardy (L Mar/Berm) – 2nd term
- Donna Bowman-Woodall (OM Lon)
- David Hart (OM Mar)
- Linsell Hurd (OM Sask)
- Harry Brown (L Tor)
- Eleanor Scarlett (OM Tor)

PC - Programs for Mission and Ministry (August 2009)

- Diane Dwarka (L MNWO), Chairperson – 2nd term
- Kelly Hudson (OM N&L) – 2nd term
- Claire Borel Christen (L M&O) – 2nd term
- Larry Derkach (L ANW)
- Jim Jackson (L MNWO)
- Victoria Moulton (SA M&O)

Peace Task Group (June 2008)

- Natasha Harvey (L ANW)
- Roger Hutchinson L Tor)
- Jeanette Liberty-Duns (OM Sask)
- Sandi Evans (L BC)
- Doug MacKay (OM Manitou)

Racial Justice Advisory Committee (August 2009)

- Anthony Bailey (OM M&O), Chairperson – 2nd term

- Julie Graham (L Tor) – 2nd term
- Arsinoée Quammie (L M&O) – 2nd term
- Karen Rolston (L BC) – 2nd term
- Janet Yee (L ANW)
- Thomas P. Leepile (OM ANW)
- Cathy Hird (OM Tor)

Representative to the Canadian Council of Churches Governing Board (June 2009)

- Susan Eagle (OM Lon)
- Wendy Evans (L Tor), pending a vacancy before June 30, 2006

Representative to the KAIROS Board of Directors (June 2009)

- L. Joanne McFadden (OM Mar)

Representative to the World Religions of Canada Board (June 2009)

- Betty Lynn Schwab (OM Sask)

Stewardship Studies Committee

- Lynn Watson (OM ANW)
- Brenda Watt (SA ANW)

Theology and Faith Committee (August 2009)

- Barry Morris (OM BC)
- Norm Laird (OM ANW)
- Harry Disher (OM Lon)
- Jeong-Woo Lee (OM Tor)

Carried

Leah Halliday expressed thanks to Sessional Committee on behalf of Executive.

Congregational Mission and Justice Sessional Committee

Heather Leffler thanked the Committee for their work and reviewed the proposal and changes made by the Sessional Committee.

Aboriginal Membership of the United Church (Proposal GS7)

Motion: Heather Leffler/Carmen Lansdowne

2006-04-28-385

That the General Secretary be directed to establish a Task Group with appropriate consultation that is representative of the British Columbia Native Ministries Council, the All Native Circle Conference, other Aboriginal Membership within The United Church of Canada and the Executive of the General Council to undertake a consultation and discernment process with Aboriginal members and others within the church about:

- a National Aboriginal Council and an Aboriginal Ministries Unit,
- Develop recommendations with respect to the role, make-up and budget requirements of the National Aboriginal Council and the Aboriginal Ministries Unit, as well as the Senior Leadership Team position, and,

- Bring an interim report back to the Executive of the General Council at its Spring 2007 meeting and a final report at the Fall 2007 meeting,

Carried

Motion: Heather Leffler/Carmen Lansdowne

2006-04-28-386

That B and C be referred to the General Secretary for information.

B

That the General Secretary direct staff support to the steering committee from (not less than) the General Council Coordinator of Aboriginal Ministries, the Speaker of the All Native Circle Conference, and British Columbia Conference, Minister of Native Ministries, and

C

That the General Secretary provide for appropriate liaison between the Committee and the Senior Leadership Team.

Carried

Whereas, we the Aboriginal Peoples within The United Church of Canada view ourselves as an integral and important membership of this church, and

Whereas, it was the Church who first came to us to offer the Christian way of life, and

Whereas, it was the Church who wanted to make us to be like you, but it has always been at a subservient level, and

Whereas, it is the active directive of the Aboriginal People of The United Church of Canada voiced at the consultation in July 2005 in Sudbury, Ontario that we become active partners in the work of The United Church of Canada, and

Whereas, we believe that a National Aboriginal Council should be established within The United Church of Canada structure to provide a strong visible presence of the Aboriginal voice and participation in discernment and ministry, and

Whereas, we believe that an Aboriginal Ministries Unit should be established within the General Council Office of The United Church of Canada to connect the Aboriginal community and its ministry to the wider church and its work, and

Whereas we believe that an Aboriginal staff position should be created at the Senior Leadership Team level and a permanent staff complement assigned to the Aboriginal Ministries Unit to support the work of Aboriginal ministries within The United Church of Canada,

Motion: Heather Leffler/Carmen Lansdowne

2006-04-28-387

The Executive of the General Council recommends to the General Council the following proposal:

Be it resolved that The United Church of Canada transform its historical legacy to that of an equal and joint partnership in healing the church and the world in the Spirit of Christ, with the active partnership of the Aboriginal Peoples of The United Church of Canada.

