

**THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA
TORONTO CONFERENCE**

**Minutes of the meeting of
the Executive of Toronto Conference
Wednesday, April 14, 2010**

The Executive of Toronto Conference met at the Toronto Conference office on Wednesday, April 14, 2010. The meeting began at 1:30 p.m. A quorum was present.

Members present

Carol Gierak (president), David Allen (executive secretary), Marg Walker (president elect), Paget Blaza (Toronto Southeast), Linda Parsons (Living Waters), Tom Clarke (Toronto Southeast), Don Laing (South West), Ralph Schmidt (Northern Waters), Kevin Logie (Living Waters), Linda Thompson (Northern Waters), Ron Coughlin (South West), Brian Goodings (Northern Waters)

Regrets

Karen Williams (South West)

To be appointed

one from Toronto Southeast

Corresponding members

Bill Jermyn (Living Waters, replacing Carol McKinley), Nick Walker and Don MacInnes (assets task group), Rose Cambourne (staff, if required)

Worship, community building, listening to God

Welcome, constituting the meeting, regrets and introductions

The president welcomed everyone to the meeting and constituted the meeting in the name of Jesus Christ who brings salvation to the world to conduct such business as should properly be brought before it. She asked people to introduce themselves. She noted the regrets received for this meeting.

Worship and theological reflection

The president introduced the passage from Haggai which will be the theme of this year's annual meeting. Executive members read Haggai 2:15-19, and reflected on the question, "How have we been blessed in the new structure?" Some of the comments:

- We should live in a stance of abundance; the abundance is there, even if people have not figured out yet how to use the new system
- This is the “getting to know you” stage; it has been fun getting to know new people; have enjoyed learning about new things in different parts of the church; there are no givens and established patterns, and that’s a good thing
- Some people feel we’ve been struck by mildew and hail, but the glass is more than half full; we have a chance to be creative
- Some former presbyters have struggled getting into the new system; this has been a challenge
- People are struggling to figure out what their roles are; some days it feels like nothing but hail; we need patience and care and love and nurture; a prayer reminded us not to be bogged down in the structures of the church, so we can focus on the mission of the church
- Fascinated to see the Presbytery structure take place after the work of the Presbytery Commissions; some things have happened as expected, but other things have come as a surprise; hopeful that we’ll have courage to change
- Have been blessed by the number of people coming to Presbytery meetings, e.g. 110 out of 150-160; very exciting after the year of getting ready to get going; biggest frustration is finding places that can feed the number of people
- Finding it delightful seeing how others are supporting people in the new structure; each Presbytery is unique
- The change has given permission to congregations to think of different ways of doing things, including closures and amalgamations
- Looking forward to seeing how the annual meeting will work out this year; we’ll be outward-looking rather than inward-looking; Carol has done a good job of leading us
- We have to breathe in and breathe out, letting go of the things that are no longer useful; goals are more achievable and tangible
- We’ve actually made changes, and there has been lots of personal and systemic learning
- We can get a broader perspective through the pairing of churches during the 85th anniversary celebrations
- The new structure is experiencing challenges
- Still working out the experience of being in the new structure; there are questions as to why we’re meeting when work is being done elsewhere
- Have been setting up Presbytery meetings with a variety of learning and business

The group sang “The Spring has Come” from *Voices United* and prayed the Easter Prayer in *Voices United*.

Corresponding members

MOTION by David Allen/Linda Thompson that the corresponding members of this meeting be Bill Jermyn, Nick Walker, Don MacInnes and Rose Cambourne, if required.

MOTION

CARRIED.

Agenda

MOTION by Paget Blaza/Linda Parsons that the agenda be adopted as circulated.

MOTION

CARRIED.

Development of policies

Distribution of assets: See p. 09/10-79. The Executive discussed a proposed policy regarding distribution of assets in response to requests from Presbyteries.

Bill Jermyn and Brian Goodings declared a conflict of interest in this topic because of their involvement at Toronto United Church Council, which is mentioned in the draft policy.

MOTION by Ron Coughlin/Tom Clarke that the Executive adopt the policy on distribution of assets in response to requests from Presbyteries (Appendix A).

MOTION

CARRIED.

Brian Goodings did not vote on this motion.

Learning funds: See p. 09/10-80. The Executive discussed a proposed policy regarding learning funds.

MOTION by Linda Thompson/Ralph Schmidt that the Executive adopt the policy on learning funds (Appendix B).

MOTION

CARRIED.

Preparation for next segment

The Executive took a few minutes to discuss questions they might ask in the next section of the agenda.

Break

The Executive took an all-purpose break.

Assets and commitments

The president welcomed Nick Walker and Don MacInnes. Nick was present as chair of the most recent task group on assets. Don is a member of the task group and is also a representative of the Toronto West Presbytery Corporation. Nick outlined the process the task group followed, resulting in its recommendation that the Toronto West Presbytery Corporation be re-formed as the Presbyteries of Toronto Conference Corporation (PTCC).

