

THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA

**THE EXECUTIVE OF GENERAL COUNCIL
April 24-27, 1998**

The Executive of the General Council of The United Church of Canada met at the call of the Moderator from Friday, April 24, 1998 until Monday, April 27, 1998, at 3250 Bloor Street West, Etobicoke, Ontario. The Moderator, the Right Reverend Bill Phipps presided.

PRESENT: Steve Adams, Ross Bartlett, Marion Best, Jean Bethune, Hazel Bigby, Elizabeth Brown, David Carrothers, Steven Chambers, Helen Chisholm, Claire Borel-Christen, Kay Cho, Richard Choe, Virginia Coleman, Lois Creith, Sheila Duffin, Patty Evans, Carol Hancock, Ron Holotuk, Dave Iverson, Fred Jamieson, Jon Jessiman, B.J. Klassen, Bernice Luce, Randy MacKenzie, Joanna MacQuarrie, Faith March-MacCuish, Lynn Maki, Harold Manuel, Fred Monteith, John Moor (part-time), Teresa Moysey, Ruth Nicholls, Bill Phipps, Karen Ptolemy-Stam, Bernice Saulteaux, Michael Scott, Linda Slough, Don Smith, Glenn Smith, Sheila Snelling, Jack Spencer, Anne Shirley Sutherland, Lorna Teed, Rhea Whitehead, Peter Wyatt, Mark Wartman, Mollie Williams, John Yeo.

CORRESPONDING MEMBERS: David Allen, Rod Booth (part-time), Wendy Bulloch, Roslyn Campbell, Roger Coll, Jean Dryden, Alf Dumont, Catherine Gaw, Arlene Granbois, Bonnie Greene, George Lavery, Elsie Manley-Casimir, Beth Parker (part-time), Jim Pickering, Gordon Roberts, George Rodgers, Jamie Scott, Peter Scott, Clarence Sellars, Bob Shantz (Friday evening only), Althea Spencer-Miller, Brian Thorpe, Bill Wall, Albion Wright.

REGRETS: Bayani Baybay, Paul Campbell, Gordon Groot.

CONSTITUTING OF THE EXECUTIVE

The Moderator constituted the Executive with the following words:

"In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ the only sovereign head of the Church, and by the authority vested in me by the 36th General Council, I hereby declare this meeting of the Executive of General Council to be in session for the work that may properly be brought before it to the glory of God."

"Au nom de notre Seigneur, Jésus-Christ, seul chef souverain de l'Église, et par l'autorité qui m'a été conférée par le 36ième (trente sixième) Conseil Général, je déclare ouvert, par la présente, l' Executif du Conseil Général et ses travaux dans l'intérêt du Royaume de Dieu."

WORSHIP

The opening worship was in the chapel and led by the Moderator on the theme of the Ecumenical Decade of Churches in Solidarity with Women. Althea Spencer-Miller, Global Partner to the Executive, delivered the sermon. Juliet Huntly and Fred Graham, staff from the Division of Mission in Canada, assisted in the worship and its preparation.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Rhea Whitehead introduced the Global Partner to the Executive: Althea Spencer-Miller, ordained minister of the Methodist Church of the Caribbean and the Americas; senior program officer of the Caribbean Conference of Churches, with special responsibilities for the women's desk; currently completing her doctoral dissertation in New Testament Studies.

INTRODUCTION OF NEW MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE

Virginia Coleman welcomed Steven Chambers, General Secretary, Ministry Personnel and Education to the Executive.

ENABLING MOTIONS

Motion: Virginia Coleman/Lorna Teed:

That the corresponding members of the Executive of the General Council for this meeting be: Albion Wright, Jean Dryden, Alf Dumont, the Secretaries/Directors of Departments, the Executive Secretaries of the Conferences, Jamie Scott, Althea Spencer-Miller, Bob Shantz and observers and other persons attending the meeting as a resource to the Executive.

The Motion

Carried

Motion: Virginia Coleman/Lorna Teed

That the administrative staff for this meeting be: Alison Jordan, Melinda Moore and Mary Purdon and that the minute secretary for this meeting be Mary Purdon.

The Motion

Carried

Motion: Virginia Coleman/Lorna Teed:

That the following persons be the Reference and Counsel Committee for this meeting of the Executive of General Council: David Allen, Jon Jessiman, Ruth Nicholls.

The Motion

Carried

Motion: Virginia Coleman/Lorna Teed:

That the minutes of the General Council Executive held November 21-24, 1997 be approved with the following addition and correction:

page 91: Nominations

“That the Executive of General Council approve the appointment of Pierre-Paul LaFond (O) (M&O) to COPERMIF and Don Mayne (O) (ANW) as Chair of the Employee Assistance Programme Committee.”

and

correcting the spelling of Ruth Nicolls’ and Harold Manuel’s names.

The Motion

Carried

Motion: Virginia Coleman/Lorna Teed:

That the minutes of the Sub-Executive of the General Council of January 21, 1998, January 30, 1998 and April 2, 1998 be received for information.

The Motion

Carried

Motion: Virginia Coleman/Lorna Teed:

That the agenda for this meeting of the Executive of General Council be adopted as circulated and that changes to the Agenda which may be necessary as the meeting evolves be on the recommendation of the Business Committee.

The Motion

Carried

Motion: Virginia Coleman/Lorna Teed:

That all motions with financial implications, including requests for funds from the Project Fund, be dealt with provisionally until the completion of the report of Sessional Committee 2.

The Motion

Carried

Motion: Virginia Coleman/Lorna Teed

That all items of business to be considered by Sessional Committees be placed before the Executive of General Council for such action as the Executive deems appropriate.

The Motion

Carried

CORRESPONDENCE

Motion: Virginia Coleman/Lorna Teed

That this list of correspondence be received and the recommended actions be taken:

Received From	Date	Regarding	Recommended Action
Great Lakes Waterways Presbytery	13 March 1998	assistance with legal costs	refer to Sessional Committee 2
Coronation Presbytery	5 January 1998	assistance with legal costs	refer to Sessional Committee 2
Petition from London Conference	3 April 1998	request for remit	refer to General Secretary
Souris Valley Presbytery		assistance with legal costs	refer to Sessional Committee 2
Jean Dryden	3 April 1998	disbursement from the Archives Endowment Fund	refer to Sessional Committee 6
Canadian Health Coalition	24 April 1998	compensation for Hepatitis C victims	refer to Sessional Committee 4

The Motion

Carried

MODERATOR'S REPORT/FAITH AND THE MORAL ECONOMY

Following a time of table group check-in, Immediate Past Moderator Marion Best took the chair while the Moderator presented his report.

The Moderator reported on his activities since the last meeting of the Executive. The most significant event had been Bill's trip to the Democratic Republic of the Congo in March. As he reflected on his trip Bill told the Executive that he would never again complain about pot holes in the roads of Toronto, Calgary, or any other part of Canada. After thirty years of total neglect, the "roads" in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (formerly Zaire) were almost non-existent. The national highway was once a well-paved road linking the capital Kinshasa with other cities and villages. During his travel in the country the roads were the most visible sign of the grotesque, oppressive and neglectful regime of former dictator Mobutu Sese Seko.

The purpose of the trip was four-fold: to participate in a Women's Conference on Economic Literacy; to visit various projects supported by The United Church of Canada; to meet with and examine our relationship with l'Eglise du Christ au Congo (ECC); and to give Bill an experience of Africa.

Bill returned to Canada with deep respect and admiration for the people he met and for the work our Division of World Outreach does, and has done for decades. Bill surmised that if all United Church members could witness the special praise given the United Church and specific individuals who develop close, honest and resourceful relationships with overseas partners, the Mission and Service Fund would double.