Carried

Relationship of The United Church of Canada to Aboriginal Spirituality: Circle and Cross (Proposal PMM 6)

Motion: Heather Leffler/Carmen Lansdowne

2006-04-28-388

The Executive of the General Council proposes:

That the 39th General Council 2006 receive this report of the Task Group on the Relationship of The United Church of Canada to Aboriginal Spirituality on the Circle and Cross process developed since its last report to General Council 36 in 2000, affirm the directions as contained in the report, and refer them to the Executive of the General Council for consideration.

Carried

It was noted that the report will be rewritten to include these directions.

Water: Life before Profit (Proposal PMM5)

Motion: Heather Leffler/Jim Jackson

2006-04-28-389

The Executive of the General Council proposes that the 39th General Council 2006 receive the report, Water: Life Before Profit, and:

1. Affirm its conviction that water is a sacred gift that connects all life. Its value to the common good must take priority over commercial interests. Privatization turns a common good into a commodity, depriving those who cannot pay and further threatening local ecosystems;
2. Encourage United Church congregations to learn more about, and become engaged in, water issues so that members individually, and together as communities of faith, can be better stewards of water, utilising available resources including Waters of Life: Issues, Ethics, and Actions prepared by the Justice, Global and Ecumenical Relations Unit;
3. Encourage United Church members and congregations to participate in the advocacy campaign denominationally and ecumenically based on this statement against the privatization of water;
4. Call upon the Government of Canada to act, nationally and internationally, to ensure access to clean water for all, now and for future generations by:
 - a. Supporting publicly or co-operatively controlled water services that have genuine community participation, noting the critical need in First Nations communities;
 - b. Opposing measures in federal, bilateral and multilateral agreements and policies that promote the privatization of water services, and
 - c. Protecting and preserving natural sources of water.

Carried

Living Faithfully in the Midst of Empire (Proposal PMM 3)**Motion: Heather Leffler/Dwaine Dornan****2006-04-28-390**

The Executive of the General Council proposes that the 39th General Council 2006:

Receive with appreciation the report *Living Faithfully in the Midst of Empire*, and affirm the work already mandated.

Carried**Revision of Appendix IV (Proposal PMM 2)****Motion: Heather Leffler/Jim Jackson****2006-04-28-391**

The Executive of the General Council proposes:

That the 39th General Council 2006 approve the recommended revisions to Appendix IV of *The Manual*.

Re Board Membership (Section 4 b)

It is recommended that the current wording of Appendix IV for Category 1 be upheld and that any diminution of the numbers of United Church members of the Board for this category of corporation would render meaningless the aim to ensure that United Church legal concerns are safeguarded. Because the Executive of the General Council has affirmed that the Conferences be the supervising court for Appendix IV corporations, the following revision of Appendix IV is proposed to ensure that good communications linkage between the supervising court and the corporation is maintained:

“The Executive-Secretary of the supervising Conference shall be ex officio a corresponding member of the board of the corporation, but will not be expected to attend meetings of the Board normally.”

(corresponding member: receives notice of meetings; receives minutes of meetings; has right to attend meetings; has right to take part in deliberations of meetings, but does not have the right to vote [see *Manual* section 001 – definitions])

Membership of the Corporation (5 a)

The current Appendix IV provision allows for alternative scenarios re membership in the Corporation and the Conference is free to appoint any person – United Church members or not – to membership in the corporation. If the Corporation’s current articles of incorporation require appointment of members by the Conference, then

“the supervising Conference has authority to permit the Corporation to determine its own manner of naming the membership of the Corporation.”

Re Corporate Indebtedness (section 5 f)

The section provides the way for corporations to seek the supervising Conference’s approval for higher level of indebtedness and does not appear to need amendment.

Carried

The Manual: Ecumenical Shared Ministries (Proposal PMM 9)

Motion: Heather Leffler/Dwayne Dornan

2006-04-28-392

That the Executive of the General Council propose to the 39th General Council 2006 that ministry personnel from partner denominations with which The United Church of Canada participates in an Ecumenical Shared Ministry not be designated as ordained/diaconal supply, and therefore that references to Ecumenical Shared Ministries be removed from section 342: Diaconal Supply or Ordained Supply; and

That the Executive of the General Council propose to the 39th General Council 2006 that a new section of *The Manual* be created, which recognizes Ecumenical Shared Ministries as a unique category of pastoral relationship and clarifies expectations of The United Church of Canada personnel and those in other denominations; and

That the Executive of the General Council propose to the 39th General Council 2006 that these changes take into account the “Guidelines for Pastoral Relations” offered in the Handbook for a Canadian Ecumenical Shared Ministry.

