

ALBERTA AND NORTHWEST CONFERENCE
THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA
EXECUTIVE MINUTES

DATE: Executive Meeting: Friday and Saturday, March 10-11, 2017

PLACE: Robert McClure United Church, Calgary, Alberta

PRESENT: Paul Douglas Walfall, President; Kathy Yamashita, President-Elect; Leigh Sinclair, Past President; Margery Wright, President of Conference United Church Women; Shannon McCarthy, Executive Secretary; YoonOk Shin, Intercultural Ministry; Tracy Robertson, Living into Right Relations (Friday only); Sue Brodrick, Planning and Administration and General Council Executive Lay Representative; Carolyn Woodall, Stewardship and Mission Education; Joep Langejans (Friday only) and Barb Lough (Saturday only), Calgary Presbytery; Alan Richards, Coronation Presbytery; Evelyn Porter, Edmonton Presbytery; Ray Goodship, Foothills Presbytery; Neal Palmer, Northern Lights Presbytery; Ruth Lumax, Red Deer Presbytery; Ed Bardock, South Alberta Presbytery; Adam Hall, St. Paul Presbytery; Curtis Tufts, Yellowhead Presbytery; and Donalee Williams, General Council Executive Ordered Representative.

Corresponding Members: (Friday only) Sarah Fanning, Education and Students; Earl Reaburn, Conference Personnel Minister; and Shelley Den Haan, Communications Consultant. **Regrets:** Linda Hunter, Conference Interview Board.

Recording Secretary: Kathy Jackson.

FRIDAY, MARCH 10, 2017

CONSTITUTION OF THE COURT:

The meeting was constituted by the President, Paul Douglas Walfall, with a quorum present, using these words:

"In the name of Jesus Christ, the Sovereign Head of the Church, and by the authority vested in me by the 84th Meeting of the Alberta and Northwest Conference, I declare this meeting Executive of the Alberta and Northwest Conference to be in session for the work that may properly be brought before it to the glory of God".

WELCOME: Paul Douglas Walfall

The President, Paul Douglas Walfall, welcomed the Executive Members to this Meeting.

Leigh Sinclair, Past President, was welcomed back to the Conference Executive. Tracy Robertson, Co-Chairperson for the Living into Right Relations Standing Committee, and Sarah Fanning, Chairperson for the Education and Students Committee, were welcomed and introduced.

Shannon McCarthy, Executive Secretary, was welcomed and introduced.

Regrets were received from Linda Hunter, Chairperson of the Conference Interview Board, as she was unable to attend this Meeting.

Congratulations were expressed to Kathy Yamashita, President-Elect, on being chosen to participate in the upcoming General Council Pilgrimage to Kenya.

Kathy was asked to take greetings on behalf of Alberta and Northwest Conference where appropriate.

Earl Reaburn, Conference Personnel Minister, was introduced and welcomed, as was Kathy Jackson, Office Coordinator. Both were thanked for their work on behalf of the Conference.

Each of the Executive Members was given a copy of the photo that was taken at the beginning of the October 12-14 Executive Meeting.

ORDER PAPER:

The Order Paper was circulated to the Executive Members prior to the Meeting.

MOTION 2016/2017-51: Kathy Yamashita/Ed Bardock: BE IT RESOLVED:

1. that the Agenda for this meeting be adopted, subject to revisions as approved by the Executive;
2. that 1:30 p.m., Friday, March 10, 2017, be established as an Order of the Day for the reports of the Education and Students Committee and the Conference Interview Board;
3. that 3:00 p.m., Saturday, March 11, 2017, be established as an Order of the Day for Adjournment of this Meeting and that any unfinished business be either deferred to the next Meeting of the Executive, or referred to the Sub-Executive at the discretion of the Executive prior to the Adjournment;
4. that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Alberta and Northwest Conference Executive held October 12-13, 2016, be adopted as circulated;
5. that Corresponding Privileges be extended to the Conference Staff, Committee Chairpersons, and guests of the Executive, and that their names be recorded in the Record of Proceedings for this Meeting;
6. that the reports of the Conference President, the Executive Secretary, the Lay and Ordered Representatives to the General Council Executive, the President of Conference UCW, the Intercultural Ministry, Living Into Right Relations, Planning and Administration, Stewardship and Mission Education, and Youth and Young Adults Ministry Standing Committees, and the Presbytery Representatives be received for information;
7. that, upon adjournment, the authority to deal with emergent issues be given to the Sub-Executive, meeting either in person or by telephone conference call, as called by the President; and
8. that the Correspondence Log, as circulated, and appended to these Minutes, as Appendix A, be received. **CARRIED.**

Appendix A

MORNING WORSHIP and CHECK-IN:

The Morning Worship was led by YoonOk Shin, Intercultural Ministry; and Ed Bardock, South Alberta Presbytery.

Ruth Lumax, Red Deer Presbytery, led an acknowledgement of the Treaty 7 Lands where this Meeting was held, expressing our desire to respect and honour the history of the place.

The Scripture, John 3:1-17, was read by Ed Bardock and Kathy Yamashita. YoonOk Shin invited Executive Members to think about what the spirit brought to them and what was sitting on their hearts as the Scripture was read again.

During check-in, Executive Members were invited to share their thoughts.

The prayers of the people were led by Ed Bardock.

At its conclusion, YoonOk Shin, Ed Bardock, and the others were thanked for their leadership during Worship.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT: Paul Douglas Walfall

The President-Elect, Kathy Yamashita chaired this portion of the meeting.

The President's Report was distributed prior to the Executive Members prior to the Meeting. A copy is appended to these Minutes, as Appendix B, Executive Minutes, Page 16/17-124.

The President, Paul Douglas Walfall, reported that his visits to Presbyteries found them all to be in "Remit Mode", mixed with concerns about what is next in terms of church structures; that the sense of joy has not been diminished; and that there is uncertainty, but it is not overwhelming.

It was noted that, with respect to the concern expressed to Paul about the inconvenience of out-of-province long distance calls, this is not new to the Conference with the sharing of Executive Secretaries with other Conferences.

Appendix B

Appreciation was expressed to Paul Douglas Walfall for his dedication to spiritual leadership as the President of Alberta and Northwest Conference, and for his pastoral letters.

The President was thanked for the words he spoke at a recent vigil in support of the Muslim community after shootings at the Centre Culturel Islamique de Québec.

The President asked Presbyteries to ponder two concerns: support for lay leadership, and finding ways work with an increasing congregationalist spirit, concluding that, "when times are difficult, the congregationalist fervour increases, but we must remember that we are a connectional church, and not alone in our difficulty".

PROPOSAL: An Invitation for the Conference to get Moving

The President, Paul Walfall, introduced the Proposal, which was circulated to the Executive Members prior to the Meeting.

A copy of the Proposal, *An Invitation for the Conference to Get Moving*, is appended to these Minutes, as Appendix C, Executive Minutes, Page 16/17-129.

Proposal: that Presbyteries, Pastoral Charges and congregations be invited to host and participate in a walk-a-lap-a-thon in 2017, to support good stewardship of our bodies, and to support an established health or healthy life style project as determined by the Conference Stewardship and Mission Education Committee, and a youth and children's camp within the Presbytery of the participant.

Discussion: we need to acknowledge that John Pentland made this suggestion a few years ago, and some Congregations continue to act on his suggestion; exercise and time to enjoy the great outdoors are important; implementation could be referred to Stewardship and Mission Education; it could be more than one day, or annual; we can also encourage Presbyteries to find a way to become more active; we could to allow for activity without fundraising; and we could suggest "hot buttons", i.e., diminishing carbon footprint, a night walk to see constellations, or whatever might interest participants.

Appendix C

MOTION 2016/2017-52: Leigh Sinclair/Donalee Williams: That the Alberta and Northwest Conference Executive request the Stewardship and Mission Education Committee to invite Presbyteries to consider the health of their members as an essential resource, and to plan organised physical activity as an initial celebration of those resources, with the goal being that each Presbytery and Pastoral Charge find different and focused ways to become active; using the model proposed in *An Invitation for the Conference to Get Moving*, as a starting point. **CARRIED.**

PROPOSAL: Sensitive Important Dialogue within Alberta & Northwest Conference I:

The President, Paul Walfall, introduced the Proposal, which was circulated to Executive Members prior to the Meeting. A copy of the Proposal is appended to these Minutes, as Appendix D, Executive Minutes, Page 16/17-131.

Proposal: That the Conference appoint a Task Force to develop criteria for determining the viability of congregations; to work with Presbyteries to dialogue with all congregations to determine their current state of viability; and to report to the 85th Conference Meeting with recommendations for the support or otherwise that may be needed for Congregations.

Introduction: because a Presbytery or the Conference seems healthy, we cannot assume that local ministry units are healthy, i.e., using reserves to fund recurring expenses or fundraisers to pay the mortgage or the pastoral relationship, taking energy away from mission; and questions of viability for congregations will illuminate what is needed in terms of support and find ways to help congregations that are not viable to close with dignity.

Discussion: concern about Conference establishing a task force as Pastoral Charge oversight is a role of the Presbytery; viability in rural and urban settings

Appendix D

is very different; this conversation takes a long time and a lot of effort; we need to encourage Presbyteries to do this; concern about how we apply the results to differing situations; there is a danger we might be making a predetermination, creating either/or viability; this cannot be a talk-down directive; the task force would need to encourage more focus for the wide conversations that are needed; facilitation for the discussion with set of tools; the task force could involve the Conference Personnel Minister and others who bring useful knowledge; a task force may give direction, but the work has to be Presbytery-led, as it is Presbytery work; South Alberta Presbytery has already been doing work on this; concern about a task force to determine criteria for viability, and suggestions for support or direction might be resented; not every Presbytery is as functional as the others in dealing with these issues; viability is about ensuring life, not closing congregations; the task force would only look at the concerns and determine how to look at the concerns; we need leadership regardless of future changes in church structure; we need to know what the Conference role will be in this transition; we would like to hear the vision of Presbyteries for their mission; we will know in about 4 months if Presbyteries will exist after the end of 2018, and most have a lot of other priorities for that time; it is unclear how this would live in Regional Councils or if there is a staffing implication; time on a task group may be wasted as the structure changes; and the name of the task group must address what it is.

IT WAS AGREED that the order of the day be extended for an additional 15 minutes to continue the discussion.

The President concluded his last report to the Executive with his thanks to the Executive Members, to the Members of the Conference, to the Conference Staff, to God, and on a personal note, to his sons for sharing him with the church; and stated that, in passing the mantle of the Presidency, he intended to be seen and not heard and to support the new President.

At the Order of the Day for Lunch, further discussion of the Proposal was postponed to later on the Agenda

LUNCH: Grace was led by YoonOk Shin, Intercultural Ministry.

CORRESPONDENCE:

M.Rubik: Expressing concerns about United Church polity and processes being used in the Appeal of a Toronto Conference Decision. This was received as information for the Representatives to the General Council Executive.

N.Sanders, General Secretary: Advising the number of Commissioners to the 43rd General Council to be elected at the 85th Conference Meeting in 2018. This was received as information in preparation for the election of General Council Commissioners at the 85th Conference Meeting.

