

THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA

**MEETING OF THE SUB-EXECUTIVE OF GENERAL COUNCIL
February 15, 2000
(Teleconference Call)**

The Sub-Executive of the General Council of The United Church of Canada met, at 12 noon on Tuesday, February 15, 2000, at 3250 Bloor Street West, Etobicoke, Ontario. The Moderator, the Right Reverend Bill Phipps presided.

Voting Members: Bill Phipps, Virginia Coleman, Hazel Bigby, David Carrothers, Claire Borel-Christen, Kay Cho, Lois Creith, Bernice Luce, Michael Scott, Don Smith, Lorna Teed, Mollie Williams.

Corresponding Members: David Iverson, Steven Chambers, Steve Adams, Rebekah Chevalier, Chris Ferguson, Richard Choe, Anne Shirley Sutherland, Peter Wyatt.

Regrets: Harold Manuel, Marion Best

CONSTITUTING OF THE SUB-EXECUTIVE

The Moderator constituted the meeting 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 Sub-Executive of General Council to be in session for the work that may properly be brought before it to the glory of God."

The meeting opened with a prayer led by Bill Phipps.

MOTIONS

1. Corresponding Members:

Motion: Virginia Coleman/Lois Creith:

That the following be named as corresponding members of the Sub-Executive of General Council for this meeting: Anne Shirley Sutherland, Peter Wyatt, David Iverson, Steve Adams, Steven Chambers, Rebekah Chevalier, Richard Choe and Chris Ferguson.

Motion Carried

2. Re-considering Motion from the General Council Executive meeting of October 22-25, 1999:

Motion: Don Smith/Hazel Bigby:

That the Sub-Executive of General Council re-consider the portion of the motion, moved by Michael Scott and seconded by Steve Adams (page 242 of the October 22-25, 1999), that all GCO spending units are directed to freeze any reserves or similar funds used for budget planning purposes (Budget Year 2001 and beyond). In the meantime, the Division of Finance should report to the Spring GCE meeting on the current balance of all available funds held by the national divisions and spending units of the UCC and how and when these funds should be accessed to help meet future residential school costs.

Motion to Re-consider Carried

3. **Motion regarding Divisional Reserves:**

Motion: Virginia Coleman/Lorna Teed:

That the Sub-Executive of General Council set aside the portion of the motion made at the October 22-25, 1999 meeting of the Executive of General Council, which directed a freeze on the use of Division Reserves for budget planning purposes, and thereby permit Divisions to use their reserves for the 2001 budget and beyond.

Discussion:

The rationale for the original motion, how circumstances have changed and the reason for the change was explained.

The General Council Secretaries believe the situation with respect to the Divisions' reserves has changed with the receipt of the Richard Morrison bequest. While the bequest was left to the Division of Mission in Canada, it will be available, as are most other Division reserves, to help meet the United Church required costs, including those relating to Residential Schools. A bequest of this magnitude significantly alters the amount of money available to meet these obligations in terms of assets to be liquidated. Setting aside the October motion means that the Division of World Outreach and the Division of Mission in Canada, in particular, would be free to draw from their Division reserves as they have in the past. This would enable their draw from the unified fund to be lower and would free up unified funding dollars to be allocated elsewhere. The General Council Secretaries are working at the task given to them by the Budget Steering Group and are at the place where the appropriate \$800,000 which would become available with the approval of this motion would be helpful in meeting the 2001 budget.

A question was raised as to whether the Sub-Executive had the power to deal with such a motion. It was stated that the Sub-Executive did have the authority. With the Budget Steering Group meeting in early March, it would be helpful to have this decision made prior to that meeting. To wait until the full Executive meets in April means that the Budget Steering Group would not have any flexibility. Concern was raised about the seriousness of the budget level for 2001 and of the actions required. The seriousness cannot be underestimated and a softening of the effect of the budget level for 2001 may have a longer term effect that is undesirable. We cannot avoid the difficult work required.

David Iverson shared with the members of the Sub-Executive the information about the Division of Mission in Canada's actions with regard to the Richard Morrison bequest and indicated that Lynn Maki (Chair of DMC) would be sending out a letter in the near future about this. The members of the General Council Executive will receive a copy of this letter.

The vote: 9 for and 1 against. Michael Scott requested that his negative vote be recorded.

Motion Carried

NOTICE OF ADDITIONAL SUB-EXECUTIVE OF GENERAL COUNCIL MEETING

The Sub-Executive was informed that in the very near future another meeting would be called to deal with the issue of Division of Communication 2000 budget cuts.

The meeting adjourned at 12:45 p.m. with a prayer led by Bill Phipps.

Moderator, Bill Phipps

General Secretary, K. Virginia Coleman