Carried

A Transformative Vision for The United Church of Canada (Proposal PMM 7)

Discussion took place on the proposal from the Sessional Committee and the proposal was referred to the Business Committee to reword and incorporate the discussion.

Louise Rogers expressed the gratitude of the Executive to the Sessional Committee.

GENERAL COUNCIL 39 (2006) AGENDA

Deb Bowman reviewed the draft agenda for the 39th General Council 2006 and the components that will make up the meeting. Workbook deadlines and dates when workbooks can be expected were highlighted.

KERYGMA CAFÉ

Deb Bowman, with the assistance of Martha Martin, guided the Executive into discernment time using the model of the Kerygma Café including elements of worship woven through the process.

The Executive met in several different knee groups of four in the Kerygma Café and discussed the following:

- What question, if answered, could make the most difference to the future of the UCC?
- In the time of grappling with the work of the Sessional committees where have you felt the Spirit tugging us in a new direction?
- What are you hearing underneath the variety of opinions and conversations?
- Are there common questions or theme emerging?
- What would you say to the message group about what you’ve heard from each other?

Groups handed their messages to Message Group. After lunch what was heard will be tested.

Deb Bowman tested with the Executive the common threads heard. A majority of Executive members agreed that an important underlying question was about identity.

Other questions were more mixed in agreement including

- What is unique about the United Church?
- Want to do the right thing and not sure how to enter conversations that involve disagreement.

Deb thanked the Executive for their work and noted that the process will continue to be refined and tested.

EXECUTIVE OF THE GENERAL COUNCIL REPORT TO THE GENERAL COUNCIL

The Moderator noted that he will give an account of the work of the Executive for the triennium and present it to the General Council.

A Transformative Vision for The United Church of Canada (Proposal PMM 7)

The proposal was reworded and brought back to the Executive.

Motion: Heather Leffler/Carmen Lansdowne

2006-04-28-393

That the Executive of the General Council proposes to the General Council that:

The United Church of Canada commit itself to becoming an intercultural church, and that intercultural dimensions of ministries be a denominational priority in living out its commitment to racial justice, where there is mutually respectful diversity and full and equitable participation of all Aboriginal, Francophone, ethnic minority, and ethnic majority constituencies in the total life, mission, and practices of the whole Church, and that

The General Council receive the report *A Transformative Vision for The United Church of Canada* and affirm the directions within it, and refer it to the Executive of the General Council, and that

The General Council affirm that ethnic ministries, in partnership with the Aboriginal, and Francophone ministries, continue to lead The United Church of Canada in its efforts to become an intercultural church, by “act[ing] justly within its own structures, courts, policies and practice”*.

Carried

* Act Justly, Section 3 of The United Church of Canada Anti-Racism Policy from the 38th General Council 2003.

LEADERSHIP FOR MINISTRY SESSIONAL COMMITTEE

Sexual Abuse Policy and Procedures (Proposal MEPS 14)

Discussion continued on the proposal and Mary-Beth Moriarity declared an interest. A concern about mandatory reporting for clergy and others was expressed.

Motion: Paul Stott/Mary-Beth Moriarity

2006-04-28-394

That the Executive of the General Council adopt the Sexual Abuse Policy and Procedures MEPS 94-118 to be effective June 30, 2007.

That the Executive of the General Council direct the General Secretary to make the required changes to *The Manual* including, to the extent possible, all policy related to sexual abuse in the same place in *The Manual*; and include any other provisions as may be necessary as a result of the adoption of the Sexual Abuse Policy and Procedures.

Carried

LOCATION OF 40TH GENERAL COUNCIL 2009

Janet McDonald reviewed the pattern of General Council locations and showed a presentation from Kamloops.

Motion: Marion Carr/Michelle Slater

2006-04-28-395

That the Executive of the General Council accept the invitation of Kamloops Okanagan Presbytery in British Columbia Conference to host the 40th General Council 2009 at Thompson Rivers University in Kamloops, British Columbia.

Carried

Six Nations Land Claim

The General Secretary gave an update on the unresolved land claims taking place in Caledonia.

Motion: Jim Sinclair/Linsell Hurd

2006-04-28-396

That the Executive of the General Council direct the General Secretary to write to the Prime Minister of Canada, the Premier of Ontario, and the Federal and Provincial ministers responsible for Indian Affairs,

- a) commending them for participating in the tripartite talks convened to resolve the Davis Creek dispute at Caledonia, Ontario; and appreciation that the governments have recognized the hereditary chiefs of the Six Nations.
- b) urging them to take all necessary steps to arrive at a fair, just, and peaceful settlement of this dispute which honours the rights of the Six Nations people to have their land claims settled fairly and that the recognition of land rights is always a mandatory consideration when shaping the kind of development which takes place on land to which the Six Nations people lay claim;
- c) and urging the Federal Government to give high priority to the resolution of unresolved land claims with the Six Nations people and with First Nations across Canada.

