

THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA

MEETING OF THE SUB-EXECUTIVE OF THE GENERAL COUNCIL MINUTES

December 17, 2004
(Teleconference Call)

The Sub-Executive of the General Council of The United Church of Canada met from 11:00 a.m. EST until 1:00 p.m. on Friday, December 17, 2004, by teleconference call. The Moderator, The Right Reverend Peter Short, presided.

ATTENDANCE

Voting Members

Lynn Boothroyd, Jim Jackson, Donald Koots, Stephen Mabee, Marion Pardy, Barbara Rafuse, Peter Short, Jim Sinclair, George Takashima, Kent Ward

Corresponding Members

Ian Fraser, Janet McDonald, Pat Elson

Regrets:

Anne-Marie Carmoy, Michelle Slater, Omega Bula, Bruce Gregersen, Carol Hancock

CONSTITUTING THE MEETING

The Moderator welcomed everyone and read the Magnificat from Luke to orient us to the work and Spirit that underlies the work of the Sub-Executive. The Moderator constituted the meeting with the following words:

"Au nom de Notre Seigneur, Jésus-Christ, seul chef souverain de l'Église, et par l'autorité qui m'a été conférée par le 38^{ième} Conseil général, je déclare ouvert, par la présente, le sous-exécutif du Conseil général et ses travaux dans l'intérêt du Royaume de Dieu."

"In the Name of Jesus Christ, the head of the Church, and by the authority vested in me by the 38th 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."

PROCEDURAL MOTIONS

Corresponding Members

Motion: Jim Sinclair/Jim Jackson

2004-12-17-211

That Ian Fraser, Pat Elson, and Janet McDonald be made corresponding members for this meeting and that Joan MacGillivray be the recording secretary for this meeting of the Sub-Executive.

Carried

Minutes of the Sub-Executive of the General Council

Motion: Jim Sinclair/Stephen Mabee

2004-12-17-212

That the minutes of the Sub-Executive of the General Council for November 12, 2004 be adopted as circulated.

Carried

TOMISATO PROPERTY, JAPAN

Pat Elson, staff person in Financial Services working with the Justice, Global and Ecumenical Relations Unit, gave the history of the property in Japan (Appendix A). The Sub-Executive received clarification to their questions including that ¥6,000,000 is about \$70,000 Canadian.

Motion: Barbara Rafuse/Kent Ward**2004-12-17-213**

That the Sub-Executive of the General Council authorise the sale of the Tomisato property in Tomisato, Japan to the Tomisato United Church in Japan for Y6,000,000, and that the funds from the sale of the property be placed in the trust account held to offset the maintenance costs of the other properties and to support UCC overseas personnel and mission needs in Japan.

Carried

The Moderator thanked Pat and the staff in JGER for their work on these properties in Japan.

NOMINATIONS REPORT

Marion Pardy reported on the work of the Nominations Committee (Appendix B) and Janet McDonald reviewed the process to nominate the chairpersons to the key committees of General Council.

Motion: Marion Pardy/Stephen Mabee**2004-12-17-214**

That the Sub-Executive of the General Council appoint the following people to the committees (with the stated terms):

GCE Nominations Committee (2006, GC39)

- Lynn Boothroyd (Lay, M&O)

FFE Ministry Vocations Committee (2007, December)

- Patricia Lawson-Paul (O, BQ) – Chairperson, Second Term
- Margaret Armstrong (Lay, M&O), Second Term
- Evelyn Rigby (DM, MNWO)

GCE Permanent Committee on Governance, Planning, & Budgeting Processes (2006, GC39)

- Martha ter Kuile (O, M&O) – Chairperson

GCE Justice, Global and Ecumenical Relations Unit Wide Committee (2007, December)

- Dianne Baker (Lay, MNWO) – Chairperson

JGER Global Partnerships Advisory Committee (2007, December)

- John Durfey – Asia (Lay, Ham)
- Jung-Hee Park – Asia (Lay, Lon)
- Greg White – Africa (O, Lon)
- Christina Paradela – Education (DM, Ham)

Carried**SALE OF PORTION OF PROPERTY OWNED BY PRAIRIE CHRISTIAN TRAINING CENTRE (PCTC) – CALLING LAKES CENTRE**

Whereas PCTC – Calling Lakes Centre owns waterfront property on Fort San Road, Fort San, Saskatchewan;

And whereas PCTC – Calling Lakes Centre has received an offer from an adjoining landowner to purchase a portion of such property approximately 30 (thirty) feet in width, so as to permit the adjoining landowner to build a boathouse;

And whereas the Board of Directors of PCTC – Calling Lakes Centre has approved the sale, which will leave PCTC – Calling Lakes Centre with approximately 100 (one hundred) feet of waterfront property.