The Moderator went on to review some of the other activities he had undertaken since the Executive last met. Bill made particular mention of the opportunity he had to visit some of the hard hit areas during the ice storm in January. He was well received there and glad that the church was able to be present to the immediate needs of the many people effected by the storm.

Bill reviewed the proposal for the proposed Faith and the Moral Economy Consultation which had been introduced at the last meeting and had been refined since that time. Following his brief review, table groups spent time discussing the proposal and then offered their feedback to Bill and the sessional committee reviewing the work.

Following the Moderator's presentation time Past Moderator Best thanked him for telling the stories of the church wherever he goes.

Moderator Bill Phipps resumed the chair.

GENERAL SECRETARY'S REPORT

Virginia Coleman began by reporting on her travels with the Division of World Outreach in December 1997. It had been a fascinating but disturbing trip to Peru and Ecuador in order to visit, first hand, some United Church partners. The trip was a wonderful opportunity for Virginia; Chris Ferguson, who accompanied her, was an invaluable resource.

Virginia reported that work had begun on the dispute resolution implementation which she expected to be in place by the time of the release of the *Record of Proceedings* (ROP) and *The Manual* in June. Virginia went on the express her appreciation for the leadership and hours of work given by the design and implementation group -- Cynthia Gunn, Roslyn Campbell, John Hamilton, Marilou Reeve, and Jamie Scott.

Virginia reported that the *Record of Proceedings* and *The Manual* had both been completed and were in the hands of the Division of Communication with an expected release date of late June. She thanked Don Willmer, the chair of the Manual Committee and the editor of this edition of *The Manual*, and the members of the Manual Committee for their dedication and hours of work. She also acknowledged her appreciation to Mary Purdon, Melinda Moore, and Alison Jordan for their work on the *Record of Proceedings*.

Resolution 64 -- Membership Review of the Executive of General Council

That the Executive of General Council authorize a review of the composition and membership of the General Council with a report, including recommendations, to be placed before the 37th General Council for its consideration and action.

Motion: Virginia Coleman/David Carrothers

That the Executive of General Council approve Resolution 64 titled Membership Review of the Executive of General Council.

The Motion

Carried

Motion: Virginia Coleman/Lorna Teed

That this Executive of General Council authorize a mail ballot for the Conference Executive Secretary of Manitou Conference, and that appointment be made effective on the receipt of an affirmative vote.

The Motion

Carried

Virginia concluded her report by informing members of the Executive that former Moderator Wilbur Howard was not well and asked that he be remembered in their prayers.

In response to the General Secretary's report a question was raised from the floor regarding the current climate amongst the staff at church house. Virginia replied indicating that morale continued to be low. Staff throughout the building were working to their limits and that effects both the personal health and lives of individuals as well as having potential long term effects on the church.

UPDATE ON THE LAWSUITS

In order to allow for an open presentation and discussion of the proceedings in the Port Alberni court case, Virginia proposed that this section of the meeting proceed "in camera". Meeting in camera would mean that the content of this portion of the meeting would be confidential and could not be reported on by any members of the press present. The intent was not to create secrecy but rather to ensure that all members of the court felt free to speak.

Motion: Virginia Coleman/Randy MacKenzie

The Executive of the General Council deal with the report regarding the lawsuits in camera.

The Motion

Carried

Motion: Virginia Coleman/Don Smith

That the Executive move out of meeting in camera.

The Motion

Carried

WORLD COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

Marion Best reported on her work with the World Council of Churches. As the Assembly drew near tensions were rising. The assembly would take place in Harare, Zimbabwe in December and there continued to be political economic unrest in the country that gave people some concern. In addition, President Robert Mugabe had taken an almost personal campaign against homosexuals and there were concerns that gay and lesbians may be unsafe at the assembly. There had been assurances (in writing) given to the WCC that all participants would be safe but there was need for continued vigilance around this.

Another tension for the United Church had been the relationship with the orthodox churches. The Orthodox Church had not been happy with some of the stands that Protestant churches, particularly the United Church, have taken. The particular issues were the ordination of homosexuals, inclusive language and the ordination of women.

In response to Marion's report, a question regarding the United Church's participation in the Harare assembly, given the potential for risk for our participants, was raised. Marion responded indicating that was a concern that the World Council of Churches Relations Committee was aware of and monitored on an ongoing basis. There were a number of difficult issues that needed to be considered in relation to that question.

The Moderator offered words of thanks to Marion for her work and representation on behalf of the whole church.

DIVISION OF FINANCE REPORT

Michael Scott reported on the current financial situation of the church. In arriving at a revenue recommendation for 1999, the Division of Finance had several facts and issues to consider that concerned both the Mission and Service Fund and the United Church Reserves. Included were the results for 1997 of both the M&S fund and the operating results of the General Council Offices, the outlook for 1998 and balances and projections of the UCC Reserve Fund. The following is a summary of these issues:

1997

1. Mission & Service Fund

- ♦ the final total for 1997 was \$29.686 million, which is an increase from 1996; the first increase since 1992.
- ♦ while this is indeed good news, the Division was aware that "one year a trend does not make".
- ♦ at the Division's Annual General Meeting, staff from the Department of Stewardship Services provided some preliminary analysis of the 1997 results (which were a cause for caution).
- ♦ the preliminary (and further) analysis includes the following information:

- six Conferences recorded increased gifts in 1997 compared to 1996; however, overall, the gifts received from congregations **declined** by \$166,000. Some of this may be due to a significant increase in funds received late both in comparison to 1996 (+\$149,000); and in relation to a four year average (+54%).
- the Direct Giving program experienced an increase of \$202,000 which accounts for the year on year increase in the M&S fund **but**
- much of the increase (\$115,000) is due to gifts from congregations that were closing, etc. and should be considered one-time events.

2. General Council Offices Results

- ◆ overall, the GCO's recorded a net deficit of \$87,000 which is a variance of .2% (point 2%) of the total approved expenditure budget. This is, given the early setting of the budget, a very satisfactory result.
- ◆ this is further evidence that the process of monthly reporting and regular review by the General Council Secretaries is providing positive results.
- ◆ the expenditure deficit and the M&S total resulted in less being drawn from reserves than was budgeted. This compares favorably to the previous three year period (1994-1996) when an additional \$3 million was drawn from Reserves to cover revenue and/or expenditure deficits.

1998

The positive results of the M&S fund in 1997 provide something to build on. The revenue generation efforts, supported by draws from reserves, are now established in most conferences. However economic, demographic and other factors vary greatly among regions making it difficult, as always, to provide any reasonable assurance on total gifts in 1998. The positive results for 1997 mean that it would require, in 1998, the largest yearly decline (2.3%) in a decade for the M&S fund not to meet the budget, established in February 1997, of \$29 million.

UCC Reserve Fund

In determining the amount to be drawn from the UCC Reserve Fund in support of the 1999 budget, the Division considered the following:

- ◆ the 1997 closing balance in the reserve fund was \$8.9 million which is in line with the figure in projections of one year ago. However the individual items changed significantly.
- ◆ two major variances were:
 - a) the amount of bequests, matured annuities, etc. received (-\$740,000), and;
 - b) the results of the M&S fund (+\$660,000)
- ◆ in addition to the unpredictability of the receipt of bequests, etc., the Division was made aware of other "soft" figures including the amounts designated for clergy couples assistance due to income tax reassessments and the return to reserves from the sale of *Voices United*
- ◆ the projected balance for 1999 is slightly above \$7 million, which is in excess of the stipulated \$5 million minimum balance of the fund. It was noted that the projections of a year ago indicated a 1999 closing balance of \$8.7 million. Major reasons for this decline are:
 - a) the \$700,000 variance for bequests noted above, which has a further negative impact on future years' projections due to the 5 year average formula used (the total impact of this for 1999 is \$1 million) and;
 - b) further allocations approved by the Executive of General Council and General Council 36.
- ◆ included in the projections is the assumption that there will be a 1998 spending deficit of \$250,000. It is premature to adjust for a 1998 M&S result that would reduce the draw from reserves.

