



MINUTES OF HOME MISSIONS
COMMITTEE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA CONFERENCE

The United Church of Canada

November 9 and 10, 2011

BC CONFERENCE OFFICE
BURNABY, BRITISH COLUMBIA

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| AUTHORITY | The regular meeting of the Home Missions Committee was convened at the call of the Chair at BC Conference Office in Burnaby, B.C. at 1:00 PM on Wednesday, November 9, 2011, David Martyn, Chair, presiding, Sandra Nixon, Secretary. A quorum was present. |
| PRESENT | David Martyn, Chair Sandra Nixon, Secretary & Convenor, Vancouver-South Presbytery Sandra Severs, Acting Convenor, Vancouver-Burrard Presbytery Jim Martin, Convenor, Prince Rupert Presbytery Dale Gillard, Convenor, Comox-Nanimo Presbytery Bill Walsh, Convenor, Fraser Presbytery Ted Giesbrecht, Convenor, Kootenay Presbytery Bruce Comrie, Convenor, Kamloops-Okanagan Presbytery Carole Finch, Convenor, Westminster Presbytery Bob French, Convenor, Victoria Presbytery Jane Harding, M&S Convenor & Financial Development Officer, UCC |
| STAFF PRESENT | Nellie Tang, Finance Minister, BC Conference Michael Hare, Conference Minister (Prince Rupert) George Meier, Conference Minister (Kootenay) Paul Davis, Conference Minister (Cariboo) Ivy Thomas, Conference Minister (Kamloops-Okanagan) Bill Laurie, Conference Minister (Comox-Nanaimo) |
| GUESTS | |
| REGRETS | Clare Hill, Conference Minister (Native Ministries) Keith Pederson, Convenor, Cariboo Presbytery Terry Harrison, Conference Minister, Victoria Jim White, |
| 12:00 LUNCH | The meeting began with lunch and fellowship. |
| GATHERING/WELCOME | The Chair convened the meeting at 1:00 PM. Sandra Severs led the Committee in opening worship and prayer. |
| INTRODUCTIONS | Members introduced themselves around the table. |
| DECLARATION OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST | Michael Hare – works part-time for the Central Mainland Marine, which receives funding by Home Missions. Sandra Severs works for First United, which receives funding from Home Missions. |
| ADOPTION OF MINUTES | M/S (Sandra Nixon/Jim Martin) that the minutes of the June 8-9, 2011 meeting be adopted as presented. CARRIED. |
| ADOPTION OF AGENDA | M/S (Jim Martin, Bob French) that the agenda be adopted as presented. CARRIED. |

REVIEW OF PERPETUAL
CALENDAR

The body we report to is longer called SLM; it is now CiM (Communities in Ministry). Some presbyteries have encountered issues in filling out the electronic grant application forms.

Dec. 15 is the deadline for requests from the Common Fund (leftover funds from National once unspent requests have been dealt with)

AVAILABLE UNSPENTS &
REQUESTS

Unspents are funds available that have not been sent back to the Common Fund that are available to aid receiving pastoral charges for unforeseen/extraordinary expenses).

AVAILABLE: \$9000

Requests:

Hazelton - travel \$3,799

Port McNeill

REAL PROPERTY DISCUSSION

Prince Rupert Presbytery - Michael Hare reported that CE bldg demolished in Klemtu. Port Simpson Manse has had eavestroughing finished, still needs porch done (Spring 2012) Manse in Gitsigukla needs a lot of work.

REAL PROPERTY REQUESTS FOR
2012

Real Property Requests:

Bella Coola - \$2,750

Kispiox - \$7,438

Skidegate - \$10,737

First United - \$30,000

FIRST REVIEW - MISSION
SUPPORT REQUESTS FOR
2012: STORYTELLING

The current situation and context of each aid-receiving pastoral charge and mission was reviewed.

SHARED MINISTRY DISCUSSION

Bill Laurie (Comox-Nanaimo) -

All of the existing shared ministries were started in the 1970's during union talks.

For several years, a group would meet for support and networking prior to presbytery meetings (participants from Port Hardy, Port McNeill, Long Beach, Gabriola).

There is an emerging new model for future shared ministries resulting from Anglican-Lutheran conversations. An interesting dialogue that the presbytery is part of.

