

**Minutes of the Eightieth General Meeting
British Columbia Conference
The United Church of Canada
Langley, BC
May 21-24, 2009**

First Session, 6:30 PM, Thursday, May 21, 2009

- Authority** Pursuant to the authority of the seventy-ninth General Meeting of BC Conference of The United Church of Canada, the eightieth General Meeting convened at the Sportsplex in Langley, BC, and was declared open to conduct the business properly before it, President Hilde Seal presiding. A quorum was present.
- Welcome** The President, Hilde Seal, welcomed delegates to the meeting and introduced the theme of "Holding the Centre."
- First Nations** Welcoming greetings were offered by the Stó:lō Tribal Chief, Christopher Thomas.
- Guest and Theme Speaker** Hilde Seal introduced the General Council guest, Carol Hancock. Hilde also introduced the Very Reverend Dr. Peter Short as the theme speaker for the meeting.
- Table Groups** Tim Scorer introduced how the table groups would work. Those at table groups introduced themselves to one another and shared their intention for being present.
- Worship** Worship on the theme "And So We Pray!" began with drummers from the Stó:lō Nation: Christopher Thomas, Chris Williams, Tyrone Thomas, Wilfred Thomas and Michelle Saul. Worship was led by Hilde Seal, Sally McShane, Lori Megley-Best, Dan Chambers, and Wendy Bily. The scripture was Isaiah 41:8-10.
- The first keynote address was given by the Very Rev. Dr. Peter Short, focusing on call to ministry. He noted that everyone is doing spiritual work. To "hold the centre" we must first "get a grip on letting go" and then listen to the one who says "come and see."
- Throughout the meeting music was provided by the group rEvolve (Chris Giffen, Josh McHan, Gord Oaks and Julian Pattison).
- Business Motions** David Ewart, Chair of the Business Committee, briefly introduced the court to the agenda and business of the meeting.
- M/S/C (David Ewart, Doug Goodwin) that:*
1. *The Roll of the 80th General Meeting of BC Conference shall consist of those members of BC Conference who register prior to 12:00 PM noon Friday, May 22, 2009. Those arriving after that time shall not be included on the Roll and shall not be entitled to payment of travel expenses.*
 2. *The Quorum of the General Meeting shall be one-fifth of those entitled to vote, with at least two Presbyteries represented.*
 3. *The Bar of the Court shall be the floor of the north-east floor-hockey rink of the Sportsplex, Langley, B.C.*
 4. *The Business Committee for this General Meeting shall be Jim Chisholm, Cathy Cryder, David Ewart (Chair), Doug Goodwin (Executive Secretary), Jane Harding, Doris Kizinna, Sally McShane, Hilde Seal (President), and David Smith.*

