



MINUTES OF THE
HOME MISSIONS COMMITTEE

OF BRITISH COLUMBIA CONFERENCE
The United Church of Canada

November 7 and 8, 2012

BEST WESTERN KING'S INN AND CONFERENCE CENTRE
BURNABY, BRITISH COLUMBIA

AUTHORITY	The regular meeting of the Home Missions Committee was convened at the call of the Chair at the Best Western King's Inn and Conference Centre in Burnaby, B.C. at 12:00 pm on Wednesday, November 7, 2012, David Martyn, Chair, presiding, Jennifer Eastwood, Acting Recording Secretary. A quorum was present.
PRESENT	David Martyn – Chair Simone Carrodus, Convenor, Vancouver-Burrard Presbytery Bruce Comrie, Convenor, Kamloops-Okanagan Presbytery Carole Finch, Convenor, Westminster Presbytery Bob French, Convenor, Victoria Presbytery Ray Jones, Member, Native Ministries Jim White, Member, Native Ministries Robin Pollock, Convenor, Cariboo Presbytery Bill Walsh, Convenor, Fraser Presbytery Frank Lewis, Convenor, Kootenay Presbytery Jane Harding, M&S Convenor & Financial Development Officer, UCC
STAFF PRESENT	Doug Goodwin, Executive Secretary, BC Conference Nellie Tang, Finance Minister, BC Conference Paul Davis, Conference Minister (Cariboo) Michael Hare, Conference Minister (Prince Rupert) Bill Laurie, Conference Minister (Comox-Nanaimo) George Meier, Conference Minister (Kootenay) Ivy Thomas, Conference Minister (Kamloops-Okanagan) Jennifer Eastwood, Assistant to Conference Minister: Finance
GUESTS	
REGRETS	Sandra Nixon – Secretary Dale Gillard, Convenor, Comox-Nanaimo Presbytery Jim Martin, Convenor, Prince Rupert Presbytery
12:00 LUNCH	The meeting began with lunch and fellowship.
GATHERING/WELCOME	Nellie Tang led us in Worship
ADOPTION OF MINUTES	<i>M/S/C (Bob French/Bill Walsh)</i> that the Minutes of June 13-14, 2012 be adopted as circulated.
BUSINESS ARISING	Items arising were place on the agenda.