H. Reed, Coronation Presbytery: Request re distribution of funds from the former Mirror United Church. It was reported that the Mirror United Church congregation was disbanded as of November 6, 2016, and that there was approximately \$15,000 to be disbursed.

Discussion: the building has been given to the Library Society, so they want the funds raised for the building fund to go to the Society; the library has been a mission of the congregation in the past; and, while this is a gray area in terms of the Legacy Revitalization Fund Policy, it could fit as the building was not sold.

MOTION 2016/2017-53: Kathy Yamashita/Joep Langejans: That the Alberta and Northwest Conference approve the recommendation of Coronation Presbytery for the distribution of funds from the former Mirror United Church as follows: \$4,000.00 and interest, if any, remaining in the Building Fund account to be transferred to the

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Secretary

Friends of the Mirror Library Society; the Mirror United Church share of the Pastoral Charge Manse Fund, in the approximate amount of \$11,000 to be transferred to the Bashaw United Church Manse Fund, less 5% to be forwarded to the Conference Archives Trust Fund, and 10% to be given to the Mission and Service Fund.

CARRIED.

B.Oag, General Council Program Coordinator, Duty of Care and Incorporated Ministries: Recommendation that the Executive Secretary be given authority to sign Incorporated Ministry Release Agreements on behalf of the Conference.

It was reported that the General Council Executive had decided to remove oversight by and accountability to The United Church of Canada, of Incorporated Ministries operating seniors' facilities and housing.

It was further reported that two Incorporated Ministries in this Conference are affected: Garneau United Assisted Living Place Corporation, Edmonton; and the Oi Kwan Foundation, Calgary.

MOTION 2016/2017-54: Sue Brodrick/Carolyn Woodall: Whereas the Executive of the General Council has decided to remove oversight by and accountability to The United Church of Canada of Incorporated Ministries that operate seniors' facilities and housing; therefore be it resolved that the Executive of Alberta and Northwest Conference give authority to Bill Doyle, Conference Executive Secretary, to finalize and sign the Incorporated Ministry Release Agreements. **CARRIED.**

Executive Secretary

S.Hertell, Alberta and Northwest Conference Student Bursary Fund Society:

Recommendation re Celebration of Ministry Service offering; and notice of motion regarding addition of Candidates for Admission to the list of those eligible for bursaries, to be considered at the Society's May 2017 Annual General Meeting. Executive Members were reminded that it had been the practice of Alberta and Northwest Conference that the offering from the annual Celebration of Ministry Service be given to the Student Bursary Fund Society.

Discussion: the Student Bursary Fund is fairly large; changes to the structure of the church and the new Candidacy Pathway policy may affect its future; and it is important that the Society is considering these concerns.

MOTION 2016/2017-55: Leigh Sinclair/Alan Richards: That the practice of giving the offering from the Celebration of Ministry Service to the Student Bursary Fund Society be affirmed for the Celebration of Ministry Service to be held May 28, 2017, in Olds, Alberta; and that the Student Bursary Fund Society be asked to consider its future plans in light of future changes to the church structures and policies.

Executive Secretary

CARRIED.

H.Reed, Coronation Presbytery: Advising that name of the Bashaw-Mirror Pastoral Charge had been changed to the Bashaw Pastoral Charge, effective February 22, 2017. This was received for information.

H.Reed, Coronation Presbytery: Advising that the Oyen and Empress Pastoral Charges had been disbanded as of December 31, 2016, to allow for establishment of the new Pioneer Pastoral Charge, effective January 1 2017, with the following preaching points: Oyen, Cereal, Acadia Valley and Empress United Churches. This was received for information.

E.Taylor-Kerr, Conference Interview Board: Recommendation that Andrew Kinoti Lairenge be admitted to the Order of Ministry of The United Church of Canada, with no conditions noted. Consideration of this recommendation was postponed to later on the Agenda.

E.Taylor-Kerr, Conference Interview Board: Advising that Shelley Gay Utz had not been recommended for beginning the Admissions Process at this time, and outlining recommendations made to Shelley to prepare for a second Initial

Admissions Interview in one year's time. Consideration of this recommendation was postponed to later on the Agenda.

At the Order of the day for the Reports from the Conference Interview Board and Education and Students Committee, further consideration of Correspondence was postponed to later on the Agenda.

CONFERENCE INTERVIEW BOARD: Earl Reaburn

A copy the Report of the Conference Interview Board is appended to these Minutes as Appendix E, Executive Minutes, Page 16/17-132.

Earl Reaburn, Conference Personnel Minister, reported on behalf of Linda Hunter, Chairperson for the Conference Interview Board.

Earl reported that, at present, there were eight Admissions Program placements in the Conference.

Executive Members were reminded that, in addition to conducting interviews for Candidates for Ministry, the Conference Interview Board has oversight of the program for Admissions to the Order of Ministry of The United Church of Canada of Ministers from other denominations.

Earl Reaburn advised that the recent passing of the Candidacy Pathway Policy Remit will make significant changes to the Conference Interview Board and Education and Students processes, once the Remit is enacted.

EDUCATION AND STUDENTS COMMITTEE: Sarah Fanning

Sarah Fanning, Chairperson for the Education and Students Committee, reported that the recommendations regarding four Candidates for ordination represents the culmination of the work of the Education and Students Committee.

Executive Members were advised that approval of the recommendations and an initial call were the final stages in the process for the Candidates for Ministry.

Sarah reported that the Committee was delighted that Leigh Sinclair had been appointed as its Secretary; and that preparations were underway for the new Candidacy Pathway Policy.

CANDIDATES FOR ORDINATION:

Earl Reaburn, Conference Personnel Minister, advised that, in response to discussions held at the March 16-17, 2016, Executive Meeting regarding the desire for a more comprehensive introduction to Candidates for Ministry, it had been arranged that presentations from each Candidate would be received at this Meeting by video conference.

Sarah Fanning, Education and Students, introduced the Candidates for Ordination, and each addressed the Conference Executive by video conference:

Esther Johanna Baerends, Candidate from Yellowhead Presbytery;

William Ryan Weaver, Candidate from Calgary Presbytery;

Candace Eden McNeill, Candidate from Calgary Presbytery

Justin MacKenzie McNeill, Candidate from Calgary Presbytery

At the conclusion of the presentations by the Candidates for Ministry, the recommendations of the Education and Students Committee were read.

The Decisions regarding these recommendations were conducted by secret ballot. Ballots were distributed to the Executive Members prior to voting.

IT WAS AGREED that Leigh Sinclair, Past President, and Adam Hall, St. Paul Presbytery, would be the scrutineers for the voting on the Motions re all Candidates.

MOTION 2016/2017-56: Ruth Lumax/Donalee Williams: That, following the recommendation of Yellowhead Presbytery and the Alberta and Northwest Conference Education and Students Committee, Esther Johanna Baerends be ordained to the Order of Ministry of The United Church of Canada by Alberta and Northwest Conference at the Celebration of Ministry Service on May 28, 2017, in

Appendix E

Executive
Secretary

Olds, Alberta, subject to successful completion all requirements of The United Church of Canada. **CARRIED.**

MOTION 2016/2017-57: Kathy Yamashita/Joep Langejans: That, following the recommendation of Calgary Presbytery and the Alberta and Northwest Conference Education and Students Committee, Candace Eden McNeill be ordained to the Order of Ministry of The United Church of Canada by Alberta and Northwest Conference at the Celebration of Ministry Service on May 28, 2017, in Olds, Alberta, subject to successful completion all requirements of The United Church of Canada. **CARRIED.**

Executive Secretary

MOTION 2016/2017-58: Alan Richards/Evelyn Porter: That, following the recommendation of Calgary Presbytery and the Alberta and Northwest Conference Education and Students Committee, Justin MacKenzie McNeill be ordained to the Order of Ministry of The United Church of Canada by Alberta and Northwest Conference at the Celebration of Ministry Service on May 28, 2017, in Olds, Alberta, subject to successful completion all requirements of The United Church of Canada. **CARRIED.**

Executive Secretary

MOTION 2016/2017-59: Sue Brodrick/Joep Langejans: That, following the recommendation of Calgary Presbytery and the Alberta and Northwest Conference Education and Students Committee, William Ryan Weaver be ordained to the Order of Ministry of The United Church of Canada by Alberta and Northwest Conference at the Celebration of Ministry Service on May 28, 2017, in Olds, Alberta, subject to successful completion all requirements of The United Church of Canada. **CARRIED.**

Executive Secretary

CANDIDATE FOR ADMISSION TO THE ORDER OF MINISTRY IN THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA:

Earl Reaburn, Conference Personnel Minister, introduced Andrew Kinoti Lairenge, from the Methodist Church in Kenya, currently serving in the Vermilion-Mannville Pastoral Charge, St. Paul Presbytery. Andrew Kinoti addressed the Executive by video conference, and the Interview Board recommendation was read. The Decision regarding this recommendation was conducted by secret ballot.

MOTION 2016/2017-60: Adam Hall/Ed Bardock: That, following the recommendation of the Alberta and Northwest Conference Interview Board, Andrew Kinoti Lairenge, from the Methodist Church in Kenya, be admitted to the Order of Ministry as an Ordained Minister of The United Church of Canada, at the Celebration of Ministry Service on May 28, 2017, in Olds, Alberta, subject to successful completion of all requirements of The United Church of Canada. **CARRIED.**

Executive Secretary

CANDIDATES FOR THE ADMISSIONS PROGRAM:

It was reported that the Conference Interview Board had interviewed the Rev. MiYeon Kim from the Presbyterian Church in the Republic of Korea, and had recommended her as suitable to be eligible for an initial appointment in the Admissions Program.

MOTION 2016/2017-61: Shannon McCarthy/Carolyn Woodall: That the Alberta and Northwest Conference Executive confirm the suitability and eligibility of MiYeon Kim to serve in an initial appointment as part of the Admissions Program of The United Church of Canada. **CARRIED.**

Conference Interview Board

It was reported that Shelley Utz had been interviewed by the Conference Interview Board and had not been recommended to enter the Admissions Program at this

time; and that the Interview Board had made recommendations to Shelley, asking that she return for an Initial Admissions Interview in one year's time. In response to a question, the Executive Members were advised that the General Council Office would flag an application to another Conference.

MOTION 2016/2017-62: Shannon McCarthy/Leigh Sinclair: That, having considered the recommendation and report of the Conference Interview Board on March 10, 2017, the Alberta and Northwest Conference Executive not confirm suitability and not confirm eligibility for Shelley Utz to become a Candidate for Ministry in The United Church of Canada. **CARRIED.**

Conference
Interview
Board

At the conclusion of the discussion, Sarah Fanning and Earl Reaburn were thanked for their reports. The Conference Interview Board and the Presbytery and Conference Education and Students Committees were thanked for their work.

