

TORONTO CONFERENCE, THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA

**MINUTES
OF THE 86th ANNUAL MEETING
MAY 28-30, 2010**

The 86th annual meeting of Toronto Conference took place on the weekend of May 28-30, 2010 at St. Paul's United Church, Orillia.

FRIDAY, MAY 28, 2010

EVENING SESSION

Gathering music

Gathering music was led by Stuart Sladden.

Welcome, theme, honouring the land and constituting the Court

President Carol Gierak welcomed people to the 86th annual meeting of the Conference and acknowledged the Rama First Nation on whose land the meeting was being held. Karen Hilfman-Millson lit the Christ candle. The president spoke about the theme of this annual meeting, "From this Day on, I will Bless you" from Haggai 2:19b. She read the passage Haggai 2: 14-19. The president constituted the meeting in the name of Jesus Christ to conduct business properly brought before it.

Introductions

The president introduced music leaders Stuart Sladden and Blair Bailey, Executive Secretary David Allen, President-elect Marg Walker, Saturday morning worship leader Karen Hilfman-Millson, former Moderator Bob Smith, Conference staff, and volunteers from St. Paul's.

St. Paul's chair John Menear brought greetings from the congregation and Kathie Joblin explained the logistics of the site.

Opening motions

1. MOTION by David Allen/Marg Walker that...

a) Bounds of the Court

the bounds of the court for this meeting of Toronto Conference be the sanctuary of St. Paul's United Church, Orillia, Ontario;

b) Roll of Conference

the roll of Toronto Conference for the 2010-2011 church year include:

- i) members of the Order of Ministry who are on the rolls of the Presbyteries within the jurisdiction of Toronto Conference;
- ii) lay members of the United Church appointed by a Presbytery as Designated Lay Ministers to serve a Pastoral Charge or other Presbytery Recognized Ministry within the jurisdiction of Toronto Conference, including Candidates appointed to serve a Pastoral Charge, Mission or Outreach Ministry; and the lay members of the United Church appointed to administrative or program staff positions by a Court of the church or a General Council unit;
- iii) lay members of the United Church elected by Presbyteries;
- iv) chairpersons of Conference committees, the president of the Conference United Church Women and the president of As One That Serves.

c) Corresponding Members

corresponding members for this 86th annual meeting be a) those persons who are not members of the Court but who have been invited to be resource persons to the annual meeting; b) Conference administrative staff c) visitors participating in the theme sessions of the meeting; d) corresponding members of Presbyteries within the jurisdiction of the Conference as defined in Section 311 of *The Manual (2007)*.

d) Business Committee

the business committee for this 86th annual meeting be:

David Allen, executive secretary
Carol Gierak, president
Marg Walker, president-elect

e) Deadlines

that 9:00 p.m. on Friday be the deadline for new business items;
that 9:00 a.m. on Saturday be the deadline for questions on the accountability reports of the Executive and executive secretary.

f) Scrutineers

the head scrutineer for this 86th annual meeting be Rose Cambourne, and that scrutineers be the Conference staff.

g) Minutes of 85th Annual Meeting

the minutes of the 85th annual meeting of Toronto Conference be approved as printed in the *Record of Proceedings*.

h) Method of voting

voting be done by show of voting cards except for the following vote which shall be by secret ballot: Decisions regarding those being ordained, recognized and admitted.

i) travel reimbursement

travel allowance to the 86th annual meeting be paid only to those not receiving a travel allowance, and that the travel rate be 41 cents per kilometre.

j) order of considering Proposals

that Proposals be considered in the order as printed in the resource book;
that New Business Proposals be considered in the order they are received.

k) sexual abuse consultants

that Jan Aylward and Jeff Davison be the assigned consultants if any concerns are raised that would be covered by the church's policy on sexual abuse.

l) role of president-elect

that the president-elect act as meeting chair if the president is unavailable or is making reports.

m) reports

that all reports printed in the annual meeting resource book be received for information.

n) offerings

that only one financial offering be received at this meeting at the Celebration of Ministries Service, and that it be divided equally between the Mission & Service Fund and Toronto Conference.

o) chaplains

that Cheryl-Lynn MacPherson and Ralph Schmidt be the chaplains for this annual meeting.

p) agenda

that the agenda for this 86th annual meeting of Toronto Conference be adopted as printed with the following changes: Saturday morning break will be 30 minutes; add remarks from the President and courtesies prior to the *In Memoriam* service at 12:00 noon Saturday; and permission be given to the business committee to make minor changes of order if required.

MOTION

CARRIED.

