

THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA

MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE OF THE GENERAL COUNCIL MINUTES November 12 - 14, 2011

The Executive of the General Council of The United Church of Canada met from 8:30 a.m. on Saturday, November 12 to 4:00 p.m. on Monday, November 14, 2011 at the General Council Offices, Etobicoke, Ontario. The Moderator, Mardi Tindal, presided.

ATTENDANCE

Voting Members

Nicole Beaudry, Heather Burton, Shirley Cleave, Brian Cornelius, Thom Davies, David Giuliano, Ivan Gregan, Charlotte Griffin, Armand Houle, Don Hunter, Linsell Hurd, Bruce Hutchinson, Barb Janes, Ray Jones, Betty Kelly, Donna Kennedy, Bev Kostichuk, Marie-Claude Manga, Kellie McComb, Charles McMillan, Tracy Murton, Emmanuel Ofori, Lorna Pawis, Martha Pedoniquotte, Colin Phillips, Lynella Reid-James, Bill Rogers, Louise Rogers, Mary Royal, Nora Sanders, Florence Sanna, Bernice Saulteaux, Arlyce Schiebout, Allan Sinclair, Paul Stott, John Thompson, Mardi Tindal, Stéphane Vermette, Barbara White, Jim White, Christine Williams, Sharon Willis-Whitwell, John Young.

Corresponding Members

Charlie Ocampo, Ambury Stuart, Erin Todd, Betty Turcott, Carol Hancock, Bruce Gregersen, David Allen, Bill Doyle, Bruce Faurschou, David Hewitt, Cheryl Jourdain, Will Kunder, Rosemary Lambie, Lynn Maki, Faith March-McCuish, Heather McLean, Fred Monteith, Cheryl-Ann Stadelbauer-Sampa, Bill Steadman, Nichole Vonk.

Regrets: Lewis Coffman, Cindy Désilets, Alvin Dixon, Claude Hender, Amber Ing, Sheryl Johnson, Carmen Lansdowne, Doug Goodwin.

Saturday, November 12, 2011

The Moderator welcomed the Executive to gather in creation and on the traditional land of the Mississaugas of New Credit First Nations.

Worship - Ray Jones and Lorna Pawis led worship and reflection.

The Moderator constituted the meeting. She welcomed Erin Todd, Faith March-MacCuish, Cheryl-Ann Stadelbauer-Sampa, and Erik Mathieson to their first meeting of the Executive and introduced the music leaders and theological reflector.

Procedural Motions

Motion: Nora Sanders/Paul Stott

2011-11-12-159

Worship, Music, and Theological Reflection

That the worship leadership for this meeting be provided by Maggie McLeod.

That the music leadership for this meeting be provided by Lydia Pedersen assisted by Paul Schillaci.

That the theological reflector for this meeting be John Lawson.

Corresponding Member

That Erin Todd be a corresponding member for this meeting.

Resource People

That Resource people for this meeting be the Executive Ministers and Officers, Jane Armstrong, Charles Black, Randy Borran, Diane Bosman, Harry Brown, Rob Dalglish, Mary-Frances Denis, Cynthia Gunn, Andrew Hyde, Mary-Margaret Jones, Bill Kennedy, James Scott, Darla Sloan, Robin Sherman, Karen Smart and Jack Spencer.

Administrative Staff/Volunteers

That the administrative staff for this meeting be Sarah Bernath, Susan Fortner, Susan Sigal and Shirley Welch and that the minute secretary for this meeting be Joan MacGillivray. The administrative volunteers are Joan MacGillivray, Gary McKay and Karen McLean.

Chaplain

That the Chaplain for this meeting of the Executive of the General Council be Bernice Saulteaux.

Friend in Court

That the Friend in Court for this meeting of the Executive of the General Council be Armand Houle.

Reference and Counsel

That the Reference and Counsel for this meeting of the Executive of the General Council be Linsell Hurd, Betty Kelly and Colin Phillips.

Agenda

That the Executive of the General Council adopt 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 Agenda Table.

Carried

GS 48 Opening Motions

Motion: Nora Sanders/Paul Stott

2011-11-12-160

That the Executive of the General Council:

1. Approve the minutes of the Executive of the General Council meeting held on May 7 to 9, 2011 with the amendment that Carmen Lansdowne is a voting member rather than a corresponding member.
2. Receive for information, the minutes of the meeting of the Sub-Executive of the General Council held June 2, 2011.

