



MINUTES OF THE HOME MISSIONS COMMITTEE

OF BRITISH COLUMBIA CONFERENCE
The United Church of Canada

November 5 and 6, 2015
BC CONFERENCE OFFICE
BURNABY, BRITISH COLUMBIA

AUTHORITY	The fall meeting of the Home Missions Committee was convened at the BC Conference Office in Burnaby, B.C. at 9:15 AM on Thursday, November 5 th , 2015 with Larry Scott, Chair, presiding and Christopher Cliff, acting as Recording Secretary. Notice of meeting was given in the Executive Minutes of June 16, 2015. A quorum was present.
PRESENT	Larry Scott, Convener, Victoria Presbytery Mark Isaak, Convener, Fraser Presbytery Jim Martin, Convener, Prince Rupert Presbytery Jane Harding, M&S Convener & Financial Development Officer – General Council Frank Lewis, Convener, Kootenay Presbytery Ray Jones, Co-Chair, Native Ministries Council Robin Pollock, Convener, Cariboo Presbytery Kris Jensen, Convener, Comox-Nanaimo Presbytery Jim Martin, Convener, Prince Rupert Presbytery Simone Carrodus, Convener, Vancouver-Burrard Presbytery Carole Finch, Convener, Westminster Presbytery Stephen Hershey, Convener, Kamloops-Okanagan Presbytery Jim White, Co-Chair, Native Ministries Council Louise Smith, Convener, Vancouver South Presbytery
STAFF PRESENT	Nellie Tang, Finance Minister, BC Conference; Thomas Dennett, Acting Conference Minister (Victoria, Comox-Nanaimo); Ivy Thomas, Conference Minister (Kamloops-Okanagan); Debbie Bentham, Conference Minister (Northern Ministries); Christopher Cliff, Assistant to Conference Minister: Finance
GUESTS	Allan Buckingham (from <i>Together We Worship</i>). Genesa Greening, Executive Director, First United Church Community Ministry Society. Don Evans, Executive Director + Le-Ann Dolan, Director of Operations - Our Place Society. (G. Greening, D. Evans, L. Dolan were present for the latter part of Friday morning and lunch; T. Dennett was present all day Friday; A. Buckingham was present for the whole of the meeting.)
REGRETS	George Meier, Conference Minister (Kootenay) Lisa Anwar, Conference Minister (Native Ministry)
CALL TO ORDER	The Chair called the meeting to order at 9:15 a.m.
WORSHIP	The meeting began with worship, led by Jane Harding.
INTRODUCTIONS	The Chair invited those present to give their name and their connection to the Home Missions Committee.
ADOPTION OF MINUTES	M/S/C/ (Kris Jensen / Frank Lewis) That the Minutes of November 5-6, 2014 be adopted as circulated and as they appear on the BC Conference website. The committee moved by consensus that the Executive Minutes of June 16, 2015 be received for information, as circulated.
BUSINESS ARISING	Items arising have already been placed on the proposed agenda.

- ADOPTION OF AGENDA **M/S/C** (Ray Jones / Kris Jensen) that the Agenda be adopted as circulated.
- DECLARATION OF
CONFLICTS OF INTEREST Debbie Bentham receives a portion of her salary from the Coastal Circuit Ministry, which is a ministry applying for a Home Missions grant. She will abstain from the voting on the funding application but is welcome to participate in any discussion.
- AVAILABLE UNSPENTS &
REQUESTS To date there are unspent grant monies arising from two mission units:
- i) St. John's-Gualbert, Port McNeill, \$2,000 because of pastoral vacancy occurring mid-year.
 - ii) ii) Anspayawx (Kispiox) did not complete application documents for an \$8,000 grant for 2015.

Debbie Bentham (Northern Ministries) indicated that congregational structures are now in place and that the original grant money should be released to Anspayawx (Kispiox), in order to pay Gloria Stevens for work done there during 2015.

M/S/C (Jim Martin/Ray Jones) that \$8,000 of Unspent Funds be released to the Anspayawx congregation for 2015, pending receipt of remaining documents for its 2015 application.

M/S/C (Carol Finch/Frank Lewis) that \$ 2000 from the 2015 Unspents be awarded to Lumby United Church for 2015 and that notice be given that this is the last year that such a grant will be made to Lumby, due to constraints on the Home Missions budget.