Carried

CONGRGATIONAL MISSION SESSIONAL COMMITTEE

Emerging Spirit (Proposal GS 4)

Motion: Heather Leffler/Jim Jackson

2006-04-28-397

That the Executive of the General Council endorse, in principle, the concept and scope of Emerging Spirit Regional Training Events as outlined in the Emerging Spirit Report to the Executive of the General Council Meeting in April 2006.

Carried

Emerging Spirit (Proposal GS 5)**Motion: Heather Leffler/Dwaine Dornan****2006-04-28-398**

That the Executive of the General Council endorse, in principle, the concept and scope of an Emerging Spirit Leadership Development Module as outlined in the Emerging Spirit Report to the Executive of the General Council Meeting in April 2006.

Carried**Unfinished Business**

Kent Ward reviewed that the process for unfinished business at this Executive. The General Secretary will put together a list of all business that did not have a hearing at this meeting. The Sub-Executive will review and approve the list with categorization of what business it needs to deal with and what unfinished business will be on the agenda of the November 2006 Executive of the General Council.

Motion: Kent Ward/Paul Stott**2006-04-28-399**

That all remaining business from this Executive be transmitted to the Sub-Executive.

Carried

Time was spent in table groups.

THEOLOGICAL REFLECTION

Reinerio Arce Valentin gave his thoughts and reflections on the meeting. He talked about the positive experience of reconciliation and restoring justice both with the First Nations and with the Deaconesses. He talked about the importance of a northern church raising the issues of Empire on behalf of their brother and sisters in the south. He concluded with a football analogy, that the Executive often takes too much time figuring who to give the ball to and sometimes they wait too long the game is over.

The Moderator thanked Reinerio for his time with us and presented him with a gift.

RECOGNITION

Marion Pardy expressed appreciation and as chair of the Nominations Committee, Marion recognized the work of all the Elected Members who were the Executive of the General Council during this triennium with the presentation of plaques.

The Moderator remembered the contribution of all the membership including those who went before and those who will follow. He thanked the Executive and mentioned his proud association with the group.

Marion thanked and presented Peter Short with a plaque and verified the work at Wolfville where it “seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us that it be Peter Short as Moderator for this triennium”.

The General Secretary acknowledged the leadership and appreciation to Steven Chambers and Richard Choe and presented them with gifts of appreciation.

Authorizing the Sub-Executive of the General Council

Motion: Jim Sinclair/Kent Ward

2006-04-28-400

That the Executive of the General Council authorize its Sub-Executive to deal with the business placed before it by this meeting of the Executive and any emergent business that may arise prior to the meeting of the 39th General Council 2006.

Carried

The Moderator closed the meeting at 3:30 p.m. with a blessing.

Moderator, Peter Short

General Secretary, Jim Sinclair

APPENDIX A

Reflections from the World Council of Churches Representative Carmen Lansdowne

I invite those of us who were in Brazil to stand so the members of the GCE know who you are, and I haven't checked with everyone but I'm sure it's ok with everyone that if, after my reflections – and they are *my* reflections on the WCC – when we break for lunch we will all be available to answer questions or to share with you our experience at the 9th General Assembly of the World Council of Churches.

People present at GCE meeting who attended the 9th Assembly: Peter Short, Marion Pardy, Omega Bula, Richard Choe, Kim Uyede-Kai, Allan Seal, David Fines, and Adele Halliday. There were also many others who were there and contributed to our work.

In addition, I wanted to offer that David Fines has copies of Aujourd'hui Credo and if you can read French he has copies for those who are interested, and Muriel Duncan of the Observer has a few copies for you to look at of the April issue of the Observer – so both those publications have coverage on the WCC.

I will present for you at our next meeting a formal report, and I have to stress these are my own reflections and they are intricately interwoven with what has happened here this morning and what it means for me to be a member of both the United Church of Canada as well as the World Council of Churches.

I am more than the sum of my parts.

I am my mother's daughter.

I am a fisher of fish called to be a fisher of humankind.

I am a beloved child of God.

I am a half breed.

I am called by my people “woman who must travel to many places far away.”

I am taking off my shoes because I am standing on holy ground.

It is not surprising, then, that this body of people would discern it appropriate for me to be included in the UCC delegation to the World Council of Churches.

It is appropriate, too, for another reason.