5. *In order to facilitate the formulation of motions and discussion of matters raised by Proposals, the President may, at her discretion, suspend the ordinary limitations of parliamentary debate and engage in a different process. All decisions of the court shall follow the rules of debate and order as summarized in Appendix III of the Manual (2007).*
6. *Subject to such changes as the Business Committee might make and announce, the agenda as printed shall be the working basis for the order of business.*
7. *Proposals directed to the General Council shall be given priority on the agenda.*
8. *Proposals directed to this General Meeting shall be dealt with by the meeting in the appropriate place in the General Meeting agenda. Proposals dealing with matters not specifically noted on the agenda shall be dealt with in the order that they are received by the Conference office or Business Committee prior to 1:00 PM Saturday, May 23, 2009. Like proposals may be grouped together at the discretion of the Business Committee.*
9. *Voting shall be carried out by delegates raising designated voting cards, save those instances where voting by ballot is required or moved and duly passed, in which case written ballots shall be used.*
10. *In accordance with the Manual 035, action by the Conference regarding candidates to be ordained, commissioned, admitted, readmitted or recognized for ministry or persons to be placed on the Discontinued Service List shall be decided by vote by ballot.*
11. *All motions having budget implications for BC Conference of over \$500 shall not be put to an immediate vote but after initial discussion be referred to a committee consisting of all members present of the Finance Council for a statement of financial implications. The motion will then be returned to the floor for action.*
12. *Corresponding Privileges be granted to Carol Hancock, representative of the General Council.*
13. *Election of President-Elect:*
 - a. *This meeting of Conference shall elect, from amongst those nominated for this position, a President-Elect to serve as Conference President at the rise of the Conference meeting in May 2011 until a successor is elected at a subsequent meeting of the Conference.*
 - b. *All nominations for the position of President-Elect shall be submitted to the Business Committee by 8:00 PM Friday, May 22, 2009, accompanied by:*
 - i. *the signature of five delegates;*
 - ii. *the written agreement of the nominee;*
 - iii. *a one page introduction or resume of the nominee.*
 - c. *The election for President-Elect shall take place by a series ballot system until there is a clear majority obtained by the person with the greatest number of votes.*
14. *The deadline to receive nominations for Commissioners to the General Council shall be 8:00 PM, Thursday, May 21, 2009. The deadline to receive nominations for President-Elect and General Council Executive Representative (Lay) shall be 8:00 PM, Friday, May 22, 2009.*
15. *Requests to withdraw from the meeting shall be submitted to, considered, and granted by the Business Committee. Delegates leaving before noon on Saturday, May 23, 2009 without the consent of the Business Committee shall not be entitled to have travel expenses paid.*

16. *Payment of delegate expenses shall be made as specified in the travel claim form. These claims shall be submitted to the Transportation Clerk at the time of registration but no later than 7:00 PM Friday, May 22, 2009 and no payments regarding travel shall be made before noon Saturday, May 23, 2009. Late claims submitted after June 15, 2009 shall not be paid.* **Carried**

Minutes *M/S (David Ewart, Doug Goodwin) that: the minutes of the 79th General Meeting of BC Conference held May 22-25, 2008 in North Vancouver, BC, be adopted.* **Carried**

Election of Conference President David Ewart noted that Dan Chambers had been elected as President-Elect at the 2008 General Meeting with the expectation of him assuming the role of President in 2009.

M/S (David Ewart, Doug Goodwin) that: this meeting of BC Conference elect Dan Chambers as Conference President to take office upon his installation on Sunday, May 24, 2009, to serve until the installation of his successor. **Carried**

Hilde Seal led the court in a prayer of thanksgiving for the offering of the gifts of the incoming President, Dan Chambers.

The evening session ended at 9:13 PM

Second Session, 8:45 AM, Friday, May 22, 2009

Welcome The morning opened with singing led by rEvolve.

Business Committee David Ewart introduced the agenda for the day and made several announcements.

Table Groups Delegates shared in table groups the question “what is having an impact on me?”

Worship Worship based on “Ultimate Trust in God” was led by Ross White, Richard Bott, Sally McShane, and Hilde Seal.

Memorials Wendy Bily, Janice Young, Stuart Appenheimer and Brenda Wolff led in Memorials for those who had passed away since the last General Meeting of the Conference: Rev. John G. Williams, Rev. Robert T. Smith, Rev. Francis Muir, Rev. John W. Fast, Rev. Frank Andrews, Rev. James Ormiston, Rev. Oliver Howard, Rev. Gordon Imai, Rev. Edith McLellan, Rev. Francis Stevens, Rev. Marjorie Tunbridge, Rev. Gordon Turner, Rev. Betty Griffiths Ling, Rev. Murray S. Thompson, Rev. Dency Ruth McCalla, Rev. Al Unrau, Rev. Max Warne, Rev. Angus Jack, Hon. Hugh Stansfield.

President’s Address President Hilde Seal spoke on “Holding the Centre” based on the text of Isaiah 41:10, “I will hold you in my hand.” She shared the story of the bowls that were made for each congregation in which to hold blessings and prayers.

Conference Executive Accountability Report Heather Burton introduced the Conference Executive Accountability report.

General Meetings David Ewart introduced the question of the frequency and format of Conference General Meetings. He noted that rising costs, fewer volunteers, and few suitable venues has pushed planners to look at alternative ways of meeting, perhaps with theatre seating and/or full service at conference centres.