Gold River, which has previously been funded by HM, has asked to disband.

Long Beach, North Thompson currently have UCC ministers

Port Hardy, Port Alice, Robson Valley currently have ACC ministers

Ivy Thomas (Kamloops-Okanagan) -

St. Andrew's Lillooet is moving to become an official shared ministry (it's been an unofficial for many years). They have had UCC ministers all along.

SHARED MINISTRY (CONT'D)

There are 11 shared ministries (** aid-receiving): Pt. McNeill**, Pt. Hardy**, Long Beach/Tofino**, Barriere**, Robson Valley**, Windermere Valley, Naramata, Keremeos - just called 1/2 time (also 1/2 time in Princeton), Sorrento, Chase, Celistia

1 New Lillooet**

1 Princeton - "unofficial"

1 possible exploration Golden

2 explored and halted - Merritt, Ashcroft

An Ecumenical Shared Ministry document has recently been prepared for several denominations. One of the precepts is that clergy will be "rotated" every 5 years, but this is under scrutiny. The term can be waived if the congregation requests an extension.

Note: Shared ministries take 3 years to be reported as such in the Yearbook, and so for those first years, the line 40 for determining presbytery allocations is skewed. A Shared Ministry workshop is planned for March 2-4 at Sorrento Centre. It will be offered to participants from across the province. Two people per congregation (one clergy, one lay). Trying to limit cost to congregations through funding from several grants. Kootenay and K-O also have some funds to contribute.

Updates on aid-receiving ministries continued.

Ethnic Ministries - has two ministries receiving funding from HM - Amazing Grace and Fraser Valley Japanese.

Amazing Grace has stated that they are working earnestly to become self-sustaining. Brian Tsai is full-time.

Yoko Kihara is 1/2 time at Fraser Valley Japanese.

Congregational Support - Native

Anspayawx - minister has moved. No one in place or expected so not requesting a grant for 2012.

Bella Bella - minister retiring, no grant request for 2012.

Bella Coola - has experienced extra costs due to flooding, and reduced financial contributions so grant request has increased.

CCM, Haida Gwaii, Hartley Bay - stable situations.

Hazelton - minister spends at least one day/week in Gitsigukla; slight increase in attendance there.

Longhouse Council (Van-Burrard) - in conversation with Barry Morris re: retirement. Conversations are anticipated in the coming year regarding its future. HM grant covers just under 50% of its operating budget.

FIRST REVIEW: STORYTELLING
(CONT'D)

Rural

North Thompson PC (Kootenay) - includes Barriere (joint ministry with ACC & Lutherans) and Clearwater, which rents from Roman Catholic church. Now part of the Anglican Parishes of the Central Interior (APCI), and receiving a grant from the ACC (\$8,000).

Robson Valley (Cariboo) - shared ministry that includes Valemont & McBride. Presbytery is looking for commitment to mission and vision for ministry in order to continue funding in the future.

Lumby (K-O) - minister is .45 time. Congregation has declined to about 18 in worship. Very active lay people - they run a 'wonder café' event that attracts quite a few people in the community; also a VBS in the summer. But not many "members" for donation income. Without HM grant they will need to go to pulpit supply, which also affect ability to continue the community outreach activities.

Robertson Memorial - Nakusp (Cariboo) - grant application for \$8,000 filled out and approved by presbytery but paperwork not received by presbytery secretary or forwarded to BC Conference. A one-time request to keep current ministry personnel for 2012 only.

STORYTELLING (CONT'D)

Outreach Ministries

First United (Van-Burrard)- Funding from several sources, including Law Foundation (Advocates) and BC Housing (shelter). Increased staff for shelter, hoping for increase in funding, which was finally received. Increase only until end of December at which time there will be another danger of underfunding. Discussions ongoing with presbytery to be designated a mission congregation with an incorporated mission attached. Vision is for the "congregation" to be at the center of the mission and ensure it is embedded in United Church theology and ethos. Currently an oversight board is in place, which would become the "mission congregation oversight board".

5 PM DINNER

Bill Laurie led us in singing grace.

