

ALGOMA PRESBYTERY
of The United Church of Canada

April 15 and 16, 2011

PRESBYTERY MEETING

2010-2011

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The full court of Algoma Presbytery met on Friday, April 15 and Saturday, April 16, 2011 at Goulais River United Church, Goulais, beginning at 5:30 p.m. on Friday. Chair Nancy Ferguson led the meeting and a quorum was present.

ATTENDANCE

Order of Ministry: Nancy Ferguson, Rolly MacLean, Thom McDonough, Rolly MacLean, Bruce McLeish, Janet Norman, Eun-Joo Park, John Porter, Betty Pretty, Bonnie Rayner, Jan Schenell, Helen Smith, Doreen Sproule, Linda Stemp, Paul Stemp, Don White

Laity: Betty Allen, Bonnie Beaupré, Joyce Biggs, Kim Evoy, Leone Hamilton, Bonnie Johnson, Janet Jones, Bonnie Kirk, Sharon Lane, Verna Lapish, Lavine Livesey, Diane Marshall, Marnie McDonough, Brian Mundell, Nancy Mundell, Wilma Oliver, Norma Orr, Tom Orr, David Root, Heddys Stevenson, Clare Walker, Ailsa Hanson

Regrets: Fred Bright, Larry Burton, Lorna Chiupka, Barbara Frasier, Sandy Fulcher, Jane Graham, Aileen Hadden, Linda Hedderson, Robin MacLeod, Rhona McLarty, Laurie Milito, Phil Miller, Betty Mills, Clare Weatherby

Guests: Judi McLeish, Wilda Ryckman, Barb White

WELCOME

At 5:30 p.m., Chair Nancy Ferguson welcomed everyone to the gathering with various housekeeping notes (e.g. "If you are a Presbyter, you are also a member of your church Council or Board, and you are responsible for taking notes at Presbytery meetings and reporting back to your congregations."), and Thom McDonough welcomed all to the church at Goulais. He offered a prayer of thanks and grace for the meal which was to come ... soon, and Nancy introduced new Presbyter Bonnie Kirk from Desbarats United Church, and guests Wilda Ryckman and Barb White. The Chair then called the meeting to order with the following words: *"In the name of Jesus Christ, the one true Head of the Church, and by the authority vested in me as Algoma Presbytery Chair, I now declare this meeting constituted for the transaction of such business as may properly come before it."* (The Court proceeded with business until dinner was called, and then all enjoyed table fellowship and 'roasted' retiree Bruce McLeish.)

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

There was consensus that the agenda be adopted as printed and amended. (The Faith Formation and Communications report was moved to precede the Nominations report. The Chair will be speaking to the Chaplaincy issue, and the Handbook for Presbyters was added to New Business, along with the Rendez-Vous Challenge.)

MINUTES

Moved, seconded and carried that the Presbytery minutes of February 18 and 19, 2011 be approved as amended (Rev. Phil Miller should not have been listed as a 'guest'), and the Presbytery Executive minutes of January 20, 2011 be received for information.

CORRESPONDENCE

In accordance with Peter Kingsbury's e-mail of March 18, 2011, the names of Rev. Linda Stemp and Rev. Paul Stemp were read and recorded as having participated in an on-line Racial Justice Training workshop.

Moved, seconded and carried that the correspondence be accepted as dealt with. (See Appendix A.)

CONFERENCE LOCAL ARRANGEMENTS REPORT: Janet Norman

Volunteers are still needed to provide information/hospitality to those attending the Annual Meeting of London Conference and anyone willing to act as a host was asked to pick up a hardhat. The hats will provide immediate visual cues as to who can provide assistance. Help is also needed for decorating on Thursday, and for cleaning up at Camp McDougall. Presbyters were encouraged to call Janet either to volunteer or to check what they had signed up for. Helen Smith asked for the loan of communion sets (preferably pottery).

