



## MINUTES OF THE HOME MISSIONS COMMITTEE

OF BRITISH COLUMBIA CONFERENCE  
The United Church of Canada

November 2 and 3, 2016

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 1:00 pm on Wednesday, November 2nd, 2016 with Larry Scott, Chair presiding and Christopher Cliff acting as Recording Secretary. Notice of meeting and a draft agenda was distributed by email from the Chair on September 8, 2016. The date of the meeting was one day later than planned at last November's meeting, so as not to overlap with a meeting of Conference Executive. A quorum was present.
PRESENT	Larry Scott, Chair Mark Isaak, Convenor, Fraser Presbytery Jim Martin, Convenor, Prince Rupert Presbytery Frank Lewis, Convenor, Kootenay Presbytery Kris Jensen, Convenor, Comox-Nanaimo Presbytery Jim Martin, Convenor, Prince Rupert Presbytery Simone Carrodus, Convenor, Vancouver-Burrard Presbytery Carole Finch, Convenor, Westminster Presbytery Stephen Hershey, Convenor, Kamloops-Okanagan Presbytery Jim White, Co-Chair, Native Ministries Council Louise Smith, Convenor, Vancouver South Presbytery David Drake, Convenor, Victoria Presbytery
STAFF PRESENT	Christopher Cliff, Assistant to Conference Finance Minister. No Conference Ministers were invited as those attending last year indicated that they felt their presence was redundant and not a good use of their time. Executive Secretary Doug Goodwin joined the meeting for discussion on Tuesday afternoon and for a portion of Thursday morning.
REGRETS	Jane Harding, BC Conference Financial Development Officer Robin Pollock, Convenor, Cariboo Presbytery Ray Jones, Co-Chair, Native Ministries Council Nellie Tang, Finance Minister, BC Conference
CALL TO ORDER	The Chair called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.
WORSHIP	The meeting began with worship, led by Stephen Hershey.
INTRODUCTIONS	The Chair invited those present to give their name and their connection to the Home Missions Committee, as well as any personal update since we last met.
ADOPTION OF MINUTES	M/S/C/ (Kris Jensen / Carole Finch) That the Minutes of November 5-6, 2015 be adopted as circulated and as they appear on the BC Conference website.

Chair reported that the letter from the Chair on April 28, 2016, in place of a conference call

for a spring meeting for the committee, be received for information.

BUSINESS ARISING

The last meeting of Home Missions forwarded a motion to BC Conference (Appendix 2, p. 10, Minutes November 5-6, 2015) requesting that a portion of funds realized from property sales be used to supplement Home Missions funding to support mission work in BC Conference. Executive Secretary Doug Goodwin replied on December 22, 2015:

EXECUTIVE  
SECRETARY  
REPLY TO REQUEST

**“We have been reluctant to attach percentages to property sales, preferring to remain flexible each time a sale comes up. When things are stable and rather predictable, percentages make some good sense... but in a time of change when you are not really sure what needs to be supported and what doesn't, and when previous decisions might no longer make sense, you like to stay flexible. That said, the plea of Home Missions for additional funding is well founded and understandable. Let's see what we can do in the new year.”**

It is noted that our concern has been heard by the Executive Secretary.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

**M/S/C** (Simone Carrodus / Mark Isaak) that the Agenda be adopted as circulated.

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

No conflicts of interest were declared.

AVAILABLE UNSPENTS

To date there is \$10,166 from Unspent grant monies arising from two mission units:

- i) The grant allotted to the ministry at Anspayawx (Kispiox) was held back, following the death of Gloria Stevens early in 2016. Balance \$6,666.
- ii) Central Marine Mainland Mission CMMM was vacant for part of the year. Balance \$3,500.

The Chair asked that motions about use of the Unspents be left until we have heard reporting from all of the mission units, in a later Round Table at this meeting.

REAL PROPERTY REQUESTS  
FOR 2017

Real Property covered by Home Missions is that property without Trustees that is owned by The United Church of Canada in primarily Northern locations. Real Property can be church buildings, manses and sometimes land.

