

THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA

MEETING OF THE SUB-EXECUTIVE OF THE GENERAL COUNCIL MINUTES

**November 29, 2000
(Teleconference Call)**

The Sub-Executive of the General Council of The United Church of Canada met at 12:00 noon on Friday, November 3, 2000, at 3250 Bloor Street West, Etobicoke, Ontario. The Moderator, The Right Reverend Marion Pardy, presided.

ATTENDANCE OF THE MEMBERS OF THE SUB-EXECUTIVE

Voting Members

Hazel Bigby, Virginia Coleman, Claire Borel-Christen, Sheila Duffin, Ron Holotuk, Joanna MacQuarrie, Lynn Maki (part-time), Marion Pardy (Chair), Bill Phipps, Karen Ptolemy-Stam, Sheila Snelling, Jack Spencer, Peter Wesley

Corresponding Members

Steve Adams, Steven Chambers, Richard Choe, Chris Ferguson, David Iverson, Anne Shirley Sutherland, Peter Wyatt

Regrets

Jon Jessiman (voting), Gordon How (corresponding)

CONSTITUTING THE MEETING 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 37th General Council, I hereby declare this meeting of the Sub-Executive of the General Council to be in session for the work that may properly be brought before it to the glory of God."

She began the meeting with a prayer.

OPENING PROCEDURAL MOTIONS

Corresponding Members

Motion: Virginia Coleman/Hazel Bigby

2000-11-29-0082.PRO

That the corresponding members for this meeting of the Sub-Executive of the General Council be the General Council Secretaries present, Jim Balfour, Paul Campbell and Cynthia Gunn.

Carried

Minute Secretary

Motion: Virginia Coleman/Ron Holotuk

2000-11-29- 0083.PRO

That Isabela Simon be the minute secretary for this meeting of the Sub-Executive of the General Council.

Carried

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – NOVEMBER 2000 MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE

Please note that the following page references refer to the Work Book Documentation of the November 2000 meeting of the Executive of the General Council.

The following pieces of business were unfinished business from the November 2000 meeting of the Executive of the General Council:

Resolution #44 – Re-Mandating The Committee On Sexism (GC-2)

This resolution was passed by the 37th General Council authorizing the Executive of the General Council to set in place a re-mandating process for the Committee for Gender Justice.

Motion to Refer: Virginia Coleman/Bill Phipps

2000-11-29-0084

That Resolution #44 be referred to the Directions Committee.

A question was raised on what the re-mandating role was to be and whether that was appropriate for the Directions Committee to make decisions on. It would seem that the accountability part of this should go to the Directions Committee but not the actual re-mandating process.

Motion to Amend: Jack Spencer/Ron Holotuk

That Resolution #44 be referred to the Directions Committee *to determine the placement and structure for the work of the Committee for Gender Justice in conjunction with the Committee on Sexism.*

Carried

Motion as Amended – Carried

Petition #112 – Shared Financial Responsibility by Presbyteries for Costs associated with Formal Hearings and the Decisions arising therefrom (GC-3)

Petition #112 was received by the 37th General Council and referred to the Executive of the General Council to deal with.

Motion to Refer: Virginia Coleman/Sheila Duffin

2000-11-29-0085

That the Sub-Executive of the General Council refer Petition #112 to the Division of Ministry Personnel and Education to develop a proposal and to return it to the Executive of the General Council in April 2001.

Carried

First Nations – Recommendations and Resolution from 37th General Council (GC-4 – GC4A)

These recommendations and resolution were referred by the 37th General Council to the Executive of the General Council for action.

Recommendation #1

Motion: Jack Spencer/Peter Wesley

2000-11-29-0086

That the Sub-Executive of the General Council take the action in recommendation #1, as follows:

That the 37th General Council re-affirm its resolution at the 31st General Council to support native Claims to fishing rights by requesting the Federal, and where appropriate, the Provincial Governments to clarify, strengthen and guarantee Indian fishery rights in full consultation with the First Nations people.

And for the Moderator to write a letter to the government and Department of Fisheries encouraging the government to go back to the table and re-negotiate a process that will recognize native inherent rights to their land and its resources.

It was noted that we do not know what negotiations are currently taking place between the government and First Nations people. There are lots of talks going on and we cannot know what is actually being negotiated and what is not.

Motion to Amend: Virginia Coleman/Karen Ptolemy-Stam

That the phrase “go back to the table and re-negotiate a process that will” in the second paragraph be deleted so that the paragraph reads as follows:

And for the Moderator to write a letter to the government and Department of Fisheries encouraging the government to recognize native inherent rights to their land and its resources.

Carried

Motion as Amended – Carried

Recommendation #2**Motion: Virginia Coleman/Hazel Bigby****2000-11-29-0087**

That the Sub-Executive of the General Council refer the sections on "*Educate the wider Church on native issues*" and "*Native Ministries need to find creative ways to support their own ministries – Self-determination and empowerment*" to the Division of Mission in Canada, the All Native Circle Conference, British Columbia Native ministries and that the section on "*Residential schools should not be seen as the basis of our relationships*" be referred to the Residential Schools Steering Committee with our support.