Executive members asked a number of questions for clarification. A concern was raised about the process of achieving approvals to the operating agreement by each of the four Presbyteries. Nick and Don reported that members of the task group will be requested to be present at Presbytery meetings to receive feedback and answer questions. Questions from the Presbyteries can be sent to the executive secretary to forward to the appropriate task group members.

The task group's report and the appendices will be sent to the Presbyteries immediately with the operating agreement to come probably in May.

Nick noted that the information to the Presbyteries is for information only at this stage, but Presbytery nominations committees need to work on finding PTCC members. Presbyteries will vote on the operating agreement when it is available later. Nick and Don will be available to meet with each Presbytery to discuss all the material.

The president thanked Nick and Don for their presentation. They left the room.

Report of the assets task group:

MOTION by David Allen/Ron Coughlin that the report of the task group on assets be received with thanks (Appendix C).

MOTION

CARRIED.

Supplementary Letters Patent and By-Laws – Presbyteries of Toronto Conference Corporation:

MOTION by Ralph Schmidt/Tom Clarke that in accordance with Section 429 of *The Manual (2007)*, Toronto Conference approve the Supplementary Letters Patent and By-Laws of the Presbyteries of Toronto Conference Corporation (included in Appendix C).

MOTION

CARRIED.

Assets from former Presbyteries: The executive secretary submitted a report on the assets from the former nine Presbyteries. When the final figures are established, the

funds will be transferred to the new Corporation for equal division for use by the four Presbyteries.

MOTION by Linda Thompson/Marg Walker that the report on the assets from the former nine Presbyteries be received (Appendix D).

MOTION

CARRIED.

South West Presbytery has requested that the Conference pay a legal bill from the former Toronto West Presbytery.

MOTION by Ron Coughlin/Don Laing that Toronto Conference pay a legal bill relating to the Sharon Cemetery, and that the funds come from the assets of the former Presbyteries.

MOTION

CARRIED.

Conference assets and commitments: The executive secretary had prepared a report on the Conference's assets and commitments. In the discussion the Executive AGREED that it needs to develop criteria for the contingency fund.

MOTION by Tom Clarke/Linda Thompson that the Executive receive the report on Conference assets and commitments (Appendix E), and direct the executive secretary to implement the directions in the report.

MOTION

CARRIED.

Development of policies

Conference fund: See p. 09/10-77. The Executive discussed the uses of a Conference Fund, dropping the word "Capped" from the title.

MOTION by Ron Coughlin/Linda Thompson that the Executive adopt a policy on the use of the Conference Fund (Appendix F).

MOTION

CARRIED.

The Executive AGREED that the policy on cash management, p. 33, #2 in the policy *Handbook* should be amended to add the word "contingency" at the beginning of the line.

Disposition of property: See p. 09/10-78. The Executive discussed a proposed policy regarding disposition of property.

MOTION by Linda Parsons/Don Laing that the Executive adopt the policy on disposition of property (Appendix G).

MOTION

CARRIED.

Business matters to be considered by the Executive

2009 audited statements

The audited statements were reviewed by the Executive. In the discussion, concern was raised about the Conference holding funds while congregations are struggling with funding issues.

MOTION by Ralph Schmidt/Brian Goodings that the audited financial statements for 2009 as prepared by Retford Lane Bates LLP be approved as received (Appendix H).

MOTION

CARRIED.

Appointment of auditor

MOTION by Linda Thompson/Kevin Logie that Retford Lane Bates LLP be appointed as auditors for 2010.

MOTION

CARRIED.

2011 budget

The Executive began a discussion about the 2011 budget. The biggest point of discussion was travel costs in the two northern Presbyteries.

Dinner

The Executive broke for dinner at 6:10 p.m., singing "For All Your Goodness"; the meeting resumed at 6:46 p.m.

Agenda up-date

The president and executive secretary proposed some changes to the agenda. The Executive AGREED with the changes.

2011 budget (continued)

The Executive returned to the 2011 budget, but dealt first with the issue of travel costs for the two northern Presbyteries.

MOTION by Don Laing/Kevin Logie that a) Living Waters and Northern Waters Presbyteries be permitted to exceed their 2010 budgeted grant by \$15,000 each for travel costs, b) that the executive secretary be directed to find the funds, and c) that the executive secretary develop a long-range plan for Presbytery grants that takes into account geographic differences.

MOTION

CARRIED.

MOTION by Ron Coughlin/Tom Clarke that the Executive recommend approval of the 2011 budget and 2012-2013 projections at the Conference's annual meeting.

MOTION

CARRIED.

A suggestion was made that that the budget include a statement outlining the assessment formula.