After considering the above, the Division of Finance, at its Annual General Meeting, recommended a draw from Reserves of \$2 million. Subsequent to the March meeting of the Budget Steering Group, the Division's Executive agreed to revise the recommendation to \$2.1 million, to balance the budget.

BUDGET STEERING GROUP

Jamie Scott reported on the work of the Budget Steering Group, reviewing the process used as they went about their work. As the Budget Steering Group began the work of looking at the budgets, it attempted to establish a theological framework for its work. They considered the impact of approaching the budgeting process from the belief that God had provided the church with enough resources to carry out the mission that is important for us as a church to do in this time and place. In making decisions about what that work may be, the group used four "lenses", or tools, for that discernment process. These were:

(a) *Theological Imperatives which were developed by the BSG at its November meeting:*

We are called to be stewards of God's resources for:

- transformation, both individual and societal
- risking, going beyond our present selves (personally and as an institution) to be open to the surprise of the Spirit
- celebrating God's presence among us e.g., worship
- opting for the vulnerable, the marginalized, the excluded, those not heard
- a just sharing of resources for the benefit of all (including the UCC, the wider church and for the sake of the world)
- creating and sustaining life-giving, justice-seeking ministry.

(b) *A series of questions proposed by the General Council Secretaries and revised by the BSG at its November meeting:*

1. Is this activity something that is best done at the national level?
2. Is this something which is best done by this particular Spending Unit? If not, could it be combined with similar activity in another Unit?
3. Is this something that is best done in the same way? If not, what other way could it be done and at what cost?
4. Is this something we would recommend that the General Council Offices stop doing?

(c) *The Priorities set by the Executive of General Council at its April 1997 meeting:*

1. Congregational/Outreach Ministry, Worship & Mission
2. Witness in the World
3. Partnership in World Mission
4. Education for Church Leadership
5. Stewardship
6. Theology & Faith
7. Inter-cultural Ministry and Mission
8. Evangelism
9. Support and Accountability for Ministry Personnel
10. Ecumenism/Inter-faith Relations

(d) *1-2-3's, as proposed by the Budget Working Group:*

1. Essential and/or mandated
 - Without this activity we would not be The United Church of Canada

2. Should:

- those things that would be irresponsible not to do;
- jeopardizes the completion of those things named as essential; essential items could become ineffective, inefficient, uneconomical if these things not done
- work which has been requested by one of the 3 most recent meetings of the General Council

3. Would Like To:

- consider would be helpful/of use to UCC
- because future analysis indicated need

It was anticipated that, as the planning and direction setting work of the Executive of the General Council developed, it will replace these "lenses" as the criteria that would guide the decision-making process.

Jamie noted that, throughout the work of the BSG, it had been clear how much difficult work had been faithfully undertaken by all of those involved. There was a strong commitment by all units to on-going work between the two meetings.

Discussion: Following a time of table group discussion there was an opportunity to ask questions and offer commentary to the whole court. There was a request that the increase to the church's budget be celebrated, realizing that the increase was small and the work continues but that the church needs to celebrate successes, even minor ones.

It was noted that the budgeting process, as it was reported, felt like the best process in several years and there were words of appreciation for Jamie Scott and Anne Shirley Sutherland for their work to that end.

THEOLOGICAL REFLECTION

Peter Wyatt, Althea Spencer-Miller, and Bob Shantz (Chair of the Canadian Coordinating Committee for the Decade) shared their reflections on the Ecumenical Decade of Churches in Solidarity with Women.

Bob began by sharing some stories reflecting his personal journey to and through the Ecumenical Decade. He went on to reflect on why so many men had been silent on the decade. Bob saw a variety of reasons why men did not participate in the Decade including fear, stereotypical images of feminists, and lack of support in their faith community.

Althea responded to what Bob had shared and stated that vulnerability can be experienced in a number of ways. She made the point that the mere toleration of women's presence at some point must be transformed into a deep down acknowledgment of the competence of women. In order to truly live out the Decade, churches must not just search for the Biblical passages that support women, but must acknowledge the over-abundance of passages that suppress women, and critique that reality.

Peter Wyatt extended the appreciation of the court to Bob Shantz for sharing his time with the Executive.

SESSIONAL COMMITTEES

Sessional committees met for the remainder of the evening.

SATURDAY APRIL 25, 1998

WORSHIP

Opening worship was led by Alberta and Northwest Conference each morning on the theme of the Ecumenical Decade of Churches in Solidarity with Women.

SESSIONAL COMMITTEES MEET

Sessional Committees deliberated over the rest of the morning.

THEOLOGICAL REFLECTION

Althea Spencer-Miller and Peter Wyatt shared a time of theological reflection with the Executive, reflecting particularly on their experiences in the reflection time the last evening. The theological reflection from the previous evening had initiated a significant amount of conversation throughout the Executive and Althea began by acknowledging the feelings that Bob's comments had raised for her. She expressed surprise at her response and discovered anew some raw emotions as a woman.

Peter responded that perhaps Bob had stepped in some "cow pies" last evening and the experience for the Executive suggested that sometimes we think we are further down the road than we find ourselves to be. It occurred to Peter that both men and women needed to be able to step in those pies in trust and then move from there.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The Moderator drew the court's attention to some significant events in the lives of members of the General Council and its Executive: Joan Cook, a General Council commissioner from Newfoundland Labrador Conference, had recently been appointed a Senator; Kay Cho would be receiving an honorary doctorate from Victoria University; B.J. Klassen would be receiving an honorary doctorate from United Theological College; and Jamie Scott was attending his last meeting as chair of the Budget Steering Group.

OBSERVER AWARDS

It was announced that the Observer had won twelve awards for the quality of the magazine and four of them were first prizes. The court offered the Observer its congratulations.

Unfinished Business from General Council - Petitions 2, 31, 77, 98

PETITION 2 -- APPROVED WORDING FOR FINANCIAL BOOK EXAMINERS

Motion: Lorna Teed/Anne Shirley Sutherland

That the Executive of General Council request the Division of Finance to designate terminology to be used for financial book examiners that would standardize financial reporting and request the Manual Committee make this information available.

Motion: Virginia Coleman/David Carrothers (in amendment)
Replace the "Manual Committee" with the Division of Finance.

The Motion to amend

Carried

The Motion as amended

Carried

PETITION 31 -- CRIMINAL CODE SECTION 745

The following motions were made at the meeting of the Executive of General Council in November 1997:

Motion: Karen Ptolemy-Stam/Ron Holotuk

That this General Council Executive

- 1) reaffirm its belief in the possibility of rehabilitation within the criminal justice system; and
- 2) affirm that, by allowing for early parole review, section 745 of the criminal code (the "faint hope clause") exists to give opportunity to periodically evaluate rehabilitation efforts, and in this regard, is an important and necessary provision of the Criminal Code.

And be it further resolved that the General Secretary of the General Council be asked to inform the Minister of Justice of this action.

Motion: Ross Bartlett/Jean Bethune (in amendment)
That section one be deleted.

Motion: Patty Evans/Joanna MacQuarrie

That the discussion of Petition 31 be postponed definitely until wording has been worked on.

