

THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA

MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE OF GENERAL COUNCIL APRIL 23 – APRIL 26, 1999

FRIDAY – APRIL 23, 1999

The Executive of the General Council of The United Church of Canada met at the call of the Moderator from Friday, April 23, 1999 to Monday, April 26, 1999, at 3250 Bloor Street West, Etobicoke, Ontario. The Moderator, the Right Reverend Bill Phipps presided.

VOTING MEMBERS: Steve Adams, Bob Anderson, Marion Best, Hazel Bigby, Barbara Bitzer, Elizabeth Brown, Paul Campbell, David Carrothers, Steven Chambers, Helen Chisholm, Claire Borel-Christen, Kay Cho, Richard Choe, Virginia Coleman, Lois Creith, Sheila Duffin, Patty Evans, Gordon Groot, Carol Hancock, Ron Holotuk, David Iverson (part-time), Jon Jessiman, Kathy Koehler, B.J. Klassen, Bernice Luce, Randy MacKenzie, Joanna MacQuarrie, Faith March-MacCuish, Lynn Maki, Harold Manuel, John Moor (part-time), Teresa Moysey, Ruth Nicholls, Bill Phipps, Karen Ptolemy-Stam, Bernice Saulteaux, Michael Scott (part-time), Linda Slough, Don Smith, Sheila Snelling, Jack Spencer, Anne Shirley Sutherland, Lorna Teed, Rhea Whitehead, Peter Wyatt, Mollie Williams, John Yeo.

CORRESPONDING MEMBERS: Albion Wright, Jean Dryden, David Allen, Wendy Bulloch, Roslyn Campbell, Richard Chambers, Roger Coll, Alf Dumont, Catherine Gaw, Arlene Granbois, Bonnie Greene, Murray Lapp (part-time), Beth Parker, Jim Pickering, Gordon Roberts, George Rodgers, Peter Scott, Clarence Sellars, Jim Sinclair, Brian Thorpe, Bill Wall, Erme Camba.

REGRETS: Ross Bartlett, Elsie Manley-Casimir, David Fines.

CONSTITUTION 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'exécutif du Conseil général et ses travaux dans l'intérêt du Royaume de Dieu."

INTRODUCTIONS:

Isabela Simon was introduced to the Executive as the new Administrative Assistant who is working with Virginia Coleman. She was hired as a result of the re-organizational changes approved by the Executive at the last meeting of the Executive of General Council and started on Tuesday, April 6, 1999. Isabela Simon has a not-for-profit background although not a Church background. Members of the Executive were encouraged to introduce themselves to her during the course of the meeting.

Bishop Erme Camba of the United Church of Christ in the Philippines (UCC-P) was introduced as no stranger to the UCC, having participated as a global partner in the 1988 32nd General Council in Victoria.

Bishop Camba is currently Dean of the Divinity School at Silliman University in Dumaguete. He has served as a theological professor, local pastor, Bishop of the UCC-P Southern Luzon Jurisdiction and General

Secretary of UCC-P. He has also carried many responsibilities in the Christian Conference of Asia and the World Council of Churches. He would be participating in some of the theological reflection during this meeting.

Bob Anderson the Chair of Agenda and Planning Committee, Kathy Koehler the Unit Representative from the Division of Mission in Canada, Murray Lapp the Chair of Budget Steering Group and Jim Sinclair the Executive Secretary of Manitou Conference were introduced as new members of the Executive of General Council since the last meeting. Murray Lapp would be attending part-time and would arrive for Saturday and Sunday.

It was announced that Fred Jamieson, Mark Wartman and Glenn Smith have resigned from the Executive of General Council since the last meeting.

WORDS FROM THE CHAIR OF THE BUSINESS COMMITTEE:

Lorna Teed introduced the business table and oriented members of the Executive to the agenda of the meeting and the facilities available on the 2nd floor of the building.

ENABLING MOTIONS:

Corresponding Members:

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 Directors of departments, the Executive Secretaries of the Conferences, Erme Camba, Gerry Sheppard and other persons attending the meeting as a resource to the Executive.

Motion Carried.

Administrative Staff:

Motion: Virginia Coleman/Lorna Teed

That the administrative staff for this meeting be Alison Jordan, Melinda Moore, Mary Purdon and Isabela Simon and that the minute secretaries for this meeting be Mary Purdon and Isabela Simon.

Motion Carried.

Reference and Counsel:

Motion: Virginia Coleman/Lorna Teed

That the following persons be the reference and counsel committee for this meeting of the Executive of General Council - Hazel Bigby, Roger Coll and Bernice Luce.

Motion Carried.

Agenda:

Motion: Virginia Coleman/Lorna Teed

That the Executive Of General Council adopt, as circulated, the agenda for this meeting of the Executive of General Council for the time until supper today (April 23, 1999); and that changes to the Agenda which may be necessary as the meeting evolves be on the recommendation of the Business Committee.

Motion Carried.

Minutes of the last Meeting of the Executive of General Council:**Motion:** Virginia Coleman/Lorna Teed

That the Executive of General Council approve, as circulated, the minutes of the meeting of the Executive of General Council which was held October 23-26, 1998.

Motion Carried.**Minutes of the Sub-Executive of the Executive of General Council:****Motion:** Virginia Coleman/Lorna Teed

That the Executive of General Council receive, for information, the minutes of the Sub-Executive meeting of January 7, 1999.

Motion Carried.**Minutes of the Executive of General Council from November 1997:**

Virginia Coleman indicated that an error had been made in the minutes of Executive of General Council meeting of November 1997 with regard to Petition 67 (as seen below). It had been recorded that this motion was carried when in fact it had been defeated:

Motion: Virginia Coleman/Lorna Teed

That the Executive of General Council correct the minutes of the November 1997 meeting as follows:

“and be it further resolved that this General Council Executive of The United Church of Canada through the Division of Mission in Canada establish a Task Group to explore the various possibilities and ways to encourage the creation of a welcoming environment for Christian expressions of male spirituality and a place of nurture for men in their journeys of faith.

The Motion Carried.”**Motion was Defeated.****Motion to Correct Carried.****Correspondence (Omnibus Motion):****Motion:** Virginia Coleman/Lorna Teed

That the Executive of General Council approve the following actions related to the correspondence received:

- a) Refer correspondence from Jan C. Yousef (21 December 1998), Janice Cameron (18 January 1999) and Kevin Annett (23 November 1998), containing concerns related to specific ministry personnel, to a small task group for response. The task group to be comprised of Catherine Gaw, Peter Wesley and Paul Campbell. (Peter Wesley later removed himself because of conflict of interest).
- b) Refer to the General Secretary, Finance and Chairperson, Department of Stewardship Services, correspondence from West Lorne United Church (12 February 1999) related to the Mission and Service Fund Objective Covenant,
- c) Refer to the Division of Mission in Canada, correspondence from Toronto Conference (26 January 1999) thanking the GCE for the apology related to residential schools and raising concern for pastoral care of pensioners affected by the residential schools issue,
- d) Receive for information, correspondence from Mark Wartman (16 February 1999) regarding his resignation from the Executive of General Council,
- e) Receive for information, correspondence from Toronto Conference (26 March 1999), related to the General Council proposal for a counselling fund related to substantiated complaints of sexual abuse/harassment,
- f) Refer to the Division of Mission in Canada, correspondence from Oxford Presbytery (10 March 1999), related to possession of child pornography,
- g) Receive for information, correspondence from the Healing Fund Council (7 December 1998), correspondence thanking The United Church of Canada for making the apology statement,
- h) Refer the correspondence from the Diaconal Ministry Committee and the Women in Ministry Committee (April 1999) to General Secretary, Human Resources, Chair, Division of Ministry Personnel and Education, and General Secretary, Division of Ministry Personnel and Education.

Motion Carried.

EXPLANATION OF DECISION-MAKING PROCESS:

Bill Phipps explained the proposed decision-making process that the Executive of General Council would be asked to endorse.

The experience at the last General Council meeting was that there were too many items that had to be dealt with during the time that was available. In anticipation of this happening again at the next General Council meeting, especially if the General Council votes to meet every three years instead of two, the Agenda and Planning Committee has put forward a proposal as an experiment before using it at General Council meetings.

Decisions on items before the General Council would be made in 3 different ways:

- reports or other items for information would be dealt with in omnibus motions,
- items that needed more debate and consideration would be dealt with by Commissions and,
- larger issues which would result in major decisions that would impact the Church in significant ways would go before the whole plenary.

There would be no Sessional Committees. Instead, 2 or 3 Commissions (2 at this meeting of the Executive of General Council) would have permission to make decisions and would report their decisions back to the whole court for information purposes only. The Commissions would consist of a cross-section of membership and each would have a Chair and a Secretary. The items to be dealt with by each Commission would be decided upon by the whole court. This would allow for the opportunity to make amendments as to which items go to Commissions.

For further clarification on this process, members of the Executive were encouraged to speak with Bill Phipps, Virginia Coleman or Anne Shirley Sutherland.

TABLE GROUP CHECK IN:

The members at each table were invited to acquaint themselves with each other.

GENERAL SECRETARY'S ACCOUNTABILITY REPORT:

Virginia Coleman made a correction to her report which named Marion Best as "one of two co-moderators" to "one of two Vice Moderators". She went on to highlight the following areas in her written report:

- the experience of being at the World Council of Churches assembly in Harare as being a rich one and a combination of renewing old connections and creating new ones.
- Rhea Whitehead's retirement, effective this summer and that dinner in her honour would be held on Sunday night. The letter of retirement was received and acted upon by the Sub-Executive.
- Letter of resignation that was received from Jean Dryden, effective May 7, 1999.

Motion: Virginia Coleman/BJ Klassen

That the Executive of the General Council receive, with regret, the resignation of Jean Dryden as Chief Archivist and express its appreciation for Jean's many years of work on its behalf.

Motion Carried.

