
**MINUTES OF
THE EXECUTIVE OF BC CONFERENCE**
The United Church of Canada
April 26-27, 2007
Prince Rupert, BC

THURSDAY, APRIL 26, 2007

- PRESENT** Jim Angus, Dianne Astle, Heather Burton, Louise Burton, Marion Carr, Jenny Carter, Cari Copeman-Haynes, Carole Finch, Albert Fowler, Maki Fushii, Gary Gaudin, Doug Goodwin (Executive Secretary), Barbara Gregg, Alie Jonker, Dal McCrindle, Ashley Ramer, Hilde Seal, Jim White, Janice Young (President), Donna Ziegler
- REGRETS** Bruce Sanguin, Andrew Speck
- STAFF PRESENT** Christine Ackermann (Recording Secretary)
- GUESTS** The Rt. Rev. David Giuliano (Moderator); Nora Sanders (General Secretary); Cecile Fausak (Liaison Minister, Residential Schools)
- AUTHORITY** In the name of Jesus Christ, and by the authority of the 2006 General Meeting of BC Conference, the President, the Rev. Janice Young, declared the regular meeting of the Conference Executive duly opened for the purpose of conducting the business properly before it. A quorum was present.
- WELCOME** The President welcomed the Executive members and guests to the meeting and had those present introduce themselves.
- WORSHIP** The President led in worship.
- AGENDA** *M/S/C (Goodwin/Gregg)*
THAT the agenda as presented be adopted.
- CORRESPONDING PRIVILEGES** *M/S/C (Goodwin/Finch)*
THAT corresponding privileges be extended to Christine Ackermann, Cecil Fausak, David Giuliano, and Nora Sanders.
- OUTCOMES** Janice Young led the Executive in identifying intended Outcomes for the Executive meeting:
1. to listen to the Native Ministries Council well
 2. to monitor the Executive Secretary thoroughly
 3. to have a better understanding of Native Ministries
 4. to have a better understanding of policy governance
 5. to have an understanding of the reasons for not having audited financial statements for 2006 presented at this meeting
 6. to receive the Settlement Report
 7. to fulfill all legal obligations
 8. to have a good wrestle with holding the “big picture” of policy governance and listening to one particular constituency
 9. to be reminded of the big picture and ourselves as leaders within BC Conference

10. to begin to move toward building 'team'
11. that all of the above will help us make more faithful decisions
12. to have a really good laugh
13. to learn more about other presbyteries and congregations
14. to hold ourselves accountable for what comes out of listening to First Nations

MINUTES

M/S/C (Goodwin/Ziegler)

THAT the minutes of the November 2-4, 2006 BC Conference Executive meeting be accepted.

M/S/C (Goodwin/Burton)

THAT the minutes of the January 15, 2007 extraordinary BC Conference Executive meeting be accepted.

CORRESPONDENCE REPORT

Doug Goodwin presented a Correspondence Report (Appendix I, page 2007-11) that was based upon the Correspondence Procedure adopted by the Executive.

M/S/C (Goodwin/Fushii)

THAT the Correspondence Report be received and its recommendations adopted.

GOVERNANCE TRAINING

Doug Goodwin led the Executive in a discussion about the role of Conference Executive members. Members serve not as representatives of particular constituencies but as people with distinct experiences and skills necessary for the good functioning of the Executive. Members will bring the perspectives of their various constituencies to their decision-making but will not "represent" (speak or vote on behalf of) particular constituencies.

He also led the Executive in a discussion about "Listening to the Ownership" in the Policy Governance system and, in particular, how it relates to the time to be spent together with the Native Ministries Council. It was noted that questions addressed to the "owners" are different from questions addressed to "beneficiaries." "Owner" questions focus on "what good do you want to accomplish?" while "Beneficiary" questions focus on "how can we do our work better?"

MODERATOR

The Moderator of The United Church of Canada, the Rt. Rev. David Giuliano, addressed the court.

David Giuliano began by telling the court of his new, serious health issue. He used that issue as a metaphor for noting that the church, too, is in a time of chaos. Important during this time is trust in God, in the community, and in ourselves in order to provide balance and order. Listening to the voices of those on the fringes, in particular youth and native peoples, is important for the church at this time. He noted that youth are saying they love the United Church but are having difficulty finding a suitable congregation. First Nations people are calling the church to engage in its own healing process.

The Executive engaged in a question and answer period with the Moderator.

Janice Young led the meeting in prayer for the Moderator.

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY MONITORING

The Executive Secretary, Doug Goodwin, presented a printed Monitoring report (Appendix II, page 2007-13). The report highlighted activities and decisions of the Executive Secretary in response to direct commitments made at previous Executive meetings. It also reported against all Ends policies and scheduled Executive Limitation policies: Financial Condition and Financial Condition (External).