CONFERENCE BOUNDARIES DISCUSSION: Nancy Ferguson

Presbyters had either not had the opportunity to discuss Presbytery's strengths and challenges with their congregations, or had had no response to their requests for feedback. During discussion, the following points were agreed:

- some congregations don't know who they are nor what their missions are, and are struggling to stay open;
- congregations are not sure of their own strengths and challenges, needs and priorities;
- the relationship between Presbytery and some pastoral charges is weak and/or unhappy, and communication needs to be strengthened;
- education needs to happen in congregations about the role and work of Presbytery and Conference;
- when we say 'Presbytery', we're talking about all of the Court, our meetings, and the congregations that make up the Algoma community;
- determination of which Conference Algoma fits best with should be an intentional process that should not be hurried;
- Thom McDonough will prepare a short document for Presbyters that can be used as a discussion starting point in congregations around their own strengths and challenges, needs and priorities;
- Presbyters will take the next few months to work with their pastoral charges and bring information to the September full court meeting.

GC40 STATEMENT ON MINISTRY: Doreen Sproule

Doreen distributed a summary that she had prepared of the five-page document. The group was split up by designation (lay, ordained and diaconal ministers, designated lay ministers) and asked to discuss the document, then the groups were shuffled to include some of each designation, and then all were brought together for discussion.

The points made included:

- the conversations were painful;
- it was good to see acknowledgement of the importance of lay ministry;
- the 'priestly' function of the ordained and diaconal ministries needs to be 'teased out' more;
- the document didn't define order of ministry and designated lay ministers enough as people;
- inclusion of designated lay ministry seems to be an 'add-on' and because DLM appointments are so varied across the country, they are difficult to define;
- there was confusion, particularly amongst the laity, around the statement "The ministry and discipleship of all is also reflected in the conciliar structures of the church conferring power and authority in all matters equally to lay and ordered members of the church."
- some clergy feel that they are not honoured at all within the church and that the church of the future has to ask itself whether it really needs the religious specialist any more;
- some churches want more educated clergy;
- the document doesn't reflect the reality of where the church is and where it is going;
- the document seems to be descriptive and does not include function;
- the document seems to be describing the current condition, and Presbyters felt they could not answer the question, "In what ways does this statement serve the future needs of ministry in The United Church of Canada?"

WORSHIP AND COMMUNION (Saturday)

Incorporating scripture, hymns and a choir anthem, Thom McDonough led the court in a celebration of communion.

COMMITTEE SUMMARY REPORTS AND MOTIONS

Education and Students Committee: Helen Smith

- The Discernment Committee for Andrew Muncaster has met twice, and the process is going well.
- In June, the Education and Students Committee, along with Larry Burton and Janet Norman, will meet with those participants of the Licensed Lay Worship Leader training who want to be licensed. A service of recognition will be held at the September meeting of the full court for (potentially) nine new licenced lay worship leaders.

Finance and Administration: Fred Bright – no report

Outreach: Heddys Stevenson

- The court was asked to remember in prayer all those affected by the tsunamis, earthquakes and floods in Japan, Haiti, Australia and New Zealand.
- Don Gibson and Rev. Deborah Elliott will be speaking at John Wesley United Church in Sault Ste. Marie on May 30 and at Echo Bay United on May 31, so Presbyters were invited to attend one of those events.
- Heddys shared with the court the short article written by the Chair of Kent Presbytery in response to the question, "What's the point of Presbytery?"

Pastoral Care and Oversight: Rolly MacLean

- More information will follow about a workshop in the fall with Rev. Judith Gilliland, London Conference.
- Two pastoral oversight visits will be scheduled in June, one at East Korah Maxwell and one at Emmanuel United.
- Thanks were extended to those pastoral charges who have submitted their Annual Reports; comments will be made and shared with the congregations as the reports are reviewed.
- Betty Allen and Wilma Oliver will be joining the Pastoral Care and Oversight Committee.

Pastoral Relations: Leone Hamilton

- **Moved, seconded and carried** that Algoma Presbytery accept the Joint Needs Assessment Committee Report of Willowgrove Pastoral Charge as presented.
- **Moved, seconded and carried** that Algoma Presbytery declare a vacancy at Willowgrove Pastoral Charge effective May 1, 2011 for the purpose of calling a full-time (40 hours) ordained, diaconal or designated lay ministry person to begin as soon as possible.
- **Moved, seconded and carried** that, pending Admission to The United Church of Canada, Algoma Presbytery call Rev. Eun-Joo Park (Ordained) to serve St. Joseph Island Pastoral Charge effective August 1, 2011 under the following terms and conditions:

Full-time	40 hours
Salary	\$36,617 (Category D)
Cost of Heating	12,000
Telephone	600
Study/books	<u>1,250</u>
Total	\$50,467

Vacation as per UC policy

Travel as logged as per UC policy

(There was one declaration of conflict.)

