

THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA

MEETING OF THE SUB-EXECUTIVE OF THE GENERAL COUNCIL MINUTES

February 12, 2002
(Teleconference Call)

The Sub-Executive of the General Council of The United Church of Canada met from 4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, February 12, 2002 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, Ron Holotuk, Jon Jessiman, Marion Pardy (chair), Bill Phipps, Karen Ptolemy-Stam, Sheila Snelling, Jack Spencer, Peter Wesley

Corresponding Members

Fred Monteith, Anne Shirley Sutherland

Regrets

David Iverson, Joanna MacQuarrie, Lynn Maki

Rob Oliphant attended the 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."

OPENING PROCEDURAL MOTIONS

Minute Secretary

Motion: Virginia Coleman/Bill Phipps

2002-02-12-0293.PRO

That Melinda Moore be the minute secretary for this meeting of the Sub-Executive.

Carried

Corresponding Members

Motion: Virginia Coleman/Hazel Bigby

2002-02-12-0294.PRO

That Anne Shirley Sutherland, Fred Monteith and Rob Oliphant be made corresponding members for this meeting of the Sub-Executive.

Carried

The Moderator welcomed Fred Monteith as Acting General Council Minister, Resources for Mission and Ministry. The Moderator also welcomed and thanked Melinda Moore for taking the minutes until 5:00 p.m.

Sheila Snelling and Hazel Bigby noted that they must leave the meeting at 4:30 p.m.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF PAST MEETINGS OF THE SUB-EXECUTIVE

Motion: Virginia Coleman/Jack Spencer

2002-02-12-0295

That the Minutes of December 19, 2001 and January 15, 2002 be received as circulated.

Defeated

Correction for **Motion: 2001-12-19-0281**. Add "the General Secretary, General Council and" prior to "this Sub-Executive" as corrected.

Motion: Duly moved and seconded**2002-02-12-0296**

That the minutes be approved as corrected.

Carried

STRIKING THE STONE

The Moderator requested Rob Oliphant to speak to the request from the STS Planning Team for the postponement of the meeting to February 2003. Rob reviewed the document and the idea of re-focussing the event on the future and less as a hinge between the old structure and the new structure.

The Moderator invited questions for Rob and Anne Shirley regarding the event. Clarification was offered as to the participant list. Lesser emphasis on the farewell is not troubling. The question was asked as to the effect of the delay on the coalesce of the new groups in vision with the Executive of the General Council. The time lag between the establishment of the new committees and the future-looking event was named as a concern. The timing of the event in April 2002 was felt to be unhelpful to staff as the focus on the restructuring has taken people away from their work for a significant time and there is a sense that to be allowed to get back to their regular work was desirable.

The launch of the church in a new direction, an event the momentum that might be able to be carried into the General Council meeting was described. The possibility of inviting the church into the event. It could be a healthier atmosphere developed by the time delay.

There were comments of affirmation for the delay of the event. It was noted that the shift seems to be a complete re-design of the event, which really means that the original plan has been cancelled, and a new event is planned.

Anne Shirley noted that she and the Chair of the Business Committee have discussed ways in which the Executive of the General Council could acknowledge the past structure and the contribution of those in the life of the church. Rob offered that the planning team might be able to help the Executive of the General Council with a ritual.

Concern was raised as to the value of this newly visioned event and its timing and duration. The cost of a meeting in Toronto for a weekend was raised as an impediment.

Concern was raised that acknowledgement and thanks be given to those currently serving on divisions. Anne Shirley explained that there would be two letters to invitees. People will receive a letter to inform them about the decision of the Sub-Executive and a letter to note that the committees, task groups, etc. will continue until GC38.

Rob expressed the hope that the church would see this event as an investment in the future of the church and that taking time for inspiration.

Most of the people involved in the divisions are not necessarily commissioners and so to dovetail the event with GC38 would not affect the people.

Motion: Jon Jessiman/Bill Phipps**2002-02-12-0297**

That the event planned for April 26-28, 2002, called the All Unit Meeting (AUM), be cancelled.

It was clarified that the explanation letter will focus on the stewardship issues and will go over the Moderator's signature.

Carried

Motion: Jon Jessiman/Jack Spencer**2002-02-12-0298**

That the recommendation of the AUM Planning Team for an event in February 2003, as outlined in the letter from Rob Oliphant, be referred to the next meeting of the Executive of the General Council.

Carried

PROPOSAL

That the Sub-Executive request the AUM Planning Team to continue to work and plan an event such as that outlined in the Feb 11th memo, and that they be asked further to assist the Executive of the General Council Business Committee with respect to a thanksgiving for the work of elected members whose jobs are ending.