I represent the brokenness in our church. I represent the divisions that happen along racial, age, educational, gender & ecclesiological lines. I am neither wholly white nor wholly native. I am considered young but have lived a lifetime of pain and a world of joy in my 30 years. I am educated, articulate, but I can still swear a blue streak and speak the street slang of my Kwakwak'wakw brothers who stayed in the community of my birth. I am a woman. I am a lay person studying to be ordained. At times I am conflicted about that process. I rail against the constraints of our current theological education and candidacy models yet will defend them fiercely with the passion of my mother.

I believe in the priesthood of all believers, yet felt a foundational shift in my self-understanding and identity the first time I held a baby in my arms and baptised her in the name of love, love incarnate, and love's power.

It brings me so much joy, after years away from the courts of our church to come to this “still place” with all of you. It feels like the still place you describe it to be. It feels like prayer, like discernment, like holy ground.

And I am proud to be a part of you, to be on this Christian path as people who hope to live as Christians some day. To be a part of a community that can admit we are on a journey, that we are and will continue to be fallible. That we are an Easter people of committed faith living into the chaos of life yearning for the promises of Easter.

It is interesting that in many ways our church is walking parallel to the path of the WCC.

The 9th General Assembly was a time grounded in prayer. “God, in your grace, transform the world” was the theme. I will be called upon at our next meeting to give the GCE a formal report detailing the actions and issues facing the WCC and the ecumenical movement later in the year. Today I want to share my reflections with you.

It speaks volumes to me that in this room there are some of you who know my mother, and there are some of you who know my grandfather. Yet there is a disconnect here. With the exception

of Stan McKay and Harry Oussoren, I am not sure that any of you know both my mother, who is Heiltsuk, AND my grandfather, who is her white, adopted father.

This is our church, personified in a broken family.

The UCC is a member of the WCC. In many ways, the WCC cannot represent the churches who make up that great body. And in other ways, the member churches fail miserably at living out our discerned mandate.

You may have read about the conflicts that arose at the 9th Assembly around youth demanding that there be 25% representation on WCC governing bodies. I need to stress they weren't demanding the percentage of representation, rather asking for accountability on the part of the member churches to uphold the mandate and guidelines already laid out by the WCC. The WCC asked its members to set as a goal 25% of its voting delegation to be 30 years and younger, with a minimum target of 20%. There were only 15% of the total delegates to the assembly that met that target. Further, the member churches only submitted a certain number of names to the nominations committee for election to the Central Committee, so we ended up with 13% representation on Central Committee – the nominations committee did the best with what they have. The issue of accountability of the member churches is something that I think is of utmost importance in the WCC and I look forward to the challenge in my ministry there.

In another way, we have an opportunity to model unity as Christians. The same issues that come up at our national level come up at an international level.

I want to share with you some of the words I spoke to Dr. Samuel Kobia, General Secretary of the WCC, in response to his accountability report.

It was a general response but also specifically with regards to WCC decentralization that moved the Indigenous Programme Desk to Bolivia:

“I am a member of the Heiltsuk First Nation on the central West coast of Canada. My Heiltsuk name is Ga-Gwai-gi-Louk, which means 'beloved.' I am also one of more than 15 Indigenous voting delegates to this assembly.

As the peoples who are indigenous to the lands we come from, we have unique perspectives and cultures which must be heard and addressed in order for true justice to be enacted in the Christian context. You talk as if colonialization has ended – it has not. You spoke of the end of Apartheid which happened, yet that system was based on the Canadian Indian Act which is still a governing piece of legislation in Canada.

You talked in your report about the many a-symeteries of power that exist in the world. Reformed theologian Paul Tillich states that there are three types of power: Power over others, power on behalf of others, and the inherent power of potential to act on one's own behalf. He states further that true justice cannot exist in a Christian context unless power over others or power on behalf of others is used congruently with the will of those who have an inherent ability to act on their own behalf.

I would therefore assert that it is not good enough for the WCC and its member churches to continue to silence the voices of their Indigenous members by neglecting and sometimes intentionally resisting sending them to the WCC. You must no longer take it upon yourselves to act on our behalf – we must act on our own. I am proud to be a member of the Canadian churches' delegation which sent 3 Indigenous delegates – making up more than 10% of our delegation.”

Those are some of the words I spoke in Brazil.

What strikes me about our Christian tradition is that despite our commission from Christ to love one another as ourselves, that it is very rarely lived out in recognizing the inherent right to be that each of us has.

The issue with the WCC Indigenous Programme Desk being moving to Bolivia is not about that desk not getting the support it needs – but that they are limited in their holistic influence on ecumenism. Their value as Christians living out their faith care not only about Indigenous Peoples and the earth our mother, but also global economics, nuclear disarmament, AIDS, water issues, genocide in Northern Uganda – that is all negated.

