

ATTENDANCE

Present

Ordered Doug Wright, Paul Rodey, Wanda Burse, John Brown, Carey Wagner, Curtis Marwood, Jeff Crittenden, Cathy Larmond, Sheila MacGregor, Cheryl-Ann Stadelbauer-Sampa, Eun Joo Park, Kenji Marui, Mark Ferrier, Mark Marshall

Lay Bill Butt, Glenda McMillan, Ken Hunking, Sandra Stock, Mary Anne Silverthorn, Louise Hall, Tanya Cameron, Chuck Scott, Bev Slater, Jessica Swance

Regrets: Wendy Brown, Connie Ellis

The groups received “Training on Remote Participation – Communication Do’s” facilitated by Bill Butt, Chair of the Division of Communication. Bill handed out a “cheat-sheet” of rules for remote communication with the expectation that they will be followed at all meetings to ensure full remote participation.

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 room and conference call.

There was a reminder that all votes were to be conducted orally to accommodate those members participating via telephone.

NOMINATIONS

Motion It was moved, seconded and carried that Carey Wagner be named the Chair of the Social Justice Division of London Conference.

Motion It was moved, seconded and carried that Curtis Marwood be named a corresponding member for this meeting.

Motion It was moved, seconded and carried that Jessica Swance be named the corresponding member representing the Youth/Young Adults community until the rise of conference 2016.

OPENING WORSHIP & CHECK-IN

Cathy Larmond displayed her symbols of travelling: A lantern to light the way, a wooden car (“take your foot of the brakes to start to move forward”); a map, compass and a GPS; and a miniature carving of a goose. The goose is to remind us to be in formation:

“People who share a common direction and sense of community can get where they are going quicker and easier because they are traveling on the thrust of one another. When a goose falls out of formation, it suddenly feels the drag and resistance of flying alone. It quickly moves back into formation to take advantage of the lifting power of the bird in front of it.”

(<http://www.wscribe.com/parables/goose.html>)

Cathy read from Thessalonians then invited the group to share an example of something encouraging in the work of their ministry.

AGENDA

Motion **It was moved, seconded and carried to approve amended agenda.**

CORRESPONDENCE

For information, the Executive received the reply from General Secretary regarding the Gender Transitioning Account, part of the United Church Benefits package which will be considered at next General Council executive. (Appendix 1)

It was agreed to send a letter of condolence to Manitou Conference Executive as their Conference office was a victim of arson which destroyed their Conference office.

Lambton Presbytery Secretary Nancy Andrews forwarded the following motion for information to the London Conference Office, October 22, 2015 (Appendix 2):

Moved by Carey Wagner, seconded by Carolyn Wilson Wynne, and carried that Louise Hall be an alternate from Lambton Presbytery on the Conference Executive and that she be allowed to vote when serving as such.

Motion **It was moved, seconded and carried to send a letter of support to the Masjid Al-Salaam Mosque in Peterborough, Ontario.**

MINUTES

Motion **It was moved, seconded and carried to accept minutes from September 16-17, 2015 and November 4, 2015.**

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Resolution of SAPRPP2014-006

Motion **It was moved, seconded and carried that the Memorandum of Agreement resolving SAPRPP2014-006, without need of formal hearing and placing [REDACTED] on the Discontinued Service List Disciplinary, be appended to the official record of these Minutes of the London Conference Executive. (Appendix 3)**

Pastoral Letter

A Pastoral Letter to Presbyteries regarding the General Council 42 decision to divest from fossil fuels has been sent (Appendix 4).

Manual (2013) J.9.2 (a)

Motion It was moved, seconded and carried that Beth Symes be approved as the reviewer for Rev. [REDACTED] review, per the London Conference Sub-Executive minutes of November 4, 2015 page 39.

Motion It was moved, seconded and carried the Executive of London Conference offer Pastoral Care for [REDACTED] United Church, [REDACTED] Presbytery via Rev. [REDACTED]

Motion It was moved, seconded and carried that London Conference Executive creates a \$10,000 Reviewer fund as a Deferred Liability funded by the 2015 Emergent Needs budget line.

Cheryl-Ann confirmed that those named in the review all have an opportunity to speak to the Executive, and then the London Conference Executive has the authority to make recommendations based on the information that they have/heard.

Motion It was moved and seconded that the London Conference Executive delegate the receiving of the review and the decisions to come from it to the London Conference Sub-Executive for action.

Many questions were raised: Should the Chair of Ministry Personnel and Education be included in the receiving of the report for action? Which Conference Executive roles should be included in this type of decision? Is there a benefit to keeping it a smaller select group including the President; Past-President; President-Elect; Chair of Ministry Personnel and Education and the Chair of the member's presbytery?

Cheryl-Ann Stadelbauer-Sampa clarified that the reviewer's role is to listen to all the information; a review is an investigative fact-finding process. The reviewer is not "our lawyer" and is not functioning as a lawyer in this case. If the outcome of the review indicates that London Conference needs legal advice, then London Conference would not use the reviewer as legal counsel. She confirmed that Beth Symes is an independent reviewer only and her role is restricted to impartially gathering all the facts and presenting a report.