Until last year, repairs and upkeep of such property in First Nations communities would be channeled through the Finance Officer of BC Conference and Home Missions Committee. There is now a national church body called Aboriginal Ministries Council that vets all such requests affecting Real Property associated with First Nations ministries.

HAIDA GWAI

Jim Martin presented receipts for property upkeep of the manse in Skidegate. These receipts should be processed by the Conference Office, in consultation with Native Ministries Council and Aboriginal Ministries Council.

FIRST UNITED

First United Church in Vancouver does not have Trustees. BC Conference holds title and assumes responsibility for covering the costs of repairs of the physical plant. Repair and maintenance requests from First United, Vancouver should go to the Property Development Council of BC Conference, which has a budget line for First United. The national church no longer receives Real Property requests from First United as it no longer holds title to that property. Applications for Mission Support Grants for the ministry at First United still come to Home Missions Committee of BC Conference.

HAISLA

Jim Martin reported a verbal request from Bill Wilson, Haisla United Church, that funding be provided to cover the cost of materials to repair the church ramp. Any documentation should be processed by the Conference Office, in consultation with Native Ministries Council and Aboriginal Ministries Council.

DISCUSSION WITH  
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

Executive Secretary Doug Goodwin joined the meeting to lead discussion on how the work of Mission Support might be more effectively done in the future, given changing circumstances in the Church. He suggested several factors to consider:

- There is less money available from Mission & Service Fund

- The number of applicants and recipients for grants has diminished
- Previously committees of Conference “did the work” with the support of staff from Conference; increasingly, Conference staff do the work, not just help a committee do its work. In policy governance, committees are advisory.
- Staff have direct accountability for work assigned and are chosen for their professionalism in being able to do so.

Committee members acknowledged that a face to face meeting with reps from every presbytery is expensive and time consuming, but expressed concern about loss of the sense of community and “broad perspective” that comes from gathering to share stories. Doug indicated that Conference should probably invest in more up to date equipment for digital conferencing, so that people could “gather” and maintain the community aspect of a grants process.

Doug circulated a draft document, “**Home Missions Work: BC Conference**”, which is attached as Appendix 1 to these Minutes. The central feature is that grants would be processed by a team of one designated Conference staff and a qualified volunteer, with any disagreement being resolved by a final decision from the Executive Secretary. Concern was expressed by committee members about how objective a review by the Executive Secretary would seem, in such a centralized process.

#### **A) CONGREGATIONAL SUPPORT – NATIVE**

**Anspayawx (Kispiox):** There is presently no ministry staff to replace the late Gloria Stevens, who was a DLM student. There may be a possibility for ministry being provided by Herb Russell, DLM Recognized, who is from Gitsegukla. Conference Personnel Minister and Native Ministries Council are aware of overall situation. Having grant money in place would allow for funding ministry, when someone is found. Kevin Hegseth has been available for funerals at Kispiox, in the interim.

**Waglisla (Bella Bella):** No grant request has been made. Gilbert Jackson no longer conducts Sunday services in Bella Bella but is available for rituals of passage.

**Bella Coola Pastoral Charge** consists of Augsburg United Church and Emmanuel United Church, moving towards amalgamation. Donna Dinsmore is continuing to serve past her initial one year full time appointment. The pastoral charge is very remote and pastoral relationships in recent years have tended to be relatively short.

**Coastal Circuit Ministry:** John Burton is Retired Supply presently serving this ministry part time since October 1, 2016. CCM is a presbytery position that is financially administered by BC Conference.

**Haida Gwaii:** Nancy O’Higgins continues at 0.75 FTE. The request for 2016 is at the same level as last year. Retirement is anticipated but none has yet been announced.

**Haisla (Kitamaat Village):** There is no Conference-recognized ministry personnel at Haisla and therefore no grant applications can be made. Bill Wilson functions as a church leader. One young person in the village has shown interest in perhaps becoming a trained pastor. Jim White will inquire further on behalf of Native Ministries Council.