And whereas PCTC – Calling Lakes Centre will realize approximately \$28,000 from the sale, which it intends to apply to pay down the outstanding balance of its bank line of credit;

And whereas the by-laws for PCTC – Calling Lakes Centre requires the approval of the supervising Conferences and the General Council for any sale of property owned by PCTC – Calling Lakes Centre;

And whereas both Conference of Manitoba and Northwestern Ontario and Saskatchewan Conference, as supervising Conferences, have given their approval to the sale of this property;

Motion: Stephen Mabee/George Takashima

That the Sub-Executive of General Council approve the sale of the following property by PCTC – Calling Lakes Centre to the adjoining landowner to the west of such property:

The west thirty (30) feet of Lot 6, Block 2, Plan R01348 (civic address is 390 Fort San Road, Fort San, Saskatchewan) which is adjacent to Lot 7, Block 2, Plan R01348.

It was noted that there is no record that the Executive of the Conference of Manitoba and Northwestern Ontario has approved this sale.

The mover and seconder of the motion agreed to withdraw the motion. The Sub-Executive agreed to lift the motion from the table.

Motion - Withdrawn

It was also noted that instructions to direct the proceeds of property sales need to be part of the motion.

SECURITIES RESOLUTION

This is a new resolution to expedite the transfer and sale of stocks, bonds or other securities received in certificate form as gifts to The United Church of Canada.

Motion: Jim Jackson/Lynn Boothroyd

2004-12-17-215

That the Sub-Executive adopt that the Legal/Judicial Counsel and Executive Officer, Finance of The United Church of Canada, acting jointly, are hereby authorized to sell, and endorse for transfer to an account of The United Church of Canada, certificates representing stocks, bonds or other securities now registered or hereafter registered in the name of the Church.

Carried

NOTICE OF MOTION

A notice of motion from the October 29 – November 1, 2004 meeting of the Executive of the General Council was referred to the Sub-Executive.

Motion: Marion Pardy/Don Koots

2004-12-17-216

That the Sub-Executive of the General Council direct the Permanent Committee on Governance, Budgeting and Planning Processes to give consideration to the issue of the shortage of members of the Executive of the General Council on committees related to the Executive of the General Council as reported in the Elected and Appointed Member Services presentation, and

That it bring recommendations for addressing the situation to the April 2005 meeting of the Executive of the General Council.

Carried

ADMISSION OF ST. ANDREW'S PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, LACHINE, QUEBEC TO THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA

The General Secretary gave the history of this congregation including information on the supporting resolutions from Presbytery and the two congregations. It was noted that this has been an independent church and that no property is involved with this admission.

Whereas St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Lachine, Quebec, an independent congregation, has petitioned Montreal Presbytery for admission as a congregation of The United Church of Canada, pursuant to Section 331 of The Manual;

And whereas by resolution dated November 30, 2004, Montreal Presbytery declared St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Lachine, Quebec to be a congregation of the Montreal Presbytery of The United Church of Canada for the purposes of amalgamation with Summerlea United Church, subject to the approval of the General Council, as provided in Section 331;

Motion: George Takashima/Barbara Rafuse**2004-12-17-217**

That the Sub-Executive of General Council approve the admission of St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Lachine, Quebec, as a congregation of The United Church of Canada.