- Previous Commitments** Doug reported that he has fulfilled the commitments he made to the Executive at its November 2006 meeting.
- DSL: Love** Doug reported that on January 23, 2007 he placed the Rev. James Arthur Love on the Discontinued Service List – Voluntary at his own request and as approved by Westminster Presbytery.
- Resignation of Mangan** Doug reported that on February 14, 2007 he accepted the resignation of the Rev. Louise Mangan from the Order of Ministry of The United Church of Canada, as recommended by Vancouver South Presbytery.
- License to Celebrate the Sacraments** Doug reported that he granted Licenses to Administer the Sacraments to Donna Ziegler (December 18, 2006; Prince Rupert Presbytery); Heather Holness (January 23, 2007; Fraser Presbytery); and Kelly Grittner (February 6, 2007; Kamloops-Okanagan Presbytery).
- Interim Ministry Designation** Doug reported that he designated the Rev. Barbara Langton as an Interim Minister on December 11, 2006.
- Ends** Doug Goodwin reported on Conference work that had taken place since the last Executive meeting that reflected the Conference Executive's Ends policies.
- Healthy Congregations and Ministries:* Doug reported numerous items related to "healthy congregations," including:
- continuing management of the former Renfrew United Church site and assisting in plans for its future development;
 - work continues with camps, especially Fircom and Kwomais;
 - the Camp Future Project continues with the hiring of Terry Harrison as Camp Future Manager; a realty company has been hired to act as advisor and agent; conversations continue with the presbyteries with camps in their jurisdictions;
 - conversations have been held with Vancouver-Burrard Presbytery regarding the future of ministry in the Vancouver Eastside;
 - work continues on the incorporation of United Church Health Services;
 - a review of all Real Properties held by the General Council in northern BC has been initiated;
 - a Property Manager continues to ensure Conference properties are safe and well maintained.
- Effective Leadership*
- numerous workshops are being planned to train people in the new Sexual Abuse policy and procedures
 - progress has not been made on establishing a functional Campus Ministry Committee.
- Institutions:* Doug noted that much of the work he does is on ensuring the institutions of the church are reshaped so they can function effectively well into the future. Much of this work involves the use of church property. This focus, however, has not yet been addressed by the Executive. Doug suggested time be spent at a future meeting when developing Ends policies so a conversation about the relative priority of this work can be discussed.

WELCOME CEREMONY

- Welcome** Belle and Gerald Stewart, on behalf of the local band chief, welcomed the Conference Executive members, guests and others present to the lands of the Tsimshian Nation.
- Dinner** Clare Hill, on behalf of the congregation from Hartley Bay Emmanuel United

Church who hosted the dinner, invited all to the banquet table. David Giuliano led in prayer before the meal.

In Memoriam Clare Hill led a ceremony to remember the lives and gifts of Doreen Clellamin, Ernie Hill Sr., James Robertson, and Charlotte Sullivan, all of whom passed away during the past year.

Speeches and Entertainment Numerous Council and Executive members, guests, family members and dignitaries spoke of the elders who had passed away. The Tsimshian Dancers and others provided entertainment for the gathering.

ADJOURN Clare Hill adjourned the evening festivities at 10:30 p.m.

FRIDAY, APRIL 27, 2007

WORSHIP The President led worship with the Executive and the Native Ministries Council.

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY MONITORING (CONTINUED)

Consent Items: Doug Goodwin reminded the Executive of the meaning of Consent Items, referring to the Conference Executive Agenda Planning Policy.

Formal Hearing *M/S/C (Goodwin/Fowler)*
THAT the actions of the Executive Secretary in establishing a Formal Hearing as reported in the Formal Hearing Report (Appendix III, page 2007-23) be accepted.

Income from Sale of Properties *M/S/C (Gregg/Gaudin)*
THAT undesignated income from the sale of church properties that comes to Mission Through Finance be divided as follows: 85% for MTF projects; 10% to BC Conference investments; 5% to another fund administered by the grants committee.

Staff Update Doug reviewed recent staff changes with the Executive. He noted that Cynthia Smith left her work as Assistant to the Personnel Minister. She has been replaced by Brenda Wolff, leaving the Receptionist job vacant. Paul Davis continues to serve on a temporary basis as Conference Minister for Prince Rupert Presbytery. Clare Hill is on contract to do some of the support work for the Native Ministries Council.

Financial Condition Doug reported that the Conference finances are in good shape and well managed by both staff and the Finance Council. Investment income has increased significantly with the improvement of the markets and more proactive investment management. Doug noted that Nellie Tang is an excellent financial manager.

M/S/C (Ziegler/Seal)
THAT the Executive extend a vote of confidence and thanks to Nellie Tang as Finance staff.

