

**THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA
MEETING OF THE SUB-EXECUTIVE OF THE GENERAL COUNCIL
MINUTES
December 14, 2006
(Teleconference Call)**

The Sub-Executive of the General Council of The United Church of Canada met from 11:30 a.m. until 12:20 p.m. on Thursday December 14, 2006, by teleconference call. The Moderator, The Right Reverend David Giuliano, presided.

ATTENDANCE

Voting Members

Anne-Marie Carmoy, Cindy Desilets, Dwaine Dornan, David Giuliano, Heather Leffler, Scott Parsons, Chuck Scott, Jim Sinclair, Amber Ing

Corresponding Members

Ian Fraser, Bruce Gregersen, Carol Hancock, Janet McDonald, Kim Uyede-Kai

Regrets

Debra Bowman, Paul Reed, Peter Short, Allan Sinclair

The meeting was opened with prayer.

CONSTITUTING THE MEETING

"Au nom de Notre Seigneur, Jésus-Christ, seul chef souverain de l'Église, et par l'autorité qui m'a été conférée par le 39ième 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 39th 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/Cindy Desilets **2006-12-14-105**

That Bruce Gregersen, Ian Fraser, Carol Hancock, Janet McDonald and Kim Uyede-Kai be made corresponding members for this meeting, and that Merjean Enriquez be the recording secretary for this meeting of the Sub-Executive.

Carried

Minutes of the Sub-Executive of the General Council

Motion: Jim Sinclair/Dwaine Dornan **2006-12-14-106**

That the minutes of the Sub-Executive of the General Council for December 7, 2006 be adopt as amended.

Page 84 – Spelling in constituting the meeting “l’autorité”

Page 85 – Windsor Elms “Agreeing to consider the matter.”

Page 86 – Carmichael Outreach Inc. Item #2 comma after “property”

Carried

Task Group on Leadership Outcomes Framework

Motion: Heather Leffler/Amber Ing

2006-12-14-107

That the Sub-Executive of the General Council approve the Terms of Reference for a Task Group on the Leadership Outcomes Framework with the change of the task group membership be made to four to five members.

Comments from Caryn Douglas, a member of the Executive of the General Council, regarding membership composition, have been received and will be forwarded to the Nominations Committee for consideration.

Carried

Solidarity Visit by a United Church of Canada Delegation to partners in Israel and Palestine

Motion: Dwaine Dornan/Cindy Desilets

2006-12-14-108

That the Sub-Executive delegate the authority to the General Secretary to consult with the Moderator and select a voting member of the Executive of the General Council for this delegation that would balance the delegation with respect to age, sex, and ministry

And that

The Sub-Executive request the Permanent Committee Governance, Planning and Budgeting Processes to review the processes described in the Nomination Process "exemption clause" to define a more suitable process for the situations like these that inevitably arise. Secondly, that the permanent committee draft a process for including members of the Executive of the General Council in future delegations.

Carried

Jim noted for information that there was a revolution/bloodless coup in Fiji where Scott Douglas, Nanette McKay and little Noah are at the moment. They are all safe. Both Scott and Nanette have given leadership to the community where they have been assigned.

The Moderator noted that he attended the funerals of both Charlotte Sullivan and Floyd Steinhauer in their First Nations communities.

David thanked Jim for the work he has done as this is Jim’s last conference call.

Closing

The meeting was adjourned at 12:20pm

Moderator, David Giuliano

General Secretary, Jim Sinclair

APPENDIX A

Task Group on the Leadership Outcomes Framework

Mandate

Background: The Leadership Outcomes Framework was developed by a task group of the Education for Church Leadership Committee. The Leadership Outcomes Framework was proposed to the 39th General Council 2006 by the Executive of the General Council. The action of the 39th General Council 2006 was “to receive the report and direct the Executive of the General Council to review the Leadership Outcomes Framework in light of the Standards of Practice which were adopted by the 39th General Council 2006, with a view to harmonizing the Leadership Outcomes Framework with the Standards of Practice; and to undertake further study including reviewing response forms and correspondence received by the 39th General Council 2006.” Further to this action, in November 2006 the Executive of the General Council, directed the General Secretary, General Council to establish the terms of reference of a task group to be approved by the Sub-Executive of the General Council and that an extraordinary recruitment to this task group be authorized.