We model that same division in the current structures of this church.

I speak about Indigenous issues not because they are the only issues, nor are they the only issues I care about, but because it is who I am, and they are easy for me to articulate. But they are no different, both at national and international levels, than any other issue: poverty, responsibility to protect, health issues, neo-liberalism, imperialism.

My heart is full. It is full of the joy which we feel that the end of the beginning is marked in our authorization for the UCC to sign an historical settlement. It is full with the struggles of how to become integrated, to honour the inherent potential of power in the other as we contemplate where we go from here.

The message from the 9th Assembly – the final draft was penned by the United Church delegate Wendy Evans who is not here – was a prayer that we would never speak empty words. We were called to recognize, as we understand from the book of Revelation's description of a new heaven and a new earth, what we call “healing leaves.” If we are to do that, we are called to consider how we repent. Not in the common misinterpretation of that word as asking for forgiveness, but in the Hebrew tradition of changing directions, living out the Easter promise by being willing to take the risks to be God's co-workers enabling the work of God's mission in the world.

May it be so.

APPENDIX B

Prayer for Repentance and Forgiveness from the Service of Apology and Appreciation to Women in Ministry affected by the Disjoining Rule

God of grace and God of history
in your image we are created
and by Your mercy, we are responsible for our actions.
We come before you, as The United Church of Canada
to publicly repent for our wrongdoings
to the Deaconesses and Ordained women of our
denomination.

We grieve over our limited and culturally conditioned
vision of the women's call to serve You.
We are sorry for the policies and practices which denied
their ministry and gifts.
We repent of the injustices that left many women
unemployed, in poverty, and shut out from the courts.
We recant the sexism that continues to creep quietly and
steadily into our views and practices towards women
generally and women in ministry.

Open your church to the truths of its past in regard to "women in ministry".
Heal the individual and corporate wounds of our practices.
Pour out your wisdom to understand a better way.
Empower the church to create policies and live practices that are just,
respectful and celebrative of women.

God is a God of grace and a God of history.
We are created in God's image and we are responsible.
By God's mercy the church is forgiven.
By God's mercy we are able to be transformed
By God's mercy we are committed
to honour all women's ministries
and to policies and practices of justice towards all people.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

APPENDIX C

Response to the United Church's Apology and Appreciation to Women in Ministry affected by the Disjoining Rule Given by Wilma Cade

Moderator, members of the Executive, women who were disjoined, family members, brothers
and sister in Christ all. On behalf of nobody in particular, because who is authorized to speak for

all these Disjoined women, I thank you for this apology and appreciation to the women in ministry affected by the disjoining rule. The Desire to address old wounds and injustices is much appreciated. This worship has been deeply moving. Words have power, word can heal, words can illuminate. Thank you for good words.

In the last week, as I reflected on today's event, I experienced a kaleidoscope of emotions. My initial indifference – after all it was a long time ago and life has travelled on – began to evaporate as memories returned. I remembered the grief, the anger. All of my friends have had very bitter experiences in the church. About 25 years ago the deaconesses were gathered for some decision making at Cedar Glen. What astonished and distressed many was the outpouring of pain, the feelings of rejection and marginalization. Many professional women returned to earlier careers. Most gave countless hours of quality leadership for free.

The Disjoining was really the tip of the iceberg. In the local church and in the courts while it was nice to be a woman in ministry, it was nicer to be a man. In 1960, after my first induction, the minister announced the hymn "Turn Back O Man Forswear They Foolish Ways". He may have had a point.

When I have told friends about this Apology they have all retorted, "And what is the United Church going to do to repay these women? We all laughed. If this Apology had been made 20 years ago, there would have been many women trained for ministry who were in financial difficulty. Now many have died and gone to their true reward. I wonder, however, if there are not still some struggling with very meagre pensions. If the Church is truly sorry, would it be so difficult to check the records, and offer even a little help?

It is not hard to look back 5 years and see injustices. The question is what are we doing today that is unfair, prejudicial, insensitive, unloving. Women ministers in the United Church are now well accepted, unless they happen to be from a visible minority. 50 years ago we were still sending missionaries to Korea, now they are sending us ministers. How gracefully do we receive them into our typical congregation? Could we not do more to prepare congregations and ministers for each other?

In conclusion, besides the indifference, grief, and anger, I have also experienced affirmation. As I have recalled the work done by my class mates in Africa, Hong Kong, Japan, India, the Caribbean, and Canada, I am proud to be part of this ministry. As I reflect on the contribution to our Church made by those who received no remuneration, I give thanks for their sacrifice and devotion. I remember with gratitude the leadership of Harriet Christie, Jean Hutcheson, and Katherine Hocken. I have been blessed to be in such a company.

