

ATTENDANCE

Present

Ordered Doug Wright, Sheila Macgregor, Kenji Marui, Curtis Marwood, John Brown, Eun-Joo Park, Mark Marshall, Cathy Larmond, Paul Rodey, Cheryl-Ann Stadelbauer-Sampa, Mark Ferrier, Jeff Crittenden

Lay Glenda McMillan, Chuck Scott, Charles McMillan, Mary Anne Silverthorn, Bev Slater, Sandra Stock, Connie Ellis, Bill Butt, Ken Hunking, Tanya Cameron

OPENING – Cathy Larmond

In the name of Jesus Christ, the one true head of the church, and by the authority given to me by the 91st Annual Meeting of London Conference, I declare this meeting of the Executive of London Conference duly constituted for any business that may properly come before it. The bounds of the meeting shall be this room.

WORSHIP

President Cathy Larmond shared her Conference theme of “Travelling Along with You” and shared recent stories of being in a position to make a decision regarding selecting a direction of travel. She invited the court to share one step that the body you represent (the role you have on the London Executive) is taking in a new direction in the next year?

The Executive expressed gratitude to Eun-Joo Park, Chair of Algoma Presbytery and St. Joseph Island Pastoral Charge St. Joseph Island for all the travel and generosity of time she has had recently to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission; London Conference Annual Meeting; General Council Commissioners training and the upcoming General Council 42.

MINUTES

Motion It was moved, seconded and carried to adopt the Minutes of the April 15th Meeting of the Executive with the correction to include the full name of the host at Uncle Tom’s Cabin.

Motion It was moved, seconded and carried to adopt the minutes of the May 6th Special Executive Meeting of the Sub-Executive

ORIENTATION TO THE ONGOING WORK OF THE EXECUTIVE

Iona College

Executive Secretary Cheryl-Ann Stadelbauer-Sampa gave an update on Iona College activities related to compliance with Incorporated Ministry by-law requirements. Iona College is completing an audit for their 2014 finances and their next scheduled corporation meeting in September 2015.

With Iona College existing on financial support mainly from United Church of Canada member donations, does London Conference have a plan to communicate to these donors in case the relationship between The United Church of Canada and Iona College is severed?

Technically London Conference can report them to Public Guardian and trustee for misuse of trust funds related to a Middlesex Presbytery trust fund provided to them. The terms of the trust fund have been violated: The terms stated that Iona College could only access any interest from the fund for theological education but instead the entire principal has been spent on day-to-day operations. Their current financial statements state that this money is stated as a “repayable” to Middlesex Presbytery. Cheryl-Ann provided salient points to the Executive on other actions that Iona College may take prior to the September 2015 meeting of the corporation.

Motion **It was moved, seconded and carried that the following be named as Members of the Board of Directors of Iona College, noting that no other members can be appointed unless they belong to The United Church of Canada thus creating the required majority according to their current by-laws:**

- 1. Kendal McKinney**
- 2. Beojong Kim**
- 3. Norman King**
- 4. Marilyn Farough**

Cheryl-Ann confirmed Iona’s current term of membership and how many times a member can be re-elected and confirmed that Corporation membership is different than Board membership (ex officio members are the Essex Presbytery Chair, Secretary, and Treasurer.)

Affirming

<http://affirmunited.ause.ca/>

The General Council Executive report that outlines distressing experiences that those in London Conference had experienced in LGBTQ community was distributed in autumn 2012/spring 2013 and as a result London Conference Executive requested that the Executive Secretary attend the Affirm Conference in North Bay in August, 2013.

Who wants to be part of the team to develop the process to become an Affirming Conference? It was confirmed that Presbytery members need to decide if they want to be affirming at the Presbytery level and then again at the Congregational level. Many benefits accrue to becoming an Affirming Conference including removing barriers to participation and making it comfortable for ministry personnel to apply to positions; fair employment practices and encouraging all to attend in London Conference.

The following members of the London Conference executive volunteered to begin forming our Affirming team: Eun-Joo Park, Kenji Marui and Connie Ellis. The request for more volunteers will go out to London Conference as a whole in summer 2015.

Fairfield – Proposal 44 (Appendix ??)

Cheryl-Ann provided the group with an update of the Fairfield Museum Committee and various issues surrounding Fairfield Museum, Delaware Nation at Moraviantown and property matters as a result of the accepted Proposal 44 – Fairfield from London Conference’s 91st Annual Meeting. The Proposal named as step 1: “At its June 2015 meeting, confirm its representatives to its ongoing dialogue with the Delaware Nation at Moraviantown.”

Motion **In light of Philip Newman’s departure to British Columbia Conference, the continuing conversation with the Delaware Nation at Moraviantown include the following appointments: Past-President Jeffery Crittenden, Executive Secretary Cheryl-Ann Stadelbauer-Sampa, and Matthew Stevens and that London Conference authorize consulting fees for David McDonald to participate in that process as available.**

The General Council Office will no longer have a staffing relationship with David McDonald so the cost for his involvement is now at our expense (noting that London Conference has had several months of generous financial support from the General Council Office to take advantage of David’s expertise).

The Right Relations committee that spearheaded the Truth and Reconciliation Commission initiative would be part of this ongoing work. The Fairfield Committee have a direct reporting relationship through the London Conference Division of Finance and Administration. They have failed to meet regularly over the past several years and all financial responsibilities are handled through the London Conference office.

Clarification was given regarding the various pieces of land involved in this discussion (plot of land across road from actual museum).