**Hartley Bay:** No application has been received from Hartley Bay since 2012. Clare Hill is understood to have moved from the community to Vancouver.

**Hazelton Pastoral Charge:** consists of Mountainview United Church in Hazelton and Gitsegukla United Church in Gitsegukla. The student at Gitsegukla has been Herb Russell, who is paid \$500 per month for 0.25 FTE. Gitsegukla did not submit an application for 2017, but we recommend holding \$15,000 for ministry there, pending discussions about staffing. See also notes for Anspayawx, regarding possible staffing for this area.

**Lax Kwa’laams (Port Simpson):** Lawrence Sankey is a DLM Recognized, appointed at 0.2 FTE.

The old church building has been rebuilt with support from both BC Conference (\$14,000) and from the Band (\$30,000-\$40,000). Lawrence displays energetic leadership and is a strong advocate for the church in the community.

**Longhouse Council of Native Ministry (Vancouver):** Barry Morris continues to energetically animate this 0.6 FTE ministry, which serves both Native and Non-Native people in Vancouver's east side.

**Role of Native Ministries Council of BC Conference:** The NMC has agreed to be the body that recommends Mission Support Grant applications for Native Ministries in BC Conference. Such applications will no longer come before Home Missions Committee. Native Ministries Council will hereafter be working with Conference staff in this regard.

## **B) CONGREGATIONAL SUPPORT – RURAL**

**Castlegar-Kinnaird (Kootney)-** This congregation is a new applicant, seeking \$1,000 funding for a Messy Church program. Referred to Pro-Vision Fund of BC Conference, as this would likely qualify for an innovative ministry grant.

**Cumberland (Comox-Nanaimo) –** This is a 0.5 FTE position which is currently filled by ordinand Elaine Julian. The congregation is making no application for 2017, in an effort to see if it can be self-sufficient. Thanks is expressed to Home Missions for past support.

**Lumby (Kamloops-Okanagan) –** This congregation is served by a 0.25 FTE retired Supply. No grant was made last year and no application was made this year.

**Long Beach Community Ministry (Comox-Nanaimo) –** This is a shared ministry with St. Columba Anglican Parish based in Tofino, serving Tofino and Uclulet. The incumbent was Will Ferrey, an Anglican priest who left in October. Logan McMenamie, Bishop of British Columbia, appointed an Anglican priest on an interim basis for three months. He and Treena Duncan, Conference Personnel Minister will travel to the community next week and discuss a longer term plan for the ministry. It would be our turn to provide a United Church minister. We should make no cuts here, so as to facilitate continued ecumenical ministry.

**North Thompson (Kamloops-Okanagan) –** This is a full time ministry (United, Anglican, Lutheran) with Lutheran pastor Brian Krushel serving Barriere and Clearwater. The grant request in 2017 is higher than 2016, to offset a lack of Lutheran grant in 2017. The Lutheran grant process is not consistent from year to year.

**Okanagan Falls (Kamloops-Okanagan) –** This is small congregation with 0.2 FTE ministry being provided by Rev. Ken Jones, who also works 0.8 FTE at Oasis United Church in Penticton. Funding of \$2,000 is requested in order to explore ecumenical ministry with an Anglican church across the street. Referred to Pro-Vision Fund of BC Conference, as exploring an innovation in ministry might qualify for Pro-Vision support.

**Port McNeil (Comox-Nanaimo) –** This shared 0.54 FTE ministry with the Anglican Church has been staffed by an Anglican. Position is now vacant.

**Port Hardy/Port Alice (Comox-Nanaimo) –** This is a shared ministry with the Anglican Church, now vacant. Our Conference Minister and the Bishop of British Columbia are going to port McNeil, Port Hardy and Port Alice in December to discuss their future. We would maintain funding, in order to facilitate any new shared arrangement.