3. Receive for information the following:
 - General Secretary, General Council's Accountability Report
 - Moderator's Accountability Report
 - 41st General Council Planning Committee Accountability Report
 - General Council Accommodations Task Group Report
 - Committee on Indigenous Justice and Residential Schools Accountability Report
 - Pension Board Accountability Report
 - Task Group on the Basis of Union and Crest Interim Report
 - Aboriginal Ministries Council Accountability Report
 - Permanent Committee on Finance Accountability Report
 - Permanent Committee on Governance and Agenda Accountability Report
 - Permanent Committee on Ministry and Employment Policies and Services Accountability Report
 - Permanent Committee on Programs for Mission and Ministry Accountability Report
 - Correspondence to the Executive of the General Council until October 28, 2011
4. Adopt the recommendations in the following proposals: (pages 172-217)

FIN 8 2012 Budget (Addendum A, November, 2011)

That the Executive of the General Council accept the 2012 Operating Budget – subject to action plans to be discussed as described in the Finance Committee Accountability Report and in the “Towards 2014 – Three Year Plan Update” document.

FIN 9 Investment Policy (Addendum B, November, 2011)

That the Executive of the General Council accept the Investment Policy to guide the investment decisions in the light of good stewardship and responsible investing.

~~G&A 10 Meeting Dates for the Executive of the General Council 2012 – 2015~~

~~GCE 55 Proposal Task Group of the 41st General Council (Ottawa, 2012) Planning and Agenda Committee~~

GS50 Change in the Financial Threshold for Identifiable Givers

That the Executive of the General Council direct the General Secretary, General Council to explore, pursue and implement appropriate action based on the motion from the August 2011 meeting of the Conference of Manitoba and Northwestern Ontario regarding identifiable givers.

GS51 Youth Forum Court (Addendum C, November, 2011)

That the Executive of the General Council receive the *Youth Strategy Report* of the Permanent Committee – Programs for Mission and Ministry and take no other action on Manitou (2011)

~~GS52 Program of Debt/Loan Repayment for Ordered Ministry Personnel~~

~~GS53 Funding for Ministry Personnel Spiritual Growth and Direction~~

GS54 — Sacraments for Diaconal Ministers**GS55 Report on the Simplification of Processes**

That the Executive of the General Council:

1. Approve the following principles on which the simplified draft by-laws are based, as set out in the Report on the Simplification of Church Processes made by the Staff Group on the Simplification of Processes to this Executive in May, 2011:
 - (a) the by-laws must strike a balance between enough regulation for the church to function in a fair and orderly way, and enough flexibility so that courts and people are free to carry out ministry in ways, both traditional and innovative, that meet local needs;
 - (b) the by-laws must reflect that mission is the church's focus, and that our Polity exists only to support mission rather than as an end in itself; and
 - (c) the by-laws must serve the reader by providing the greatest possible clarity and accessibility to people of different backgrounds including people for whom English is not a first language; and
2. Direct that consultation with the wider church be continued on the simplified draft by-laws;
3. Direct that the simplified draft by-laws, with any revisions resulting from the consultation, be submitted to this Executive at its next meeting so that, if approved, they may be submitted to the 41st General Council 2012 for consideration;
4. Direct that proposals for the recommendations contained in appendices 1A and 1C of the Report on the Simplification of Church Processes (found on pages 57-61 and 70 -72 of the May 2011 Workbook of the Executive of the General Council and on the web-site at <http://gc40.united-church.ca/gce>) be circulated broadly for comment and submitted to the Executive for consideration at its March, 2012 meeting.

GS55a Rules for Keeping Minutes

That the Executive of the General Council approve the following proposal for submission to the 41st General Council 2012 for consideration:

That the General Council:

- (a) approve the deletion of the procedural rules for keeping minutes from section 092 of the by-laws; and
- (b) direct that these rules be updated to contemporary language and re-housed in a resource of best practices for record-keeping to be made available from the General Council Office.

GS55b Decisions by Congregations and Pastoral Charges

That the Executive of the General Council approve the following proposal for submission to the 41st General Council 2012 for consideration:

That the General Council adopt the policy that members of a congregation or pastoral charge make decisions on the basis of an understanding of Scripture and of the ethos of the United Church, in the light of Christian experience, and under the guidance of the

Holy Spirit at work in the meeting of the congregation or pastoral charge; and that the same policy apply to adherents in the decisions in which they are permitted to participate.

GS55c Composition of Committees and Other Bodies

That the Executive of the General Council approve the following proposal for submission to the 41st General Council 2012 for consideration:

That the General Council:

- (a) approve the deletion of section 005 from the by-laws; and
- (b) direct that a resource be prepared and made available to the courts of the church to guide them in recruiting elected members.

GS55d Delivery Time of Communications by Fax

That the Executive of the General Council approve the following proposal for submission to the 41st General Council 2012 for consideration:

That the General Council amend the policy on delivery of a notice or other communication by fax so that a communication is considered received on the day that it is actually received at the place of receipt.

GS55e Calculating Time Periods for Notices

That the Executive of the General Council approve the following proposal for submission to the 41st General Council 2012 for consideration:

That the General Council amend the policy on calculating the time period for giving or receiving a notice or other communication so that the only time not counted for notice purposes is the time between December 25 and January 1.

