

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

THE 93rd ANNUAL MEETING OF LONDON CONFERENCE THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA MAY 26 - 28, 2017

Hosted by Lambton Presbytery
Greek Canadian Community, London, Ontario

to
to Reconcile
& make
& Sew

ANNUAL MEETINGS OF LONDON CONFERENCE

		<u>PRESIDENT</u>	<u>SECRETARY</u>
1925	London (Metropolitan)	Rev. A.E.M. Thompson	Rev. A.E. Duffield
1926	Stratford (Central)	Rev. D.C. McGregor	Rev. R.C. Copeland
1927	London (St. Andrew's)	Rev. Robert Hicks	Rev. R.C. Copeland
1928	Windsor (Lincoln Rd.)	Rev. W. R. McIntosh	Rev. R.C. Copeland
1929	London (Centennial)	Rev. J.A. Agnew	Rev. R.C. Copeland
1930	Woodstock (Central)	Rev. R.C. Peever	Rev. R.C. Copeland
1931	Chatham (Park St.)	Rev. N.M. Leckie	Rev. H. Royle
1932	St. Thomas (Grace)	Rev. B. Hunter	Rev. H. Royle
1933	London (Wesley)	Rev. J.R. Hall	Rev. H. Royle
1934	Sarnia (Central)	Rev. J.M. Haith	Rev. H. Royle
1935	Stratford (St. John's)	Rev. W.A. Walden	Rev. H. Royle
1936	London (Metropolitan)	Rev. W. A. Bremner	Rev. H. Royle
1937	Windsor (Lincoln Rd.)	Rev. W. Williams	Rev. H. Royle
1938	Chatham (Park St.)	Rev. W.M. Kiteley	Rev. H. Royle
1939	London (Centennial)	Rev. G.C. Raymer	Rev. H. Royle
1940	London (Centennial)	Rev. V.T. Mooney	Rev. R.B. Cumming
1941	Windsor (Lincoln Rd.)	Rev. H. Royle	Rev. R.B. Cumming
1942	London (Centennial)	Rev. A.M. Stuart	Rev. R.B. Cumming
1943	London (Centennial)	Rev. J.Y. MacKinnon	Rev. R.B. Cumming
1944	London (Centennial)	Rev. R.C. Copeland	Rev. R.B. Cumming
1945	London (Centennial)	Rev. D. McTavish	Rev. R.B. Cumming
1946	London (Centennial)	Rev. A.J. Smale	Rev. R.B. Cumming
1947	Chatham (Park St.)	Rev. J.M. Colling	Rev. R.B. Cumming
1948	Windsor (Westminster)	Rev. S.M. Sweetman	Rev. R.B. Cumming
1949	Sarnia (Central)	Rev. D.D. Gaynor	Rev. R.B. Cumming
1950	London (First-St. Andrew's)	Rev. E.J. Roulston	Rev. R.B. Cumming
1951	St. Thomas (Central)	Rev. W.A. Beecroft	Rev. R.B. Cumming
1952	London (Metropolitan)	Rev. R.B. Cumming	Rev. A.E. Duffield
1953	Woodstock (Chalmers)	Rev. C.D. Daniel	Rev. A.E. Duffield
1954	Windsor (Lincoln Rd.)	Rev. J.A. Walker	Rev. A.E. Duffield
1955	Sault Ste. Marie (Central & St. Andrew's)	Rev. E.G. Turnbull	Rev. A.E. Duffield
1956	Stratford (Central)	Rev. A.E. Duffield	Rev. G.A. Wishart
1957	St. Thomas (First)	Rev. H.J. Snell	Rev. G.A. Wishart
1958	Chatham (Park St.)	Rev. G.W. Butt	Rev. G.A. Wishart
1959	Sarnia (Central)	Rev. D.M. Guest	Rev. G.A. Wishart
1960	London (Calvary)	Rev. R.B. Craig	Rev. G.A. Wishart
1961	Woodstock (Central)	Rev. G.W. Goth	Rev. G.A. Wishart
1962	Sault Ste. Marie (Central)	Rev. R.D. Crosby	Rev. G.A. Wishart
1963	London (Westminster College)	Rev. C.G. Park	Rev. G.A. Wishart
1964	London (Westminster College)	Rev. G.A. Wishart	Rev. J.C. Hazlewood
1965	London (Westminster College)	Rev. D.G. Tipple	Rev. J.C. Hazlewood
1966	London (Westminster College)	Rev. A.P. Graham	Rev. J.C. Hazlewood
1967	London (Westminster College)	Rev. G.L. Mills	Rev. J.C. Hazlewood
1968	Windsor (Univ. of Windsor)	Rev. A.W. Meacham	Rev. J.C. Hazlewood
1969	Windsor (Univ. of Windsor)	Rev. A.W. Meacham	Rev. J.C. Hazlewood
1970	Windsor (Univ. of Windsor)	Rev. H.M. Hunter	Rev. J.C. Hazlewood
1971	Windsor (Univ. of Windsor)	Rev. W.L. Morden	Rev. R.G. Lindsey

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CONFERENCE EXECUTIVE MEETINGS - 2017 - 2018

Wednesday, September 20, 2017
Wednesday, November 15, 2017
Wednesday, February 21, 2018
Wednesday, April 18, 2018
Wednesday, June 20, 2018

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS
93rd ANNUAL MEETING OF LONDON CONFERENCE
MAY 26 - 28, 2017

SESSION 1 – FRIDAY MORNING, MAY 26

The London Conference of The United Church of Canada met May 26 – 28, 2017 at the Greek Canadian Community of London, Ontario with Lambton Presbytery acting as hosts.