Members of the executive were invited to have conversations with Jean Dryden about her future plans after May 7, 1999.

- Some of the General Secretaries have formed a group to take a serious look at Records Management in The United Church of Canada. The reason for this is that currently the systems that are in place are not being used consistently for various reasons. The group is looking to overhaul this system and to help facilitate consistent Records Management and the processes needed to do this. Jean Dryden has been involved and contributed to this group and process and will be missed.
- The Internal Task Group has completed the first big part of its work and will be turning over the results to the Working Group for the Changing Church. Further information will be available at the fall Executive of General Council meeting.
- Her extended study leave from the end of August to the end of November. The General Secretaries have had some initial discussions and a look at a plan to finalize who will be responsible for the various pieces of work that the General Secretary has to do. She assured the Executive that the major work that needed to continue in her absence would be dealt with effectively.
- The update on Residential Schools would be dealt with in next day's agenda to give David Iverson, who was at that time testifying in the current trial taking place in Vancouver, time to be back to join in the discussions and to update the Executive of General Council on some of the current issues.
- A meeting of Church leaders and the government about nuclear disarmament took place on April 15, 1999. The Church leaders also encouraged the government to go back to the table to try and find a peaceful resolution for the Kosovo conflict especially as the current tactics are not working.
- The work on the Legal Aid Fund is moving very slowly. All that can be done to move it along is being done. A report and some recommendations should be ready for the October Executive meeting.

Motion: Virginia Coleman/Ron Holotuk

That the Executive of the General Council table the request to consider a change in the boundaries of Toronto and All Native Circle Conferences.

Motion Carried.

- Other boundary concerns have been expressed. As the 37th General Council will be making major decisions on the Church's structure, it was suggested that all concerns on boundaries be postponed until after that meeting. Even though the Task Group working on the boundaries of London, Manitou and Toronto will continue this work, they will not be finished until closer to the General Council meeting.

Motion: Virginia Coleman/Ron Holotuk

That the Executive of General Council postpone definitely any future requests for changes in Conference boundaries until the fall meeting of the Executive in the year 2000.

Motion Carried.

Omissions were corrected in the report for information from the Task Group on the Membership of the General Council Executive. These corrections were to include "Global partners" under Representation and "Global partners be present" under the Composition of the Executive.

MODERATOR'S ACCOUNTABILITY REPORT:

Bill Phipps highlighted the following areas of his report:

- There has been a new outbreak of violence in East Timor since he wrote his report.
- The great honour done The United Church of Canada and Marion Best with regard to her being elected as Vice Moderator of the World Council of Churches. It shows the degree of respect for Marion Best and for the United Church by a great number of people and how often The United Church of Canada is looked to take the lead on many and sometimes controversial issues.

- The Residential Schools trials have led to the development of a working group together with other denominational partners (Catholic, Anglican and Presbyterian) to help try and understand what the government's stand is on this issue. The meetings between the partners are ongoing.

In his travels around the country it has been his experience that in spite of the negatives, there is tremendous energy, growth, risk-taking, faith and commitment in the Church. It is alive, well and even thriving. The United Church of Canada has been thanked many times for the leadership it has provided and many people have relied on the United Church to provide it.

MODERATOR'S CONSULTATION ON FAITH AND THE ECONOMY ACCOUNTABILITY REPORT:

Bill Phipps introduced Ted Reeve as one of the people working on the program part of the project and Michael Quiggin who is working on the logistics and organizational side of this project.

He reported that this project has taken on a "life of its own". It has touched a nerve in the Canadian Society both within and outside of the Church. The discussions and interactions have been wonderful.

Bill Phipps thanked all the people who have been involved from Division of Mission in Canada, Division of World Outreach, Division of Finance and Division of Communication. He thanked them for the work they have done by attending meetings and enabling some of the work for the project to be done in their divisions as well as for participating in this project.

Both a Web-site and "snail" mail is being used to facilitate discussions and information sharing. Grants have been received from some individuals who believe in the value of the project as well as the Atkinson Foundation and this has enabled the project to expand beyond initial expectations.

The goal of the project is to initiate conversation among Canadians about the current state and reality of the economy and what our faith and values have to say when we address these issues and if they being reflected in the way the economy operates or in public policy. About six discussion papers have been published on the web-site to date and can also be received by mail.

In the summer, Spirit Connection will have next year's Lenten series be Faith and Economy issues and will be taping town hall forums from Cape Breton to Port Alberni and in between; altogether 6 different town hall meetings around the Country. The hope is that the Atkinson Foundation will come through with further funds. This would allow for the next project being planned where young people between the ages of 15 to 23, would be asked to design and carry out video taping of community stories within their communities. A composite video "Faith and Economy through the eyes of young people" would be created from these to be used for Spirit Connection or sent out for conversations.

Ted Reeve demonstrated the web page currently in use and spoke about future developments planned. He explained Web CT browser-based software that has been made available to be used by this project and this allows the sorting and categorizing of information in a more in-depth way. After his demonstration, he invited questions and comments from the floor.

Some concerns were raised in the following areas:

- the volume of information available and the inability of keeping up with it by users;
- access to the web-site and that not everyone has access to the Internet;
- trying to find possible ways to allow involvement by the French speaking community and that it cannot be a national dialogue if only the English speaking community is able to participate;
- having this information in written form e.g. magazines or printed web-site information for those people who prefer to acquire their knowledge through reading rather than through the use of a computer.

THEOLOGICAL REFLECTION:

After his introduction, Gerry Sheppard led the members of the Executive in reflecting on the question “What is scripture?”

He concluded with a look at a number of wisdom Proverbs and a discussion on how they can be applied to our day to day life.

SESSIONAL COMMITTEE REPORT:

Jack Spencer and Teresa Moysey presented a report on behalf of the Sessional Committee, informing the Executive of the recommendations this committee had made with regard to the additional funding requests that the Budget Steering Group had not addressed and for which this Committee was set up.

There was some table discussion about the information presented by the Sessional Committee. Many concerns and questions were raised and as this Committee could not address many of them, a decision was made that the Sessional Committee meet again and come back with more information.

PRESENTATION – JEAN DRYDEN:

Jean Dryden’s vigilant and tenacious commitment to Records Management was mentioned. Her ability to make records management fun and to inspire laughter around a task that is not always fun to do was commented on. Her pleasantness and contribution would be missed.

Jean Dryden expressed her appreciation at being able to work with The United Church of Canada during interesting, challenging, but never boring times. She would treasure her memories of working with United Church of Canada folk.

She was presented with a gift and many good wishes for her future endeavours.

IMAGES OF HARARE:

Peter Wyatt, Virginia Coleman, Rhea Whitehead, Bill Phipps, Richard Choe, David Allen and Erme Camba recalled images that came to mind when thinking back to the World Council of Churches Assembly, of which they were a part. The wonderful mosaic of people and diversity represented in terms of language race, opinions; the exchanges between people; the rich liturgy and uplifting worship were mentioned. There was anxiety among the group with regard to the safety of the delegation especially with regard to speaking about gay, lesbian and bi-sexual issues at the Assembly. Although, it may not have been a “winning run”, it was generally felt that the Assembly was a success especially as there were strong feelings that it would breakdown and it did not.

OVERVIEW OF WORK PROPOSED FOR COMMISSIONS :

Brief overviews were given to members of the Executive of General Council of the items to go before the Commissions as follows:

Commission A:

The InterChurch InterFaith Accountability Report – Peter Wyatt
 Agenda and Planning for the 37th General Council Report – Bob Anderson
 Sexism Report – Juliet Huntly

Division of Mission in Canada Accountability Report – Lynn Maki
 Division of World Outreach Accountability – Patty Evans

Commission B:

Division of Finance Accountability Report – Steve Adams
 Ministry Personnel and Education Accountability – BJ Klassen & Steven Chambers
 Education for Church Leadership Coordinating Committee Report – BJ Klassen
 Ethnic Ministries Council Accountability Report – Richard Choe
 General Council Secretaries Accountability – Steve Adams

DECISION MAKING ENABLING MOTIONS:

Omnibus Motion:

Motion: Lorna Teed/ Virginia Coleman

That the Executive of General Council approve the following actions:

- a) Receive the Property Report for information,
- b) Receive the General Council Conference Boundaries Task Group report for information;
- c) Receive the report of the Task Group on the Membership of the General Council Executive for information,
- d) Request that the General Secretary of General Council respond to Ron Junkin (30 November 1998) that the Executive of General Council is not willing to reconsider the microfilming of the United Church records by the Mormons at this time.

It was requested that the General Council Conference Boundaries Task Group report for information be removed from this list and dealt with by the whole plenary.

Motion Carried.

Motion: Lorna Teed/ Virginia Coleman

That the Executive of General Council agree to do specific pieces of its work by two commissions, with permission to issue.

Motion Carried.

Motion: Lorna Teed/ Virginia Coleman

That the Executive of General Council assign the following to:

- a) Commission A:
 - Report of the InterChurch InterFaith Committee,
 - Report of the Agenda and Planning Committee for the 37th General Council,
 - Report of the General Council Committee on Sexism,
 - Accountability Report of the Division of Mission in Canada,
 - Report on Trust Property and Property Relationship from the Division of Mission in Canada,
 - Report from the Division of Mission in Canada regarding the Canadian Alternative Investment Cooperative,
 - Accountability Report of the Division of World Outreach,
 - Requests regarding the Endorsement of the Jubilee.
- b) Commission B:
 - Accountability Report of the Division of Finance,
 - Accountability Report of the Division of Ministry Personnel and Education,
 - Report on the National Vacancy and Availability Lists from Division of Ministry Personnel and Education,
 - Report on the Implementation of Option for Settlement to Unpaid Accountable Ministry from the Division of Ministry Personnel and Education,

Report on the United Theological College/Le Séminaire Uni and the University of Montreal/Université de Montréal – Entente,
 Report on the Approval Process for United Church Appointments to Boards of United Church Theological Schools,
 Report of the Education for Church Leadership Coordinating Committee,
 Accountability Report of the Ethnic Ministries Council,
 Accountability Report of the General Council Secretaries.