**Robson Valley (Cariboo) –** This is a two point shared Anglican-UC ministry 0.5 FTE, with Anglican priest Margaret Dempster, serving McBride and Valemount. Our Conference Minister and Anglican counterpart will meet with the community shortly, in order to discuss their future following Margaret's imminent retirement. We would approve a grant for 2017, with an option to hold back the full grant if there is no ministry continuing after the retirement. Alternate forms

of ministry may be possible.

**St. Andrew's Lillooet (Kamloops-Okanagan)** – This is a shared Anglican-United ministry, 0.5 FTE staffed by Anglican priest Jo-Anne Hinter. The Lillooet community has been diminishing in numbers and last year declined 16.5% in offerings.

### **C) OUTREACH MINISTRIES:**

#### **i) First United Church Community Ministry Society, Vancouver**

Genesa Greening, Executive Director resigned at the end of September. Currently Don Evans has worked 0.5 FTE as Executive Director, in addition to his role as full time Executive Director at Our Place, Victoria. Sally McShane, Community Ministry, has also resigned; Bob Burrows is helping out on a part time basis. There are 34 full time and 24 part time staff, with 2000 volunteers. About 500 people participate in the day program, which is the largest program at First. First United continues to serve those disadvantaged persons who are at the palliative end of the continuum in the Downtown East Side.

#### **ii) Our Place Society, Victoria**

Our Place provides about 850 meals per day. By means of building community partnerships, about 80-90% of the food is donated. There are 170 full and part time people on staff, with approximately 400 volunteers per week coming in. The ministry is open to everyone, on a continuum from destitute to working poor. Funding: 5% comes from housing rent and from fundraising events; 38% comes from government; 57% comes from private donations. The most difficult funding to secure is for chaplains, as corporate donors are generally averse to supporting religious services.

SUPPER BREAK

The meeting recessed at 5:30 pm for a forty minute supper break.

PROVISION FUNDS UPDATE

Christopher Cliff gave an update. There is one BC Conference Pro-Vision Fund 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. Consensus to deny Castlegar and Okanagan Falls applications, as they have access to greater funding if they apply to Pro-Vision Fund of BC Conference.

SUPPER BREAK

Following grace, the committee adjourned to supper.

SECOND REVIEW OF 2016  
MISSION SUPPORT  
APPLICATIONS

Taking into account that the total of 2017 requests from all mission units was \$51,840 above the forthcoming grant for Mission Support from General Council, we decided on the following principles:

- We will honour General Council's directive that Native Ministries not be cut beyond the level committed last year.
- In general, grants made to Rural Ministries and to Outreach Ministries will not be higher than last year. Reviewing the applications from these two categories, and using grant amounts no higher than 2016 levels (except for the North Thompson case in which we chose to offset a Lutheran gap), we were able to reduce the deficit by \$37,000.
- The gap between money available and grants requested, was still approximately \$15,000 at this stage of our discussions.

CLOSING WORSHIP

The day closed with the Chair offering a blessing; adjournment came at 8:00 pm.

MORNING WORSHIP

Morning Worship on Friday was led by Larry Scott, given that Jane Harding phoned in ill and could not lead worship as she had originally planned.

Second Review  
GRANT MOTIONS

Discussion continued on the second review of grant applications for 2016.  
**M/S** (Kris Jensen/Carole Finch) That all Mission Support Grants be set at the 2016 level.  
Defeated.

**M/S/C** (Louise Smith/Simone Carrodus) That the Mission Support Grants for Native Ministries and for Rural Ministries, be those listed on the spreadsheet in Appendix 2. Carried. Abstention: Jim White.

**M/S/C** (Frank Lewis/Stephen Hershey) That the 2017 Mission Support Grant for First United Church be \$68,555 and for Our Place Society it be \$35,000.

2017 GRANTS  
SUMMARY

The grant decisions from the preceding two motions appear summarized at the end of these Minutes as Appendix 2.

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

Doug Goodwin returned to hear any further comments on the draft that he circulated to committee members yesterday. He suggested that the staff team handling applications could convene an online meeting of presbytery reps, to have their input on applications before making a final decision. Presbytery reps would need to know the story rationale for the final decisions made about applications, even if the reps' role is advisory only.