Should the appointment of people to this group be expanded to represent their office? For example, “Past-President”? Cheryl-Ann requested waiting until September 2015 to report back on “land across the road” which will also indicate the status of relations with the Delaware Nation at Moraviantown and the effectiveness of the Fairfield Museum Committee.

A concern was expressed that if we “give back,” the plot of land, does that mean that a partnership with the Delaware is not a possibility? Could we say instead, “enter process of returning Fairfield to the Delaware Nation at Moraviantown”?

President Cathy tested the will of the court to include “concerning the vacant field” in the motion via use of warm/cool cards. Some members expressed difficulty with the motion as it seems to be an immediate step and precludes ongoing dialogue which could expand into something greater with the Delaware Nation. Court was cool to inclusion of “concerning the vacant field”.

President Cathy tested the will of the court to determine if those appointed to the continuing conversation are physically named or should their office be named. Court was warm to the idea of naming by office held. The will of the court was also tested and was found warm to adding "with power to add."

Motion **It was moved, seconded and carried that in light of Philip Newman's departure, the continued conversation at Delaware Nation of Moraviantown continue via the London Conference President, Executive Secretary Cheryl-Ann Stadelbauer-Sampa and Matthew Stevens with power to add and that London Conference authorize consulting fees for David McDonald to participate in that process as available.**

John Brown extended gratitude for all of the many years of work that has been happening to get us to this point; with special thanks to Cheryl-Ann for her dedication to this.

DIVISION AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

Nominating Committee

Motion **It was moved, seconded and carried that the following two people be appointed to the following positions:**

- 1. Robin Sherman as Secretary for the Division of Ministry, Personnel and Education;**
- 2. Kate Crawford as Chair of the Pensions Committee**

For interest, Kathy Douglas has joined as a member of Social Justice Committee.

Staff Support Committee

John Brown provided a brief background of the work of the Staff Support Committee for education of new members of executive.

Communications and Public Relations

Bill Butt outlined the work of the Division of Communications and Public Relations and noted the "Journey to Africa 2015" Facebook page that the travellers to Mozambique were using to highlight their adventure; he encouraged those present to visit the page for updates.

Finance and Administration

Bev Slater, Treasurer provided a brief update with regards to the May 2015 financial statements. The September financial statements will contain more information as the Annual Meeting revenues and expenses have not been fully tallied; also the cost of the Conference Office move will be reflected in the September statements.

She also noted the donations collected during the 91st Annual Meeting of London Conference:

- Celebration of Ministry Service for Mission and Service Fund – \$4,229.80
- Sunday morning worship collection was \$4,517.85
 - Sand Dam Projects in Mozambique - \$2,701.43
 - New Ministries Fund - \$1,476.42
 - Western University Chaplaincy and Canadian Foodgrains Bank - \$340.00

Ministry Personnel and Education

Interim Ministry

Motion It was moved, seconded and carried that Rev. Harry Disher be designated as Interim Minister (no conditions).

Motion It was moved, seconded and carried that Rev. Sandra Fogarty be designated as an Interim Minister (no conditions).

Motion It was moved, seconded and carried that, as of May 27, 2015, Rev. Pirie Mitchell be understood to have fulfilled the condition that he join and regularly attend the Interim Ministry gatherings at Five Oaks attached to his February 2013 designation and that this condition not apply to the one year extension of his appointment to Central United Church, Stratford.

Social Justice – no report

NEW BUSINESS

Proposal 1: Three Council Model - Pilot Project (Appendix ??)

Motion It was moved and seconded to agree with Proposal 1: Three Council Model – Pilot Project.

The group requested clarification on what role presbyteries and congregations would hold if they volunteered to be part of this per item 2) c. in the proposal. Key link between the Three Council Model is developing the covenant that forms basis for rest of the work.

Motion It was moved, second and defeated to postpone definitely this proposal until the September 2015 London Conference Executive meeting.

There was a concern expressed about managing a pastoral charge that does not wish to handle their "own" concerns and refuses to participate in the work. It was noted with no small amusement that those working in church administration have yet to meet a congregation that does not want autonomy thus refusal to participate is unlikely.

Motion to agree carried.

Proposal 2: Children at Conference Timing

Algoma Chair Eun-Joo Park raised several points of discussion speaking against the proposal. The action of this proposal leads to Algoma members feeling isolated both geographically and emotionally to move children at conference.

Counter to those concerns it was noted that Algoma had not had any children participate in the Children at Conference program for several years when it was held the same weekend as the London Conference Annual Meeting despite travel allowances paid to offset the cost of driving a child to London; and by moving this program to an alternate week for 2015 it was possible for an additional 14 youth and adult leadership to attend as delegates to the Annual Meeting.

Motion It was moved, seconded and carried to postpone definitely discussion of this proposal until September 2015 London Conference Executive meeting to accommodate concerns from Algoma and consult with planning team.

Proposal 3: Youth at Regional Council

Motion It was moved, seconded and carried to agree with Proposal 3: Youth at Regional Council.

Proposal 4: Reorganization of Executive

After much discussion, the proposal was withdrawn to be redrafted for presentation to the September 2015 meeting of London Conference Executive.

Executive Meeting: Conference Call – June 24th @ 11:00am Jeff will chair.

September Meeting:
Crieff Hills Retreat Centre – September 16th and 17th.

Meetings for 2015-16

Time: **9:30 to 2:30**

November 18th February 17th April 20th

Cathy Larmond, President

Cheryl-Ann Stadelbauer-Sampa, Executive Secretary