

ATTENDANCE

Present

Ordered/DLM Cheryl-Ann Stadelbauer-Sampa, Jeffrey Crittenden, Doug Wright, Cathy Larmond, David Williamson (at noon), Judith Fayter, Mark Marshall, Philip Newman, Connie Ellis, John Brown, Paul Rodey

Lay Bill Butt, Joyce Payne, Chuck Scott, Glenda McMillan, Charles McMillan, Pretima Kukadia (recording secretary)

Regrets Eun-Joo Park, Bev Slater, Mary Anne Silverthorn, Ken Hunking, Clare Walker

Iona College Kendall McKinney, Russ Green, Marilyn Farough, Norm King

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 90<sup>th</sup> 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 Crittenden asked each member to select from one of the five symbols of cross, bible, towel/basin, oil, bread/wine and share a moment that had special meaning that related to the chosen item.

CONSENT DOCKET

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

- 1) Adopt the agenda distributed with addition of a presentation from Iona College representatives;
- 2) Accept the Minutes of the September 10th/11th 2014 meeting of the Executive and the September 29th, 2014 and October 29th, 2014 meetings of the Sub-Executive
- 3) Receive the following items of correspondence to be dealt with at the appropriate point in the agenda:
  - a) Maritime Conference – Comprehensive Review (Appendix 1)
  - b) Five Oaks Update (Appendix 2)
  - c) Algoma Presbytery – Two requests for Sacramental Elders (Appendix 3)
  - d) Robert Ripley – request to be placed on the Discontinued Service List- Voluntary
  - e) Thom McDonough – resignation as a Commissioner to GC 42
  - f) Tyler Powell – resignation as Chair of Division of Ministry Personnel and Education

INCORPORATED MINISTRIES: IONA COLLEGE (Appendix 4 and 5)

In reply to letter of October 14, 2014 from Executive Secretary, Cheryl-Ann, advising the Directors of Iona College of the intention of the Committee on Incorporated Ministries to recommend to this meeting of the London Conference Executive to sever the tie with Iona College. The Iona College representatives made a presentation outlining their perspective on the College's historical connection with The United Church of Canada and their arguments against this recommendation. President Jeff thanked the representatives for joining the Executive. The Executive then discussed the information forwarded as background and the information presented by the Board of Iona College:

- Motion**      **It was moved, seconded and carried that:**  
**Iona College work with the Executive Secretary and the Committee on Incorporated Ministries to:**
- 1. Submit revised by-laws to the Conference Executive by February 2015**
  - 2. Provide all required documentation to the Conference immediately (no later than December 31, 2014)**
  - 3. Have an audit of the 2014 finances (60% of cost covered by London Conference)**
  - 4. Provide a plan to rebuild the missing principle of the funds held from Middlesex and Essex Presbyteries**
  - 5. Provide a strategic plan to the Conference by September 2015**
- Failure to meet any of these will result in disaffiliation.**  
**A copy of this letter to be copied to Moderator, Rt. Rev. Gary Paterson, and Essex and Middlesex Presbyteries.**

MISSION SUPPORT GRANTS

Executive Secretary, Cheryl-Ann Stadelbauer-Sampa explained that in addition to following the existing principles for Mission Support, the committee also considered whether the applicant had reserves, could access alternate funding, was receiving support from other United Church sources, and connected with the Conference's named priorities.

- Motion**      **It was moved, seconded and carried to approve and forward to the General Council Office the 2015 Mission Support Grant amounts as identified in the accompanying Mission Support spreadsheet (Appendix 6).**

Concern was expressed regarding the GO Project funding relative to the grant for the Downtown Mission. It was reported that the GO Project in Stratford had had only a few participants in 2014. Cheryl-Ann explained that, if the GO Project did not proceed, the Executive would be invited to consider directing that grant to the Downtown Mission.

NEW MINISTRIES FUND (Appendix 7)

**Motion** It was moved, seconded and carried to accept that the guidelines proposed by the Foundation for the London Conference New Ministry Fund be adopted, including that 90% of this fund be expended within London Conference and 10% support ideas outside London Conference.

AFFIRM REPORT CONSULTATIONS (Appendix 8 and 9)

**Motion** It was moved, seconded and carried to prioritize this report for discussion at the February Executive.

SACRAMENT POLICY REVISION (Appendix 10)

**Motion** It was moved, seconded and carried to accept that the guidelines be adopted as outlined to administer the Sacraments and perform marriages.