OPENING OF CONFERENCE

In preparation for our time together, on Thursday, May 25, Rev. Bruce Cook offered a ***First Nations smudging*** ritual at the Greek Canadian Community. This ritual involves the use of traditional medicines to purify and sanctify in order to prepare for the upcoming work; and to infuse the Creator’s spirit in those who participate. This ritual represents the bringing together of First Nations and ancient Hebrew practice of using incense to lift prayers to God.

Friday, May 26 began with an optional morning educational event at the Stoneridge Inn and Conference Centre, London with annual meeting ***theme speaker Ryan McMahon***. The event concluded with a mid-afternoon visit to the Mt. Elgin Residential School memorial hosted by the Chippewa of the Thames. This was followed by an Orientation – ***First Timers Club*** gathering offered to those delegates who were attending the London Conference annual meeting for the first time. It was hosted by Bruce Cook, with Executive Secretary Cheryl-Ann Stadelbauer-Sampa, President Kenji Marui and Parliamentarian Brad Morrison offering leadership. In the main plenary space worship and joyful song were provided by the Music and Worship Team led by Glenn Parsons and Sarah Grady.

The Conference was ***convened with a quorum*** present at 6:00pm on May 26 with Kenji Marui, President, presiding and Cheryl-Ann Stadelbauer-Sampa, Executive Secretary.

CONSTITUTION OF THE COURT

President Kenji Marui ***constituted the London Conference Annual Meeting*** as follows:

“In the name of Jesus Christ, the one true Head of the Church, and by the authority vested in me as President by the 92nd Annual Meeting of London Conference, I now declare this 93rd Annual Meeting of London Conference constituted for the transaction of such business as may properly come before it. The bounds of this meeting shall be the Greek Canadian Community Centre and Calvary United Church, London Ontario.”

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PROPOSAL 1 - CONSENT DOCKET

TITLE:	Consent Docket for 93rd Annual Meeting
ORIGINATING BODY:	Executive Secretary
FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:	Within existing budget
STAFFING IMPLICATIONS:	Within existing capacity

The Executive Secretary proposes:

That London Conference:

1. Adopt the **Record of Proceedings** for the 92nd Annual Meeting as printed and distributed;
2. Adopt the **Agenda** for the 92nd Annual Meeting as printed in the Delegate Handbook and authorize the Business Committee to make changes as necessary;
3. Establish the **Bounds** of Conference as the main space of the Greek Canadian Community Centre, London, Ontario and the sanctuary of Calvary United Church, London, Ontario;
4. Receive for information the reports and statements printed in the **Report Book** along with the Settlement Committee Report as printed in the Delegate Handbook based on completed paperwork received and processed as of the morning of May 11th, 2017
5. Establish the **Business and Agenda Committee** with Chair, Cathy Larmond (Chair of Planning) and members: President Kenji Marui, President-Elect Joyce Payne, Executive Secretary, Cheryl-Ann Stadelbauer-Sampa, Head Teller Charles McMillan, Parliamentarian Brad Morrison, Local Arrangements Co-Chairs, Connie Ellis and Louise Hall, Communications Contact, Doreen Hewitson, Minute Secretary Tanya Cameron with power to add;
6. Make Head Teller, Charles McMillan and all Young Adults in Transition and Youth at Conference (elected by Youth Forum) **Members of Conference**;
7. Recognize the following as **Corresponding Members** of the court: Theme Speaker, Ryan McMahon; Theological Reflector Very Rev. Stan McKay; General Council Representative Maggie McLeod; Michigan Conference, The United Church of Christ, Renee Jackson; representatives from the theological colleges; Music Leader Glenn Parsons; Conference staff not already delegates: Tanya Cameron, Betsy Exley, Krista Ford and Pretima Kukadia-Kinting, and other invited guests.
8. Receive **regrets** from Jeffrey Crittenden, David Carruthers, Janet Brigham-Turowski.
9. Set 1:00 p.m. Saturday, May 27th, as the **deadline for any proposals** not already in the Delegate Handbook to be in the hands of the Business and Agenda Committee in writing;
10. Adopt the following **procedure to elect Commissioners to General Council 43 (2018)**:
London Conference will be sending 29 Commissioners, 3 of whom are ex-officio:
 - a) President or President-Elect
 - b) General Council Lay Representative: Wendy Brown
 - c) General Council Order of Ministry/Designated Lay Ministry Representative (to be determined at the 94th Annual Meeting).

Therefore London Conference will:

- i) **preserve the following 4 spots** for election at the 94th Annual Meeting:
 - a) Youth Forum Pilgrim nominated at General Council Youth Forum Winter Event (U 19);
 - b) One Lay position;
 - c) One Order of Ministry/Designated Lay Ministry Position.
 - d) One additional position based on lay/order of ministry designated lay ministry breakdown.
- ii) **elect up to twenty-two (22) Commissioners** at the 93rd Annual Meeting: eleven

(11) Lay; and eleven (11) Order of Ministry/Designated Lay Ministry,

According to the following principles:

- a) A minimum of one shall be 18 or younger at the time of the General Council
- b) A minimum of two shall be 19-29 at the time of the General Council
- c) A minimum of two shall be from racialized or deaf communities
- d) A minimum of one Lay and one Order of Ministry/Designated Lay Ministry from each Presbytery
- e) At least one Designated Lay Minister, Diaconal Minister, and Ordained Minister will be among the Order of Ministry/Designated Lay Ministry Commissioners

If there are not sufficient nominees to honour the above principles, space shall be protected for election in 2018.

All nominees must be a member of The United Church of Canada within the jurisdiction of London Conference at the time of the nominations and of the General Council.