DECISIONS RE CANDIDATES FOR MINISTRY:

Leigh Sinclair and Adam Hall, Scrutineers, reported that all of the Candidates for Ordination and the Candidate for Admission into the Order of Ministry of The United Church of Canada were approved unanimously. As a result of the voting, the President, Paul Douglas Walfall, declared that **Motions 2016/2017-56** through **2016/2017-60** had been carried. The congratulations of the Executive were expressed in its applause, and the Executive Secretary was asked to convey its best wishes to the Candidates. Alan Richards, Coronation Presbytery, led prayer of thanksgiving.

MOTION 2016/2017-63: Shannon McCarthy/Leigh Sinclair: That the ballots used for voting on the Candidates for ordination and admission be destroyed. **CARRIED.**

GENERAL COUNCIL EXECUTIVE REPORT:

Sue Brodrick and Donalee Williams Highlights from the November 2016 Meeting of the General Council Executive were shared by the Representatives, Sue Brodrick and Donalee Williams, and by the Executive Secretary, Shannon McCarthy. Donalee Williams reported on a slide show that was presented about Fort McMurray in the aftermath of the May 2016 wildfires. The General Council spent time with Jennifer Henry, Executive Director of KAIROS Canada learning about the issues of white privilege. A new model that will be used for Proposals to the 43rd General Council was introduced. Information and training will be available over the next year. It was reported that a motion from Saskatchewan regarding a ruling of the General Secretary having overstepped her power had been ruled out of order; that a motion to take the issue before the church as denominational-shaping was defeated; and that there was much respectful discussion over this issue without the General Secretary present. Executive Members were advised that its Proposal, *Immigration Concerns for Ministers from Outside of Canada* (Executive Minutes, Page 16/17-50), had been approved by the General Council Executive, and was referred to the General Secretary for action. It was reported that the Pensions Board had not approved divestment in Goldcorp Inc., deciding to continue its engagement and the ability to raise issues of concern on behalf of the United Church. **Discussion:** the General Council Executive meets face-to-face only once per year, and the May 2017 Meeting will be a web-based meeting; the length of time for the process re issues between Gretta Vosper and Toronto Conference is due to several reasons, including, the way the Judicial Committee does its work, the number of processes involved, and the availability of busy lawyers for hearings;

none of the details are public information as it isn't a public hearing; the Business Committee for the 43rd General Council will determine how to deal with any issues affecting the Agenda; the place to talk about the nature of God is in the congregations, not a General Council decision; dialogue in this Conference has caused some to feel hurt, so we need to recognize that pastoral care will be needed; a formal hearing on discipline applies to the individual situation, and does not set precedence for the church as a whole; the concern is that the church suffers much miscommunication and perception becomes 90% of reality; and regional boundaries will be established by a Commission of the re-convened 42nd General Council in September 2017, if the Three-Council Model Remit passes.

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY'S REPORT: Shannon McCarthy

Shannon McCarthy, Executive Secretary reported on behalf of herself and Bill Doyle, Executive Secretary.

Shannon reported that most of the time she has spent in Alberta and Northwest Conference since the October 2016 Executive Meeting has been to attend Coronation, Red Deer and Northern Lights Presbyteries, with a brief visit to Edmonton Presbytery. Travel for the Executive Secretaries is intentionally planned to link several meetings to keep costs down. Emails and calls for assistance are adequate in various areas of the work.

Executive Members were advised that the Conference Staff has gone above and beyond to make the transition smooth for Bill and Shannon, and the full staff would meet the following week (with the help of video conferencing) to look at evaluation of the new model and talk about how the transition is going.

Appreciation was expressed for the flexibility of Conference Staff.

It was reported that several trips were being planned, including a trip with the United Church Moderator to Fort McMurray as it celebrates its 50th Anniversary, where Diane Strickland has been working with the church and community, discerning ongoing needs for use of the significant fire relief funds that had been donated.

Shannon advised that she would be attending St. Paul Presbytery in April.

It was noted that there was the overall sense that the Presbyteries were faithfully doing their best in midst of transition and uncertainty, and that Shannon was looking forward to more concrete discussions once the Remits were decided, and the chance to work with the Conference Executive Secretaries/Speaker, the Senior Management Team and the Conference Personnel Ministers re next steps for the Effective Leadership transition.

Executive Members were asked to help with the search for a person with a good theological understanding of The United Church of Canada, and who has worked with the Disciples of Christ, to be part of conversations with the Disciples of Christ about sharing full communion with the United Church.

It was reported that Bill Doyle was in the Conference in October 2016 and January 2017; that most of his committee work is done by conference call and video conferencing; and that he is working with the committees planning the Mid-Triennium Event in May 2017 and the 85th Conference Meeting in May 2018.

Shannon reported that she was working with the planning committee for the Moderator's Visit in October 2017.

At its conclusion, Shannon McCarthy, Executive Secretary, was thanked for her report.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION:

Carolyn Woodall, on behalf of the President, Paul Douglas Walfall, expressed appreciation for the Conference as it embraces the new possibilities with the transition in staffing.

It was recognized that the transition was working as well as it had been due to the hard work of several people, and in particular, the Conference Staff: Bill Doyle,

Shannon McCarthy, Earl Reaburn, Kathy Jackson, Melanie Funk, Ann Thomas, Rony Kyle and Angie Friesen.

The Conference Staff were thanked with cards and the applause of the Executive.

TRANSITION TEAM REPORT: Sue Brodrick and Shannon McCarthy

The Report of the Transition Team Involving Three Conferences Sharing Two Conference Executive Secretaries was circulated to the Executive Members prior to the Meeting. A copy is appended to these Minutes as Appendix F, Executive Minutes, Page 16/17-133.

Sue Brodrick invited the Executive Members to pay particular attention to the Goals for this time of transition.

The list of Transition Team Members and their biographies were distributed with the report. Executive Members were encouraged to share concerns with any of the members of the Transition Team.

Discussion: the Transition Team is working very well together even though they haven't met face to face; this dispersed staff model is not to be understood as a way forward into the church's structural changes; the Transition Team's goal is to monitor and evaluate the project; it is expected that if the Three-Council Model is approved, there will be 12-15 Regions and 6-7 Executive Secretaries; the Transition Team is not determining regional boundaries, but the results of this project will be fed into discussions about how the Executive Secretaries might organize their work; it is not a template, but the learnings will not be wasted; this dispersed staff model is working well because we have good staff in place to support it; we need to remember that some positions will need to be located in all regions, particularly for personnel issues; in all conversations it is clear that we need as many Personnel Ministers, if not more; administrative staff support was acknowledged; and the goals of the Transition Team need to be made well known throughout the Presbyteries and Pastoral Charges.

At the conclusion of the discussion, Sue Brodrick was thanked for her report.

MOTION 2016/2017-64: Kathy Yamashita/Ruth Lumax: That the Alberta and Northwest Conference Executive approve the goals for this time of transition, as outlined in the Report from the Transition Team. **CARRIED.**

PROPOSAL: Sensitive Important Dialogue within Alberta & Northwest

Conference II:

Discussion of the Proposal postponed earlier on the Agenda was resumed.

Alan Richards, Coronation Presbytery, expressed appreciation for all of the input to this discussion.

Discussion: Presbyteries may not like the viability question, but sustainability is often a discussion; this is not an abstract discussion; we need to look both at how Congregations can be enabled to thrive and to give themselves permission to disband; directives to Presbyteries do not allow for bottom-up ideas to be involved; Presbytery and Conference roles need to be clarified; a task force may not be the appropriate vehicle, and this time of anticipated structural changes may not be an appropriate time; we need a task group to gather wisdom from current experience in Presbyteries that are already dealing with these issues, with a time limit and a report to the 85th Conference Meeting in 2018; and we could focus on recommendations about what we can do in a new structure to contribute to the emerging regions.

Executive Members were invited to continue the discussion during the next break.

EVANGELISM EDUCATION AD HOC COMMITTEE I: Evelyn Porter

The Report of the Evangelism Education Ad Hoc Committee was circulated to the Executive Members prior to the Meeting. A copy is appended to these Minutes as Appendix G, Executive Minutes, Page 16/17-135.

Appendix F

Transition
Team
Members

Appendix G

Evelyn Porter, Chairperson for the Ad Hoc Committee, distributed copies of a summary of Committee Members' responses to the question, "What is our faith and what/who does it call us to be?"

Evelyn reported that the Committee had much more to accomplish, and was requesting an extension of its mandate to May 2018.

Discussion: part of the issue is that the Ad Hoc Committee is a disparate group, and there has been only one face-to-face thus far, and email conversation; an extension to May 2018 is a little late to effect change if the Three-Council Model Remit passes, but would produce be good information to share with a Regional Council; this was a priority set in October 2015; the spring 2016 Evangelism Survey report provided a starting point, and it may be time to revisit it; the survey indicated a need for further education for the laity; 'evangelical' and 'evangelism' have become confused; the Ad Hoc Committee was established to provide ways for education, but became stuck on the question of what faith is and what it calls us to be; and there was a reminder that the Ad Hoc Committee needs a mandate if it is to work beyond May 2017.

Executive Members were invited to offer further input to Ad Hoc Committee.

MOTION 2016/2017-65: Sue Brodrick/Ed Bardock: That the Report of the Evangelism Education Ad Hoc Committee be accepted with thanks, and that the mandate of the Committee be extended to the October Executive Meeting. **CARRIED.**

Further Discussion: evangelism has been taken over by evangelical churches which are big and growing; a better expression might be faith-building ... or animating faith; we need to look at the difference between evangelism and mission education; we have a Mission Education Committee that doesn't even have full representation from the Presbyteries; a resource is available from the General Council Office; and finding ways to share story comfortably outside of our walls needs to be part of the conversation.

At the conclusion of the discussion, Evelyn Porter was thanked for her report.

SACRAMENTS POLICY REVIEW AD HOC COMMITTEE:

The Report of the Sacraments Policy Review Ad Hoc Committee was circulated to the Executive Members prior to the Meeting. A copy is appended to these Minutes as Appendix H, Executive Minutes, Page 16/17-136.

Executive Members were reminded about the concerns about processes for persons to be licensed to administer the Sacraments other than those for Sacraments Elders.

Earl Reaburn, Conference Personnel Minister reported that the United Church policies regarding administration of the Sacraments are found in Section I.2.4.1 in The Manual (2016); that the Ad Hoc Committee's mandate was to examine procedures used in Alberta and Northwest Conference to implement the United Church policies; and that the procedures were found to be in need of updating.

The Ad Hoc Committee's recommendations were examined. The most significant update was to eliminate the waiting period after an educational program is completed, as the waiting period was intended to allow for time to complete the program, not to be a separate requirement.

Discussion: accepting the Sacraments Elder's course as fulfilling the educational requirement is another basic change.

MOTION 2016/2017-66: Donalee Williams/Sue Brodrick: That the Report of the Sacraments Policy Review Ad Hoc Committee and its recommendations be accepted. **CARRIED.**

MOTION 2016/2017-67: Leigh Sinclair/Ruth Lumax: That the Sacraments Policy Review Ad Hoc Committee be disbanded with thanks for its work on this. **CARRIED.**

Appendix H

Leadership
Resource
Development

INTERCULTURAL MINISTRY: YoonOk Shin

Copies of the written report from the Intercultural Ministry Standing Committee were circulated to the Executive members prior to the meeting. A copy is appended to these Minutes, as Appendix I, Executive Minutes, Page 16/17-138.