GS55f Admitting Newly-Elected Members to Session

That the Executive of the General Council approve the following proposal for submission to the 41st General Council 2012 for consideration:

That the General Council:

- (a) approve the deletion of section 149 of the by-laws; and
- (b) adopt the policy that the Session be given the flexibility to determine its own process for admitting newly-elected members to office.

GS55g Pastoral Charge Committees: Faith Formation and Education, Manse, Nominations and Stewardship

That the Executive of the General Council approve the following proposal for submission to the 41st General Council 2012 for consideration:

That the General Council adopt the policy that each pastoral charge be given the flexibility to decide how to meet the responsibilities assigned to the Faith Formation and Education, Manse, Stewardship, and Nominations Committees under the current by-laws, whether through a committee or by another means.

GS55h Terms of Reference for Ministry and Personnel Committee

That the Executive of the General Council approve the following proposal for submission to the 41st General Council 2012 for consideration:

That the General Council adopt the policy that each pastoral charge be given the flexibility to establish the membership and meeting requirements for its Ministry and Personnel Committee as long as the responsibilities of that committee under the current by-laws are fulfilled.

GS55i Audits for Financial Statements of Pastoral Charges

That the Executive of the General Council approve the following proposal for submission to the 41st General Council 2012 for consideration:

That the General Council approve:

- (a) the deletion of the defined term “audit” from the by-laws; and
- (b) the substitution of the term “independent financial review”.

GS55j Term of Office of Chair of Pastoral Charge

That the Executive of the General Council approve the following proposal for submission to the 41st General Council 2012 for consideration:

That the General Council approve the policy that the chair of the pastoral charge or congregation hold office:

- (a) until the next annual meeting of the pastoral charge or congregation; or
- (b) for a term set by the pastoral charge or congregation.

GS55k Chair of Meetings of Congregational Trustees

That the Executive of the General Council approve the following proposal for submission to the 41st General Council 2012 for consideration:

That the General Council approve the policy that the trustees present at a meeting of a congregational board of trustees have the right to appoint a chair for the meeting in the absence of the settled or appointed member of the Order of Ministry, recognized Designated Lay Minister, pastoral charge supervisor or any appointed deputy.

GS55l Presbytery Roll

That the Executive of the General Council approve the following proposal for submission to the 41st General Council 2012 for consideration:

That the General Council approve the policy that the order of pastoral charges on the presbytery roll be left to the discretion of the presbytery.

GS55m Notification re: Discontinued Lay Ministry Appointment List

That the Executive of the General Council approve the following proposal for submission to the 41st General Council 2012 for consideration:

That the General Council approve the deletion of section 368(b) from the by-laws.

GS55n Covenanting Services

That the Executive of the General Council approve the following proposal for submission to the 41st General Council 2012 for consideration:

That the General Council approve the policy that the presbytery be given the flexibility to decide the form of covenanting service for a member of the Order of Ministry settled in a pastoral charge or specialized ministry.

~~GS55o~~ Warrant to Covenant

GS55p Adjourning Special Meetings of Presbytery and Conference

That the Executive of the General Council approve the following proposal for submission to the 41st General Council 2012 for consideration:

That the General Council approve the deletion of the requirement from the by-laws that an adjourned special meeting of a presbytery or Conference must be held before the next regular meeting of that court.

GS55q Honouring Deceased Members of the Conference

That the Executive of the General Council approve the following proposal for submission to the 41st General Council 2012 for consideration:

That the General Council approve the policy that the Conference be given the flexibility to honour its deceased members as determined by that Conference.

GS55r Responsibilities of the General Secretary

That the Executive of the General Council approve the following proposal for submission to the 41st General Council 2012 for consideration:

That the General Council:

- (a) approve the deletion of paragraphs 513 (a), (d), (e), (j) and (k) from the by-laws; and
- (b) direct the Executive of the General Council to ensure the responsibilities set out in these paragraphs are included in the job description of the General Secretary.

GS55s General Council Meeting Procedures

That the Executive of the General Council approve the following proposal for submission to the 41st General Council 2012 for consideration:

That the General Council approve the deletion of section 503 from the by-laws.

GS55t Police Records Checks

That the Executive of the General Council approve the following proposal for submission to the 41st General Council 2012 for consideration:

That the General Council direct that:

- (a) a policy be developed on the United Church's duty of care and the importance of police records checks;
- (b) the draft policy be submitted to the 42nd General Council 2015 for consideration; and
- (c) the procedural requirements for police records checks be removed from the by-laws and made available in a resource document from the General Council office.

MEPS Pension Board Terms of Reference

That the Executive of the General Council approve the changes to the Pension Board Terms of Reference.

~~PMM7~~ Racial Identity Data Collection Carried

Regarding GS55a Rules for Keeping Minutes, it was noted that there are some rules that are understood, including that minutes are the property of the church.

Paul Stott advised that the proposals pulled from the Consent Agenda will go to the Yellow Sessional Committee.

