

THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA
THE EXECUTIVE OF THE BAY OF QUINTE CONFERENCE

MINUTES

September 10, 2014

On Wednesday, September 10th, the Executive of Bay of Quinte Conference met with the Executives of Toronto, Hamilton, Manitou, and London Conferences at Five Oaks. On the agenda was a presentation from Five Oaks explaining their current financial challenges and their hopes for the future. The presentation included a request for support from the Ontario Conferences. There was also a presentation by Bruce Gregerson re the One Order of Ministry proposal. Fellowship followed in the evening.

September 11, 2014

The Executive of the Bay of Quinte Conference of The United Church of Canada then met at Five Oaks Centre on Thursday, September 11, at 9:00 a.m. to address the business of the Conference. The President, Bill Sheaves, called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

1. ATTENDANCE AND REGRETS

Present:

Donna Bignall (Chair, Lakeridge Presbytery)
Kristiane Black (Chair, Hills and Shores Presbytery)
Jennifer Canning (Shining Waters Presbytery Representative)
Dave Charles (Chair, Four Rivers Presbytery)
Larry Doyle (Chair, Lifelong Faith Formation)
Phil Hobbs (Chair, Nominations)
Chris Ingersoll (Chair, Four Winds Presbytery)
Sheryl McLeod (Upper Valley Representative)
Maxine Reid (President-Designate)
Shelley Roberts (Partnering in Ministry Representative)
Bill Sheaves (President)
Bill Smith (Executive Secretary)
Norma Thompson (Lay Representative to General Council Executive)
(13)

Recording Secretary:

Lynda Price
(1)

Regrets:

Nancy Sutherland (President, United Church Women)
Jean Wilson (Chair, MPE)
John Young (Clergy Representative to General Council Executive)
(3)

2. WELCOME AND CONSTITUTION OF MEETING

President Bill Sheaves welcomed everyone to the meeting.

The President constituted the meeting with the words: "In the name of Jesus Christ, the head of the church, I call this meeting of the Executive of the Bay of Quinte Conference to order, that it may consider any and all business that may properly be brought before it."

3. WORSHIP

The meeting had been preceded by worship with the other four Conferences.

4. AGENDA AND CONSENT DOCKET

(A copy of the Agenda is attached to these minutes as Appendix A.)

MOTION **Bill Smith/Maxine Reid**

2014-09-11-1-1

"That the Consent Docket, as circulated, be approved." -- **CARRIED**

(A copy of the Consent Docket is attached to these minutes as Appendix B.)

5. REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY AND CORRESPONDENCE LOG

Bill Smith noted the items included in the agenda. These included the sale of Knox U.C., Peterborough, the sale of Grace U.C., Sydenham, and the Kingston Presbytery New Church Development Committee Inc. Other items of interest:

- The move to the new office has gone well and they have a much better space now.
- A cheque for \$25,000. has been received from the former Kingston Presbytery Resource Centre. This money is to be held in trust by the Conference with the hope that new ways of resource distribution can be developed in the Conference. Some of the money will be used to catalogue the books that will be held in a lending library at the Conference office.
- There is ongoing discussion re the role of alternates to Commissioners to General Council. The two conflicting views are that if the elected person cannot attend, the alternate goes to General Council in his/her place. The other view is that new people should be elected on Ballots B and C to replace anyone

Bill Smith will convey this to the Director of Five Oaks and determine what the other conferences have decided to do. He will report back to our November meeting. Some education of our constituents as well as a challenge to Presbyteries to be involved in this project were suggestions made.

7. BUSINESS ARISING

a) Sale of Knox United Church, Peterborough and Disbursements

Total proceeds from the sale	\$591,111.24
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This has been distributed as follows:

10% to M&S	\$59,111.12
10% to New Church Development	\$59,111.12
10% to Shining Waters Presbytery	\$59,111.12

A balance of \$413,777.88 remains. Shining Waters Presbytery has met with the trustees of Knox U.C. and they have suggested some additional disbursements from this money. Discussion re these suggestions followed with concerns raised re donating to organizations that do not have a charitable number and concern that we will be selling more and more churches and distributing money on a piecemeal basis. Guidelines need to be established.