STEWARDSHIP

Carol Finch serves on the Stewardship Committee of BC Conference. The committee has representatives that can do a stewardship presentation at a congregation or Church Board. She recommends the resource "Salt and Light". Jane Harding is the staff person on this committee.

UNSPENTS

**M/S/C** (Jim Martin/Jim White) That the Unspents totaling \$10,166 be allotted to Conference Staff to conduct a visitation tour of Native Ministry mission units in the Northern and Coastal regions, so as to better understand their needs and make recommendations.

FUTURE

The Home Missions Committee will remain intact for now but no face to face meetings will be planned.

Presbytery reps can continue to assist the mission units with their applications.

Prince Rupert Presbytery and Native Ministry Council will consult on applications.

Conference staff will define an application process and consult with presbytery reps and Conference Ministers as needed.

The Executive Secretary will appoint a volunteer to work with the Staff Team.

It is expected that the block grant coming to BC Conference will be the same for 2018 as it was for the past two years, subject to advice from the national church to the contrary.

HOME MISSIONS  
EXECUTIVE

**M/S/C** (Simone Carrodus/Jim White) that a Home Missions Executive consisting of the Chair, the Finance Officer and the Financial Development Officer be empowered to act on behalf of the Home Mission Committee as long as the latter remains constituted. (Presently that would mean Larry Scott, Nellie Tang/Christopher Cliff, Jane Harding.)

GET WELL CARD

The Chair will convey a Get Well card to Nellie Tang, with best wishes from those who were present to sign it. She hopes to return to work in the new year.

THANKS

Thanks were extended by the Committee members to Larry Scott and Christopher Cliff for their conducting of the meeting and for the various arrangements.

ADJOURNMENT

The chair offered grace and adjourned the meeting at 12:00 p.m., as per the agenda. Lunch followed and members dispersed to go home.

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Larry Scott, Chair

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Christopher Cliff, Staff Support 1

**Grants Made for 2017**

<b>BC Mission Support Units</b>	<b>2017</b>		<b>2017</b>	
	<b>Request</b>		<b>Final</b>	
<b>CONGREGATIONAL SUPPORT NATIVE:</b>				
Anspayawx (Kispiox)	\$ 12,000		8000	
Waglisla (Bella Bella)	\$ -		0	
Bella Coola	\$ 23,580		22610	
CCM (Coastal Circuit Ministry)	\$ 50,000		42000	
Haida Gwaii .75 FTE	\$ 20,000		20000	
Hartley Bay	\$ -		0	
Hazelton/Gitsegukla	\$ 37,000		34000	
Lax-Kw'alaams (Port Simpson)	\$ 15,000		15000	
LongHouse Council .6 FTE	\$ 27,000		25000	
	<b>\$ 184,580</b>	<b>52%</b>	<b>166,610</b>	<b>55%</b>
<b>CONGREGATIONAL SUPPORT RURAL:</b>				
Castlegar-Kinnaird	\$ 1,000		0	
Cumberland .5 FTE	\$ -		0	
Lumby .25 FTE	\$ 3,000		0	
Long Beach (shared)	\$ 8,500		8500	
North Thompson (shared)	\$ 13,900		13900	
Okanagan Falls	\$ 2,000		0	
Port McNeil (shared) .54 FTE	\$ 3,000		3000	
Port Hardy/Port Alice (shared) .46 FTE	\$ 4,000		3000	
Robson Valley (shared)	\$ 3,000		2700	
St. Andrew's - Lillooet (shared) .5 FTE	\$ 4,000		3375	
	<b>\$ 42,400</b>	<b>12%</b>	<b>34,475</b>	<b>11%</b>
<b>OUTREACH MINISTRIES</b>				
First - Vancouver	\$ 85,500		68555	
Our Place - Victoria	\$ 45,000		35000	
	<b>\$ 130,500</b>	<b>37%</b>	<b>103,555</b>	<b>34%</b>
<b>MISSION TOTALS:</b>				
	<b>\$ 357,480</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>304,640</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>Grant from General Council</b>	<b>\$ 304,640</b>		<b>304,640</b>	
Available Funds	\$ (52,840)		0	

