
**MINUTES OF THE EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF
THE EXECUTIVE OF BC CONFERENCE**
The United Church of Canada
June 16, 2015
Telephone Conference Call

- PRESENT** Graham Brownmiller, Cari Copeman-Haynes, Ken Fanning, Ian Fraser, Doug Goodwin (Executive Secretary), Murray Gordon, Wayne Hughes, Jean Macdonald, Kathy MacKean, Carol Martin, Jeff Seaton, Keith Simmonds (President), Cheryl Swedburg
- REGRETS** Alyssa Anderson, Judith Hardcastle, Ray Jones, Everest Kao, Nancy O’Higgins, Tayana Simpson, Ruth Stebbing, Jim White, Robert Young
- STAFF PRESENT** Doug Goodwin (Executive Secretary), Katie Purych
- AUTHORITY** In the name of Jesus Christ, and by the authority of the 2015 General Meeting of BC Conference, the President, Keith Simmonds, declared the extraordinary meeting of the Conference Executive duly opened for the purpose of conducting the business properly before it. A quorum was present on the telephone conference call.
- WELCOME** The President welcomed the members to the meeting. The purpose of the extraordinary meeting was to deal with the Proposals that had been referred to the Executive by the General Meeting of BC Conference which met in May 2015. Seven Proposals (*Appendix 1, page 2015-__*), all addressed to the Conference, had been referred.
- AGENDA** *M/S/C (Doug Goodwin/Graham Brownmiller) that the agenda as presented be adopted (Appendix II, page 2015-__).*
- PROPOSALS** Doug Goodwin explained the options the Executive has when dealing with Proposals.
- PROPOSAL 2015-01**
“MORATORIUM ON
FRACKING IN BC” Conference Proposal 2015-01 “Moratorium on Fracking in BC” was considered by the Executive.
- While there was a majority opinion that sections 1 and 2 of the Proposal were acceptable, concern was expressed about the effect of section 3 mandating what potentially could add a significant amount of work onto existing workloads and budgets. It was suggested, and generally agreed, that there could be simple ways of taking advantage of existing materials. The President offered to follow up with Comox-Nanaimo Presbytery.
- M/S/C (Graham Brownmiller/Carol Martin) that the Conference Executive receive Conference Proposal 2015-01 and take the following action:*
1. *endorse a moratorium on fracking in BC;*
 2. *write a letter to the Government of British Columbia communicating this decision/policy and asking the Government to implement a moratorium; and*
 3. *distribute educational and worship resources related to fracking in BC in a manner congruent with Conference budgets and priorities.*

PROPOSAL 2015-02
“REVIEW OF THE LNG
VISION IN BC”

Conference Proposal 2015-02 “Review of the LNG Vision in BC” was considered by the Executive.

While there was a majority opinion that section 1 of the Proposal was acceptable, members expressed a similar concern as in the previous discussion about the implications of workloads and budgets if significant materials needed to be produced. It was agreed to proceed in a similar manner as decided in the previous Proposal.

M/S/C (Graham Brownmiller/Jean Macdonald)

that the Conference Executive receive Conference Proposal 2015-02 and take the following action:

1. *write a letter to the BC Government asking it to critically review, with a view to abandoning, its LNG-based Economic Strategy in BC, as it now seems economically infeasible and harmful to the environment and aspirations of BC residents; and*
2. *distribute educational and worship resources for churches in BC on LNG in a manner congruent with Conference budgets and priorities.*

PROPOSAL 2015-03
“FOUNDATION AND
TREASURY FOSSIL FUEL
DIVESTMENT”

Conference Proposal 2015-03 “Foundation and Treasury Fossil Fuel Divestment” was considered by the Executive.

Discussion on this Proposal focused on the inherent value of the concerns raised by the original Proposal from Trinity-St. Paul’s Pastoral Charge, as well as whether an “endorsement” by BC Conference would provide any effective value at the meeting of the General Council. It was noted that “taking no action” on a Proposal was primarily a technical means of handling communication and did not necessarily imply disagreement with the matter under consideration.

M/S/C (Graham Brownmiller/Ken Fanning)

that Conference Executive receive Conference Proposal 2015-03 and take no action.

PROPOSAL 2015-04
“ENDORISING THE
PENSION FUND’S
COMPLIANCE WITH
RESPONSIBLE
INVESTMENT”

Conference Proposal 2015-04 “Endorsing The Pension Fund’s Compliance with Responsible Investment” was considered by the Executive.

Graham Brownmiller declared a conflict of interest in relation to this Proposal because of his membership on the Pension Board. He, therefore, abstained from the conversation and vote.

Discussion on this Proposal was similar to that on the previous Proposal. It was generally agreed to handle this Proposal in the same manner.

M/S/C (Ken Fanning /Wayne Hughes)

that Conference Executive receive Conference Proposal 2015-04 and take no action.

CHAIR

The President, Keith Simmonds, noted that he was the originator of the next three Proposals and, therefore, vacated the Chair. President-Elect, Cari Copeman-Haynes, assumed the role of Chair.

PROPOSAL 2015-05
“BC CONFERENCE
NARRATIVE BUDGET”

Conference Proposal 2015-05 “BC Conference Narrative Budget” was considered by the Executive.

Discussion on this Proposal focused on the benefits and disadvantages of a narrative budget. It was noted that the Conference Executive already receives the annual budget and monitoring reports in relation to it in both accounting and narrative formats. Keith Simmonds, the originator of the Proposal, clarified that the intention

of the Proposal was not to have the General Meeting of Conference vote on the budget but simply to receive information in a helpful, clear manner, focusing on questions of particular interest.

M/S/C (Carol Martin/Jean Macdonald)

that Conference Executive receive Conference Proposal 2015-05 “BC Conference Narrative Budget” and take the proposed action.

The Proposal asked “that the BC Conference Executive develop a policy requiring the preparation of an annual narrative budget for presentation to BC Conference membership based on the BC Conference mission and vision statements.”

**PROPOSAL 2015-06
“BC CONFERENCE
NARRATIVE BUDGET”**

Conference Proposal 2015-06 “BC Conference Narrative Budget” was considered by the Executive.

It was noted that this Proposal was identical to the preceding one and, therefore, did not need any additional action.

M/S/C (Ken Fanning/Carol Martin)

that Conference Executive receive Conference Proposal 2015-04 and take no action.

**PROPOSAL 2015-07
“SUPPORT FOR FAITHFUL
PUBLIC WITNESS”**

Conference Proposal 2015-07 “Support for Faithful Public Witness” was considered by the Executive.

Keith Simmonds explained the intention of the Proposal. Discussion focused on actions already being undertaken by the Conference in the areas mentioned in the Proposal and what more might be done. It was noted that the third section of the Proposal was not time-sensitive and deserved serious attention in the context of all of the Conference Ends. It was suggested that might be best be done at a regular meeting of the Executive.

M/S/C (Graham Brownmiller /Carol Martin)

that discussion on Conference Proposal 2015-07 be postponed definitely until the November 2015 meeting of the Conference Executive.

CHAIR

The President, Keith Simmonds, resumed the Chair.

APPRECIATIONS

The President expressed appreciation for the participation of the Executive members at this meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

M/C (Carol Martin)

that the meeting adjourn.



BC Conference Executive

Keith Simmonds, President

Rev. G. Douglas Goodwin, Executive Secretary