

Highlights of a meeting of the Toronto Conference Executive September 14, 2011

The Executive of Toronto Conference met at the South West Presbytery office on Wednesday, September 14, 2011. Note the Executive's mandate from its policy handbook:

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.

The Executive fulfills its mandate by establishing policies, monitoring the work of the executive secretary, and taking actions as required by the polity of The United Church of Canada.

On September 14 the Executive made the following decisions:

Budget: The Executive approved a revised budget which will result in a reduction of assessments by approximately \$100,000. These savings will be passed on to the Presbyteries and Pastoral Charges within the Conference. The savings were the result of lower-than-budgeted office and property costs, plus a low level of spending on litigation.

Policies: 1) The Executive amended its policy on assessments to deal with a Pastoral Charge in arrears with its assessment. At present, Presbyteries have the option of dealing with arrears through the Presbytery budget or by an additional special assessment of the Presbytery. The amendment to the policy is that if Presbyteries do not state a preference for dealing with the arrears, a special assessment will be levied.

2) The Executive took a first look at a policy to become compliant with the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act. It will return to this discussion of customer service standards at its November meeting.

Actions required by the church's polity: The Executive authorized sacramental privileges for two ministers and approved the boards of directors of a number of Incorporated Ministries.

Copies of the minutes and all related material for the September meeting can be found on the Conference's website www.torontoconference.ca. The Executive's next regularly scheduled meeting is November 16. Material for that meeting will be posted on the website by November 9.