

ALGOMA PRESBYTERY
of The United Church of Canada

October 20, 2011

EXECUTIVE MEETING

2011-12

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Algoma Presbytery Executive met at 12 noon on Thursday, October 20, 2011 at St. Andrew's United Church, Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario. The meeting was led by Past Chair Nancy Ferguson and a quorum was present.

ATTENDANCE

Order of Ministry: Nancy Ferguson, Eun-Joo Park, Helen Smith

Laity: Brian Mundell, Wilda Ryckman, Ailsa Hanson

Regrets: Fred Bright, Larry Burton, Marnie McDonough, Thom McDonough, Heather McLean, Jan Schenell, Heddys Stevenson, Bill Walker, Clare Walker

OPENING

At 12:15 p.m., Past Chair Nancy Ferguson welcomed everyone and opened 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 Past Chair, I now declare this meeting constituted for the transaction of such business as may properly come before it."* She then led us in prayer, thanking God for the opportunity to meet in community to do the work of the church, and asking the Spirit's presence in our deliberations.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

There was consensus that the agenda be adopted as amended; three items were added under New Business.

PREVIOUS MINUTES

Moved, seconded and carried that the Presbytery Executive minutes of August 18, 2011 be approved.

CORRESPONDENCE

Moved, seconded and carried that Rolly MacLean's resignation from the Chair, Pastoral Care and Oversight Committee be accepted with thanks for all her efforts throughout the past year.

Wilda Ryckman, Chair-elect, assumed the Chair during the ensuing discussion of Emmanuel United Church's two items of correspondence.

Moved, seconded and carried that Algoma Presbytery grant permission to Emmanuel United Church for full use of the Manse Fund, which currently sits at \$81,118, for the proposed accessibility project and any future costs to maintain its operation. (There was one declaration of conflict.)

Moved, seconded and carried that, having received, reviewed and approved in principle the Capital Loan Application of Emmanuel United Church for its accessibility project, Algoma Presbytery Executive refers it to Finance and Administration for due diligence according to Page four of the application, and asks them to report their recommendation to the November meeting of the full court. (There was one declaration of conflict.)

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS AND MOTIONS FOR ACTION

Education and Students: Helen Smith – No report.

Faith Formation and Communication: Eun-Joo Park

There were 20 participants at the Pastoral Visitation Course led by Eun-Joo the weekend of October 14 and 15. There was one Anglican and one Catholic participant. Eun-Joo may offer another session in the spring.

Finance and Administration: Fred Bright – No report.

Nominations: Helen Smith

Helen will be consulting with the Pastoral Care and Oversight Committee to discern their needs as they look for a new Chair, in line with the priority that Presbytery has identified (i.e. improving relationships between Presbytery and pastoral charges).

Outreach: Heddys Stevenson – No report.

Pastoral Care and Oversight – No report.

Pastoral Relations: Brian Mundell

Echo Bay is still waiting for its ADP number, and Goulais River is still waiting for Thom McDonough's signature in order to process his re-appointment.

Moved, seconded and carried that Algoma Presbytery Executive accepts all Committee reports as presented.

REPORT FROM CONFERENCE EXECUTIVE

See Wilda Ryckman's report attached (Appendix B).

NEW BUSINESS

- The agenda for the November full court meeting was reviewed and adjusted.
- The Camp McDougall Board has invited Presbytery to hold its September 2012 meeting at the Camp. This invitation will be accepted with thanks.
- In the matter of Rev. Norine St. Jean v. St. Andrew's United Church (Blind River), Algoma Presbytery, London Conference and The United Church of Canada, the Minutes of Settlement and Release have been entered by Rev. St. Jean and The United Church of Canada and the matter has been resolved to the satisfaction of the parties. We await confirmation from the Human Rights Tribunal of Ontario that the proceedings are concluded.
- Questions have been raised about the mandate and purpose of Church Extension Council. A request will be made that the Board of Directors make a presentation to Presbytery in February 2012.

Adjournment

- **Moved, seconded and carried** that the meeting of Algoma Presbytery Executive adjourn at 2:25 p.m.

Next Meeting

- The next meeting of Presbytery will be the full court at Harmony St. Marks, St. Joseph Island, on November 18 and 19, 2011.