- REAL PROPERTY
REQUESTS FOR 2016 Real Property covered by Homes Missions is that property owned by The United Church of Canada in primarily Northern locations. Real Property can be church buildings, manses and sometimes land.
- Until now, repairs and upkeep of such property in First Nations communities would be channeled through the Finance officer of BC Conference. There is now a national church body called Aboriginal Ministries Council that would vet all such requests affecting Real Property associated with First Nations ministries. Discussion took place around the complexity of the new model, including the requirement that estimates be obtained prior to work – a practical challenge in remote locations where few contractors are available. Nellie Tang will seek to clarify the process with Aboriginal Ministries Council.

Jim White indicated that local people in Bella Bella are doing work on the church, and they have been able to do this work without assistance from the national church.

First United Church in Vancouver is not Real Property, but BC Conference holds title and it assumes responsibility for covering the costs of repairs of the physical plant.

- FIRST REVIEW –
MISSION SUPPORT
REQUESTS FOR 2016 –
STORYTELLING

A) OUTREACH MINISTRIES:

i) First United Church Church Community Ministry Society, Vancouver
Genesa Greening gave a report. First United serves a different purpose than most service provision organizations.

Many folks whom First United serves have dual diagnoses, addictions, traumas and housing issues. First United provides a palliative ministry for people who may or may not have the potential to improve their life circumstances. Other agencies in the area are serving people who generally have a higher degree of functioning. First United funding comes primarily from BC Housing, individual donors and The United Church. BC Housing funds a permanent a full time shelter of 60 beds. The goal is to improve the existing building (\$100,000) before launching into any re-building program; the existing church building was not built to withstand the current heavy volume of use. First United would like to grow as an organization and not just survive. Genesa requests that funding not be cut from the 2015 level while First United is in this challenging position of transition.

ii) Our Place Society, Victoria

Don Evans gave a Power Point presentation on the work and programs of Our Place. The ministry is open to everyone, on a continuum from destitute to working poor. Thirty outreach workers are in place and a large pool of volunteers staffs a wide range of programs that offer hope to those who are otherwise marginalized. About 12% in the greater Victoria area live in poverty. In Victoria there are more deaths on the street than elsewhere in Canada. Our Place serves 2,000 meals per day in winter, and 1,600 per day in summer. Funding: 5% comes from housing rent and from fundraising events; 38% comes from government; 57% comes from private donations.

LUNCH BREAK

12:00 – 1:00 p.m. Larry Scott offered grace.

B) CONGREGATIONAL SUPPORT – NATIVE

Anspayawx (Kispiox): The church board has been renewed. Home Mission grants are for applicants that have ministry personnel in place. Gloria Stevens is a student in DLM process. D. Bentham has been actively supporting both Gloria and the congregation.

Waglisla (Bella Bella): No grant request has been made. Gilbert Jackson not only serves Bella Bella but travels to Klemtu for funerals. This involves a considerable distance over open water.

Bella Coola Pastoral Charge consists of Augsburg United Church and Emmanuel United Church. Donna Dinsmore is serving on a one year appointment. The hope is that if the year goes well, she might agree to stay longer. Funding helps stability in remote locations.

Coastal Circuit Ministry: - Presently this is a 0.3 Full Time Equivalent position, filled by Deborah Bentham. Intent is to raise FTE to 0.45. Ministry consists of Deborah going to congregations when sacraments are required at Gitsegukla, Lax Kw'alaams and Anspayawx... each of which has a student minister. Support is also provided to the students as they navigate training.

Haida Gwaii: Nancy O'Higgins continues at 0.75 FTE. The request for 2016 is \$5,000 higher than the amount granted in 2015. The extra may be necessary for succession planning.

Haisla (Kitamaat Village): There is no Conference-recognized ministry personnel at Haisla and therefore no grant applications can be made. Jim White will informally inquire about the prospects of encouraging someone from the community to step forward for ministry training.

Hartley Bay: No application has been received from Hartley Bay since 2012.

