

ATTENDANCE

Present

- Ordered Jeffrey Crittenden, Philip Newman, Doug Wright, Paul Rodey, Judith Fayter, Eun Joo Park, Mark Marshall, John Brown, Cheryl-Ann Stadelbauer-Sampa
- Lay Bill Butt, Beverley Slater, Mary Anne Silverthorn, Glenda McMillan, Charles McMillan, Ken Hunking, Joyce Payne, Chuck Scott, Clare Walker, Tanya Cameron, Connie Ellis
- Regrets David Williamson, Curtis Marwood

WELCOME TO UNCLE TOM'S CABIN & TOUR

A representative of Uncle Tom's Cabin began the tour of the site with a multiple-choice test on Black History specifically focusing on slavery in North America. Uncle Tom's Cabin Historic Site commemorates the life of Rev. Josiah Henson (1796-1883). Recognized for his contributions to the abolition movement and his work in the Underground Railroad, Henson rose to international fame after his memoirs were acknowledged as a source for the anti-slavery novel, Uncle Tom's Cabin. Henson's dramatic experiences in slavery and his abolitionist work in Canada helped make him renowned throughout the world.

The Executive committee was invited to tour the historic site and explore the various buildings over the lunch hour.

OPENING – Jeffrey Crittenden

In the name of Jesus Christ, the one true head of the church, and by the authority given to me by the 90th 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 room.

WORSHIP

President Jeff noted that the London Conference Executive held their regularly scheduled meetings at several different locations in the Conference for 2014-2015. He asked the group to share the one thing that struck them most about moving about the Conference and to identify the most meaningful experience at one of these locations.

CONSENT DOCKET

At the Executive's request, Cheryl-Ann provided clarification on the editorial and minor administrative changes related to Incorporated Ministries.

Motion **It was moved, seconded, and carried that the Executive of London Conference approve that:**

1. the minutes of the February 18, 2015 Executive and the March 11, 2015 Sub-Executive be adopted as printed with the following change: noting 45 years of service for Rob and Keiko Witmer from erroneously stated 40 years.
2. any business arising from the minutes be dealt with at the appropriate spot on the agenda;
3. the agenda as distributed be adopted adding Five Oaks future and Iona College discussion;
4. the following items of correspondence be received:
 - i) Rev. Alan Hall on behalf of the General Council Office – New Compensation Model Communications to ministry personnel (Appendix 1)
 - ii) Seaway Valley Presbytery – New Compensation Model for Ministry Personnel (Appendix 2)
 - iii) David Martin - Legacy Status for Amherstburg Non-Profit Seniors Housing (Appendix 3)
5. Receive with regrets the resignation of Rev. David Williamson as the Chair of the London Conference Social Justice Committee (Appendix 4);
6. the following draft by-laws of the following London Conference Incorporated Ministries be approved subject to minor changes as the Executive Secretary of London Conference believes as necessary and subject to approval of the General Council Office:
 - i) Camp McDougall – Algoma Presbytery (Appendix 5)
 - ii) Algoma Presbytery United Church Extension Council (Appendix 6)
 - iii) Downtown Mission of Windsor Incorporated – Essex Presbytery (Appendix 7)

BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

Former Canadian Foodgrains Bank staff David Mayberry's mother has died and London Conference will make an In Memorium donation to the Mission and Service Fund.

DIVISION REPORTS

Division of Communication and Public Relations

Bill Butt presented the updated Communications and Public Relations Mandate (Appendix 8) and provided the rationale for changes.

Motion **It was moved, seconded and carried to accept the mandate.**

Division of Finance and Administration

Review of year-end

Bev Slater, treasurer, explained the narrative year-end of 2014 and explained the surplus amounts and the commitments that those surplus has been designated for (\$118,000 will be used from Unrestricted Reserves to fund a portion of the 2015 budget).

Review of year-to-date

Mary Anne Silverthorn provided a general financial update on Revenues and Expenses, and the Balance Sheet at March 31, 2015. (Appendix 9 and 10).

Budget Forum 2016 (Appendix 11)

Motion It was moved, seconded and carried to recommend to the Annual Meeting of London Conference that the Conference assessment from Presbyteries of \$580,526 using 2.4% of Column 40 over 3 most recent years, be accepted as presented. This requires a minimum draw of \$61,473 from reserves.

There was a request to ensure that the London Conference website contains the most current information and to remove outdated or stale-dated event listings. Bill Butt of the Communications and Public Relations division affirmed that they will be more responsive to current events on the Conference website.

Fairfield Museum Update

Philip Newman reported on the most recent meeting at Fairfield Museum including himself, David MacDonald, Chief Greg Peters, Jeff Crittenden and Matthew Stevens. It was a successful exercise in building relationship which allows for exploring future options after confirming that London Conference holds clear title to land under consideration.

Division of Ministry Personnel and Education

Interview Board

Motion It was moved, seconded and carried to confirm Rev. Dr. Grace Eun-Kyung Lee as an applicant for Admission to the Ordained Ministry of The United Church of Canada.

Settlement Committee

Joyce Payne noted that extreme incidents of homophobia were experienced by members of London Conference which prompted the Settlement Committee to feel that this action is necessary.

Motion It was moved and seconded to request that London Conference Executive prioritize the process of becoming an Affirming Conference, including the provision of diversity education.

What does "prioritize" mean? Gentle discussion resulted in a friendly agreement of mover and seconder to substitute the term "prioritize" with "to enter".

Motion It was moved, seconded and carried to request London Conference Executive to enter the process of becoming an Affirming Conference, including the provision of diversity education.