The Moderator reminded the Executive to be open to God's will through prayerful discernment during conversations and decision making.

Accommodation Working Group Report

Florence Sanna and the General Secretary, reviewed the process of the Working Group in being open to new perspectives through discernment, decision making and listening. The General Secretary reviewed the criteria used by the group and noted the importance of leaving some negotiating room once a location is chosen. She reviewed the four categories of the proposals. Randy Borran explained how the different costs were compared and how to look critically at each proposal.

Table groups refined questions including questions for clarification.

Friend in Court

Armand Houle made announcements throughout the meeting.

Permanent Committee on Programs for Mission and Ministry (Addendum D, Identity Survey)

Christine Williams, chairperson of the Permanent Committee, introduced the Identity Survey and Jane Armstrong gave an overview of the research. Jane reported on the data from United Church members, youth and people affiliated with the church that was in contrast to the common perceptions of the public and showed a hopeful picture. The data showed that United Church people are dedicated to church and faith. At the top of the list is a church that is welcoming and supportive. People also want to translate their faith into action, often through political and social actions. The promise of youth has great potential and they are profoundly progressive and open. The identity survey verified the line in *A Song of Faith 2006*. The United Church is “a community of broken but hopeful believers...a church with a purpose.”

Questions were asked and responded to.

Christine Williams gave an overview of the Vibrant United Church Global Partnership Program from the reduction in grant funding and staff capacity to building deeper and more effective partnerships to engage new directions for the future. The Partner Council is assisting “the church to see the world through different eyes, and therefore, to measure its decisions with different scales”. A report will be presented at the next meeting.

Robin Sherman reported for the Trans/Gender Diversity Task Group. She noted their unique nature with recognition that transgender people have a different journey. She acknowledged the issues raised by transgender people to make them welcome into the church.

Christine Williams shared a clip from *Rendezvous 2011*.

Andrew Hyde updated the work of the Youth and Young Adult Ministry Strategy in continuing the work while assessing and looking toward the future. He used the analogy of dancers and dance floors. Youth ministry has a lot of gifted leaders who are the dancers. They need good dance floors so that they can continue their work and bring forward the ideas that are already there.

Through a PowerPoint presentation Andrew showed a strategy based on assumptions of the Youth and Young Adults Ministry, the United Church in local ministries, regional ministries, and the General Council. This strategy includes networking, leadership development, credentialing, mission engagement and national gatherings.

Rob Dalgleish gave an update on Edge (“We stand on the EDGE of a new day”) to help new and renewing congregations explore new ways to share faith through Webinars and social media. He invited everyone to the November 20 launch and the live web broadcast connecting leaders, ministries and congregations.

General Secretary, General Council Accountability Report

Nora Sanders, General Secretary, gave an update on her parental leave with thanks to staff. She also noted new staff and those transitioning into new roles.

She highlighted the heavier workload work in this time of great change. The thread running through the work is lifting up what it means to be church, what is truly of value in the church community, and to put in a lesser place the things that have become a burden. New faith communities may look different as they challenge and embrace the joy of faith and the sense of community.

She highlighted the different perspectives being discussed on membership including the possibility of national membership. She noted that some real changes can be made within the current rules and policies.

Also noted were the budget challenges that are coming, the identity survey material and the United Church response to the hate crime case before the Saskatchewan Human Rights Commission.

David Armour, Director of Philanthropy gave an overview of the work with some examples of changes that are in process.

Questions were asked and responded to.

Permanent Committee on Ministry and Employment Policies and Services

Tracy Murton, chairperson of the Permanent Committee, shared a prayer from the Ministry Compensation Report and gave an overview of the report from the PC MEPS including:

- Compensation
- Diaconal Ministry Working Group
- Sabbatical Review Working Group
- Recruitment
- Benefits renewal
- Demographics
- Settlement Incentives, and
- Collaborative Research Project

Table groups brought forward questions and had time for discussion on the following questions:

- How might this data be used in your context?
- What further information would be useful in order for you to share this in your context?
- What insights do you have about the state of the church given this data?
- Are these results consistent with those from the Identity Survey?

Jack Spencer, by conference call, reviewed developing policy through the “cauldron of change” and the proposal for the initiation, support, accountability of paid accountable ministries through effective leadership and healthy pastoral relationships. The proposal was reviewed and table groups had an opportunity to respond to the following questions:

- What questions for clarification do you have?
- What broader questions do you have?
- What do you celebrate? What is exciting? What is hopeful? What do you affirm?
- What are the policy improvements?
- What causes anxiety? What do you fear? What do you grieve? What concerns do you have?
- What do you hope the Sessional Committee focuses on tomorrow?

Questions and responses were shared with the Red Sessional Committee.