Hazelton Pastoral Charge: consists of Mountainview United Church in Hazelton and Getsegukla United Church in Gitsegukla. The 2016 application is for the whole pastoral charge, with the distribution to be \$13,000 for Gitsegukla and \$21,000 for Hazelton. The student at Getsegukla is Herb Russell, who is paid \$500 per month; this amount contains no extra provision for funerals. We urge the Ministry & Personnel Committee to work on a fair distribution of labour and compensation for Herb, as the ministry at Gitsegukla develops.

Lax Kwa'laams (Port Simpson): Lawrence Sankey is a DLM candidate eligible for appointment at 0.2 FTE. He has put energy into rallying the community around the church and is viewed locally as an inspiring leader. The actual payroll administration should be done by Conference.

Longhouse Council of Native Ministry (Vancouver): Barry Morris continues to energetically animate this ministry, which serves both Native and Non-Native people in Vancouver's east side.

In general the Home Mission Committee supports the movement to raise up leadership from Native communities, rather than rely on leadership being brought in from “outside”.

Role of Native Ministries Council of BC Conference: The NMC will discuss whether or not future Home Missions grants for Native Ministries should be administered by NMC (and Conference staff) rather than by Home Missions Committee, or whether it is preferable for NMC simply to partner with the Home Missions Committee as it exists now, in making grant decisions. The Native Ministries Council has not met yet this fall, so we await their opinion at a later time.

C) CONGREGATIONAL SUPPORT – RURAL

Cumberland (Comox-Nanaimo) – This has been a 0.5 FTE position which is presently vacant. The congregation anticipates making a call that would start on July 1, 2016. From a pastoral relations point of view, we should anticipate a grant for half the year.

Lumby (Kamloops-Okanagan) – This congregation is served by a 0.25 FTE retired Supply. No grant was made last year. We decided to grant \$2,000 from our 2015 Unspents and give notice that no further grants will be made. The dedication of the congregation is to be commended but declining Mission Support funding makes it necessary to cut grants in several places.

Long Beach Community Ministry (Comox-Nanaimo) – This is a shared ministry with St. Columba Anglican Parish based in Tofino. Currently it has an Anglican priest – Will Ferrey, who is active in Presbytery. The Anglican Diocese of British Columbia has declared Long Beach as a Mission Point, which means they would fund it fully even without an ecumenical partner. Bishop McMenamie is very cooperative and supportive of the United Church in this shared ministry.

North Thompson (Kamloops-Okanagan) – This is a shared full time ministry, with Lutheran minister Rev. Brian Krushel serving Barriere and Clearwater. He is well supported by the people of both communities.

Port McNeil (Comox-Nanaimo) – This is a shared 0.54 FTE ministry with the Anglican Church. The ministry position is currently vacant. The application is for a full year but July 1, 2016 is likely the earliest that a vacancy could be filled. Grant to be pro-rated for a half year.

Port Hardy/Port Alice (Comox-Nanaimo) – This is a shared 0.46 FTE ministry with the Anglican Church. In the past, the same minister was shared with Port McNeil, to make up a 1 FTE position. As with Port Hardy, no new person could potentially come until July 1, 2016.

Robson Valley (Cariboo) – This is a two point shared Anglican-UC ministry 0.5 FTE, with an Anglican priest, serving McBride and Valemount. There is an active youth ministry.

St. Andrew's Lillooet (Kamloops-Okanagan) – This is a shared Anglican-United ministry, 0.5 FTE. The Lillooet community has been diminishing in numbers.

D) NEW MISSION WORK – PROPOSAL FROM WADE ALLEN, PORT HARDY

In the spring of this year the Home Missions Committee received a proposal from Rev. Wade Allen, relating to preservation of First Nations languages in the Port Hardy region. The Anglican bishop also received the proposal and declined it. Subsequently Rev. Allen moved and there was no one to carry out the project, even if approved. Received for information. No action taken.