Celebration of Sacraments Doug explained that the Conference staff would like to be able to celebrate the Lord's Supper from time to time when they worship together.

M/S/C (McCrindle/Gregg)
THAT the celebration of the Lord's Supper be celebrated by the Conference staff as appropriate and presided over by a staff member with a License to Administer the Sacraments.

Accept Report *M/S/C (Gaudin/Fowler)*

THAT the Executive Secretary Monitoring report be accepted.

**AUDITED
STATEMENTS 2006**

Doug reported that the draft audited financial statements for 2006 are not yet available. The statements are late this year due to several factors, including a change in auditors, more stringent auditing standards, the loss of Art Jones as Accountant, and additional auditing procedures due to our new investment practices.

Barbara Gregg informed the Executive about the changes to the way investment income is calculated. Investment income far exceeded the amount anticipated in the 2006 budget, causing the Finance Council to investigate further. After a review it was determined that the investment income determined by the auditors, totaling over \$500,000, is accurate.

M/S/C (Ziegler/Burton)

THAT the Executive Audit Committee review the draft audited statements when received in order to accept them on behalf of the Executive or to do otherwise as they deem appropriate.

**FINANCIAL AUDIT
COMMITTEE**

M/S/C (Gaudin/Fushii)

THAT Alie Jonker be a member of the Executive Audit Review Committee with the President and Chair of Finance Council.

**GENERAL MEETING
2008**

Doug Goodwin reported on the formation of an Agenda and Planning Committee for the General Meeting 2008 and on progress to date.

The Executive discussed possibilities for the theme of the meeting, as well as the goals it would like to see accomplished.

**GOVERNANCE
REVIEW UPDATE**

Dal McCrindle reported on the progress of the Governance Review Team. The purpose of the review is to ask, "Is our Governance Policy effective and faithful?"

Derek Evans was engaged by the Review Team to help write the questionnaire used by the committee. The questionnaire was distributed to all Conference Executive members, Chairs of Conference Committees, Presbytery Chairs and Secretaries, and Conference program staff. Brian Thorpe has been engaged by the Review Team to help analyze the responses to the questionnaire.

The Review Team is also planning have face to face interviews, but do not feel this will be completed in 2007. As a result, the committee proposed a change in the timeline for the review.

M/S/C (Copeman-Haynes/Gregg)

THAT we extend the timeline for the Governance Review Team so that they report to the Conference Executive and the Presbyteries by the March 2008 Conference Executive meeting; and that there be an interim report in November 2007 to both the Conference Executive and the Presbyteries.

**SETTLEMENT
COMMITTEE**

The BC Conference Settlement Committee met April 25 – 27, 2007. A report was presented to the Executive.

M/S/C (Jonker/Ziegler)

THAT the Settlement Committee report (Appendix IV, page 2007-25) be received for information.

M/S/C (Gaudin/Burton)

THAT the Ministerial Standing report (Appendix V, page 2007-33) be

approved.

Doug reminded the Executive that it is the responsibility of the Conference itself to elect three members of the Settlement Committee: the Chair, Secretary, and Diaconal Member at Large (*Manual* 426.1).

M/S/C (Copeman-Haynes/Jonker)

THAT the Conference Executive acknowledge and extend thanks to Marion Carr and Mollie Williams who have served on the Settlement Committee for many years.

M/S/C (Goodwin/Ziegler)

THAT Fred Nienaber be named Chair of the Settlement Committee, Shannon Tennant be named as Secretary, and Kim Horwood named as Diaconal Member at Large.

EDUCATION AND STUDENTS

The following motions were decided by secret ballot:

M/S/C (Fowler/Copeman-Haynes) that BC Conference commission Liz Bowyer to The Diaconal Ministry of Education, Service and Pastoral Care

M/S/C (Fowler/Copeman-Haynes) that BC Conference ordain Blake Field to The Ministry of Word, Sacrament and Pastoral Care.

M/S/C (Fowler/Copeman-Haynes) that BC Conference admit Maki Fushii to The Ordained Ministry of Word, Sacrament and Pastoral Care in The United Church of Canada.

M/S/C (Fowler/Copeman-Haynes) that BC Conference ordain Carmen Lansdowne to The Ministry of Word, Sacrament and Pastoral Care (Further Study).

M/S/C (Fowler/Copeman-Haynes) that BC Conference recognize Jim MacNaughton as a Lay Pastoral Minister.

M/S/C (Fowler/Copeman-Haynes) that BC Conference ordain Karen Millard to The Ministry of Word, Sacrament and Pastoral Care.

M/S/C (Fowler/Copeman-Haynes) that BC Conference recognize Kenneth Robinson as a Lay Pastoral Minister.