The Motion (to postpone)

Carried

At the November meeting of the Executive Jamie Scott and Ross Bartlett agreed to work on new wording for this motion. The new wording had been prepared and it dealt with the concern regarding the removal of section one; therefore, the movers of that amendment, Ross Bartlett and Jean Bethune, agreed to withdraw their amendment.

Motion: Ross Bartlett/Jean Bethune (in amendment)

That the motion be amended to read:

That the Executive of General Council:

- 1) reaffirm its belief in the human potential for healing, renewal and reconciliation through the work of God's Spirit, and its support for a restorative approach to justice; and
- 2) affirm that, by allowing for early parole review, section 745 of the Criminal Code (the "faint hope clause") exists to give opportunity to periodically evaluate restoration efforts, and in this regard, is an important and necessary provision of the Criminal Code.

And be it further resolved that the General Secretary of the General Council be asked to inform the Minister of Justice of this action.

The Motion to amend

Carried

The Motion as amended

Carried

PETITION 77 -- INCLUSION OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND OUTREACH MINISTRIES IN YEARBOOK

Motion: Virginia Coleman/Lorna Teed

That the Executive of General Council:

- a) include the ministries currently listed in Part IV, A, of the Year Book in Part VI, Pastoral Charges and Ministers;
- b) ask the Division of Communication and the Division of Mission in Canada to consider further ways appropriate statistical information can be shared; and
- c) distribute mailings and The United Church of Canada Year Book to social justice and outreach ministries on the same basis that it does to pastoral charges.

Motion: Linda Slough/Randy MacKenzie (in amendment)

- c) delete the phrase "and The United Church of Canada Yearbook" and add at the end if these ministries wish to receive them.

The Motion to amend

Carried

The Motion as amended

Carried

PETITION 98 -- THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION FOR STAFF ASSOCIATES

That the Executive of General Council develop a policy for the theological education of persons serving as staff associates which would take into consideration the following suggestions:

- 1) the theological education be concurrent with the appointment, congruent with the responsibilities of the position, and negotiated between the congregational Ministry & Personnel Committee, the presbytery Education and Students Committee, and the staff associate; and
- 2) the policy include the requirement that the terms of appointment for any staff associate include a specific number of paid work hours to be devoted to this.

Motion: Virginia Coleman/Lorna Teed

That the discussion regarding petition 98 be lifted from the table.

The Motion

Carried

Motion: B.J. Klassen/Steven Chambers

That Petition 98 be referred to Division of Ministry Personnel and Education for consideration by the Ministry Study and Lay Ministry Committee.

The Motion to refer

Carried

PRIORITIES AND PLANNING TASK GROUP

Anne Shirley Sutherland presented the background to the priorities and planning work as well as the goals for this meeting. Marion Best led the Executive through a process of table group discussion followed by a time to report back to the Executive at large on the content of the priorities document.

SUNDAY APRIL 26, 1998

Sessional Committee 4

FAITH AND THE MORAL ECONOMY

Marion Best took the chair for this discussion.

Motion: Elizabeth Brown/Ross Bartlett

That the Executive of General Council support the concept of the "Moderator's Consultation on Faith & the Moral Economy", with the following recommendations:

1. Further clarity and focus of the purpose and content of the Consultation
2. Gather input from other groups currently active in issues of faith and the economy to identify current activity and future needs
3. Very serious consideration be given to an alternate title which identifies the church's unique contribution (e.g. Faith & The Economy). This was raised by both table group responses and within the committee.
4. Further consideration be give to a variety of entry points for differing socio-economic, linguistic groups both in the planning and in the Consultation itself.
5. Greater clarity about who is the primary audience for the Consultation.

Be it further resolved that the Executive of General Council support the development of a budget for option 2 to be brought back to the Executive of General Council or Sub-Executive. The Project Fund application is appropriate because:

- (a) the ongoing work in economic justice would continue without the Consultation;
- (b) the Consultation could stand on its own;
- (c) but, the existence of the two will provide mutual enhancement.

Note: The request for \$47,000 from Office of the General Council is no longer included in the budget proposal.

Be it further resolved that the Executive of General Council ask the Moderator to establish a Steering Committee for the Consultation with appropriate representation to carry forward this project; such Steering Committee to be accountable to the Executive of General Council and to report regularly.

Motion: Randy MacKenzie/Michael Scott (in amendment)

That number six be added which would read:

6. That there be greater clarity about the breadth of the participation.

Motion to amend

Carried

The Motion as amended

Carried

THE GAMBLING ECONOMY

Moderator Bill Phipps resumed the chair.

Motion: Lynn Maki/Glenn Smith

A. That the Executive of General Council urge the federal government to:

1. create a federal inquiry to conduct a public and independent review of the social, economic, and legal impact of legal and illegal gambling and gaming in Canada, and to make recommendations regarding public policy, with particular attention to electronic gambling and gaming and to effective oversight of the gambling and gaming industry within the requirements of the Criminal Code;
2. establish national standards for the assessment of gambling and gaming proposals, including economic, legal, and social impact assessments;
3. establish a single format for providing information on gambling and gaming and gambling and gaming-generated revenues and require full disclosure of such information annually;
4. establish an independent review of the activities of provincial gambling and gaming commissions and issue a public report on the findings, with particular attention to public processes for decision-making regarding the allocation of gambling and gaming-generated funds, public accountability, and standards of governance that serve the public interest; and

B. That the Executive of General Council urge all provincial, territorial, and First Nations governments to:

1. halt all gambling and gaming expansion until such time as a full federal review has been completed and the recommendations acted on;
2. ban the use of Video Lottery Terminals and Slot Machines and establish plans with timelines for removing those VLTs and slot machines that have already been licensed.

C. That the Executive of General Council urge presbyteries--especially those serving low-income, native or remote communities--to seek the co-operation of others (eg. police, Children's Aid, Chambers of Commerce, other charities) in protecting their communities from gambling and gaming expansion and its social and human costs.

The Motion

Carried

Motion: Ross Bartlett/Elizabeth Brown

That the Executive of General Council:

1. issue a press release on the action taken to give visibility to the General Council's support for the efforts of local churches on this issue.
2. ensure that current information for use of congregations in connection with gambling and gaming expansion be disseminated to all UCC congregations (including a standardized petition form and procedure for a petition campaign), within the current budgeting parameters of the Division of Mission in Canada. and

That the Executive of General Council express its thanks:

1. to the Church in Society Co-ordinating Group for the work on this report, and
2. to all individuals, congregations, presbyteries and conferences who submitted ideas and suggestions.

The Motion

Carried

Motion: Ross Bartlett/Elizabeth Brown

That the Executive of General Council adopt the report "The Gambling Economy" as an update to the policy of the General Council.

The Motion

Carried

Sessional Committee 6

CORRESPONDENCE FROM JEAN DRYDEN

Motion: Teresa Moysey/Randy MacKenzie

That the Executive of General Council approve the disbursement of \$7,000 from the Archives Endowment Fund for the purchase and installation of deep shelving for the national archives.

The Motion

Carried

COMMITTEE ON SEXISM

The sessional committee considered the proposal of the Committee on Sexism that it have joint accountability with both the General Council and the Division of Mission in Canada. The sessional committee believes that accountability should be in one place rather than two, that is, either with General Council or with DMC, although the committee agrees that reporting to both bodies would be beneficial.

Motion: Teresa Moysey/Randy MacKenzie

That the Executive of General Council encourage the Committee on Sexism to be in conversation with the General Secretary of General Council and the General Secretary of DMC about whether the Committee should be accountable to the General Council or to DMC, (while retaining the option to report to both bodies) and that its funding be lodged with the same body as its accountability.

