

THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA

MEETING OF THE SUB-EXECUTIVE OF THE GENERAL COUNCIL

MINUTES

May 8, 2006

(Teleconference Call)

The Sub-Executive of the General Council of The United Church of Canada met from 11:00 a.m. until 12:26 p.m. on Monday, May 8, 2006, by teleconference call. The Moderator, The Right Reverend Peter Short, presided.

ATTENDANCE

Voting Members

Lynn Boothroyd, Anne-Marie Carmoy, Jim Jackson, Don Koots, Stephen Mabee, Marion Pardy, Barbara Rafuse, Peter Short, Jim Sinclair, Michelle Slater, George Takashima.

Corresponding Members

Ian Fraser, Bruce Gregersen, Carol Hancock, Janet McDonald, Kim Uyede-Kai, Michael Burke, Cynthia Gunn, Joe Ramsay.

Regrets: David Giuliano, Kent Ward.

CONSTITUTING THE MEETING

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, le sous-exécutif du Conseil général et ses travaux dans l'intérêt du Royaume de Dieu."

"In the Name of Jesus Christ, the head of the Church, and by the authority vested in me by the 38th General Council, I hereby declare this meeting of the Sub-Executive of the General Council to be in session for the work that may properly be brought before it to the glory of God."

The Moderator welcomed the members of the Sub-Executive and opened the meeting with prayer.

PROCEDURAL MOTIONS

Corresponding Members

Motion: Barbara Rafuse/Lynn Boothroyd

2006-05-08-401

That Ian Fraser, Bruce Gregersen, Janet McDonald, Carol Hancock, Kim Uyede-Kai, Cynthia Gunn, Joe Ramsay, and Michael Burke are made corresponding members for this meeting and that Terry Beaumont be the recording secretary for this meeting of the Sub-Executive.

Carried

Minutes of the Sub-Executive of the General Council

Motion: Jim Sinclair/Jim Jackson

2006-05-08-402

That the minutes of the Sub-Executive of the General Council for April 13, 2006 be adopted as circulated.

Carried

An error in the spelling of David Giuliano's name was noted.

Designated Ministry (Proposal MEPS 7)

Cynthia Gunn gave an overview and background to this proposal including the concern that the remit authorized regarding Designated Lay Ministry included all lay ministers whether congregational or presbytery designated ministers as members of presbytery.

Discussion continued including different understandings about what the presbytery voted on. It was also noted that the work has continued to evolve since the remit.

It was agreed to refer this proposal (MEPS 7) to the next meeting of the Sub-Executive of the General Council.

Retirement (Proposal MEPS 10)

It was noted that we do have to comply with the law regardless what the by-laws state.

Motion: George Takashima/Anne-Marie Carmoy

2006-05-08-403

The Sub-Executive of the General Council recommends that *The Manual* be amended to comply with legislation which prohibits discrimination on the basis of age and specifically prohibits mandatory retirement.

That the Sub-Executive of the General Council authorize the General Secretary to amend the Human Resources Policy Manual to comply with the legislation which prohibits discrimination on the basis of age.

That the Sub-Executive of the General Council direct the General Secretary to communicate these changes regarding mandatory retirement to all Conferences, Presbyteries/Districts and Pastoral Charges.

Carried

Police Records Check (Proposal GS 10)

It was noted that the Executive of the General Council has already passed the motion. The Sub-Executive is only looking at the date.

Motion: Stephen Mabey/George Takashima

2006-05-08-404

That the Sub-Executive of the General Council proposes that the date for implementation for the proposed changes to bylaws concerning the vulnerable sector police records check be ninety days after the publication of the Record of Proceedings of the 39th General Council (2006) and

That the General Secretary seek the approval of the 39th General Council 2006 to amend *The Manual* to implement this policy.

Carried

Faith and Order Sessional Committee

Staff as Corresponding Members (Proposal GPBP 9)

Members from the Sessional Committee reviewed the discussion that took place in the Sessional Committee on the following proposal.