The nominee does not have to be present for the Annual Meeting but the permission of the nominee has to have been secured in advance of the nomination. The Nominator needs to sign a printed copy of the Nomination Form and submit it to the Executive Secretary (through the business Table) before the close of nominations at 10:30 a.m. Saturday, May 27, 2017.

iii) Employ **two ballots** for the above election:

Ballot One elects:

- 1 Youth Commissioner;
- 2 Young Adult Commissioners,
- 2 Racialized/Deaf Commissioners.

Ballot Two:

Will list all nominees not yet elected including youth, young adult, racialized/deaf nominees not elected on Ballot One. After the required ministry streams are represented and all Presbyteries have one Lay and one Order of Ministry/Designated Lay Ministry representative, the rest will be elected according to the highest number of votes.

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Cheryl-Ann Stadelbauer-Sampa updated the court with changes to the printed consent docket:

- #2 – agenda for 93rd Annual Meeting;
- ask that in terms of #4 and in receipt of the Settlement Committee Report is with the addition of the call of Rev. Mary Fletcher to Parkview Pastoral Charge;
- item #7 to reflect the alternate theme speaker, Ryan McMahon;
- update the list of regrets to add Rev. Ann Corbet and Rev. Cheryl Kirk.

Motion **It was moved, seconded and carried to approve Proposal #1: Consent Docket for 93rd Annual Meeting with noted changes (Appendix I: p. 28-29).**

WELCOME FROM ELDER

Mr. Errol Gray, Elder from the Aamjiwnaang First Nation extended a welcome to the territorial lands of our Annual Meeting. He shared a history of his own background as an indigenous child and the subsequent abuse he suffered at residential school by teachers for his attempts to speak his own language. Kenji Marui offered a gift of tobacco.

INTRODUCTIONS

President Kenji Marui introduced the following guests to the court:

1. **Theological Reflector** – The Very Rev. Stanley McKay
2. **General Council Staff Representative** – Rev. Maggie McLeod
3. **Theme Speaker** – Ryan McMahon
4. **United Church of Christ – Black Lives Matter** – Rev. Dr. Renee Jackson
5. **Church in Mission Program Coordinator, Social Analysis and Congregational Engagement** – Beth Baskin
6. **Worship Chair** – Rev. Sarah Grady
7. **Music Team** – Glenn and Beth Parsons, Sandy MacKay, Kim Ladd, Ken McLagan
8. **Parliamentarian** – Rev. Dr. Brad Morrison
9. **Chair, Youth Forum** – Matt Lindsay
10. **Chair-Elect, Youth Forum** – Ian MacGregor
11. **Orientation and Smudging** – Rev. Bruce Cook
12. **Local Arrangements** – Louise Hall, Connie Ellis & team!
13. **Chaplains** – Revs. Deanna Gibson and Carey Wagner
14. **Personnel Minister** – Vocation – Rev. Lillian Roberts
15. **B** – Rev. Cathy Larmond, Charles McMillan, Doreen Hewitson, Joyce Payne, Rev. Cheryl-Ann Stadelbauer-Sampa, Rev. Kenji Marui and Tanya Cameron

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Connie Ellis and Louise Hall, co-chairs of Local Arrangements for Lambton Presbytery formally welcomed everyone and thanked the many volunteers from Lambton Presbytery who helped with the preparations for the meeting. They identified the talking stones present on each table to remind us all to be gracious and willing to listen to others. The committee took a few moments to familiarize the court with locations of the Book Room, food and refreshment procedures, safety procedures and emergency exits.

WORSHIP, PRAYER AND COMMUNITY BUILDING

Rev. Sarah Grady and the worship team led the court in worship and community-building incorporating the Conference theme of, '**To Reconcile and Make New.**' Through the use of song, prayers to the four directions of the United Church crest and viewing a video inviting us to consider beyond holding a single story, the court was prepared for the business that was to come before it.

Worship concluded with prayer.

ADMISSIONS APPLICANTS

Katie Glaves, Chair of the London Conference Interview Board introduced the two applicants for

Admission to The United Church of Canada: Rev. Sadekie Lyttle-Forbes and Rev. Kate Ballagh-Steeper. All applicants addressed the court by responding to the following statement: “***What do you bring from your current denomination that would be something new for The United Church of Canada?***” Upon conclusion of the speeches, blessings were offered to the candidates. Ballots were distributed for the following motion:

Motion **It was moved and seconded:**

THAT THE FOLLOWING APPLICANTS BE ADMITTED TO THE MINISTRY OF WORD, SACRAMENT AND PASTORAL CARE WITHIN THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA, ALL OTHER CONDITIONS OF THE MANUAL 2016 HAVING BEEN FULFILLED.

Kathleen Ballagh-Steeper
Sadekie Lyttle-Forbes

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Business continued as the tellers distributed, collected and tallied the ballots.

NOMINATIONS OPEN FOR GENERAL COUNCIL COMMISSIONERS

President Kenji Marui announced that the General Council Commissioner Nominations were now open and directed the court to the commissioner description found in the Delegate Handbook (Appendix I: p. 26). Cheryl-Ann Stadelbauer-Sampa explained the ballot, nominating and voting process to the court.

President Kenji Marui vacated the chair and Past-President Cathy Larmond assumed the role of presider.

Past-President Cathy Larmond invited the court to turn to page 27 in the Delegate Handbook (Appendix I). ***Dealing with Proposals*** outlines the method by which proposals are created, debated and discussed and ultimately decided; and page 30 contains the proposal under discussion, Proposal #2: Term of President and Past-President of 93rd Annual Meeting. This proposal extends the term of the President and Past-President to a 2-year duration, a one-year extension to the current model.

