

**Minutes of
THE EXECUTIVE OF BC CONFERENCE
The United Church of Canada
Gilmore Park United Church - May 13-15, 2004**

THURSDAY, MAY 13, 2004 7:00 P.M.

- PRESENT** Jim Angus, Darryl Auten, Marion Carr, Jenny Carter, Foster Freed (President), Doug Goodwin (Executive Secretary), Barbara Gregg, Jane Louie, Louise Mangan, Neill McRae, Reta Robertson, Ed Searcy, Jo Shearer, Michelle Slater, Diana Sung
- REGRETS** Becky Booth, Sharon Ferguson-Hood, Nathan Gurry, Marianna Harris, Verna Howard, Kathleen Jones, Ali Jonker, Larry Scott, Charlotte Sullivan
- STAFF PRESENT** Nan Koldewijn (recording secretary)
- GUESTS** Bruce Gregersen, General Council Minister: Programs for Mission & Ministry; Richard Choe, Executive Minister: Ethnic Ministries
- AUTHORITY** In the name of Jesus Christ, and by the authority of the 2003 General Meeting of BC Conference, the President, the Rev. Foster Freed, declared the regular meeting of the Conference Executive duly opened for the purpose of conducting the business properly before it. A quorum was present.
- CORRESPONDING PRIVILEGES** *M/S/C (Goodwin/Robertson)*
THAT corresponding privileges be extended to Richard Choe, Bruce Gregersen, and Nan Koldewijn.
Doug introduced Bruce Gregersen, Richard Choe, Jane Louie from Victoria Presbytery, Donna Ziegler from Prince Rupert Presbytery, and Jenny Carter from Cariboo Presbytery.
- AGENDA** *M/S/C (Goodwin/McRae)*
THAT the agenda as presented be adopted.
- WORSHIP** Foster Freed led the Executive in worship.
- GOVERNANCE TRAINING** Doug Goodwin provided training in the delegation and limiting of power in the Policy Governance system. He referred to the Executive Policies: Staff Relationships and Executive Secretary Limitations. The Executive expressed its appreciation for this training. Updated policies were distributed and Executive members were asked to replace their old policies.
- ADJOURN** Foster Freed led the Executive in closing worship. The meeting adjourned with the benediction.

FRIDAY, MAY 14, 2004 9:00 A.M.

- WORSHIP** Diana Sung opening the meeting with worship.
- OUTCOMES** The meeting identified outcomes that it expected by the end of the meeting:
- clarity about Alternates from Presbyteries

**OUTCOMES
(CONTINUED)**

- Settlement Committee report received
- Ordination/Commissioning/Designation decisions made
- Audited Financial Statements accepted
- Appendix I accountability reports heard and dealt with
- Interim Ministry Report dealt with
- Executive Covenant plans clarified
- newcomers have their questions answered

MINUTES

It was noted that Neill McRae was present at the March 11-13, 2004 meeting.

M/S/C (Goodwin/Gregg)

THAT BC Conference Executive accept the minutes of the March 11-13, 2004 meeting as corrected.

**CORRESPONDENCE
REPORT**

M/S/C (Goodwin/Ziegler)

THAT the Correspondence Report (Appendix I) be received and its recommendations accepted.

In response to a query from Marion Carr, Doug Goodwin reported that the petition from Fraser Presbytery regarding funding for the Fraser Presbytery Resource Centre was already being dealt with by the presbyteries involved.

**GENERAL
COUNCIL
INFORMATION**

Richard Choe and Bruce Gregersen were introduced to the court.

Bruce thanked the Executive Secretary for the Executive governance training in the delegation and limiting of power in the Policy Governance system, noting that for a church in transition it is important to have clarity about how the church functions. Bruce reported that General Council senior staff members are meeting together more often to collaborate with one another. They are also working on better integrating their work at the General Council offices and with the Conferences.

Richard noted that the Ethnic Ministries Council was established in 1996 and is now investigating ways to celebrate its tenth anniversary in 2006. The Council is examining different models of ethnic ministries in the Conferences across the church with the goal of mutual learning.

The President expressed a hope that many models for ethnic ministries, including those from outside the United Church, would be looked at and assessed for what is best for the future of ethnic ministries.

**LISTENING TO THE
OWNERSHIP**

Darryl Auten continued the Ownership discussion from the March meeting by circulating information from ministry personnel. There is a growing frustration within congregations that the ministry personnel have responsibilities outside the pastoral charge that does not seem to be directly linked to the mission they are called to in their work.