Motion Carried.

Motion: Lorna Teed/Virginia Coleman

That the Commissions set up with the understanding that those that are voting members of the General Council Executive shall be the voting members of the Commissions and those that are corresponding members of the General Council Executive shall be the corresponding members of the Commissions with a voice but no vote.

Motion Carried.

Motion: Lorna Teed/Virginia Coleman

that the Executive of General Council set the membership of Commission A as:

Clarence Sellars (GC-NF)	Jack Spencer (MAR)	Ruth Nicholls (TOR)
Richard Choe (GC-EMC)	Sheila Duffin (LON)	Albion Wright (OBS)
Beth Parker (GC-COMM)	Elizabeth Brown (MTU)	Peter Scott (GC-LON)
Bernice Saulteaux (ANCC)	Brian Thorpe (GC-BC)	Don Smith (M&O)
Lois Creith (MNWO)	Helen Chisholm (BQ)	Joanna MacQuarrie (ANW)
Bob Anderson (A&P)	Murray Lapp (BSG)	Lynn Maki (DMC)
Barbara Bitzer (HAM)	Carol Hancock (MAL)	Roger Coll (GC-MNWO)
John Moor (MAL)	David Allen (GC-TOR)	Peter Wyatt (GC-TFE)
Gordon Roberts (GC-M&O)	Arlene Granbois (GC-ANCC)	Bishop Erme Camba (GP)
Rhea Whitehead (DWO)	Linda Slough (GC-COMM)	Michael Scott (FIN)
Jon Jessiman (BC)	Harold Manuel (N&L)	Richard Chambers (GC-DMC)
David Iverson (GC-DMC)	John Yeo (SK)	Bill Phipps (MD)

That the Executive appoint Bill Phipps as Chair of Commission A.

That the Executive appoint Richard Choe as Secretary of Commission A.

That the Executive name Isabela Simon as recording secretary for Commission A.

That the Executive of General Council set the membership of Commission B as:

Wendy Bulloch (GC-BQ)	Catherine Gaw (GC-MAR)	Roslyn Campbell (GC-HAM)
Steven Chambers (GC-MPE)	Jim Sinclair (GC-MTU)	Jim Pickering (GC-FIN)
Kay Cho (TOR)	Faith March-MacCuish (N&L)	Marion Best (IPM)
Sheila Snelling (M&O)	Randy MacKenzie (COMM)	Patty Evans (DWO)
Kathy Koehler (DMC)	Claire Borel-Christen (FR)	Gordon Groot (MAL)
Hazel Bigby (EMC)	Bernice Luce (ANW)	Karen Ptolemy-Stam (BQ)
Alf Dumont (T&F)	Mollie Williams (BC)	Lorna Teed (MAR)
Bill Wall (GC-SK)	Paul Campbell (HRC)	Ron Holotuk (MTU)
Steve Adams (GC-FIN)	George Rodgers (GC-ANW)	Virginia Coleman (GS)
Bonnie Greene (GC-DMC)	Peter Wesley (HAM)	Anne Shirley Sutherland (GC-HR)
David Carrothers (LON)	Jean Dryden (GC-ARCH)	
B.J. Klassen (MPE)	Teresa Moysey (MNWO)	

That the Executive appoint Marion Best as Chair of Commission B.

That the Executive appoint Virginia Coleman as Secretary of Commission B.

That the Executive name Melinda Moore as recording secretary for Commission B.

Motion Carried.

Motion: Lorna Teed/ Virginia Coleman

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

Motion Carried.

MEETING OF COMMISSION A:

VOTING MEMBERS: Bob Anderson, Barbara Bitzer, Elizabeth Brown, Helen Chisholm, Lois Creith, Carol Hancock, Jon Jessiman, Joanna MacQuarrie, Bill Phipps, Lynn Maki, Harold Manuel, Ruth Nicholls, Bernice Saulteaux, Michael Scott, Linda Slough, Richard Choe, Don Smith, Jack Spencer, Peter Wyatt, Rhea Whitehead, Sheila Duffin, John Yeo.

CORRESPONDING MEMBERS: Albion Wright, Roger Coll, Arlene Granbois, Beth Parker, Gordon Roberts, Peter Scott, Clarence Sellars, Brian Thorpe, Albion Wright, Erme Camba, Sue Jackson, David Allen, Richard Chambers.

REGRETS: David Iverson, John Moor, Murray Lapp

THE COMMITTEE ON INTERCHURCH INTERFAITH RELATIONS ACCOUNTABILITY REPORT:

A concern was raised about the sacraments of baptism/marriage and that the Trinitarian formula is not being used universally. Peter Wyatt will take the concern back to the InterChurch InterFaith committee.

Motion: Elizabeth Brown/Don Smith

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

Motion Carried.

AGENDA & PLANNING FOR 37TH GENERAL COUNCIL REPORT:

Motion: Bob Anderson/Lois Creith

That the Executive of the General Council receive the Agenda and Planning Committee, 37th General Council Report for information.

Motion Carried.

SEXISM REPORT:

Juliet Huntly introduced Sue Jackson as a resource person to address concerns or questions with regard to the Sexism Report.

Motion: Bob Anderson/Don Smith

That the Executive of the General Council make Sue Jackson a corresponding member of the Executive for the purpose of reporting on the Sexism Report.

Motion Carried.

Item 1: The Decade (except section 4(f)):

Motion: Lynn Maki/Rhea Whitehead

That all of item 1 recommendations be subject to the normal budgeting processes of the spending units to which the item is referred.

Motion to Carried.

Motion: Bob Anderson/Barbara Bitzer

2. Make explicit the United Church's gender policy:

That the Executive of General Council:

- (a) formally endorse the Gender Justice and Partnership Guidelines developed by the Division of World Outreach and encourage the use of the resource as the various courts of the United Church explore the meaning of 'gender justice' in their own contexts,
- (b) encourage questions of gender justice in church-wide education and advocacy (for example, in mission theme resources, curriculum, Education for Church Leadership, the Moderator's Consultation on Faith and the Economy),
- (c) enable the development of resources for assessing progress in achieving gender justice in The United Church of Canada.

3. Foster dialogue on the vision of equality between men and women:

That the Executive of General Council:

- (a) continue to emphasize gender balance in all the courts of the church,
- (b) create opportunities to broaden dialogue between women and men, particularly in the area of the roles of women and men in the church and in the larger community,
- (c) create opportunities for cross-generational dialogue, between elder women, youth and young adults,
- (d) engage youth and young adults in activities which raise awareness of gender issues, and provide opportunities for training on gender issues, making resources available (particularly music resources) that have a solid connection between faith and justice,
- (d) support the study of feminist theology within United Church Theological Schools by encouraging the establishment of a chair of Feminist Theology and providing scholarships for the study of feminist

theologies.

4. Move from storytelling to action:

That the Executive of General Council:

- (a) respond to the request of the Decade Festival in Harare to the 8th Assembly, by making a strong public statement that violence against women is a sin, that its presence in the church is “an offence against God, humanity and the earth” and that the United Church is committed to the elimination of violence in all its forms;
- (b) commit energy and resources to helping congregations respond to a pervasive culture of violence within the church and in society, and to actively support the victims of violence in their communities;
- (c) pay particular attention to the issues of social and economic justice that still affect many women in ordered ministry, working actively to advocate on behalf of those suffering the injustice of abuse or discrimination;
- (d) take strong new initiatives in advocating for an end to the national disgrace of widespread poverty, which is particularly prevalent among women and children;
- (e) press the Canadian Government to uphold the principle and practice of pay equity;

5. Continue the work of inclusion

That the Executive of General Council:

- (a) give priority to work on issues of diversity including:
 - (i) continued emphasis on the participation of minority voices in all the structures of the church, identifying those who now feel excluded and
 - (ii) the inclusion of ethnically/racially diverse participants in the ongoing work on gender justice.
- (b) continue to encourage congregations to become places of greater inclusion by:
 - (i) providing resources for worship which use a wide variety of images and metaphors for human beings and for the Divine;
 - (ii) encouraging diverse forms of worship that do not exclude because of assumptions about physical ability or a common life experience; and
 - (iii) providing tools to help congregations understand who is being excluded by their current style and content of worship and Christian nurture.
- (c) learn why it is that women leave the United Church, and help congregations to provide spiritual and educational opportunities for women on the fringe of the church.

It was noted that men are also leaving the Church and that this issue should be addressed in this motion.

Amendment: Carol Hancock/Joanna MacQuarrie

that statement 5.(c) above be amended to “learn why it is that women and men leave the United Church, and help congregations to provide spiritual and educational opportunities for women and men on the fringe of the church.”

Motion to Amend Withdrawn.

Amendment: Jon Jessiman/Peter Wyatt

that statement 5. (c) above be amended to “learn what are the gender relationship issues that cause women and men to leave the United Church, and help congregations to provide spiritual and educational opportunities for women on the fringe of the church.”

Motion to Amend Carried.

Amendment: Don Smith/Joanna MacQuarrie

that statement 5. (a) be amended to “emphasize work on issues of diversity including:”

Motion to Amend Carried.

6. Foster groups, networks and events:

That the Executive of General Council:

- (a) Continue to provide opportunities for women to gather locally and regionally by ensuring:
- continuity in staff support;
 - that tools be developed for networking and group formation; and
 - the creation of leadership development opportunities for local facilitators.
- (b) Support the publication of an ecumenical periodical to replace the “Groundswell” newsletter. (Negotiations are underway with a number of denominational partners to jointly support such a publication. The financial implications for each partner are not known at this time, but it is assumed that the publication would become self-supporting as quickly as possible).