This will enable the Executive Secretary to respond to the two requests for Sacraments Elders from Algoma Presbytery.

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY ACCOUNTABILITY REPORT (Appendix 11)

**Motion** It was moved, seconded and carried to accept the report to the November 26th meeting of London Conference Executive.

GENERAL COUNCIL EXECUTIVE REPORT (Appendix 12 and 13)

Charles MacMillan and Doug Wright updated the Executive on the decisions of the November 2014 General Council Executive (GCE).

The GCE received and considered the correspondence from the Executive of London Conference concerning the New Compensation Model. The GCE decided to proceed with the model effective July 1, 2015. President Jeff suggested the Executive Secretary advise Brad Morrison who first raised this concern with us.

Charles and Doug also reported that the GCE adopted a proposal that will prioritize the work of General Council 42 along the following principles:

- Category 1: Proposals that deal directly with the Comprehensive Review Task Group Report and recommendations.
- Category 2: Proposals other than those of Category 1 which contemplate substantive changes to the Basis of Union that affect denominational identity and would require a Category 3 remit.
- Category 3: Proposals calling the church to take a time-bound stand on national or

global issues for which the church does not have an existing policy or statement.

- Category 4: Proposals which contemplate changes to existing General Council policies and procedures.
- Category 5: Proposals calling the church to broader support for existing statements.

Charles and Doug also shared that the GCE adopted a proposal to establish a Sessional Committee to address the work of the Comprehensive Review Task Group. Each Conference will nominate one Order of Ministry/DLM and one Lay person. From the two nominees, one will be chosen for the Sessional Committee.

**Motion**      **It was moved, seconded and carried to nominate one Ordered/DLM and one Lay Commissioner from among those already elected for the Comprehensive Review Sessional Committee. Commissioners will be invited to submit an Expression of Interest to the Nominating Committee who will bring a recommendation to the Conference Executive.**

**Motion**      **It was moved, seconded and carried to receive the report as presented.**

With respect to the correspondence from Maritime Conference, it was agreed to take no action and to wait upon the recommendation of the Comprehensive Review Task Group scheduled for release before Easter, 2015.

#### ANNUAL MEETING PLANNING COMMITTEE

**Motion**      **It was moved, seconded and carried that the 2015 London Conference Annual Meeting Delegate contribution be set at \$85 per person.**

**Motion**      **It was moved, seconded and carried that the election of the remaining Commissioners take place at the 91<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting of London Conference: 1 Ordered, 2 Lay, 1 President-Elect and 1 Youth (U19).**

**Motion**      **It was moved, seconded and carried that the Children At Conference program be held separate from the weekend of the Annual Meeting for 2015 on an experimental basis.**

#### NOMINATING COMMITTEE

With reference to the September 10<sup>th</sup>/11<sup>th</sup> minutes of the Executive, Chuck Scott, Chair of Nominations noted that Christina Crawford has withdrawn her application to be a member of the SAARC committee as she would rather be a consultant to the committee instead.

**Motion**      **It was moved, seconded and carried to receive with regret the resignations of:**  
**a) Tyler Powell as Chair of the Division of Ministry Personnel and Education;**  
**b) Thom McDonough as a Lay Commissioner to GC 42.**

Two expressions of interest were received toward the Conference Interview Board: one from Carey Wagner, Diaconal Minister, and the other from Katie Glave, Therapist.

**Motion**        **It was moved, seconded and carried to appoint Carey Wagner and Katie Glave to the Conference Interview Board effective immediately.**

The Nominating Committee is discussing standardizing membership terms for committees/divisions. It is exploring term renewals and ways to discern the wisdom of renewing a member's term. It was noted that several committees have a significant number of their members conclude their terms as of the rise of Conference.

#### SEXUAL ABUSE AWARE AND RESPONSE COMMUNITY (SAARC)

**Motion**        **It was moved, seconded and carried to designate the Sexual Abuse Awareness and Response Community as the appointing body for consultants under the Sexual Abuse Prevention and Response and Procedures Policy.**

#### SETTLEMENT COMMITTEE

The Settlement Committee recommends the continuation of the Effective Leadership Test.