- **Moved, seconded and carried** that, pending Admission to The United Church of Canada, Algoma Presbytery appoint Rev. Dr. John Porter (Ordained) to serve Thessalon Pastoral Charge from July 1, 2011 to June 30, 2012 under the following terms and conditions:

Full-time	40 hours
Salary	\$39,519 (F)
Housing	12,000
Study/books	<u>1,250</u>
Total	\$52,769

Vacation as per UC policy

Telephone costs paid

Travel as logged as per UC policy (41¢ per km)

(There was one declaration of conflict.)

- **Moved, seconded and carried** that Algoma Presbytery call Rev. Dr. Paul Stemp (Ordained) to serve Blind River Pastoral Charge effective July 1, 2011 under the following terms and conditions:

Part-time	27 hours
Salary	\$27,000 (F)
Housing	8,000
Telephone	400
Study/books	<u>840</u>
Total	\$36,240

Vacation as per UC policy

Travel as logged as per UC policy

- **Moved, seconded and carried** that Algoma Presbytery call Rev. Linda Stemp (Ordained) to serve Iron Bridge Pastoral Charge effective July 1, 2011 under the following terms and conditions:

Part-time	20 hours
Salary	\$20,000 (F)
Housing	6,000
Telephone	300
Study/books	<u>625</u>
Total	\$26,925

Vacation as per UC policy

Travel as logged as per UC policy

- Algoma Presbytery has not received any communication from Rev. Norine St. Jean regarding her retention on the roll in accordance with Section 314 of *The Manual 2010*, and the court directed the Chair to consult with Rev. Peter Kingsbury at London Conference about any necessary action on the part of Presbytery. If action is required before the 2011 AGM of London Conference, the Chair will call a meeting of the Presbytery Executive.
- Willowgrove United Church had asked whether their Presbytery Representatives could act as Pastoral Charge Supervisor in the absence of a clergy person. They had been advised by the Pastoral Relations Committee that this would not be in compliance with the Manual, and this was further confirmed by Rev. Peter Kingsbury at London Conference. Accordingly, the Pastoral Relations Committee will be appointing someone outside the Willowgrove congregation to fill that role.

Faith Formation and Communications: Eun-Joo Park

- There will be another learning event with Rev. Dr. Kempton Hewitt at Desbarats United Church. This year, the workshop will be held June 29 from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. and the subject will be Mark's gospel. Registration will again be \$50 for lunch and materials, and there is financial assistance available through Christian Development. The event is open to all within the Presbytery, and there will be an invitation extended to clergy from other denominations. Registration forms will be available soon, and should be returned to Eun-Joo.

- Preparations are underway for a Confirmation Camp to be held at Camp McDougall in early September for youth ages 14 and up. Young people will come together to study, and go back to be confirmed in their own congregations. David Root will be responsible for the program; names should be submitted to him. More information will be sent out shortly.
- The deadline for registration for Children at Conference is April 20. There is financial assistance available through Christian Development (Norma Orr).

Nominations: Helen Smith

- **Moved, seconded and carried** that Wilda Ryckman be made a Member-at-Large of Algoma Presbytery.
- **Moved, seconded and carried** that Wilda Ryckman be named to the position of Chair-Elect of Algoma Presbytery at the rise of Conference 2012. (There was one declaration of conflict.)
- **Moved, seconded and carried** that Leone Hamilton's resignation from the Pastoral Relations Committee and from the position of its Chair be accepted with deep regret and profound thanks. (There was one declaration of conflict.)
- **Moved, seconded and carried** that Brian Mundell be named as Chair of the Pastoral Relations Committee effective June 1, 2011. (There was one declaration of conflict.)
- There are still no names to be brought forward for the position of Treasurer.
- Nancy will be bringing some information to the June Executive meeting regarding the Church Extension Council. Don White expressed an interest in serving on the Council.

Moved, seconded and carried that Algoma Presbytery accept all Committee reports.