After table group time numerous responses and suggestions were heard from the floor and recorded by the Executive for future reference.

Conference Executive Membership Cari Copeman-Haynes introduced the question of the membership of the Conference Executive. She noted that for several years the Executive has been thinking about its membership and now needs input from the General Meeting. At question is whether Executive members should be selected directly by the General Meeting rather than

by Presbyteries or by virtue of their office as a Chair of a Council. Direct elections could allow members to be chosen for the skills, experiences and gifts rather than as representatives of other groups. After table group discussion responses from the floor were received.

A “straw vote” was held to indicate how many people wished the Conference Executive to bring a clear proposal regarding Executive membership to the next General Meeting. The court was almost evenly divided on the proposal.

- Personnel as Priority #1** Heather Burton reported on how the Executive has tried to ensure there is a focus on “Effective Leadership: Personnel” as the number one priority of the Conference. Tim Scorer spoke on the Spiritual Care Network. Gaye Sharp spoke about the upcoming Leadership Certificate Program. Treena Duncan introduced the Conference Minister Personnel Team.
- Finances** Mark Paetkau, Chair of the Finance Council, summarized the financial situation of the Conference. He noted that the finances of the Conference are in good shape. He presented more specific information on investments, increase in staffing, and plans for the long-term sustainability of the Conference.
- Moderator Nominee** Jim White reported that the Native Ministries Council decided at its Spring meeting to nominate Jim Angus as Moderator of The United Church of Canada. Legally a Conference Council cannot make such a nomination so that desire was brought to the whole Conference.
- M/S (Jim White, Alvin Dixon) that:
this meeting of BC Conference nominate Jim Angus for Moderator of The United Church of Canada.* **Carried**
- Jim Angus was welcomed to the stage where he expressed his humble appreciation for the nomination.
- Announcements** David Ewart introduced Jane Harding who informed the court of the plans for the Presbytery meetings.
- Lunch** The Youth at Conference led in grace. During the lunch break the Presbyteries met. The President and President-Elect met with the Children of Conference.
- Theme Address** Sally McShane introduced the Very Rev. Peter Short. Peter spoke about mystery—holding on to what we cannot grasp. He pointed out that some say that Moses and Terry Fox didn’t “make it” but it depends on what is meant by “making it.” He encouraged the court: “Don’t turn back, don’t take heartbreak as a sign of God’s absence, God will be whom God will be.”
- The court spent time in silent reflection, in table group conversation, and in dialogue with Peter Short.
- Japanese United Church** A ceremonial event was held to address a past injustice regarding the sale of the Powell Street United Church which was home to Vancouver Japanese United Church. Rev. Daniel Kirkegaard introduced the participants attending from Japanese United Churches, Japanese -speaking: Keiko Nurisue, Mitsuko Mizuguchi, Mitsue Hyashi ; and English-speaking: Chizu Uchida, Hiro Uchida, May Komiyama, Ami Koga, Kuni Kumekawa, Joan Imai; and the former ministers who served their church: Lillian Soga and Rose-Hannah Gaskin; and the present Pastoral Charge Supervisor of the Japanese speaking congregation, Sally McShane.
- Doug Goodwin reviewed the history of the sale of the Powell Street United Church and its relationship to the Vancouver Japanese United Church.

The President, Hilde Seal, offered a recognition and confession of the church's failing in the sale and subsequent disposition of assets from the sale.

A response was given by Daniel Kirkegaard, currently the minister of the Vancouver Japanese Nisei Congregation.

Hilde Seal then led the court in prayer which was followed by the singing of "For the Healing of the Nations."

Daniel Kirkegaard brought greetings and gratitude from Rev. Tad Mitsui for action the Conference took in 1972 that helped Tad be released from prison in South Africa.