PRO VISION FUNDS	<p>Doug Goodwin made a presentation about ProVision Funds and the structure of Conference Finances. A The goals are sustainability, priority focus, flexibility, and transparency. Core work, Conference camping, Pro Vision are the three areas of funding. The majority of the Pro Vision funding is grants for short term projects</p> <p>Core work is to be funded by Presbytery allocations, General Council grant, endowment, and investments</p> <p>Camping is funded by investments</p> <p>Question raised about how people not close to Camp Fircom or Camp Pringle access camp.</p> <p>Question raised about eligibility for Pro Vision funds from those funded from other sources – there is no automatic disqualification</p> <p>Criteria for Pro Vision funds are determined by each presbytery.</p> <p>Question raised re: the sale of properties and requirement of funds to go to BC Conference – working towards mutually beneficial arrangement for all 3 parties</p> <p>First United Church title is currently with General Council. BC Conference has asked for title to be transferred. This will free up General Council from the responsibility, and in the case of potential redevelopment there are financial benefits to the owner of the property. A question was raised about the availability of funds for Native communities.</p>
DECLARATION OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST	Michael Hare is paid half-time by the Coastal Circuit Ministry until the end of December.
REVIEW OF COMMITTEE POLICIES AND TERMS OF REFERENCE	<p>David Martyn reviewed policies and Funding Principles as contained in the Terms of Reference. Discussion included the need for guidance in decision making rather than limitations, definition of effective, the need to cut areas of ministry rather than reduce funding to everyone, need to communicate application/funding criteria to Presbyteries & congregations, need to have a policy around startup/seed money, desire for better (more clearly defined) vs. more policies, clear distinction between policies and funding principles.</p> <p>It was noted that the Presbytery Review Form is ineffective.</p> <p>M/S/C (Simone Carrodus/Bill Walsh) that the Presbytery Review Form will no longer be used. Further discussion to be held during Spring 2013 meeting.</p>
AVAILABLE UNSPENTS & REQUESTS	<p>\$3,000 from Fraser Valley Japanese</p> <p>\$3,000 from Long Beach</p> <p>Discussion ensued regarding the process for receiving requests for unspent funds.</p> <p>Request for support to Kispiox</p>
REAL PROPERTY REQUESTS FOR 2013	<p>First UC - \$46,000</p> <p>Bella Coola - \$3000</p> <p>Anspayawx Manse - \$7450, roof - \$4121</p>
FIRST REVIEW – MISSION SUPPORT REQUESTS FOR 2013 – STORYTELLING	<p>Ethnic Ministries</p> <p>Amazing Grace, a Taiwanese congregation, was renting space from Bethany-Newton United Church. Took over buildings from Oak Avenue Unite Church. Outreach is towards the Taiwanese community. They give no funds to M&S currently. This year they have reduced their request and intend to continue to reduce request as budget increases. Vital part of Taiwanese community. Fluctuation in donations as family members sometimes return to Taiwan after children are grown. Expecting to be off mission support in 2 years.</p> <p>Congregational Support – Native</p> <p>Bella Coola – 2 point charge, Bella Coola & Hagensborg. They have completed a JNAC and will be looking for a full time minister. The United Church Minister is the only clergy in the area. Bella Coola is the site of one of the United Church hospitals. Irene Champagne, mobile counsellor operates there. The economy is not good – likely to be on mission support for a long time. Emmanuel Church functions as a community centre.</p>

STORYTELLING CONT'D

CCM – Michael Hare travels up and down the coast to provide services to communities without ministry staff. Michael is leaving at the end of the year – Prince Rupert Presbytery is not yet sure what will be happening in the future. Jim White expressed thanks to Michael for the work he has done over the past 4 ½ years and all he has meant to the communities he has served.

Haida Gwaii – Bi-cultural pastoral charge based in Skidegate. Currently served ¾ time by Nancy O'Higgins, who is in the process of completing her MDiv and will hopefully be ordained in May.

Hartley Bay – served by Clare Hill. The community is only accessible by seaplane or ferry. Part time position. Trying to provide support to other projects. One of the communities who received a faith adventure camp in the summer, which went well.

Hazelton – 2 point charge – Mountainview in Hazelton & Gitsegukla. The United Church Minister in Hazelton is the only full time resident minister in the community. Kevin Hegseth is doing workshops through the Northern Health Authority on grief.

Longhouse – about 200 households under pastoral care, contributing households around 20. Vibrant & welcoming community. Van-Burrard Presbytery feels that this ministry is vital to the community it serves. They have no other source of income.

Spring meeting to include a report from the Native Ministries Council.

Rural

Cumberland – formerly full time self-supporting, now ½ time. It is a short drive from Courtenay. The current minister, Juliane Kasmer will be leaving at the end of the year. They have started a JNAC for a ½ time position. The congregation has experienced some growth and considerable excitement.

Long Beach – shared ministry with the Anglican church. Had been av2 point charge – Tofino & Ucluelet. The shared ministry has had some struggles, but is now working a bit better. A new rectory is being built in Tofino, with funds from the sale of the Rectory in Ucluelet. Their JNAC process just starting. The Anglican diocese will be providing \$12,000 support for next year.

North Thompson – a 2 point charge, Barriere & Clearwater. It is the only mainline church other than the Catholic Church for 200km. The Church of St. Paul in Barriere is United Church, Lutheran & Anglican. Clearwater United Church rents space from the Catholic church. There is no ordered ministry currently in place, but they are hoping to have a new minister in place by January 2013. There is a process around hiring re: Lutheran and Anglican clergy. Funding is split between the United Church and Anglican at this point. The cost of hiring a Lutheran pastor is significantly higher than Anglican or United.