The Executive Secretary invited Jim Angus, Diana Sung, and Richard Choe to help continue the discussion with more focus by asking “what are you experiencing in your areas of ministry? What are the joys and sorrows you are experiencing?”

Diana Sung, Ethnic Ministries Chair, explained the committee meets to do business but also to look at values and mission. Time is spent at meetings to speak about the experiences of the ethnic churches. The Executive Secretary has been attending meetings and helping the committee focus on their vision.

LUNCH

The meeting adjourned for a lunch break.

LISTENING TO THE OWNERSHIP (CONT)

Jim Angus reported that the recent Native Ministries Council general meeting emphasized the need to take ownership of their ministries. Unemployment in villages is presently close to 98%. Jim noted that when a church is sold in the Lower Mainland the financial value is much higher than in rural areas and asked how this “wealth” is being shared with less fortunate areas.

It was noted that Kathleen Jones is continuing to gather information from retired ministry personnel on their perceptions on the call of God to BC Conference. This information will be presented at a future meeting of the Executive.

Doug Goodwin, Ali Jonker and Foster Freed will develop a means to hear from people in our congregations who do not usually have a voice in Conference decision-making. The “Voices From the Pews” will be presented and discussed at a future meeting of the Executive.

POLICY DEVELOPMENT: PRACTICES STATEMENT

Ed Searcy introduced the work already done on a Values Statement (Appendix I of the March 2004 minutes of the Executive). The Executive was reminded that the statement is for the Conference Executive, not for the Conference as a whole. It is a “tool” to be kept in front of the Executive during business and reporting. Debate followed on the wording of the statement and the appropriate name for it. It was agreed to call this document a “Practices Statement.” Publications of the Statement will include the commentary Ed provided at the last meeting (Appendix II).

M/S/C (Slater /Robertson)

THAT the following statement be adopted as the Executive’s Practices Statement policy:

As a living witness to the gospel of Jesus Christ, BC Conference Executive of The United Church of Canada seeks:

To be rooted in gospel memory and hope by

- *faithfully keeping our covenants with God and neighbour*
- *stewarding our inheritance of scripture and tradition*
- *proclaiming and embodying God’s new creation*
- *practicing hospitality with strangers and making room for diversity; and*

To build up the Body of Christ by

- *bringing differences to the table of reconciliation*
- *ordering our life together justly and with compassion*
- *stewarding resources faithfully*
- *practicing the disciplines of worship, prayer and spiritual discernment.*

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY MONITORING

The Executive Secretary, Doug Goodwin, presented a monitoring report (Appendix III). Only one policy was monitored, as requested by the March 2004 meeting: Emergency Succession. Doug reported that work is progressing smoothly with the General Council office on an Emergency Succession plan. He also noted that the General Council office seems satisfied with his response to the staff layoff earlier this year.

M/S/C (Goodwin/Mangan)

THAT the Executive Secretary Monitoring report be accepted.

GENERAL MEETING BUSINESS

Several items of business usually dealt with at the General Meeting of the Conference were brought to the Executive.

SETTLEMENT COMMITTEE

The Settlement Committee report was presented to the court by Marion Carr (Appendix IV).

M/S/C (Goodwin/Carr)

THAT the Settlement Committee report be received for information.

Doug Goodwin noted that the Ministerial Standing Report normally accepted at this time will be presented to the November meeting of the Conference Executive.

**ORDINATION,
COMMISSIONING,
DESIGNATION**

Doug Goodwin introduced the names of the persons approved through the appropriate committees for ordination, commissioning and designation. The candidates and the participants in the Celebration of Ministry service will join the Executive for lunch Saturday afternoon.

Doug gave assurance that all six persons introduced passed all academic requirements and had successfully been examined and approved by the appropriate Presbytery and Conference committees. He also gave assurance that the ordinands and commissionand had already been successfully settled or, in all reasonable expectation, would soon be settled.

Doug also reported that Jennifer Shepherd Goddard, who had been transferred into BC Conference from Maritime Conference, has not yet been settled. The Settlement Committee is presently seeking a settlement site for her so she might be ordained by Maritime Conference before the end of May.

M/S/C (Goodwin/Carr)

THAT Janice Bihl be ordained to the Ministry of Word, Sacrament and Pastoral Care.

M/S/C (Goodwin/Carr)

THAT Tricia Gerhard be ordained to the Ministry of Word, Sacrament and Pastoral Care.