It was noted that when churches amalgamate, the amalgamated congregation keeps the money from the sale of assets. However, when a congregation ceases to exist, the policy is as follows:

10% to M&S

10% to New Church Development

10% to the Presbytery

Balance at the discretion of the Conference Executive

We were urged to honour the wishes of Knox U.C. members as much as possible.

It was suggested that this request be approved but that before we decide what happens with the balance that we develop some guidelines and criteria and that we make no more disbursements until this is done.

Kristiane Black offered to partner with someone to facilitate a conversation with options at our next meeting.

MOTION Kristiane Black/Michelle Brotherton

2014-09-11-2-4

"That, based on the information we have received that we distribute the balance of the money from the sale of Knox U.C., Peterborough (\$413,777.88) as follows:

- Grace U.C. (for water purification system for Grace/Friends of Honduran Children) \$ 1,000.00
- Cody Caldwell Trust Fund 1,000.00
- Sleeping Children Around the World 1,000.00
- St. James U.C. Day Camp 1,000.00
- UCW Shining Waters Presbyterial 1,000.00
- Peterborough Regional Health Care Centre Foundation 1,000.00

The remaining balance of \$407,777.38 to be distributed as follows:

• Camp Quin-Mo-Lac	10%	\$40,777.79
• YWCA Crossroads Women's Shelter, Peterborough	5%	\$20,388.89
• Habitat for Humanity, Peterborough	10%	\$40,777.79
• Global Partners, UCC – Haiti	5%	<u>\$20,388.89</u>
		\$122,333.36

leaving an amount of \$285,444.52” – **CARRIED**

Michelle Brotherton offered to work on developing guidelines but only after some conversation at our next meeting. Dave Charles agreed to facilitate the discussion. It was suggested we check with BC and Toronto Conferences to see if they have set policy regarding the distribution of proceeds of sale of church property. Bill Smith will look into this and report back.

b) Sale of Grace U.C., Sydenham

This property was in Four Winds Presbytery at the time of the original sale but is now in Four Rivers Presbytery. Total proceeds of sale - \$83,734.00. Following the UCC formula, the following distribution will be made:

10% to M&S	\$ 8,373.40
10% to NCD	8,373.40
10% to Presbytery	<u>8,373.40</u>
	\$25,120.20

leaving a balance of \$58,613.80.

The following formula was used by Four Winds and Four Rivers Presbyteries to distribute assets when the new presbyteries were formed:

- 53.87% to Four Winds
- 46.13% to Four Rivers

MOTION Bill Smith/Maxine Reid

2014-09-11-2-5

“That the balance of \$25,120.20 from the proceeds of the sale of Grace U.C., Sydenham be held until a decision is made at our November meeting regarding a policy for this Conference.” – **CARRIED**

Bill Smith agreed to contact the national office to ask about their criteria, etc.

c) Update on CAM

To date a location has not been found. Two possibilities are an arena in Wellington or the Quinte Sports Centre in Belleville. AV services have been engaged but nothing else has been planned to date.

d) Upper Valley Presbytery Resolution

Upper Valley Presbytery has sent us a proposal that all time on the General Council 2015 agenda not designated be assigned to discussion and consideration of the Comprehensive Review Report. Discussion of this proposal followed. Some were in favour and others opposed. It was noted that we hear the concern

of Upper Valley Presbytery but General Council has already stated that the Comprehensive Review will be given priority at the meeting.

MOTION **Maxine Reid/Larry Doyle** **2014-09-11-2-6**
“That the proposal from Upper Valley Presbytery be transmitted without concurrence.” – **CARRIED**

e) **2018 General Council**

Discussion then took place on the suggestion that the 2018 General Council be hosted by Bay of Quinte Conference. It was noted that this would entail a great deal of work. However, the work would be mainly in the area of local arrangements as General Council sets the agenda, etc. Support from the entire Conference would be necessary for this to happen. The approach from the All Native Circle Conference to discuss how they might work with us on this was welcomed. Bill Smith agreed to find out all that would be required of us and report back to the November meeting of Executive.