CHAPLAINCY/PASTORAL CARE AT SAH: Nancy Ferguson

Nancy brought the court up-to-date on the events that had transpired since the concern was initially raised in the court. After writing the hospital about spiritual care at SAH and learning that spiritual support services are now being solely funded by the Bethel Bible Chapel in an open-ended contract, Nancy and Larry Burton met with Jane Sippell, the Director of Mental Health and Addictions. They underlined problems with lack of communication, consultation, accountability, oversight, liability, and pointed out the vital distinction between ecumenical and multi-faith. Other faith communities (Roman Catholic, Anglican and Jewish) are also concerned enough that they want to have input in discussions in some significant way; a meeting with representatives from all the faith traditions is being arranged for mid-May. In the meantime, Nancy has requested a copy of the policies and procedures under which the SAH staff are continuing to work, along with information about the cost of the current spiritual care program. The court affirmed the importance of these on-going discussions, and asked Nancy and Larry, in consultation with Eun-Joo Park and Bruce McLeish, to pursue the matter. Nancy will write a formal letter of concern to the Hospital Administration and Board, pointing out the importance of clinical pastoral training. Presbyters were reminded to ensure their families and neighbours notify their ministers if a loved one is admitted to hospital.

UCW REPORT: Marnie McDonough

(See Appendix B.)

CAMP MCDOUGALL UPDATE: John Porter

Three new volunteers have come forward to join the Camp Board. Advocates are still needed within congregations, talking to families about camping. Five cabins have been adopted to date. A poster has been circulated to Presbyters via e-mail (and is available in hard copy) with the camp work dates for spring clean-up – most Saturdays in May and the first in June. May 21 has been specifically highlighted as the date for those who have sponsored cabins but John will arrange access for any group wanting to go in during the week. A treasurer for the Board has been found, but there are still openings for a cook and two male counselors. A camp “wish list” will be sent out to Presbyters.

NEW BUSINESS

1. **Rendez-vous 2011 Challenge from Melodie Mui** – After consideration and some discussion, it was agreed that Algoma will not contribute to the national travel fund at this time. It was noted, however, that there are learning grants and some Christian Development money available for young people from Algoma wishing to attend Rendez-vous.
2. **Presbytery Handbook** – Thanks were expressed to Thom and Marnie McDonough for their ongoing work on the handbook. Twenty copies of the second draft were available for pick-up, and it will be put on the website. Feedback has been sent to the McDonoughs and the other point raised during the meeting was the absence of information about the duties and responsibilities of the Presbytery committees. Those will be included.
3. **London Conference Executive Meeting Highlights** – Nancy shared points from the Highlights document that was sent out the previous evening. (See Appendix C.)
4. **Conference Ministry, Annual Meetings and Ministry Funding** – This document was also forwarded from Conference the previous evening, and will be sent to Presbyters for review. (See Appendix D.)
5. **Thank You** – As this is Nancy Ferguson’s last full court meeting as Chair, Janet Norman expressed sincere thanks to Nancy on behalf of all Presbyters for her incredible contribution over the past two difficult years.
6. **Resignation** – Nancy Mundell announced her resignation from her position as Chair of Christian Development and from Presbytery as a Member-at-Large, and thanks were also extended to her for her service.
7. **Moved, seconded and carried** that Nancy Mundell, Wayne MacLean and Ailsa Hanson be named as Members-at-Large to the 2011 Annual Meeting of London Conference, with the possibility of adding other interested people to a maximum of 10. (Harry Stewart has since expressed his desire to attend.)
8. **Reception for Joy McPhee** – Presbyters were invited to attend a service and reception on May 1 at Central United Church, recognizing Joy McPhee.
9. **Pet Blessing** – Betty Pretty invited folks to attend the annual pet blessing service at 2:30 p.m. on May 14 at the Humane Society.

CLOSING

- **Moved, seconded and carried** that the powers of Presbytery be extended to the Executive until the next full meeting.
- **Moved, seconded and carried** that the meeting of Algoma Presbytery adjourn at 12:13 p.m.

Thanks were extended to Thom McDonough and the folks at Goulais River United Church who provided such gracious hospitality over the weekend. Good wishes for a safe and successful journey were expressed to the McDonoughs for their summer pilgrimage.

Thom led the court in a closing prayer and grace, giving thanks for the opportunities we have to serve God and one another.

NEXT MEETINGS:

The next meeting of Algoma Presbytery will take place September 16 and 17, 2011 at Emmanuel United Church in Sault Ste. Marie.

The next meeting of the Presbytery Executive will take place June 23 at noon at St. Andrew's United Church in Sault Ste. Marie.