The Motion

Carried

Motion: Teresa Moysey/Randy MacKenzie

That the Executive of General Council adopt the report of the Sexism Committee as a whole.

The Motion

Carried

EDUCATION FOR CHURCH LEADERSHIP

Motion: Teresa Moysey/Randy MacKenzie

That the Executive of General Council direct the Education for Church Leadership Coordinating Committee to make the following issues, listed in their report, a primary focus of its work over the next 18 months: "viability" and a viable network; finance and program; holistic education/ministry; evaluation process for the schools; and that concrete proposals about these issues be presented to the 37th General Council.

The Motion

Carried

Motion: Teresa Moysey/Randy MacKenzie

That the Executive of General Council receive the report of the ECL-CC for information.

The Motion

Carried

CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE MARITIME CONFERENCE ECUMENICAL DECADE COMMITTEE

Motion: Teresa Moysey/Randy MacKenzie

That the Executive of General Council request the General Secretary of General Council to reply to the letter from the Decade Committee of Maritime Conference, sharing information as to how work relating to the Ecumenical Decade is being maintained.

The Motion

Carried

ACCOUNTABILITY REPORT OF THE DIVISION OF COMMUNICATION

The Sessional Committee discussed and affirmed the work of the Division of Communication, noting the attempt to use new technology while remaining sensitive to the fact that some parts of the Church do not have easy access to the latest technology. One suggestion the committee made to the Division is that it give attention on the Church website to the areas of faith proclamation and celebration, e.g. recognition of seasons and holy days of the church year.

Motion: Teresa Moysey/Randy MacKenzie

That the Executive of General Council receive the Accountability Report of the Division of Communication for information.

The Motion

Carried

COMMITTEE ON INTER CHURCH AND INTER FAITH RELATIONS

Motion: Teresa Moysey/Randy MacKenzie

That the Executive of General Council receive for information the Accountability Report of the Committee on Inter-Church and Inter-Faith Relations.

The Motion

Carried

WORLD COUNCIL OF CHURCHES EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING REPORT

Motion: Teresa Moysey/Randy MacKenzie

That the Executive of General Council receive for information the report from the Executive meeting of the World Council of Churches.

The Motion

Carried

Sessional Committee 3

COMPENSATION SYSTEM FOR MINISTRY COUPLES

Motion: Mollie Williams/Jon Jessiman

That the Executive of General Council express its appreciation to the Human Resources Committee for its work on the very difficult issue of compensation for ministry couples.

The Motion

Carried

The Sessional Committee requested feedback from the table groups for their further deliberation on the matter of compensation for ministry couples.

TRAVEL RATE FOR 1999

Motion: Mollie Williams/Jon Jessiman

That the Executive of General Council set the 1999 Travel Rate at 30 cents per kilometre.

The Motion

Carried

NOMINATIONS REPORT

Motion: Mollie Williams/Jon Jessiman

That the Executive of General Council approve the appointments as outlined below:

Audit Committee

Donald Hunter (L) (TOR)

Chair: Bob Anderson (L) (HAM)

Jesse Doyon (O) (TOR)

ANCC Transition Team

Bud Harper (O) (SK)

Working Group on the Changing Church

Michael Bourgeois (L) (SK)

Denny Young (L) (TOR)

DMC Lay Member from Saskatchewan

Kim Antosh (L) (SK)

David Murata (O) (TOR)

DMC Real Property Task Group

Bernice Saulteaux (O) (ANCC)

Ron Holotuk (L) (MTU)

Committee on Sexism

Susan Jackson (O) (HAM)

Academic Sub-Committee of ECL

Michael Bourgeois (L) (SK)

Morley Hodder (O) (NF/Lab)

Louise Rolston (L) (BC)

Margaret Vannest (L) (HAM)

Agenda and Planning

75th Anniversary Committee

Bob Smith (O) (BC) - *Chair*

Stan MacKay (O) (ANCC)

Mardi Tindal (L) (HAM)

Lori Erhardt (O) (SK)

Geoffrey Wilfong-Pritchard (O) (ANW)

Connie Cheung (L) (TOR)

Jamie Muirhead (L) (MAR)

Karen Roppel (L) (ANW)

Ninian Mellanphy (L) (LON) -- *representative from outside United Church*

Gordon MacDermid (O) (MAR) -- *Theological Reflector*

Peter Wyatt (O) (TOR) -- *representative of General Council Office*

Mary-Frances Denis (L) (TOR) -- *Manager, Public Relations and Information*

Anglican-Lutheran Joint Working Group

McKibbin Watts (O) (MNWO) -- *United Church observer*

The Motion

Carried

Motion: Mollie Williams/Jon Jessiman

That the Executive of General Council nominate Marion Best (L) (BC) to the World Council of Churches as representative to the Central Committee.

That the Executive of General Council nominate Stan MacKay (O) (ANCC) to the World Council of Churches as alternate representative to the Central Committee.

The Motion

Carried

Motion: Mollie Williams/Jon Jessiman

That the Executive of General Council empower the Sub-Executive to appoint persons to the following vacant positions:

Budget Steering Group - chair

Agenda and Planning - one member

Sexism Committee - two members

Roman Catholic/United Church Dialogue -- two members

Commission on Faith and Witness of the Canadian Council of Churches -- one member

The Motion

Carried

MEMBERSHIP OF THE EXECUTIVE OF GENERAL COUNCIL

Motion: Mollie Williams/Jon Jessiman

That the Executive of the General Council:

(a) establish a task group to review the composition and membership of the Executive of General Council;

(b) ask the Human Resources Committee to bring nominations to the GC Sub-executive for appointment to this task group, keeping in mind the following terms - that the task group members be regionally based and that the group consist of not more than five persons, including at least two members with recent GC Executive experience:

(c) direct the Task Group:

to consult with the Internal Task Group and the Working Group on the Changing Church

to make an initial progress report to the April 1999 GC Executive meeting

to make its final report with recommendations to the 37th General Council

and

That the Executive of General Council allocate \$1500 from the 1998 Project Fund for the review of the membership of the Executive of General Council.

The Motion

Carried

ADMISSIONS POLICY

Motion: B.J. Klassen/Steven Chambers

That the Executive of the General Council declare that the implementation date for the admissions policy approved as Resolutions 42-44 to the 36th General Council be the later of July 1, 1998, or the publication date of the *Record of Proceedings* of the 36th General Council and of *The Manual* (1998).

The Motion

Carried

NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Motion: B.J. Klassen/Steven Chambers

That the Executive of the General Council declare that the implementation date for the needs assessment policy approved as Resolution 47 to the 36th General Council be the later of July 1, 1998, or the publication date of the *Record of Proceedings* of the 36th General Council and of *The Manual* (1998).

The Motion

Carried

BOARD APPOINTMENTS

Motion: B.J. Klassen/Steven Chambers

That the Executive of the General Council approve the appointment of Ron Warwick to the Board of Regents of Huntington University, the term being August 1, 1997 to July 31, 1999.

The Motion

Carried

ROLE OF THE BUDGET STEERING GROUP

The motion regarding the role of the Budget Steering Group, which was included in the report of the Division of Ministry Personnel and Education, was withdrawn by B.J. Klassen and Steven Chambers.

MEMBERSHIP OF THE DIVISION OF MINISTRY PERSONNEL AND EDUCATION

Motion: B.J. Klassen/Steven Chambers

That the Executive of the General Council approve the following formula for the membership of the Division of Ministry Personnel and Education and its Executive until the rise of the 1999 Annual General Meeting of the Division.