(The 42nd General Council Guiding Principles document is attached to these minutes as Appendix E.)

MOTION **Sheryl McLeod/Michelle Brotherton** **2014-09-11-2-7**

“That Bay of Quinte Executive agree in principle that we host the 2018 General Council and invite the partnership of the All Native Circle Conference in doing this.” – **CARRIED**

Bill Smith will speak with Cheryl Mound (ANCC) to discuss how a partnership would happen and report back to the November meeting.

f) **Algonquin Park Ministry**

The history of the Algonquin Park Ministry was reviewed. The current problems are:

- Resignation of the person who managed the program
- Need for a new trailer and a place to store it
- Need to dispose of current trailer
- While it was initially under the Northern Pastoral Region ministry, since NPR has ceased to exist, there has been confusion as to where it belongs now – Camping and Retreat Centres or Rural Life.

Rural Life seems to be the best place for it. Shelley Roberts will check with the chair of Camping and Retreat Centres and bring the matter of the Algonquin Park Ministry to the Rural Life Committee. She will also look into getting the old trailer moved off site and obtain a clear financial picture for the Executive.

MOTION **Kristiane Black/Jennifer Canning** **2014-09-11-2-8**

“That we direct the Rural Life Committee to take the Algonquin Park Ministry as part of their mandate and bring a proposal back to the Executive re its financial implications. – **CARRIED**

The Executive Secretary was asked to send a note to Ken Begbie, who has been managing the trailer for many years and has resigned, thanking him for his work over the years on behalf of the Conference and the Algonquin Park Ministry.

(The Algonquin Park Ministry Report is attached to these minutes as Appendix F.)

8. KINGSTON PRESBYTERY NEW CHURCH DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE, INC.

A question arose re the assets of this body and when they will be distributed. Bill Smith reported that he had met with KPNCDCI earlier in the week. They have approximately \$570,000. in cash and two properties with a total value of \$300,000. The committee has some work to do in the following areas: filing of income tax reports, and review of bylaws and possible name change. Bill is working with someone in the national office who can help us with this. He noted that the money had not been invested but a decision was made to invest \$500,00. in an interest-bearing short-term account. This will leave \$70,000. for lawyer's fees, and other expenses.

It was decided that the money would be divided between the two presbyteries using the pre-determined formula of the two presbyteries. Four Winds Presbytery will hold the property for ministry. If it is determined that it will not be used for that purpose, then it will be sold and the money divided using the formula.

9. PROCEEDS FROM SALE OF MANSE

A question arose on what to do with the proceeds from the sale of manses. Bill Smith reported that it is the polity of the United Church that the money not be used for the ongoing operations of the church. It can be used for capital costs.

A request was made that we set aside time on a future agenda to discuss best practices within the presbyteries.

Bill Smith reminded us that The Manual 2012 Section D.2.2.2.c allows Presbyteries to ask Conference to act on their behalf if requested.

10. REPORTS

- a) **President's Report** – Bill Sheaves had nothing further to add to his report.
(The President's Report is attached to these minutes as Appendix G.)

11. LUNCH BREAK

Lunch break was at 12:00 p.m. It was agreed that we take a shortened break in order to complete our business earlier than originally anticipated. Bill Sheaves asked that we return by 12:30 p.m. Bill Smith offered grace.

The Court reconvened at 12:50 p.m.

