

ATTENDANCE

Present

Ordered Eun-Joo Park, Cathy Larmond, Cheryl-Ann Stadelbauer-Sampa, Kenji Marui, John Brown, John Van Omme, Doug Wright, Carey Wagner

Lay Joyce Payne, Brent Caslick, Glenda McMillan, Ken Hunking, Connie Ellis, Sandra Stock, Doreen Hewitson, Mary Anne Silverthorn, Chuck Scott, Tanya Cameron

Regrets Wanda Burse, Sheila MacGregor, Mark Marshall

OPENING – Kenji Marui

In the name of Jesus Christ, the one true head of the church, and by the authority given to me by the 92nd 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

Kenji shared that our meeting place is on the Traditional Beaver Hunting grounds of Algonquin, Haudenosaunee and Attawandaron. Kenji invited all executive members to reflect and share on the statement that “everyone is from somewhere” and selected a complementary reading from Numbers, chapter 13. The London Conference theme for 2016-17 is "To Reconcile and Make New".

CONSENT DOCKET

Motion It was moved, seconded and carried to accept the consent docket as amended:

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| Motion | To approve the agenda and add a Stewardship Update |
| Motion | To approve the minutes of the June 15, 2016 London Conference Executive |
| Motion | To receive the minutes of June 28, 2016 and Sept 8, 2016 Sub-Executive of London Conference for information. |
| Motion | To receive the Executive Secretary’s Accountability Report. |

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

June 15, 2016 London Conference Executive

- a) A pastoral letter was sent to London Conference Pastoral Charges acknowledging the care and concern we continue to maintain for the LGBTQ2 community regarding events in Orlando, Florida.

- b) Iona College has delayed signing the legacy agreement; they have been given 5 years to repay the Middlesex Presbytery loan. Iona College has conditionally sold their building to the University of Windsor and details are being clarified. Iona's lawyer has assured us we will receive the \$100,000 to repay their misspent trust fund from Middlesex Presbytery.

September 8, 2016 Sub-Exec

- a) Judicial Committee considering whether to hear Rev. [REDACTED] appeal on October 14, 2016: Rev. [REDACTED] has filed an Ontario Human Rights complaint. Executive Secretary Cheryl-Ann Stadelbauer-Sampa provided more details on the process to date and anticipates that a meeting with the Sub-Executive of London Conference will need to occur to respond to any outcome from the Judicial Committee and the Ontario Human Rights tribunal decision.
- b) Human Rights Tribunal submission sent re: Rev. [REDACTED] filing

REPORTS

Affirm Task Group

Motion It was moved, seconded and carried to create an e-mail address at for the Affirm Task Group: affirm@londonconference.ca

As representatives of a division/committee, what would be the most valuable way to receive Affirm information to disseminate to your group? There is an expectation that London Conference committees will participate as it has been made a London Conference priority. Members of the Affirm Task Group can be invited to presbyteries to build relationships. Lambton Presbytery is currently in the process of becoming Affirming; are executive members reporting back to their presbyteries for information only or are they to encourage presbyteries to consider exploring the Affirming process? Leadership in this area can be provided at the Presbytery Chairs and Secretaries day.

Motion It was moved, seconded and carried to accept the Affirm Task Group report.

There are some costs associated with entering the Affirming process; they are approximately \$100/yr for a Conference and perhaps less than that for a congregation. There are different price points for different memberships and members of the Executive were encouraged to find information on the Affirm website to confirm specific amounts.

Nominating Committee

Motion It was moved, seconded and carried that Rev. Cathy Larmond be named as Chair of the Division of Ministry Personnel and Education. Cathy Larmond abstained.

Motion It was moved, seconded and carried to add the following members to Affirm Task Group: Robyn Moffat, Harry Stewart, Marilyn Townsend-Smith and Paula Smith.

Motion It was moved, seconded and carried to authorize Rev. Cheryl-Ann Stadelbauer-Sampa to chair the 2016 meeting of the London Conference Mission Support Committee unless a chair is appointed prior to the meeting date.

The following vacancies remain unfilled:

- Secretary of Conference Education and Students Committee
- Chair of Mission Support Committee
- Young Adult Representative to the Conference Executive
- Lay and Ordered members for the Conference Interview Board
- Member at Large for the Archives Committee

Youth and Young Adult Position Draft Mandate (Appendix 1)

The Executive spent time evaluating and editing the mandate. It was confirmed that it is only *one* person from each category (not two of each) and that these roles are not part of the London Conference Sub-Executive. After group discussion, it was:

Motion It was moved, seconded and carried to accept the Mandate of the Youth and Young Adult Representatives with discussed changes.

The revised and approved mandate will be sent to all youth and young adult representatives who attended the 2016 London Conference Annual Meeting.

Staff Committee

Coverage for Betsy Exley's sabbatical has been arranged on an ad hoc basis with contracted members of London Conference.

Motion It was moved, second and carried that expenses incurred for people covering portions of Betsy Exley's sabbatical be charged to the Division of Faith Formation and Congregational Life.

John Brown updated the executive on the selection process for the Pastoral Support Minister, Rev. Anne Beattie-Stokes who had been approved at the London Conference Sub-Executive meeting on September 8, 2016. He confirmed it is a part-time position with no end date.

There was general discussion around the perceived difference in employment between Conference staff and General Council Office employees; the lines appear blurred in that Conference staff is subject to General Council payroll and human resource staffing and policies *but* the work that is performed is at the direction of and benefit of the Conference. If General Council does not pay any grants (effective 2018), what leverage do they have to make demands

on Conference staff time? Who selects, authorizes and covers staff time versus General Council expectations? There is no answer to these concerns, but the next two years will be interesting as the Remit process unfolds.