Motion **It was moved, seconded and carried that London Conference accept Proposal 2: Term of President and Past-President of 93rd Annual Meeting to extend the term of the President and Past-President from the rise of the 93rd Annual Meeting (May 2017) up to the rise of the 95th Annual Meeting (May 2019) or the cessation of London Conference, whichever comes first.**

FINANCIAL REVIEW 2016

Mary Anne Silverthorn, Chair of Finance and Administration, expressed thanks to financial administrator Krista Ford for her hard work, along with expressions of thanks to Tanya Cameron and Cheryl-Ann Stadelbauer-Sampa. Treasurer Brent Caslick provided a thorough recap of the 2016 financial year and confirmed that it is the London Conference Executive that approves the auditors each year.

APPLICANTS FOR ADMISSION

Kenji Marui announced the results of the ballot and reported that all applicants for admission had been approved therefore the motion **carried**.

Motion **It was moved, second and carried that the Admission ballots be destroyed.**

RIGHT RELATIONS

Carolyn Wilson-Wynne of the London Conference Right Relations Committee introduced the court to three women that have been instrumental to the education of the Right Relations committee and have also shared their stories throughout southwestern Ontario: Geraldine Robertson, Sylvia Deleary and Susie Jones. Carolyn screened a video of these three women's experiences in the Residential School system and invited the court to ponder and reflect within the theme of '***To Reconcile and Make New.***'

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On behalf of the Affirm Committee, Michelle Down spoke to the court of inclusion and acceptance and noted that for this 93rd meeting of London Conference, all bathrooms are gender-neutral bathrooms.

THEOLOGICAL REFLECTION AND VESPERS

President Kenji Marui introduced The Very Reverend Stan MacKay to the court, and offered a personal explanation of his long experience of Stan and the great affection Kenji has for him. Stan offered a reflection that identified a need to build the capacity to laugh in difficult moments, and to build the personal capacity to recognize deep humanity. He offered many examples of reconciliation and the music team provided us with song.

END OF SESSION 1

SESSION 2 – SATURDAY MORNING, MAY 27

The morning began outside with an early-morning First Nations smudging ritual, followed by music provided by Glenn Parsons and the music team with somber worship offered by The Very Reverend Stan McKay. He translated the words and explained the significance of a song sung by the Lakota as they were headed to the gallows.

THEME PRESENTATION WITH RYAN MCMAHON

Ryan McMahon is an Anishinaabe comedian, writer, media maker and community activator based out of Treaty #1 Territory in Winnipeg, Manitoba. His interaction with the London Conference delegates was linked to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Calls to Action for churches and faith groups. Effective use of table group time was enjoyed by the delegates as they could reflect and contribute thoughts and ideas to their group related to Ryan's address (Appendix II).

Motion It was moved and seconded that London Conference proposes that The Executive of General Council introduce mandatory qualifications for ministry personnel in a program,

“on the need to respect Indigenous spirituality in its own right, the history and legacy of residential schools and the roles of the church parties in that system, the history and legacy of church conflict in Aboriginal families and communities, and the responsibility that churches have to mitigate such conflicts and prevent spiritual violence” (TRC Call to Action #60);

this program to be developed in collaboration with indigenous spiritual leaders and residential school survivors.

Upon discussing this motion, the court was warm to keeping the word ‘qualifications’ and had several questions related to the motion: *What about changing to ‘training’ from ‘qualifications?’ How do we add something to this that transmits the genuine love and concern to journey in this? How do we make people care?*

There was general consensus to extend order of day.

Cheryl-Ann Stadelbauer-Sampa noted that the General Council will receive this proposal and craft and assign the work of the proposal to complete the practical side of this to best respond to the Call to Action. There is an expectation that Maggie McLeod, Executive Minister of the United Church’s Aboriginal Ministries Circle would be the recipient of this proposal if passed. The court was invited to trust that the fulfillment of this proposal will be completed well by General Council and that the motion itself is the essential ‘please do this work.’

Motion carried.

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Following a break and music, President Kenji Marui officially closed the nominations for General Council Commissioners.

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CELEBRATION LUNCHEON FOR RETIREES AND JUBILANDS

The recognition service for Retirees and Jubilands was organized by Cheryl-Ann Stadelbauer-Sampa and included guest preacher Rev. Maggie McLeod. The retirees were asked by President Kenji Marui to share their thoughts on the following: What is a notable instance of reconciliation that shaped your ministry? Their responses were read aloud to the court. Each retiree and jubiland was presented with a celebratory parchment commemorating their years in ministry. (Appendix III).

RETIREEES

Rev. SUZANNE E. EDGAR, BA, MDiv
Rev. KIM F. GILLILAND, BA, BTh, MA, MDiv, MTh
Rev. RICHARD D. HALL, BComm, MDiv
Rev. JAMES M. HATT, BA, DipDM
Rev. ROGER W. LANDELL, LTh
Rev. DEREK A. PARRY, MA, MDiv
Rev. LINDA A. STEMP, BA, MDiv
Rev. Dr. PAUL G. STEMP, MA, MDiv, MTh, DMin
Rev. CAROLYN WILSON WYNNE, DipCCS
Rev. JOSEPH WYNNE, BA, MDiv

JUBILANDS

Rev. MAURICE J. FRANCIS. BSc, MDiv – 50 YEARS
Rev. DONALD E. HANSFORD, BA, MDiv – 60 YEARS
Rev. GORDON G. PICKELL, BA, BD – 70 YEARS
Rev. Dr. DOUGLAS H. ROSS, BA, MDiv, MTh, PhD, DD – 60 YEARS
Rev. LEWIS SNOW, BA, MDiv – 65 YEARS
Rev. Dr. GLEN D. WRIGHT, BA, MDiv, DMin – 55 YEARS

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Both ministry personnel who have died and congregations who have ceased to exist were lovingly remembered in prayer.