7. Shift from solidarity to accountability:

That the Executive of General Council mandate the Committee on Sexism, to monitor the commitment and success of the United Church in working towards gender justice and that it be enabled to hold the church accountable, at regular intervals, to the commitments it makes and to the integration of the goals of the Ecumenical Decade into its broader life.

Amendment: Carol Hancock/Jack Spencer

That the Executive of General Council mandate the Committee on Sexism, to monitor the commitment and success of the United Church in working towards gender justice.

Motion to Amend Carried.

Motion Carried as Amended.

Item 2: Events to mark the end of the Ecumenical Decade:

Motion: Carol Hancock/Jon Jessiman

That the Executive of the General Council receive Item 2 of the Sexism Report, Events to mark the end of the Ecumenical Decade, for information.

Motion Carried.

Item 3: Accountability of the Committee on Sexism:

Postponement: Linda Slough/Lynn Maki

That the Executive of the General Council postpone action on the recommendation related to Item 3 until decisions relating to General Council Offices structure are made and that the material from Item 3 be referred to the groups working on the General Council Offices structures proposal.

Motion to Postpone Carried.

DIVISION OF MISSION IN CANADA ACCOUNTABILITY REPORT:

Motion: Carol Hancock/Don Smith

That the Executive of the General Council receive the Events to mark the end of the Ecumenical Decade Division of Mission in Canada Accountability Report for information.

Motion Carried.

DIVISION OF MISSION IN CANADA - TRUST PROPERTY & PROPERTY RELATIONSHIPS REPORT:

Motion: Lynn Maki/Jack Spencer

That the Executive of the General Council receive the Division of Mission in Canada Trust Property and Property Relationships Report for information.

Motion Carried.

DIVISION OF MISSION IN CANADA – CANADIAN ALTERNATIVE INVESTMENT COOPERATIVE:

Motion: Lynn Maki/Jack Spencer

That The United Church of Canada become a member of the Canadian Alternative Investment Cooperative; and that the Executive of General Council authorizes the Division of Mission in Canada to be the responsible representative for investment purposes.

Postponement: Michael Scott/Jon Jessiman

That the Executive of General Council postpone this motion definitely to the next meeting of the Executive of General Council, to enable the Division of Finance and the General Council Office to advise the Division of Mission in Canada of the potential legal and financial liabilities involved in becoming a member of the Canadian Alternative Investment Cooperative.

Motion to Postpone Carried.

DIVISION OF WORLD OUTREACH ACCOUNTABILITY REPORT:

Motion: Michael Scott/Elizabeth Brown

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

Motion Carried.

ENDORSEMENT OF JUBILEE:

It was decided that the recommendations in Item 1: #4 (f) of the Sexism Report and in the Division of Mission in Canada - Canadian Ecumenical Jubilee Initiative would be covered by the recommendation in the Division of World Outreach – Endorsement of Jubilee Theme report.

Motion: Jon Jessiman/Bob Anderson

That the Executive of General Council take no action on Item 1: #4 (f) of the Sexism Report.

Motion Carried.

Motion: Lynn Maki/Jon Jessiman

That the Executive of General Council take no action on the recommendation in the Division of Mission in Canada - Canadian Ecumenical Jubilee Initiative Report.

Motion Carried.

Motion: Rhea Whitehead/Lynn Maki

That the Executive of General Council endorse the theme of Jubilee and express support of the continued Jubilee initiatives taken by The United Church of Canada Divisions/Council.

Motion Carried.

MEETING OF COMMISSION B:

VOTING MEMBERS: Bernice Luce, Karen Ptolemy-Stam, Faith March-MacCuish, David Carrothers, Ron Holotuk, Teresa Moysey, Sheila Snelling, Marion Best, Virginia Coleman, Kay Cho, Kathy Koehler, BJ Klassen, Gordon Groot, Peter Wesley, Patty Evans, Claire Borel-Christen, Randy MacKenzie, Steven Chambers, Steve Adams, Hazel Bigby, Mollie Williams, Paul Campbell, Lorna Teed, Anne Shirley Sutherland

CORRESPONDING MEMBERS: Wendy Bulloch, Jim Pickering, Alf Dumont, Roslyn Campbell, Jean Dryden, Jim Sinclair, Catherine Gaw, Bill Wall, Bonnie Greene, George Rodgers

MINISTRY PERSONNEL EDUCATION DIVISION AND EXECUTIVE STRUCTURE FOR 1999-2000:

BJ Klassen presented the rationale for the year-to-year approval of restructuring of the Division of Ministry Personnel and Education (DMPE).

Motion: BJ Klassen/Steven Chambers

That the Executive of 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 2000 Annual General Meeting of the Division:

Division of Ministry Personnel and Education:

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

* one representative from each Conference and one each from the two Districts of Newfoundland and Labrador Conference

Executive of Division of Ministry Personnel and Education:

Division Chair	1
Division General Secretary	1
Conference Representatives (related to DMPE)	4 *
Standing Committee Representatives	4 *+
Members-At-Large	2
DMPE Executive Staff	<u>1</u>
<i>Total</i>	13

* Rotational roster

+ No representation from Transfer or Nominating Committees

Motion Carried.

UNITED THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE/LE SÉMINAIRE UNI AND THE UNIVERSITY OF MONTREAL/UNIVERSITÉ DE MONTRÉAL - ENTENTE:

Motion: BJ Klassen/Steven Chambers

That the Executive of General Council approve the creation of an affiliation between the United Theological College/Le Séminaire Uni and University of Montreal/Université de Montréal (April 22, 1998), as per Section 705(d) of The Manual, with an evaluation to take place by the participating bodies in three years.

The discussion began with comments that courses specific to the United Church will still only be offered in English. A question was raised as to the criteria for the evaluation in three years. The Memorandum of Understanding is only valid for three years and the criteria are not yet known. The date in the motion was questioned; what are dates of the three-year timeline? The date of ratification by the General Council Executive was said to be the crucial date. To decrease the chance of confusion, the following amendment was proposed:

Amendment: Virginia Coleman/Ron Holotuk

Delete the words“(April 22, 1998)”.

Motion to Amend Carried.

Motion Carried as Amended.

APPROVAL PROCESS FOR UNITED CHURCH APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS OF UNITED CHURCH THEOLOGICAL SCHOOLS:

Motion: BJ Klassen/Steven Chambers

That the Executive of General Council authorize the Division of Ministry Personnel and Education to act on its behalf with respect to the nomination and appointment of representatives of The United Church of Canada to the governing boards of church related theological schools and report these appointments for information to the General Council Executive.

The comment was offered that the purpose of this motion is to bring all schools through the administrative processes of the Education for Church Leadership Academic Sub-Committee at the same time of year.

The caution was raised that the passing of this motion would take away from the General Council a piece of its work by action of the Executive of General Council. Suggestion was made that an amendment be made to indicate for one year only and that the Division of Ministry Personnel and Education bring the request to the 37th General Council.

Amendment: Virginia Coleman/Randy MacKenzie

That the words “until the 37th General Council” be inserted following “related theological schools”.

Motion to Amend Carried.

Motion Carried as Amended.

The question was raised as to the liability to which appointments expose the Church. Bonnie Greene reported that there is a consultant doing work in this area for Division of Mission in Canada whose report will be shared with the Division of Ministry Personnel and Education.

DIVISION OF FINANCE ACCOUNTABILITY REPORT:

Steve Adams reported on the accountability report of the Division. The highlights noted were a new technology manager, progress on Y2K compatibility issues, new special gifts tracking system, the Revenue Generation programme and the restructuring of staff and systems in the Department of Pensions.

The comment was made that the focus of the Department of Stewardship Services seems to be on revenue generation and special gifts rather than focussing on Stewardship education. Steve Adams responded to the concerns and indicated that a communication will be going out to the areas of the country, which have raised that concern.

Concern was noted that people across the country may not be aware of the increase in the number of municipalities who are re-examining property tax issues for church buildings; it is usage, not ownership, which is used to determine tax status of a property. Members were reminded of the Division of Mission in Canada resource called "Taxes and the Church".

ETHNIC MINISTRIES COUNCIL ACCOUNTABILITY REPORT:

Richard Choe joined the Commission to serve as a resource for this report.

The question was raised regarding the change in leadership structure of the Council from two chairs to one chair. This had been approved by the General Council Executive at their last meeting.

Richard highlighted the mission statement, which will be presented at the Ethnic Ministries Council Annual General Meeting in June, and, if passed, forwarded to General Council.

NATIONAL VACANCY AND AVAILABILITY LISTS:

Steven Chambers reviewed the proposed new process for circulation of the national vacancy and availability lists. Conference Personnel Ministers have been consulted in the design of the process. It is hoped to be fully operational by the year 2000. The two lists will still be kept separately with access monitored and only made available to authorized people.

IMPLEMENTATION OF OPTION FOR SETTLEMENT TO UNPAID ACCOUNTABLE MINISTRY:

Steven Chambers reported on the creative possibilities and excitement amongst some students. The question was raised as to the expectation of people in these positions for benefits under the Pension & Group Insurance plans. It is expected that their compensation, including benefits, will be paid by another body and not the Church.

How are people settled into these ministries accountable to our system? As members of the Order of Ministry, they will be on the roll of a Presbytery and accountable through our policies. Their "employer" would be responsible for their work activities.

Under what circumstances would the Church approve appointment to a Pastoral Charge which does not include compensation, what are the criteria by which a Pastoral Charge could get a minister without having to pay them? The criteria have not yet been set but will be part of the final plan.

Concern was raised as to whether these were appointment rather than settlement. Those who are now settled are not subject to an "Annual Renewal of Covenant".

The caution was raised that the implementation plan needs to address issues of applicability to areas beyond All Native Circle Conference.

Motion: Peter Wesley/Paul Campbell

That the implementation plan for the option for settlement to unpaid accountable ministry be returned to the Division of Ministry Personnel and Education with the concerns noted.