Permanent Committee on Finance (Addendum E, November, 2011)

Don Hunter, chairperson of the Permanent Committee, reviewed the Accountability report and noted the budget balancing actions, including reductions in the allocation to the Real Property Fund and travel and meeting costs. There will also be a review of vacancies with delay in hiring some staff. The Morrison Bequest is to be aligned to correspond with the Aboriginal Ministries work. Other reviews will include programmes, national events, and the Distribution Center.

Permanent Committee on Governance and Agenda (Addendum F, November, 2011)

Paul Stott, chairperson of the Permanent Committee, gave an update. He noted the proposal on the Restructuring of the Executive is not ready and asked the Executive to give feedback to the Permanent Committee.

Moderator’s Accountability Report (Addendum G, November, 2011)

The Very Rev. David Giuliano assumed the chair and the Moderator gave her accountability report.

The Moderator reviewed her last month and her visits to three Conferences. She noted that she has now officially visited twelve Conferences and will visit the All Native Circle in 2012. She also attended the Truth and Reconciliation Commission in Halifax and met with other faith leaders and parliamentarians on Parliament Hill regarding the Canadian Interfaith Call for leadership and action on Climate Change.

In her visits to communities, she has witnessed the church as alive and well. She noted the positive coverage that she has received from local media as she travels through their communities.

Her concern continues to be our use of carbon. In Ottawa, with other faith leaders, a statement from the Canadian Council of Churches was issued on Climate Change. She also noted her trip to South Africa as follow up to COP17.

The Moderator responded to questions and comments.

David thanked Mardi with a prayer of thanksgiving. The Moderator resumed the chair.

Theological Reflection

John Lawson reflected theologically on the previous work of the Executive including the apology to residential schools and the call into diversity as the United Church becomes open to all brothers, sisters, and all of creation.

In Camera

Motion: Paul Stott/Shirley Cleave

2011-11-12-161

That the Executive of the General Council move into an in camera session with the following membership: voting members of the Executive of the General Council.

Carried

Adjourn for evening 6:30

Sunday, November 13, 2011

Meeting with the Moderator

Voting members of the Executive met with the Moderator over breakfast.

General Secretary's Supervision Committee

Motion: Louise Rogers/John Young

2011-11-12-162

That the Annual report of the General Secretary's Supervision Committee be received.

Carried

Motion: Louise Rogers/John Young

2011-11-12-163

During the tenure of the current General Secretary, the General Secretary's Supervisory Committee will arrange for a 360 review in the middle year of the triennium unless circumstances warrant a different pattern.

Carried

Motion: Paul Stott/Shirley Cleave**2011-11-12-164**

That the Executive of the General Council move out of in camera session.

Carried

Worship

Donna Kennedy, Bernice Saulteaux, Allan Sinclair, John Thompson and Jim White led Worship and celebrated Communion.

Global Partner

Charlie Ocampo (Christian Conference of Asia) gave an update on emerging trends in Asia regarding competitions for security, trade relations, territorial claims in the quest for natural resources, and conflicts based on social, ethnic and religious differences. He noted the importance of the role of the United Church in terms of their prayers, accompaniment and support. Charlie responded to questions.

The Moderator thanked Charlie with prayer and noted the importance of seeing how we are all connected.

GCE 56 Nominations Report

Bruce Hutchinson gave the report of the Nominations Committee.

~~A concern was raised regarding the recruitment policy including positions not being posted nor advertised broadly. An update of the response to this concern will be brought to the Sub-Executive.~~

The Nominations Chair was asked whether the committee was reviewing the recruitment policy wherein some positions, such as the Chairs of Permanent Committees, were recruited from within and not part of the publicly posted recruitment. The Chair indicated that this issue had been raised and is under discussion in the Nominating Committee and that a report would be made to the Executive of the General Council.

Motion: Bruce Hutchinson/Ivan Gregan**2011-11-12-165**

That the Executive of the General Council:

1. Receive for information the Nominations Report
2. Appoint the people recommended in the Nominations Report to the committees and task groups of the General Council, with the stated terms as follows:

Delegates of The United Church of Canada to the World Council of Churches' Assembly (October 2013)

- Jordan Cantwell (OM Sask), delegate
- Hannah Lee (OM Ham), delegate
- Lorna Pawis (Lay ANC), additional nominee / alternate
- Miriam Spies (Lay Ham), additional nominee / alternate
- Leigh Sinclair (OM ANW), alternate
- Nathan Wright (OM BC), alternate

Representatives of the United Church of Canada to Project Ploughshares (December 2014)

- Lawrence Cumming (Lay M&O), 2nd term

Joint Anglican Lutheran Commission, Ecumenical Partner (December 2014)

- Gerald Hobbs (OM BC), 2nd term

Financial Assistance Committee (December 2014)

- Glenn Morison (OM ANC), 2nd term

Permanent Committee on Programs for Mission and Ministry, Chair (GC41 August 2012 – GC42 August 2015)

- Mary Royal (OM BQ)

Permanent Committee on Finance, Chair (GC41 August 2012 – GC42 August 2015)