Camp Future Project	Terry Harrison noted that the Agenda Book contained an overview of the Camp Future Project. She focused on recent property development work at Camp Fircom and Camp Pringle. Construction and renovation is to ensure that United Church camping in BC is thriving, high quality and sustainable.
Property Development	Doug Goodwin introduced Gordon Easton and Justen Harcourt of Colliers International who are donating time for consultation on property development. Justen pointed out that we are incredibly blessed with the property we have but we are faced with a demographic shift that has brought on increasing costs and liabilities. On a congregational level we need to have a vision and they will help us in terms of property development.
Question Period	Questions from the floor were received and discussion held.
Commissioner Elections	Doug Goodwin introduced the process for the election of General Council Commissioners. The names of nominees for Commissioners were distributed on a ballot; delegates were asked to mark their top choices for Commissioners. The absence of printed information for two nominees was noted so the poll process was postponed until after the dinner hour.
Dinner	The meeting adjourned for dinner at 5:30 PM. Hilde Seal offered a prayer of thanksgiving.
Business Committee	David Ewart introduced the items of business that the Business Committee scheduled for the evening. He also reviewed the proposal process that the court would follow.
Commissioner Elections (continued)	The process to select General Council Commissioners continued from the afternoon. Doug Goodwin clarified that this ballot was not a vote but a poll intended to help guide the Nominations Committee. Delegates marked their ballots. The Nomination Committee, made up of former Presidents (Janice Young, Foster Freed, Tanis Van Drimmelen, and Gordon Verplank) received the marked ballots. Hilde Seal led in prayer for discernment.
Proposals	David Ewart explained that we have three options for action regarding proposals directed to the General Council: to transmit the proposal, to not transmit the proposal, or to transmit with recommendations. Proposals for BC Conference to consider would be discussed in an informal process before being made into a formal motion and decided by parliamentary procedure.
General Council Proposal 2009-01	David Ewart introduced General Council Proposal 2009-01, "Centralized Payroll Plan." Ian MacDonald spoke to the Proposal on behalf of South Burnaby United Church. Discussion followed on the proposal and the wisdom to transfer or not transfer it. It was noted that Westminster Presbytery did not concur with the proposal.

*M/S (David Ewart, Heather Burton) that:
General Council Proposal 2009-01, "Centralized Payroll Plan", not be transmitted to the
General Council.* **Carried**

**General Council
Proposal 2009-02**

David Ewart introduced General Council Proposal 2009-02, "Bella Bella Emergency Lighting."

Don Holmes spoke to the Proposal on behalf of Prince Rupert Presbytery. Discussion followed.

*M/S (David Ewart, Hilary Bitten) that:
General Council Proposal 2009-02, "Bella Bella Emergency Lighting", be transmitted to
the General Council with concurrence without comment.* **Carried**

**General Council
Proposal 2009-03**

David Ewart introduced General Council Proposal 2009-03, "Designated Lay Ministry Titles."

Donna Zeigler spoke to the Proposal on behalf of Prince Rupert Presbytery. Discussion followed.

*M/S (David Ewart, Karen May-Wood) that:
General Council Proposal 2009-03, "Designated Lay Ministry Titles", be transmitted to
the General Council with concurrence without comment.* **Carried**

**Conference Proposal
2009-01**

David Ewart introduced Conference Proposal 2009-01, "The Reduction of Maximum Highway Speeds."

Doris Honeyman spoke to the proposal on behalf of Cariboo Presbytery. Discussion followed. It was requested that the two parts of the proposal be dealt with seriatim.

*M/S (David Ewart, Jen-Beth Fulton) that:
BC Conference petition the Government of British Columbia to reinstate the 90 kph
speed limit on all BC highways.* **Defeated**

*M/S (David Ewart, Susan Sullivan) that:
BC Conference petition the Government of British Columbia to isolate all revenue
derived from fines for vehicle infractions and that this money be used in the
development of alternative energy research and development.* **Defeated**

Worship

Worship was led by the singing group, Spirit Sisters (Sharon Laugé, Dianne Nichols, Christine Connal, Jane Harding), from Cloverdale United Church.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned for the night at 8:53 PM.