Cheryl-Ann described the detailed process by which a review happens and why it requires professional expertise.

Amendment It was moved, seconded and carried that the Division Chair of Ministry Personnel and Education be included in the receiving of the review and decisions to come with it.

Motion as amended carried.

REPORTS

Planning Committee 2016

Motion It was moved, seconded and carried that the Delegate Cost for 2016 Annual Meeting be set at \$85.

The 2016 Theme Speaker is Rev. John Pentland. It was agreed to accept the offer from IPC Canada Photo Services to produce a Photo Directory from delegates at the 2016 Annual Meeting.

2017: President-Elect Kenji Marui is in negotiations with Wab Kinew to be the 2017 Theme Speaker.

2018: London Conference is unable to accommodate the General Council request for an earlier annual meeting in 2018 and will gather the last weekend in May, 2018.

Mission Support

Motion It was moved and seconded to approve the Mission Support Mandate. (Appendix 5)

There was a friendly amendment to add a Representative from the Division of Social Justice to the membership.

Motion carried.

Motion It was moved, seconded and carried to approve the 2016 Mission Support Requests, including adding under "Field to Fork" that their grant is conditional upon the program running. (Appendix 6)

LUNCH

Past-President Jeff Crittenden left the meeting.

Communication and Public Relations

Bill Butt gave an update on the mandate of Communications and Public Relations and the requirement for Grand River Spiritual & Educational Resources to have a representative on the Communication and Public Relations Committee.

Motion **It was moved, seconded and carried that Harry Stewart be appointed to serve as the representative from Algoma on the Division Communication and Public Relations.**

Finance and Administration

Bev Slater explained the financial statements (Appendix 7 & 8). She highlighted the need for Division Chairs to communicate financial decisions from their meetings to Krista Ford so that money can be disbursed appropriately in a timely manner.

Remaining cognizant of perhaps ceasing to exist as a Conference by 2018, the Executive needs to consider how the Archive Fund monies will be used.

There was a brief description of all of the Liabilities (Balance Sheet) and Mark Ferrier noted that the monies sitting in “M&S Projects – Revenue Generation Trust” are to be accessed for Mission Support grants in 2017 (expected to disburse in fall 2016).

Institute For Specialized Ministries

Motion **It was moved, seconded and carried to accept the proposal: Dissolution of the Institute for Specialized Ministries with the resulting disbursement of funds for NEOS at Five Oaks. (Appendix 9)**

Bev Slater left the room.

Budget Forum 2016

Budget Forum is April 1, 2016 from 10:00am until 2:00pm. Lunch will be provided. This includes President, Chairs, Treasurers and Chairs of Presbytery F&A, and Division Chairs. Invitations will be going out to all members of Budget Forum with the details.

Conference Treasurer

In recognition for the extra work involved with managing London Conference finances for 2015;

Motion **It was moved, seconded and carried to approve an extra \$2,500 honoraria for the Conference Treasurer, Bev Slater.**

Fairfield Land

There has been conversation with the legal counsel regarding London Conference’s intentions with Fairfield land; communication is continuing with Chief Peters of the Delaware Moravian of the Thames.

Incorporated Ministries Mandate

Motion **It was moved, seconded and carried to approve the Incorporated Ministries Mandate. (Appendix 10)**

Iona College

Cheryl-Ann Stadelbauer-Sampa provided an update on the future of Iona College; at their Annual Meeting in October 2015, Iona College requested to move to Legacy Status. After much discussion, Cheryl-Ann noted that as Iona College is an Incorporated Ministry it is London Conference that sets out the terms of movement to Legacy Status. We have the authority to advise them that if terms are not met, then they may be reported to the Public Guardian and Trustee about misuse of Middlesex Presbytery trust funds.

Mark Ferrier expressed care and concern for the tough work that Cheryl-Ann Stadelbauer-Sampa has done to get us to this point. Cheryl-Ann will contact Iona College for confirmation that the Iona Board Members' Legacy package is ready for delivery to her, and to confirm that the Legacy Status process has been initiated, via the following motion:

Motion **It was moved, seconded and carried to direct the Executive Secretary to act on Iona's indicated desire for Legacy Status at their meeting on October 14, 2014; also ensuring the necessary documentation exists to secure the \$100,000 Middlesex Presbytery trust fund as quickly as possible; and to report back at the February 2016 meeting of the London Conference Executive.**

Ministry Personnel and Education

A Division Meeting will be held on December 2, 2015 at Riverside United Church.

