

**Highlights of meetings of the Toronto Conference Executive
- a conference call January 8, 2010
and a regular meeting February 10, 2010**

The Executive of Toronto Conference has met on two occasions since the last edition of these highlights. In the new Conference/Presbytery structure, the 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.

January 8 meeting

In a nine-minute conference call, the Executive dealt with two property matters – giving permission to Toronto United Church Council to sell a property, and approving the sale of the former Locks United Church in the former Muskoka Presbytery.

February 10 meeting

The February, 2010 regular meeting of the Executive was held at the Toronto Southeast Presbytery office. As it does at all meetings, the Executive engaged in theological reflection and consideration of particular questions such as, “How is God working within the group sitting around this table? What is going on in your world in relation to the church courts? What is changing in that world? Where is there frustration and emerging satisfaction?”

The meeting took the following actions:

- Requested President Carol Gierak to write a pastoral letter to a Pastoral Charge in distress, and asked Executive Secretary David Allen to write to the General Council with suggestions for policy changes regarding how information is shared within the church.
- Acted on recommendations about how and whether Toronto Conference would name representatives to other bodies. The report is on the Conference’s website at <http://www.torontoconference.ca/downloads/exec-meeting-2010-02-10-appointments.pdf>. A late response from Christian-Jewish Dialogue of Toronto will be considered at the April meeting of the Executive.
- Gave a number of approvals related to Incorporated Ministries, e.g. appointments of Boards of Directors, up-dating of by-laws, permissions re mortgages and leases.
- Approved sacramental privileges within Northern Waters Presbytery for Keith Lockhart, Designated Lay Minister.
- Reviewed a communication policy which will be re-worked and considered at the April Executive meeting.
- Adopted the current marriage licence policy. All previous Conference policies will eventually be reviewed, adopted or modified, and will be reformatted to appear in the Executive’s *Policy Handbook*, which can be found on the Conference’s website at <http://www.torontoconference.ca/downloads/policy-governance-handbook2009.pdf>.

Property policies: The Executive spent much time working through motions related to property policies. A report on this can be found at <http://www.torontoconference.ca/downloads/exec-meeting-2010-02-10-property-policy.pdf>. All motions were passed with the exception of a motion on distribution of assets from the former Presbyteries, two corporations and the Conference. A revised motion will be presented at the April Executive meeting.

A technology fund will be established to allow Pastoral Charges and Outreach Ministries to purchase necessary computers and internet services in order that they may communicate electronically; the fund will be established in May with details to be found on the Conference's website.

Executive Secretary's report: The Executive received the report from Executive Secretary David Allen which can be found at <http://www.torontoconference.ca/downloads/exec-meeting-2010-02-10-secretary-report.pdf>. The report includes the information that *Insight*, the Conference's insert in *The United Church Observer*, will continue to be published.

April meeting

The Executive's next regularly scheduled meeting is April 14 at the Living Waters Presbytery office. Background documents for that meeting will be posted on the Conference's website on April 7.

I:\common\executive\highlights\100217highlights.doc