Third Session, 8:45 AM, Saturday, May 23, 2009

Opening

The President reconvened the court. The session began with singing and table group time that was introduced by Tim Scorer. Tim invited the delegates to anticipate the coming day by reflecting on the words of Jesus, "come and see."

Worship

Worship was led by the Children at Conference.

Business Committee

David Ewart gave an overview of the day and made several announcements. He reported that there are three candidates for President-elect: Debra Bowman, Jenny Carter and Irene Hart.

**Education and
Students**

Gordon Verplank introduced the candidates for ordination, commissioning, recognition and admission. Each candidate reflected on what sustains them in ministry.

Following the reflections, Judy Foster and Donna Dawson presented gifts bags to the candidates. Grant Bracewell and Blair Galston, on behalf of the Bob Stewart Archives, presented a book to each of the candidates.

The following motions were decided by secret ballot:

M/S (Gaye Sharpe, Gordon Verplank) that BC Conference ordain Alyssa Ann Anderson to the Ministry of Word, Sacrament and Pastoral Care. **Carried**

M/S (Gordon Verplank, Ann Pollock) that BC Conference ordain Graham Kyle Brownmiller to the Ministry of Word, Sacrament and Pastoral Care. **Carried**

M/S (Gordon Verplank, Ann Pollock) that BC Conference ordain Elaine Lois Diggie to the Ministry of Word, Sacrament and Pastoral Care. **Carried**

M/S (Gordon Verplank, Ann Pollock) that BC Conference ordain Nicholas Vaughan Judson to the Ministry of Word, Sacrament and Pastoral Care. **Carried**

M/S (Gordon Verplank, Ann Pollock) that BC Conference commission Betty Anne Dempsey to the Diaconal Ministry of Education, Service and Pastoral Care. **Carried**

M/S (Gordon Verplank, Ann Pollock) that BC Conference commission Brenda Mary Miller to the Diaconal Ministry of Education, Service and Pastoral Care. **Carried**

M/S (Gordon Verplank, Ann Pollock) that BC Conference commission Keith Roy Simmonds to the Diaconal Ministry of Education, Service and Pastoral Care. **Carried**

M/S (Gordon Verplank, Ann Pollock) that BC Conference recognize Heather Jane Holness as a Lay Pastoral Minister. **Carried**

M/S (Gordon Verplank, Ann Pollock) that BC Conference recognize Carol Joy Stokes as a Lay Pastoral Minister. **Carried**

M/S (Gordon Verplank, Ann Pollock) that BC Conference recognize Ann White as a Lay Pastoral Minister. **Carried**

M/S (Gordon Verplank, Ann Pollock) that BC Conference recognize Donna Leigh Ziegler as a Lay Pastoral Minister. **Carried**

M/S (Gordon Verplank, Ann Pollock) that BC Conference admit Rev. Dale Johnson to the ordained Ministry of Word, Sacrament and Pastoral Care in The United Church of Canada. **Carried**

M/S (Gordon Verplank, Ann Pollock) that BC Conference admit Rev. John Richard Matthews to the ordained Ministry of Word, Sacrament and Pastoral Care in The United Church of Canada. **Carried**

M/S (Gordon Verplank, Ann Pollock) that BC Conference admit Rev. Perry Richard Newbury to the ordained Ministry of Word, Sacrament and Pastoral Care in The United Church of Canada. **Carried**

Anniversaries

David Smith honoured those celebrating their 25th, 40th, and 50 or over anniversaries of ordination or commissioning.

General Council Proposal 2009-04

David Ewart introduced General Council Proposal 2009-04, "Indian Taxation and the United Church of Canada Centralized Payroll System through ADP."

Alvin Dixon spoke to this Proposal. Discussion followed.

M/S (David Ewart, Doug Goodwin) that General Council study and take any necessary action to ensure that Status Indians employed by the United Church of Canada on Indian Reserves have their rights of Section 87 of the Indian Act protected when participating in the National Payroll System.