YoonOk Shin, Co-Chairperson for the Intercultural Ministry Committee, asked the Executive Members to read her report, and provided answers to any questions.

Discussion: a concern that the timing of the Awkward Conversation workshop mid-week excludes lay people.

YoonOk Shin outlined the background of Intercultural Ministry Committee, the establishment of the General Council Ethnic Ministries Council, and the establishment of the Conference Ethnic Ministry Standing Committee and its change of name to Intercultural Ministry Standing Committee, with the mandate to support the five Ethnic Ministries in the Conference, and to consider all intercultural ministry concerns, including all forms of racism.

It was acknowledged that the Awkward Conversation Event is focussed on black racism issues, and that support is needed to explore black racism in the church, as well as support for indigenous racism and others.

The Intercultural Ministry Standing Committee has accepted the work of hosting the Awkward Conversation Event, and the planning committee is hoping to fund two representatives to attend the event from each Presbytery. Applications for funding the project have been made to the Conference Mission Transition Fund and to the United Church Foundation. Some funding has already been received from the Church in Mission unit of the General Council Office. The planning team is hoping to attract 150-120 people at each of two open forums, one with the Theme Speaker, Anthony Reddie, and one with the United Church Moderator, Jordan Cantwell, as well as about 50 participants for the entire workshop at Providence Renewal Centre in Edmonton.

The Executive Members were asked to consider motions of support for funding applications to the Mission Transition Fund and the United Church Foundation's Seeds of Hope Granting Program were examined.

Appendix I

MOTION 2016/2017-68: YoonOk Shin/Carolyn Woodall: That the Alberta and Northwest Conference Executive affirm its support for an application to the Mission Transition Fund, in the amount of \$5,000.00, to fund the Awkward Conversation Event.

CARRIED.

Conference Office

MOTION 2016/2017-69: YoonOk Shin/Ruth Lumax: That the Alberta and Northwest Conference Executive approve the submission of an application to the Seeds of Hope Granting Program of the United Church Foundation, in the amount of \$10,000.00 for support of the Awkward Conversation in the Church event, and that a letter of support be sent by the Executive Secretary with the application.

CARRIED.

Executive Secretary

It was acknowledged that Presbyteries will need to consider who would be suitable representatives to the Awkward Conversation Event.

Executive Members were asked to consider the need to discern and pray for the future of Intercultural Ministry and where it will be placed in the new church structure, how we will continue to support the immigrant churches, and how to continue to move towards becoming an intercultural church and denomination.

At its conclusion, YoonOk Shin was thanked for her report, and appreciation was expressed to the Intercultural Ministry Committee Members for their work.

LIVING INTO RIGHT RELATIONS: Tracy Robertson

Copies of the written report from the Living Into Right Relations Standing Committee were circulated to the Executive members at the meeting. A copy is appended to these Minutes, as Appendix J, Executive Minutes, Page 16/17-140.

Appendix J

Tracy Robertson, new Co-Chairperson for the Living Into Right Relations (LIRR) Committee, was introduced.

Tracy reported on her very recent agreement to co-chair the Committee, and receiving the resignation of Linda Robinson as Co-Chairperson at Tracy's first meeting with the Committee.

Highlights of past year were reviewed, as outlined in the written report.

Tracy reported that the LIRR Committee is looking forward to renewing its plan to find two reconciliation Witnesses in each congregation or Pastoral Charge to connect concerns in their communities with the LIRR Committee, and that a gathering for Witnesses was being planned for early May.

Presbytery representatives were invited to use a power point presentation available to highlight the importance of Witnesses and right relations work, to encourage Pastoral Charges to find people to serve as witnesses, and to support their participation in the May gathering.

The Executive was reminded that both an Indigenous and a non-Indigenous person are needed to co-chair the LIRR Committee.

Discussion: the power point presentation could be put on the website; the settler population is resistant to hearing/owning its position; settlers were refugees fleeing oppressors, and are having trouble hearing that they have become the oppressors; and we need to learn how to stand in the shoes of another and hold up the light without being condescending.

At its conclusion, Tracy Robertson was thanked for her report, and for taking on the role of Co-Chairperson without a partner.

SUPPER: Grace was led by Ed Bardock, South Alberta Presbytery.

PRESBYTERY MATTERS:

Barb Lough was welcomed as the Calgary Presbytery representative in the place of Jope Langejans who was unable to attend the remainder of the Meeting.

Copies of the written reports of the Presbyteries were circulated to the Executive Members prior to the meeting.

Calgary Presbytery: (Barb Lough) The Presbytery is happy and blessed to have become an Affirming Presbytery.

Coronation Presbytery: (Alan Richards) Barbara Zimmerman led the first module of the Fresh Start Program for the Presbytery; the Empress and Acadia Valley congregations have joined with those of Oyen and Cereal to form the new Pioneer Pastoral Charge; the Presbytery is excited about the Ponoka and Bashaw Pastoral Charges sharing Ministry Personnel with the use of livestreaming; Daysland and Killam are partnering with Lutherans for messy church; and there is excitement about innovation throughout the Presbytery.

Edmonton Presbytery: (Evelyn Porter) in Edmonton Presbytery, the glass is half full; Intercultural Ministry has a very active schedule; there have been a lot of covenanting services; the former Ritchie United Church building was rededicated for the Korean United Church; a community powwow is planned for Aboriginal Sunday in Sherwood Park; and Leigh Sinclair was welcomed as new Ministry Personnel at Robertson Wesley.

Northern Lights Presbytery: (Neal Palmer) appreciation was expressed to Shannon McCarthy for her help with Remit discussions at the February Presbytery Meeting; four covenanting services have been held, with two still to come; all churches in the Presbytery currently have Ministry Personnel; Martha Dawson has retired from 25 years as Presbytery Secretary; and the new Presbytery Secretary is Sharron Adams.

MOTION 2016/2017-70: Carolyn Woodall/Leigh Sinclair: That the Alberta and Northwest Conference Executive extend a vote of thanks to Martha Dawson for her 25 years of service as Secretary of Northern Lights Presbytery.

CARRIED.

Conference
Office Staff

South Alberta Presbytery: (Ed Bardock) Presbytery is doing well; the Remit voting is complete; and Kathy Yamashita has resigned as Presbytery Secretary to serve as Conference President, and is being succeeded by two people.

St. Paul Presbytery: (Adam Hall) at present, there are no vacancies.

Yellowhead Presbytery: (Curtis Tufts) prayers for Drayton Valley are requested as they struggle with issues necessitating governance by a Commission of the Presbytery; the last Presbytery Meeting included a day-long discussion of medical assisted dying.

The Presbytery representatives were thanked for their reports, and were asked to convey the thanks of the Conference for the work being done in Presbyteries.

CONFERENCE UNITED CHURCH WOMEN: Margery Wright

Copies of the written report from the Alberta and Northwest Conference United Church Women (UCW) were circulated to the Executive members prior to the meeting. A copy is appended to these Minutes, as Appendix K, Executive Minutes, Page 16/17-142.

Margery Wright, President of Conference UCW, reported on plans for the celebration of the 55th Anniversary of the United Church Women in 2017.

It was reported that the 55th Annual Meeting of the Conference UCW would be held March 30 to April 1, 2017, at Providence Renewal Centre in Edmonton, and that the National Gathering of UCW would be held July 10-14, 2017, in Vancouver.

Executive Members were advised that reports from the Presbyteries show that there is still much going on, although the UCW Members are older and fewer, and that it is hard to find people to take on leadership roles.

Concern was expressed about how UCW structure would change if the Three-Council Remit passes, and the need to support and continue what is good about UCW.

Discussion: the UCW can have whatever structure it wants in a new church structure, which causes uncertainty.

At its conclusion, Margery Wright was thanked for her report and the Conference UCW was thanked for the work they do.

Appendix K

APPEALS AND GRANTS COMMITTEE:

Copies of the summaries of the Appeals and Grants Committee decisions re 2017 Mission Support Grants and Mission Transition Fund Grants to date were circulated to the Executive Members prior to the meeting.

A copy of each is appended to these Minutes, as Appendix L, Executive Minutes, Page 16/17-143.

Executive Members were invited to review the summaries.

Kathy Yamashita expressed her appreciation for a Mission Transition Fund Grant and the support of South Alberta Presbytery for the Kenya Pilgrimage, providing an opportunity to engage the Conference in the effort, and the opportunity for Kathy to share reports of the experience over the next two years.

Appendix L

MOTION 2016/2017-71: Evelyn Porter/Ruth Lumax: That the Report of the Appeals and Grants Committee be received. **CARRIED.**

EVENING REFLECTION: Neal Palmer

Neal Palmer, Northern Lights Presbytery, led the Evening Reflection.

Ray Goodship, Foothills Presbytery sang for the group.

Neal read from the book, *Invitation to the Feast*, by Dwight Currie.

The Executive was invited to consider the ramifications of the pursuit of happiness.

SATURDAY, MARCH 11, 2017

MORNING DEVOTION: Evelyn Porter and Barb Lough

Evelyn Porter, Edmonton Presbytery, and Barb Lough, Calgary Presbytery, led the morning Worship.

Evelyn Porter led the opening prayer.

The singing was supported by Margery Wright, on the piano.

Barb Lough reflected on walking with Indigenous sisters and brothers on the path towards right relations, reading from a Lenten Lamentation by Susan Lukey, Maggie McLeod, and others.

Barb acknowledged that this Meeting was being held on the lands of Treaty 7.

Barb Lough concluded the Morning Devotion with an Ojibwa Morning Prayer.

PLANNING AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE: Sue Brodrick

Copies of the written report from the Planning and Administration Committee were circulated to the Executive Members prior to the meeting. A copy is appended to these Minutes, as Appendix M, Executive Minutes, Page 16/17-146.

Sue Brodrick, Planning and Administration Chairperson, reported that the committee anticipates that the Conference is going into tough financial times.

Copies of the current Financial Statements were distributed, showing that the financial position was looking good, as all nine Presbyteries submitted their Assessments by February 28. Executive Members were reminded that the Assessments represent almost all of the Conference revenue for the year.

Executive Members were advised that 2018 would bring challenges, as there would be no General Council Grant, and that work on the 2018 Budget would begin at the spring meeting of Planning and Administration, to be completed in time for consideration at the Executive Meeting in October.

It was reported that, with the assumption of the approval of the Three-Council Model Remit, an increase to Assessments of less than 2% would necessitate that all reserves would be spent in 2018. If the Remit does not pass, the Conference would need reserves to carry into 2019. In either case, the Planning and Administration Committee would be seeking direction from the Executive.

Sue Brodrick reported that discussion held at the Resources Forum was appreciated, but that a letter would be sent out to remind every Conference Committee to really consider what budget is actually needed for its work, as the Standing Committee budgets are usually underspent, and over-budgeting increases Assessments.

Sue reflected that we are wandering in the wilderness, but wandering together, learning to do things differently, and being good stewards of God's resources.