- Brian Cornelius (OM M&O)

Permanent Committee on Governance and Agenda, Chair (GC41 August 2012 – GC 42 August 2015)

- Shirley Cleave (Lay Mar)

Permanent Committee on Ministry and Employment Policies and Services, Chair (GC41 August 2012 – GC42 August 2015)

- Tracy Murton (Lay Sask), 2nd term as Chair

General Council Planning Committee (August 2012)

- Martha Pedoniquotte (Lay Ham)

Pension Plan Advisory Committee (December 2014)

- Anne Soh (Lay Tor)
- Mark Newton (Lay Tor)

Investment Committee, specialists (December 2012)

- Doug Greaves (Lay Ham), chairperson, 3rd term
- Gordon O'Reilly (Lay Tor), 3rd term
- Clive Curtis (Lay Tor), 3rd term
- Ted Carmichael (Lay), 3rd term
- Alex MacDonald (Lay), 3rd term

2. Appointments made by other Courts or Authorized Groups (for information)

The Executive of the General Council received for information the appointment of the following people to committees and task groups of the General Council, as named by other courts or authorized groups.

Judicial Committee (GC43, August 2018)

- John H. Brown (OM Tor), as named by Toronto Conference

Communities in Ministry Unit-Wide Committee (GC41, August 2012)

- Hae Bin-Jung (OM Tor), as named by the Korean Association

Aboriginal Ministries Council (Grand Council 2012)

- Lori Lewis (Lay BC), as named by British Columbia Conference Native Ministries
- Adeline Samson-Harvey (DM ANC), as named by All Native Circle Conference, All Tribes presbytery

Carried**GC41 Planning Committee**

Stéphane Vermette updated the work of the Planning Committee for the 41st General Council 2012. Requests for agenda time have been received and choices will need to be made. Stéphane reminded the Executive that addressing the court is a privilege and not a right. The goal is to keep a good balance and to identify what needs to be done rather than what want to do.

Stéphane updated the decision re the Youth Forum. As a leadership program, Youth Forum will have their own program based on the theme of General Council. Questions and comments were responded to.

MEPS 27 Immediate Past Moderator Transitional Leave/Salary Continuance

Paul Stott assumed the chair.

Tracy Murton brought forward the proposal with questions responded to. The background in the second paragraph was reworded to read “if other ~~United Church~~ employment was undertaken.”

Motion: Tracy Murton/ Sharon Willis-Whitwell**2011-11-12-166**

That the Executive of the General Council offer immediate past Moderators, upon the conclusion of their term as Moderator, a transitional leave/salary continuance of up to four months.

Carried

The Moderator resumed the chair.

Sessional Committees

Paul Stott gave an update on process as the Executive moved into 3 Sessional Committees.

Accommodations Table Group Time

The Executive, in table groups, discerned and engaged in discussion on prepared questions related to the accommodations of the General Council Office.

Task Group on the Basis of Union and Crest

Ray Jones and Brian Goodings reported on the work of the Task Group. The draft of the new crest, that acknowledges the presence and spirituality of Aboriginal people in the United Church, was presented. Aboriginal communities are in the process of seeing the crest and commenting.

Aboriginal Ministries Council (Addendum H, Aboriginal Ministries Accountability Report)

Raymond Jones, chair, highlighted the report of the Aboriginal Ministries Council and the important task in Circle building with the assistance of two new staff members. The gathering in Prince Rupert showed the importance of the work being done and the Council has been welcomed in all the communities they have visited.

Theological Reflection

John Lawson reflected on worship and the parable of the talents.

Simplification Project

Alan Hall reviewed three components of the project: The Manual, policy that could change to give more clarity, and the work of the Red Sessional Committee regarding the simplification of pastoral relations and oversight.

Red Sessional Committee Report

John Young and Charlotte Griffiths reported on the 2 proposals worked on in the Red Sessional Committee.

MEPS25 Human Resources Policy Changes

It was noted that some of the policies were pulled because of disagreement on wording and will be brought back to the next meeting of The Executive of the General Council.

Motion: Charlotte Griffiths/John Young

2011-11-12-167

That the Executive of the General Council approve the following policies (Addendum I):

- Job Evaluation
- Moving Costs
- Resignation

Carried

MEPS 24 Effective Leadership and Healthy Pastoral Relationships (Addendum J)

John Young raised some of the concerns discussed in the Sessional Committee.

Motion: John Young/Charlotte Griffith

2011-11-12-168

That the Executive of the General Council:

1. Receive the report “Effective Leadership and Healthy Pastoral Relationships: A proposal for the initiation, support, accountability, and conclusion of paid accountable ministries in The United Church of Canada”.
2. Direct the General Secretary to:
 - a) Initiate consultation with the wider church on the wisdom and viability of some or all of the proposed model;
 - b) Based on the outcomes of the consultation, to develop options for possible implementation;
 - c) Report back to the March 2012, meeting of the Executive of the General Council.