Anne's covenanting service is tentatively planned for the November 16, 2016 London Conference Executive meeting. The Conference Office will confirm with Anne, organize and advertise the service.

Planning Committee

The proposed Time Line for the 2017 Annual Meeting includes a shorter meeting that begins Friday evening and ends Sunday afternoon.

The Executive was encouraged to consider electing General Council Commissioners at the 2017 Annual Meeting, knowing it will be for the 2018 meeting of General Council. Cathy Larmond confirmed the photo directory from the 2016 Annual Meeting is coming.

Motion **It was moved, second and carried to elect as many London Conference General Council Commissioners as practically possible at the London Conference 2017 Annual Meeting to attend the 2018 General Council.**

Cheryl-Ann will confirm the correct number of General Council Commissioners with the General Secretary Nora Sanders and also plan for the possibility of unfilled slots due to various roles etc. which can be considered at the 2018 Annual Meeting of London Conference.

Questions posed by the group included:

- Do we want two from each presbytery in order to prevent against overweighting from one presbytery?
- How do we more equitably distribute representatives across presbyteries?
- Currently one person is guaranteed from each presbytery and wondering if two would be better?

Cheryl-Ann noted that those selected as Commissioners are a General Council representative and not specifically tied to their presbytery of membership. There are many ways to handle how presbyteries nominate their Commissioners and by what deadline they need to be presented at the Annual Meeting in order for voting and counting. It is necessary to have all the information on those nominated provided to the voters in ample time in order to give voters the opportunity to learn about the nominees. It is illegal to have a ballot of preferred nominees..

UCW Report

Sandra Stock presented the UCW Report (Appendix 2)

Social Justice

The Sand Dams project in Mozambique has received various donations from both individuals and churches, and monies have been forwarded to the United Church Foundation to then be forwarded to the Canadian Foodgrains Bank.

The Executive expressed thanks to Curtis Marwood for his work on the Social Justice Division. As an executive, are we able to empower the Social Justice Network of Ontario Conferences to be authorized to speak on our behalf for the Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions (Appendix 3)? Will they be our voice to respond to anything that comes before the legislature? Carey Wagner provided an update of events that the Social Justice Division is promoting in Lambton Presbytery and provided a copy of the minutes from their last Division meeting (Appendix 4) As the Conference Executive, what do we think is a “best response” by us as a Conference to enable a deeper understanding of the items coming before legislature? The Ontario government is taking the position that efforts that fall under BDS be prohibited; however, The United Church of Canada has promoted Unsettled Goods so the Ontario government’s impinges upon freedom of expression and free speech.

Motion **It was moved, seconded and carried that London Conference authorize the Social Justice Network of Ontario Conferences to speak on London Conference’s behalf in response to the proposed Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions legislation.**

Motion **It was moved, seconded and carried that Marg Murray and Carey Wagner be named as London Conference representatives to the Social Justice Network of Ontario Conferences. Carey Wagner abstained.**

When it was commented that our continued participation in Social Justice Network of Ontario Conferences could invite increased government scrutiny, Cheryl-Ann clarified that we are losing the component of our United Church identity of being “the church in the world.” There is serious potential and ramifications of this work and the United Church should be profiling this in a whole variety of ways – one example is the “Let’s Keep Talking” campaign (Appendix 5).

Motion **It was moved, seconded and carried to send a pastoral letter to all London Conference pastoral charges highlighting the importance of sharing your voice in the Boycott, Divestments, Sanctions legislation and “Let’s Keep Talking.”**

It was decided to provide copies of the Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions literature to the Presbytery Chairs and Secretaries Day. This information will also be placed on the London Conference website.

Ministry Personnel and Education

No report

Finance and Administration

Brent Caslick took us through the financial statements (Appendix 6).

Communications and Public Relations

Cheryl-Ann provided an update on the Grand River Spiritual and Educational Resources and London Conference's role in that facility. She confirmed that London Conference will honour its current financial commitment that is provided to them each year in the amount of \$10,000.

A note of congratulations was passed around to honour Rev. Maya Landell, a past-president of London Conference who is leaving to Toronto Conference.

There was a general inquiry about all of the dire news about The United Church of Canada's lack of funds, it appears that the General Council Office is hiring several new staff. Why is there a disconnect? Cheryl-Ann explained that the recent hiring spate is a result of the lack of filling positions over the years re: attrition.

Remits

It is important to encourage voting on all Remits; a non-action effort = a "No" vote so it is important to provide education on Remits. Various executive members shared the contents of their presbytery's Remit events. The Remit of greater concern was Remit 4: Funding a New Model.

Executive Secretary's Accountability Report

Remit 1: Three Council Model - in 2018 the General Council grant will cease which means that Manitou Conference will not be able to sustain itself regardless of remits. Cheryl-Ann invited us to consider organizing a group of one representative from each of the Ontario Conferences to start to sketch out various ideas of how that would work? Can London Conference do this work as the hosts and take the lead? Cheryl-Ann provided a history of the current Conference geographic distribution.

Motion **It was moved, seconded and carried that President Kenji Marui and Executive Secretary Cheryl-Ann Stadelbauer-Sampa contact the Presidents and Executive Secretaries of the Ontario Conferences to invite them into further conversations to examine regional boundaries, evaluating options. This contact to occur before the November 16, 2016 executive meeting.**

Motion **It was moved, seconded and carried to accept all reports.**

NEW BUSINESS

London Conference is hosting a Stewardship event "Inspire, Ask, Thank" on November 5, 2016. Promotion is occurring through presbytery secretaries and the London Conference website and Facebook page.

The General Council Office is promoting its annual "Gifts with Vision" campaign and the Executive was challenged to come to the next Executive meeting prepared to speak to the project you want to support.

Adjournment

Next Meeting: **November 16, 2016 at the London Conference Office**