Tasks:

1. To review the response forms and correspondence received by the 39th General Council 2006 and ensure that concerns and ideas raised have been addressed.
2. To review the Leadership Outcomes Framework to ensure harmonization with the Standards of Practice as complementary documents.
3. To bring the results of the review and the Leadership Outcomes Framework to the Executive of the General Council meeting for May 2007 (report due for the workbook March 26, 2007).

Membership

The task group will be made up of three to four members who reflect the diversity of The United Church of Canada (diversity with respect to sex, race, age, geography, and vocation). Membership will be from voting members of the Executive of the General Council and voting members of the four Permanent Committees. Staff resource to the task group is Ted Reeve (as assigned by the General Secretary).

Member Skills and Experience

Specific skills and experience that would be an asset to this work include awareness of theological education in The United Church of Canada education networks and knowledge about “outcomes’ methodologies in education.

Task group members will be active participants in a local pastoral charge or ministry, familiar with the polity of The United Church of Canada, predisposed to collaboration and teamwork, sensitive to diversity issues, leaders in a court of the church, passionately committed to the mission of The United Church of Canada, and willing to discern God’s yearnings for this work.

Expectations and Term

The task group will meet for one day (face to face) (Date to be named before posting) at the General Council Office in Toronto. Other meetings will be conducted by conference call and e-mail exchange. The term of appointment is to May 15, 2007.

Accountable to the Executive of the General Council

Terms of Reference to be approved, GCSE Dec 2006

Proposed Recruitment Strategy

1. E-mail posting to voting members of GCE and Permanent Committees – January 5th.
2. Close for expressions of interest – January 19th
3. Nominations Committee – by January 26th
4. Sub-Executive Meeting – by Feb 2

APPENDIX B

To: Jim Sinclair, General Secretary

From: Justice, Global and Ecumenical Relations Unit

**Re: Solidarity visit by the UCC delegation to partners in Palestine and Israel,
March 26 – April 4, 2007**

Theological Rationale

Visits to global partners are opportunities to participate with others in God's mission to the world. The United Church is committed to partnership as a way of participating in the *missio dei* -- God's mission – which for Christians is embodied in Jesus Christ. This mission is characterized by justice, peace, and care of creation. Partnership means becoming involved with others in the God's mission of wholeness of life, especially on behalf of the poor and powerless. Engaging with partners from the global south brings United Church people into a relationship within which mutual empowerment through the sharing of gifts can take place. Engaging with global partners presents United Church people with opportunities to "be compassionate as God is compassionate" (Lk 6:36) as hospitality is given and received, and mutual effort undertaken to join love and justice for the sake of God's shalom.

Role of the Justice, Global and Ecumenical Relations Unit

On behalf of General Council or its Executive, the Justice, Global and Ecumenical Relations Unit has *lead responsibility for justice initiatives, global partnerships and ecumenical and interfaith relations. It offers leadership that strengthens the church's engagement in God's mission embodied in Jesus Christ of justice, peace, and care of creation, locally and globally, facilitating the sharing of resources with global, ecumenical and interfaith partners.*

Goal of this visit

In living out this mandate, a solidarity visit to partners in Palestine and Israel by a delegation that includes the Moderator, the General Secretary-elect, a member of the Executive of the General Council, the chair of the United Church of Canada Peace Task Group, and the Executive

Minister of the JGER Unit is planned for March 26 – April 4, 2007. The Programme Coordinator–East and Central Africa/Middle East will accompany the delegation.

The primary purpose of this visit is to provide timely, vital solidarity and accompaniment to partners in Palestine and Israel in light of the on-going conflict in the region, and their continued commitment to peace, justice, and fullness of life for all the people of the region. The timing of the visit over Palm Sunday and Holy Week will provide special solidarity to Palestinian Christians.

Objectives of the visit

The goal of visit seeks to provide exposure, experiential learning, and equip the Moderator and General Secretary in particular at the onset of their new responsibilities. Specific goals for the delegation include:

1. Introducing United Church leaders to partners in Palestine and Israel
2. Understanding the complexities, challenges and value of working in partnership
3. Encountering the breadth of partners' work abroad
4. Deepening understanding of the context and challenges of partners working in Palestine and Israel, within the particular focus for the church in Living Faithfully in the Midst of Empire
5. Relating these to the Canadian context and our own work as the United Church, enhancing integration and collaboration within the GCO and between the GCO and the United Church of Canada's constituency
6. Increasing a shared sense among United Church leaders of the oikoumene -- a broad community of faith and common witness
7. Bringing depth and mutuality to the United Church's decision making processes on policy and finance
8. Enhancing capacity and inspiring commitment in United Church of Canada on living out the church's plan for ethical investment in Palestine and Israel, and education, and advocacy around, and fundraising for the Peace Fund by deeper awareness and understanding of the context and the work of partners.
9. Meeting with and hearing from senior political officials in the Palestinian Authority and the Israeli Government
10. Conveying United Church of Canada support for peaceful, meaningful negotiations in search of a just peace for Palestinians and Israelis.