Maggie McLeod offered grace.

END OF SESSION 2

SESSION 3 – SATURDAY AFTERNOON, MAY 27

Following gathering music provided by Glenn Parsons and the music team, President Kenji Marui and Cheryl-Ann Stadelbauer-Sampa explained the voting process for General Council Commissioners. The biographies for the categories of Youth, Young Adult, Racialized and Deaf nominees were distributed over lunch.

STEWARDSHIP PRESENTATION

Dave Jagger, Stewardship and Gifts Officer for Hamilton and London Conferences offered a presentation related to stewardship information with a focus on the 'CALLED TO BE THE CHURCH' Congregational Giving Program - Salt and Light 2016-2017.

BUDGET 2017/2018

Mary Anne Silverthorn and Brent Caslick provided background on how the budgeting process works

in London Conference.

There were many questions from the floor seeking clarification and rationale for funding choices including accessing the Archive Capital Fund. With the outcome of Remits having an impact on the London Conference staff, there were questions related to the process for severance of the staff. Cheryl-Ann Stadelbauer-Sampa explained the approach to this by the General Council Office taking care to note that it relies on the outcome of Remits and the subsequent choices regarding implementation of the same. The court was invited to turn to the Proposed 2018 Budget in the Delegate Handbook (Appendix I: p. 31).

Motion **It was moved, seconded and carried that the proposed budget for 2018 with the Conference assessment from Presbyteries of \$708,225 using 3% of Column 40 of The United Church of Canada Yearbook averaged over the three most recent years resulting in a deficit of \$53,422.**

UNITED CHURCH WOMEN

Sandra Stock sends her regrets, we wish her a speedy recovery from a bout of pneumonia. Pat Whitton is pleased to be here as her stand in.

This is the report of the United Church Women of London Conference who, in 2017, celebrate 55 years! All year long and especially from July 10th - 14th in Vancouver, British Columbia.

Celebrate good times, come on!

Collectively, United Church Women from across London Conference raised \$220,377 for Mission and Service in 2016. Nationally, the total was \$1,383,014.

Celebrate good times, come on!

United Church Women are avid supporters of church camps with scholarships offered as well as funding general up-keep.

Celebrate good times, come on!

Through the Medical Electives Overseas Program a Western (University) Ontario Medical student benefits from an annual scholarship in the name of The United Church Women of London Conference.

Celebrate good times, come on!

Linda Woods and Laurel Kenney took 107 Poverty Dolls to the Ontario Legislature, along with some United Church Women and General Council staff, in their fight against child poverty.

Celebrate good times, come on!

WICC, Women's Inter-Church Council, which produces the World Day of Prayer service held yearly, the first Friday of March, is supported by the United Church Women with national representation. United Church Women also assist local organization of these services.

Celebrate good times, come on!

These same women are leaders in Youth work, Right Relations with their Anishinaabe neighbours across Canada, Mission Support, Refugee Sponsorship as well as other Social Justice projects - all while supporting their local congregations.

Celebrate good times, come on!

Oh yes, and did I mention Worship Committee, Stewardship, Presbytery Representatives and Faith Development?

Celebrate good times, come on!

Authors, worship leaders, workshop leaders, did I miss anything? Likely! 'Cause there are lots of cookies here, right?

Celebrate good times, come on!

Amid changes, present and yet to come, in Christian Witness, Study, Fellowship and Service the United Church Women move on in faith, with courage and bountiful energy too!

Celebrate good times, come on!

SOCIAL JUSTICE

The Social Justice Division presented to the court on several topics including the debut of a video, '**Our Passion - Social Justice**,' commissioned by the division, found on the London Conference YouTube channel. Laurel Kenney and Linda Woods provided highlights of their '**Bread not Stones**' campaign with a focus to ending child poverty. Margaret Murray presented information related to the urgent issue of climate change. Curtis Marwood spoke on behalf of the United Network for a Just Peace in Palestine and Israel (UNJPPI) and extended an invitation to delegates to write notes (information found on tables) to make a large group impact to each delegate's local Member of Parliament.

Beth Baskin, the Church in Mission Program Coordinator, Social Analysis and Congregational Engagement – was introduced and shared with the court some of the initiatives that the General Council was focusing on.

YOUTH FORUM

Marilyn Arthur and those youth as voted to the role at the 2017 Youth Forum program gave a wonderful presentation to the court highlighting their experiences at Youth Forum and their current and future participation in the wider church. The youth opened with singing and responded to the Moderator Jordan Cantwell's question, "**What makes you salty?**," as challenged by Moderator Jordan Cantwell. They concluded their presentation with a video made at the 2017 Youth Forum weekend at Pearce-Williams United Church Christian Centre.

'FILL THE TUB FOR THE HUB' PRESENTATION

Melanie Kirk of St. Luke's United Church in Sarnia shared the ministry partnership between several local agencies to create '**The Hub**', hosted at St. Luke's United Church which provides services for at-risk youth, ages 16 – 24. This multi-agency partnership was made possible in part from a \$75,000 United Church Seeds of Hope grant and also from general donations from Mandaumin United Church and Lambton Presbytery.

The court began their '**Energizer Break**' and was reminded to check that their table group contained the correct and complete General Council commissioner biographies as described by Cheryl-Ann Stadelbauer-Sampa.

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST – #BLACK LIVES MATTER

Cheryl-Ann Stadelbauer-Sampa introduced the Rev. Dr. Renee Jackson of the United Church of Christ,

Michigan Conference. Renee presented on the United Church of Christ's efforts to 'live out the love of God justly by publicly saying #BlackLivesMatter.'

