

43rd General Council Executive (online meeting) January 26, 2019: Meeting Summary

On Saturday, January 26, 2019, the Executive of the 43rd General Council met for the first time since officially assuming office. The meeting was held by video conference with the Moderator and General Secretary at the General Council Office in Toronto, and other members in their locations across the country. All members of the Executive were in attendance.

The Opening Worship was led by Teresa Burnett-Cole who noted that this meeting requires a great deal of discernment for the work that lies ahead. She read from Romans 12: 3-8 the body has many parts and Mark 4:21-22 where Jesus urges his followers to not hide their light under a bushel. Each member shared the story of an item they had brought that represents a gift they bring to the Executive.

The complete proposals and reports are found in the [GCE Workbook](#) for January 26, 2019 in the [United Church Commons](#) in the Governance folder.

Reports were received from the Moderator, the General Secretary, the National Indigenous Council, and the Theology and Inter-Church, Inter-Faith Committee. The following items of business were approved:

- [GS 02 – Signing Authority for The United Church of Canada](#)

This is an update to signing authorities for the denomination and a provision for two signatures on major transactions over \$20,000.00 with or without the corporate seal.

- [GS 03 – United Church Archives Policy on Access to Baptism/Marriage/Burial Registers](#)

This policy is designed to protect the personal information contained in baptism/marriage/burial records held by communities of faith and the church's archives from third parties who might want access for commercial exploitation or a deliberate invasion of privacy. It will be discussed in June 2019 at the Archives and Records Consultation and additional policies will likely come to the Executive, in the fall of 2019 or winter of 2020, covering protection of digital records.

- [GS 04 – Task Group on a Just Peace in Palestine and Israel](#)

The Executive approved the creation of a three to five-person task group to re-examine and solicit perspectives on the church's policies on Israel/Palestine, in light of a changing context and requests from Palestinian partners. The Nominations committee will bring forward names of people with a range of views, to be approved by the Sub-Executive. The Task Group will offer advice and recommendations to the Executive as early as November 2019. This proposal follows up on the direction given by the previous Executive to establish a process to review church policy in this area. (by PMM 20 – Towards Peace in Palestine and Israel: A Call to Costly Solidarity)

The Executive directed that no action be taken on:

- [GC43 07 – The Social Gospel in Global Ecumenical Conversation](#)

This proposal asked that any conversation the church might engage in, on whether or not the social gospel was still applicable in the 21st century, be broadened to include the wider ecumenical community.

In GCE – 01 the Executive confirmed its initial committee structure and appointed members and chairs to the committees as well as appointing representatives to the United Church Foundation Board and the Joint Grants Committee, as follows:

GCE-01 Appointments to the Executive & GCE-02 Appointments to Committees

- Executive: Tim Reaburn (confirmation of the appointment made by GC42 Executive in November 2018)
- Sub-Executive of the General Council: Jordan Cantwell, Deb Hinksman, Teresa Burnett-Cole
- Business Planning Committee: Arlyce Schiebout, Larry Doyle, and Deborah Richards as chair
- General Secretary Supervision Committee: Deborah Richards, Ha Na Park, Katie Curtis, and Sharon Aylsworth as chair
- Finance Committee: Tim Reaburn, Hugh Creighton, Randy Manikel, and Jane McDonald as chair
- Pension Board: Sharon Aylsworth and Mitchell Anderson
- United Church Foundation: Paul Douglas Walfall and Tim Reaburn as members
- Joint Grants: Donna Rumble, Jane McDonald and Janet Sigurdson

The meeting concluded with worship led by Samuel Dansokho and Jane McDonald. Samuel asked people to reflect on the pictures of the Executive and the staff tech team. How do we accept gifts and what do we do when we deny people's gifts? He offered a prayer and Jane read from 1 Corinthians 12: 26 – 27, when one member suffers, all suffer, we are all part of the body of Christ. She then offered a moving reflection.