

MINUTES OF HOME MISSIONS COMMITTEE

BRITISH COLUMBIA CONFERENCE

The United Church of Canada

June 4-5, 2014

BC CONFERENCE OFFICE
BURNABY, BRITISH COLUMBIA

Authority	The regular meeting of the Home Missions Committee was convened at the call of the Chair at the Conference Office. David Martyn, Chair, presiding, Sandra Nixon, Secretary. A quorum was present.
Present	David Martyn, Chair Sandra Nixon, Secretary & Convenor, Vancouver-South Presbytery Bruce Comrie, Convenor, Kamloops-Okanagan Jim Martin, Convenor, Prince Rupert Presbytery Frank Lewis, Convenor, Kootenay Presbytery Kris Jensen, Convenor, Comox-Nanaimo Presbytery Larry Scott, Convenor, Victoria Presbytery Ray Jones, BC Native Ministries Carole Finch, Convenor, Westminster Presbytery Simone Carrodus, Convenor, Vancouver-Burrard Presbytery Mark Isaak, Convenor, Fraser Presbytery Jane Harding, M&S Convenor & Financial Development Officer, UCC
Staff Present	Nellie Tang, Finance Minister, BC Conference George Meier, Conference Minister (Kootenay) Ivy Thomas, Conference Minister (Kamloops-Okanagan) Patricia Vickers, Conference Minister (Native Ministries)
Guests	Thomas Dennett, Project Manager, Effective Leadership Project
Regrets	Convenor, Cariboo Presbytery Conference Minister, Cariboo Presbytery Conference Minister, Fraser Presbytery Conference Minister, Prince Rupert Jim White, Native Ministries Council Bill Laurie, Conference Minister (Comox-Nanaimo & Victoria)
12:00 Lunch	The meeting began with lunch and fellowship.
Welcome Introductions Worship	The Chair convened the meeting at 1:00 PM. Members introduced themselves. Kris Jensen led opening worship.
Adoption of Agenda	Agenda is amended to extend the presentation regarding the Effective Leadership Project by 1/2 hour. The Table Group time will be reduced by the same amount of time. M/S/C (Ray Jones, Simone Carrodus) that the agenda be adopted as amended..
Adoption of Minutes	M/S/C (Sandra Nixon, Bruce Comrie) that the minutes of the November 6-7, 2013 meeting be adopted as presented.

Declaration of Conflicts of Interest No conflicts of interest were declared.

Guest Presenter

Thomas Dennett presented an overview of the Effective Leadership Project. The Project was begun in 1995. In BC the emphasis is on shifting Presbytery and Conference responsibilities and roles around pastoral relations, and oversight of congregations and oversight/discipline of congregations and ministry personnel. How the Comprehensive Review process relates to the ELP is as yet undetermined. Three new Conference committees have been formed related to Pastoral Relations: BC Conference Pastoral Relations Committee (Chair: Jeff Seaton); Pastoral Relations Working Group (Shannon Tennant); Oversight and Discipline Commission (will have decision making authority). Presbytery Oversight visits will change to "Mission and Vision Support" visits.

Update From Chair

David Martyn reported that he decided that creating an online form for the Mission Support Grant forms would be counterproductive, but he is considering asking permission for BC Conference to design its own MSG form.

Table Groups: The Future of The Home Missions Committee

Feedback From Table Groups

GROUP #1

Have a small sub-group (5 people) that will review applications, create précis, send out to whole committee prior to Fall meeting. Working group would then make funding recommendations and have regular fall meeting with storytelling and education piece and confirmation or changes in funding for final decision. Working group would deal with requests for Unspents, real property, etc during year and provide written (digital) update in the Spring to whole committee.

GROUP #2

Need to ensure full representation at meetings.

Could stakeholders with the most knowledge of each ministry confer with Conference staff to divide or adjudicate funding.

Could we change the fund to be the "Pro-Home Missions Fund."

Not a huge amount of money to allocate - is full representation from all stakeholders really needed?

Could Conference ministers make recommendations to the Executive who would make decisions re funding? (Need to consider implications for Conference Minister workload.)

Suggest meet one day in the Fall.

Encourage process at grassroots for wealthier congregations to "adopt" smaller congregations needing funds.

GROUP #3

Continue in short term with two full meetings.

Face to face meeting and storytelling is really important.

Having representation from all presbyteries enables bigger picture interpretation of decisions made, back to wider church.

If in a few years the funding level decreased to a certain level (\$250,000) perhaps consider reducing/narrowing support to just one area (put eggs in one basket) in order to adhere to value of ensuring "effective ministry." (If it is felt that simply

continuing to reduce across the board will not support effective ministry.)