That the membership of the Executive of the General Council be changed so that staff of the General Council (currently named as corresponding members) be changed to “Staff Resource” to the General Council, the Executive of the General Council, and the Sub-Executive of the General Council. This reflects the clarity of role for staff and elected members in these courts. This change in role affects all staff of the General Council: General Council Ministers, Conference Executive Secretaries/Speaker, Executive Ministers/Executive Officers, and Chief Archivist. The General Secretary may direct staff to attend meetings in the role of staff resource.

Lynn Boothroyd left the call.

Motion: Marion Pardy/George Takashima

2006-05-08-405

That the Executive of the General Council propose that this proposal be referred to the General Secretary and that he consult with the Permanent Committee on Governance, Planning and Budgeting Processes in clarifying this proposal.

Carried

Roles and Relationships – Elected Members and Staff (Proposal GPBP 8)

Motion: George Takashima/Jim Jackson

2006-05-08-406

That the Sub-Executive of the General Council:

Review and revise the terms of reference for the four permanent committees to be consistent with Sections 601, 602, 603 and 604 of *The Manual* and

Recommend to the Manual Committee that Sections 601, 602, 603 and 604 of *The Manual* be moved in *The Manual* to the section on the Executive of the General Council.

Carried

Enhanced Role for the General Council and Greater Communication between General Council Meetings (Proposal GPBP 6)

Discussion on this proposal noted that this is only a list of suggested actions and that there may be other ideas or that these actions are not practical or workable.

Motion: George Takashima/Barbara Rafuse

2006-05-08-407

That the Executive of the General Council endorse more effective communication between the Moderator and the General Council commissioners during the triennium.

That the Executive of the General Council direct the General Secretary to assist in the implementation.

That the following items be referred to the General Secretary for consideration:

1. Following Executive of the General Council meetings, the General Secretary provides brief summaries of Executive decisions and actions, and highlights of the meeting to General Council Commissioners. This could be in the form of a newsletter to Commissioners and not a duplication of articles in *The Observer*.

2. The Moderator and General Secretary provide an Annual Report to the General Council Commissioners in recognition of the role and status of the General Council.
3. Provision be made for surveying the Commissioners on their views on particular subjects to help guide the work of the Executive and General Council Office.
4. Commissioners be identified and listed in directories of their respective courts (Conferences, Presbyteries and Pastoral Charges) as an aid to greater interaction and discussion of church issues.
5. Consideration be given to regional meetings of Commissioners to maintain a sense of identity during a triennium; these could be linked with other events or meetings scheduled by a Conference or the General Council Office.
6. Commissioners of a General Council be encouraged to maintain contact with each other to create informal networks for sharing experiences and ideas, continue the learning from a General Council, and promote friendships.
7. Commissioners be encouraged to serve on committees and task groups of the Executive of the General Council

Carried

Task Group for the Strategic Planning Process (Proposal GPBP 1)

This proposal (Appendix A) was not presented because of time constraint. It will be brought back to the next Sub-Executive meeting.

Closing

The Moderator gave an opportunity for the Sub-Executive to share and catch up.

The Moderator concluded the meeting with appreciation for the work done and blessings. The meeting was adjourned at 12:26 p.m.

Moderator, Peter Short

General Secretary, Jim Sinclair

APPENDIX A

Faith and Order Sessional Committee

Title:	Task Group for the Strategic Planning Process (Proposal GPBP 1)
Origin:	Permanent Committee on Governance, Planning and Budget Processes
Financial Implications:	Meeting costs
Staffing Implications:	Staff resource assigned by the General Secretary
Source of Funding:	OMGS Task Group Meetings Budget

That the Executive of the General Council revise its process for Strategic Planning so that the third step would be: “The General Secretary develops a proposed strategic plan based on the General Council’s discernment, visioning and directions; and the Executive of the General Council’s goals” (from Motion 2004-10-29-199).