2. MOTION by Marg Walker/Paul Stott that...

a) Editing of Record of Proceedings

the power to edit the record of proceedings of this 86th annual meeting of Toronto Conference be given to David Allen.

b) Authority to the Conference Executive

the Executive of Toronto Conference be empowered to transact any unfinished business of this 86th annual meeting of Toronto Conference and to transact any business that the Conference has the power to transact, subject to the limitations of Sections 423(a)ix and 430(a) of *The Manual (2007)*.

c) 87th annual meeting

the 87th annual meeting of Toronto Conference (2011) be held on a date and at a location to be determined by the Conference Executive.

MOTION

CARRIED.

Regrets

The executive secretary noted that a number of people had sent regrets for the meeting. Their names will appear in the minutes of this meeting.

Living Waters

Janice Baker	Lay	Kay Cho	OM Retired
Cora Brodie	Lay	Vicki Cousins	OM
Jack Carbert	OM Retired	Joy Crawford	Lay
Ross Carson	OM	Stephen Dow	Lay
		David Estey	OM Retired

Dianne Graves	OM	Connie denBok	OM
Lori Hill-Avendano	OM	Tony Gazzard	OM
Catherine Hions	DLM NR	John Gilbert	Lay
George James	OM Retired	Lilla Gilbert	Lay
Donald Jay	OM Retired	Ted Grady	Candidate
Lindsay King	OM Retired	Norman Greene	OM
Warren McDougall	OM	Svinda Heinrichs	Candidate
Carol McKinley	OM	Eiko Hosaka	OM
Kathi Phillips	OM	Ken Howlett	OM Retired
Heather Power	OM	Paul Ivany	OM
Bruce Roffey	OM	Chuck Johnson	Lay
Warren Schell	OM	Debbie Johnson	OM
Anna Taylor	OM Retired	Karen Kowal	Lay
Dorothy Wilson	OM Retired	Patricia Lawson-Paul	OM
		Linda Levin	OM
Northern Waters		Louise Mahood	OM
John Anderson	OM Retired	Doug McLeod	Admittand
Warren Ball	OM	Andrew Myles	OM Retired
Jim Campbell	Lay	Leigh Olson	OM
Norma Godbold	DM Retired	Lloyd Paul	OM
Isabel Hewitson	Lay	Hugh Reid	OM
Violet Hill	Lay	Ron Ross	Lay
Noreen Hunter-Riley	OM	Glenn Smith	OM
Diane Knowles	OM	David Winsor	OM Retired
Hugh MacDonald	OM	Kate Young	OM
Debra McGill	OM		
Don Nash	OM Retired	Toronto Southeast	
Marilyn Parkin	DM Retired	Lee-Ann Ahlstrom	DLM NR
Paul Parkin	OM Retired	Leslee Alfano	OM
Tony Rennett	OM	Dorothy Amos	Lay
Angela Schwarz	Lay	Michael Blair	OM
David Shearman	OM	Nicole Bourassa-Burke	Candidate
Janet Sinclair	OM	Rosalie Bradley	Lay
Judith Springett	OM	Harvey Bride	Lay
Jonathan Vickers	OM	Katherine Brittain	OM
Marybeth Wilson	Lay	Barry Brooks	OM Retired
		Andrew Cassidy	Lay
South West		June Cavers	Lay
Peter Acheampong	OM Supply non-U	Richard Choe	OM
Phillip Armstrong	Lay	Mary Collins	DM
Lenore Beecham	OM Retired	Sue Comish	Lay
Alex Coles	OM Retired	Tina Conlon	Lay
Alan Craig	OM Retired	Lorraine Cowley	Lay
Grace Craig	OM Retired	Karen Dale	DM
Lynne Curtin	OM Retired	Kathy Edmison	OM
		Bruce Ervin	OM

