

**Highlights of meetings of the Toronto Conference Executive
September 9 and November 11, 2009
and a conference call December 4, 2009**

The Executive of Toronto Conference has met on three occasions in the September to December timeframe. In the new Conference/Presbytery structure, this Executive is much smaller than in the past. The make-up of the current Executive is 15 people, including three representatives from each of the four Presbyteries.

September 9 meeting

The Executive spent considerable time learning about policy governance and orienting itself to its role as the setter of policies. The full policy *Handbook* can be found on the Conference's website at <http://torontconference.ca/downloads/policy-governance-handbook2009.doc>. Executive members engaged in worship and theological reflection, and made plans for the upcoming Conference year.

Actions taken included approving the boards of directors of a number of Incorporated Ministries, and giving approval of the dissolution of the Simcoe Presbytery Non-Profit Housing Corporation and United Non-Profit Homes of York.

November 11 meeting

The November Executive meeting began working with the policies which it had received. The meeting took the following actions:

- adopted a policy that any requests for distribution of material amongst the Presbyteries will be sent to each Presbytery to determine whether the material should be circulated
- granted sacramental privileges to Svinda Heinrichs during her internship at Lefroy United Church, Living Waters Presbytery
- directed that the property of the former Locks United Church be listed for sale
- formally withdrew from involvement with the church development fund of the Toronto United Church Council and from involvement with the Camping Opportunities Fund; these were clean-up actions arising from the restructuring
- made plans for developing a comprehensive property policy; this will be on the February, 2010 agenda
- adopted a policy that any unspent Presbytery grants in any year may be retained for future Presbytery use
- determined that under-spending in 2009 will be used to move toward compliance with the policy that the Conference maintain a contingency fund equivalent to one-third of the annual budget
- agreed that material coming to the Executive will be posted on the Conference's website in advance of each meeting.

Annual meeting venue change: The single most important Decision of the Executive was to change the venue of the 2010 annual meeting. It will now be held at St. Paul's United Church in Orillia May 28-30. The planning group for the meeting had recommended the change for financial reasons.

December 4

The Executive had a brief conference call to approve the appointment of Susie Henderson as the half-time Conference minister, Program and Public Witness in the South West Presbytery. Susie has extensive experience in youth and social justice ministries as a staff member at the national office of the Anglican Church of Canada, first as a youth consultant and later as part of the staff team working with the Primate's World Relief and Development Fund. She helped evaluate the United Church's Beads of Hope campaign, has co-chaired a number of ecumenical organizations, and been involved with issues such as debt, HIV/AIDS, summer camps, and aboriginal concerns. Susie will begin work in early January, 2010.