Carried**Recommendation #3****Motion: Virginia Coleman/Ron Holotuk****2000-11-29-0088**

That the Sub-Executive of the General Council refer recommendation #3 to the Residential Schools Steering Committee.

Motion to Refer: Virginia Coleman/Ron Holotuk**2000-11-29-0089**

That the Sub-Executive of the General Council refer the last part of recommendation #3: "*that The United Church of Canada increase its support by ensuring that The United Church of Canada remain active and involved in our First Nations Communities*" to the Division of Mission in Canada who will consult with the Conferences to bring back a response for consideration to the meeting of the Executive of the General Council in November 2001.

It was suggested that we need to look at this in a holistic way in order to address the concern. It is important to pull together the people who are involved in doing all these pieces and develop a holistic proposal. A suggestion was made that Division of Mission in Canada look at how to do this.

Motion – Carried**Unfinished Petitions from the meeting of the 37th General Council (SC-9)**

Jim Balfour reported on the work of the Sessional Committee that was set up at the meeting of the Executive of the General Council to deal with unfinished petitions from the meeting of the 37th General Council:

Petitions #83, #84 and #85 – Articles of Faith (UF-16 – UF-18)

Rationale: These three petitions all raise the question of revisiting the concepts of the 20 Articles of Faith "in light of contemporary theology and language." This is not the first time that such a request has been made. The Theology and Faith Committee has agreed to undertake the drafting of a timely and contextual statement of faith that can stand alongside the Doctrinal Basis of Union (as did the 1940 Statement of Faith).

Motion: Bill Phipps/Jack Spencer**2000-11-29-0090**

That the Sub-Executive of the General Council, having considered the concerns raised in Petitions #83, #84, and #85 related to the Articles of Faith, take no further action.

Carried**Petition #92 – Compensation for Order of Ministry Personnel when the Pastoral Relationship is Terminated without Cause (UF-19)**

Rationale: The ninety days notice, referred to in The Manual, is a minimum rather than a maximum compensatory period. It is within the rights of the Pastoral Charge and/or the Presbytery to offer compensation beyond this time frame.

Motion: Sheila Duffin/Ron Holutuk

2000-11-29-0091

That the Sub-Executive of the General Council having considered the concern raised in Petition #92 regarding compensation for Order of Ministry Personnel when the pastoral relationship is terminated without cause, take no further action.

Carried

Petition #98 – Popular media and their lack of moral standards (UF-21 – UF-22)

Rationale: While not recommending action be taken on this petition, certainly it raises a number of important issues which deserve a further look. Therefore the Sessional committee recommends that the issues raised by Petition #98 be referred to the Division of Communication for their consideration.

Motion to Refer: Jack Spencer/Bill Phipps

2000-11-29-0092

That the Sub-Executive of the General Council, having considered the concern raised by Petition #98 regarding popular media and their lack of moral standards, refer the issues raised by the petition to the Division of Communication.

Carried

Petition #131 – Policies and Guidelines for Staff Committees of Conference (UF-25)

Having heard Petition 131, the following motion was placed:

Motion: Lynn Maki/Bill Phipps

2000-11-29-0093

That the Sub-Executive of the General Council request the Human Resources Committee of the General Council to develop policies and guidelines for Staff Committees of Conferences or Districts for inclusion in its Handbook of Personnel Policies, including clarification of the respective roles of Staff Committee Members, Conference Executive Secretaries, Conference Executives, the General Secretary, Human Resources, the General Secretary, General Council and other staff members in Supervisory positions, and to bring recommendations to the meeting of the Executive of the General Council in April 2002.

Carried

Extra Appeals (FIN-24)

Steve Adams presented this item and explained that all the relevant information was before the Sub-Executive in the report. He suggested that the Sub-Executive deal with item #2 first.

Motion: Jack Spencer/Peter Wesley

2000-11-29-0094

That the Executive of the General Council approve the request of the Prairie Christian Training Centre to conduct a campaign to raise funds for the purposes stated. The campaign will be conducted in the Saskatchewan and Manitoba & Northwestern Ontario Conferences during 2001.

Carried

Motion: Bill Phipps/Ron Holutuk

2000-11-29-0095

That the Executive of the General Council approve the request of the Atlantic School of Theology to conduct a capital campaign to raise funds for the purposes stated. The campaign will be conducted in the Maritime and Newfoundland & Labrador Conferences and will begin on January 1, 2001 and end in 2006.

Carried

COPERMIF Report (GC-100 – GC-101)

Peter Wyatt explained that the request in this report was dealt with by the Inter-Church Inter-Faith Relations Committee and that this motion is ultra vires. COPERMIF however, does not feel that this is the solution that they are looking for.

A conversation ensued about how to move forward. It was determined that a conversation between Peter Wyatt, Chris Ferguson, Steven Chambers and COPERMIF might bring about a mutually acceptable solution.

Motion: Virginia Coleman/Claire Borel-Christen**2000-11-29-0096**

That the Sub-Executive of General Council request Peter Wyatt, Chris Ferguson, Steven Chambers and COPERMIF to engage in a consultation about the possibility of a relationship with the ~~Reform~~ **Reformed** Church of France.

