

THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA

MEETING OF THE SUB-EXECUTIVE OF THE GENERAL COUNCIL MINUTES

December 19, 2001
(Teleconference Call)

The Sub-Executive of the General Council of The United Church of Canada met from 12:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. on Wednesday, December 19, 2001 at 3250 Bloor Street West, Etobicoke, Ontario. The Moderator, The Right Reverend Marion Pardy, presided.

ATTENDANCE

Voting Members

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

Corresponding Members

Steven Chambers, Richard Choe, Chris Ferguson, Gordon How, David Iverson, Anne Shirley Sutherland (for part of the meeting)

Regrets

Ron Holotuk (voting)

Alan Hall attended this meeting as resource.

CONSTITUTING THE MEETING

The Moderator constituted the meeting with the following words:

"In the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ the 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."

The meeting was opened with a prayer led by Marion Pardy.

Virginia Coleman updated the Sub-Executive on Roger Coll's funeral. She informed the Sub-Executive that it was a wonderful celebration of Roger's life in ministry with tributes to Roger's life and work from Kendall Harrison and Peter Douglas, a long time friend of Roger's.

OPENING PROCEDURAL MOTIONS

Minute Secretary

Motion: Virginia Coleman/Bill Phipps

2001-12-19-0277.PRO

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

Carried

Corresponding Members

Motion: Virginia Coleman/Jon Jessiman

2001-12-19-0278.PRO

That Steven Chambers, Richard Choe, Chris Ferguson, Gordon How, David Iverson, Anne Shirley Sutherland and Alan Hall be made corresponding members for this meeting of the Sub-Executive.

Carried

The following additions to the agenda were noted and agreed to:

1. A Letter of Complaint from the General Council Secretaries against the General Secretary, General Council
2. The Search and Selection for the Executive Secretary of Manitoba & NW Ontario Conference
3. The Search and Selection process for the vacant General Council Minister positions

LETTER OF COMPLAINT AGAINST THE GENERAL SECRETARY, GENERAL COUNCIL

Virginia Coleman informed the members of the Sub-Executive that the General Council Secretaries were bringing a complaint, in the form of a letter, against her to this meeting. She informed the Sub-Executive that she would be absenting herself from the meeting to allow for full discussion on this to take place. Since the members of the Sub-Executive did not have the letter of complaint in front of them, a request was made for the letter to be read out aloud. Virginia asked Gordon How to assume her chair and she then left the room.

The members of the Sub-Executive inquired why it had taken the General Council Secretaries this long to bring the complaint forward seeing as the meeting they were raising concerns about took place on November 20th.

It was suggested that it would probably be wise to table discussion on this letter until further comments and concern about the difficult times experienced in Church house were heard and the Sub-Executive had all the information before them.

Motion: Jon Jessiman/Bill Phipps

2001-12-19-0279

That this letter be tabled.

Carried

The General Secretary returned to the room.

Motion: Jon Jessiman/Bill Phipps

2001-12-19-0280

That the letter from the General Council Secretaries be lifted from the table for discussion.

Carried

It was agreed that the following were the areas that needed to be addressed:

1. The process at the meeting of the Sub-Executive on November 20th and the GCS not being invited - this was acknowledged as an error in judgement on the part of the Sub-Executive
2. The legitimacy of the decisions made at this meeting and the decisions that were made on the General Secretary, General Council position with the General Secretary being present in the room even though she had declared her conflict of interest and did not participate in the discussion
3. The members of the Sub-Executive need to determine what to do about the issue of racism in the selection process for the General Council Minister, Racial Justice.

Alan Hall raised a concern that the issues that we were being raised here were about something else and that the Sub-Executive and search and selection committee were being dragged into something that was not really about the decisions that had been made by these 2 bodies.

Motion: Jon Jessiman/Peter Wesley

2001-12-19-0281

That the Sub-Executive of the General Council acknowledge that the General Secretary, General Council and the Sub-Executive, on November 20, 2001, erred in failing to invite the General Council Secretaries as corresponding members to be part of this meeting.

Carried

Alan Hall noted that the question of redundancies had not been dealt with at the Sub-Executive meeting on November 20, 2001. He informed the Sub-Executive that the decisions on redundancies were made by the Search and Selection Committee and when those decisions were being made none of the General Council Secretaries were present, and this included the General Secretary, General Council. The meeting of the Sub-Executive on November 20th only dealt with finalizing and approving the job descriptions for the five General Council Ministers and the General Secretary, General Council.

David Iverson noted that the General Council Secretaries were raising these issues and making the members of the Sub-Executive aware of the concerns; they trusted that Sub-Executive would make the appropriate decisions. Anne Shirley Sutherland indicated that, on her part, she did not feel that the concerns raised affected the legitimacy of the decisions made at the Sub-Executive meeting on November 20th.

APPOINTMENT OF THE GENERAL COUNCIL MINISTERS

Alan Hall went over the Search and Selection Committee interviewing process. He informed the members of the Sub-Executive that the Search and Selection Committee was recommending appointments in two of the five General Council Minister positions that are vacant.

Marion Pardy noted that she had to leave the meeting and requested Bill Phipps to take the Chair. She thanked Alan Hall and the members of the Sub-Executive for all their hard work and for the serious and considerate way they were dealing with the issues before them. She wished everyone blessings for the season.

Motion Jack Spencer/Karen Ptolemy Stam

2001-12-19-0282

That David Iverson be appointed to the position of General Council Minister, Programmes for Mission and Ministry, effective February 1, 2002.

Carried

Motion: Jack Spencer/Sheila Duffin

2001-12-19-0283

That Anne Shirley Sutherland be appointed to the position of General Council Minister, Planning Processes, effective February 1, 2002.

Carried

SEARCH FOR EXECUTIVE SECRETARY, MANITOBA & NW ONTARIO CONFERENCE

Virginia Coleman noted that due to the unexpected death of Roger Coll, it was important that the Sub-Executive approve a Search and Selection process so that a process can be put in place as soon as possible to fill this position.

Motion: Virginia Coleman/Hazel Bigby

2001-12-19-0284

That the Sub-Executive approve the initiation of the Search and Selection process for the Executive Secretary of Manitoba & Northwestern Ontario Conference.

Carried

Motion: Karen Ptolemy–Stam/Joanna MacQuarrie

That the Sub-Executive of the General Council extend their deepest sympathy and prayers to the Conference and to Roger Coll's family.

Carried

SEARCH AND SELECTION PROCESS FOR VACANT GENERAL COUNCIL MINISTER POSITIONS

Motion: Karen Ptolemy Stam/Jack Spencer

2001-12-19-0285

That Dilys Watanabe be made a corresponding member.

Carried

Motion: Claire Borel-Christen/Karen Ptolemy-Stam

2001-12-19-0286

That the Sub-Executive of the General Council direct that there be at least two people of visible minority and one person of aboriginal origin as part of the composition of the Search and Selection Committee for the position of General Council Minister, Racial Justice.

Carried

Dilys Watanabe and Anne Shirley Sutherland clarified the HR policy related to recruitment of positions at the GCM level. She noted that the internal process with regard to the GCM positions is over and that we are now moving into an external search process. In order to be consistent, we need to go back to the approved HR policy and practice on this.

Motion: Karen Ptolemy-Stam/Sheila Duffin**2001-12-19-0287**

That the Search and Selection process proceed with the core members of the current Search & Selection committee, if they are willing, the internal HR Consultant and one elected member who is knowledgeable about the area of work.

Carried**ADJOURNMENT**

Bill Phipps declared the meeting adjourned.

Moderator, Marion Pardy

General Secretary, K. Virginia Coleman