Motion: **It was moved, seconded and carried that the Rev. George Rowaan be recommended as an Applicant for Admission to The United Church of Canada with the following conditions:**

- 1. That he work with the LGBTQ community of London Conference for personal support and to gain an understanding of the importance of the use of inclusive ("God language") to provide welcome and inclusion of all groups, especially the marginalized.**
- 2. That we support his continuing counselling relationship.**
- 3. Be invited to Conference Interview Board in November, 2016 for an update on progress and to have a conversation about his journey.**

There was a general discussion around the absence of information on Admissions candidates and process; therefore, it was decided that Mark Ferrier, Chair of the Division of Ministry Personnel and Education will connect with the Minister, Vocations and Training and the Chair, Interview Board prior to bringing names to London Conference Executive in order to bring a fuller background.

Motion **It was moved, seconded and carried to NOT RECOMMEND Joshua Jin Soo Kang as a suitable Applicant for Admission to The United Church of Canada at this time.**

Social Justice

Curtis Marwood provided the Social Justice report, included below:

A significant part of the meeting focused on understanding how the Division's allocation of budgeted funds is distributed. The Division wishes to establish a closer communication with the Conference Office to clarify the procedure for managing the Division's budget.

Members of the Division were aware that a certain amount had been allocated each year to the Social Justice Network of Ontario Conferences (SJNOC) but the Division was not aware of the current status of the allocation. A motion was passed to forward \$1500 to the network, but Cheryl-Ann informed me following the meeting that only \$1000 has been requested for 2015.

It was also learned that an in/out item for the UCC flags had been charged to the Division Budget as it was related to the Mission Education/Right Relations mandate of the Division.

Right Relations is one of the mandates of the Division. Some of the costs of London's participation in the TRC had been funded from the Division's account. A further request for \$2000 from the Mission Education line to fund the October 20 Right Relations event was approved.

It was agreed that the Division will prepare a budget that clearly specifies the expenditures that relate to the Division's mandate.

Conference Web Site

Concerns were raised about the Conference website and the Executive Secretary and President have been advised of the concern. A response has been received from the Executive Secretary.

Mozambique International Mission Focus

The Division was advised that the oversight committee of Oxford Presbytery wishes to transfer administering of the funds and oversight of the project to London Conference. The Division agreed to play a role in the oversight of the project on behalf of the Conference when and if the transfer is negotiated.

Palestine/Israel Network

Curtis reported on his activities with UNJPPI and Canadian Friends of Sabeel over that past 6 months, including a Christian Zionism Conference in Vancouver in April, the annual meeting of UNJPPI in Halifax in August and the James Graff Memorial lecture in Toronto in October. The meeting in Halifax explored ways of continuing to engage the church in the Unsettling Goods program and to encourage follow up on the decision of GC42 regarding divestment. The focus of UNJPPI will be on political advocacy and congregational education.

The Advent Peace Box is back for 2015 and is being promoted in the *Latest from LoCo*.

ELUCO

The Division agreed to invite a representative to the next meeting to hear more about the work of ELUCO.

Refugees

It was noted that workshops were being organized by several community groups to assist those who are interested in sponsorship of refugees. The members did not feel we had the expertise to do more than was being done spontaneously.

Wind Turbines

David Hemingway made a presentation on his research into the activities of multinational wind turbine generating companies that he believes is an abuse of justice. The issue is before the courts. The Division needs more clarification on its mandate in this area.

Motion **It was moved, seconded and carried to extend the order of the day by half-hour.**

Mozambique PEDRA project

Cheryl-Ann has been in contact with Sarah Tum, of Church World services and Pat Elson, Program Coordinator Church in Partnership, General Council Office.

Cheryl-Ann noted that one of the outcomes of the General Council audit conducted by the Canada Revenue Agency is that our agreements with out-of-country partnerships (including Mozambique) need revising. The monitoring costs are potentially prohibitive and may preclude continued participation in this program. Cheryl-Ann will bring back more details as she is able.

Nominations Committee

Motion **It was moved, seconded and carried that Harry Disher be approved as the Chair of the Interim Ministry committee.**

Motion It was moved, seconded and carried that Wanda Winfield and Karen Low be members of the Affirm Task Group.

Motion It was moved, seconded and carried that Doreen Hewitson be named Chair, Division of Communication & Public Relations effective the rise of Conference 2016.

Motion It was moved, seconded and carried to approve the Affirm Task Group Mandate. (Appendix 11)

Staff Support

Motion It was moved, seconded and carried to approve Jeff Crittenden as a member of the Staff Support Committee.

Motion It was moved, seconded and carried to approve the Staff Support Mandate. (Appendix 12)

NEW BUSINESS

Cheryl-Ann Stadelbauer-Sampa provided an update on Moderator Jordan Cantwell's visits to London Conference, and has confirmed the Moderator will be our guest at the 2017 Youth Forum event. Conferences across Canada have been encouraged to provide direction on the Moderator's visits; therefore, Cheryl-Ann and President Cathy Larmond will solicit Presbyteries to identify times throughout the next two years where the Moderator's presence would highlight the "specialness" of the occasion.

Motion It was moved, seconded and carried that the London Conference Office will collect names of those congregations who would like to have Moderator Jordan Cantwell come and speak, and prioritize and pass along to the Office of the Moderator.

Meeting adjourned.