Carried**PROPERTY SALE – NARAMATA CENTRE**

Whereas Naramata Centre owns property consisting of four legal lots located at the corner of 4th Street and Gwendolyn Avenue;

And whereas Naramata Centre has never used this particular property for any purpose, and has no plans to use the property for any purpose in the foreseeable future;

And whereas Naramata Centre has received a proposal from the Naramata Seniors Housing Society to purchase the property for the development and operation of six seniors' housing units;

And whereas on October 17, 2004, the Board of Directors of Naramata Centre approved the sale of the property to Naramata Seniors Housing Society;

And whereas the sale price for the property will be the fair market value, as determined through independent property appraisal(s);

And whereas Naramata Centre intends to use the sale proceeds for its capital and program development;

And whereas the by-laws for Naramata Centre require the approval of the supervising Conference and the General Council for any sale of property owned by Naramata Centre;

And whereas British Columbia Conference, as supervising Conference, has given its approval to the sale of this property;

Motion: Marion Pardy/Stephen Mabee**2004-12-17-218**

That the Sub-Executive of General Council approve the sale by Naramata Centre to the Naramata Seniors Housing Society of the following property located at the corner of 4th Street and Gwendolyn Avenue in the community of Naramata, British Columbia:

Lots 1-4

Block 119

Plan 519

That the sale price for the property will be at a fair market value.

That the proceeds from the sale of the property will be directed to the capital and program development of Naramata Centre,

And that the Sub-Executive receive a report back on the fair market value from this sale.

Carried**EXECUTIVE OF THE GENERAL COUNCIL – LOCATION FOR APRIL 2005**

The Moderator updated the Sub-Executive on the proposal for the Executive of the General Council to meet in Vancouver, B.C. for its April 2005 meeting. It was noted that the meeting would be extended one extra day and that the extra cost for this meeting would be approximately \$50,000. The General Council Project Fund is one option for these extra costs.

Discussion and concerns were expressed regarding the extra costs for this meeting versus the benefits. It was noted that this extra amount would be distributed over the triennium as we move into a 3 year budget cycle. Meeting in both the east and the west was also noted as an important benefit for the Executive as they experience the life of the church across the regions.

Discussion included suggestions on experiences that would be helpful both for the Executive and for the people in B.C. Conference. It was noted that Vancouver is in close proximity to 3 presbyteries plus Pemberton-Whistler that will be faced with ramifications from the Olympic games. Other opportunities include visiting congregations in the lower mainland where people arriving from Korea is just one factor that is contributing to the changing nature of these congregations.

Marion Pardy left the call.

One of the goals for the Executive during each triennium is to experience maximum exposure to local people so that the people can see the GCE in operation and the GCE can meet the people where they

Approved – June 7, 2005

live. Seeing and understanding the concerns in the regions is a valuable experience and opportunity different from just hearing about concerns.

There was a suggestion that a parallel process for staff (such as staff retreat) take place so that staff also experience the regions.

Motion: Stephen Mabee/George Takashima

2004-12-17-219

That the Executive of the General Council meet in Vancouver for its April 2005 meeting with one additional day.

Carried

Motion: George Takashima/Don Koots

2004-12-17-220

That the additional cost of up to \$45,000 for holding the Executive of the General Council April 2005 meeting in Vancouver be sourced from the General Council Project Account.

Carried

George Takashima left the call.

UNITED CHURCH HEALTH SERVICES REVIEW

Ian Fraser gave a progress and accountability report to Sub-Executive of the review on the United Church Health Services in B.C. Conference. (Appendix C)

Motion: Don Koots/Lynn Boothroyd

2004-12-17-221

That the Sub-Executive of the General Council affirm The United Church Of Canada's continuing involvement in health care services in British Columbia through B.C. Conference and the United Church Health Services, and encourage continuation of work on the review process.

Carried

UNIONIZATION UPDATE

The General Secretary gave an update on unionization.

It was noted that for further correspondence, it would be good to move from unionization to what is being done to address the problems that led to the concerns and highlight the information that was presented in the first communication.

ADJOURNMENT

The Moderator adjourned the meeting at 1:00 p.m. with blessings throughout the season.

Moderator, Peter Short

General Secretary, Jim Sinclair

APPENDIX A

TO: General Council Sub-executive
December 17, 2004

RE: Tomisato Property, Japan

BACKGROUND

The United Church of Canada, along with several US Mission Boards, has an interest in several properties in Japan. Legal title to the properties and related funds is held by a Japanese corporation called the Zai Nippon Interboard Senkyoshi Shadan (Shadan). The Board of Directors of the Shadan is made up of mission personnel from the founding boards (including the United Church of Canada). The properties were originally purchased by churches to support mission in Japan, particularly the housing of mission personnel.