Nancy Ferguson, Chair

Ailsa Hanson, Secretary

Appendix A **CORRESPONDENCE** *Received since March 17, 2011*

From	Topic	Action
London Conference	London Conference Bridge	To April Presbytery
Peter Kingsbury	Racial Justice Training	For recording in April Pres. Minutes, cc to Pastoral Relations
Tom Broadhurst	2010 Stat Forms Returns	Forwarded to pastoral charges with outstanding reports
Melodie Mui, Leadership Development	North Bay Presbytery challenge re. Rendez-vous 2011	To Finance & Admin. and Faith Formation, then to April Presbytery
General Council Office	Draft Statement on Ministry	To April Presbytery
Leone Hamilton	Resignation from Pastoral Relations Committee	To Nominations Committee and April Presbytery
Peter Kingsbury	Change of Police Records Check Policy	To Presbyters for sharing with Ministry & Personnel Committees

ALGOMA PRESBYTERIAL UCW REPORT TO PRESBYTERY APRIL 16, 2011

Algoma holds 4 Gatherings per year, rotating to the various churches for hosting. Our annual meeting was held in March with just over 50 women in attendance. We held a candle-lit memorial service for 29 UCW women who had passed away in 2010. We were able to donate the offering of \$555.50 to our guests from the Sault's Soup Kitchen Community Centre. The women really responded to their self-written and performed play "In My Shoes".

Our next gathering is Sat. May 7th at Desbarats United Church, with Cloudslee providing worship. The guest speaker is double-lung transplant recipient Christina Foster, who lives in the Sault. She will be speaking about her successful transplant, life since, and the Trillium Gift for Life organ and tissue donation program. All women are welcome - you don't have to be a member of UCW to attend any of our gatherings, but you do have to pre-register if you want to get fed!

Three women from Algoma are on the London Conference Executive, with Clare Walker as First Vice President and Heddys Stevenson as World Outreach Committee Chair, plus myself representing Algoma (1 of 8 Presbyterials). Our local Executive is missing only one position-Vice President. We will host the Annual London Conference UCW meeting in Algoma in April 2015, during Clare's term as President.

There are currently 14 UCW units in Algoma, (8 churches without), with 302 members registered. The budget for 2011 is \$4,739.00. We were one of the very few Presbyterials that added a unit (Iron Bridge) last year, as many others are closing. We made donations of \$1,000 each to the relief efforts in Haiti and Pakistan through the WDR fund. We also supported the national UCW communications strategy effort so we might be better informed of our work, programs and events. (\$300)

The M&S UCW goal for Algoma last year was to raise \$12,700, which was surpassed, with a total of \$17, 573 raised, as per Jan. 21, 2011 London Conference M&S Fund statement. Congratulations to all those who support the UCW work in their congregations and communities. Fundraising in local congregations is a major activity of the UCWs. UCWs are reminded to ensure funds to top up their congregation's M&S givings are credited to the UCW so that we might get a real sense of the national UCW support.

2012 marks the 50th Anniversary of UCW. The national celebration conference will be held in Ancaster, in Hamilton Conference, July 23-27. At least 3 Algoma women have registered already. Limits are set by Conference so that there is fair opportunity for UCW members from across the country to attend. (45th was in Cornerbrook, NF and sold out quickly.) A goal is set to raise \$50,000 nationally for an anniversary gift to M&S for the Morogoro Women's Training Centre in Tanzania to train 250 maternal health care workers per year over 3 years. Total cost would

be \$528,000 for the full 3-year training program. Fundraising ideas will be shared at our next local Gathering.

Preparations for London Conference's Annual meeting May 27-29 are well in hand. Units have been donating cloth serviettes and are taste testing cookies now. (gluten-free and diabetic as well as nut-free-aware). Scheduling of workers for break preparation will be completed soon.

Marnie McDonough, President
Algoma UCW Presbyterial

Appendix C

What's Going On in Conference!

Annual Meeting: 217 registered (82 registered at this time in 2010)

Youth Forum: 168 participants including leaders

Children at Conference: 15 registered so far

Pancake Lunch at the Office: Successful and yummy!