E) DISCUSSION ON FUNDING PRINCIPLES

i) There is an understanding in shared ministries that both denominations match each other's contributions, if the spirit of partnership is to be honoured.

ii) If we are to decrease funding to a shared ministry that ministry needs to be given one year's notice. The same principle would apply to "stand alone" ministries.

iii) General Council has mandated that we not reduce funding to any First Nations ministry by any more than 5%, if general cuts are necessary. In the case of BC Conference, 51% of our Home Missions budget goes to Native Ministries; therefore, the remaining ministries have to be cut by approximately 25%, in order for us to remain within our available funding.

iv) Given that overall Mission Support funding assigned to BC Conference from the Mission and Service Fund is less than the total requested from our 2016 applications, we need to observe consistent and fair principles in making cuts or reductions. We adopted such principles at the May 29-30, 2013 meeting of Home Missions Committee. They are:

- We will fund Mission Units that have demonstrated a clear articulated vision for mission that is congruent with the Presbytery goals. This question is on the Presbytery section of the Home Missions application.
- We will fund Native Ministries at no less than 5% reduction of the 2013 requests. The remaining will be split on an equal basis between Outreach and Pastoral Charges.
- Our focus is 'mission support' rather than 'life support'.
- We will support 'adaptive leadership training' that is not met by other Conference programs.
- Presbyteries endorsing applications for Mission Support funding will be asked to demonstrate how these applications fit in with their overall assessment of mission strategy and congregational viability within the Presbytery.

v) It was the consensus that we honor the General Council commitment to Native Ministries, and continue to support Rural Ministries within our financial limitations. While all recognized ministries are vital, it was felt that the Outreach Ministries in large centres have some opportunities for funding that isolated Rural Ministries do not. It is also the case that BC Conference has made substantial gifts of money recently to both First United and Our Place, outside of the Home Missions granting process. BC Conference can also access the Thomas Crosby Fund to support native ministry work; this Fund held \$572,000 at the end of 2014.

PROVISION FUNDS UPDATE

Nellie Tang gave an update. There is one BC Conference Pro-Vision Fund (holding \$369,000 of which there is \$160,000 to work with) for proposals coming from presbyteries that do not have a presbytery Pro-Vision Fund. The presbyteries with their own Pro Vision Funds are: Vancouver-Burrard, Victoria, Comox-Nanaimo, Fraser, Westminster. The Pro-Vision Funds are geared towards support of new, innovative ministries. Support of legacy ministries in remote rural areas rests with Home Missions Committee, rather than Pro-Vision Funds.

OVERVIEW OF BC CONFERENCE & HOME MISSIONS FINANCES

Larry Scott attends Finance Council of BC Conference, representing the Home Missions Committee. He gave a slide presentation on where Conference revenues come from, and how the monies are spent to carry out the Conference budget. Home Missions receives its support money from General Council, so our grant process does not enter into the Conference Operating Budget. Given that Conference uses both investment income and some of the capital from investments to fund any deficit in its budget, is it desirable that Home Missions should ask for additional grant money from BC Conference, or would such action only increase the annual deficit of BC Conference? Discussion took place on the polarity of managing shortage and managing wealth, during this time of transition in the Church.

If we continue all Native ministries as a protected category, will other ministries not diminish to a non-viable point, unless new funding is found?

M/S/C (Jim Martin, Kris Jensen) that the Home Missions Committee ask BC Conference to supplement Home Missions funding by dedicating a percentage of future proceeds from property sales and bequests to support mission work in BC Conference.

The executive of Home Missions is directed to provide suitable WHEREAS clauses, giving a rationale for the request, based on discussion surrounding the motion. When the executive has reached a consensus on wording, it will forward the motion to the Executive Secretary of Conference.

SUPPER BREAK

5:15-6:15 PM. Following grace, the committee adjourned to supper.

SECOND REVIEW OF
2016 MISSION SUPPORT
APPLICATIONS

- BC Conference received the second largest grant of the Conferences for Home Missions work, except for All Native Circle Conference, which received \$1.13 million. (Its mission units operate on 100% grant funding.)
- Discussion took place on need to make cuts in some or all of the applications, in order that the grants add up to \$304,640 which is the amount of the 2016 grant from General Council.
- The gap between money available and grants requested, was still over \$22,000 at this stage of our discussions.
- Although the General Council guideline allows cuts of up to 5% to Native Ministries (from last year's grants), we find that we want to increase several of the grants in order to facilitate positive initiatives happening in certain of those ministries.

Nellie Tang indicated that on a one time basis, \$15,000 of our shortfall could be covered from Home Missions (BC) Support Fund, while still leaving the recommended balance of \$10,000 in the Moving/Pre-Call Contingency Fund; the net remaining shortfall would be \$7,800.