Sandy Evan-Jones	OM	Wenh-In Ng	OM Retired
Deian Evans	OM	Ron Nickle	OM Retired
Malcolm Finlay	OM Retired	Doug Norris	OM
Glen Greenwood	Lay	Rob Oliphant	OM
Alan Hall	OM	Fran Ota	OM
Deborah Hart	OM	Betty Price	Lay
Ann Howes	OM	Teresa Ramsey-McNeil	OM
Roger Hutchinson	Lay	Daisy Rickard	OM Retired
Katherine Irwin	OM Retired	Winston Roach	Lay
Jennifer Janzen-Ball	OM	Cynthia Scott	OM Retired
Bill Kervin	OM	Sandy Seary McKinstry	Lay
John Klassen	OM Retired	Norm Seli	OM
Karl Lam	OM	Judith Shand	OM
David Lander	OM	Susan Smith	Lay
Alex Langford	Lay	Vicki Smith	Lay
Chris Levan	OM	Andrew Stirling	OM
Darren Liepold Nicholson	OM	Martha ter Kuile	OM
John Lloyd	Lay	Peter Thompson	OM
Pam Lock	Lay	Susan Thompson	OM
John Joseph Mastandrea	OM	David Peter Thomson	Lay
Susan McAllister	OM	Evelyn Turner	Lay
Lynda McCowan	Lay	Ila Vaculik	Lay
Jim McKibbin	Lay	Marni Whitaker	Lay
David McMaster	OM	Mabel Wong	Lay
Flo Morson	Lay		
Ken Moy	OM Retired	Guest	
Randy Naylor	OM	Mark Toulouse, Emmanuel College	

Introduction of Moderator

The president formally introduced Moderator Mardi Tindal.

Worship and theme

The moderator led the meeting in worship and focussed her remarks on “soul, community and creation” with a particular emphasis in this session on “soul”.

Close for the evening

The evening session ended at approximately 9:00 p.m.

SATURDAY, MAY 29, 2010

MORNING SESSION

Gathering music

Gathering music was led by Stuart Sladden.

Worship

Karen Hilfman-Millson led worship throughout the morning.

Introduction of ordinands and admittands

Cindy Cooper, chair of the Interview Committee, introduced candidates for ordination, admission and recognition. She reported that one of the candidates for admission will be deferring his admission for a year. Before each candidate addressed the Court, all assembled sang one verse of a hymn significant to the candidate.

Voting on candidates

The president asked Cindy Cooper, chair of the Interview Committee, to move the motions on those to be ordained, admitted and recognized. Ballots were distributed. Karen Hilfman-Millson led the court in prayer. Members of the Court marked their printed ballots as each motion was presented.

MOTION by Cindy Cooper/Linda Thompson that Cindy Bourgeois be ordained by Toronto Conference on May 30, 2010 at this 86th annual meeting.

MOTION by Cindy Cooper/Karen Williams that Bronwyn Corlett be ordained by Toronto Conference on May 30, 2010 at this 86th annual meeting.

MOTION by Cindy Cooper/Ella Taylor-Walsh that Anne Hines be ordained by Toronto Conference on May 30, 2010 at this 86th annual meeting.

MOTION by Cindy Cooper/John Kim that Hannah Lee be ordained by Toronto Conference on May 30, 2010 at this 86th annual meeting.

MOTION by Cindy Cooper/Sue Wood that Christine Sloan be ordained by Toronto Conference on May 30, 2010 at this 86th annual meeting.

MOTION by Cindy Cooper/Paul Stott that Marc Doucet be admitted to the Order of Ministry by Toronto Conference on May 30, 2010 at this 86th annual meeting.

MOTION by Cindy Cooper/Vilia Fera that Susan Cowan be recognized as a Designated Lay Minister on May 30, 2010 at this 86th annual meeting.

MOTION by Cindy Cooper/Dennis Posno that Andrea Wheaton be recognized as a Designated Lay Minister on May 30, 2010 at this 86th annual meeting.

The president asked the scrutineers to gather the ballots.

Honouring of retirees

President-elect Marg Walker introduced ministers who are being honoured upon their retirement. The retirees were John Brown (present), Tony Gazzard, Bonnie Kelly, Grant Kerr, David Lander, Douglas McKenzie (present), Judith Oliver (present), Harry Oussoren (present), Neil Parker (present), Judith Springett and Vivian Yarwood (present).

Those present addressed the Court following the singing of one verse of a hymn significant to the retiree.

The president presented a certificate to each retiree.

Ballot results

The executive secretary reported that the votes had all been positive regarding the candidates for ordination, admittance, and recognition. The Court responded with applause.

MOTION by David Allen/Marg Walker that the ballots be destroyed.

MOTION

CARRIED.

Honouring of jubilands

The president acknowledged the ministry of those who were celebrating significant anniversaries.

Honouring of those leaving Toronto Conference

The president also acknowledged those members who will be leaving Toronto Conference. Prayer was led by Karen Hilfman-Millson.

Break

The Court took a half-hour all-purpose break, re-gathering with a song led by Stuart Sladden.

Executive accountability report

President-elect Marg Walker took the chair so the president could present the accountability report of the Executive. She answered one question that had been submitted.

Proposal to Toronto Conference #1 - Budget

Executive Secretary David Allen presented the 2011 budget. He responded to questions from the floor.