A decision needs to be made now in order to warn aid-receiving ministries well in advance. Perhaps this is the work of the committee in the immediate future. Would be consistent with our principle of practicing good stewardship.

Ask Doug to carve off money from the bequest in order to give the HM Committee a

DISCUSSION:

If we are anticipating narrowing our focus for funding in a couple of years, the boost?

Agreement that face-to-face meeting is vital.

Perhaps we do need two meeting/year in order to begin planning for reducing or funding focus. Also need to perhaps have conversation/consultation with presbyteries to engage and get feedback. Need to stay attentive to timely decision-making especially if we decide to do some consultation with presbyteries.

Find ways to enhance application process and timing to ensure adequate review and empowering decision-making.

**STORYTELLING
Updates**

Victoria (Larry Scott):

Our Place - concern expressed regarding inequity of funding between outreach ministries. The HM Committee recognizes the concern and it will be taken into account as the HM Committee reconsiders its funding priorities in the near future.

Dinner

Perpetual Calendar

The perpetual calendar was reviewed.

**Review Of Terms Of
Reference**

Terms of Reference for the HM Committee were reviewed. The responsibilities of Presbytery Convenors were discussed.

Noted it is important that other funding being received by aid-receiving ministries should be included in storytelling.

Real Property

Gitsegukla - repair work is 60% completed.

Kispiox - still waiting on plumbing issues in the church to be fixed.

First United Mission - BC Conference (per arrangement with Eric Mathiesen) is responsible for up to 1/3 of the cost of insurance and maintenance this year. Next year will be 2/3.

Unspents

No requests have been received.

Real Property

Nellie provided an update. First UC is no longer considered real property since title was transferred to BC Conference earlier this year.

Requests received: Bella Coola

Stewardship

Jane Harding gave an update on her activities as M&S Convenor and Financial Development Officer. She distributed copies of her report to the 2014 AGM. There is a new stewardship conversation starter booklet, which can be ordered through UCRD. The Mission & Service Giving Report is available online, updated weekly. A second "Surely Goodness" event is planned.

Storytelling

Van-Burrard:

First United has reopened its chapel as sacred space. Pro-vision funding just received is for a 10 part speaker series to be mounted as part of the Aboriginal Spiritual and Cultural Facilitation program. This program got underway in the fall of 2013 funded through a New Ministries Formation Fund grant through the National Church, which provides for about 13 hours per week of facilitator time.

Longhouse continues as is.

Prince Rupert:

Currently supporting Skidegate, Hazelton, Bella Coola, Anspayaxw, Lax-Kwa'laams Gitsegukla may be submitting a 2015 request on their own. May also receive a new application from Hartley Bay. A 25% cut for 2015 would be tough.

Comox-Nanaimo:

Port McNeil - Rev. Sheila Dunbar at .45 time until next year.

North Thompson – a shared ministry. The full time ministry personnel is Lutheran.

Matching grant from Anglican Church so a 25% reduction results in a 50% reduction in overall funding.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned for the evening at 8:00 PM.

9:00 AM

Frank Lewis led the committee in morning worship.

Worship

**Mission & Vision
Workshop**

The Rev. Ivy Thomas presented a “Deep Gladness + Deep Hunger = Mission & Vision” workshop which she offers to congregations. The resources she presented will be put on the Conference Web site.

**Mission Support Grant
Estimates**

Anticipated requests for 2015 were reviewed.

Lunch 12:00 PM

**Discussion: Future
Meetings**

In order to orient newer committee members, two representatives from each of the three funding areas will be invited to speak with the HM Committee at our November 2014 meeting.

Suggest that HM Committee also plan to engage the question of possible narrowing of funding focus in response to anticipated future funding reductions.

Storytelling

Long Beach - FTE shared ministry. Question of expected level of participation by Anglican minister at Presbytery meetings, etc. Otherwise going well.

Port Hardy/Port Alice - exciting things happening with youth, children's choir.

Cumberland - currently operating with supply ministry.

Application Deadline DEADLINE FOR MISSION SUPPORT GRANT APPLICATIONS TO BE RECEIVED BY CONFERENCE OFFICE is OCTOBER 15. ***Please ensure application forms are submitted to David and Nellie by the deadline, and have all the appropriate signatures (congregational and presbytery).**

Application forms are available online at the Conference website.

Fall Meeting Date Fall meeting is scheduled for November 5-6, 2014.

Spring meeting will be June 10-11, 2015.

Enabling Motions M/S/C (Sandra Nixon, Kris Jensen) that the Home Missions Executive consisting of David Martyn, Nellie Tang, Sandra Nixon and Jane Harding be empowered to act on behalf of the Committee until its next meeting.

Adjournment The meeting adjourned at 1:10 PM, with thanks to everyone for their work.

David Martyn, Chair