

For discussion – February 10, 2010

Appointments to other bodies

Process: The president, president-elect and executive secretary were designated to develop a plan for determining whether the Conference should make appointments to organizations, as it has in the past. They developed a covering letter to each organization along with a questionnaire, and included a copy of the Conference's policy on appointments.

Letters and questionnaires were sent to the following organizations:

- Canadian Girls in Training (CGIT)
- Christian-Jewish Dialogue of Toronto
- Ecuhome
- Emmanuel College
- Five Oaks
- Francis Sandy Theological Centre
- Grand River Spiritual and Educational Resources
- Greater Toronto Council of Christian Churches
- Horizon TV
- Multi-Faith Alliance to End Homelessness
- Ontario Multi-Faith Council
- Social Justice Network of Ontario Conferences
- Toronto Area Inter-Faith Council

The group was guided by the policy found on p. 61 of the policy *Handbook*, and decided early on that the Conference should not consider appointing persons to organizations which did not respond to the letter and questionnaire.

Recommendations

Organizations which did not respond

A number of organizations did not respond to the letter or questionnaire. The task group recommends that the relationship between the Conference and those organizations be ended.

In the fall of 2009, Francis Sandy Theological Centre wrote requesting that Conference name a representative to its board. The letter had included information similar to what was requested of the other organizations.

Christian-Jewish Dialogue of Toronto left a voice mail message saying that material would be sent, but nothing has arrived.

MOTION by ___/___ that Toronto Conference end its relationship with

- Christian Jewish Dialogue of Toronto
- Greater Toronto Council of Christian Churches
- Ontario Multi-Faith Council
- Social Justice Network of Ontario Conferences
- Toronto Area Inter-Faith Council

Canadian Girls in Training (CGIT)

There is no committee or structure at the Conference level that could engage in a meaningful relationship with this organization. The response from CGIT indicated that a Conference representative is not necessary because of the lack of a reporting relationship. However, CGIT values the relationship with the United Church, and would like to be remembered in discussions about youth programming. The task group recommends ending the relationship with CGIT at the Conference level, and that CGIT be informed how to be in touch with the Presbyteries.

MOTION by ___/___ that Toronto Conference cease naming a representative to Canadian Girls in Training (CGIT), and that Conference provide the addresses of the Presbytery offices for CGIT to get in touch if they wish to have material passed to groups working with youth.

Ecuhome

Ecuhome is a housing provider within the City of Toronto. Its Board of 14 persons is made up of two representatives from each of the seven founding denominations. There is no committee or structure at the Conference level that could engage in a meaningful relationship with this organization. No grant is given. Because the organization's activity is located within the City of Toronto, the task group believes the relationship with Ecuhome is more appropriately carried out at the Presbytery level.

MOTION by ___/___ that Toronto Conference request Toronto Southeast and South West Presbyteries to name one member each to the board of Ecuhome, and that the Presbyteries determine appropriate reporting relationships.

Emmanuel College Council

The response from Emmanuel College indicates that most of its Council is already made up of United Church members, and the response indicates concern that there is no meaningful reporting relationship within the new Conference structure. Emmanuel reports to the General Council and provides a written report annually to the five central Conferences. The task group recognizes the importance of theological education within The United Church of Canada, and feels that there needs to be a stronger relationship between theological education and the on-going work of the church.

The task group recommends....

MOTION by ___/___ that Toronto Conference appoint a representative to the Emmanuel College Council when requested, after soliciting nominations from the Presbyteries, and that the primary reporting relationship be to the Presbyteries, and with the settlement and pastoral committee and the interview committee upon request.

Five Oaks

Conference does not appoint members to the Five Oaks Board, but Conference is asked to name two people to attend an annual consultation. Conference has been providing an annual grant of \$5,000 to Five Oaks. The task group believes that it is important to have representation to Five Oaks, but not from the Conference; it also believes that financial support for Five Oaks should be increased and be paid from Conference funds, not through the Presbyteries. This is partly dependent on the results of the discussions on assets.

MOTION by ___/___ that Toronto Conference a) formally request that Five Oaks allow one person per Presbytery to be present at its annual consultations; b) receive a written report annually; and c) continue providing a financial grant with future funding to be based on receipt of a long-range plan, and that the source be the Conference Fund.

Francis Sandy

Francis Sandy Theological Centre requests that a Conference name a representative to its board to serve a three-year term. The position rotates amongst the central Conferences. The task group recognizes the importance of theological education within The United Church of Canada, and feels that there needs to be a stronger relationship between theological education and the on-going work of the church.

The task group recommends....

MOTION by ___/___ that Toronto Conference appoint a representative to the Francis Sandy Theological Centre board when requested, after soliciting nominations from the Presbyteries, and that the primary reporting relationship be to the Presbyteries, and with the settlement and pastoral committee and the interview committee upon request.

Grand River Spiritual and Educational Resources

The task group believes support of Grand River fits well with the Conference's stated mission to strengthen people and groups to be faithful followers of Jesus Christ. Under the current corporate structure of Grand River, each of the central Conferences names

three persons, one of whom becomes a board member. A Conference grant of approximately \$15,000 is included in the Conference's budget.

MOTION by ___/___ that Toronto Conference a) continue to appoint three members to the membership of the Grand River Spiritual and Educational Resources corporation after soliciting nominees from the Presbyteries; b) communicate with Grand River to see whether their by-laws could be revised to allow for one person per Presbytery, thus enabling greater communication, promotion and accountability; and c) continue funding Grand River through the Conference budget.