Presbyteries & Congregational Future Development Series: Middlesex, Lambton, and Essex

People in Partnership: Cuban exchange this summer to Pearce Williams and Bimini Camps

Moderator's Visit

<http://www.united-church.ca/getinvolved/events/spirit-express>

The Moderator's Visit Task Group for London Conference would like to celebrate that our Moderator Mardi Tindal will be in London Conference from October 18th through to Sunday October 23rd, 2011. The Moderator has expressed a desire to use the train as much as possible and that we show off how our congregations are Greening our spaces and the world in which we live.

The task group has planned that the Moderator visit us on the following days and we invite each Presbytery to use their time with the Moderator as they see fit. Some events just seem to make sense; for example, the train from Sarnia to London leaves at 6:22 am. and arrives in London at 7:34am so Middlesex may choose to host a Breakfast for her. If you would like some ideas for your presbytery please let us know, but you know better than us the

greening projects and efforts of the congregations in your Presbytery. Be creative!

October 18th:

Train leaves Toronto at 10:55 and arrives in Stratford at 13:11. (Huron-Perth and Oxford)

October 19th:

Train leaves Stratford at 13:13 and arrives in Sarnia at 15:28 (Lambton)

October 20th:

Train leaves Sarnia at 6:22 and arrives in London at 7:34 (Middlesex and Elgin) *or* Middlesex could opt for the Moderator arriving at 19:56 from Sarnia.

October 21st:

Train leaves London at 10:06 and arrives in Chatham at 11:09 (Kent) *or* Kent could opt for the Moderator arriving at 15:05.

October 22nd:

Train leaves Chatham at 11:11 arrives in Windsor at 11:53 (Windsor) *or* Windsor could have the Moderator arrive at 15:51.

October 23rd:

The Moderator would leave Windsor at 13:21 (perhaps 17:30 but this has to be negotiated). Harrow United has asked if the Moderator would come to their church for the Sunday Service.

I pray that this is enough information to get each Presbytery planning. Let us know as your plans take shape so that the Conference can share in your excitement and so we can have a list of contact people in each Presbytery who will be the host. Items to consider:

- Who will be greeting her at the stations?
- Do you have someone who will be acting as a chauffeur?
- Where will the Moderator eat? Spend the night?
- What activities will the Moderator participate in during her visit?

Please submit your finalized plans regarding the Moderator's activities while she is in your presbytery to Gary Clark by Sept 9, 2011 in time for the September executive meeting.

Peace, The Moderator's Visit Task Group for London Conference

Division of Mission in Canada

The Division of Mission in Canada - Planning Budget and Support Committee seeks "To support growth and transformation in Presbyteries and

Congregations by encouraging, educating and challenging.” Following are some highlights of its meeting on April 6, 2011.

- A presentation was made by the Youth and Young Adult Network to Huron-Perth Presbytery’s meeting, using a video resource developed in December 2010. We hope to expand and refine that resource by gathering further material and footage at the upcoming Youth Forum event.
- We are waiting further input from a consultant working with Algoma Presbytery who had expressed concerns about the “Welcoming Congregations” resource (responding to the first phase, “Customer Service” of the government’s Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act). Until we hear otherwise, we don’t see harm in proceeding with the material as circulated.
- Working with the Division of World Outreach to present a session at the Annual General Meeting of Conference on “Revitalizing the Church through Mission” using stories of our local congregations and our overseas personnel.
- Another cooperative venture is a camping exchange with the Presbyterian Church in Cuba. This summer, Liz Brene will be working with Pearce Williams camp in July and Camp Bimini in August. Two camp staff would travel to Cuba in the summer of 2012.
- We discussed tiered pricing for Conference youth events which informs participants of the true cost of such gatherings and allows for them to pay more for registration, if they wish and are able. No one will be forced to pay the higher price and confidentiality will be maintained. Some camps have implemented this with positive results. The events in question would be Youth Forum, Children at Conference, Youth at Conference, Young Adults in Transition

Nominations

For information: Philip Newman will be Chair of Nominations effective rise of Conference.

Motion **It was moved, seconded and carried that Mary Anne Silverthorn be appointed as Chairperson of the Finance & Administration division.**

Motion **It was moved, seconded and carried to add Lynne Dunlop as a member of the Incorporated Ministries committee.**

Planning Committee

Motion It was moved, second and carried that the Annual Meeting in 2012 be held on May 4 - 6th 2012 at the Hellenic Center, 133 Southdale Rd. W in London, Ontario hosted by Middlesex Presbytery.