M/S/C (Goodwin/Carr)

THAT Margaret Harper be ordained to the Ministry of Word, Sacrament and Pastoral Care.

M/S/C (Goodwin/Carr)

THAT Teri Meyer be ordained to the Ministry of Word, Sacrament and Pastoral Care.

M/S/C (Goodwin/Carr)

THAT Allan Gairns be commissioned as a Diaconal Minister.

M/S/C (Goodwin/Carr)

THAT Kevin Hegseth be designated a Lay Pastoral Minister.

**AUDITED
FINANCIAL
STATEMENTS**

Doug Goodwin presented the Auditors' Report and the Audited Financial Statements 2003 (Appendix V). He reported that the Finance Council reviewed the report and statements and found them satisfactory.

Barbara Gregg and Doug Goodwin reviewed the statements with the Executive, noting highlights and areas of interest.

Doug noted that in the future a separate task force of the Executive should be used to review the audited financial statements in order to ensure a separation of governance and management. The Finance Council will advise about the establishment of a task force at a future meeting of the Executive.

M/S/C (Gregg/Ziegler)

THAT the Auditors' Report and the audited financial statements 2003 be accepted.

FINANCIAL REPORTS Barbara Gregg presented the Financial Reports 2003 (Appendix VI) for information. She and Doug Goodwin highlighted areas of interest.

M/S/C (Goodwin/Gregg)
THAT the Financial Reports 2003 be received for information.

The Executive expressed its thanks to the Finance Council, Doug Goodwin, and Nellie Tang, who were all involved in the preparation of the reports.

APPENDIX IV REPORTS Doug Goodwin explained how societies formed under Appendix IV of *The Manual* relate to a supervising court. He reported that the General Council and Conference offices are in the process of clarifying which societies have BC Conference as their supervising court. In the future a clearer relationship between the societies and BC Conference can be expected.

NARAMATA CENTRE Doug Goodwin reported that he received the annual report, audited financial statements, and the list of Directors from the Naramata Centre, as required. The audited statements were reviewed by Barbara Gregg and some members of the Finance Council. Over half of the named Directors are members of The United Church of Canada.

M/S/C (Goodwin/Robertson)
THAT the List of Directors for the Naramata Centre be included in the minutes of this meeting as an appendix (Appendix VII).

OTHER REPORTS It was noted that the reports from the Vancouver School of Theology and The Open Door were already received by the Executive for information when the Correspondence Report was accepted.

DINNER The meeting adjourned for dinner.

PRIORITY SETTING Doug Goodwin led the court in a process of priority setting.

SATURDAY, MAY 15, 2004 9:00 A.M.

OPENING WORSHIP The President opened the meeting with worship.

PRIORITY SETTING (CONTINUED) It was decided that the Executive will dedicate substantial time to grapple with Priority Setting at the next meeting. Doug Goodwin and Foster Freed will work together to prepare a process to assist discussion.

GENERAL MEETING 2005 A report by Keith Howard on plans for the General Meeting of BC Conference in 2005 was distributed and discussed (Appendix VIII). The meeting will be held May 26-29, 2005 at the Comox Valley Sports and Aquatic Centre in Courtenay, BC. Keith Howard will serve as Chair of the Agenda Committee. A Chair of the Theme and Worship Committee will soon be selected who will work closely with the President, Foster Freed. Evelyn Gillespie will chair the Regional Planning Committee.

EXTERNAL ORGANIZATIONAL AUDIT Doug reported that the group asked to begin work on the external organizational audit has not had time to begin their work. A report will be available for the Executive at the November meeting with enough information to ensure the audit can be held as planned in 2005.

INTERIM MINISTRY The designation of interim ministers is the responsibility of the Conference Executive (*The Manual*, Section 465.1.b.iii) upon the recommendation of the Interim Ministry Committee. The Executive received the recommendations of the Interim Ministry Committee.

**INTERIM
MINISTRY
(CONTINUED)**

MSC (Goodwin/Auten)

THAT Rev. Cindy Terry, Rev. Mary Duncan, and Rev. Ron Jeffrey be designated as Interim Ministers in BC Conference.

MSC (Goodwin/Mangan)

THAT Rev. Mollie Williams be re-designated as an Interim Minister in BC Conference.

MSC (Goodwin/Louie)

THAT Rev. Wendy Read be designated as an Interim Minister with the condition that she begin a recognized training program within six months of beginning an appointment as an Interim Minister.