Discussion: a question was asked about whether or not the Planning and Administration Committee has considered the consequences of having no reserves to take into the new structure; we can ask Committees to look at what they will no longer be doing, and to provide some justification for their budget request; a lot of committees did that this year at the Resources Forum; a committee will need to be in place to manage the transition once the Remit results are known; committees are welcome to have conversation about the future at any time; the Executive will need to set up a planning group for planning and visioning, but not until October; we need to continue doing what we're doing until told otherwise, within reasonable stewardship of financial resources; we are continually reacting to changes without having a chance to do our mission; we still need to be focused on our Conference work until the end of 2018, but we won't know what will change until October 2017; and the ministry and mission need to continue without worrying about the system -- they will fit in when the system is known.

Discussion about Presbytery reactions to assessment increases in 2017 included the following comments.

Appendix M

Calgary: we didn't like it, but we're coping

South Alberta Japanese: putting it in the context of what may be coming made it easier

Edmonton: no real reaction

St. Paul: it was a non-event because the Presbytery used reserves to reduce the increase to Pastoral Charges

Coronation: there was good discussion of options for Pastoral Charges and it was agreed to absorb the increase this year

Yellowhead: Assessments to Pastoral Charges were reduced by using reserves

South Alberta: it was accepted because standing in the wind and telling it to stop is useless; and Presbytery is confident that the Three-Council Model Remit will pass and is looking at changes

Foothills: there was very little discussion, no big surprise, and more costs and challenges are anticipated

Red Deer: buildings have been sold, and Presbytery surplus reduced Assessments to Pastoral Charges, anxiety is higher re structural changes

Northern Lights: it was a no-brainer, but there is concern for the future, and some relief that the western Conferences may not be hit as hard as eastern Conferences

Discussion: dialogue about what may happen needs to continue in Presbyteries also; meetings have to look at planning; and once we know the Remit results, the work can begin, so we need to share that knowledge quickly.

At the conclusion of the discussion, Sue Brodrick was thanked for her report, and the Planning and Administration Committee was thanked its work.

STEWARDSHIP AND MISSION EDUCATION: Carolyn Woodall

Carolyn Woodall, Chairperson for the Stewardship and Mission Education Committee, reported that the Committee would be meeting the following week. Executive Members were advised that the Stewardship and Mission Committee is encouraging people to continue to raise the profile of Mission and Service.

It was reported that the Committee is not sure where another Stewardship Event will fit in before the transition, but it will continue looking at its role, and the use of funds that are still available for mission education programming; the distinction between evangelism and mission education needs to be clarified; Philanthropy materials are focussed on providing money for good ministry being done; and the Committee is open to any direction from the Executive.

At its conclusion, Carolyn Woodall was thanked for her report.

EVANGELISM EDUCATION AD HOC COMMITTEE II:

Further discussion was held about the mandate of the Evangelism Education Ad Hoc Committee.

Paul Douglas Walfall, President, read the Terms of Reference established in November 2015 (Executive Minutes, Page 15/16-44), mandating the Ad Hoc Committee to: develop an evangelism education strategy; develop an online workshop; publish presentations on the Conference website to educate about the importance of evangelism to the mission of the church; network with the General Council Office; and organize a Conference-wide consultation on Evangelism.

Executive Members were advised that the Ad Hoc Committee was not intended to interfere with any other Committee's work, although presentations re mission would have some connection to Stewardship and Mission Education Committee work; and the Conference Communications Consultant could help with communication questions.

Discussion: it may not be wise to put energy into a fall 2017 event, with the Awkward Conversation Event being planned for October; there may be ways to

incorporate an event in the spring of 2018; it may not be feasible to fulfill all of the Committee's mandate; the extension approved earlier in this meeting will not make much difference; and we should look at what we're doing and whether we need to continue.

Evelyn Porter talked about the Ad Hoc Committee taking baby steps; the need to promote the mandate harder to address the tasks needed; and expressed appreciation for the input at this meeting, promising that the Committee will do what it can before October.

Discussion: that it is hard to get people to meet might be an indicator that the task is too great in too small a time frame; everyone is consumed with change, and this Committee may have had expectations that are too high; it may be able to do one or two things well by October; the Executive needs to honour its commitment to its priorities, and see what needs to be done in 2018; and we must do what is faithful to do now without being overly concerned about the future, and talk about the future at the October Executive Meeting.

LEADERSHIP RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE:

The Leadership Resource Development Committee Report was circulated to the Executive Members prior to the Meeting. A copy of the report is appended to these Minutes, as Appendix N, Executive Minutes, Page 16/17-147.

On behalf of Martha Dawson, Chairperson for the Leadership Resource Development Committee, Leigh Sinclair, Past President, presented the report.

Discussion: the *In Contact* Editorial Board has appointed Katy Jones as its new Editor; the Youth Ministry Committee isn't meeting, but the Youth Ministry Coordinator is working on this; the position of Youth Ministry Coordinator will need to be evaluated before the end of the appointment in May, and a recommendation will likely be considered by the Sub- Executive.

Appendix N

IT WAS AGREED that the Report of the Leadership Resource Development Committee be received with thanks to the Committee for its work.

2017 MID-TRIENNIAL EVENT: Ray Goodship

The Mid-Triennial Event Planning Team Report was circulated to the Executive Members prior to the Meeting. A copy of the report is appended to these Minutes, as Appendix O, Executive Minutes, Page 16/17-148.

Ray Goodship, Co-Chairperson for the Planning Team, reported that plans for the event were well underway. The Poster and registration form were shared.

It was reported that the theme for the Event would be: **called to be**, and that the rhythm of the sessions would include deep listening, reflection and response, with theme speaker, Dianne Baker, of Emerging Wholeness, and Andrew Kinoti Lairenge, Ministry Personnel on the Vermilion-Mannville Pastoral Charge.

Appendix O

Executive Members were advised that the program was designed to engage youth, and that there would be a Conference-wide youth event the following weekend. At its conclusion, Ray Goodship was thanked for his report, and the Planning Team was thanked for its work.

MOTION 2016/2017-72: Margery Wright/Adam Hall: That the Report of the Mid-Triennial Event Planning Committee be received. **CARRIED.**

2017 CELEBRATION OF MINISTRY:

The 2017 Celebration of Ministry Planning Committee Report was circulated to the Executive Members prior to the Meeting. A copy of the report is appended to these Minutes, as Appendix P, Executive Minutes, Page 16/17-149.

It was reported that planning is underway, with the anticipation of ordination of four new ministers, and one admission to the Order of Ministry in The United Church

Appendix P

of Canada, and celebration with sixteen Retirees; and that Rob Fennell would be the guest Preacher for the Service.

Executive Members heard that the Celebration of Ministry Banquet, to be held the night before the service would feature TV reporter, Donalee Williams, as the interviewer for the Candidates and the Retirees.

As the Conference of Manitoba and Northwestern Ontario will be meeting the same weekend, it was reported that Bill Doyle, Conference Executive Secretary, would attend the Mid-Triennium Event and the Celebration of Ministry.

At its conclusion, Leigh Sinclair, Carolyn Woodall, and Paul Douglas Walfall were thanked for the report and for their work on the Planning Team.

MODERATOR'S VISIT 2017: Kathy Yamashita

Executive Members were reminded that the Right Reverend Jordan Cantwell, Moderator of The United Church of Canada, would be visiting Alberta and Northwest Conference from October 1 to 8, 2017.

Kathy Yamashita, President-Elect, reported on plans for the visit, advising that the Moderator would visit Whitehorse, Edmonton, Red Deer, Calgary, and Lethbridge; and that the Moderator's travels would include a Calgary event with young rainbow adults; participation in the Awkward Conversation Event, and a Lethbridge-wide Worship Service on Thanksgiving Sunday.

Discussion: a full itinerary will be publicized closer to the date of the Moderator's Visit; we need to hold the visit in prayer, and encourage people to attend the events; plans for electronic transmission of the events could be explored; the Moderator will also preach at the Conference Meeting in 2018; Intercultural Ministry will explore recording or livestreaming the Moderator's presentation at the Awkward Conversation Event, or maybe the whole Event; and Alan Buckingham was suggested as a resource re electronic coverage.

The Planning Committee was thanked for its work on this.

MOTION 2016/2017-73: Alan Richards/Ed Bardock: That the Report of the Planning Committee for the Moderator's Visit be received. **CARRIED.**

85TH CONFERENCE MEETING (2018): Adam Hall

The Conference Meeting Planning Committee Report was circulated to the Executive Members prior to the Meeting. A copy of the report is appended to these Minutes, as Appendix Q, Executive Minutes, Page 16/17-150.

Adam Hall, Chairperson for the Planning Committee, reported that plans are well underway for the Meeting, to be held at Millennium Place, Sherwood Park.

Executive Members were reminded that the date and place had been determined by the Conference Executive at its October 2016 Meeting, and were advised that the Planning Committee does not hate mothers, even if the Conference Meeting will be held the same weekend as Mothers' Day.

Executive Members were further advised that the Moderator would be at the 85th Conference Meeting, but that her attendance would not reduce the time allotted for the "official" Moderator's Visit in October 2017.

Adam Hall reminded the Executive Members that, because the Meeting will be held earlier in May than usual, deadlines for submission of reports, proposals and other materials would be earlier than for past Conference Meetings; that the Business and Technology Committee were already anticipating a change to the business process in light of the new proposal process; and that they would be prepared to provide education about the new processes prior to the Meeting.

Presbyteries were encouraged to begin searching for General Council Commissioner Nominees early to allow potential Commissioners to engage the process and the issues early, as the 43rd General Council would be meeting in July 2018 rather than August.

Appendix Q

Discussion: the hope is that there will be an opportunity to announce these concerns at the Mid-Triennium Event; and it was suggested that this might be material for a “commercial break” at the Celebration of Ministry Banquet. At its conclusion, Adam Hall was thanked for his report.

MOTION 2016/2017-74: Alan Richards/Leigh Sinclair: That the Report of the 85th Conference Meeting Planning Committee be received. **CARRIED.**

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

CORRESPONDENCE II:

L.Henderson, Pastoral Relationships Committee: two recommendations that were considered by the Executive.

Recommendation 1: that the Conference Executive investigate and implement ways to increase technological infrastructure to enhance programming across the Conference.

Carolyn Woodall, Stewardship and Mission Education, as a Member of the Pastoral Relationships Committee, reported that the Committee has noted that there are great differences across the Conference in capabilities and infrastructure for livestreaming Worship Services, hosting electronic meetings, and other congregational connections, and that this is a physical hindrance to effective ministries and healthy congregations.

Discussion: the 83rd Conference Meeting established the Communications and Technology Ad Hoc Committee for this purpose, and although its focus was shifted to setting up the Conference website, they might have some information to share; a pilot project in Crossfield, and current efforts in Bashaw and Ponoka, are examples of what has been done; the need for technology and expertise is expressed in many committees, and by congregations wanting to participate in shared worship, etc.; we can dream, but we need to find a way to make it happen; we also have to accept that there are congregations without access to technology and high speed internet; a training and educational component may need to be included, arranging networks/clusters that are accessible; we could hire a consultant to look at capacities, needs, etc.; it might be possible to partner with Alberta Health Services, which has web hosting facilities in most Alberta communities; we also need to remember to find ways for congregations to get resources to connect; getting the equipment is one thing, but we also need education and support for use of the equipment; and we would need to seek a proposal for what this would cost.