What is the timeline for becoming Affirming? It is a lengthy timeline of up to three years based on other Conferences' experiences; it takes the time it takes to be a quality process. This motion came from the Settlement Committee as they fulfil the functions of Pastoral Relations. This motion does not dictate that congregations are automatically part of the process to become Affirming but rather choosing to do as a Conference fosters discussion to make clear a standard of behaviour that is expected in all undertakings occurring by the Conference. It fulfils the goals of embracing diversity; fostering understanding; and maintaining employment practices.

It was noted that the London Conference Executive is good to take this direction and to make a component of what this means part of the annual meeting.

Division of Social Justice

Cheryl-Ann outlined the travel plans for the Truth and Reconciliation Commission May 31 – June 2, 2015 – the bus has been booked. The goal is to have representatives from each Presbytery; those involved in Right Relations; the survivors of Residential Schools; youth and young adults; Conference staff; and Presbytery representatives or Conference Executive members. Send names of all interested parties to Cheryl-Ann.

Bill Butt provided an administrative update on the trip to Mozambique, June 17 – July 4, 2015.

Staff Support Committee

John Brown provided an update and background of the Staff Complement proposal (Appendix 12). The proposal is concerned with creating the positions but not naming employees.

Motion **It was moved, seconded and carried to accept the Staff Proposal.**

Nominating Committee

Motion **It was moved, seconded and carried to accept the Nominations Principles and Process for London Conference (Appendix 13).**

Incorporated Ministries

Iona College Update

Iona College has neither provided current bylaws nor completed all required tasks satisfactorily with respect to continuing designation as an Incorporated Ministry of The United Church of Canada – London Conference. The by-laws that have been received are in no way compliant or meet any United Church of Canada standards. In light of this failure, discussion centered on the best way to proceed with Iona.

There was a recommendation that London Conference Executive could hold a conference call mid-May to either discuss their submitted by-laws (if any received) OR direct Cheryl-Ann to report them for breach of trust re: misappropriation of use of trust funds. It was determined that we need to identify how title to their property is held.

Property Title and the bylaws are two separate issues.

Motion **It was moved, seconded and carried that the Executive of London Conference direct the Executive Secretary to begin the process to sever The United Church of Canada ties with Iona College and make every effort to preserve whatever trust funds The United Church of Canada has provided to Iona College.**

If the asset is sold, what will be the disbursement of funds beyond Essex and Middlesex presbytery trusts? The remainder of assets will go back to the corporation. The London Conference Legal Fund will be used to fund any legal requirements/bills outstanding from this action.

What actually happens to this property? The corporation holds the title to property and in this case, the Incorporated Ministry owes over \$200,000 to Middlesex and Essex Presbyteries. They continue as a corporation (or whatever form they take) but have absolutely no affiliation with The United Church of Canada. It is up to Iona College to determine how the money is repaid but it appears that selling their property is only way to cover their debt; however, any other creative funding may occur.

Cheryl-Ann will report back on actions taken to the next London Conference Executive meeting.

Lunch

Tanya Cameron left the meeting and Joyce Payne took over as recording secretary.

NEW BUSINESS

Gender Transitioning Health Spending Account (Appendix 14)

Motion **It was moved, seconded and carried that the Executive Secretary of London Conference writes the General Secretary concerning MEPS 25: Gender Transitioning Health Spending Account (GCE March 21-23, 2015) to request clarification as to whether this benefit applies only to employees or extends to all beneficiaries of the plan.**

Conference Executive Secretary Report (Appendix 15 - 17)

Partnership with Mozambique

The Executive Secretary was requested to continue discussions and determine what costs would be involved, including information related to Canada Revenue Agency reporting requirements related to contributions to charities outside Canada. Those travelling to Mozambique will be able to offer insight upon their return.

Suspension Facing Criminal Charges

A small group had been asked to investigate this matter. It was unable to recommend a feasible solution that fairly balanced the needs of ministry personnel with those of the pastoral charges.

September 2015 Executive Meeting

It was agreed the September meeting of London Conference Executive would be a two-day retreat in September to assess decisions made/not made at GC42 and consider any implications that would have for London Conference.

Comprehensive Review (Appendix 18)

Charles McMillan and Doug Wright advised there were over 125 attendees at each of the events on April 9 and 11, 2015. Presbyteries were encouraged to review this important process and develop proposals for London Conference to consider.

Some of the questions arose around:

- Incorporated Ministries vs Communities of Faith
- Membership in a College of Ministers - many details wanted
- Retirees - where will their voice be?

Information on proposals is in Section F-1 in The Manual 2013.

Passion for the church and an openness and readiness for change was expressed in several ways at both meetings.

President Jeff expressed appreciation for the service and dedication of those members whose terms have expired on London Conference Executive: Charles McMillan (General Council Lay Representative), Philip Newman (Past President), Judith Fayter (Kent Presbytery) and Joyce Payne (Middlesex Presbytery).

ALGOMA PRESBYTERY

Eun-Joo Park, Algoma Presbytery Representative brought concerns around the change in timing for the Children at Conference event. Algoma delegates are not able to bring their children a week before and then return to the annual meeting of Conference the next week.

The bus travel for Algoma attendees from Sault Ste. Marie to Ottawa for the Truth and Reconciliation Event will be extremely long. Cheryl-Ann advised other travel will be considered if necessary.

Concern was voiced regarding the Presbytery awareness of pastoral relations. It was noted that each Presbytery has two representatives on the Conference Settlement Committee and Algoma has an opportunity for a second representative for ministry.

CONDOLENCES

Bev Slater informed us with the passing of Cheryl-Ann's sister-in law, Rev. Violet Sampa, there is a huge loss in Zambia. Violet was the first woman ordained in Africa, was a Member of Parliament and championed as an advocate for women.

Next Meeting: June 17, 2015 *Location to be determined*

Meeting adjourned.

Jeffrey Crittenden, President

Cheryl-Ann Stadelbauer-Sampa, Executive Secretary