The United Church of Canada has an interest in 4 properties:

Tomisato (a manse in bad repair and currently vacant)

Nayoro (a manse in good repair and currently used as housing for UCC personnel)

Denenchofu (a 3 plex apartment building. 1 apartment is used by UCC personnel, 2 are rented to other mission board personnel)

Kobe (a single dwelling home rebuilt by the UCC following an earthquake in 1996)

In 1977 the Division of World Outreach, at its AGM, affirmed the following principles to guide decision making on the properties:

That the Division of World Outreach re-affirm to JNAC and the Kyodan (United Church of Christ in Japan) its ultimate goal of transferring missionary residence property in Japan to the Kyodan, when the latter are in a position to accept responsibility to provide housing for missionaries...(77-247).

In 1999, the Division of World Outreach Executive approved in principle that funds from the disposition of properties in Japan should be used as follows:

1. Personnel related needs
2. Mission needs in Japan as articulated by Japan partners
3. Needs for ongoing mission work outside of Japan
4. Need to supplement the fund for property maintenance and overseas personnel support.

A supplemental note from the Asia/Pacific Area Committee to the DWO Executive identified the following matters to be taken into account:

Past practice that all properties formerly owned by the United Church of Canada overseas were turned over to national properties.

The intent of donors who made possible the purchase of properties in Japan through bequests, estates etc was that those property assets be used for mission in Japan. The practice of the Division has always been to respect the intent of donors who made such acquisitions possible.

The value of properties is not simply reflected in the dollar value but has value in terms of ongoing and future mission with Japanese partners. The theological and missiological implications of property use but be equally considered.

PROPOSAL

At its meeting on November 20, 2004, the JGER Unit Committee approved the following motion:

That the JGER Unit Committee recommends to the Sub-Executive of the General Council the proposal for the sale of the property in Tomisato, Japan to the Tomisato United Church in Japan for Y6,000,000. That the funds from the sale of the property be put in the trust account held to

offset the maintenance costs of the other properties and to support UCC overseas personnel and mission needs in Japan.

The congregation plans to build a new church on the site. The national church (Kyodan) has confirmed that this meets their critical priority of evangelisation. The church hopes that, in addition to providing a worship place, they can offer community outreach programs such as a migrant ministry or Day Care.

The church has requested a sale price below market value (Y 6,000,000 against an appraised value of Y 15,000,000 – Y 17,000,000). There are zoning and environmental restrictions on the property which limit its commercial sale value. As well the house on the property is in significant disrepair, The Kyodan has acknowledged that if the United Church of Canada agrees to the sale the difference between the sale and appraised values would be considered a contribution to the life and mission of the Japanese church.

MOVED

that the Sub-Executive of the General Council authorise the sale of the Tamisato property in Tamisato, Japan to the Tamisato United Church in Japan for Y6,000,000, and that the funds from the sale of the property be placed in the trust account held to offset the maintenance costs of the other properties and to support UCC overseas personnel and mission needs in Japan.

APPENDIX B

The Nominations Committee met on December 9th, 2004 via teleconference call to select spiritual leaders for the church using the practices of spiritual discernment. Elected and Appointed Member Services coordinated the recruitment process and the preparation of information for the Nominations Committee.

Proposal from the discernment of the GCE Nominations Committee:

The GCE Nominations Committee proposes that ...

the Sub-Executive of the General Council appoint the following people to the committees (with the stated terms):

GCE Nominations Committee (2006, GC39)

- Lynn Boothroyd (Lay, M&O)

FFE Ministry Vocations Committee (2007, December)

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GCE Permanent Committee on Governance, Planning, & Budgeting Processes (2006, GC39)

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JGER Global Partnerships Advisory Committee (2007, December)

- John Durfey – Asia (Lay, Ham)
- Jung-Hee Park – Asia (Lay, Lon)
- Greg White – Africa (O, Lon)
- Christina Paradela – Education (DM, Ham)

Faithfully submitted by,
Marion Pardy, Chairperson
Nominations Committee

APPENDIX C

Whereas direct provision of health services through United Church Hospitals in British Columbia has been vested with BC Conference through United Church Health Services (UCHS)

Whereas BC Conference initiated a consultative review to:

- (1) determine if there continues to be a significant purpose and role for the United Church of Canada in the direct delivery of health services in BC, and, if so, to:
- (2) clarify the purpose and role of UCHS in BC, identify major issues and future directions, identify major issues for BC Conference and the UCC with respect to the future of this work, and make recommendations

Whereas the General Council Executive (through the Sub-executive) participated financially in the review through the GC Project Fund (\$15,000)¹

Whereas part 1 of this work is complete and the review team in its report to BC Conference has concluded that, with respect to the first item (is there a purpose and role for the UC in this work?):

“The United Church has a political responsibility.