Carried

**General Council
Proposal 2009-05**

David Ewart introduced General Council Proposal 2009-05, "Change to UCC Benefits to include a Health Spending Account."

Sandra Nixon spoke to this Proposal. Discussion followed.

M/S (David Ewart, Doug Goodwin) that the General Council investigate the implementation of a Health Spending Account into the United Church Benefits Plan, whereby United Church employees are given discretion over which health services they wish to access.

Carried

**General Council
Proposal 2009-06**

David Ewart introduced General Council Proposal 2009-06.

Blair Odney spoke to this Proposal. Discussion followed.

M/S (David Ewart, Doug Goodwin) that the categories of membership for the General Council Executive (Section 423b of the Manual 2007) be made parallel to that of the General Council (423a)(i), that is, first, the "Members of the Order of Ministry and Designated Lay Ministers" and, second, "lay members other than Designated Lay Ministries."

Carried

**Conference Proposal
2009-02**

David Ewart introduced Conference Proposal 2009-02.

Jen-Beth Fulton spoke to this proposal. Discussion followed.

M/S (David Ewart, Doug Goodwin) that this meeting of BC Conference endorse the principle of the provision of onsite childcare for children with the cost for this program included in the cost for the General Meeting.

Carried

Open Microphone

Mary Duncan wondered if following the apology to the Japanese congregation the Conference would consider providing financial compensation. Doug Goodwin reported that this ideas has been introduced in discussion with the Japanese congregation.

Joan McMurtry observed that this Conference meeting seemed to have had a focus on internal concerns and hoped that our next meeting would spend more time and energy on matters such as advocating for the marginalized.

Scott Swanson raised a concern about the human resources the meeting takes. He observed that the church has diminishing resources but has not changed meeting and decision-making styles.

Guy Roberts observed that even if the Conference itself does not take actions on particular matters church members are always free to take individual action on advocacy and public concerns.

Lunch

The meeting adjourned for lunch following a prayer by the Youth at Conference.

Theme Address

Peter Short spoke on leadership. He suggested that as leaders in the church and community people must be able to distinguish between what is beloved habit and what is living tradition. The purpose all share in the church is to hand on the living tradition alive.

The court spent time in silent reflection, in table group conversations, and in dialogue with Peter Short.

- General Council Representative** David Smith interviewed the nominees for General Council Executive Representative–Lay: Martha Ashbaugh and Alvin Dixon.
- Following a prayer for discernment ballots were distributed and an election was held.
- After the vote had been counted, Dan Chambers announced that Alvin Dixon had been elected General Council Executive Representative – Lay.
- Alvin Dixon will serve the six-year term of his position until May 2015.
- President-Elect** Foster Freed interviewed the three nominees for President-Elect: Debra Bowman, Jenny Carter and Irene Hart.
- Following a prayer for discernment ballots were distributed and an election was held. Two ballots were held.
- After the final vote had been counted, Dan Chambers announced that Debra Bowman had been elected President-Elect. Debra was warmly welcomed by the court.
- Retirees** David Smith introduced those who had retired since the last General Meeting of the Conference: the Revs. Bob Crosby, Greg Darjes, Brenda Faust, Dan Funnel; and those to retire this year: Doug Graves, Helen Hobbs, David Martyn and Louise Skibsted.
- He then presented each retiree present with a plaque honouring their ministry.
- Worship** Worship was led by Hilde Seal, Wendy Bily and Brenda Wolff.
- Dinner** The meeting adjourned for dinner.
- Business Committee** David Ewart introduced the business for the evening.
- General Council Report and Guest** Carol Hancock, guest from the General Council, brought greetings from the Moderator and the General Council staff. Heather Burton and Marion Carr, representatives to the General Council Executive reported highlights from the work of the General Council Executive since the last General Meeting of Conference.
- General Council Commissioners** Janice Young, representing the President’s Nominations Committee, presented a slate of nominees to be elected as Commissioners to the General Council. She reported that the slate fulfils the values previously identified in the election process.
- M/S (Janice Young, Gordon Verplank) that
BC Conference elect as Commissioners to the 40th Meeting of the General Council the following persons: Dan Chambers, Deb Bowman, Heather Burton, Alvin Dixon, Jim Angus, Dee McEachern, Peggy Jensen, Beverley Liedtke, Cheryl Ballard, Carla DeGroot, Brian Tsai, Martha Ashbaugh, Bari Castle, Richard Chung, Michele Walker, Sandy Ferguson, Doreen Angus, Minnie Hornidge, Sunni Schular, Randy Bentayen, Valerie Taylor, Marleen Soutar, Heidi Koschzeck, Glenys Verhulst, Gale Detta and Shannon Tennant; and that*
- the following persons be named as Alternates: Charles Ahn, Al Fowler, Linda Lee Henricksen and Sharon Hamilton.* **Carried**
- Hilde Seal offered a commissioning prayer for the elected Commissioners.
- Emerging Spirit** David Ewart introduced Keith Howard, the Executive Director of the Emerging Spirit project. His update included notice that WonderCafe and the congregational dimension of the project will continue until June 2010 without requiring any additional funding. Keith emphasized the critical nature of these times, noting the pressures of decreasing finances and membership numbers in the midst of increasing desire for meaningful theological conversation. He predicted that only one out of three congregations will be in their current form in five to seven years.