Division Chair	1
Division General Secretary	1
Conference Representatives (related to DMPE)	*14
Standing Committee Representatives (one from each Committee)	10
Theological School Representatives	2
Universities/Colleges	1
Candidates for Ministry	2
Campus Ministers	1
Conference Personnel Ministers	<u>1</u>
Total	33

*One representative from twelve Conferences and one from each of the two Districts of Newfoundland and Labrador Conference.

Membership of the Executive of the Division of Ministry Personnel and Education

Division Chair	1
Division General Secretary	1
Conference Representatives (related to DMPE)	*4
Standing Committee Representatives on rotation 2 yr. cycle	4*&**
DMPE Executive Staff	1***

*On a rotating basis for two year terms

**No representation from the Nominating Committee or the Transfer Committee.

***To be determined on the basis of the subject(s) being discussed.

The Motion

Carried

Motion: Mollie Williams/Jon Jessiman

That the Executive of General Council adopt the report of the Division of Ministry Personnel and Education as a whole.

The Motion

Carried

THE DIVISION OF MISSION IN CANADA

Motion: Elizabeth Brown/Ross Bartlett

That the Executive of General Council receive the accountability report of the Division of Mission in Canada and commend the Division for its hard work in implementing the decisions of General Council 36.

The Motion

Carried

ETHNIC MINISTRIES COUNCIL

Motion: Elizabeth Brown/Ross Bartlett

That the Executive of General Council receive the accountability report of the Ethnic Ministries Council with gratitude; and commend the Ethnic Ministries Council staff and volunteers for their work in this very rapid start up period of the Council.

The Motion

Carried

DIVISION OF WORLD OUTREACH

Motion: Elizabeth Brown/Ross Bartlett

That the Executive of General Council receive the accountability report of the Division of World Outreach and the document "Gender Justice & Partnership Guidelines" as an important standard for the Division of World Outreach's work.

The Motion

Carried

ANTI-RACISM TASK GROUP CORRESPONDENCE

Motion: Elizabeth Brown/Ross Bartlett

That the Executive of General Council request the General Secretary of General Council to write a letter on behalf of the Executive of General Council, acknowledging the work of the Task Group and thanking them for keeping this important issue before the church. It would be appropriate to note that this court was unable to deal with this correspondence at the November, 1997 meeting of the Executive of General Council because of time.

The Motion

Carried

OBSERVER ADS FOR SPECIAL GIFTS

Motion: Elizabeth Brown/Ross Bartlett

That the Executive of General Council refer this correspondence to Stewardship Services for their response. We note that this court was unable to deal with this correspondence at the November, 1997 meeting of the Executive of General Council because of time.

There was a request raised from the floor that the General Secretary write to the correspondent and note that the letter had been forwarded to the Department of Stewardship Services.

The Motion

Carried

THEOLOGICAL REFLECTION

Althea Spencer-Miller and Peter Wyatt were joined by Carol Hancock for a period of theological reflection. Carol observed that over the course of the meeting a number of compelling images had emerged from the theological reflection and she expressed the appreciation of the court for those images that she imagined many people would continue to reflect upon long after the meeting is over. She noted that we always imagine that the further along in a particular journey we go the simpler it will get and this was never the case. The further along a journey we go it will very often become more complex and the United Church needs to continue to deal with the complexities.

Althea acknowledged having a tremendous amount of respect for The United Church of Canada for taking stands and risking as the church has lived out the faith. She noted that when one intentionally engages in a process of transformation it will mean that you live near the "cow pies".

Althea posed questions for table group discussion: "What is it like to be on the Executive at this time? Do you ever yearn to be part of a group who does things differently? Think about your place in the weariness of it all."

PLANNING AND PRIORITIES

The preamble for the Planning and Priorities document was reviewed and approved as follows:

It is important to note that the nine categories of work are in order of priority but that the Goals and National Activities appearing under each category are not.

It also needs to be recognized that a significant portion of the Church's resources is directed towards administration, governance and support services. Much of this work does not appear within the nine categories of programmatic work. This area is regularly under review with the intent of finding new ways of doing administration and finding ways to reduce the costs of this work.

Motion: Marion Best/Anne Shirley Sutherland

That the Executive of General Council name the following [see Appendix A] as priorities for the General Council's witness in declaring and living out the gospel of Jesus Christ.

That the Executive of General Council adopt the Goals, National Activities recommended National roles and Future Direction for National Resources to Priorities 1 – 9 [see Appendix A], and refer these to the spending units to use in their planning and to Budget Steering Group for use in its decision-making for the allocation of dollars for the seven spending units in the General Council Offices.

The Motion

Carried

Motion: Virginia Coleman/Mollie Williams

That the Executive of General Council request the Planning and Priorities Group to bring a plan for the implementation of the Reviewing and Monitoring stages of this work to the October 1998 meeting of the Executive.

The Motion

Carried

COVENANTING SERVICE

The evening was spent in a time of covenanting with Steven Chambers, the new General Secretary of the Ministry Personnel and Education. The service led by Glenn Smith and Patty Evans delivered the sermon.

MONDAY APRIL 27, 1998

WORSHIP

The Moderator opened the day with a brief time of prayer.

Sessional Committee 4

RE: HEPATITIS C ISSUE

Having read the correspondence from Canadian Health Coalition, and acknowledging that while we are not insensitive to the plight of those diagnosed with Hepatitis C and their families, we are conscious that there are medically based claims and counter-claims being made which we cannot evaluate in a 24 hour period. We are also aware that the issue of the pre-1986 sufferers of Hepatitis C is not going to be resolved quickly, we are also unclear as to who the Canadian Health Coalition actually is or represents.

Motion: Elizabeth Brown/Ross Bartlett

That the Executive of General Council request that the Moderator not sign the letter (requested by CHC) and that the correspondence and issue it raises be referred to the Division of Mission in Canada for further research and advice on appropriate action.

Discussion: Further information was offered which clarified the membership of CHC. An informal request made by members of the Executive that a letter be sent to Members of Parliament indicating that the Moderator and Members of the Executive remember the MPs as they make a very difficult decision. The Moderator will consult with the Division of Mission in Canada about the possibility of such a letter.

The Motion

Carried

Sessional Committee 5

FUNDING FOR TRANSLATION WORK

Motion: Jean Bethune/Helen Chisholm

That the Executive of General Council allocate \$10,000.00 of Unified Funding to the budget of the Office of the General Council in 1999 for the translation of policy documents and statements issued by the church.

The Motion

Carried

Sessional Committee 1

BUDGET STEERING GROUP

Mark Wartman reviewed the work before Sessional Committee 1 and noted how important it is for the church to have a place to celebrate our gains, however small the gains might be, recognizing the importance of careful and cautious work. Mark also expressed the appreciation of the Executive for the very hard work of the Budget Steering Group and particularly to Anne Shirley Sutherland for searching out a very able chair and to Jamie Scott for his effective work.

Motion: Mark Wartman/Lois Creith

That the Executive of General Council approve that the General Council Offices expenditure budget for 1999 be set at \$48,114,000.00, as set out in the Consolidated Summary by spending units attached herewith, and further,

That the Executive of General Council approve the apportionment from the Unified Fund, as developed through the Budgeting process, be established as follows:

All Native Circle Conference	\$1,654,000
Division of Communication	1,643,000
Division of Finance	2,494,000
Division of Mission in Canada	7,092,000
Division of Ministry Personnel and Education	4,344,000
Division of World Outreach	7,141,000
Ethnic Ministries Council	690,000
Office of the General Council	6,553,000
Capital Equipment Fund	260,000
	31,871,000

The Motion

Carried

WRITE DOWN OF BRIDGEHEAD TRADING COMPANY PREFERRED SHARES

Having considered the recommendation from the Budget Steering Group, having heard the comments of concerned parties, and with the advice of available resource persons, and having noted and given careful consideration to the following concerns:

1. the fact that it is policy that a Division will back this type of high risk alternative investment, and that the Division of World Outreach agreed to back the Bridgehead Investment.
2. that having this write down come from the General Reserve might set an unhealthy precedent.