Motion Carried.

EDUCATION FOR CHURCH LEADERSHIP CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE REPORT:

BJ Klassen reported. The question was raised as to whether progress is being made. BJ Klassen believes it is; inter-divisional work is progressing. The comment was offered that it is difficult to identify the front of the brochure from the back.

The level of funding was questioned. The proposal in the year 2000 budget is for \$1 million in funding. Steven Chambers commented that the mantra of \$1.25 million may not be helpful any more based on the changes which have been experienced in the Church's financial situation since that goal for Education for Church Leadership was originally set at General Council in 1994.

GENERAL COUNCIL SECRETARIES' REPORT:

Steve Adams responded to questions on behalf of the General Council Secretaries. One question was related to how the directions for the year 2001 budget get set. General Council Executive needs to do this, but there is no clear way in which that direction is going to be given. Bill Wall indicated that the Planning & Priorities Group will be bringing some information to the General Council Executive which will be bringing the planning and the budget cycles together.

It was felt that it would be helpful to have a common set of critical questions for which the units need to prepare answers in their budget planning.

Motion: David Carrothers/Ron Holotuk

That the Commission receive the following reports for information:

Division of Finance Accountability Report

Division of Ministry Personnel and Education Accountability Report

Education for Church Leadership Coordinating Committee Report

National Vacancy and Availability Lists Report

Ethnic Ministries Council Accountability Report

General Council Secretaries' Accountability Report

Motion Carried.

SATURDAY – APRIL 24, 1999

OPENING WORSHIP/TABLE CHECK IN:

The meeting begun with opening worship led by the Manitoba and Northwestern Ontario Conferences. This was followed by table group check-in.

The Moderator welcomed Murray Lapp and David Iverson, who were newly arrived, to the meeting.

RESIDENTIAL SCHOOLS UPDATE:

Motion: Virginia Coleman/Lorna Teed

That the Executive of General Council move “in camera” to hear updates on the United Church and Residential schools.

Motion Carried.

All updates on the residential schools were done “in camera” after which the meeting moved out of “in camera.”

Motion: Virginia Coleman/Lorna Teed

That the Executive of General Council now resume its meeting out of “in camera”.

Motion Carried.

STATE OF THE FINANCES – ISSUES CONCERNING THE 2000 REVENUE RECOMMENDATIONS:

Michael Scott summarized the Division of Finance Issues concerning the 2000 Revenue Recommendations report highlighting the following points:

- A stabilization of the M&S Fund. This is by and large due to the hard work, creativity and initiative from the Conferences as a result of the revenue generation funding that was provided to them.
- A serious decline in the revenue available from The United Church of Canada Reserve Fund.
- Serious issues needing to be faced by the Executive of General Council as a result of the Division of Communication year-end deficit, which would be further expanded upon at a later point in the meeting.

He stressed that the Executive of General Council need to make some very important decisions with regard to Financial Planning for the year 2001.

PLANNING AND PRIORITIES GROUP:

Marion Best presented an overview of the work the Planning and Priorities Group. It is the hope of this group that ultimately priorities will be equated to budget on an ongoing basis. Some of the highlights included:

- a training event (April 7, 1999) for General Council Secretaries on Strategic Planning
- a survey went out to find out if what were originally thought to be priorities was still the case with the congregations at large (presented by Elizabeth Brown and Bill Wall)

Elizabeth Brown reported that the results of the survey for the Planning and Priorities Group showed that people still felt that their original priorities were still the same. 66% of the survey that went out came back to confirm this result.

Motion: Elizabeth Brown/Marion Best

That the Executive of General Council receive the Planning and Priority Report for information.

Motion Carried.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

The Executive was informed by Albion Wright of the various awards received by the “Observer”.

RESIDENTIAL SCHOOLS/FINANCES - DISCUSSION:

Some time was given to a discussion on Residential Schools and the financial challenges facing The United Church of Canada. Information to be shared with the public at large should there be any inquiries with regard to Residential Schools was made available.

THEOLOGICAL REFLECTION:

Gerry Sheppard invited the members of the Executive to think about the question “What is Prayer?” He spoke of the importance of learning to pray well. Prayer is a vehicle for different things and if prayer is our tool to petition with, to lament with and to ask for forgiveness of God and others, then we had better make it a good prayer.

Brian Thorpe and Bill Phipps thanked Gerry Sheppard on behalf of the Executive of General Council for helping to inspire a really thought-provoking reflection time.

DIVISION OF COMMUNICATION ACCOUNTABILITY REPORT:

Randy Mackenzie expressed his appreciation and thanks to the members of the Executive for their support through some difficult times. He went on to address the figures in the Division of Communication Accountability report. Linda Slough addressed the deficit figures of the Division as explained in the Division of Communication Financial Picture, 1998 report and the reason that they were not foreseen was largely due to the major restructuring that went on in the Division. Changes to the system and other measures are being taken to prevent this ever happening again.

FOLLOW-UP TO THE DIVISION OF COMMUNICATION ACCOUNTABILITY REPORT:

Virginia Coleman emphasized some of the steps being taken and systems being put in place to prevent this kind of a situation re-occurring:

- A new computerized system, which will provide ongoing information on inventory and this, in turn, will enable greater accuracy in the variance reports.
- Regular meetings allowing for critical questions to be asked and more accountability between General Council Secretaries and those bringing information in will take place.
- In-house services are being addressed.
- Division of Finance and Division of Communication will work closely with relevant units to optimize their work.
- A report on how things are going with regard to this issue will be made to the Executive of General Council at every meeting.

A discussion ensued following this report about the power of management to stop a program approved or instituted by the Executive of General Council body when the organization is in trouble or running a deficit

and how to be able to address this situation quickly.

Motion: Randy Mackenzie/Linda Slough

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

Amendment: Karen Ptolemy-Stam/Jon Jessiman

That the words "After extensive discussion" be added to the beginning of the motion.

Motion to Amend Carried.

Motion Carried as Amended.

DIVISION OF FINANCE RECOMMENDATION REGARDING DIVISION OF COMMUNICATION DEFICIT:

Michael Scott advised the court that he did not intend to put the motion, with regard to the Recommendation regarding Division of Communication Deficit report, up for vote. He went on to explain his reason for withdrawing this motion was the largely discriminatory and punitive tone of the motion. The tone arose from a very concerned Executive of the Division of Finance who, after considerable discussion, came away with some frustration and a deep sense of alarm around the state of the finances of the Church.

In bringing this information to the Executive of General Council, the Executive of the Division of Finance requested him to remind the Executive of General Council of some relevant information. In 1996 at a meeting of the Executive of General Council, when the Stabilization and Reserve Fund were combined into one fund called the Reserve Fund, it was stated in the minutes that the funding of deficits from the Reserve Fund would not be automatic; even though, historically, deficits have been funded out of this fund more often than not. However, what is missing is a clear policy on what to do when there is a deficit that comes before the Executive of the Division of Finance at year-end. Michael Scott proposed that the Executive of General Council have an opportunity at this time to debate and to come out with a policy that would address deficits and possibly even surpluses. He also proposed that he return to the Executive of Division of Finance after some further discussion on this issue and with a recommended policy on managing deficits from Steve Adams which they can debate and consider and then bring before the Executive of General Council in the fall for approval.

Steve Adams commented on the difficulties and ambiguities of the current financial monitoring system and the constraints that were felt by the Division of Finance as addressed under "Issue" in the Proposed Process for Monitoring the Operating Budget report.

Financial Controllership Process:

Motion: Michael Scott/Steve Adams

That the Executive of General Council approve the following as the process for financial controllership, to be effective for the 1999 budget year and beyond:

Objectives:

- To monitor expenditures and revenues in relation to budget on a regular and timely basis.
- To report the results of that monitoring process.
- To take prompt and effective action to correct and/or adjust for significant discrepancies.
- To maintain an effective and credible budgeting process.
- To ensure the Reserve Fund balance is maintained per policy and to limit unplanned draws.

Who will be involved:

General Council Executive carries overall responsibility for the functioning of The United Church of Canada, including responsible implementation of approved budgets.

General Council Secretaries is the interdivisional body charged with reviewing reports, ensuring budget

compliance and agreeing on the appropriate action to be taken.

Division of Finance is responsible for overall monitoring and reporting the effectiveness of actions, as well as the maintenance of the accounting system.

Spending Units are responsible for supplying regular financial and narrative reports and implementing the appropriate action.

Implementation:

May 1999

- Division of Finance to hire consultant to address cost recovery processes. This project will be completed by the end of September 1999.
- Division of Finance senior staff member to be added to the Voices United Management Committee.

June 1999

- Reporting relationships redefined and this change to be reflected in updated job descriptions, for financial officers within the General Council Offices.

Ongoing:

- As per current practice, the Division of Finance will receive monthly financial and quarterly narrative reports from each of the spending units and present a consolidated report to General Council Secretaries.
- General Council Secretaries, as part of their regular meeting cycle, will dedicate adequate agenda time to review monthly financial and quarterly narrative reports and agree on appropriate action to be taken, if required.

Corrective action recommended could include:

- changing the scope of projects
- delaying expenditures and projects
- cancelling projects
- altering the next year's budget to compensate for current year expenditures should there be a shortfall that cannot be corrected in a timely fashion
- In consultation with General Council Human Resources Office, the Division of Finance to be involved in job design, recruitment and selection of all finance/accounting related positions within the General Council Offices.
- Assess the effect of increased oversight element of financial officers for Division of Finance staff.

October 1999

- Division of Finance will monitor and report to GCS, General Council Executive and Division of Finance Executive on the process of implementation and effectiveness of actions agreed to, and taken. The first of these reports will be in October 1999.

April 2001

- Division of Finance will report on the effectiveness of the Process for Monitoring the Operating Budget.