Settlement Committee Fred Nienaber presented the Settlement Committee Report.
M/S (Fred Nienaber, Shannon Tennant) that the Settlement Committee Report be received for information. **Carried**

M/S (Fred Nienaber, Shannon Tennant) that the Ministerial Standing Report be approved. **Carried**

Registrar's Report Jennifer Purych presented the Registrar's Report.

Presbytery	Number
Cariboo	19
Comox-Nanaimo	44
Fraser	71
Kamloops-Okanagan	83
Kootenay	30
Prince Rupert	25
Vancouver-Burrard	49
Vancouver-South	57
Victoria	43
Westminster	55
Other (Guests, Resource, Staff, Visitors, Volunteers)	43
Total	519

Status	Number
Candidate – non voting	5
Candidate – voting	20
Child	24
Conference Staff – non voting	7
Conference Staff – voting	13
Guest – non voting	21
Lay Presbyter - voting	188
Diaconal Minister	7
Designated Lay Minister - voting	35
Ordained Minister - voting	123
Retired Minister - voting	18
Resource Person – non voting	9
Visitor non voting	17
Volunteer non voting	11
Youth non voting	5
Youth voting	16
Total	519

Appreciations David Smith and Marion Carr expressed appreciation to the many people who had worked to plan and run the General Meeting.

Enabling Motions *M/S (David Ewart, David Martyn) that:*

- 1. the Executive Secretary be authorized to edit reports and minutes for the Record of Proceedings of this meeting;*
- 2. the Executive be authorized to transact all business of the Conference until the next meeting of Conference, except those matters prohibited by the Constitution and Bylaws of The United Church of Canada;*
- 3. the 81st General Meeting of BC Conference take place in May 2011 at a location to be decided by the Executive;*
- 4. all remaining ballots be destroyed;*
- 5. the meeting adjourn following the benediction at the Celebration of Ministry service on May 24, 2009.* **Carried**

- President's Closing Words** Hilde Seal expressed appreciation for the experience of being Conference President and, in particular, gave thanks to the Presbyteries for the hospitality they gave to her.
- Worship** Evening worship was led by Youth at Conference.
- Adjourn** The meeting adjourned for the night at 9:00 PM

Fourth Session, 10:00 am, Sunday, May 24, 2009

- Celebration of Ministry** The Court gathered at the Sportsplex in Langley in a Celebration of Ministry worship service, which included the ordination, commissioning, recognition and admission of fourteen ministers and the installation of the President. The Very Rev. Peter Short preached from the text 2 Corinthians 3:1-6a.
- Adjournment** The President, Dan Chambers, adjourned the meeting with a commissioning and benediction.



BC Conference

Rev. Hilde Seal, President

Rev. G. Douglas Goodwin, Executive Secretary