CLOSING WORSHIP

The day closed with the singing of a hymn; adjournment came at 7:30 PM

MORNING WORSHIP

Morning Worship on Friday was led by Allan Buckingham, utilizing a digital and liturgical resource that he has developed for small congregations that want to utilize their own lay leadership. The name of the resource is "Together We Worship" and people may purchase it online.

SECOND REVIEW

Discussion continued on the second review of grant applications for 2016.

- It was the consensus to reduce grants to the Outreach and Rural ministries, as well as the Longhouse Council, in order to offset the \$7,800 shortfall remaining after the one time infusion from BC Conference
- While the Longhouse Council was the only Native ministry reduced, it is located in Vancouver and is a well known ministry that might draw financial support more easily than the more isolated Native ministries. Barry Morris is regarded as respected and resourceful in this regard.
- As convener for Victoria Presbytery, Larry Scott raised the concern from that presbytery that Our Place receives substantially less than First United and that Home Missions should consider moving the two ministries towards equal grants in the future. Committee responses:
 - i. First United is struggling more, both financially and organizationally at this time; as its situation improves, perhaps

- the issue of equity could be revisited.
- ii. Our Place is to be commended for becoming more sustainable over time, both financially and in terms of community partnerships and in its pool of volunteers.
- iii. First United has a closer organizational connection to BC Conference in that the property is owned by BC Conference; Our Place is an incorporated ministry autonomous from Victoria Presbytery and BC Conference, with the Society holding the property.
- iv. Both First United and Our Place have received gifts of money from BC Conference, arising from proceeds of property sales in Victoria and Vancouver.

- In light of yesterday’s discussion about the increased role of ProVision Funds in facilitating new ministry initiatives, the following two motions were made.

M/S/C (Steve Hershey/Robin Pollock) That Home Missions Committee eliminate the grant category of **Emerging Missions**, recognizing that funds for emerging ministry are available from other sources at the levels of General Council, Conference and Presbytery.

M/S/C (Jim Martin/Frank Lewis) That Home Missions Committee eliminate the grant category of **Ethnic Ministries**, recognizing that funds for Ethnic Ministry are available from other sources at the levels of General Council, Conference and Presbytery.

2016 GRANTS

M/S/C (Jim Martin/Kris Jensen) That the proposed grants for 2016, as listed in the Appendix to these Minutes, be approved.

MISSION & SERVICE
FUND PRESENTATION

Jane Harding made a Mission and Service Fund presentation.

- Jane works with the Philanthropic Unit of General Council and also assists congregations with financial development.
- Ten per cent of the Mission and Service Fund is earmarked for New Church Initiatives.
- As our denomination is restructured, the plan is for all of the Mission and Service Fund to go towards mission. General Council would operate from a direct levy on pastoral charges.
- We will need to be clear about what the unified budget does.
- The United Church of Canada Foundation holds \$66 million. The Foundation can manage investment funds for congregations, if requested.

REVIEW OF TERMS OF
REFERENCE

The committee Terms of Reference were reviewed for any suggested changes. There was discussion about the diversity of applications and the need to be careful about putting things in the Terms of Reference which would make it more difficult for some to apply for a Mission Support Grant. There were no changes proposed at this time.

2017 GUIDE

It seems impossible to predict what level of grant will come from General Council for 2017 and beyond. Perhaps by next spring there may be some indicator for 2017, based on 2016 givings.

FUTURE

Given that the main scope for Home Missions discussion now seems to be around the 11% of our budget that goes to support for Rural Ministry, is it good stewardship to maintain a committee model that brings together reps from every presbytery, as well as Conference Ministers?

MEETING COSTS

The total for Rural Ministry grants is now down to approximately \$30,000. The cost of gathering a twenty person Home Missions Committee for two meetings a year is about \$12,000. The cost of meeting comes from Conference funds, rather than from grant money to Home Missions. But the issue of cost efficiency remains, as well as the amount

of time that committee members take from their other activities, in meeting and travelling.