2. Operational Changes:

THAT the Executive of General Council approves the Division of Finance's recommendation of the following operational initiatives to support and enable the process for identifying current and potential problems within the operating budget. These initiatives to be implemented immediately:

1. Division of Finance to develop recommendations, to be submitted to the General Council Secretaries, on how the cost recovery process, particularly within Division of Communication, can be streamlined. This will entail the hiring of a consultant by the Division of Finance, reporting to the General Secretary, Finance, to analyze and advise on how this might best be accomplished.
2. A Division of Finance staff member to be added to the Voices United management committee

immediately.

3. Division of Finance to be consulted on the job design, recruitment and selection of all finance/accounting related positions within the General Council Offices AND;
4. Inclusion of a functional reporting relationship to the General Secretary, Finance in addition to a reporting relationship to the individual's immediate supervisor, in all division/council/office finance officer job descriptions.
5. Division of Finance to develop a process for reviewing and assessing the effectiveness of this policy in two years.

Table discussion took place on motion 1 and 2. Marion Best commented that the people at her table did not find motion 1 to be a clear motion and suggested that it be referred back to Division of Finance for further work after some comments and suggestions with regard to the changes that could be made were offered:

- under the heading *who will be involved* a clarification on the roles and responsibilities of the Executive of General Council around budgets and integration of who is involved, how they are involved and how they interact;
- under *Implementation, May 1999* a clarification was asked for as to why those actions were to be taken. This concern was addressed by Steve Adams;
- under the heading *October 1999*, clarity was sought on the accountability relationship of financial officers within the divisions and also a listing of changes from current practises;
- #1 and #2 under the motion on operational changes that follows this motion is a repetition of what is in this motion and #3 and #4 of this motion are already being done by General Council Secretaries.

In view of all these comments, a suggestion was made to refer this motion and the next one on Operational Changes to a small group to work on.

Motion: Don Smith/Marion Best

That the motion on *Financial Controllership Process* and *Operational Changes* be referred to a small working group consisting of Michael Scott, Steve Adams, Virginia Coleman and Anne Shirley Sutherland, with the power to consult with others, to work on these motions and to bring back to the Executive of the General Council, before the close of this meeting, motions for their consideration.

Motion Carried.

SUNDAY – APRIL 25, 1999

TABLE GROUP CHECK-IN:

The meeting started with table group check-in.

THEOLOGICAL REFLECTION:

Arlene Granbois shared with the Executive that the apology to the First Nations People was a start but wondered when the contributions of the First Nations people would be recognized. Erme Camba compared the First Nations People's exploitation to that of his people and spoke about how, like the First Nations People, his people are still trying to find themselves and their dignity.

COVENANTING SERVICE:

The Covenanting Service for Jim Sinclair was held in the Chapel.

SESSIONAL COMMITTEE REPORT:

Jack Spencer presented the new re-worked Sessional Committee Report. Four possible options to fund the new requests were identified; however, only the following two, were endorsed by this committee:

- reduce the total proposed expenditures from the Unified Funding for the 2000 budget by 3% as per the suggestions from the spending units. The savings generated by these reductions would be used to fund all new requests which are approved. Any remaining savings would be used to reduce the draw from the Reserve Fund, or
- balance the year 2000 budget by providing for all new requests from the Unified Fund with a corresponding “across the board” reduction to all spending units. This percentage would be determined by the Executive of General Council.

HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE REPORT:

Travel Rate:

After surveying the contextual community on travel rates, it was determined that The United Church of Canada current rate is well within the acceptable range.

Motion: Paul Campbell/Bernice Luce

That the Executive of General Council approve that the year 2000 Travel Rate be maintained at 30 cents/kilometre.

Motion Carried.

Salary scale adjustment for Categories K & L:

Paul Campbell reported that after further analysis it has been found that the K & L salary scales lag 4-14% below the contextual community. In accordance with the current policy a motion was put forward for approval by the Executive.

Motion: Paul Campbell/Bernice Luce

Whereas the United Church salary and benefits policies attempt to provide fair and equitable compensation to all employees by ensuring that salaries are internally equitable and externally competitive with our contextual community and whereas, the Mungall Survey indicated that for categories K and L there exists an unacceptable lag behind the contextual community; therefore the Executive of General Council approves:

- a) a 5% increase to the salary scale for K and L categories, effective May 1, 1999; and
- b) that the required funding be drawn from the United Church Reserve for 1999 and added to the budget decisions for 2000.

Extensive discussion took place. All Staff members affected by this motion vacated the plenary due to conflict of interest. Karen Ptolemy-Stam and Carol Hancock declared conflict of interest and absented themselves.

It was requested that part a) and b) of the motion be voted on separately.

Motion part a) Carried.

Motion part b) Carried.

Motion: Paul Campbell/Bernice Luce

That the Executive of General Council approve that the phrase “(except senior management N-O categories that will not lag by more than 10%)” be deleted from the “Setting of Salaries” Policy 3.1 (b-ii).

It was noted that in the future this motion could have an effect on staff in the N-O category. Staff in the N-O categories absented themselves. Marion Best took over the Chair as Moderator and Roger Coll as Secretary,

during this discussion.

Motion Defeated.

Nominations:

Motion: Paul Campbell/Bernice Luce

That the Executive of General Council approve the appointment of:

Angelika Piche (L) (M&O) and Blake Hanna (L) (M&O) to the Roman Catholic/United Church Dialogue.

Tom Faulkner (L) (MAR) as the delegate to the Area Council and to the Committee on Theology of the Caribbean and North American Area Council (CANAAC) of the World Alliance of Reformed Churches (WARC).

Kerry Craig (O) (MNWO) as the official representative of the UCC to the Council for a Parliament of the World's Religions.

Carol Hancock (O) (TOR) as The United Church of Canada representative to the Canadian Christian Observance of the Millennium.

Russell Daye (O) (M&O) and Irene Sale (O) (MNWO) to the Education for Church Leadership Coordinating Committee.

Richard Donald (L) (MAR) and Susan Butler Jones (O) (SASK) to the Committee on Sexism.

Gordon Nodwell (O) (TOR) as Chair, Archives Management Committee and of Frank Gabourel (O) (TOR) as a member-at-large.

Shunaha Kim (L) (LON) to the InterChurch InterFaith Committee.

Carol Hancock (O) (TOR) as The United Church of Canada representative on the Executive Committee, World Methodist Council.

Motion Carried.

Motion: Virginia Coleman/Bernice Saulteaux

That the Executive of General Council receive the Human Resources Committee report for information.

Motion Carried.

REAL PROPERTY:

A presentation on Real Property, most of which is in poor condition and needing repairs, was made by Mary May and John Perigoe. As much of the Real Property that had any value has been sold, the property now left has almost no re-sale value. The following motions were put before the Executive of General Council for decision:

Motion: Ron Holotuk/Bernice Saulteaux

That the Executive of General Council recommend to the Division of Mission in Canada that the Real Property Fund policy be changed so that the uncommitted fund balance should not fall below \$500,000.

Motion Carried.

Motion: Ron Holotuk/Bernice Saulteaux

That the Executive of General Council:

- agree that a Mission Unit Visitation Plan be implemented utilizing present Division of Mission Canada staff together with Conference Staff and volunteers;
- request that the Real Property Task Group develop a 3-Year Budget and Schedule of Proposed Visits needed for this visitation process which would be presented to the fall meeting of the General Council Executive.
- ask the Real Property Task Group to prepare a "Procedural Outline" to be used for these visits, to ensure that staff and the various other participants are gathering and also sharing the same information with all mission units visited. Would provide an update report to the fall 1999 General Council Executive; and
- approve that a start be made in this Visitation Process by Division of Mission in Canada staff connecting with Mission Units across the church in conjunction with other meeting arrangements, as is possible.

Amendment: Michael Scott/Bernice Luce

That the second statement in the motion above have the words “for approval” added to the end of it.

Motion to Amend Carried.

Motion Carried as Amended.

Motion: Ron Holotuk/Bernice Saulteaux

That the Executive of General Council approve that any requirement for additional funding be drawn from the United Church Reserves until such time as other means are available to sustain the fund.

Amendment: Michael Scott/Lynn Maki

That the motion above be amended to “approve that any requirement for additional funding be drawn from the United Church Reserves up to and including the year 2000.

Motion to Amend Carried.

Amendment: Don Smith/Elizabeth Brown

That the motion above be amended to include “... any requirement up to \$56,000 additional funding...”

Motion to Amend Carried.

Motion Carried as Amended.

Motion: Ron Holotuk/Bernice Saulteaux

That the Executive of General Council approve that the Real Property Fund become an independent budget item in the General Council Offices budgeting cycle, beginning for the year 2001.

Motion Carried.

Motion: Ron Holotuk/Bernice Saulteaux

That the Executive of General Council receive the Real Property report as a whole.

Motion Carried.

RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING REVENUE GENERATION PROJECT FUNDS:

Michael Scott advised the Court that he would be withdrawing the second motion on Continuation of Revenue Generation Project.

Dean Salter was introduced as the Mission Funding Officer in the Department of Stewardship Services since March 1997. He introduced the Revenue Generation Project fund information.

Motion: Michael Scott/Steve Adams

Whereas the preliminary midpoint feedback on the Revenue Generation project has been positive, and;
Whereas not all Conferences were able to start their Revenue Generation initiatives in early 1997, and;
Whereas studies have shown that the projects of this nature need to be evaluated for long-term effect, and;
Whereas there is a feeling that revenue generation is a continuing mandate of the Department of Stewardship Services and therefore should not be a short-term project;
Therefore, the Executive of General Council approves that at the end of 1999, an amount equal to the unallocated Revenue Generation Project funds from 1997-1999 (approximately \$350,000) from the Reserve Funds be made available to Conferences for revenue generation projects in the year 2000 in keeping with current practises.

Motion Carried.

Michael Scott asked the Executive of General Council to remember Elsie Manley-Casimir and her brother in their prayers.