IT WAS AGREED that Ray Goodship, Foothills Presbytery would talk with a consultant about the cost of contracting with a consultant to assess technological viability throughout the Conference, to report to the October 2017 Executive Meeting.

Ray Goodship

Recommendation 2: that the Conference Executive create a policy within the Conference that, as of July 1, 2017, when a part-time position is being contemplated, a conversation about cooperative models of ministry must happen with neighbouring communities of faith with the goal of creating a FTE position where possible, before a Joint Needs Assessment can be initiated, a vacancy can be filled, or an existing appointment can be renewed.

Discussion: this is asking the Conference to develop a policy rather close to the shift to the Effective Leadership and Healthy Pastoral Relationships Program anticipated for 2018; these concerns are being addressed by the Effective Leadership process used in the Conference of Manitoba and Northwestern Ontario; the Pastoral Relationships Committee currently uses this as a policy in its process, but could be challenged by Pastoral Charges or Ministry Personnel; and some Presbyteries have also adopted this as policy.

MOTION 2016/2017-75: Leigh Sinclair/Ed Bardock: That the Alberta and Northwest Conference Executive confirm that it supports the Pastoral Relationships Committee in inviting these conversations as part of their current practices in relation to the goal of creating FTE positions where possible. **CARRIED.**

Executive
Secretary

PROPOSAL: Sensitive Important Dialogue within Alberta & Northwest Conference III:

Discussion of the Proposal (Appendix D) postponed earlier on the Agenda was resumed.

The President-Elect, Kathy Yamashita, chaired this portion of the Meeting.

Alan Richards, Coronation Presbytery, presented a replacement Proposal, in an effort to address concerns noted in discussions held earlier in the Meeting.

AD HOC COMMITTEE PROPOSAL: Congregational Vitality Committee

Proposal: That the Alberta and Northwest Conference Executive appoint an Ad Hoc Congregational Vitality Committee of three to four members to:

1. identify characteristics of viable congregations,
2. working with Presbyteries, hold focussed and time-limited dialogues with congregations and hear from their stories what Presbyteries and congregations identify as characteristics of viable congregations,
3. consult with appropriate Conference staff and committees and hear from their stories what they identify as characteristics of viable congregations,
4. report to the 85th Conference Meeting their findings and recommendations for congregations and Presbyteries/Regions; and

That the Alberta and Northwest Conference Executive allocate \$2,500.00 for the work of this Committee.

Discussion: a report to the Conference Meeting in 2018 may be too soon; people will be able to get hope because this committee will be doing this; if we create the group now to plan their work, we would need a motion to perpetuate it; others have generated lists of characteristics, and urban/rural differences have been noted, but this information needs to be put into one place; the fear of congregations to acknowledge their viability issues is what needs to be addressed; the fear of dealing with this is very real; in considering if this should be done now or after structural change -- experience in the church is that if not acted on now, we will never get back to it in the same way; the regional structure may or may not be a continuation of the Conference work and priorities; we may not have the luxury of waiting; the Fresh Start Program could provide a model for facilitating these conversations; Adam Hanley, General Council Program Coordinator for Ministry Personnel Vitality, does this work; there is a difference between vitality and viability; congregations are vital to their communities, but communities are not concerned about the church's viability; we need to ask tough questions about viability, and how to do ministry funded by the people in the pews; we may do much work for a program that might not be used because there are other issues; and we need to start with the wisdom of congregations and Presbyteries rather than simply to offer a mirror.

MOTION 2016/2017-76: Alan Richards: That the Alberta and Northwest Conference adopt the Proposal for an Ad Hoc Congregational Vitality Committee.

As there was no Secunder to the Motion, the President-Elect, Kathy Yamashita, declared that **Motion 2016/2017-76** had failed.

The President, Paul Douglas Walfall, resumed chairing the Meeting.

Alan Richards was thanked for his work on these concerns.

The Executive Members were thanked for all of the discussion, and for the attention given to the issues of congregational vitality and viability, and were invited to continue to find ways to move forward with this discussion.

UPCOMING EXECUTIVE MEETINGS:

The Executive Secretary, Shannon McCarthy, proposed the following dates for Executive Meetings during the 2017-2018 Conference Year:

October 11-12, 2017, in the Edmonton area; and
March 9-10, in the Calgary area;
subject to availability of venues in each area.

IT WAS AGREED that these dates would be adopted, and that the Conference Office Staff would seek meeting spaces.

COURTESIES:

The President, Paul Douglas Walfall, thanked the Members of the Executive for their participation in this meeting and for their work on behalf of the Conference over the past two years.

Appreciation was expressed to the following people who would be leaving the Executive at the Rise of Conference in May, 2017:

Leigh Sinclair, Past President;
Sally Boyle, Past President;
Linda Robinson, Living Into Right Relations Committee; and
Evelyn Porter, Edmonton Presbytery.

The Executive Secretary, Shannon McCarthy, offered special thanks to Paul Douglas Walfall, Conference President, for his spiritual guidance and dedicated leadership as President of Alberta and Northwest Conference during this time of significant transition.

The Executive Members expressed their appreciation with a standing ovation.

LUNCH: Grace was sung, led by Ruth Lumax, Red Deer Presbytery.

CLOSING WORSHIP AND COMMUNION: Kathy Yamashita and Paul Douglas Walfall
Kathy Yamashita, President-Elect, and Paul Douglas Walfall, President, led the closing Worship and Communion.

Executive Members were invited to reflect on and share one hope and one concern for the church that had arisen from this Meeting.

The singing was supported by Margery Wright on the piano.

The Scripture, Psalm 121, and a reflection were provided by Kathy Yamashita.

Paul Douglas Walfall presided over the Sacrament of Communion, as Executive Members served one other.

Paul Douglas Walfall and Kathy Yamashita led a hand-washing ritual, referencing John 13: 2b-5, 12-15.

The closing prayer was led by the President, Paul Douglas Walfall.

ADJOURNMENT:

As there was no further business to be brought to the Executive, the President declared this Meeting to be adjourned at 2:25 p.m.

Conference
Office Staff

Paul Douglas Walfall,
President

Shannon McCarthy,
Executive Secretary

APPENDIX A

**Alberta and Northwest Conference
Correspondence Log**

Report to Conference Executive, March 10-11, 2017:

<u>INCOMING</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>RECEIVED FROM</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>
Administration	November 15, 2016	M.Rubik	Concerns about processes and church polity re to G. Vosper, Toronto Conference
	December 6, 2017	N.Sanders, General Secretary	Number of Commissioners to the 43 rd General Council to be elected by Alberta and Northwest Conference
	January 11, 2017	H.Reed, Coronation Presbytery	Request re disbursement of assets from sale of the former Mirror United Church property
	February 28, 2017	S.Hertell, ANWC Student Bursary Fund Society	Recommendation re offering from the Celebration of Ministry Service; and Notice of Motion re adding Admissions Candidates to the list of those eligible for bursaries
	March 6, 2017	H.Reed, Coronation Presbytery	Bashaw-Mirror Pastoral Charge now named Bashaw Pastoral Charge
	March 6, 2017	H.Reed, Coronation Presbytery	Oyen and Empress Pastoral Charges closed and Pioneer Pastoral Charge formed
	March 7, 2017	B.Oag, General Council Office	Recommendation re Incorporated Ministries administration
Effective Ministry	November 30, 2016	E.Taylor-Kerr, Conference Interview Board	Recommendation re Admission of A.K. Lairenge to the Order of Ministry of The United Church of Canada
	November 30, 2016	E.Taylor-Kerr, Conference Interview Board	Recommendation re S.Utz, Applicant for Admission to the Order of Ministry of The United Church of Canada
	December 9, 2017	L.Henderson, Pastoral Relationships Committee	Recommendation re increased technological infrastructure to enhance programming; and Recommendation for policy re part-time ministry positions
<u>OUTGOING</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>SENT TO</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>
Administration	October 21, 2016	N.Sanders, General Secretary,	Proposal to the General Council Executive: Immigration Concerns for Ministers Admitted to the Order of Ministry from outside of Canada

APPENDIX B

ALBERTA & NORTHWEST CONFERENCE

PRESIDENT'S REPORT TO THE MARCH 2017 MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE EXECUTIVE

Preamble:

This report describes how the President of the Alberta and Northwest Conference has carried out his duties as per the expectations of the Manual of the United Church of Canada and the policies of the Alberta and Northwest Conference for the period October 2016 – March 2017. Items marked with an asterisk (*) contain a request for discussion and/or action.

I continue to have the good fortune of the able support of the Conference Office Staff and that of the Fort Saskatchewan Pastoral Charge. I am grateful for their assistance, support and help over these past two years.

Itinerary

The President's itinerary for the period of this report was as follows:

October 2016

- Conference Executive Meeting
- Visit to Calgary Presbytery
- Participated in the Newcomers' Event (via Skype)

November 2016

- Mid-Triennium Event Planning Meeting
- 2018 Conference Meeting Planning
- Evangelism Education Ad Hoc Committee
- Conference Intercultural Ministry Committee
- Meeting with Candidates for Ordination
- Visit to Red Deer Presbytery

December 2016

- 2017 Celebration of Ministry Planning

January 2017

- Conference Intercultural Ministry Committee
- "Awkward Conversation" Event Planning
- Visit to South Alberta Presbytery
- 2017 Celebration of Ministry Planning

February 2017

- Conference Intercultural Ministry Committee
- "Awkward Conversation" Event Planning
- Visit to St. Paul Presbytery
- 2017 Celebration of Ministry Planning
- Living Into Right Relations Committee

March 2017

- Conference Executive Meeting
- Visit to Foothills Presbytery
- "Awkward Conversation" Event Planning

On the visits to the Calgary and South Alberta Presbyteries, luncheons were organized for the President to meet with the retired ministers and their spouses. At that time the President was able to hear the stories of ministry and concerns for the church from some of the persons who attended. He was also able to remind the retired ministers of the thanks of the Church for their service to the church.

APPENDIX B - Continued

During this period the President was invited to visit the Whitehorse Pastoral Charge in the Yukon, but had to ultimately decline the invitation in the interest of financial prudence.

By the end of March 2017, the President would have completed visits to all Presbyteries in the Conference. For the remainder of his tenure, the President will be involved in the following:

- Living into Right Relations Gathering of Witnesses.
- Conference Pastoral Relationships Committee.
- Conference Mid-Triennium Event and Celebration of Ministry.

In January, the President was invited by the Caribbean Mission Partnership Group in the United Methodist Church to preach at the Annual Methodist Covenant Service held in New York. While there, the President extended the greetings of the Alberta and Northwest Conference to the gathering. The President was also invited by the group to travel to Haiti to participate in the Bicentenary celebrations of the Methodist Church in Haiti. The President was, however, unable to accept that invitation.