MINISTRY OF VOCATIONS

Laurie O'Leary, Chair of the London Conference Education and Students committee and Wendy Noble, Chair of the London Conference Internship and Educational Supervision committee introduced Rev. Lillian Roberts in her interim role as Minister, Vocations for London Conference.

AFFIRM UNITED

Members of the Affirm Task Group provided an update on their efforts of education and community building throughout London Conference – both at Presbytery-level and committee-level. There was table group time with the request to create a mission statement about Affirm United and becoming Affirming which would then be collected and presented to London Conference Executive.

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The tellers handed out the ballots for the Youth & Young Adult vote; Racialized and Deaf vote and collected the ballots from the tables when voting was complete.

STAFF SUPPORT

John Brown, Chair of the London Conference Staff Support Committee gave a lovely overview of all London Conference staff.

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Curtis Marwood declared a point of personal privilege to inform the court that a mass hunger strike by Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails concluded after 41 days as Israel offered a compromise deal to meet some of the strikers' demands.

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The tellers distributed all outstanding biographies.

THEOLOGICAL REFLECTION

The Very Rev. Stan McKay offered a theological reflection upon the day and provided grace for dinner.

END OF SESSION 3

SESSION 4 – SATURDAY EVENING, MAY 27

Delegates gathered for the *Celebration of Ministry* worship service at Calvary United Church in London. President Kenji Marui preached. Assisting in the service were Executive Secretary Cheryl-Ann Stadelbauer-Sampa and Olav Kitchen. The Calvary United Church Choir, led by Beth Parsons led the

congregation in hymns, anthems and responses.

At the ***Celebration of Ministry*** service, Sadekie Lyttle-Forbes and Kate Ballagh-Steeper were Admitted to the Order of Ministry of The United Church of Canada (Appendix IV: Celebration of Ministry).

END OF SESSION 4

SESSION 5 – SUNDAY MORNING, MAY 28

The Sunday morning session began outside with an early-morning First Nations smudging ritual, followed by music provided by Glenn Parsons and the music team. Delegates partook of brunch before resuming business.

GENERAL COUNCIL COMMISSIONERS BALLOT

President Kenji Marui left the chair and Past-President Cathy Larmond presided. Cheryl-Ann Stadelbauer-Sampa presented the results of the GC Commissioners vote (Appendix VI):

- Racialized and Deaf General Council ballot: **Sadekie Lyttle-Forbes, Kenji Marui**
- Youth - Under 19 ballot: **Ian MacGregor**
- Youth Ballot - ages 19 – 30: **Matthew Lindsay, Brie Wohlers**

President Kenji Marui resumed the chair. Cheryl-Ann Stadelbauer-Sampa read the names on the next round of ballots while the Tellers handed out the ballots in preparation for voting. The Tellers collected the ballots and tallied them while business resumed.

GENERAL COUNCIL EXECUTIVE UPDATE

Doug Wright and Wendy Brown provided a brief update to the court on the business of the General Council Executive (Appendix V: p. 7).

NOMINATIONS

Chuck Scott, Chair of London Conference Nominations Committee, presented the Nominations Report to the court (Appendix V: p. 18).

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

The Business Table reported that there were four proposals that had been submitted for consideration. In order to facilitate the discussion of these proposals in a timely fashion, it was:

- Motion** **It was moved, seconded and carried that London Conference will adopt the following to deal with remaining business:**
- a) **Up to 10 minutes will be devoted to each of the four proposals;**
 - b) **If the discussion is not finished by the end of 10 minutes, the President will**

- invite the court to use warm/cool cards to indicate if they are ready to vote;
- c) If the court is ready to vote, the vote will be taken;
- d) If the vote is not ready to be taken, the next proposal will be considered and the court will return to the uncompleted proposal if time allows;
- e) All unfinished business will be referred to the London Conference Executive.

SOCIAL JUSTICE PROPOSAL

Title: Jewish National Fund (JNF) Canada’s role in Israel’s fifty-year-long military occupation
Originating Body: Social Justice Division
Financial Implications: none
Staffing Implications: none

The Social Justice Committee of London Conference proposes that London Conference sign the attached letter (Appendix I: p. 32-34) which calls on the Government of Canada to:

1. Publicly condemn JNF Canada’s role in entrenching Israel’s fifty-year-long military occupation;
2. Ensure that Canadian taxpayers are no longer subsidizing these activities, which are making Canada complicit in violations of international law.

Motion It was moved, seconded and **carried** that London Conference approves the **Social Justice Division Proposal - JNF Canada’s role in Israel’s fifty-year-long military occupation.**

THEME SPEAKER COMPENSATION PROPOSAL

Title: Theme Speaker Compensation
Originating Body: London Conference
Financial Implications: Funds already budgeted
Staffing Implications: none
Source of Funding: Funding already designated

London Conference proposes that the 93rd Annual Meeting of London Conference pay the theme speaker the full amount that had been budgeted for the Annual Meeting theme speaker.

There was much discussion of the proposal but as no motion was made, the court agreed to defer consideration of this proposal as the 10-minute timeline allotted for discussion was reached.

INDIGENOUS AWARENESS PROPOSAL

Title: Indigenous Awareness for Youth Forum and Children At Conference
Originating Body: London Conference Youth Forum
Financial Implications: unknown
Staffing Implications: unknown
Source of Funding: unknown

London Conference proposes that the Faith Formation Committee respond to the Truth and

Reconciliation Commission (TRC) Call to Action #60 and introduce indigenous awareness programming for Youth Forum and Children At Conference, developed in collaboration with Indigenous spiritual leaders and residential school Survivors.