Take-Aways

Who is your Presbytery representative that will sit on the London Conference Executive from the rise of conference 2011 to 2013? Please forward that name to the conference office as soon as it is known.

Appendix D

Discussion Paper

Conference Ministry, Annual Meetings and Ministry Funding

May 2011

THE MISSION OF LONDON CONFERENCE

To be a people involved in Christ's ministry in the world by encouraging leadership, support and oversight so that we may

*“Bring good news to the poor, ...
proclaim release to the captives
and recovery of sight to the blind,
let the oppressed go free
and proclaim the year of the Lord's favour.”* (LUKE 4:18-19, NRSV)

THE GOALS OF LONDON CONFERENCE

To actively support clergy, congregations and Presbyteries as they struggle to fulfill the Mission.

To encourage people to dare to explore new frontiers of faith, witness and caring in terms of the evangelism and stewardship of the whole of life.

Continually to affirm in the world the biblical concept of justice in partnership with the whole people of God.

To be a people determined by the Spirit of Christ and freed from bondage to culture and tradition.

THE OBJECTIVES OF LONDON CONFERENCE

To challenge the church to understand, integrate and act upon the Mission and Goals.

Regularly to examine and evaluate existing structures of the Conference as to their effectiveness in achieving the Mission and Goals.

To initiate a review of the existing structures of The United Church of Canada in terms of their effectiveness in carrying out the mission of Christ in the World.

Conference Ministry: What is the new Funding Formula?

London Conference has changed its assessment formula used to fund the conference ministry, to using Column 40 in the Yearbook—Expended for Operation of Pastoral Charge (i.e. cost of doing ministry that each pastoral charge records in the yearly statistic forms) to a ceiling of 3% and this funding formula be phased in over three years, starting at the rise of conference 2011.”

- This means we have ceased using resident membership as the criteria for determining conference assessments.
- London Conference Executive has approved the proposed Budget 2012 with a conference ministry fee / contribution from presbyteries of \$584,717
- This amount of \$584,717 for presbyteries is being recommended to the Annual Meeting of London Conference. This amount represents 2.25% of the total of Col. 40 for all London Conference Presbyteries in the 2010 Yearbook.
- All Presbyteries are assessed less than in 2011, except for Elgin, and adjustment has been made for them, as we roll out this new formula over the next 3 years.

Conference Ministry: Why did the Formula Change?

1. It allows for clearer communication.

- Conference cannot assess pastoral charges, but by using a resident member costing in the past, it implies that conference does assess congregations. Only Presbytery can assess congregations.

2. It allows for predicable budgeting into the future.

- By using the current Yearbook available, conference can work with Presbyteries and let them know their Conference ministry fee by September, if not earlier, rather than by year's end, which has always made budgeting next to impossible, because the data arrives so late.

3. It equitably distributes the cost of the Conference's ministry across all the presbyteries.

- Currently some Presbyteries have been paying more than their fair share.

4. **Using a ceiling of 3% of Column 40 in the Yearbook, namely, Expended for Operation of Pastoral Charge [ie. the cost of doing ministry that each pastoral charge records in the yearly statistic forms], means it functions as an income cap.**
- Conference will need to work within its income rather than seeking income that it wants to do its work. This 3% cap is like your paycheck. It is all you get, so you have to be thoughtful and creative in how to provide the most effective ministry we can.

What is the Work and Ministry of Conference?

The work of conference is to:

- ordain/commission/admission candidates,
- receive proposals,
- deal with matters referred to the General Council,
- determine the number and boundaries of the Presbyteries, and to have oversight of them, and to review their records,
- elect commissioners to the meeting of General Council
- see that, as far as reasonably possible, every Pastoral Charge shall have a pastorate without interruption, and that every Order of Ministry member shall have a Pastoral Charge, as far as reasonably possible,
- consider an application from a Presbytery to grant a licence to administer the sacraments
- decide if a member of the Order of Ministry is to be removed from the rolls of Presbytery and Conference and placed on the Discontinued Service List [Disciplinary] or Discontinued Service List [Voluntary]
- where there has been an amalgamation and the Presbytery has declared the property to be surplus, such surplus property shall be applied for such purpose for the benefit of the United Church as the Conference may determine.
- where a congregation has disbanded as of a specified date by Presbytery's decision, its property shall be applied for such purpose for the benefit of the United Church as the Conference may determine.
- Provide oversight and support for all incorporated ministries [our 9 camps, outreach ministries, extension councils, Iona College, Metropolitan United Church Foundation, senior housing] which includes letters patent, bylaws, adequate insurance and proper independent financial reviews
- Submit a proposed budget to the annual meeting to fund the work of conference as listed above, plus the work of :

