

ATTENDANCE

Present

Ordered Doug Wright, Paul Rodey, Wanda Burse, Carey Wagner, Jeff Crittenden, Cathy Larmond, Cheryl-Ann Stadelbauer-Sampa, Eun Joo Park, Kenji Marui, Mark Ferrier

Lay Glenda McMillan, Ken Hunking, Mary Anne Silverthorn, Tanya Cameron, Chuck Scott, Bev Slater, Doreen Hewitson

Regrets: Sandra Stock, Mark Marshall, Connie Ellis, John Brown

OPENING - Cathy Larmond

In the name of Jesus Christ, the one true head of the church, and by the authority given to me by the 91st Annual Meeting of London Conference, I declare this meeting of the Executive of London Conference duly constituted for any business that may properly come before it. The bounds of the meeting shall be this conference call.

President Cathy Larmond opened the meeting with a devotion based on Jeremiah.

EXECUTIVE INPUT ON NUMBER OF REGIONS

Cheryl-Ann Stadelbauer-Sampa explained the purpose of the meeting was to provide General Secretary Nora Sanders with London Conference Executive's input regarding the number of regions in preparation for the remits in March, 2016. This recommendation is in addition to the input provided by each Presbytery.

The information currently received from Presbyteries at January 27, 2016 is contained in the following chart:

Presbytery	Number of Regions	Number of Regions within Existing Conference
Algoma	30+	
Elgin	5-5 staffing regions	
Essex	12-15	
Huron-Perth	25-35	At least 2
Kent	12-15	Expect 1; no more than 2
Lambton	21-24	
Middlesex	12-15	Based on that answer, we'd expect one region within what is currently London Conference; although it was expressed that Algoma would be better served in a geographically closer region.
Oxford	18-24	

Presbytery representatives to London Conference Executive explained the rationale for their own presbytery's submitted number of regions but clarified that this is different than staffing centres. It was noted that the decision to move to these regions has not actually been made, and what should be considered is the appropriate level of service for our congregational ministry needs and support for ministry personnel. What do we need to be effective?

Mary Anne Silverthorn and Ken Hunking left the meeting.

It was expressed that it is important to look at the regions from, "what it is we need to do in the ministry." There was repeated mention that the success of moving to a region-based model is heavily dependent upon a well-trained volunteer base with a large capacity for work. President Cathy Larmond iterated that the role of a Region is governance, to make decisions; within that role, what feels like the right sized body to be successful? It was noted that it is difficult to know what a region would look like in a rural versus urban setting.

Kenji Marui left the meeting.

Cheryl-Ann was invited to contribute to the conversation and she identified important considerations around identity and made a commitment to resource locally as much as possible and maintain the camping ministry. Camaraderie is important to those in London Conference.

Doreen Hewitson left the meeting.

Motion **It was moved and seconded to recommend 12 – 15 regions to the General Secretary.**

General discussion included recognition that London Conference has the luxury of being in close proximity to their Conference Office and therefore it is difficult to make decisions on behalf of the rest of the country. The number of regions and the number of staffing centres are not aligned; currently the expectation is 5 staffing centres but it is unknown if all will have the same size of staffing complement.

Investment in technology will be paramount to enable successful electronic meetings and gatherings. Currently the webinars and conference calls serve us well which lends to favouring a smaller number of regions. Algoma would prefer a larger number of regions as they feel a loss of connectedness with a smaller number.

Motion carried.

PROPERTY (Cheryl-Ann Stadelbauer-Sampa)

The Motherwell-Avonbank pastoral charge in Huron-Perth Presbytery was disbanded in the late 1960's. At that time, the Motherwell congregation stayed intact and was permitted to take their building with them when they joined the Presbyterian Church. The Avonbank

congregation disbanded. It was agreed that the Presbytery would wait a couple of years to make a decision about their property; however, the matter fell off everybody's radar.

There was still an active cemetery and a church building but London Conference remained unaware that residents in the area were keeping it up and meeting there for some special events. This group of residents has now formed a non-profit corporation and would like to take ownership of the church and cemetery.

Because the congregation was disbanded, this is remaining property and the responsibility of the Conference. Huron-Perth's Finance and Administration Chair, Brent Caslick, has been consulted throughout. This property includes a cemetery and there is likely no liability (or perhaps any other) insurance on it. It is suggested that it be sold for \$500 plus coverage for all legal costs associated with the transfer. That is acceptable to the local residents who wish to buy it.

It is also requested to seek an exemption to the London Conference policy for remaining property for this \$500 (which disburses 25% to New Ministries, 25% to Mission & Service, 25% to London Conference reserves and 25% to the Presbytery in which property is situated). London Conference had two extensive legal bills for cemeteries that were remaining property in Huron-Perth this year and this \$500 would be applied to London Conference income to offset those expenses. These requests are presented to the London Conference Executive rather than the Finance and Administration to ensure a formal record of this decision exists.

Motion **It was moved, seconded and carried to sell the Avonbank church and cemetery resulting from the disbanding of Motherwell-Avonbank pastoral charge in Huron-Perth Presbytery for \$500 plus coverage for all legal costs associated with the transfer to a non-profit corporation.**

Motion **It was moved, seconded and carried to grant an exemption to our policy for remaining property for this \$500 and remit the \$500 back to London Conference.**

Motion **It was moved, seconded and carried to adjourn.**