Horizon TV

Horizon TV's programs can be seen in Metro Toronto, Brampton, Dufferin/Caledon and York Region. Membership fee is \$400 per year. There is no committee or structure at the Conference level that could engage in a meaningful relationship with this organization. The task group believes that Horizon TV may fit within the communication strategy being presented at the February, 2010 meeting of the Executive. The task group recommends a continuing relationship with Horizon TV.

MOTION by ___/___ that Toronto Conference a) continue to appoint a representative to Horizon TV after soliciting nominees from the Presbyteries; b) receive an annual written report from the representative, the report to be forwarded to the Presbyteries; and c) pay the annual membership fee.

Multi-Faith Alliance to End Homelessness

The work of this organization is located exclusively within the City of Toronto. The task group recommends that its activity should relate to the two southern Presbyteries. A grant of \$250 has been made in the past.

MOTION by ___/___ that Toronto Conference not make an appointment to the Multi-Faith Alliance to End Homelessness, but refer this organization to the Toronto Southeast and South West Presbyteries for their consideration with funding to come from the Presbytery if it wishes to participate in this organization's activities.

December 11, 2009

(President or Executive Director)
(Address)

Re: relationship with Toronto Conference, The United Church of Canada

Dear _____,

Over the last three years, Toronto Conference has undergone a thorough review of its purpose, structures and staffing, and as of July 1, 2009 we have radically changed our structure and staffing arrangements.

For many/a number of years _____ (name of organization) has had a relationship with Toronto Conference. Most recently, Conference appointed _____ to serve on your board (and provided a grant of _____).

Previously a number of our representatives to related organizations would report to a Conference committee giving an update on _____'s activities, but our experience is that the reporting relationship was hit and miss. To complicate matters, our new structure has no committees at the Conference level of our church, so there is no body to whom the rep would report. In some cases, one or more of our Presbyteries would have an active interest in the work of a related organization, but that interest has yet to be explored.

Because of our changes, we now need your help.

1. Attached is the Conference's mission statement. a) Could you outline for us how you believe the work of _____ fits into our mission statement? b) Do you think the United Church should still make an appointment? c) What difference does it make to you to have a United Church representative at your table? (Please don't hesitate to be frank if you don't see a role; we've spent the last three years examining every detail of our work in minute detail and have made some dramatic changes.)

2. If you believe it would be beneficial for the United Church to continue naming a representative, we're asking that you fill out the attached questionnaire which relates to our policy on making appointments to other bodies (also attached). Your responses will be important information for us as we discern whether we should continue to make appointments.

Your response by January 15, 2010 would be greatly appreciated. You can send your response by mail, by fax to 416-241-2689 or by e-mail at dallen@united-church.ca.

Sincerely,

David W. Allen (Rev.)
Conference executive secretary

c.c. _____, Conference representative

Policy name: mission of Toronto Conference	Date approved: December 5, 2008
Policy type: Mission/Ends	Review date: June, 2011
Purpose of this policy: This policy outlines the essential purpose of the Conference, answering the questions of “what good, for whom, and at what cost”.	

The mission of Toronto Conference is to strengthen Congregations, Pastoral Charges, Outreach Ministries, and Missions to be faithful followers of Jesus Christ.

To fulfill that mission, the Conference Executive will:

1. Make the best use of the human and financial resources available.
2. Ensure oversight and compliance within the polity of The United Church of Canada
3. Provide resources in the Presbyteries to promote the work in the following areas – program, property, personnel and public witness, with further support from the staff in the central Conference office.

Policy name: appointments to General Council committees and other bodies	Date approved: April 14, 2009
Policy type: Executive Governance	Review date: 2009-2010
Purpose of the policy: This policy helps the Executive to determine whether to appoint persons to other bodies and, if appointments are made, how accountability will happen.	

The second and third portions of this policy are largely based on the General Council policy on “Representation to Partner Organizations”.

General

The Conference may appoint individuals to General Council committees upon request.

The Conference may appoint individuals to be present or to serve on behalf of the Conference to assist the church in its partnership with ecumenical, interfaith, and other organizations.

Conference will seek first to lodge such appointments in the Presbyteries with the most direct connection and/or interest in the particular organization.

Conference will name people when the activities extend to the bounds of all four Presbyteries, and will provide for accountability through the Executive and/or all Presbyteries.

This policy applies to all boards, councils or groups of partner organizations to which the church has been asked and has agreed to provide representation or official nominations for representation.

Terms of reference

Before making a Decision to effect an appointment, the Executive will review the following:

- a) the mandate of the relevant board, council or group of the partner organization;
- b) the purpose or authorizing principle for United Church involvement;
- c) the membership structure of the board, council or group;
- d) the responsibilities of United Church representatives to the partner organization and to the Conference;
- e) specific authority or limitations of the representative to speak or act on behalf of the United Church;
- f) reporting expectations;

- g) the skills and competencies required of the representative;
- h) length of appointment and possibilities for reappointment;
- i) the proposed human, financial and other resources required to support the relationship, and the proposed source of funds.

Representatives

Conference staff people are not eligible to be appointed as a representative to another organization.

A representative will have several of the following qualifications:

- a) active participation in a local United Church ministry;
- b) familiarity with the polity of The United Church of Canada;
- c) predisposition to collaboration and teamwork;
- d) sensitivity to diversity issues;
- e) leadership in a Court of the United Church;
- f) passionate commitment to the mission of the United Church;
- g) willingness to discern God's yearning for the work;
- h) openness to learning and communicating the wisdom of our partners.

6. What reporting expectations do you have, either from the United Church to your organization, or your organization to the United Church?

7. What are the skills or competencies required of the United Church representative?

8. What is the length of appointment and possibilities for reappointment?

9. Are there human, financial and other resources required to support the relationship? What is the source of funds, if funds are required?