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**MINUTES OF**  
**THE EXECUTIVE OF BC CONFERENCE**  
**The United Church of Canada**  
**November 24, 2016**  
**Conference Call**

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<b>VIA CONFERENCE CALL</b>	Graham Brownmiller, Ken Fanning, Bob Fillier, Doug Goodwin (Executive Secretary), Judith Hardcastle, Cari Copeman-Haynes, Stephen Hershey, Wayne Hughes, Ray Jones, Everest Kao, Jean Macdonald, Carol Martin, Keith Simmonds (President), Ruth Stebbing, Cheryl Swedburg, Tayana Simpson
<b>REGRETS</b>	Richard Bott, Nancy O’Higgins, Jeff Seaton, Jim White
<b>GUEST</b>	Stephen Fetter (General Council)
<b>STAFF PRESENT</b>	Doug Goodwin (Executive Secretary), Katie Purych (Recording Secretary)
<b>AUTHORITY</b>	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 BC Conference Executive duly opened for the purpose of conducting the business properly before it. A quorum was present.
<b>ADOBE CONNECT</b>	The meeting was convened using Adobe Connect, moderated by Stephen Fetter. All participants could communicate with one another at the same time.
<b>PRAYER</b>	The meeting opened in prayer led by Keith Simmonds.
<b>PURPOSE</b>	The President reminded the members that the sole purpose of this Extraordinary Meeting is to further discuss the External Review Report presented by Dan Hotchkiss at the last regular meeting of the Executive and to make any further decisions regarding it.
<b>DISCUSSION</b>	The Executive reviewed each of the recommendations of the Dan Hotchkiss report in small groups, then brought forward comments and concerns that arose from those discussions.
<b>RECOMMENDATION #1</b>	<p><b>Hotchkiss Recommendation: that the Executive and Executive Secretary collaborate each year to identify a short list of open questions, and that the Executive host a year-long holy conversation about them.</b></p> <p>The general sense of the groups to this recommendation was positive, with the hope that this would help broaden and deepen important conversations, and better engage with the ownership. It was observed that it will be difficult to come up with good questions, and there was some concern such conversations might become too general and unhelpful. Work would have to be done around this process to ensure it works well.</p> <p><i>M/S/C (Cheryl Swedburg/Jean Macdonald)</i>  <i>that Executive approve in principle that the Executive and Executive Secretary collaborate each year to identify a short list of open questions, and that the Executive host a year-long holy conversation about them.</i></p>

**RECOMMENDATION #2** **Hotchkiss Recommendation: that the Executive and Executive Secretary collaborate to create each year a Conference Vision of Ministry (VOM) consisting of a short list of one- to three-year goals.**

There was a general feeling that creating regular goals would help the Executive become more involved in establishing the work of the Conference. This could allow more concrete and measurable direction-setting by the Executive. At the same time it might engage the Executive too much in short-term work rather than allowing it to stay focused on long-term, high level governance.

*M/S/C (Cari Copeman-Haynes/Graham Brownmiller)*

*that this recommendation be postponed definitely to the next in-person meeting of the Executive.*

**RECOMMENDATION #3** **Hotchkiss Recommendation: that the Executive refocus its monitoring activity away from technical compliance toward missional (Ends) and strategic (VOM) success.**

Most comments affirmed the desire to shift away from as much monitoring activity at Executive meetings and focus on future planning. There were some similar concerns to the last recommendation that while focusing on future “success” was positive, getting involved in “strategic planning” might involve the Executive too deeply in management work rather than governance work.

*M/S/C (Bob Fillier/Tayana Simpson)*

*that Executive approve in principle that the Executive refocus its monitoring activity away from technical compliance toward missional (Ends) and strategic (VOM) success.*

**RECOMMENDATION #4** **Hotchkiss Recommendation: that the Executive meet more often, expect more of its members, and use committees more often, to prepare for deeper conversation.**

Discussion was positive around this recommendation, although it was recognized that much work would have to be done on determining how to do it.

*M/S/C (Bob Fillier/Ruth Stebbing)*

*that Executive approve in principle that the Executive meet more often, expect more of its members, and use committees more often, to prepare for deeper conversation.*

**RECOMMENDATION #5** **Hotchkiss Recommendation: that the Conference consider shifting to a smaller Executive composed mostly of at-large members serving three-year terms. The President would also serve a three-year term, or perhaps spend a year as President-elect, and one as Past President.**

Opinions varied about the merits of this recommendation. There was concern that the Executive would always need to balance effectiveness with representation across the wider church. It was noted that the President already serves a three year term as President-Elect and President. It was also recognized that the Executive could not make any such changes itself but a recommendation would have to go to the General Meeting. It was also pointed out that the motion calls, at this time, only for the Executive to “consider” the proposed changes.

*M/S/C (Graham Brownmiller/Cari Copeman-Haynes)*

*that the Conference consider shifting to a smaller Executive composed mostly of at-large members serving three-year terms. The President would also serve a three-year term, or perhaps spend a year as President-elect, and one as Past President.*

- EDITED REPORT** It was agreed that the Hotchkiss Report should be made available on the Conference web site after some editing. The President noted that Doug Goodwin had made several suggestions for editing, primarily in order to avoid misunderstandings about recommendations and to protect the confidentiality of some respondents in Hotchkiss' research. The President, Doug, and Cari Copeman-Haynes will make some suggestions to Hotchkiss for an edit of the Report for the web site. Hotchkiss will produce the final version.
- MINUTES** Doug Goodwin noted that the Minutes of the November 3-4, 2016 meeting of the Executive would be received at the next regular meeting of the Executive.
- ADJOURNMENT** *M/Carried (Graham Brownmiller)  
that the meeting adjourn.*
- NEXT MEETINGS** March 9-11, 2017 (Executive – with the Moderator)  
General Meeting – May 25-28, 2017 (UBC)  
November 2-4, 2017
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## BC Conference Executive

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Keith Simmonds, President

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Rev. G. Douglas Goodwin, Executive Secretary

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