

THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA

**MEETING OF THE SUB-EXECUTIVE OF THE GENERAL COUNCIL
DRAFT MINUTES
January 15, 2008
(Teleconference Call)**

The Sub-Executive of the General Council of The United Church of Canada met from 3:00 p.m. until 4:15 p.m. on Tuesday, January 15, 2008, by teleconference call. The Moderator, The Right Reverend David Giuliano presided.

ATTENDANCE

Voting Members

Debra Bowman, Anne-Marie Carmoy, Cindy Désilets, Dwaine Dornan, David Giuliano, Amber Ing, Heather Leffler, Nora Sanders, Chuck Scott, Peter Short.

Regrets: Fannie Hudson, Paul Reed, Allan Sinclair

CONSTITUTING THE MEETING

The Moderator began with prayer and constituted the meeting with 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 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

Motion: Nora Sanders/Peter Short

2008-01-15-252

That Bruce Gregersen, Janet McDonald, Cynthia Gunn, and Omega Bula be corresponding members for this meeting, and that Terry Beaumont be the recording secretary for this meeting of the Sub-Executive.

Carried

Minutes of the Sub-Executive of the General Council

Motion: Nora Sanders/Dwaine Dornan

2008-01-15-253

That the Sub-Executive of the General Council approve the minutes of the Sub-Executive of the General Council meeting held on October 18, 2007.

Carried

Nominations Committee Report – Recommendations for appointment to the Task Group on the Meaning of Ministry

Motion: Dwaine Dornan/Deb Bowman

2008-01-15-254

That the Sub-Executive of the General Council:

1. Appoint the following members to the Task Group on the Meaning of Ministry (January 2008 – April 2009):
 - Heather Burton, Chair (OM BC) – Executive of the General Council
 - Jim Blanchard (Lay, MAR) – Executive of the General Council
2. Receive for information the appointment of the following members to the Task Group on the Meaning of Ministry (January 2008 to April 2009), as selected by their respective committees:
 - Harry L. Disher (OM Lon) – Theology and Faith
 - Wendy Maclean (OM M&O) – Theology and Faith
 - Larry Derkach (Lay ANW) – PC-Programs
 - Christine Williams (DLM M&O) – PC-Programs
 - Elizabeth Brown (OM ANW) – PC-MEPS
 - Wayne Flewelling (Lay ANW) – PC-MEPS

Carried

Funding Reductions in the 2009 Global Partnership Grants

Motion: Dwaine Dornan/Anne-Marie Carmoy

2008-01-15-255

That the Sub-Executive of the General Council approve the following criteria and principles for use in determining the 2009 Grant allocations for global partnership work, and receive the attached report on the staff and elected member processes applied in achieving the reductions.

Criteria and Principles for the Global Partnership grant allocations for 2009

- Ongoing commitment to ecumenical work
- Ongoing and strengthened commitment to social movements and development organizations working on systemic justice issues
- A commitment to strategic appointment of overseas personnel that would focus on shorter term volunteer appointments
- A commitment to maintain a limited capacity to respond to humanitarian crises
- A commitment to maintain a limited capacity to respond to emerging initiatives and critical priorities
- A commitment to be informed by historical relationships, but not to base partnerships solely on history
- A commitment to enhance programs for direct involvement of United Church of Canada members in global partnership through exchanges and exposures
- A commitment to maintain education for justice and advocacy as important strategies for Justice, Global and Ecumenical Relations unit work. These strategies would be embedded in all facets of the unit's work as well as being reflected in specific budgets.
- A recognition of decreasing staff capacity
- A recognition of increased administrative requirements for staff related to the CIDA co-financing program and Canada Revenue Agency rules

And will further reflect the following principles:

- A strong commitment to living out Whole World Ecumenism in relationships with multi-lateral ecumenical partners
- A strong commitment to enabling peoples' movements for systemic justice, empowering communities to identify and work towards resolving the justice issues of urgent priority within their context
- A desire to be informed by, but not ruled by, historical relationships (which have usually been ecclesial and denominational)

Processes followed to achieve 2009 reductions

1. In September 2007, Justice, Global and Ecumenical Relations staff considered the Justice, Global and Ecumenical Relations unit mandate, Executive of the General Council priorities, Justice, Global and Ecumenical Relations Theological Rationale for Sharing of Financial Resources and Budget Principles and the **criteria and principles for the 2009 Global Partnerships Grants named above.**
2. Regional program staff were asked to apply these general principles and criteria to the regional contexts in which they work and develop detail budgets for 2008 and indications of where reductions would be applied in 2009.
3. Other program staff were asked to apply these general principles in the context of reduced staffing and reduced funding for programs taking into account transitional strategies as the unit moves to new ways of implementing its work.
4. Regional elected member sub groupings (Africa and Middle East, Caribbean and Latin America, Asia and Pacific, Global Ecumenical) of the Global Partnership Advisory Committee (GPAC) examined regional budgets in detail. That process included a summary of how the principles and criteria had been applied in the specific regional context.
5. The Global Partnership Advisory Committee (GPAC) meeting November 25, 2007 reviewed funding of global partnership work through a detailed review of the 2008 budget and consideration of the indications for the 2009 budget. That process included a synopsis of the work of the Regional Sub Groups. Staff from Education and Action for Justice, People in Partnership and responsible for International Global grants also summarised how the principles and criteria had been applied in those budgets.

Several common themes emerged from these presentations:

- Within the constraints of time for this process there has been a strong commitment to entering into consultation and dialogue with partners. That work will continue.
- There has been a strong commitment to ensuring the Executive of the General Council and Justice, Global and Ecumenical Relations unit priorities are taken into account and reflected in budget decisions.
- There is a strong commitment to maintaining the ecumenical space.
- There is a strong commitment to working with partners focussing on systemic justice issues.

- There is a strong commitment to working with vulnerable and marginalised peoples and with organisations working to transform the structures that create vulnerable and marginalised groups within societies.
- There is a shift from denominational based funding to the funding of ecumenical and social movements.
- Resources have been shifted in response to changing contexts and needs.
- The ability of partners to access other funding sources was considered when making decisions on how to apply reductions.
- There is a need to continue to explore and refine strategies for being in partnership that are not based on funding.

6. The Justice, Global and Ecumenical Relations Unit-wide Committee, meeting on December 4, 2007, reviewed the above process and received and affirmed the criteria and principles.

Carried

Remits

Clarification was requested on Remits #4, #5, and #6 which all deal with the same subject with 4 and 5 having different wording for the same manual section.

Cynthia Gunn explained the possible outcomes. A draft Q&A document will be posted on the GCE online community. Further questions can be addressed with Cynthia Gunn, Legal Counsel.

The meeting adjourned at 4:15pm. The Moderator closed with prayer.

Moderator, David Giuliano

General Secretary, Nora Sanders