M/S/C (Fowler/Copeman-Haynes) that BC Conference ordain Jeff Seaton to The Ministry of Word, Sacrament and Pastoral Care.

M/S/C (Fowler/Copeman-Haynes) that BC Conference ordain Rob Smith to The Ministry of Word, Sacrament and Pastoral Care.

M/S/C (Fowler/Copeman-Haynes) that BC Conference recognize Eva Stanley as a Lay Pastoral Minister.

BALLOTS

M/S/C (Gregg/Burton)

THAT the ballots be destroyed.

CELEBRATION OF MINISTRY

The Executive was reminded that the Celebration of Ministry worship service will be held May 27, 2007, 4:00 p.m., at St. David's United Church, West Vancouver.

PDC MEMBERS

Doug Goodwin reminded the Executive members that they are also members of the Property Development Council. The Executive also has the responsibility to elect additional persons as members of the Council who might later serve as the Board of Directors for the Council.

M/S/C (Gregg/Copeman-Haynes)

THAT the following persons be named as members of the Property Development Council: Dianne Nichols, Greg Bell, Jim Roberts and Susan Burns.

OTHER BUSINESS

Future Meetings *M/S/C (Goodwin/Fushii)*

THAT the Spring 2008 meeting of the BC Conference Executive be March 13-15, 2008.

FINANCIAL POLICIES

Doug Goodwin and Barb Gregg presented the Finance Policies Work report (Appendix VI, page 2007-35) with recommendations from the Finance Council for future Executive policies.

M/S/C (Ramer/Carr)

THAT the Finance Policies Work report be accepted, and the Executive Secretary be requested to continue work on preparing Conference Executive financial limitation policies for future recommendation to the Executive.

Barbara Gregg explained to the Executive that the Finance Council meets five times per year. This item will be on every agenda until the work is completed.

PRESBYTERY REPORTS

Printed reports were received from Fraser Presbytery, Kamloops-Okanagan Presbytery, Kootenay Presbytery, and Victoria Presbytery. Presbyteries who had not submitted reports were asked to do so as soon as possible.

LUNCH

Lunch was held with the Native Ministries Council.

LISTENING TO THE OWNERSHIP

The BC Conference Executive, the BC Native Ministries Council, and guests of the Executive and of the Native Ministries Council gathered together in a circle.

The President, Janice Young, opened the gathering with words of introduction. The Moderator, David Giuliano, led those gathered in passing the peace of Christ to each other. Jim White thanked the BC Conference Executive and guests for being present. Jim Angus introduced the session. Don McKay sang and drummed the Cherokee Morning Song. Jim Angus then spoke about the history of the Gitksan People.

Alvin Dixon, Dolly Lansdowne, Bill Robertson, Alberta Billy, Don McKay, Jim White, Clare Hill, and Ray Jones all spoke of their experiences as First Nations members in the United Church and of their experiences with the Indian residential schools.

Cheryl Jordain spoke about the similarities and needs between the All Native Circle Conference and the BC Native Ministries Council. Questions were posed and comments were offered by members of the BC Conference Executive. The Moderator offered insights drawn from his listening throughout the church about how there are shifts in the relationship between First Nations people in the church and the rest of the church.

Janice Young thanked to Jim White for his leadership in the listening circle. Jim White extended thanks from the Native Ministries Council for the listening that occurred.

COMMUNION

John Burton led a service of communion with the Conference Executive, Native Ministries Council, and guests.

DINNER

Dinner was held with the Native Ministries Council.

APPRECIATIONS	Janice Young offered appreciation on behalf of the Conference Executive to various groups and individuals for their work for this meeting.
GUESTS	Nora Sanders addressed the Executive and welcomed all to visit the national office at any time. Cecile Fausak updated the Executive on her work with survivors of Indian residential schools.
REVIEW OF LISTENING TIME	Janice led the Executive in a review of the afternoon listening session with the Native Ministries Council.
POLICY REVIEW	The Executive reviewed the following policies: Treatment of Beneficiaries, Emergency Succession, Communication and Support to the Executive, Vendor Relations. No concerns were raised or changes suggested.
OUTCOMES AND EVALUATION	The Executive reviewed its “Outcomes” established at the beginning of the meeting as a way to evaluate the success of the meeting.
ADJOURNMENT	The President adjourned the meeting at 9:00 pm.
NEXT MEETINGS	Property Development Council June 13, 2007, 3:00 p.m. Conference Office Celebration of Ministry May 27, 2007, 4:00 p.m. St. David’s United Church Conference Executive November 1-3, 2007 Conference Office May 22-25, 2008 Capilano College, North Vancouver
GENERAL MEETING	



BC Conference Executive

Rev. Janice Young, President

Rev. G. Douglas Goodwin, Executive Secretary