## Appendix 2

# Home Missions Work BC Conference

Adoption Date: November 3, 2016  
Last Revision Date:  
Last Reviewed Date:

### A. Purpose

To provide financial support to Pastoral Charges, Outreach Ministries and other identified projects that need assistance, by strategically and equitably allocating Mission Support Grants and Real Property Grants to qualified applicants.

“Qualified applicants” does not include aboriginal ministries, either traditionally supported or new, since Mission Support Grants and Real Property Grants to aboriginal ministries is administered through the Native Ministries Council.

### B. Decision-Making Team

Decisions on applications related to Home Missions shall be made by a team consisting of a designated Conference staff person and a qualified volunteer. In case of disagreement the Executive Secretary shall make a final decision.

### C. Consultation

The Decision-Making Team will be convene an on-line or face-to-face gathering annually to receive, share and consult on information related to grant requests before final decisions are made. This gathering will include the Presbytery Volunteers involved in the Home Missions work and any other important for good decision-making.

### D. Management

Management work related to Home Missions shall be done by Conference staff and volunteers, including Presbytery Volunteers, under the guidance of the decision-making team. They will:

- ensure the availability of Mission Support Grants, Real Property Maintenance funds, and Technology Grants is known through the Conference and, in particular, in those places which might best take advantage of these grants;
- distribute and advertise the appropriate application forms for Mission Support Grants, Real Property Maintenance funds, and Technology Grants;
- assist, as needed, in the preparation of grant forms;
- receive and collate Presbytery-approved applications for Mission Support Grants, Real Property Maintenance funds, and Technology Grant applications;
- prepare the applications for decision-making by the decision-making team;
- follow up on decisions by contacting recipients and ensuring funds are distributed as decided;
- receive and collate applications for Conference “unspents” and the General Council “Common Fund” for decision by the decision-making team.

### E. Presbytery Volunteer Responsibilities

At least one person in each Presbytery will act as a Home Missions Volunteer to assist in this work. The Presbytery Volunteer will, as possible:

- provide education and advocacy in congregations and presbyteries on Home Missions work and opportunities;
- work with grant applicants to ensure timely, accurate applications;
- help presbyteries assess grant applications; and
- contribute to the work and decision-making of Home Missions by advising the management work and decision-making team as requested.

**F. Funding Principles**

Home Missions work will fund ministries:

- whose work is consistent with the Gospel story as reflected in the Conference Mission (or is open to working in that direction);
- that are transparent and complete in reporting;
- to which the Church has made historic promises;
- that practice good stewardship;
- that are effective (that is, are actually achieving their goals);
- that are engaged in developing the ministry of the whole people of God.

**G. Values**

Theology

- Home Missions work will operate from a theology of God's abundance and possibility.
- Home Missions work will be a good steward of the financial resources entrusted to it.
- Home Missions work will respect and account for the diversity of cultures, needs, and ministries within the Conference.

Decision Making Processes

- Home Missions work will make decisions in a manner that seeks to discern the leading of God.
- Home Missions work will consider each application on its own merits, recognizing differences in culture, opportunity and context.
- Home Missions work will seek to be fair and equitable, treating like cases alike.

Transparency

- Decisions and work will be open to scrutiny as far as possible without jeopardizing confidentiality.
- Home Missions work will trust that applicants and presbyteries have stated their needs honestly.

Accountability

- Home Missions work will honour the guidelines and regulations of the funds being dispersed.
- Home Missions work will make appropriate reporting to the General Council and BC Conference.
- Home Missions work will honour the work of congregations and presbyteries and be able to account for its decisions and actions to congregations and presbyteries upon request.

Cooperation

- Home Missions work will seek to find understanding and mutual agreement among the different levels of decision making.