Nancy Ferguson, Past Chair

Ailsa Hanson, Secretary

Appendix A

CORRESPONDENCE*Received since September 18, 2011*

From	Topic	Action
Nora Sanders, General Secretary	Change in Response Date for Remit 6 to May 15, 2012	To Presbytery Executive
Bill Biggs, Chair, Official Board, Emmanuel UC	Request to use Manse Fund for Capital Project	To Presbytery Executive
Rolly MacLean	Resignation from Chair, Pastoral Care & Oversight	To Nominations/Presbytery Executive
Emmanuel United Church	Application for Capital Loan	To Presbytery Executive/ Finance & Admin.
General Council Youth Forum Design Team	Youth Forum Publicity and Process	To Faith Formation

Appendix B

**Wilda Ryckman's Notes
(Replacing Thom McDonough)
London Conference Executive Meeting
Wednesday, September 21, 2011
White Oaks United Church - London**

Chair: Rev. Gary Clark – Blythe United Church, Huron-Perth Presbytery
London Conference Staff: Heather McLean, Acting Executive Secretary
Tanya (Recorder for the meeting)

1. Executive normally meets in Lambeth – this change in location for this meeting only – mix up in double bookings at Lambeth – always check your agenda for location.
2. Presbytery reps will always meet at 10:00 a.m. in the meeting location for an informal update and discussion on pastoral charge issues, concerns with Gary Clark. The Executive meeting begins at 11:00 a.m.
3. Moderator's visit to London Conference – Moderator Mardi Tindal will be in London Conference October 18 to 23. A full schedule has been planned and a few more stops/events to be finalized. She will not be visiting Algoma Presbytery but we were strongly encouraged to review the final schedule and arrange to connect through "skype" to any of the events. The final schedule will be mailed to London Conference Executive and posted on the website.
4. Heather McLean advised the Executive that she had received Nancy Ferguson's e-mail and phone call regarding Presbytery's decision on the weekend to disband the Boundaries Committee with thanks, and that Algoma Presbytery will remain with London Conference. Everyone clapped and expressed their delight that we will be staying with them!

Heather drew everyone's attention to the Annual Report of the United Church of Canada and the various sections throughout credited to London Conference.

5. Extensive conversation on the *Discussion Paper on Conference Priorities and Accountability* (written by Paul Browning).

The President's theme for the coming year is: "Where Are You On The Wave?" Conference will see an acceleration of church closings over the next 5-15 years. Presbyteries will need to be supported in facilitating this time of astonishing transitions for our congregations and ministry personnel. Given that we know that the vast majority of our congregations are in numerical and financial decline, we must answer two questions in order to ride the wave rather than be swamped by it:

b. What kind of policies and practices will help us get there?
A few key comments/phrases from the round table discussion:

- Our churches are bleeding; the focus is on survival, how do we pay the next hydro bill? Therefore there is no time or energy left for mission, for what we are supposed to be doing as “church”, for outreach, social justice issues, youth programming
- What template or standard criterion is in place to determine when a church or congregation is no longer vital, e.g. what criterion does the Bishop use in the Catholic Church when he shuts down or amalgamates churches / parishes?
- Similar to the difficulty of a family member “pulling the plug” on the life support system for a loved one ... how can we expect our individual churches and their congregations to make the tough decision to “pull the plug” on their own church or pastoral charge?
- Allow congregations to try something with another church for 3 to 6 months with no strings attached, no talk of amalgamation, just try it
- The discussion paper focuses on Conference staff working with struggling congregations
- Some work we are doing now needs to stop so we can move forward with new work
- We want to be worshipping congregations and worshipping communities
- One of 5 keys to a successful church: ACT SWITFLY

For the next Executive Committee, members were asked to give the paper serious review and come back with concrete action steps and suggestions for moving forward.

6. Presbytery Reps on the London Conference Executive Committee are responsible for reporting back to their Presbytery Executives on all meetings. They are the conduit between London Conference and individual Presbyteries. While Heather McLean made it a practice to attend all Presbytery Executive meetings in London Conference she feels it is unlikely that the new Executive Secretary will do so. Therefore the obligation of full reporting back to Presbytery Executive Committees from London Conference lies with the Presbytery Rep.
7. They are planning to finalize the hiring of the Executive Secretary sometime in October.
8. Dates for upcoming London Conference Executive meetings:
 - a. November 16, 2011
 - b. February 15, 2012
 - c. April 18, 2012
 - d. June 20, 2012
9. Gary Clark’s visit to Algoma Presbytery at the November meetings at Harmony St. Mark’s, Richards Landing: I had a chance to speak at some length with Gary before and after the meeting regarding his visit in November and to find out what he wanted in terms of time

frame. I offered him the Friday evening after supper to begin around 7:00 p.m. He will start with a 20 minute worship time (would we suggest to him that this could be communion as well at this time??) followed by approximately one hour of meaningful discussion, a process

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he has in mind related to his theme for the coming year when he meets with all the presbyteries. I talked to him about our recent Presbytery meeting, the discussion about our boundaries/conference issue, the training and lengthy discussions about our Pastoral Care and Oversight practices, and how the common theme that seemed to be identified is the need to improve the relationship between Presbytery and pastoral charges. I asked if he could incorporate that identified need into his presentation and discussions on the Friday evening ... he responded that he would be more than happy to and will give it some thought.

10. 2012 London Conference Annual Meeting: May 3-6 at the Hellenic Center (Greek) around Southdale Road in London (not far from where we met at the White Oaks United Church).

I hope this helps everyone for discussions at our next Executive Committee meeting on October 20, 2011.

Wilda Ryckman