John Brown, Chair of Staff Support, provided background on the hiring and the work load of the Effective Leadership test on Conference Personnel Minister, Michelle Owens, half-time Minister, Vocations and Training, Tanya Cameron, and part-time Administration, Finance, Krista Ford. In his role as Chair of Staff Support, John concluded that it would be irresponsible to continue the Effective Leadership test without an assurance of funding to enable us to resource it with at least the existing staff complement.

**Motion**        **It was moved, seconded and carried to request permission from the General Council to continue with Effective Leadership in the triennium between General Council 42 and General Council 43. This request is dependent upon funding levels providing for existing staffing.**

#### INTERIM MINISTRY

**Motion**        **It was moved, seconded and carried to continue the designation of Rev. James Brown as an interim minister for a further 5-year period until November 26, 2019.**

**Motion**        **It was moved, seconded and carried to designate Rev. Meg Runhart as an Interim Minister with the following condition: that Meg Runhart meet with the London Conference Interim Ministry Committee for support and discussion approximately three months after the beginning of her first interim ministry position following designation.**

CONFERENCE INTERVIEW BOARD

**Motion** It was moved, seconded and carried to accept Kathleen Ballagh-Steeper as a candidate for admission to The United Church of Canada.

**Motion** It was moved, seconded and carried to accept Kevin Ballagh-Steeper as a candidate for admission to The United Church of Canada.

REQUEST FROM ROBERT RIPLEY

**Motion** It was moved, seconded and carried to approve the request of Robert Ripley to be placed on the Discontinued Service List- Voluntary effective immediately.

FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

**Motion** It was moved, seconded and carried to remove Michelle Owens as having signing authority for the TD Accounts #40526895 (General Account) and #40-5213662 (Archives Account) and to add Krista Ford effective November 27, 2014. Those with signing authority for financial affairs are:  
Beverley Slater, Tanya Cameron, Krista Ford, and Cheryl-Ann Stadelbauer-Sampa. Any two of the four to sign.

The financial statements as at October 31, 2014 were reviewed (Appendix 14)

**Motion** It was moved, seconded and carried that the Legal Contingency Fund be reviewed during the month of December and, if necessary a sum of money be transferred from the Unrestricted Reserves prior to December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2014, to begin January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2015 with a balance of \$60,000 in the fund.

OVERSEAS PERSONNEL

Preferred London Conference projects were not represented in the current Gifts of Hope, Gifts with Vision catalogue. The possibility of fostering a relationship between the Conference and Mozambique was discussed. It is within current staffing capacity to support the PEDRA Girl's Bursary Program and the Sand Dam projects through the office. London Conference will also send a letter to General Council acknowledging our dismay with Gifts of Vision's overlooking of London Conference projects.

**Motion** It was moved, seconded and carried that London Conference make Mozambique its mission focus from 2015 to 2016 and that it support PEDRA Girl's Bursary and Sand Dams.

**Motion** It was moved, seconded and carried to accept that the \$1,500 left with London Conference by the visitors from the United Church of Christ in

Hokkaido, Japan, be designated and sent to children in Japan dealing with post-traumatic stress disorder following the earthquake and nuclear plant disaster.

PRIORITIES WORKING GROUP UPDATE

The Executive Secretary reported on a recent meeting of the Priorities Working Group who have concluded that the focus of the camping position proposed in February 2015 is being met within existing staffing.

**Motion** It was moved, seconded and carried to accept that no action be taken in regards to the Camping Position to support ministry with children and youth approved at the February 2014 Executive. Betsy Exley is to be commended on the work she undertakes in her position.

REMAINING PROPERTY (Appendix 15)

**Motion** It was moved, seconded and carried that remaining property (that which is left once a congregation has disbanded) that the balance of remaining property, after covering maintenance and selling costs along with the 2% to the Archive Capital Fund, will normally be disposed of:

- 25% to the Presbytery in which the property was located
- 25% to the Unrestricted Reserves of London Conference
- 25% to the Mission and Service Fund and
- 25% to the New Ministries Fund of London Conference.

**Motion** It was moved, seconded and carried to bring all remaining agenda items to the February 2015 Executive.

Considerable time was taken dealing with the unexpected Iona College representatives' presentation. For that reason, and reasons of winter driving conditions the meeting was adjourned.

**Next Meeting:** Wednesday, February 18 at St. Clair United Church in Sarnia.