5:30 PM DINNER

Jane Harding led us in grace.

STORYTELLING CONT'D

North Thompson cont'd – have been on mission support for many years, and are doing good mission work

St. John's Gualbert (Port McNeill) is officially 1/4 time sharing a minister with Port Hardy/Port Alice. They are not asking for grant money this year as they are renting space to a funeral home which will generate income equal to grant money.

Port Hardy/Port Alice – is officially 3/4 time, sharing a minister with Port McNeill, and is grateful to have an ordered minister after 11 months of leading worship themselves. The wider community is in slow economic decline and they are being creative in looking at ways to grow the congregations"

Robson Valley – shared ministry United/Anglican in McBride & Valemont. The grant request has been reduced from \$15,000 to \$5,000. The communities haven't grown, but the congregations have found ways to reduce costs. The Priest spends alternating weekends in each town which reduces travel costs, but has also meant that the

STORYTELLING CONT'D

congregations have had to take on more lay ministry and they are feeling positive about the future.

Nakusp – ¾ time position. They have had an unexpected cut in fundraising due to circumstances beyond their control. The church is well respected in the community. The church ministers to the entire community because they often turn to Hilary in times of crisis due to her social work background. Previously, the church made money from doing cleanup at the Nakusp Music Festival. The City of Nakusp has cancelled the Music Festival, which has prevented the congregation from raising these funds. They are asking for grant money to allow them to continue their current ministries until Hilary retires in June and they can find new ways of funding programs. They don't plan to ask for money again next year.

Lumby – There is no longer any industry in town, it is mainly a retirement community. .45 time (18 hrs/wk). Sunday attendance has been declining somewhat. Lily will be retiring in June and they need to transition. They will most likely move to pulpit supply and are not expecting to request the grant again next year.

Outreach Ministries

First UC – Vancouver – The shelter housing is now manageable. The housing society is coming under control. They are moving steadily towards incorporation as a society. The First United board is re-established and taking hold. There is concern that a reduction in funding could look like a reduction in support from the United Church for the mission.

Our Place Society – Victoria – incorporated as a society in 2005. There are 14 board members, 46 full time staff, 200 volunteers/week, 800 community members served/wk, 1500 meals/day. The increased funding request will allow them to operate 7 days/wk. About half of the volunteer are former clients.

New Mission Work

Cariboo Initiative – They are training 4 people for sacrament eldership for communities without ordered ministry. They will likely extend training to communities, which currently have ministry staff, but may be without in the future. They are Planning a gathering in conjunction with Presbytery to celebrate the leadership that is currently happening. They are working to create opportunities for groups to travel to other communities to build a network and share experiences and resources. They want to avoid the sense of isolation that is sometimes felt.

Kootenay Initiative – They are working to build up the capacity of rural churches. They are using a circle process to assist in decision-making. There is a focus on stewardship with Brenda Watt – looking at creative ways for stewardship.

9:00 AM WORSHIP

Ray Jones led us in worship and related how the new United Church crest came to be.

STORYTELLING CONT'D

St. Andrew's Lillooet (shared) – no grant request this year. They have new ministry personnel ½ time.

St. David's Pemberton – at the last Presbytery oversight visit, Vancouver-Burrard Presbytery decided to do a needs-assessment. They have never had a full time minister. They have lay leadership with supervising minister Sharon Copeman who spends 6 weekends/yr in town. They have survived with lay leadership since 1994. A more permanent ministerial presence in the community would be helpful. There are 2 other churches in Pemberton – Catholic & a fairly conservative Non-Denominational congregation. They want to hire a ¼ time minister.