Carried

Shirley Cleave thanked the Red Sessional Committee for their work.

The Moderator adjourned the meeting for the evening and Bernice Saulteaux ended with prayer.

Monday, November 14, 2011

Worship

Martha Pedoniquotte led worship with reflection by Bernice Saulteaux on sharing equally the little that each has.

The Executive gratefully acknowledged the following members of our Church family who have left bequest gifts, annuity residues and insurance proceeds – April to October 2011.

Mission and Service

Ivan Beaton
Mary Gardhouse
Glen Albert Heatherington
Helen Phyllis Hedberg
Alan Hunt
Alexandra Johnston
Dwight Kellerman
Hazel Leck
Helen Marie McAninch
Rebecca Catherine McKeen
Mary L. McLeod
Sarah Dorothy Morgan
Anna Isabel Patterson
Martha Grace Schmidt
Audrey Scott
Alice Merle Stainer
Anne Stinson
Beverley Ann Struthers

Lillian Jane Marie Taylor
Alam Thompson
Joseph Thompson
Syliva Thompson
Mardelle Lavon Elizabeth
Verchere
Dorothy M. Westley
Ross Ellison Whiting

The United Church of Canada

Isobel Adams
Edwin Blake
Frank Bradley
Gordon Butler
Lorna Mariah Hancock
Orville William Hancock
Robert Hartog

Anne Townsend Wickware
Holt
Lewis Wilkinson Hunter
Florence Lawrence
Marion Elizabeth Moddie
Evelyn Maria Mossey
Helen Edith Patrick
Earl Stark
Margaret Aleen Weis-Bell
Norma Augustine Wylie

Division of Mission in Canada

Clara B. Sanderson

Division of World Outreach

Fanny May MacDonald

Ministries in French

Christine Williams introduced the work of Ministries in French. Darla Sloan reported on the implementation of “A Vision for Ministries in French in The United Church of Canada”. She remembered the past and reviewed the move into the future with courses in Francophone history and theological training in French, as well as funding for the Learning French for Ministry Programme. The creation of new ministries in French was highlighted with a new Ministries in French Fund.

Yellow Sessional Committee Report

Ivan Gregan and Mary Royal reviewed the proposals from the Sessional Committee.

Omnibus Motion

Motion: Mary Royal/Ivan Gregan

2011-11-12-169

GCE New 1 Crime Bill Motion

That the Executive of General Council direct the General Secretary, General Council, to join with other organizations concerned with the potential impact of Bill C-10 particularly on Aboriginal peoples to: urge the Government of Canada to reconsider the provisions of Bill C-10 dealing with the imposition of minimum sentences; and to separate the provisions of the omnibus bill to allow for consideration of the potential impacts of its component parts; and encourage members of the United Church to share in this action through contact with their members of Parliament.

G&A10 Meeting Dates for the Executive of General Council 2012-2015 2011-11-12-170

That the Executive of the General Council establish their meeting schedule for the triennium 2012-2015 with meeting dates as follows:

- November 17-19, 2012
- May 4 to 6, 2013
- November 16 to 18, 2013
- May 3 to 5, 2014
- November 15-17, 2014
- March 21-23, 2015

MEPS26 Group Insurance Plan Design Change

That the Executive of the General Council approve the following recommendation:

In order to recognize the impact of increases to the cost of living for those members not actively at work and in receipt of long term disability (LTD) benefit payments, an increase to the paid LTD benefits of 1.8% be implemented, effective January 1st, to coincide and reflect the economic adjustment in salary awarded to active members.

Carried

GS55o Warrant to Covenant

Motion: Ivan Gregan/Mary Royal

2011-11-12-171

That the Warrant to covenant be referred to the General Secretary, General Council for further work.

Carried

PMM7 Racial Identity Data Collection

Motion: Ivan Gregan/Mary Royal

2011-11-12-172

That the Executive of the General Council direct the General Secretary, General Council to develop a policy for the process of collecting racial identity data and languages spoken of ministry personnel and candidates, which would allow the data to be held separate from the names of individuals for statistical, information, and analytical purposes.

Carried

New 2 Initiation of a Consultation with MiF and the MiF Network

Motion: Ivan Gregan/Mary Royal

2011-11-12-173

That the Executive of the General Council:

1. Reaffirm the church's commitment to strengthen and expand Francophone ministries within The United Church of Canada / L'Église Unie du Canada in accordance with the decisions made by the General Council and the General Council Executive with respect to the recommendations presented in the report "A Vision for Ministries in French in The United Church of Canada";
2. Direct the General Secretary, General Council to initiate a consultation with representatives of the Francophone constituency and representatives from the Ministries in French network (for example, Le Consistoire Laurentien, le groupe de travail des ministères en français of M&O Conference, The United Theological College, stake holders in new ministries in French initiatives, and others as deemed appropriate by the constituency). The purpose of this consultation would be twofold:
 - a. To allow these representatives to offer leadership in the reflection and decision-making process regarding the position of the Responsable and the future of Ministries in French
 - b. To prepare recommendations with respect to the ways in which the francophone constituency can assume increased responsibility for the decisions and orientations that affect Ministries in French – either within the existing structures of the Church or in new structures that might emerge. These recommendations are to be brought to the March 2012 meeting of the Executive of the General Council.