MOTION by David Allen/Marg Walker that this 86th annual meeting of Toronto Conference approve the 2011 budget and receive for information the projected budgets for 2012 and 2013.

MOTION

CARRIED.

Executive secretary accountability report

Executive Secretary David Allen presented his accountability report. No questions had been submitted.

Proposal to Toronto Conference #2 – poverty reduction strategy

Brian McIntosh made a brief presentation on the Proposal and answered questions for clarification.

MOTION by David Allen/Marg Walker that Toronto Conference communicate with the Government of Ontario to a) commend steps taken to date to reduce poverty in Ontario among all age groups, and b) request the adoption of further measures including but not limited to the following:

1. Adequate Income

- guarantee that the Social Assistance Review results in enhancements and does not reduce services or benefits for Workfare and Ontario Disability Support Program recipients
- continue to raise the minimum wage, currently \$10.25 an hour
- encourage employers to offer benefits to all workers, both full-time and part-time
- provide vocational assessments in conjunction with increased training and retraining opportunities
- to encourage educational upgrading, remove age limit for LEAP program
- provide legislation to protect the pensions of laid –off workers
- enhance English Second Language Programs to ensure that students can achieve employers' standards
- provide increased sheltered employment opportunities for physically or mentally disabled persons who wish to work
- change the age of leaving parental supervision from 16 to 18 years of age
- call on Ottawa to expand Employment Insurance coverage
- act to protect pension plans for seniors and lobby for the reduction of cutbacks to pensions

2. Affordable Housing

- require municipalities to increase the number of available rent-to-income units
- encourage affordable options to townhouses or apartments such as stacked units

- provide tax or other incentives to builders who incorporate scattered rent-to-income units in market value housing projects
- require municipalities to maintain emergency shelters in good repair and encourage use of options which enhance privacy such as trailers, apartment hotels and so on
- ensure adequate supported housing units for youth, seniors and severely mentally ill and disabled persons

3. Personal Support

- ensure the provision of easily accessible services in low income communities including Legal Aid, credit counselling, marriage counselling, family planning, addictions counselling, and mental health support programs
- require school boards to offer Life Skills courses as part of both their regular and Continuing Education programs
- provide childcare in conjunction with English Second Language courses
- ensure Official Guardians are available to the mentally ill or disabled who lack family support
- ensure that adequate subsidized daycare spaces are provided in conjunction with the implementation of full-day kindergarten.

MOTION

CARRIED.

In memoriam

The Court honoured persons who had died in the previous year.

Honouring the president

President-elect Marg Walker offered the thanks of the Conference to President Carol Gierak. The president offered some brief remarks.

Announcements and grace

The president made a number of announcements, and grace was led by Stuart Sladden.

AFTERNOON SESSION

Gathering music

Stuart Sladden led the Court in some gathering music.

Introduction and worship

The president welcomed people to the afternoon session, introduced Moderator Mardi Tindal and led in a brief time of worship.

The afternoon session focussed on creation and stories of hope and encouragement. The moderator was joined in her presentations by journalist and author Alanna Mitchell, and environmental advocates Paul Abell and Lauryn Drainie.

Announcements and grace

The president made a number of announcements, and grace was led by Stuart Sladden.

EVENING SESSION

Gathering music

Stuart Sladden led the Court in some gathering music.

Introduction and worship

The president welcomed people to the evening session, introduced Moderator Mardi Tindal and led in a brief time of worship.

The evening session focussed on community. The moderator was joined by former Moderator Bob Smith.

The president led a brief closing worship.

SUNDAY, MAY 30, 2010

MORNING SESSION

The morning session provided time for Conference members to worship in local congregations.

AFTERNOON SESSION

Celebration of Ministries service

The 86th annual meeting of Toronto Conference concluded with the Celebration of Ministries service. President Carol Gierak presided, assisted by Executive Secretary David Allen and President-elect Marg Walker. Moderator Mardi Tindal delivered the message. Five people were ordained – Cindy Bourgeois, Bronwyn Corlett, Anne Hines, Hannah Lee and Christine Sloan. Marc Doucet was admitted to the Order of Ministry of The United Church of Canada. Sue Cowan and Andrea Wheaton were recognized as Designated Lay Ministers. Marg Walker was then installed as President.

Former president John Lee read the scripture.

Musical leadership was provided by Stuart Sladden, Blair Bailey, and choirs from Eden

United in Mississauga, Knox United Church in Agincourt, St. Paul's United in Orillia,
and members of Conference.

Carol Gierak
President

David W. Allen
Executive Secretary

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