Communication: See p. 09/10-76. The Executive reviewed the up-dated communication policy as proposed by Marg Walker and Paget Blaza.

MOTION by Paget Blaza/Marg Walker that the Executive adopt the policy on communication (Appendix I).

MOTION

CARRIED.

There was discussion about the use of the word "limitations" in the Executive Secretary Limitations section of the policies.

Assets distribution: See p. 09/10-80. Tom Clarke and Ron Coughlin presented a revised motion regarding assets.

MOTION by Linda Parsons/Ron Coughlin that with the exception of the St. Enoch's Fund (ca. \$285,000), the Community Ministries funds and the Comart Trust (ca. \$1,800,000), that the balance of assets from the former nine Presbyteries, the Toronto Conference, the Tri-Presbytery Corporation and the Toronto West Presbytery Corporation provide equal distribution to the four Presbytery funds held by the Presbyteries of Toronto Conference Corporation, and that the Jane-Finch and Davenport-Perth Community Ministries and other related ministries in the former Toronto West Presbytery receive committed funding from the Community Ministries funds for 10 years from the date of commencement of operation of the Presbyteries of Toronto Conference Corporation.

MOTION

CARRIED.

Previous commitments: See p. 09/10-78. The executive secretary informed the Executive that previous commitments are being paid out. A new request has come from Living Waters Presbytery regarding a commitment that it believes should have been on the list. The Executive discussed how to handle this request.

MOTION by Ralph Schmidt/Linda Thompson that Toronto Conference offer to provide a no interest loan to Living Waters Presbytery to provide a 2010 grant to Camp Big Canoe, with the loan to be repaid from funds that would have gone to Living Waters Presbytery in the redistribution of assets.

MOTION

CARRIED.

Business matters to be considered by the Executive

Minutes

MOTION by David Allen/Ron Coughlin that the minutes of the Executive meetings of February 12 and March 15, 2010 be approved as circulated.

MOTION

CARRIED.

Correspondence

The executive secretary up-dated the correspondence list, and offered recommendations for action (Appendix J).

Appointments to other bodies

Christian-Jewish Dialogue of Toronto: See p. 09/10-71. The task group of Marg Walker, Carol Gierak and David Allen made the following recommendation regarding appointments to Christian-Jewish Dialogue of Toronto:

MOTION by Ron Coughlin/Marg Walker that Toronto Conference not make appointments to Christian-Jewish Dialogue of Toronto, but refer appointments to this organization to the Toronto Southeast and South West Presbyteries for their consideration with funding to come from the Presbyteries if they wish to participate in this organization's activities.

MOTION

CARRIED.

Nominations: The Executive passed a number of motions at its February 10, 2010 meeting saying that it will appoint people to particular bodies after having solicited names from the Presbyteries. What is missing is a method of determining whose name should be recommended for appointment if there are multiple applicants for the same position.

In addition to positions where Presbytery names will be sought, the Conference is also responsible for making appointments to the Interview Committee, the Settlement and Pastoral Relations Committee, and General Council committees. The Conference may choose to solicit names from Presbyteries.

MOTION by Linda Thompson/Paget Blaza that the president-elect or the past-president plus one of the three Presbytery representatives to the Executive (total of five people) form an ad hoc nominations committee, meeting by conference call as required.

MOTION

CARRIED.

Proceeds from sale of former Whitevale and Locks United Churches

The Executive discussed requests from Living Waters Presbytery for use of money from the Whitevale and Locks sales. Presbytery representatives indicated that the request for funding for Wesley United Church should be removed; the Brown's Corners request is also off the table for now. The Presbytery still hopes for assistance for New Hope United Church and Queensville United Church. Executive members asked a number of questions about the requests that have been received. There was much discussion about the use of surplus funds for the requests.

Brian Goodings declared a conflict of interest because of his work on New Hope United Church through his committee work on TUCC.

MOTION by Linda Thompson/Paget Blaza that Conference forward \$200,000 to Toronto United Church Council as a non-performing mortgage against the New Hope United Church property.

MOTION

CARRIED.

Brian Goodings did not vote on this motion.

MOTION by Tom Clarke/Ron Coughlin that the motion regarding New Hope United Church does not provide a precedent for future requests from Presbyteries regarding use of surplus property.

MOTION

CARRIED.

MOTION by Ron Coughlin/Linda Parsons that the use of surplus property be used in accordance with Conference property policies, and that the Conference not entertain requests from Presbyteries for use of surplus funds.

MOTION

CARRIED.

Viability of church development projects

The Executive had requested up-dates on the viability of church development projects. Living Waters Presbytery had provided written documentation.

MOTION by Linda Thompson/Linda Parsons that the Executive receive the viability reports related to Holly, New Hope, Painswick and Pathways church development projects (Appendix K).

MOTION

CARRIED.

Brian Goodings did not vote on this motion because he has been involved with the TUCC committee which oversees the church development ministries.