In February, the President spoke at the Edmonton Vigil in response to the shootings in Quebec at a Muslim Community Centre. This event was held on the grounds of the Alberta Legislature and he offered the prayerful support of the Conference in the wake of these happenings.

Experience of Sharing Executive Secretaries

Since the agreement to share Executive Secretaries, the Conference has been served by two able and competent Executive Secretaries. For some, this experience has been greeted with great optimism while, for others, the experience of having nonresident Executive Secretaries has been cautiously accepted. The Conference Office staff must be commended for the work they continue to do.

There is need to look again at the staff or administrative resourcing of Conference Committees. At the same time concerns, have been raised about how much we may be expecting from the current office staff; especially given the fact that we are operating with less than what was understood to be the minimum staff complement.

Comments have been received during Presbytery visits of persons concerned that they must make an out of Province long-distance call to speak to the Executive Secretary and that they are unsure who to address concerns to in light of the new configuration.

I await the report of the Transition Team to hear from their perspective how the experience is going. At the same time, it is the Conference Executive's primary responsibility to evaluate the experience that has arisen from a decision it has made. Indeed all three Conferences should do this and feed their findings into the discussions of the Transition Team.

Spiritual Leadership:

I continue to create my own working definition of this expectation, considering there is no clear direction in the Manual or elsewhere on this topic. The following tasks would be included under this heading:

1. The President contributes a monthly letter/blog to the Conference website and a quarterly article to the Conference "In Contact" magazine.
2. From time to time members of the Conference have communicated to the President on various matters of faith and the President has either offered prayer or directed persons to the possible sources of further practical assistance.

I have noted that a number of lay leaders from across the Conference have been in contact with me to share their concerns about the church in general. This is no doubt as a result of the changes that are being contemplated at this time. In general, there seems to be a large degree of anxiety and suspicion in the church about the road ahead. The need for dialogue and conversations about the future of the church is important now and the church should not get wrapped up in a "business as usual" routine that would ignore felt concerns.

APPENDIX B - Continued

Season of Prayer

A fair amount of time was spent in the past few months to put together resource materials for the Season of Prayer in the Conference. My thanks to the Revs. Beverly Brazier and Leigh Sinclair for their assistance in this regard. To date, if any comments were made to me about this season, they have been positive.

As part of this Season the President has invited the Ministry Personnel in the Conference to a time of prayer and reflection on Wednesday, March 29, from 10 a.m. – midday. Ministry Personnel have been asked to link, as best as they can with others in their local area for prayer. Those near to the city of Fort Saskatchewan have been invited to join the President for a prayer meeting. The response to this invitation has been interesting. Up to the time of writing this report 9 ministers have indicated that they will accept the invitation to be present in Fort Saskatchewan and others have indicated that they will be observing the experience in their local area. (If time permits the President may even personally prepare a meal for those in attendance.) I was heartened to hear that plans have been made for the Ministry Personnel in the Calgary Presbytery to come together on that date.

Awkward Conversation in the Church

Plans are being made for this event and a report on this will come to the Executive from the Intercultural Ministry Committee. The network of Black clergy in The United Church of Canada has heard about this plan and is desirous to be present. They hope to have their biennial gathering in Edmonton around the same time as the 'conversation'. Their presence will not be a charge on the budget of the event as they have their own budget. They are awaiting word from the Conference that the conversation will be held.

Ministers' Day Apart

Discussions were held with the Conference Personnel Minister to ascertain the possible next date for the Conference Ministers' Day Apart. It was revealed that the calendar for 2017 had already become filled and it would be difficult to fit in this event for this year. Consideration was given to the event occurring in 2018, just before the meeting of the Conference. The Conference Personnel Minister will check with the planning team about this and if it appears feasible will coordinate with the Conference Planning Committee.

State of the Work of God

The following are the reflections of the President on the state of the work of God in the Conference area. This reflection comes out his visits to Presbyteries, work with committees and general interactions with the members of the church in this Conference:

I have generally been impressed with the faithful work of the Presbyteries that I have visited. This is more so for those Presbyteries which cover a large geographic span. In each of my visits I have seen the people of God focused on doing their work in as effective and efficient manner as possible. I have been impressed by the thoroughness and depth of discussions surrounding Remits and the engagement of the Presbytery Members in this process. The reality is however, that, in some cases, the number of persons to carry on the work of some Presbyteries is diminishing. This reality has put a considerable strain on the ability of some Presbyteries to function at their optimum.

The commitment of the lay leadership of the church must be commended. What I have seen is the willingness of lay folk to continue the work and, in some cases, they do so at serious commitment of their time and resources (much of which is never reflected on a financial statement anywhere). The church as a whole is indebted to this type of commitment and care. It is interesting to see the distances that some must travel for the work of the church to continue. No amount of money can ever repay them for what they are doing.

At the same time commendations must also be given to the faithful leadership of the Ministry Personnel in the Conference.

APPENDIX B - Continued

I continue to be concerned about the effects of the Gretta Vosper case on the church. This case has revealed the anger and tremendous anxiety of many within the church. In some cases, what has developed is a scenario of persons talking at and over each other as each strives to make their point.

With no disrespect intended it can at times seem like a "dialogue of the deaf". Amid this there are those who genuinely feel that they are not being heard by the church. My concern is made even more acute when it seems that many are simply waiting for a decision on the matter to make their own decision about continuing in the church. We cannot undo the past but we must learn from it to move forward. As such there is a desperate need for us to be intentional about engaging in a dialogue to enable understanding. At the same time we must begin to look at what strategies for pastoral care will be needed in such a time as this.

Many persons in the Conference are concerned about the transitions that the church will be undertaking. This concern is not helped by the absence of answers to the many questions that are being asked. I have noted that there is a fair degree of suspicion from members to the work of the General Council. This suspicion is only heightened by the absence of clear answers to the questions being posed. It is fair to say, however, that some of the answers required will never be had until all remits have been voted upon. Again it would seem that we must continue the conversations at all levels of administration. Effective, healthy and open communication will be the only way that we will be able to allay concerns. We must plan for change if we are to avoid confusion.

At times, it would seem as though the structure called the Conference is viewed as either irrelevant or too far removed from the grass roots of the church to be of any value. It could be that the pendulum has swung to the Congregationalist side of thinking and connexionalism is at a low premium now. This would be unfortunate as given the current realities facing the Conference, these issues would be better faced united, rather than giving into individualism. As a Conference, we must continue to look for ways to connect effectively with our membership given our wide geographic span. To this end, effective and open communications must continue to be an imperative for us.

Remit # 7

News has just been received from General Council Office that most Presbyteries have approved the Category 2 Remits. We await their enactment by the 43rd General Council. Alberta and Northwest Conference did not participate in the Effective Leadership process and as such, we should take note of the implications of Remit #7 on the ways we will do our work into the future. Will this require a reorientation of our Conference committees as candidacy issues may be removed from the hands of the Presbytery?

(*) Invitation for the Conference to Move

The main concern here is for the physical health and wellbeing of the church. It is quite up to Presbyteries/Pastoral Charges if they wish to make it into a fund-raising effort. I offer this proposal and if accepted request that it be sent to the Stewardship Education Committee for action and implementation. The proposal is found on Page 16/17-129.

(*) Important Sensitive Dialogue

I am making this proposal to the Conference and ask that if approved that a Task Force be appointed to act on this matter. The proposal is found on Page 16/17-131.

Paradosis

This will be my last report to the Conference Executive as President. It has been wonderful working with you all. I place on record my thanks to all members of the Conference Executive (past and present), members of the church in this Conference area and to the Conference Office Staff for their support and encouragement during my tenure in office. My thanks to God for allowing me to be able to serve the people of God over these past two years. On a personal note, my thanks to my sons who were willing to share me with the Church for this period.

APPENDIX B - Continued

The Greek word “paradosis” may be simply translated as tradition. Yet it implies the joyful receipt of something that is faithfully passed on. When I arrived at the Conference Meeting in 2015 I had no idea that I would be leaving it as Conference President. It has been my honor and privilege to have served the Alberta and Northwest Conference of The United Church of Canada as President over the past two years. It is hard to believe that the time to faithfully pass on the mantle of office is now upon me.

During my tenure, I have striven to offer leadership to the Conference on a number of issues to the best of my abilities. I know that in some cases I have not operated in the conventional understanding of a Conference President in The United Church of Canada. Yet in each case I hope that what has been seen is my deep passion for the mission and witness of the church. At Conference 2015 I indicated that my focus would be on 1) support to Ministry Personnel, 2) encouraging the Mission of the Church and 3) enabling youth ministry of the Conference. I sincerely hope that I have done at least some of those things.

It will be joy to pass on the mantle or stole of responsibility to Dr. Kathy Yamashita at the end of May. She is a person in whom I have grown to have tremendous respect. I have every confidence that during her tenure as President the Conference will flourish and grow. I plan as immediate past Conference President to be seen and not heard; the role of the past President is to be a support to the President always. This is what I will do come the rise of Conference in May 2017. When Conference rises, I will say “**tetelestai**” (Greek, perfect tense meaning it has been completed)!

Respectfully submitted by

Paul Douglas Walfall (Rev.)

March 5, 2017

APPENDIX C

PROPOSAL: AN INVITATION FOR THE CONFERENCE TO GET MOVING

The What?

An invitation from the Conference President for the church in this Conference to be involved in a day of physical activity. Specifically, it is for the church to participate in either a “Walk-a-lap-a-thon” or a hike in 2017. The invitation will be given to all members of the church but specifically and intentionally to the ministry personnel and lay leadership of the church.

Walking is highly recommended for its health benefits. This invitation to move will allow the members of the church to enjoy the natural beauty of the creation, breathing fresh air. It will also allow for ministers and lay people to fellowship together while improving our heart health and helping to prevent many chronic medical conditions.

A “walk-a-lap-a-thon” is an event for participants to walk, run or crawl around an average sized high school athletics track (i.e. 400 meters) as many times as possible. Participants may seek to be sponsored to make the laps.

If a Presbytery or Pastoral Charge is inclined for this to be fund-raising venture, then it is recommended that the funds be used to support 1) the Mission and Service Fund and 2) any youth and children’s camp within the Presbytery.

The Why?

The primary purpose of this event is to promote good stewardship of our bodies by promoting physical exercise among the clergy and laity of the church. Oftentimes it can be forgotten that our physical bodies are gifts given to us by God. As such, we have a responsibility as stewards to take care of our physical bodies. This includes concern for our physical, emotional and mental health. The Apostle Paul speaks to the church in Corinth to declare in 1 Corinthians 6:19: “or do you not know that your body is a Temple of the Holy Spirit within you, which you have from God, and that you are not your own.”

To quote from the King of Kings Lutheran Church:

“A huge percentage of the strain on our healthcare system is the result of people suffering the consequences of poor eating habits and lack of exercise. The quality and quantity of life depends in large-part on regulating (or in some cases, obliterating) the intake of substances such as food, smoke, alcohol and drugs; and the fitness for the work of the church depends in some part on exercising for (at least minimal) physical fitness.