STORYTELLING (CONT'D)

"Our Place" (Victoria) - Allan Tysick has retired, new director hired. 1500 meals/day, Open Door program, on-site housing which often transitions people into permanent housing. Funding received from BC Housing has dropped somewhat. Challenge for presbytery is to maintain integrity of the connection between UCC and the mission. Almost 1/2 of the Board are UC members. A member of the Board is appointed to presbytery and vice versa, for cross-accountability. Alan will be starting up a new street-level ministry ("Dandelion") which will not be looking for funding from HM. Request from HM is \$48,000 out of an annual budget of over \$3 million.

ACTION: HM committee requests Bob to explore with Victoria presbytery the questions: "Is Our Place a Ministry of Victoria Presbytery or a donation?" and "If it is a ministry, how is this shown in governance and accountability?" and to bring the presbytery's response back to the next meeting of HM.

New Mission Work

Cariboo Initiative - shifting to a focus on building networks of support between those who have done the lay training and congregations experiencing lay-led ministry. Training will also be ongoing.

Kootenay Initiative - Residential, hands-on training events for lay people in various aspects of leading worship.

St. Andrew's Lillooet - recently voted to become an official shared ministry. Will likely move from 3/4 to 1/2 time ministry.

Oasis UC - in Penticton. Oct. 2007 presbytery review of Penticton UC recommended two congregations be established. Oasis formed in 2008, been in latest space since May 2009. In June 2011, Oasis became a pastoral charge. Applied to HM last year and were denied because they had reserves (\$60,000). They still do, but anticipated funds from Penticton UC are now not likely to materialize. Current building may be sold, and other appropriate space may involve higher rent. Vision is to be an emerging church, offering innovative programs for the community. Also attending to stewardship planning.

SECOND REVIEW OF 2012
MISSION SUPPORT REQUESTS

Committee members discussed how we might reduce requests in order to balance the budget.

9 AM WORSHIP

George Meier led us in morning worship.

MISSION & SERVICE FUND
PRESENTATION: JANE HARDING

Jane Harding, UCC Financial Development Officer for (BC), spoke with the committee about the current state of the Mission & Service Fund, bequests and gift planning.

Jane introduced the new "Gifts with Vision" program, "the UCC answer to World Vision". Booklets are free, donations can be made directly through the website. Booklet can also be downloaded directly from the website.

LUNCH 12:30PM

Bill Laurie lead us in singing grace.

SECOND REVIEW (CONT'D) &
MSG REVISED ESTIMATES

Revisions to grant requests were discussed.

M/S (Bill Walsh, Bruce Comrie) that we reduce Our Place and Oasis grant requests by \$1,000 each. CARRIED

M/S (Bob French, Carole Finch) that Home Missions adopt the grant allocations for 2012 as amended.

Surplus Funds available: \$313

THOMAS CROSBY FUND

No requests at this time.

MSG ESTIMATES FOR 2013

Estimates for grant requests for 2013 were given.

FUTURE DATES FOR
SPRING/FALL MEETINGS

The committee discussed the value of meeting in the Spring.
There is work for us to do! Suggestion that we engage in circle groups for conversation.
HM members are asked to consider providing input for structure & content for the Spring meeting.
SPRING MEETING will take place on June 13-14, 2012.
FALL 2012 MEETING is tentatively scheduled for November 7-8, 2012. (to be confirmed)

UNSPENTS CONT'D

Port McNeill - \$1970 for pulpit supply & interview expenses.
Hazelton - \$3799 for travel expenses.
TOTAL requests: \$5,769
Total available: \$9,000
Surplus of \$3,231 will go back to the Common Fund.

REPRESENTATIVES TO MISSION
SUPPORT CONSULTATION

No Consultation will take place this year.

ENABLING MOTIONS

M/S (Sandra Nixon, Carole Finch) that the Home Missions Committee establish an Executive consisting of the Chair, Secretary, Conference Finance Minister, and two other members of HM. CARRIED
M/S (Sandra Nixon, Bruce Comrie) that Dale Gillard and Carole Finch be appointed to the Executive of the HM Committee. CARRIED
M/S (Bruce Comrie, Jim Martin) that the powers of the HM Committee be given to the Executive until its next meeting. CARRIED

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 11:56 AM, with thanks to everyone for their work.

David Martyn, Chair

Sandra Nixon, Secretary