

THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA

MEETING OF THE SUB-EXECUTIVE OF THE GENERAL COUNCIL MINUTES

April 18, 2002
(Teleconference call)

The Sub-Executive of the General Council of The United Church of Canada met from 4:00 p.m. to 4:30 on Thursday April 18, 2002 at 3250 Bloor Street West, Etobicoke, Ontario. The Moderator, The Right Reverend Marion Pardy presided.

ATTENDANCE

Hazel Bigby, Claire Borel Christen, Virginia Coleman, Sheila Duffin, Ron Holotuk, Jon Jessiman, Joanna MacQuarrie, Lynn Maki, Bill Phipps, Marion Pardy (chair), Karen Ptolemy-Stam, Sheila Snelling, Jack Spencer, Peter Wesley (voting), Dave Iverson (corresponding)

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."

Marion Pardy opened the meeting with prayer.

OPENING PROCEDURAL MOTIONS

Minute Secretary and Corresponding Members

Motion: Virginia Coleman/Peter Wesley

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That Mary Purdon be the minute secretary and David Iverson be made corresponding member for this meeting of the Sub-Executive.

Carried

LISTENING TEAM

Bill Phipps reported on the work of the Listening Team for the information of the Sub-Executive. The Listening Team was made up of Barbara Rafuse, Dong Chung-Seo, Walter Sowa, Martha ter Kuile and Bill in the chair. The group met by conference call to define the process and then communicated the process to the staff in a memo. The team learned that some staff were not available the week that the Listening Team planned to be at Church House and so Walter and Martha went in at an earlier time to hear from those staff people.

The designated task of the Listening Team was to listen and they tried to do that as well as they could. They did not verify stories nor did they adjudicate anything -- the process was entirely to listen. They did ask questions of clarification or ask a staff person to develop an idea further but they did not exercise any judgement. Bill expressed his appreciation to the staff who participated in the process and particularly to Sheila Dewart who assisted in setting up the appointments.

The Listening Team began the week of April 10th hearing from the Human Resources Committee on Monday and ended on Thursday at noon and during that time spent all day, every day, listening. They spent some time in the early afternoon of Thursday pulling together their notes and later in the afternoon had an all-staff meeting to report what they heard and staff were invited to note anything that was missing.

Bill reported that the team would have some recommendations on where to go from here that they had arrived at with very little difference of opinion. The report will be sent to the Moderator and the chair of the Business Committee in order for assist them in managing the business of the Executive. The report will be presented to the Executive on the Friday of their meeting and then it will be turned over to a sessional committee. There will be two hours on the agenda later in the meeting to debate their proposal.

Bill wanted to assure the Sub-Executive that they had heard positive comments from most staff who spoke with them, in spite of the concerns that they had. Staff had expressed their concerns out of their hearts and were very responsible.

Members of the Sub-Executive were concerned that it was important that the recommendations not be attached to any particular staff person - or at the very least that person should know ahead of time. The Sub-Executive was assured that no individual would be identified in the report.

Members of the Sub-Executive agreed to the process as laid out by the Listening Team.

The Moderator expressed appreciation to the Listening Team for the careful process they had undertaken and for their hard work. She also thanked the members of the Sub-Executive and the staff.

Moderator, Marion Pardy

General Secretary, K. Virginia Coleman