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Settlement • Education and Students Interview board • Archives • Finance • Interim Ministry • Internship Committee • Mission in Canada including UCW, • World Outreach • Nominations • Staff Support • Stewardship 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth and Young Adults • Faith Formation • Youth Forum • Church in Society • Social Justice • Mission Support • Rural & Small Membership Churches • Congregational Futures Development • Joint Needs Assessment • Sexual Abuse Awareness and Response • Christian Development
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Plus the work of the conference staff to resource all the above and to help Presbyteries and congregations fulfill their ministries.

I only wish that everyone could see what I see from this office as Acting Executive Secretary. I wish you could see what all has been accomplished. Together we really have accomplished something big!

- If you have questions about these ministries, ask your minister or someone at Presbytery to find out [see sections 400 to 470 in The Manual 2010 for full details]

What Decisions and Actions Need to Happen at our Annual Meeting?

We need to do the following:

1. ordain/commission/admission of accepted candidates and admit them to the Order of Ministry of The United Church of Canada
2. approve the budget
3. receive reports by which our committees are accountable for the ministry they have done on our behalf in the past year
4. consider proposals and resolutions
5. be a worshipping community together
6. challenge and stimulate the vision of Conference as we plan for the future

How Often Must A Conference Meet?

The Manual 2010 states that “it shall be the duty of the Conference to meet at least every third year, or more frequently, as determined by the Conference provided the Conference shall meet in the same calendar year but prior to, a meeting of the General Council. [Basis 7.6.1(1)]

What do Other Conferences Do?

- Some meet every other year. Some meet each year.
- Some have a faith renewing conference in the year when they don't have a conference annual meeting.
- One conference has a 3 day annual meeting each year, but day 2 is a day set apart for spiritual renewal and faith formation that the public are invited to attend.

How Much Do Annual Meetings Cost?

It depends upon location, but usually our annual meeting costs about \$40,000. It currently represents approximately 4% of our conference budget.

- In 2008, it cost \$44,000. In 2009, it cost \$58,500. In 2010, it cost \$35,000.

What Value is Added by Participating in the Annual Meeting?

Some individuals talk about the transformative experiences they have had as a result of becoming part of the larger church at conference, like worshipping and singing with 400 – 500 people, and hearing about all that this United Church of ours is doing.

Others find the whole thing boring.

Per usual in the United Church our responses and opinions are widespread.

What value is added for you?

What Value is Lost by Not Participating in an Annual Meeting Each Year?

Some individuals would say loss of the significant contact with others, and with being part of electing a President and knowing who that person is when they come to visit Presbytery. Others would say the loss would be the opportunity in hearing from our overseas personnel and from other church leaders. Others would say no loss at all.

Again our responses and opinions vary.

What value would be lost for you?

If we did not have a yearly annual meeting, how would the work be accomplished?

In the same way that the powers of London Conference are given to the Executive at the end of the annual meeting in accordance with The Manual 2010 of The United Church of Canada, the Executive acts for the Conference between its regular meetings. The Executive would set a date for the celebration of ministry service and invite all to attend. The Executive would be charged with rest of the work of the annual meeting.

What Impact would Having a Conference Meeting every Second or Third Year have?

The role of President might be significantly changed. It could lead to a new way of having leadership preside at the executive meetings, if there were only an annual meeting every second or third year.

While the cost of the annual meeting is approximately 4%, the planning and preparation for the annual meeting on behalf of the planning committee [registrar, worship, local arrangements, education and students, ministry personnel and education, mission in Canada, pensions, youth, children at conference, tellers, world outreach], the executive secretary and the conference administrative staff is considerably more than 4% of their time. So it would save some time in the non-meeting year.

What would be the impact of having the annual meeting in one central location?

It would cost less dollars, and the planning and organizing of the meeting would be more streamlined. How much less? About 15%.

If it were held in London, and the 8 Presbyteries took turns hosting it as they do now, allowance on the agenda would be made for a block of time for the “host” to showcase their Presbytery and tell their story of ministry.

Heather McLean

April 15, 2011