12. REPORTS (continued)

b) Nominations Committee

MOTION Phil Hobbs/Norma Thompson

2014-09-11-2-9

“That Carolyn J. van Horne-Coffey be appointed to the Conference Assessment Board pending approval of the Nominations Committee and clearance of references.” -- **CARRIED**

- c) MPE** – No report
- d) Partnering in Mission** – Shelley Roberts distributed a flyer from the Rural Life/Small Church Committee.
(A copy of the Partnering in Mission Report and two brochures are attached to these minutes as Appendix H.)
- e) Lifelong Faith Formation** – Larry Doyle reported they had a good turnout for Rendezvous and all enjoyed it.
(A copy of the Lifelong Faith Formation Report is attached to these minutes as Appendix I.)
- f) Finance** –Nothing further to report.
(The report of the Finance Committee is attached to these minutes as Appendix J.)
- g) Representatives to General Council Executive** – Norma Thompson reported that the next pre-GCE meeting will be held Nov. 8 from 10 .m. to 3:00 p.m. at Northminister U.C. Mileage is paid for Commissioners. Others are welcome to attend and asked to carpool with a commissioner. Norma would welcome any questions and they can be sent to her by e-mail prior to the meeting. The idea of using the hub, which Conference recently purchased, was suggested and Norma agreed to look into this. The following meeting will be March 14/15 at St. Matthew’s.
(The report of the Representatives to General Council Executive is attached to these minutes as Appendix K.)
- h) Youth** – No report.
- i) United Church Women** – (The report of the United Church Women is attached to these minutes as Appendix L.)

13. OTHER REPORTS

There are no other reports for presentation.

14. PRESBYTERY REPORTS

- a) Four Rivers** – (The report of Four Rivers Presbytery is attached to these minutes as Appendix M.)
- b) Four Winds** - - (The report of Four Winds Presbytery is attached to these minutes as Appendix N.)

- c) **Kente** – No report
- d) **Hills and Shores** – (The report of Hills and Shores Presbytery is attached to these minutes as Appendix O.)
- e) **Lakeridge** – (The report of Lakeridge Presbytery is attached to these minutes as Appendix P.)
- f) **Upper Valley** – (The report of Upper Valley Presbytery is attached to these minutes as Appendix Q.)
- g) **Shining Waters** – (The report of Shining Waters Presbytery is attached to these minutes as Appendix R.)
- h) **Kawartha Highlands** – (The report of Kawartha Highlands Presbytery is attached to these minutes as Appendix S.)

15. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

a) **Upcoming Meetings of the Executive**

Meetings of the Executive will be held:

Sat., Nov. 29

Thurs., Feb. 26

Sat., April 18

All meetings will be at the Conference office.

b) **Five Oaks (continued)**

Bill Smith reported on a meeting he had over lunch with Melissa and the other Conference Executive Secretaries.

- London – too little, too late; they already own nine properties; appreciate the ministry here
- All Native Circle – no money but would help with other forms of support
- Hamilton – willing to support but want more information; some concern re the \$200,000. Line of Credit
- Toronto – Cedar Glen money all gone; behind the Five Oaks proposal; perhaps willing to pay off Line of Credit

Between now and our November meeting, Bill Smith will meet with other Conference Executive Secretaries and the Board of Directors of Five Oaks re financial picture, land development and plans for programming.

Five Oaks stated that they don't immediately want any money. They can survive until next July. It was agreed by all that we need to know what we are investing in before we can give any money. There is a concern that the Line of Credit continues and there is no debt reduction.

c) **Sale of Frankford Property**

To date, no one has viewed the property. The mold problem has been dealt with. The property is listed at \$174,900. Options for disposing of the property include: selling the building separately, tearing it down and selling the lot, receiving a proposal from the town re use of the property, in which case we would be prepared to be generous. A celebration of ministry service is planned there for the afternoon of Nov. 30. Cost to maintain the empty building is approx. \$400. per month. The alarm system is turned on and insurance is in place.

d) New Conference Office

The original cost of \$18,000. for renovations has risen to \$21,000., due mostly to accessibility issues and some small items which had to be purchased. The office is looking much better than the old one. There are grants available for technology, etc. and the Conference Office is working with St. Matthew's on this. We are all encouraged to visit this new and brighter space.

16. THEOLOGICAL REFLECTION

Bill Smith reminded us that God is calling us to be bigger than we think we can be. We can do something in this place if we have trust and faith. Our strength is in coming together.

The President thanked everyone for making the trip to Five Oaks and for their participation in the meeting.

17. ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment was at 1:30 p.m.

Bill Sheaves, President

Bill Smith, Executive Secretary