A procedural concern was raised with regard to how motions are withdrawn. The concern was with the fact that a motion authorized by a committee could be withdrawn by a single individual. Even though the reason for withdrawing may be valid, it was felt that a better way to deal with this would be to send the motion back to the Committee.

75TH ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE REPORT:

Peter Wyatt summarized the 75th Anniversary Committee report and highlighted the request for advice from the Committee.

Motion: Peter Wyatt/BJ Klassen

That the General Council Executive endorse the theme "Refining Fire, Sustaining Grace", approve in principle the work of the 75th Anniversary Committee, and encourage it to proceed in its planning.

Postponement: Jon Jessiman/Virginia Coleman

That the Executive of General Council postpone the vote until after table group time.

Motion to Postpone Carried.

Some table group discussion took place.

The Motion Carried.

Motion: Peter Wyatt/Bernice Luce

That the Executive of the General Council approve a disbursement from the 1999 Project Fund of up to \$25,000 for the work of the 75th Anniversary Committee related to the general task of enabling local celebration of the anniversary, including distribution of a congregational resource book, translation, advertising, the development of a logo and posters, the writing and distribution of a drama, UCTV staff planning time and other anticipated expenses.

Postponement: Richard Choe/Helen Chisholm

That the Executive of General Council postpone this motion until a decision is made on the recommendation

for approval of a draw of \$75,000 from the United Church Reserve Fund.

Motion to Postpone Carried.

Motion: Peter Wyatt/David Iverson

That the Executive of General Council approve a draw of up to \$75,000 from the United Church Reserve Fund in 2000 to cover the cost of the television special on the weekend of June 10th, 2000.

Motion Defeated.

The Executive of General Council returned to postponed motion.

Motion Carried.

Motion: Peter Wyatt/Joanna MacQuarrie

That the Executive of the General Council approve a disbursement from the 2000 Project Fund of up to \$25,000 for the work of the 75th Anniversary Committee related specifically to planning for, and facilitating, the activities of the weekend of June 10,11, 2000, including postal costs, advertising, hospitality and travel.

At this time the request for advice was addressed. In general, it was felt that the major part of the 75th Anniversary Celebrations should coincide with the next General Council meeting, but that some local celebrations take place too.

Amendment: Virginia Coleman/John Yeo

That “related specifically” be deleted and replaced with “including to pay for work related” to read as follows:

That the Executive of the General Council approve a disbursement from the 2000 Project Fund of up to \$25,000 for the work of the 75th Anniversary Committee including to pay for work related to planning for, and facilitating...

Amendment of amendment: Linda Slough/Marion Best

that “and related to General Council Celebrations” be added after “weekend of June 10,11, 2000 to read as follows:

That the Executive of the General Council approve a disbursement from the 2000 Project Fund of up to \$25,000 for the work of the 75th Anniversary Committee including to pay for work related to planning for and facilitating the activities of the weekend of June 10,11, 2000 and related to General Council Celebrations, including...

Motion to Amend Amendment Defeated.

Motion to Amend Defeated.

Referral: Jon Jessiman/Mollie Williams

That this motion be referred to the 75th Anniversary Committee to reconsider based on the advice of the Executive of General Council.

Motion to Refer Carried.

PROJECT FUND REQUEST FOR RECONCILIATION INITIATIVES:

Motion: Lynn Maki/Kathy Koehler

That the Executive of General Council approve an expenditure from the 1999 Project Fund of \$25,000 to be utilized by Division of Mission in Canada for the purpose of holding a reconciliation leadership training and consultation event.

Referral: Teresa Moysey/Jack Spencer

That this motion be referred back to the Division of Mission in Canada.

Motion to Refer Carried.

DIVISION OF FINANCE REVENUE RECOMMENDATION:

Michael Scott highlighted that revenue for the budget is primarily funded through the Mission & Service Fund.

Motion: Michael Scott/Steve Adams

That the Executive of General Council approve that the year 2000 revenue budget for the Mission and Service Fund be \$30,000,000.

The Motion Carried.

Michael Scott emphasized the current state of the Reserve Fund and how it is being drawn down to a dangerously low level. As a result, Division of Finance is faced with a dilemma on how to deal with this situation.

BUDGET STEERING GROUP REPORT - YEAR 2000 BUDGET DEVELOPMENT PROCESS:

Murray Lapp presented the Budget Steering Group report and informed the Executive of General Council about the work of this group.

Motion: Anne Shirley Sutherland/Lorna Teed

That the Executive of General Council approve the revised mandate of the Budget Steering Group.

Motion Carried.

It was discovered that an earlier motion that had been passed by the Executive of General Council conflicted with the current recommendation before the Executive to allocate \$150,000 to resource production in the year 2000. A decision was made by the Executive of General Council to reconsider the earlier motion.

Reconsideration: Rhea Whitehead/Patty Evans

That the Executive of General Council reconsider the motion previously passed that says:

Whereas the preliminary midpoint feedback on the Revenue Generation project has been positive, and;

Whereas not all Conferences were able to start their Revenue Generation initiatives in early 1997, and;

Whereas studies have shown that the projects of this nature need to be evaluated for long-term effect, and;

Whereas there is a feeling that revenue generation is a continuing mandate of the Department of Stewardship Services and therefore should not be a short-term project;

Therefore, the Executive of General Council approves that at the end of 1999, an amount equal to the unallocated Revenue Generation Project funds from 1997-1999 (approximately \$350,000) from the Reserve Funds be made available to Conferences for revenue generation projects in the year 2000 in keeping with current practises.

Motion to Reconsider Carried.

Amendment: Patty Evans/Elizabeth Brown

That “to conferences” and “projects” be deleted so that it reads as follows:

... Therefore, the Executive of General Council approves that at the end of 1999, an amount equal to the unallocated Revenue Generation Project Funds from 1997-1999 (approximately \$350,000) from the Reserve Funds be made available for revenue generation projects in the year 2000 in keeping with current practices.

Motion to Amend Defeated.

Amendment: Jon Jessiman/Virginia Coleman

That “of up to \$200,000” be added to after “an amount” to read as follows:

... Therefore, the Executive of General Council approves that at the end of 1999, an amount of up to \$200,000 equal to the unallocated Revenue Generation Project Funds from 1997-1999 (approximately \$350,000) from the Reserve Funds be made available to Conferences for revenue generation projects in the year 2000 in keeping with current practices.

Motion to Amend Carried.

Motion Carried as Amended.

Clarity on the administration of this money that has been made available to Conferences was requested, leading to the following motion:

Motion: Virginia Coleman/Jon Jessiman

That the Department of Stewardship Services and Division of Finance be asked to put together the guidelines as to how the money made available to the Conferences is to be distributed and to bring them to a Sub-Executive as soon as they are ready.

Motion Carried.

The Executive went back to look again at the recommendation to allocate \$150,000 to resource production in 2000. Some time was given to table discussion.

Motion: Anne Shirley Sutherland/Lorna Teed

That if the Executive of General Council approves the request of the Division of Finance to bring forward the unallocated Revenue Generation Project funds into 2000, then the Executive of General Council allocate \$150,000 of that funding to resource production in 2000.

Amendment: Bob Anderson/Karen Ptolemy-Stam

That “revenue generation” be added before “resource” and that “of that funding” be replaced by “from the Reserve Fund”, so that it reads:

That if the Executive of General Council approves the request of the Division of Finance to bring forward the unallocated Revenue Generation Project funds into 2000, then the Executive of General Council allocate \$150,000 from the Reserve Fund to revenue generation resource production in 2000.

Motion to Amend Withdrawn.

Motion Defeated

Motion: Bob Anderson/Michael Scott

That the Executive of General Council allocate a minimum of \$88,000 and up to \$150,000 from the Reserve Fund previously allocated to Revenue Generation Resource Production in 2000.

Motion Carried.

Motion: Anne Shirley Sutherland/Lorna Teed

That the Executive of General Council approve that the General Council Offices' expenditure budget for 2000 be set at \$47,437,000, as set out in the Consolidated Summary by spending unit attached herewith (Appendix A), and further, that the Executive of General Council apportion the Unified Fund, as developed through the budgeting process as follows:

ANCC	1,707,000
Dcomm	1,688,000
Dfin	2,562,000
DMC	7,113,000
DMPE	4,370,000
DWO	7,166,000
EMC	745,000
GCO	6,745,000
Cap. Equip.	400,000
Total	32,496,000

Time was given to table discussion on this motion.

Motion: Karen Ptolemy-Stam/Barbara Bitzer

That this motion be tabled for the purpose of extending the meeting.

Motion Carried.

Motion: Peter Wyatt/Lorna Teed

That the meeting be extended by ½ hour.

Motion Carried.

Motion: Don Smith/Lynn Maki

That the motion now be lifted from the table.

Motion Carried.

Amendment: Jack Spencer/Teresa Moysey

That the budget for each spending unit be reduced by 1% and re-allocated to each of the spending units according to the amount necessary to meet the K and L salary scale adjustment.

Motion to Amend Carried.

Motion Carried as Amended.

It was clarified that the budget being referred to in the motion was Unified funding allocation to the Units and that the Capital Equipment amount was subject to the 1% reduction too.

Motion: Michael Scott/Steve Adams

Whereas the Division of Finance has already agreed that the revenue projection for the Mission and Service Fund for the year 2000 be \$30M, and

Whereas the Budget Steering Group has already indicated the "flat-line" budget means that current services are maintained at current levels and yet salary increases have augmented costs; and

Whereas the Budget Steering Group has already projected that "flat-line" spending will result in \$32.4M in required funding for the year 2000;

Therefore, the Executive of General Council approve that the draw from The United Church of Canada Reserve fund in support of the year 2000 budget be set at not more than \$2,500,000.

Motion Carried.

It was requested that the minutes reflect that it was noted that the spending units be alerted to the fact that these budgets may be reduced in the future and that the spending units should be thinking about future spending.