A liturgical marking of the transition from one structure, which has served us well to the new, is what Peter Short and Anne Shirley Sutherland were proposing.

Rob Oliphant noted that delaying the decision could reduce the speakers/presenters pool as many book a year ahead.

Anne Shirley noted for the group that the mandate for this event has evolved significantly in the last few months. It would be difficult to do any further work at this stage, in the absence of a definite date. The most they could do would be to continue to refine the vision and goals for the event for presentation to the Executive of the General Council in April.

It was requested that the planning team bring to the April Executive a more full proposal for the event.

Motion: Bill Phipps/Jon Jessiman**2002-02-12-0299**

That the Sub-Executive request the AUG Planning Team to continue to meet to work with the Business Committee of the Executive of the General Council to plan the liturgical event to mark the transition from one structure which has served the church well into the new structure; and to continue to meet to develop a full proposal for the Striking the Stone event to be brought for decision to the Executive of the General Council in April.

Carried

The Moderator wished to record her appreciation to Rob Oliphant for resourcing this Sub-Executive meeting.

SIGNING AUTHORITY

Virginia Coleman reviewed the signing authority and outlined the reasons for the proposed changes. It is anticipated that the inclusion of the position titles for the vacant positions would allow those people to become signing officers by virtue of office.

Motion: Sheila Duffin/Peter Wesley**2002-02-12-0300**

To authorize the signing officers as outlined below:

Moderator, The United Church of Canada	A. Marion Pardy
General Secretary, General Council	K. Virginia Coleman
General Council Minister, Programmes for Mission and Ministry	David M. Iverson
General Council Minister, Resources for Mission and Ministry	(vacant)
General Council Minister, Racial Justice	(vacant)
General Council Minister, Regional Relations	(vacant)
General Council Minister, Planning Processes	Anne Shirley Sutherland
Executive Officer, Finance	Steven Adams

AND, the following persons all appointed by the Executive of the General Council:

Cynthia Gunn, Kathy McDonald, Chris Ferguson, Executive Minister - Ministry Employment Policies and Services, Executive Minister – Resources Production and Distribution.

Carried**LISTENING TEAM**

Virginia Coleman explained that the process of a listening team has been used in the past and that the request is that the chair be a member of the Executive or Sub-Executive.

The mandate would be:

- Listen to the concerns, fears, feelings of staff;
- Review the human resources processes used through the last few months; and

- Consider the workplace environment of church house and the issues which give rise to what many staff experience as an unhealthy workplace

The cost would include the cost of travel for elected members, accommodation and meals for members. Concern was expressed that the membership for the Listening Team should be beyond the membership of the Sub-Executive and perhaps some beyond the Executive. The team needs to be able to listen without prejudice and without any conflict of interest.

Motion: Jack Spencer/Sheila Duffin

2002-02-12-0301

That the Moderator and the Sub-Executive put in place a listening team to:

- Listen to the concerns, fears, feelings of staff;
- Review the human resources processes used through the last few months; and
- Consider the workplace environment of church house and the issues which give rise to what many staff experience as an unhealthy workplace

Carried

The Listening Team would need to speak to the Human Resources Committee to hear the feedback staff provided to them at their past meeting in January 2002.

The Moderator indicated that she has given this request from the General Secretary's prayerful consideration and suggested to the Sub-Executive that Bill Phipps be asked to chair. Bill indicated that he was willing but would not be able to do so until after Easter.

Motion: Karen Ptolemy-Stam/Ron Holotuk

2002-02-12-0302

That a former Moderator be asked to chair the Listening Team and that the Moderator and the chairperson be authorized to appoint a team consisting of no more than one member of the Sub-Executive.

Carried

CORRESPONDENCE FROM RICHARD CHUNG-SKI CHOE

Anne Shirley Sutherland reminded the Sub-Executive that we have no process through which an appeal of a Selection Committee can be pursued.

There was discussion of present Search and Selection processes and policies and of possible ways of responding to the correspondence. Virginia Coleman, Karen Ptolemy-Stam and Jack Spencer left the meeting.

Motion: Jon Jessiman/Peter Wesley

2002-02-12-0303

We receive the letter of Richard Choe, dated February 12, 2002 and in recognition of the unique and unusual circumstances involved in the Selection process and in recognition of this Sub-Executive's Motion 2001-12-19-0286, the Sub-Executive ask the Human Relations Office to arrange for a second interview for Richard Choe.

Carried

ADJOURNMENT

Marion Pardy declared the meeting of this Sub-Executive adjourned.

Moderator, Marion Pardy

General Secretary, K. Virginia Coleman