Oasis United Church – The congregation is about 5 yrs old, and is an offshoot of Penticton United. They are renting space in an older building that is currently for sale. They have a 5-year plan to become a self-supporting congregation in a permanent location, and want to maintain full time clergy.

MISSION & SERVICE FUND PRESENTATION	Jane Harding, UCC Financial Development Officer for BC, spoke with the committee about stewardship resources, the Mission & Service Fund, and Gifts with Vision.
SECOND REVIEW OF 2013 MISSION SUPPORT REQUESTS	<p>The total grant requests exceed the available money, and David Martyn pointed out that it is ok if we don't use the whole amount. Also to take into account is the potential need for 2014 given the likelihood of a significant cut in funding. Committee members discussed how we might reduce requests to balance the budget.</p> <p>Cumberland – will potentially have unspent funds due to not having ministry personnel in place Jan 1</p> <p>North Thompson – if Lutherans start contributing to costs there would be some unspent money.</p> <p>M/S/C (Bruce Comrie/Bob French) That the Home Missions Committee of BC Conference approve a Mission Support Grant for 2013, of up to \$15,620 to the North Thompson Pastoral Charge, subject to all participating denominations contributing an equal amount.</p>
12:00 PM LUNCH	Bill Laurie led us in singing grace.
SECOND REVIEW CONT'D	<p>M/S/C (Bill Laurie/Simone Carrodus) that the Long Beach Pastoral Charge 2013 request, which hasn't yet been considered for approval by the Comox-Nanaimo Presbytery executive, be approved in principle, and that the Home Missions Committee Executive make the decision on the request amount when approved by the Presbytery Executive.</p> <p>M/S/C (Bob French/Robin Pollock) that the presented 2013 figures in Appendix 2 be approved.</p> <p>St. David's Pemberton - The committee noted that they would support lay leadership development</p>
THOMAS CROSBY FUND	No requests at this time.
ESTIMATES FOR 2014 MSG REQUESTS	Estimates for grant requests for 2014 were given.
FUTURE DATES FOR SPRING & FALL MEETINGS	<p>SPRING MEETING will take place May 29-30, 2013</p> <p>FALL MEETING will take place Nov 6-7, 2013</p>
ADJOURNMENT	The meeting adjourned at 2:04 PM, with thanks to everyone for their work.

David Martyn, Chair

Report for Home Missions

The following is an extract from the minutes of our last meeting. Reflections from Ivy on group discussion:

- fairly unanimous that something needs to change in way we do things
- majority in favour of experimenting with changing how funds are distributed, including perhaps handing a portion of the HM funds over to presbyteries.
- concern about small congregations and how to encourage them to accept the funding realities and find new ways of being church

there appears to be consensus that we explore in greater detail how we might experiment with giving over some of the HM funds to presbyteries M/S/C (Sandra, Michael) That a task group consisting of David Martyn, Nellie Tang, Ivy Thomas and George Meier, put together a proposal or proposals to be forwarded by email to the rest of the HM committee for discussion in the fall, prior to the November HM meeting. The group of four held a video conference meeting on October 24 but were unable to come up with proposals, except that David and Nellie meet and come up with some suggestions. David and Nellie met on October 30 and decided that David should review the Home Missions minutes for the past number of years to determine policies we may have. I review the last fifteen years of minutes and discovered that we have consistently agreed that we need to change the way we do things. Although it was reported that a majority were in favour of handing over a portion of funds to the Presbyteries this 'block grant' approach was abandoned a number of years ago. The chair of Home Missions in 2004 noted, "Presbyteries have responsibility for mission discernment, not this committee. We have responsibility for developing criteria for the evaluation of how mission requests meet Conference goals." This is still true, even though we have suggested certain percentages for types of work. In 2004 it was suggested that Congregational Native support be 50%, New Mission Work 5%, Outreach 20% and 20% for urban, rural and emergent needs. There is no indication that this was adopted. However, in 2009 we adopted the following percentages: Congregational Support Native 38%, Congregational Support Rural 8%, Congregational Support Urban 6%, Outreach 32%, New Mission Work 7%, Conference 3% and Ethnic Ministry 6%. The submitted requests for 2013 are as follows: Congregational Support Native 38%, Congregational Support Rural 13%, Congregational Support Urban 0%, Outreach 46%, New Mission Work 5%, Conference 0% and Ethnic Ministry 3%.