The court engaged in discussion related to expanding the programming beyond Children At Conference and Youth Forum to offer at other times during the year. There was a friendly addition of 'ongoing' to the proposal.

Motion It was moved, seconded and carried that London Conference approves the London Conference Youth Forum Proposal: Indigenous Awareness for Youth Forum and Children At Conference with the addition of 'ongoing.'

INDIGENOUS AWARENESS FOR OUTDOOR MINISTRIES PROPOSAL

Title: Indigenous Awareness for Outdoor Ministries
Originating Body: London Conference Youth Forum
Financial Implications: unknown
Staffing Implications: unknown
Source of Funding: unknown

London Conference proposes that the Incorporated Ministries Committee respond to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) Call to Action #60 and encourage our camping and outdoor incorporated ministry partners to introduce indigenous awareness programming for summer camps and outdoor ministry programs, developed in collaboration with indigenous spiritual leaders and residential school Survivors.

The delegates indicated they were 'warm' to adding the 'Camping Ministries Network' as a body in addition to the Incorporating Ministries Committee, and adding 'ongoing' to indigenous awareness.

Motion It was moved, seconded and carried to approve the proposal, Indigenous Awareness for Outdoor Ministries.

* * * * *

The court returned to discussion of the Theme Speaker Compensation proposal. Many people attended the microphone to express their support and/or modifications to the proposal. Some expressed the compensation as a justice issue with many ideas about what to do.

Motion It was moved and seconded and defeated that the 93rd Annual Meeting (2017) of London Conference pay the theme speaker that amount negotiated for original contract with the National Speakers Bureau for the Annual Meeting theme speaker.

* * * * *

Sheila Macgregor of Middlesex Presbytery offered an expression of thanks and appreciation to outgoing President Kenji Marui. Kenji then offered his own appreciation of gratitude to the London Conference Executive and the Conference Staff.

PLANNING COMMITTEE

Motion It was moved, seconded and carried that the following be the members of the Planning Committee for the next Annual Meeting: Past President (Chair), President, President Elect, Registrar, Executive Secretary, Chair of the Worship Sub-Committee, Chair of Local Arrangements, and that the Planning Committee have power to add.

David Whiting and Nancy Hind extended an invitation to the 94th Annual Meeting, 2018 hosted by Middlesex Presbytery.

SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP

Cheryl-Ann Stadelbauer-Sampa and Kenji Marui installed Joyce Payne as the 2017-2018 London Conference President, entering into a covenant between Joyce and London Conference. Joyce's family and friends participated in a laying-on of hands and she was presented with the symbols associated with the Office of the President including the traditional stole, cane and gavel. Following installation, Joyce introduced her theme for the upcoming year, '*Bloom Where You are Planted*,' and concluded with a celebration of communion.

* * * * *

Ian MacGregor was installed as the Chair of Youth Forum.

BLESSING OF THE LONDON CONFERENCE EXECUTIVE

Joyce Payne facilitated the commitment ceremony with the London Conference Executive and repeated the affirmation with the full court and the London Conference Executive.

Motion It was moved, seconded and carried that the powers of London Conference be given to the Executive in accordance with The Manual of The United Church of Canada.

GENERAL COUNCIL COMMISSIONERS

Cheryl-Ann Stadelbauer-Sampa announced the remaining results of the General Council Commissioners ballot (Appendix VI):

Acclaimed

Algoma Presbytery, Ministry Personnel

Elgin Presbytery, Lay Representative

Elgin Presbytery, Ministry Personnel

Huron-Perth Presbytery, Ministry Personnel

Erasmus Madimbu

Charles McMillan

Greg Simpson

Kathy Douglas

Reserved for 2018 (no nominees in 2017)

Algoma Presbytery, Lay Delegate

Kent Presbytery, Lay Delegate

Reserved for 2018 Opening Motions

1 - Under-19 for Youth Forum Pilgrim

1 - Lay Representative

1 - Ministry Personnel

1 – Additional Position

* * * * *

The service ended with a prayer in which President Joyce Payne closed the Annual Meeting with the words:

“In the name of Jesus Christ, the one true Head of the Church, and by the authority vested in me by London Conference, I do now declare the sessions of the 93rd Annual Meeting of London Conference closed and I direct that Conference shall be called to meet in accordance with the law of the Church at a time and place to be decided by the London Conference Executive.”

END OF SESSION 5

APPENDIX VII

PRESIDENT OF LONDON CONFERENCE

Joyce Payne



Joyce Payne was born and raised in London, Ontario, and throughout all her life has been a dedicated volunteer to the church. Joyce grew up in Empress United Church and has also been active in Kilworth United Church, Dundas Street Centre United Church and now First-St. Andrews United Church, all in the London area.

Joyce's commitment and passion is for social justice. For many years, she has supported local politics for candidates that named social justice and equality as major components of their campaigns. Within the church, Joyce lived her theology by leading out-of-the-cold meal teams for over a decade at Dundas Street Centre United Church, and spent her holidays offering Vacation Bible School programs at Kilworth and Delaware United Churches. Joyce was a trained Licensed Lay Worship

Leader for 30 years and was a favoured preacher throughout Middlesex Presbytery.

Joyce retired from her work as a Distribution Analyst at 3M and Imation after 38 years in 2007 and immediately started her full-time volunteer position as the Chair of the Pastoral Relations Committee for Middlesex Presbytery.