1. The long and honourable history of the UCHS creates a sense of pride and trust by the communities and provides a sense of stability in these communities that are currently facing many changes and challenges, including an extremely high level of unemployment and isolation.
2. By virtue of being a denomination faith-based health service, with church owned facilities, each of the UCHS communities has a local hospital board which provides a degree of self-governance, community representation and autonomy.
3. An appreciated “centre of excellence in rural, remote and First Nations health” culture has been created – one that has potential for further development and basis for recruitment, retention and capacity building.
4. The UCHS presence has helped provide leverage for outside funding from local, provincial and federal agencies and NGO’s. This has made it possible for the hospitals and clinics to initiate, promote and integrate many community outreach programs
5. UCHS facilities and personnel constitute a major community asset – as a major employer, in attraction and retention of new citizens, and supporting, leading and participating in community activities.
6. UC hospitals have a reputation and record of sound fiscal management that is not consistently found elsewhere in the now regionalized system and are much more advanced in their integration of First Nations health needs.

The United Church has moral/spiritual leadership responsibilities.

1. UCHS facilities are providing high-quality, accessible, culturally sensitive primary and secondary health care. A holistic approach to health care includes, when relevant or requested, traditions and practices of First Nations people.
2. A common vision and commitment to self-giving service that transcends monetary considerations has historically been created by the strong Christian leadership and directed recruitment policies of the UCHS.
3. Long-term recognition of excellent educational potential has resulted in the assignment of responsibility for training future rural health care professionals.

The United Church has communication and oversight responsibilities for urgent matters.

The UCHS review and the review team’s site visits did cause considerable anxiety among various stakeholders, including staff, patients, First Nations organizations and the community in general. Different perspectives on the reason for the review and the underlying intent of the United Church were voiced, including fear that if the United Church “pulled out” there would undoubtedly be

¹ General Council Sub-executive meeting August 2004 motion 2004-08-26-159

reductions in types and amounts of health care services in each of the communities and a lack of community control.”²

Whereas the review team recommends that:

“RECOMMENDATIONS:

United Church of Canada Involvement

Based on the Review Team findings there continues to be a significant purpose and role for the United Church of Canada in the direct delivery of health services in BC. Therefore it is recommended the UCC continue to be involved.

Urgent Issues

There are issues that require urgent and immediate attention. Therefore it is recommended that:

1. The decision about the United Church involvement in the direct delivery of health care services be made and communicated to the three communities and health authorities before year-end (i.e. December 31, 2004).
2. If such a decision cannot be made in this timeframe:
 - a. That a firm date for such a decision be set quickly and communicated to the communities and health authorities; and
 - b. An interim plan for continuing present operations be established and communicated prior to year-end.
3. Accountability and staffing issues be addressed by providing for an interim Director and confirming the employment status of those working in the Director’s office and those who positions rely on the clinics and their previous funding.
4. Those who organized the on-site review process arrangements be thanked.
5. The communities, through the churches, hospital boards and clinic directors be acknowledged and thanked for their participation.”³

Whereas BC Conference through the authority delegated to the Conference Executive Secretary concurs with the findings and recommendations contained in part 1 of the report

Whereas work will continue with part 2 (clarifying role and future directions)

Be it resolved that the General Council Sub-executive affirm the UCC’s continuing involvement in health care services in BC through BC Conference and UCHS, and encourage continuation of work on the review process.

² Executive Summary, United Church Health Services (BC) Consultative Review Report – Part I, Rev. Dr. Terry Anderson, Dr. Heather F. Clarke, Dr. Peter Grantham, November 30, 2004.

³ *ibid*