The Sessional Committee #1 recommends that the General Council Executive take no action.

Motion: Randy MacKenzie/Kay Cho

That the Executive of General Council direct that \$100,000 be transferred from the United Church General Reserve to the DWO Reserves in order to reimburse the DWO Reserves for the write down of the Bridgehead shares.

The Motion

Defeated

Motion: Mark Wartman/Lois Creith

That the Executive of General Council adopt the Budget Steering Group report as a whole.

The Motion

Carried

MISSION AND SERVICE TARGET

Motion: Ruth Nicholls/Steve Adams

That the Executive of General Council set the revenue target for the Mission and Service Fund for 1999 at \$29,750,000.

The Motion

Carried

DRAW FROM THE RESERVES

Motion: Ruth Nicholls/Steve Adams

That the Executive of General Council approve that the draw from reserves, in support of the 1999 budget, be not more than \$2,100,000.

Motion: Mark Wartman/Lois Creith (in amendment)

That the Executive of General Council approve that the draw from the Reserve, in support of the 1999 budget, be not more than \$2,125,000.00.

The Motion to amend

Carried

The Motion as amended

Carried

Motion: Mark Wartman/Lois Creith

That the Executive of General Council receive for information the paper "Issues Concerning 1999 Revenue Recommendation".

The Motion

Carried

Sessional Committee 3

COMPENSATION SYSTEM FOR MINISTRY COUPLES

Motion: Jon Jessiman/Don Smith

That the Executive of the General Council take no action at this time with reference to the issue of "Compensation System for Ministry Couples" and encourage the Human Resources Committee to address this issue with others in the long-term examination of the compensation system.

Discussion: There was some discussion of the virtue of taking no action on this issue and a range of opinion was expressed. For some members of the Executive, the question was one of justice for ministry personnel, in that the current tax benefit was to the church not to ministry personnel and much of the complexity of this issue was related to the ordination of women. For other members of the Executive, the matter of just salaries for ministry personnel was more complex than this one issue -- there are many inequities within the church's system. It was suggested that to offer compensation across the board would create yet another justice question. The sense of the majority of the Executive was that the short-term solution was not suitable at this point in time but that was not to say that the Executive would ignore the situation -- the tension should not be prolonged.

The Motion

Carried

Anne Shirley Sutherland, on behalf of the Human Resources Committee, informed the Executive that the long term work is complex and recommendations about a new system of compensation will take some time to develop.

Sessional Committee 2

LEGAL FUND

Motion: Glenn Smith/Sheila Snelling

Whereas there are no funds in the current Legal Aid Fund,

That the Executive of General Council declare the current Legal Aid Fund to be closed, effective immediately.

The Motion

Carried

Motion: Glenn Smith/Sheila Snelling

a) That the Executive of General Council explore the creation of a General Council Legal Aid Fund, with the following suggestions:

- that assistance from this fund would be made available to church courts.
- that the fund would be based on the principle of sharing financial responsibility among the courts of the church, perhaps by requiring church courts to establish their own legal aid funds in a manner similar to the presbytery funds required to give support to a pastoral charge where ministry personnel have experienced a disability or have died.
- that the mandate of the fund would include a “ceiling” on the total amount of money made available to any church court when that court is dealing with the same legal matter; and

b) That this Executive request the General Secretary, the Church’s Legal/Judicial Counsel, and one Conference Executive Secretary, to be chosen by the Conference Executive Secretaries, to develop the mandate of the fund, the criteria for the fund, the amounts available from the fund and the process for administering the fund, with a report and recommendations to be brought to the Executive of General Council at its October 1998 meeting.

Motion: Elizabeth Brown/B.J. Klassen (in amendment)

That the motion be amended to add one non-staff person.

The Motion to amend

Defeated

The Motion

Carried

Fred Monteith requested permission to leave the court, because of possible conflict of interest, for the following business:

CORRESPONDENCE REQUESTING ASSISTANCE FROM THE LEGAL FUND

Motion: Glenn Smith/Sheila Snelling

Whereas there are no funds in the Legal Aid Fund

That the Executive of General Council request the General Secretary to communicate with Coronation, Souris Valley, and Great Lakes Waterways Presbyteries that this Executive is prepared to consider their requests for assistance, but that we are not able to do so in the absence of criteria for a new Legal Aid Fund and that our expectation is that this criteria will be available following the Executive’s meeting in October 1998.

Motion: Patty Evans/Ross Bartlett (in amendment)

That the motion be amended by deleting the words after “in the absence of” and replace them with a legal Aid Fund. Exploration of the creation of such a fund is underway with a report coming forward to the October 1998 meeting of the Executive of General Council.

The Motion to amend

Carried

The Motion

Carried

INTERNAL STRUCTURES TASK GROUP

Motion: Virginia Coleman/Lorna Teed

That the report and recommendations from the Internal Task Group be given to the Working Group on the Changing Church instead of directly to the Executive of the General Council.

Motion: Glenn Smith/Sheila Snelling (in amendment)

That, the words ,when completed, be inserted before “the report”.

The Motion to amend

Carried

The Motion as amended

Carried

REQUEST FOR FUNDING FROM THE PROJECT FUND

Motion: Glenn Smith/Sheila Snelling

That the Executive of General Council authorize spending from the Project Fund in the following manner:

April 1998 OPENING BALANCE		\$71,000.00
To the Task Group to Review the Composition of the GCE	1,500.00	
To the Moderator’s Consultation on “Faith and the Moral Economy”	<u>25,000.00</u>	
TOTAL		<u>26,500.00</u>
REMAINING BALANCE		\$44,500.00

The Motion

Carried

DIVISION OF FINANCE ACCOUNTABILITY REPORT

Motion: Glenn Smith/Sheila Snelling

That the Executive of General Council receive the accountability report of the Division of Finance for information; and express its gratitude to the volunteers and staff of the Division for all their work.

The Motion

Carried

ANNOUNCEMENT

Randy MacKenzie announced that Spirit Connection had recently won a gold medal from World Fest, an international film festival. The medal was won in the category “best religious film” for No Place to Call Home produced by Rod Booth. Members of the Executive showed their appreciation for the work of Spirit Connection.

THEOLOGICAL REFLECTION

Althea Spencer-Miller and Alf Dumont shared in the final time of theological reflection for the meeting. They titled their reflection “Beyond the Decade and Beyond Cow Pies”.

Althea focussed on the role of men in the quest for inclusiveness and the ongoing vulnerability of women. Alf shared part of the Seven Fires Prophecy. In the fourth fire it was said that the people who come to Turtle Island would either join with the aboriginal to become an even greater people or else they would destroy the native people. The time to walk together in a good way is here and healing is much more than litigation.

Althea responded noting that the heart still has many presuppositions regarding class, sex, sexual orientation, racism, etc. The way to move beyond political correctness is to look at how “cow pies” can further the cause.

Words of appreciation were extended to Althea, Alf and all the people who participated in theological reflection for their insightful words.