Motion: Bernice Luce/Lynn Maki

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

Motion Carried.

Elizabeth Brown explained to the Executive of General Council that although she had said her goodbyes at the last Executive of General Council meeting, the overseas appointment that she had accepted did not come through and that was the reason for her still being here. However, this would be her last year at the Executive of General Council as she has now accepted a position in Lethbridge, Alberta.

MONDAY – APRIL 26, 1999

OPENING PRAYERS:

The meeting started with a prayer led by Bill Phipps.

TABLE CHECK-IN:

The table groups checked in.

WORKING GROUP ON THE CHANGING CHURCH REPORT:

Report was delivered by Michael Bourgeois, after which he invited questions and comments from the floor.

Motion: Lynn Maki/BJ Klassen

That the Executive of General Council receive the Working Group for the Changing Church Accountability Report.

Motion Carried.

REPORTS FROM COMMISSIONS A AND B:

Bill Phipps presented the report from Commission A. Some time was given to the table groups for discussion.

Motion: Virginia Coleman/Richard Choe

That the Executive of General Council receive, for information, the report from Commission A.

Motion Carried.

Marion Best presented the report from Commission B. Some time was given to the table groups for discussion.

Motion: Marion Best/Lorna Teed

That the Executive of General Council receive, for information, the report from Commission B.

Motion Carried.

Motion: Virginia Coleman/Lorna Teed

That the Executive of General Council dismiss Commissions A and B.

Motion Carried.

THEOLOGICAL REFLECTION:

Theological Reflection was led by Peter Wyatt, Erme Camba and Alf Dumont.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**World Council of Churches Report from Harare:**

Marion Best summarized her report on the Assembly of World Council of Churches in Harare. She talked about the quirks and intricacies that are bound to be a part of such a diverse group gathering and how it takes time to be able to build an understanding and acceptance of each other.

Motion: Marion Best/Don Smith

That the Executive of General Council receive the World Council of Churches report.

Motion Carried.

Recommendation regarding the use of the Reserve Fund:

Motion: Steve Adams/Lorna Teed

Whereas over the years more and more items are being funded directly from the Reserve Fund rather than as part of the operating budget,

Whereas fund expenditure bypass the regular budgeting process for approval,

Whereas all expenditures are funded from the same limited pot of money,

Therefore, the Executive of General Council approves moving some of the Year 2000 Reserve Fund budget items to the operating budget with the intention that eventually the reserve fund would again only be used to balance the operating budget.

Referral: Virginia Coleman/Richard Choe

That the Executive of General Council refer this motion regarding the use of the Reserve Fund back to the Division of Finance for additional consideration.

Motion to Refer Carried.

Controllership Function and Operational Changes – Small group report:

1. Controllership Function:

Motion: Virginia Coleman/Mollie Williams

That the Executive of General Council receive the following for information with respect to the 1999 budget year and beyond and refer it to the General Council Secretaries for implementation:

Objectives:

- To monitor expenditures and revenues in relation to budget on a regular and timely basis.
- To report the results of that monitoring process.
- To take prompt and effective action to correct and/or adjust for significant discrepancies.
- To maintain an effective and credible budgeting process.
- To ensure the Reserve Fund balance is maintained per policy and to limit unplanned draws.

Who will be involved:

General Council Executive carries overall responsibility for the functioning of The United Church of Canada, including responsible implementation of approved budgets.

General Council Secretaries is the interdivisional body charged with reviewing reports, ensuring budget compliance and agreeing on the appropriate action to be taken.

Division of Finance is responsible for overall monitoring and reporting the effectiveness of actions, as well

as the maintenance of the accounting system.

Spending Units are responsible for supplying regular financial and narrative reports and implementing the appropriate action.

Implementation:

May 1999

- Division of Finance to hire consultant to address cost recovery processes. This project will be completed by the end of September 1999.
- Division of Finance senior staff member to be added to the Voices United Management Committee.

June 1999

- Reporting relationships redefined and this change to be reflected in updated job descriptions, for financial officers within the General Council Offices.

Ongoing:

- As per current practice, the Division of Finance will receive monthly financial and quarterly narrative reports from each of the spending units and present a consolidated report to General Council Secretaries.
- General Council Secretaries, as part of their regular meeting cycle, will dedicate adequate agenda time to review monthly financial and quarterly narrative reports and agree on appropriate action to be taken, if required.

Corrective action recommended could include:

- changing the scope of projects
- delaying expenditures and projects
- cancelling projects
- altering the next year's budget to compensate for current year expenditures should there be a shortfall that cannot be corrected in a timely fashion
- In consultation with General Council Human Resources Office, the Division of Finance to be involved in job design, recruitment and selection of all finance/accounting related positions within the General Council Offices.
- Assess the effect of increased oversight element of financial officers for Division of Finance staff.

October 1999

- Division of Finance will monitor and report to GCS, General Council Executive and Division of Finance Executive on the process of implementation and effectiveness of actions agreed to, and taken. The first of these reports will be in October 1999.

April 2001

- Division of Finance will report on the effectiveness of the Process for Monitoring the Operating Budget.

Motion Carried.

It was clarified that the Executive of General Council carries overall responsibility for the functioning of The United Church of Canada including requiring accountability for the implementation of the approved budget.

6. Operational Changes:

Motion: Virginia Coleman/Don Smith

That the Executive of General Council refer the motion on operational changes (Item 2, FIN-17) to the General Council Secretaries.

Motion Carried.

Conference Boundaries Task Group Report:

Motion: Virginia Coleman/Elizabeth Brown

That the Executive of General Council receive the report of the General Council Conference Boundaries

Task Group for information.

Motion Carried.

Agenda and Planning of the 36th General Council Report:

Motion: Anne Shirley Sutherland/Bernice Luce

That the Executive of General Council receive the Agenda and Planning Committee 36th General Council report for information.

Motion Carried.

Alison Jordan and Earla Buell were thanked for their hard work in organizing the food arrangements for the Executive of General Council meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

Healing Fund Council Report:

Laurie Greene addressed the following motion.

Motion: Lynn Maki/Kathy Koehler

That the Executive of the General Council:

- a) extend the Healing Fund by two years to December 31, 2001. (Financial Implication: approximately \$40,000 for five more meetings of the Healing Fund Council (Fall 1999; Spring and Fall 2000; Spring and Fall 2001);
- b) approve the use of \$69,000 remaining from an amount of (up to) \$250,000 identified by the General Council Executive at its June 26, 1998 meeting for the reimbursement of administrative costs to the Healing Fund, to cover the cost of five more meetings as well as an updated resource.

Motion Carried.

Recommended Change to Group Insurance Plan Contract:

Jim Pickering addressed the rationale as given in the Division of Finance Report – Recommended Change to the Group Insurance Plan Contract.

Motion: Steve Adams/Bob Anderson

That, effective January 1, 1999, the Executive of General Council approve a maximum annual benefit of \$500 to be applied for all drugs in the “erectile dysfunction” category, including Viagra, once approved for use in Canada, for the Core, Optional and Pensioner Plans, and that this recommendation will be reviewed at the annual Group Insurance Advisory Committee meeting in 2000, when utilisation experience and trends are available.

Motion Carried.**BC Conference petitions – Residential Schools:****Motion:** Jon Jessiman/Mollie Williams

That the Executive of General Council allocate \$10,000 from the Project Fund to a gathering of former staff of the United Church related residential schools.

Motion carried.**Motion:** Jon Jessiman/Mollie Williams

That the Executive of General Council urge the Residential School Steering Group of General Council to require our lawyers to continue to pursue with the Federal Government all possible avenues for settlement outside the court process.

Motion Carried.**Violence in East Timor:****Motion:** Patty Evans/Jack Spencer

That the Executive of General Council express to the Secretary General of the United Nations, its concern regarding the escalation of violence in East Timor and encourage an international United Nations presence in East Timor, to oversee the disarming of paramilitaries, withdrawal of Indonesian troops, and provide protection against human rights abuses.

Motion Carried.**Policy for General Council appointments:****Motion:** Elizabeth Brown/Lois Creith

That the General Council Executive request the Human Resources Committee to recommend to the October 1999 General Council Executive meeting, a policy concerning the number of General Council appointments an individual can hold at one time.

Motion Carried.**Together 2000:**

Carolyn Whitney-Brown expanded on some current plans for the year 2000 and requested that she be informed of any local initiatives that are taking place around this theme. This will help her in acting as a clearing house for all the initiatives taking place.

Copermif:**Motion:** Claire Borel-Christen/Teresa Moysey

Given the wide scope of its mandate, and the limitation of its local means of revenues, the Executive of General Council recommend to the General Council Office Budget Overview Group that the General Council grant to COPERMIF be set at \$130,000 for the 2001 budget year.

Referral: Marion Best/Bernice Luce

That the Executive of General Council refer the request for funding for COPERMIF for 2001 to the General Council Office Budget Overview Group.

Motion to Refer Carried.**Evaluation of Decision-making Process:**

Some suggestions were made to help improve the decision-making process of the Executive of the General

Council:

- Omnibus motions should be used to deal with reports that are for information purposes.
- Generally, it was felt that using Commissions to make decisions requires a trust that was present in this group but may not exist in larger meetings. It was felt that with the commissions, there is no safeguard to prevent a minority group making decisions for the majority and that although the process worked at this meeting, Sessional Committees should not be used to deal with major issues e.g. Working Group for the Changing Church issues.
- There should be opportunity for table group discussions before the Commissions do meet.

Motion: Lorna Teed/Randy Mackenzie

That the Executive of General Council test the process of Commissions again at the October 1999 meeting before making any decisions about its use at General Council.

Motion Carried.**ADJOURNMENT:**

Manitoba and NorthWestern Ontario Conference led the Closing worship. The Meeting of the General Council Executive adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

Moderator, Bill Phipps

General Secretary, K. Virginia Coleman