Carried**Motion: Claire Borel-Christen/Ron Holotuk****2000-11-29-0097**

That the Sub-Executive of the General Council receive the report of the COPERMIF as a whole.

Carried**Newfoundland and Labrador Experiment Report and Property Report (GC-62 – GC65, GC-87)****Motion: Virginia Coleman/Hazel Bigby****2000-11-29-0098**

That the Sub-Executive of the General Council receive the final report of the Newfoundland and Labrador Experiment and the Property report.

Carried**Adopting Reports dealt with at the November meeting of the Executive****Motion: Virginia Coleman/Lynn Maki****2000-11-29-0099**

That the Sub-Executive of the General Council adopt, as a whole, the following reports from the meeting of the Executive of the General Council:

- ◆ Accountability Report of the General Secretary, General Council (GC-39 – GC-43)
- ◆ Report on Task Groups Arising out of the WGCC Report to the 37th General Council (GC-97 – GC-99)
- ◆ Report of the Department of Pensions and Group Insurance (FIN-13 – FIN-19)
- ◆ Report on Funding Revenue Generation – Year 2002 and beyond (FIN-1 – FIN-12)
- ◆ Report on Ecumenical Social Justice Work (REPLACEMENT DMC-5 – REPLACEMENT DMC-6a)
- ◆ Report on Administrative Standards Project (DMC-1 – DMC-4)
- ◆ Report on Voices United Loan (GC-5)
- ◆ Report on Petition #45 – Provision for Church Courts to Investigate Allegations of Sexual Abuse and Possibly Lay a Complaint (MPE-5 – MPE-6)
- ◆ Report on 2000 Project Funding Request re: proposal for the Establishment of a foundation (DMC-7 – DMC-7A)
- ◆ Report on EMC and Executive Membership for 2000-2003 (EMC-1 – EMC-2)
- ◆ Report of the Audit Committee (GC-57)

Carried**HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE – NOMINATIONS**

Paul Campbell presented the nominations for the Inter-Church Inter-Faith Relations Committee and the Task Group on the Remit Process. He also gave notice that nominations for the 3 other task groups would be coming before the Sub-Executive for their approval. The Human Resources Committee has had some trouble finding volunteers for these groups.

There were comments made that the nominations for the Task Group on the Remit process were both a regionally as well as Order of Ministry concentrated group. It was suggested that in the future a mix of both Lay and Order of Ministry as well as representation from more regions should be used.

Inter-Church Inter-Faith Relations Committee**Motion: Ron Holotuk/Joanna MacQuarrie****2000-11-29-0100**

That the Sub-Executive of the General Council approve the nomination of Steve Moore (O) (Montreal and Ottawa) to the Inter-Church Inter-Faith Relations Committee.

Carried

Task Group on the Remit Process

Motion: Jack Spencer/Ron Holotuk

2000-11-29-0101

That the Sub-Executive of the General Council approve the following nominations to the Task Group on the Remit Process:

Chair: Bill Hickerson (O) (MNWO)

Lynette Miller (O) (MNWO)

Leith Saunders (O) (MNWO)

Jeri Bjornson (L) (MNWO)

Colin Peterson (O) (MNWO)

Carried

CORRESPONDENCE FROM ST. PAUL'S PRESBYTERY

Virginia Coleman introduced the correspondence from St. Paul's Presbytery requesting help for Coronation Presbytery with their debt incurred from hearings involving Ted Wigglesworth.

Suggestions were made that there could be some creative solutions and a number of avenues to be explored. It was felt that it would be helpful for this body to have more information about other appeals and how they are being responded to by the Conferences.

Motion: Lynn Maki/Ron Holotuk

2000-11-29-0102

That the Sub-Executive of the General Council refer this correspondence to the April 2001 meeting of the Executive of the General Council and in the meantime request the General Secretary to consult with the Conference Executive Secretaries and bring back more information.

Carried

THE MANUAL COMMITTEE – CHANGES TO THE MANUAL

Cynthia Gunn reported that inconsistencies have been found between sections 127, 341 and 343 in The Manual. This has led to contradictory policies being in place related to Pastoral Charge Supervisor and in order to rectify this The Manual Committee is recommending the changes in the resolution before the Sub-Executive.

Resolution – Pastoral Charge Supervisor

Motion: Virginia Coleman/Bill Phipps

2000-11-29-0103

That the Sub-Executive of the General Council approve, as presented, the Resolution entitled Pastoral Charge Supervisor.

Carried

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The General Secretary provided the members of the Sub-Executive with the following information:

- ◆ On the request of the Executive, ***the site for*** the April 2001 meeting of the Executive of the General Council ~~will be in Halifax; the exact site is not yet known~~ ***is still being investigated.***
- ◆ Further nominations will be coming for approval to the Sub-Executive.
- ◆ The Sub-Executive may be called upon to deal with the sale of Cedar Glen.

ADJOURNMENT

Ron Holotuk moved to adjourn the meeting of the Sub-Executive of the General Council. The meeting was adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

Moderator, Marion Pardy

General Secretary, Virginia Coleman