Marion Carr declared a conflict of interest regarding the following motion and absented herself from the discussion and vote.

MS (Goodwin/McRae)

THAT Rev. Clayton Arkestyn-Vogler not be designated as an Interim Minister in BC Conference.

MSC Amendment (Mangan/Robertson)

THAT the words "at this time" be added to the end of the motion.

The motion as amended **CARRIED** and reads:

THAT Rev. Clayton Arkestyn-Vogler not be designated as an Interim Minister in BC Conference at this time.

**ALTERNATES TO
EXECUTIVE**

It was reaffirmed that it is appropriate for Alternates to be elected by the presbyteries, councils, and YAYAEN who will attend Conference Executive meetings when the elected member cannot.

**EXECUTIVE
COVENANT**

The Executive clarified the scope and intent of the Executive Covenant agreed upon at the March 2004 meeting. Louise Mangan will work on this project and bring a proposal to the next meeting of the Executive.

**ELECTION OF PDC
MEMBERS**

Doug Goodwin reminded the Executive that they are members of the Property Development Council. The Executive was also reminded that it has the responsibility to elect additional persons to serve on the Council.

The present Directors of the Council are Barbara Gregg (Chair), Doug Goodwin (Secretary), Donna Dawson, John Culter, Diane Nichols, Jim Roberts, Ken Tunnicliffe.

M/S/C (Goodwin/Ziegler)

THAT the following persons be members of the Property Development Council: Donna Dawson, John Culter, Diane Nichols, Jim Roberts, and Ken Tunnicliffe.

**GENERAL
COUNCIL
EXECUTIVE**

Michelle Slater reported on the work of the General Council Executive. She noted that the implementation of the Designated Lay Ministry program has been delayed until it can be better organized.

**SETTLEMENT
COMMITTEE**

It was noted that the Chair and Secretary of the Settlement Committee must be elected by Conference. This will be done at either the General Meeting of Conference or at a future Executive meeting.

**RECOGNITION OF
MEMBERS**

The President recognized that six persons will be leaving the Conference Executive after this meeting: Becky Booth, David Gregg, Marianna Harris, Reta Robertson, Ed Searcy and Diana Sung.

**REVIEW AND
EVALUATION**

The Executive reviewed its “Outcomes” established at the beginning of the meeting as a way to evaluate the success of the meeting. It also asked, “did we do what we wanted to do? Was it worth doing?”

The Executive appreciated the presence of the national staff members who attended part of the meeting. It was noted that national staff should be invited to an Executive meeting in the year when there is not a General Meeting.

The Executive recognized the growth they have experienced as an Executive.

It was suggested that the Executive hold a meeting in Prince Rupert Presbytery.

APPRECIATIONS

The President expressed the appreciation of the court to the Conference staff who arranged the hospitality for this meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

The President declared the meeting adjourned at 10:40 a.m.

**PROPERTY
DEVELOPMENT
COUNCIL**

The Annual General Meeting of the Property Development Council and Metropolitan Council was held. The minutes of the meeting are attached to these minutes as Appendix IX.

**CELEBRATION OF
MINISTRY**

A Celebration of Ministry worship service was held at 2:30 p.m. at Gilmore Park United Church, Richmond.

NEXT MEETINGS

November 18-20, 2004
March 10-12, 2005
General Meeting of BC Conference May 26-29, 2005



BC Conference Executive

Rev. Foster Freed, President

Rev. G. Doug Goodwin, Executive Secretary

Correspondence Report

Appendix I
(Refer to Page 04-118)

BC Conference Executive

Date: May 13-15, 2004

Status: Non-Confidential

Title: Correspondence Report

Prepared By: Doug Goodwin (Executive Secretary)

In Consultation With: Nan Koldewijn

Related Documents:

Summary: This report details the correspondence addressed to the Executive and sent in the name of the Executive since the previous meeting of the Conference Executive.

Proposed Decisions:

1. that the Correspondence Report be received and its recommendations accepted.

	Date	To/From	Subject	Recommendation
1	February 4, 2004	Open Door	Report	Receive for Information
2	March 11, 2004	Fraser Presbytery	Funding the Fraser Presbytery Resource Centre	Refer to Executive Secretary
3	March 23, 2004	YAYAEN Network	Invitation to Gala Event	File
4	April 29, 2004	Naramata Centre Board	Annual Report	Refer to Executive Secretary
5	May 10, 2004	VST Board	Report	Receive for Information