- SPRING MEETING After discussion about meeting models, it was the consensus that the spring meeting 2016 should be on Thursday, May 12 at 1:00 pm. This will be an online meeting or conference call organized by the executive of Home Missions Committee. Relevant information for discussion should be sent out ahead of time. Executive should work on new **Terms of Reference** to be presented at this meeting. In years when there is a General Meeting of Conference, we might plan to meet during or after that event in May. Person to person contact could be preserved in this way and there was concern that electronic meetings will sacrifice this important element.
- FALL MEETING Depending on the discussion at the spring meeting, the same model would be used for our fall meeting, i.e. the executive would prepare info about grant applications and distribute this information prior to the online conference. In case an "in person" fall meeting is deemed preferable (after we discuss matters in the spring), committee members should tentatively reserve November 3-4, 2016. If we follow through with the online conference call for the fall, this call would be on Thursday, November 3 at 1:00 pm. There would then be no "in person" meeting, such as we had this year.
- VICE-CHAIR By consensus it was decided that Kris Jensen be named Vice-Chair for Home Missions. The primary role would be to act in the Chair's absence, and to participate on executive.
- EXECUTIVE **M/S/C** (Ray Jones/Simone Carrodus) that an executive consisting of Larry Scott (Chair), Kris Jensen (Vice-Chair), Nellie Tang (Finance) and Jane Harding (Stewardship) be empowered to act until the Home Mission Committee meets again.
- ADJOURNMENT The chair offered grace and adjourned the meeting at 12:05 p.m. Lunch followed and members dispersed to go home.

Larry Scott, Chair

Christopher Cliff, Acting Secretary

APPENDIX 1

BC Mission Support Units: Grants Made for 2016

CONGREGATIONAL SUPPORT GRANTS - NATIVE:

Anspayawx (Kispiox)	8,000
Waglisla (Bella Bella)	
Bella Coola	22,610
CCM (Coastal Circuit Ministry)	42,000
Haida Gwaii .75 FTE	20,000
Hartley Bay	
Hazelton/Gitsegukla	34,000
Lax-Kw'alaams (Port Simpson)	15,000
LongHouse Council .6 FTE	<u>25,000</u>
	51% 166,610

CONGREGATIONAL SUPPORT GRANTS - RURAL:

Cumberland .5 FTE	
Lumby .25 FTE	
Long Beach (shared)	8,250
North Thompson (shared)	10,500
Port McNeil (shared) .54 FTE	3,000
Port Hardy/Port Alice (shared) .46 FTE	3,000
Robson Valley (shared)	2,700
St. Andrew's - Lillooet (shared) .5 FTE	<u>3,375</u>
	11% 30,825

OUTREACH MINISTRIES

First - Vancouver	85,500
Our Place - Victoria	<u>37,000</u>
	38% 122,500

MISSION TOTALS: 319,935

Grant from General Council 304,640
Available Funds (15,295)
Deficit covered by Home Missions (BC) Support Fund

Moving/Precall (Mission Support(BC) Contingency) 10,000

Appendix 2

MOTION FROM HOME MISSIONS COMMITTEE TO BC CONFERENCE November 27, 2015

WHEREAS

the Home Missions Committee of BC Conference relies on an annual Home Missions Support Grant from General Council to fund applications for First Nations Ministries, Rural Ministries and Outreach Ministries, and

WHEREAS

Said annual grant has steadily decreased from year to year, based on a decreasing Mission & Service Fund, and

WHEREAS

General Council mandates that Mission Support Grants for individual First Nations Ministries not be cut back any more than 5% of the 2015 grants made, and 2016 grants to First Nations Ministries represents 51% of the Home Missions 2016 budget for BC Conference, and

WHEREAS

Several of our Rural Ministries are ecumenical partnerships that require a minimum grant in order to remain financially viable, and

WHEREAS

We continue to substantially reduce grants to the Outreach Ministries of First United and Our Place, which serve the most needy of our society, and

WHEREAS

This is a transition time in which the support of Mission Support Grants from the Mission & Service Fund is volatile and uncertain, and yet we have a justice mandate to help those who are least able to help themselves,

BE IT RESOLVED:

M/S/C (Jim Martin, Kris Jensen) that the Home Missions Committee ask BC Conference to supplement Home Missions funding by dedicating a percentage of future proceeds from property sales and bequests to support mission work in BC Conference.