Gil Rendle in "Journey in the Wilderness: New Life for Mainline Churches" wrote, "Much denominational work needs to be done to manage this shrinking segment of congregations. But the needed work will be challenged by current practices. In denominations where there is an oversupply of clergy or where there are agreements that "require" the denomination to locate active (nonretired) clergy in a congregations, a percentage of these struggling congregations is kept on 'life support' not because of the viability of ministry but because clergy persons who must be placed by denomination need congregational homes. Rather than congregations that use clergy to support ministry, these become congregations whose purpose is to support clergy. When denominations extend extra measures to subsidize such settings with extra dollars, time or attentions from denominational resources in order to meet the minimal requirements of clergy support, then the resources are, in act, directed to the weakest part of the denominational system. Not the places of greatest potential or productivity to accomplish what the denominations claims as its mission."

Actual policies on the books from May 2001.

1. That New Mission Work be shifted to an ongoing group after three years.
2. That 5% of our budget go to new work.
3. That \$5,000 from Mission Support BC interest is to be made available for unexpected pre---call and moving expenses.

Suggestion. That we spend some time reviewing and discussing our Terms of Reference (bc.united-church.ca/sites/default/files/Home_Missions_TOR.pdf) and in particular the Funding Principles.

David Martyn, Home Missions Chair (November 4, 2012)

	2012		2013	2013	
	Allocations		Request	Final	
CONGREGATIONAL SUPPORT ETHNIC:					
Amazing Grace	19,000		15,000	15,000	
Fraser Valley Japanese .5 FTE	12,000				
	31,000	7%	15,000	15,000	3%
CONGREGATIONAL SUPPORT NATIVE:					
Anspayawx	0		-	-	
Bella Bella	0		-	-	
Bella Coola	23,800		23,800	23,800	
CCM	54,625		47,025	47,025	
Haida Gwaii	19,000		20,000	20,000	
Hartley Bay	10,000		10,000	10,000	
Hazelton	19,000		22,000	22,000	
LongHouse Council .6 FTE	27,500		27,500	27,500	
	153,925	32%	150,325	150,325	33%
CONGREGATIONAL SUPPORT RURAL:					
Cumberland .5 FTE	8,000		7,000	7,000	
Long Beach (Shared)	12,000		9,000	6,000	
North Thompson (shared)	8,000		15,620	15,620	
Port Hardy/Port Alice (Shared) .75	4,000		4,000	4,000	
Port McNeil (shared) .25	4,000				
Robson Valley (Shared)	5,000		5,000	5,000	
Nakusp .75 FTE	8,000		8,000	8,000	
Lumby .45 FTE	7,500		9,000	9,000	
	56,500	12%	57,620	54,620	12%
OUTREACH MINISTRIES					
First - Vancouver	150,000		150,000	150,000	
Our Place - Victoria	47,000		65,000	65,000	
	197,000	42%	215,000	215,000	47%
NEW MISSION WORK					
Cariboo Initiative	10,000		10,000	10,000	
Kootenay Initiative	9,000		10,000	10,000	
St. Andrew's - Lillooet (shared) .5 FTE	8,000				
St. David's- Pemberton .25 FTE			20,000		
Oasis United Church	9,000		10,000		
	36,000	8%	50,000	20,000	4%
MISSION TOTALS:	474,425		487,945	454,945	
Grant from General Council	474,738		474,738	474,738	
Available Funds	313		(13,207)	19,793	
Moving & Precall	8,000		8,000		