Carried

PMM9 Youth and Young Adult Strategy Report (Addendum K, November, 2011)

Motion: Ivan Gregan/Bev Kostichuk

2011-11-12-174

That the Executive of the General Council affirm the General Council's Youth and Young Adult strategy report; affirm the framework of the strategy and;

Direct the General Secretary, General Council to explore an increase to the Vision Fund of \$100,000 in the 2012 budget cycle and report back to the Executive of the General Council.

Carried

GCE55 Proposal Task Group of the 41st General Council (Ottawa, 2012) Planning and Agenda Committee

Motion: Mary Royal/Ivan Gregan

2011-11-12-175

That the Executive of the General Council

1. Support the establishment of a Proposal Task Group of the General Council 41st (Ottawa, 2012) Planning and Agenda Committee:
 - a. that such a committee, prior to the General Council and with the General Secretary, General Council takes appropriate preparatory measures so as to facilitate the consideration of Proposals and the Decision making of the General Council.
 - b. That the membership of the Proposal Task Group be selected by the Business Coordinator in consultation with the General Secretary, General Council.
2. That the Executive of the General Council direct the General Secretary, General Council to encourage all Courts of the Church to communicate with the task group before transmitting Proposals to ensure appropriate direction.

Carried

PMM8 Trans/gender Diversity Working Group (Addendum L, Transgender Diversity Report)

Motion: Mary Royal/Ivan Gregan

2011-11-12-176

That the Executive of the General Council receive the report of the Transgender Diversity Task Group and that the Executive affirm the principles articulated in this report and refer it to the Permanent Committee Programs for Mission and Ministry for further policy development to return to the March 2012 of the Executive of the General Council.

Carried

Lorna Pawis thanked the Yellow Sessional Committee for their work.

Pension Board Accountability Report (Addendum M, Pension Board Report)

Charles Black, chairperson of the Pension Board, gave the accountability of the Pension Board including the challenges resulting from changes in the markets and lower interest rates. He noted that the pensions are secure. Questions were clarified and responded to.

GCE 57 General Council Office Location

Brian Cornelius and Louise Rogers introduced a process in table groups including conversations on the four categories. Table groups reported back summaries of their discussions followed by prayers of gratitude.

The Accommodation Working Group was asked to work on a proposal based on the discussions.

Motion: Stéphane Vermette/John Young

2011-11-12-177

To have a secret ballot on the motion.

Defeated

Preamble

Having discerned the importance of the symbolism in moving on from the present type of office accommodation, and with an intention to have an association with a United Church ministry, and to achieve a sacred and hospitable space within the next ten years:

Motion: Brian Cornelius/Louise Rogers

2011-11-12-178

That the Executive of the General Council direct the General Secretary, General Council

1. to do further work on the following proposals by entering into negotiations for leasing office space with the following:
 - a. Interim renewal of 3250 Bloor Street West (or equivalent)
 - b. 300 Bloor Street West (partnership with Bloor St. United), and
 - c. 55 Shuter Street (partnership with Metropolitan United)
2. To report back with a specific recommendation to the Sub-Executive or Executive dependent on timing.

Carried unanimously

Motion: barb janes/ Betty Kelly

2011-11-12-179

To extend the thanks of the Executive to the Accommodations Working Group.

Carried

Blue Sessional Committee Report

Armand Houle and Lorna Pawis reported on the work of the Sessional Committee as they reflected on reconciliation and Justice Murray Sinclair's invitation for all parties to the agreement to respond to the question "What is reconciliation?"

Motion: Lorna Pawis/Armand Houle**2011-11-12-180**

That the Executive of the General Council receive the report of the Blue Sessional Committee and recommend that The United Church of Canada be invited to engage the questions "What is reconciliation?" through use of the process developed by Jamie Scott, General Council Officer, Residential Schools.

Carried

Linsell Hurd thanked the Blue Sessional Committee for their work.

Theological Reflection

John Lawson reflected on journeys in light of the move facing the General Council Office and many congregations.

Table Groups

Gratitude, grace and farewells were shared in Table Groups followed by a thank you to all who had a part in the Executive meeting.

Closing Procedural Motion**Authorizing the Sub-Executive of the General Council****Motion: Paul Stott/Christine Williams****2011-11-12-181**

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 next meeting of the Executive of the General Council.

Carried

The Moderator closed the meeting with a blessing and prayer.

Moderator, Mardi Tindal

General Secretary, Nora Sanders