Outcomes

The anticipated outcomes include:

- Expressing concretely the United Church of Canada's solidarity with partners in this very difficult context of life under occupation
- Bringing back the message of partners to Canada through a clearly defined communication strategy and mission interpretation
- A deepened spiritual encounter with the "living stones of Christianity", namely the Christian minority population living in Palestine and Israel
- A deeper understanding and appreciation of partnership through exposure to the various ways partnership is expressed and practiced, and the challenges facing, and pressures on, partnership.

- Enhanced experience of mutual priority program areas for partners and the United Church. Specifically, the challenges of Living Faithfully in the Midst of Empire through witness and exposure to issues manifested by occupation, militarization, conflict, economic globalization, and interchurch-interfaith relations (through both dialogue with church leaders and staff, and field experiences such as visits to Gaza, Palestinian refugee camps, the Separation Wall, East Jerusalem, the West Bank, Israeli settlements, kibbutzim, Israeli communities, other partner projects and communities, etc.)
- Increased awareness and understanding of the opportunities and challenges facing clergy, church leaders in general and the laity in witnessing to the social gospel in the Palestinian/Israeli social, political, economic and cultural context.

Orientation and debriefing

JGER staff will facilitate orientation on the Palestinian-Israeli context, and the United Church of Canada's partnership ethos and relationships through:

- Providing key partnership and contextual resources and readings for the delegation in the months leading up to the visit;
- Face to face orientation in Toronto prior to departing for Palestine and Israel, and further orientation with hosting partners upon arrival;
- Mid-visit check in to deepen support and engagement
- Evaluation of visit together with hosting partners
- Debriefing upon return to Canada

Education and advocacy

Upon returning to Canada, JGER education staff will provide resources and ongoing support for the delegation in their work on education and advocacy to witness, and support the voices of partners as we engage together God's mission of justice. Several opportunities are available for mission interpretation, e.g. speaking in congregations; articles for the Observer and Mandate; Spirit Connection programmes; meetings with Canadian Government officials, etc.

Communication Strategy

- Issuing of a press release prior to the solidarity visit to create public awareness about the issues and concerns, and to share the goal, objectives and hoped-for outcomes
- A statement from the delegation upon their return, sharing their witness to the situation in Palestine and Israel and conveying a re-invigorated Easter Message of Hope for abundant life, justice and peace in the resurrected Christ (posted to the United Church website)
- Holding a press conference with a message to the Government of Canada to uphold respect for international law and to play the role of honest broker in the conflict
- Raising the profile of the justice issues from a faith perspective with the media, urging more balanced reporting and portrayal of the conflict (analysis of the Canadian context and the role of media in Empire)

APPENDIX C

Solidarity Visit by a United Church of Canada Delegation to partners in Israel and Palestine

Background

The General Secretary has received a request to name a voting member of the Executive of the General Council to this delegation (see attached correspondence to the General Secretary for background information). The General Secretary has consulted with Committee Member Services and the chair of the Nominations Committee on a process to do so. The principles and practices for elected and appointed members do not have a definitive process for naming people to this representative/cascading role, however, while we do have an understanding ("exemption clause") that at various times "on the grounds of time, scope and/or expertise" the normal nominations process would not be used (2004-04-23-115). In this case the time is limited as is the scope.

For this case, the Sub-Executive could

delegate the authority to the General Secretary to consult with the Moderator and select a voting member of the Executive of the General Council for this delegation that would balance the delegation with respect to age, sex, and ministry status. This would be reported to the next meeting of the Sub-Executive by the General Secretary.

In addition, the Sub Executive could

direct the Permanent Committee GPBP to review the processes described in the "exemption clause" to define a more suitable process for the situations like these that inevitably arise. Secondly, that the permanent committee draft a process for including members of the Executive of the General Council in future delegations.