Joyce has a deep faith and strong ethical commitments. Her unwavering commitment to God allowed her to hear the call to her current volunteer role as President of London Conference. Throughout her presidency she will be encouraging individuals, congregations and Presbyteries to ***Bloom Where You are Planted***, following the inspiration in 2 Timothy. Joyce has been able to do this successfully throughout her life – even when adversity was obvious. She has believed in and followed the call of the God who says in 2 Timothy 2:

“Be the kind of container God can use to present any and every kind of gift to God's guests for their blessing.”

notes, questions, thoughts, important, remember, contacts, ask,

notes, questions, thoughts, important, remember, contacts, ask,

ANNUAL MEETINGS OF LONDON CONFERENCE

		<u>PRESIDENT</u>	<u>SECRETARY</u>
1972	London (Westminster College & Centennial Hall)	Rev. J.F. McKay	Mr. Neil Campbell
1973	Windsor (Univ. of Windsor)	Rev. F.M. Faist	Mr. D.A. Fisher
1974	London (Univ. of Western Ontario)	Rev. A.D. Churchill	Mr. D.A. Fisher
1975	Windsor (Univ. of Windsor)	Rev. W.B. Crowe	Mr. D.A. Fisher
1976	Windsor (Univ. of Windsor)	Rev. R.T. Hunt	Mrs. Anne Egilsson
1977	Sarnia (Canterbury Inn)	Rev. A.C. Moorehouse	Rev. L.T.C. Harbour
1978	Windsor (Univ. of Windsor)	Mrs. Anne Egilsson	Rev. L.T.C. Harbour
1979	Sault Ste. Marie (Central)	Rev. D.H. Ross	Rev. L.T.C. Harbour
1980	London (Wesley-Knox)	Rev. W.A. Sayers	Rev. L.T.C. Harbour
1981	Chatham (Park St.)	Rev. D.S. Mannell	Rev. L.T.C. Harbour
1982	Stratford (Central)	Rev. L. Snow	Rev. L.T.C. Harbour
1983	Woodstock (Central)	Rev. C.J. Holbrough	Rev. L.T.C. Harbour
1984	St. Thomas (Alma College)	Rev. N.S. Gibson	Rev. E.L. LeDrew
1985	Leamington (Leamington United)	Mr. John A. King	Dr. D.H. Ross
1986	Sarnia (Central)	Rev. Morley G. Clarke	Dr. D.H. Ross
1987	Sault Ste. Marie (Central)	Rev. M.E. Chapman	Dr. D.H. Ross
1988	London (Wesley-Knox)	Rev. W. Peter Scott	Dr. D.H. Ross
1989	Tillsonburg (Community Centre)	Rev. William Steadman	Dr. D.H. Ross
1990	Huron Park (Centralia College)	Mrs. Shirley Smith	Dr. D.H. Ross
1991	Ridgetown (Agricultural College)	Dr. George Harvey	Dr. D.H. Ross
1992	St. Thomas (Alma College)	Rev. David Carrothers	Dr. D.H. Ross
1993	Windsor (Place Concorde)	Rev. Cheryl-Ann Stadelbauer-Sampa	Rev. W. Peter Scott
1994	Forest (Forest Arena)	Mrs. Sheila Duffin	Rev. W. Peter Scott
1995	Sault Ste. Marie (Ramada Inn)	Rev. Richard Hawley	Rev. W. Peter Scott
1996	London (First-St. Andrew's)	Rev. Richard Hawley	Rev. W. Peter Scott
1997	Woodstock (Community Complex)	Mrs. Celia Orth	Mr. W. Peter Scott
1998	Huron Park (Centralia International Academy)	Rev. David Woodall	Mr. W. Peter Scott
1999	Ridgetown (East Kent Memorial Arena)	Rev. Anne Beattie-Stokes	Mr. W. Peter Scott
2000	London (Hellenic Community Centre)	Rev. Heather McLean	Mr. W. Peter Scott
2001	Windsor (Hellenic Banquet Hall)	Rev. John Brown	Mr. W. Peter Scott
2002	Brigden (Fairgrounds)	Rev. Kirby Breithaupt	Mr. W. Peter Scott
2003	Sault Ste. Marie (Best Western)	Rev. Richard Bott	Mr. W. Peter Scott
2004	London (Hellenic Community Centre)	Mrs. Marilyn Hart	Mr. W. Peter Scott
2005	London (Hellenic Community Centre)	Rev. Donna Bowman-Woodall	Mr. W. Peter Scott
2006	Mitchell (Mitchell Community Centre)	Rev. E. Bruce Cook	Mr. W. Peter Scott
2007	Ridgetown (Ridgetown College)	Rev. E. Bruce Cook	Rev. David J. Woodall
2008	Aylmer (East Elgin Community Complex)	Rev. Susan H. Cameron	Rev. David J. Woodall
2009	Windsor (Hellenic Banquet Hall)	Rev. Douglas J. Wright	Rev. David J. Woodall
2010	London (Hellenic Community Centre)	Rev. Maya Landell	Rev. Heather McLean
2011	Sault Ste. Marie (Comfort Suites)	Rev. Gary Clark	Rev. Heather McLean
2012	London (Hellenic Community Centre)	Rev. Paul Browning	Rev. Cheryl-Ann Stadelbauer-Sampa
2013	London (Hellenic Community Centre)	Rev. Philip Newman	Rev. Cheryl-Ann Stadelbauer-Sampa
2014	London (Hellenic Community Centre)	Rev. Dr. Jeffrey Crittenden	Rev. Cheryl-Ann Stadelbauer-Sampa
2015	London (Hellenic Community Centre)	Rev. Catherine Larmond	Rev. Cheryl-Ann Stadelbauer-Sampa
2016	London (Hellenic Community Centre)	Rev. Kenji Marui	Rev. Cheryl-Ann Stadelbauer-Sampa
2017	London (Greek Canadian Community)	Ms. Joyce Payne	Rev. Cheryl-Ann Stadelbauer-Sampa



London Conference

of The United Church of Canada



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