

THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA

MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE OF THE GENERAL COUNCIL

Draft MINUTES

June 10, 2019

The Executive of the General Council of The United Church of Canada met by web conference on Monday, June 10, 2019 from 6-7 p.m. The Moderator, Richard Bott, presided.

Attendance

Mitchell Anderson, Richard Bott, Kathy Brett, Teresa Burnett-Cole, Jordan Cantwell, Katie Curtis, Samuel Vauvert Dansokho, Paul Douglas Walfall, Larry Doyle, Deb Hinksman, Jane McDonald, Tim Reaburn, Deborah Richards, Nora Sanders, Arlyce Schiebout, Janet Sigurdson

Regrets

Sharon Aylsworth, Ha Na Park

Staff

David Armour, Michael Blair, Erik Mathiesen, Shirley Welch

Welcome

The Moderator invited everyone to recognize the Indigenous lands and corresponding treaties for their part of the country, noting that we are people who are seeking truth and searching for reconciliation and right relationship.

Constituting the Meeting

The Moderator began with prayer and constituted the meeting in French and English.

"Au nom de Notre Seigneur, Jésus-Christ, seul chef souverain de l'Église, et par l'autorité qui m'a été conférée par le quarante-troisième Conseil général, I hereby declare this meeting of the Executive of the General Council to be in session for the work that may properly be brought before it to the glory of God."

The group took a moment to congratulate Mitchell on his recent ordination.

Agenda

Motion: Arlyce Schiebout/Kathy Brett

That the draft agenda be accepted.

Carried

GS 20 Procedural and Consent (Appendix I, II, III)

The General Secretary, Nora Sanders, provided background on the consent motion and allowed time for any questions.

Motion: Jane McDonald/Deb Hinksman**2019-06-10-025**

The General Secretary proposes that

The General Council Executive:

1. Approve the minutes of the General Council Executive meeting held on April 28, 2019.
2. Adopt the agenda for this meeting as circulated, with any changes which may be necessary as the meeting evolves, to be made on the recommendation of the Business Committee.
3. Receive and accept the following:
 - Investment Committee Annual Report (2018)
 - Faithful Footprints Update Report
4. Approve the following proposals:
 - FIN 2 Investment Committee Updated Terms of Reference
 - GS 21 Audited Financial Statements
 - GS 22 Audited Financial Statements (KAIROS)
 - NOM 3 Recommendations for Appointment

Carried**GS 17 2020 Operating Budget Assumptions (revised)**

Background on the following proposal was provided by the General Secretary. Nora outlined the discussions and revisions that took place with the staff leaders the day after the last meeting of the Executive, and noting that the proposal had been affirmed by the Finance Advisory Committee. There was time for questions and comments.

There were questions about the state of reserves, the new property development corporation, and the necessity for an outside consultant and staff cuts.

There were comments regarding the lenses that will be used by the consultant, and about having to make hard decisions around cuts. There was also a comment about changes to revenue that might come to pass with the full congregational assessments in place in 2020.

Mitchell noted that while this is hard, we can be a smaller church than we have been and continue to be faithful and to participate in the God's mission.

Motion: Teresa Burnett-Cole/Jane McDonald**2019-06-10-026**

The General Secretary recommends

That the General Council Executive approve the following principles and assumptions:

- a. The COLA factor for 2020 will be 1.9%.

- b. 2nd year of assured assessment income funding for regions in 2020. If income higher than expected, 100% would flow to regions. If shortfall, reserves to fund.
- c. 2nd year of assured M&S funding for regions in 2020 to the regions despite anticipated decline. This is intended to offer a degree of stability during the larger transitions allowing regions to establish mission priorities and begin to make allocation decisions accordingly.
- d. Project for continued decline in M&S (\$1,000,000 per year) and in other revenue sources including some decline in retail sales.
- e. Any budget for further one time restructuring costs outside the core operating budget to be approved in the fall 2019.
- f. Commit to restoring the annual transfer of 50% of bequests to the Foundation but delay this step until the 2021 budget year.
- g. Work with the indigenous church in continuing our right relations journey while identifying and implementing cost reduction from current expenditure levels.
- h. Continue to forego any increase in the amount of M&S allocated to Embracing the Spirit.
- i. Aim to balance the Core General Council Office budget for 2021, with direction to the General Secretary to undertake the following work and report back to the Finance Committee and the General Council Executive by February, 2020:
 - i. Develop a realistic plan including some new steps for building or rebuilding Mission and Service givings, which might include giving donors more opportunities to make choices about how their funds are directed;
 - ii. Review the organization of the General Council Office to identify any possible savings through restructuring;
 - iii. Review the work of the General Council Office to identify any areas which could be done differently or which could be reduced or eliminated because they may not be meeting current needs or demands of the church;
 - iv. Review partnerships and ecumenical involvements of the General Council Office to identify any areas that could be set aside, or continued without financial contributions being at the centre of it;
 - v. Where appropriate in this work, involve a consultant who would bring an outside perspective on the established organization and allocations of the General Council Office.

Carried

Erik Mathiesen left the meeting to attend a meeting with church treasurers.

General Council 44

Nora shared the information that after looking closely at the competing bids from Calgary and Red Deer, Calgary had been chosen as the site for General Council 44 (2021). This will be the first General Council which will be held at a conference centre.

Regional Council Meetings

The Moderator invited the members of the Executive to share their experiences at the various Regional Council meetings. Various members offered reflections or noted items of interest. The Moderator thanked all who attended meetings and represented the Executive.

Closing Procedural Motion**Authorizing the Sub-Executive of the General Council****Motion: Nora Sanders/Arlyce Schiebout****2019-04-27-027**

That the General Council Executive authorize its Sub-Executive to deal with the business placed before it by this meeting of the Executive and any emergent business that may arise prior to the next meeting of the General Council Executive.

Carried**Closing**

The Moderator invited comments about the format of the meeting and then closed the meeting with a short blessing.

Moderator, Richard Bott

General Secretary, Nora Sanders