It would not be appropriate for me to accept this Apology from the Church, as I cannot speak for others. However, I will say that I forgave the United Church this Disjoining many years ago. The fact that I have a loving and supporting husband and terrific children makes this much easier. Also I have been fortunate in finding rewarding work in the Church. Over the years Christ has been much more faithful to me than I have been to him. In times of distress, I simply remember that Jesus had much more trouble than this with the religious establishment!

APPENDIX D

Title: Report on Executive of the General Council Performance Self-evaluation 2005

Origin: Permanent Committee on Governance, Planning, and Budgeting Processes

CONCLUSION

Part A: The Executive of the General Council

Several areas, such as sessional committees, were judged as good performing. The comments that accompanied the responses to the 39 statements contributed greatly to the usefulness of the self-evaluation. Even where there was considerable satisfaction or neutrality with a particular statement, very good suggestions for improvement were made. Some of these suggestions can be readily implemented even though they do not appear as high priority items in the list that follows.

Priority Action List

Based on certain arbitrary (and simple) selection criteria, the following 25 statements (64% of the total) received responses that indicate action must be taken soon for GCE to improve its performance.

This list includes those statements (25) that received responses with “agree/agree strongly” percentages of 50% or less or “disagree/disagree strongly” percentages of 10% or more.

Statements with a higher priority for action (7) are in **bold** and consist of those that received responses with “agree/agree strongly” percentages of 40% or less or “disagree/ disagree strongly” percentages of 30% or more.

For the highest priority for action, **BOLD CAPITALS** are used for those statements (2) that received responses with agree/agree strongly percentages of 30% or less or “disagree/disagree strongly percentages of 40% or more.

The numbering that follows is the same as in the report and questionnaire.

1. Mission Stewardship

1.1 **GCE has a clear statement of guiding principles in accordance with the beliefs, values, and distinguishing characteristics of the United Church of Canada.** (49% agree/agree strongly and 32% disagree/disagree strongly.)

1.4 GCE meetings provide opportunities to develop theological understanding to inform decisions concerning major issues. (71% agree/agree strongly and 11% disagree/disagree strongly.)

2. Oversight of People and Resources

2.4 **GCE has appropriate plans and processes for ensuring that adequate financial resources are available for the work of the church.** (39-40% agree strongly and 21% disagree/disagree strongly.)

2.5 GCE members have a good understanding of the budget process and financial statements. (54% agree/agree strongly and 16% disagree/disagree strongly.)

2.6 GCE HAS APPROPRIATE PROCESSES FOR EVALUATING PROGRAMS FOR THEIR EFFECTIVENESS. (21% agree/agree strongly and 47% disagree/disagree strongly.)

2.7 GCE has a catalogue of its policy decisions. (23% agree/agree strongly and 36% disagree/disagree strongly.)

3. GCE Composition, Structure, and Organization

3.2 The process for selection of members of GCE and GCE Committees is effective. (76% agree/agree strongly and 12% disagree/disagree strongly.)

3.5 The number and organization of GCE standing committees facilitates effective accomplishment of GCE business and tasks. (56% agree/agree strongly and 12% disagree/disagree strongly.)

3.6 Every GCE Committee has a mandate that clearly identifies the Committee's role and responsibilities. (55% agree/agree strongly and 21% disagree/disagree strongly.)

3.7 THE RELATIONSHIP OF GCE COMMITTEES TO THE FULL GCE IS CLEARLY UNDERSTOOD BY ALL GCE MEMBERS. (29% agree/agree strongly and 51% disagree/disagree strongly.)

3.8 GCE has a written policies and procedures document that defines how GCE operates. (56% agree/agree strongly and 16% disagree/disagree strongly.)

4. Strategic Planning and Priority Setting

4.1 In meetings of GCE, members focus their attention on significant long-term policy issues. (52% agree/agree strongly and 24% disagree/disagree strongly.)

4.2 GCE members are kept abreast of major trends that affect the church. (Seventy-six per cent agree/agree strongly and 11% disagree/disagree strongly.)

4.3 GCE helps organize and oversees the strategic planning process. (56% agree/agree strongly and 15% disagree/disagree strongly.)

4.4 GCE ensures that the General Council determines the vision and sets the strategic direction, (the frame of reference), that is necessary for the strategic plan. (62% agree/agree strongly and 19% disagree/disagree strongly.)

4.5 GCE approves the strategic plan and ensures it is consistent with the church's mission. (70% agree/agree strongly and 10% disagree/disagree strongly.)

4.6 GCE monitors progress with the implementation of the strategic plan and the achievement of goals and objectives. (64% agree/agree strongly and 18% disagree/disagree strongly.)