Don Laing provided a verbal report on North Star United Church Mission in South West Presbytery. He said that it is expected that the Mission will end by the end of 2010. A Presbytery Commission continues to work with the Mission regarding its future.

Omnibus motion

MOTION by Kevin Logie/Ralph Schmidt that the Toronto Conference Executive take the following actions:

a) Church of the Master Homes Corporation

...approve the Church of the Master Homes Corporation Board of Directors

Stan Bradley
Bob Fletcher
Janice Graham
Joyce Lancaster
Rex Mouland
Milan Nash
Tracy Odell
Matthew Peltier
George Wadlow

b) Lake Scugog United Church Camp Inc.

...approve the Lake Scugog United Church Camp Inc. Board of Directors

Janet Adamson
Ken Andras
Janet Brown
John Lloyd

Jim Lilly
Sally Jo Martin
Laura Jean Martin
John Joseph Mastandrea
Lorraine Nelson
Kirstin Rydahl
Kim Spence
Wendell White

c) Fairlawn Neighbourhood Centre

...approve the Fairlawn Neighbourhood Centre Board of Directors

Kristy Duncan
Heather de la Rua
Denise Graham
Stuart LeMesurier
Meredith MacKeigan
Laura Nield
Elsie Redekopp
Theresa Stephen
Tanya van Biesen

d) Treasures

...approve the Treasures Board of Directors

Pia Bottero
Anna Lannon
Christine Mitchell
Doreen Nemni
Jane Stel
Carol Thompson
Joan Watson

e) Brookbanks Non-Profit Homes Inc.

...approve the Brookbanks Non-Profit Homes Inc. Board of Directors

Dave Griffin
Ron Lyner
Cam Ferguson
Wally Winters
Bev Miller
Frank Hazelwood
Naleni Rahim

Deb Corbin
Mike Reid
Bev Miller (two Bev Millers are noted in their minutes)

f) records review

...receive the report of the records reviewer, Mary Gooley, with thanks, noting that the minutes of eight of the former Presbyteries were in good shape, while those of Toronto South had some gaps in signing

g) appointments to other bodies

...appoint Penny Keel as the Conference's representative on the Executive of the General Council's Judicial Committee
...appoint Lynn Watt as the Conference's represent on the board of the Francis Sandy Theological Centre

h) Anten Mills United Church property

...direct the Trustees of the former Anten Mills United Church to list the property for sale.

i) Camping Opportunities Fund

...exempt Toronto United Church Council from applying for extra appeal status regarding the Camping Opportunities Fund.

MOTION

CARRIED.

Executive secretary's performance review

The president reported on the performance review of the executive secretary. Eight people submitted evaluations. The president pointed out that the new position description is based on the Conference's mission statement. The review was positive. The Executive expressed appreciation to David.

Up-coming year

The Executive agreed on dates and meeting locations for the coming year (Appendix L). A question was asked about when the transition will happen from current Executive members to the new members. The executive secretary will confirm that the Conference can choose the July 1-June 30 term of office.

Monitoring and compliance with policies

Monitoring policies

Marg Walker was to lead the Executive through the review of four policies - Executive Secretary Limitations; Executive Governance: Public Statements; Executive Governance: Listening to the Ownership; and Mission/Ends Policies: Oversight – Presbyteries. All were deferred to the June meeting.

Compliance with policies

The executive secretary highlighted four items from his report (Appendix M).

Listening to a variety of voices/connecting with the ownership

Presbytery oversight visits: The Executive AGREED that Carol Gierak, Marg Walker and David Allen will develop the first draft of a plan for conducting oversight visits to the Presbyteries. Executive members will offer feedback prior to the June Executive meeting.

Evaluation and closing

The meeting concluded with an evaluation of how things had gone at this meeting.

What did we do well?

- We did a lot of work
- Everyone listened and took an active part
- Everyone was heard
- It's hard to separate our hats

What did we accomplish?

- We went through a heck of a pile of work
- Gave good direction, useful to the Presbyteries
- We can go back to Presbyteries with answers and clarity
- A great deal of collegiality and cooperation
- Heard that there's work Presbyteries need to do to get the Corporation going

What could we have done better?

- We performed as well as a group this size could, a very productive meeting
- The chair did a very good job
- Thanks for getting the material out

- We need to not get so hung up on the details and doing the work of others

Concluding matters

Workshop: Marg Walker mentioned a workshop with Dan Hotchkiss in Waterloo in June on Governance and Ministry.

President: The Executive noted that this is the last Executive meeting that Carol Gierak would chair as president. The Executive expressed a great sense of gratitude to Carol.

Adjournment

The business of the meeting completed, the president declared the meeting adjourned at 8:59 p.m. Ralph Schmidt offered a prayer benediction.

Carol Gierak
President

David Allen
Executive Secretary

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