Sessional Committee 5

GENERAL SECRETARY'S REPORT

In preparation for the October 1998 Meeting of the General Council Executive, when the major focus will be the repentance statement issued by the 36th General Council with respect to the United Church and Residential Schools:

Motion: Jean Bethune/Helen Chisholm

That the members of the Executive of General Council covenant to take intentional time for prayer and reflection and to re-read, and reflect on the "Anti-Racism Task Group Report" and the "Mending the World Document" before the October, 1998 meeting.

The Motion

Carried

Motion: Jean Bethune/Helen Chisholm

That the Executive of General Council receive, prior to the October 1998 meeting, the process, documentation and issues around the repentance statement issued by the 36th General Council with respect to the United Church and Residential Schools.

The Motion

Carried

Motion: Jean Bethune/Helen Chisholm

That the Executive of General Council direct the General Secretary to write a letter on behalf of the General Council to the Hon. Jane Stewart, Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, asking how the Canadian Government and the churches will work together in addressing the need for healing.

Motion: Virginia/Teresa Moysey (in amendment)

That the words for consultation on be inserted following the word "asking" and that the words with First Nations People be inserted following the word "together".

The Motion to amend

Carried

The Motion as amended

Carried

UPDATE ON LAWSUITS

Motion: Jean Bethune/Helen Chisholm

That the General Council Executive authorize the Moderator and the General Secretary to name a small "response team" and empower that team to craft a response or responses to the judge's decision re the vicarious liability phase of the Port Alberni Residential School trial.

The Sessional Committee noted that all the responses from individuals and table groups would be passed to the General Secretary for her use as the response is developed. Once the response has been developed, the text will be placed on the website and circulated to Conference Presidents.

The Motion

Carried

Motion: Jean Bethune/Helen Chisholm

That the Executive of General Council receive for information the General Secretary's report items

- #1 Peru
- #2. Dispute Resolution Process Implementation
- #3. ROP and the Manual
- #4. Property Matters
- #7. The Decision-Making Process of the Uniting Church in Australia
- #9. Performance Reviews
- #10. General Council Office General Secretaries

The Motion

Carried

Motion: Jean Bethune/Helen Chisholm

That the Executive of General Council acknowledge with sincere appreciation the dedication and commitment involved in the range and volume of work done by the General Secretary. We offer our continued prayers and support for Virginia, particularly in light of the added stress of recent months.

The Motion

Carried

The Sessional Committee acknowledged the tremendous volume of work on the part of John Siebert and Brian Thorpe as they have been working on behalf of the whole church in relationship to the United Church's involvement in Residential Schools.

Motion: Jean Bethune/Helen Chisholm

That the Executive of General Council acknowledge with gratitude the contribution of Brian Thorpe to the challenging work of interpreting the legal position of the church with regard to lawsuits and the Residential Schools.

GENERAL COUNCIL SECRETARIES' REPORT

Motion: Jean Bethune/Helen Chisholm

That the Executive of General Council adopt as a whole the report of the General Council Secretaries', and express appreciation for the volume and quality of work done by the General Council Secretaries, acknowledging that the Church is well served by them.

The Motion

Carried

MODERATOR'S REPORT

Motion: Jean Bethune/Helen Chisholm

That the Executive of General Council receive for information the report of the Moderator with appreciation for the work he has accomplished and affirmation for the initiatives he has instituted.

The Motion

Carried

MODERATOR'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Motion: Jean Bethune/Helen Chisholm

That the Executive of General Council receive for information the report of the Moderator's Advisory Committee.

The Motion

Carried

WORKING GROUP ON THE CHANGING CHURCH

Motion: Jean Bethune/Helen Chisholm

That the Executive of General Council receive for information the report of the Working Group on the Changing Church.

The Motion

Carried

New Business

WESTMINSTER COLLEGE MORTGAGE

Motion: Steve Adams/Virginia Coleman

That the Executive of the General Council grant permission to Westminster College to grant a mortgage secured by the property of the College to a maximum of the construction cost (estimated to be \$8.5 million) of a new student residence and programme/administration building.

The Motion

Carried

ICE STORM REPORT

Wendy Bulloch, Catherine Gaw and Gordon Roberts reported on the aftermath of the ice storm within their conferences.

Maritime Conference had been portrayed in the media as being as hard hit as the Montreal/Ottawa and Kingston areas and as a result they were included as responses to the storm were discussed and money distributed. Catherine informed the Executive that Maritime Conference had not been heavily affected by the storm and they had returned the money they had received from the national pool.

In the midst of the difficult days faced, people were particularly moved by the letters and cheques sent from communities in Manitoba. Although they continue to suffer from the damage done by the flood last year, Manitobans reached out to those affected by the ice storm. In all of the affected communities people responded in creative and surprising ways and in the midst of the destruction a strong sense of community was evident. The effects of the storm would be seen more clearly as the spring unfolded and in many instances would be felt for some time.

There were expressions of appreciation for the prayers and support of the broader church, as well as pride in the fact that the church had been able to respond quickly and in ways that the Government had not been able to do so.

LETTER FROM PORT ALBERNI, B.C.

Motion: Virginia Coleman/Ron Holotuk

That the Executive of General Council request the chairs of the Divisions and the Ethnic Ministries Council (6 people) to go as our representatives to Port Alberni and meet with the members of St. Andrew's United Church, and others as arranged, to listen on our behalf and report back to this Executive in October, 1998 and

That the General Secretaries be asked to find the means to pay the travel and related expenses of the chairs for the trip to Port Alberni.

Discussion: A suggestion was made that the Executive did not have clarity that the proposed action would meet the needs of the congregation. It was suggested that a telephone call to the congregation would be helpful. The Executive took a brief break while Brian Thorpe and Virginia Coleman made the telephone call.

Fred Jamieson requested the court's permission to leave the meeting in order to connect with his transportation home.

Brian Thorpe reported on the telephone call. Kathy Hogman, the minister at Port Alberni, was agreeable to the suggested motion. Although it was the preference of the congregation to have the entire Executive meet with members of the Port Alberni community, the motion was a satisfactory alternative. It was the wish of the congregation that the Executive have the opportunity to hear and feel the effects of Residential schools on a

community. Kathy also went on to suggest that the community might send representatives to the October meeting of the Executive.

Motion: Bernice Luce/Randy MacKenzie (in amendment)

That the B.C. General Council Executive Representatives and the Moderator be added to the delegation.

The B.C. representatives were included to show tangible connections to the General Council Executive.

The Motion to amend

Carried

Motion: Richard Choe/Helen Chisholm (in amendment)

That one person from COPERMIF and one person from the ANCC be added to the delegation.

The Motion to amend

Carried

The Motion as amended

Carried

ANNOUNCEMENT

Marion Best drew the attention of the Executive the book *Living Letters*, a publication of the World Council of Churches, which contains the reports of all the Decade visits.

CORRESPONDENCE FROM NEWCASTLE

Virginia reported on correspondence she had received from Newcastle, N.B. requesting that the Executive reprimand Bill Phipps for his remarks to the press in the fall and authorize a remit.

Motion: Mark Wartman/Ross Bartlett

That the Executive of Council request the General Secretary respond to the letter from Newcastle indicating that the Executive addressed the concern the letter had requested at its November 1997 meeting of the Executive of General Council and that the General Council Executive does not have the authority to issue a Remit.

The Motion

Carried

COURTESIES

Jean Bethune and Sheila Duffin thanked the staff and volunteers who had worked hard in preparation for, and over the course of, the meeting. Jamie Scott thanked the members of the Executive for their support throughout his work with the Budget Steering Committee.

On behalf of the Executive, Anne Shirley Sutherland presented Althea Spencer-Miller with a Healing Fund T-shirt.

ADJOURNMENT

The Executive adjourned following worship led by Alberta and Northwest Conference.