5. Meeting Organization

5.3 Documentation for items to be approved is clear. (78% agree/agree strongly and 11% disagree/disagree strongly.)

5.4 Meeting material arrives in sufficient time to be read. (66% agree/agree strongly and 25% disagree/disagree strongly.)

5.5 The allocation of at least 1/7 of agenda time to theological reflection and learning for governance is working well. (67% agree/agree strongly and 15% disagree/disagree strongly.)

5.6 The allocation of at least 1/7 of agenda time to long-term major issues is working well. (61% agree/agree strongly and 18% disagree/disagree strongly.)

6. GCE Education and Development

- 6.1 **The allocation of at least 1/7 of agenda time to long-term major issues is working well.** (47% agree/agree strongly and 36% disagree/disagree strongly.)
- 6.2 The orientation of GCE members includes information about the General Council Office, programs and administration that is relevant to GCE needs. (57% agree/agree strongly and 29% disagree/disagree strongly.)
- 6.3 **GCE members, as part of their orientation, learn about the difference between governance and management.** (43% agree/agree strongly and 37% disagree/disagree strongly.)
- 6.4 GCE has planned learning opportunities at all regular meetings to help enable members to do their work better. (62% agree/agree strongly and 18% disagree/disagree strongly.)

APPENDIX E

That We May Know Each Other: Statement on Christian–Muslim Relations (Proposal PMM 1)

Proposal for the consideration of the General Council:

The United Church of Canada is called continually in all courts of the church to bear witness to Jesus Christ in the midst of our neighbours and in the world. In accordance with that call, the 38th General Council in 2003 approved for study across the church a proposed statement and study document, *That We May Know Each Other*, on the relationship of the United Church to Islam.

People of the United Church have responded thoughtfully and prayerfully to the study document and to the proposed policy statement. This statement encompasses that response and seeks to be a faithful expression of our understanding of United Church–Muslim relations.

We believe this statement is consistent with the theology and faith of The United Church of Canada and reflects our historic witness as a Christian community. As acknowledged in *That We May Know Each Other*, from Islam’s very beginnings, Muslim–Christian relationships have presented profound theological and social challenges to Christians. Islam confronts us with the meaning of a later revelation and the question of differing interpretations of core faith stories.

We believe that the prediction of the Qur’an that Christians and Muslims can be the “nearest among them in love” (Surah 5:82) is possible and preferable to an alternative path of increasing tension, mistrust, and violence. We believe, furthermore, that the task of reconciliation between Muslims and Christians is at the heart of what the church needs to be about as we seek to be faithful participants in God’s mission today.

We believe the church can continue to affirm its own distinctive self-identity while affirming that other faiths and traditions have their own self-understanding. The Bible teaches that the Word and Wisdom of God are not limited to Christians, and the Spirit of God is free and faithful. We therefore affirm and cherish the differences between traditions as gifts of God, which can be life-giving and transformative.

We believe that the church must continue to encourage its membership to grow in understanding Muslims as they would wish to be understood. At the same time we must search for new ways of theologically understanding Islam and its relationship with Christianity. Through creating such understanding it will be possible to sustain long-term mutual relationships of respect, trust, and common action for the sake of the world we all inhabit.

Therefore, as an act of witness to our desire to find new ways of understanding and working with Muslim neighbours for the sake of the well-being of our world, The United Church of Canada:

Affirms that Christianity and Islam are in essence religions of peace, mercy, justice, and compassion.

Acknowledges hostility and misunderstanding between Christians and Muslims and between Christianity and Islam.

Affirms a vision of Muslim and Christian relations no longer bound by past histories, and free from ignorance, indifference, and ill will.

Affirms that The United Church of Canada is committed to a journey towards reconciliation, understanding, and co-operation with our Muslim neighbours.

Affirms that we share with Muslims a belief in one God and a common heritage through Abraham.

Affirms that God is creatively at work in the religious life of Muslims and Christians.

Acknowledges that Jesus, as understood in Islam, is accorded special honour as a prophet in the Qur'an and by Muslims.

Acknowledges the prophetic witness of Muhammad, and that the mercy, compassion, and justice of God are expressed in the Qur'an, which is regarded by Muslims as the word of God.

Affirms that God, whose love we have experienced in Jesus Christ as boundless and resourceful, works creatively and redemptively in us and in others.

Affirms that The United Church of Canada is committed to a vision that leads us to work with Muslims and others for peace and justice for all humanity.

Invites all people of The United Church of Canada to participate in conversation and study that upholds and respects the integrity and faithful witness of our traditions.

Encourages all people of The United Church of Canada to seek out opportunities to work together with Muslims to seek justice and resist evil for the sake of the world we all inhabit.