When we exercise faithful stewardship over our physical selves, we show our thankfulness to God for our bodies. And we’ll more fully realize the wholeness God intended for our life on earth. In practical terms this means we have a scripturally-based, God-given responsibility to take the best care possible of our bodies. If we don’t, we mistreat one of God’s greatest and most personal gifts to us.”
(Taken from King of Kings Lutheran Church website, <http://www.koklutheran.org/body.html>)

Physical exercise given its value in maintaining good physical health is therefore a topic for consideration in terms of health and stewardship. Where the church seeks to promote physical exercise, it should be a response stewardship towards ourselves and the gift God has given to us. At the same time, physical exercise understood from the lens of stewardship is not a means of engaging in body image shaming or to prove physical prowess by one group over another. Exercise is promoted for the sake of good health. The koinonia of the church should remind us that each person should be valued and encouraged to participate in any form of exercise at a level and rate that is physically and emotionally comfortable to the individual.

While the event may have a fund-raising component, the main aim of the event is to promote health and well-being within the church and particularly among the leadership of the church. The idea to encourage ministers and lay people to be physically active that day is one small, albeit very small, step for the Conference to affirm the stewardship of the body and a desire for us to live healthy lifestyles.

APPENDIX C - Continued

The How?

1. An invitation will be sent to all Presbyteries to organize this event in as best a way possible given the geographic and other realities of the Presbyteries.
2. Letter of encouragement sent to Ministry Personnel to participate in the event.
3. A general invitation could be sent to youth groups and congregations and Presbyteries.
4. Each Presbytery will determine if the event will be a fund-raising event or an event only or fellowship and stewardship of the body.
5. If a fund-raising event then Presbytery and/or Pastoral Charge will be responsible for organizing the event, collection of funds and disbursement of funds.
6. If a funds are raised, the Presbytery and/or Pastoral Charge would, after the event, inform the Conference Stewardship and Mission Education Committee of how much money was contributed to the Mission and Service Fund.

The When?

A day to be determined by each Presbytery according to their time tables for the year.

APPENDIX D

PROPOSAL

Title: Sensitive Important Dialogue within the Alberta and Northwest Conference
Originating From: the Conference President
Financial Implications if known:
Staffing Implications if known:
Source of Funding if known:

What is the issue?

I believe the Holy Spirit is calling us to engage the topic of the viability and health of our congregations as we proceed into a time of transition

Why is this issue important?

At the 81st Meeting of the Alberta and Northwest Conference, it was agreed that one its goals was to enable healthy congregations with the Conference area. The Conference affirmed and enunciated that part of its vision included having “a church, locally and regionally, where Congregational life is vital and inviting.”

The health of congregations is vital for the health of the whole church as congregations form the base of the current structure of The United Church of Canada. If congregations are not healthy or viable then a top-heavy structure will be produced which will lack sustainability. The viability of congregations is directly related to the viability of the whole United Church of Canada

In some places members are trying valiantly to keep the doors of the church open. However, when a church becomes more concerned about maintenance than mission then that is one of the major warning signals and points of concern. Similar concerns are being observed in several congregations in the Conference which are struggling to keep their doors open. Examples of this state of affairs are seen in stances where:

- Congregations have been barely able to cover their expenses and are carrying sizable deficits over several years;
- Congregations constantly withdrawing from their financial reserves to meet their expenses;
- Congregations that have opted to be meet only less than a quarter of the year.
- Congregations who, because of age and attrition, are unable to maintain their ministry.

The question is how viable are our congregations? If there are congregations that are proving not to be viable, then, in keeping with the stated goals and vision, it behooves the Conference to consider what needs to be done to 1) intentionally support these congregations, 2) enable congregations to look at options which may enable viability and 3) enable good stewardship of resources which may include helping the congregation to close with dignity.

The proposal should not be understood as a drive to close smaller congregations. It is instead a call for the Conference to engage in a sensitive but dispassionate dialogue about the health of its congregations. Furthermore, given the current time of change that is envisioned within the next 18 months (irrespective of the acceptance of the current Remits), now would be an opportune time to consider the viability and health of the congregations, and not after changes are made. If Remit 1 passes, congregations will be left without the support of Presbyteries, and if it does not pass, then fewer staff resources would be at the disposal of Presbyteries and congregations to assist in times of crisis.

How might the Conference respond to the proposal?

The Alberta and Northwest Conference Executive appoint a Task Force to

1. Determine a set of criteria for determining the viability of congregations;
2. Work in tandem with Presbyteries to dialogue with all congregations in order to determine the current state of viability of congregations in the Conference; and
3. Report to the 85th meeting of the Conference and make recommendations for the support or otherwise that may be needed for congregations.

APPENDIX E

**CONFERENCE INTERVIEW BOARD REPORT
MARCH, 2017**

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

Matthew 5, selected verses from The Beatitudes

As I quote these ancient words from the Gospel of Matthew, I am thinking of the candidates and ordained folk from other traditions who have come before the Conference Interview Board in 2016. These candidates have committed their lives to God's call. They are hungering and thirsting, seeking to fill their hearts with a sense of compassion and justice for the work they undertake in the name of God. It was our honour, as a Board, to meet each one of them on their journey.

The Conference Interview Board met three times in 2016: March 5th, April 18th and November 26th. A total of nine candidates were interviewed by us, four of whom came before us as Candidates for Ordained Ministry, one as a candidate for Diaconal Ministry and four seeking Admission to the United Church of Canada. Our interviews reminded us of the wide diversity that exists in this United Church of ours.

We serve as a recommending body and work in close conjunction with the Education and Students Committees located across the sprawling landscape of Alberta and Northwest Conference. We provide a "source of second wisdom," as we discern the suitability of individuals seeking to become ministers in the United Church. Each story, each path, each call is uniquely beautiful and powerful. We always begin our time of interviewing with prayer, to remind us of the sacred and holy work in which we are engaged.

I take this opportunity to thank Earl Reaburn, our Personnel Minister, who provides us with training opportunities and also offers sound advice as we make our decisions with regard to each candidate. In addition, the team is enhanced by the careful and diligent work of our Secretary, Elaine Taylor-Kerr, who ensures that the myriad of forms that are a part of the process are diligently filled out and submitted. And, of course, I would be remiss if I did not, with deepest thanks, refer to the approximately twenty people who make up our interviewing teams. They are dedicated, faithful and committed people, holding each candidate close in heart as they conduct their interviews.

2016 represented the fifth year in the seven year cycle that governs our work. Normally, after the seventh year in the southern half of Alberta and Northwest Conference, the CIB would make its way back to the north for another seven-year cycle. With the remits that are before the church at the moment, the future of our committee and the organizational structure of the Conference may undergo significant changes. Our work and how it is handled in future is somewhat of a mystery. However, we live, with faith, in the sure knowledge that our good, great God is with us on the journey. New ways of doing the work of the church will present themselves and we will live, with confidence, into those new ways.

Respectfully submitted,
Rev. Linda C. Hunter, Chair

APPENDIX F

TRANSITION TEAM RECOMMENDATIONS

January 27, 2017

To the Executive of the Conferences of
Saskatchewan,
Manitoba and Northwestern Ontario, and
Alberta and Northwest

The Transition Team (TT) appointed late summer of 2016 has met twice using Adobe Connect and telephone Conference Call.

The Team has developed the attached one-page statement of transition goals which we believe to be consistent with the Memorandum of Understanding. These goals are intended as a basis for ongoing work, reports, and final evaluation of the CES dispersed staffing project.

The Transition Team recommends these goals to each Conference Executive, with the request that they be accepted, not just as goals for the Transition Team and the two Conference Executive Secretaries, but as goals of the Conference during this time of testing and transition related to the role of CES.

It is important that these goals be widely available in the Conferences, as this transition involves the whole conference not just a few individuals.

Transition Team members have also prepared brief introductory biographies, to be made widely available across all three Conferences, so that people in Presbyteries and congregations may know who we are and how to contact us if they have comments regarding the change from full time to two thirds time CES, or other aspects of the dispersed staff model being used in this time of transition.

Susan Brodrick (Chairperson) - ANW

Gord Waldie - ANW

Tricia Gerhard - SK

Annette Taylor -SK

Lloyd Baker - MNWO

Heather Lea - MNWO

Bill Doyle – CES

Shannon McCarthy - CES

Goals for Transition Involving Three Conferences Sharing Two Conference Executive Secretaries

The Conferences of Alberta and Northwest (ANW), and Saskatchewan (SK), and Manitoba and Northwestern Ontario (MNWO) have entered into a 28- month Transition Agreement (Sept 1, 2016 to Dec 31, 2018) to share the services of two Conference Executive Secretaries (Bill Doyle & Shannon McCarthy). The details of this agreement are contained in a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed early in 2016.

This model of staffing is being referred to as a “dispersed staff model.”

For all three Conferences, it means a reduction of CES time from full time to 2/3 time. For ANW it also means the sharing of one role by two people. For Bill and Shannon, it requires working with two Conferences, two decision making bodies, and developing time and job-sharing strategies that are fair, reasonable, and sustainable. Their CES work is also subject to legislation in multiple Provinces and Territories.

The Transition Team (MOU #7) will monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of this transition project based on agreed upon goals, and will make reports and recommendation to the CES staff team, each Conference Executive, and the General Council General Secretary on or about May 1, 2017; May 1, 2018; October 15, 2018 and at other times as may be requested or required.

The work of transition is not just the work of the CESs and the Transition Team. It impacts and involves Staff, Volunteers, Presbyteries, Congregations, and Committees in all Conferences and requires involvement and support from a wide number of people. **It is important that the goals be accepted by each Conference Executive and made widely known across the Conferences.**

APPENDIX F - Continued

The Transition Team recommends that the goals for this time of transition are to:

1. Determine the benefits and challenges of a dispersed staff model, including:
 - a) Identification of processes and structures that contribute to the effective and efficient work of **a CES team** as they support the good functioning of a single Conference (ANW);
 - b) Identification of processes and structures that contribute to the effective and efficient work of **a part-time CES** (SK & MNWO) who is also working part time in another Conference.The primary focus will be the dispersed staff model for CES but if / when benefits and challenges are seen to be applicable to other staff positions which might follow a similar model, they will be noted.
2. Reduce the staffing cost for each Conference involved, and devise a satisfactory means of attributing costs incurred among the three Conferences involved.
3. Develop increased awareness and appreciation between and among the three Conferences, and explore areas for collaborative and co-operative work.
4. Identify hurdles and issues that would need to be addressed if Conferences or Regions were to adopt a dispersed staffing model for CES (or other staff positions.) What would need to happen to help make it work?

N. B. Performance evaluation of the persons serving as CES **will not** be done by the Transition Team.

APPENDIX G

EVANGELISM EDUCATION AD HOC COMMITTEE
REPORT TO ANWC EXECUTIVE, MARCH 10-11, 2017

Since the last report, the committee size has diminished by one as John Pentland has had to step down. The makeup of the team is as follows: Paul Walfall (Fort Saskatchewan & Conference President), Tom Melvin (Deer Park in Calgary), Monica Rosborough (Athabasca), Rick Coates (Red Deer Lake) and myself (Garneau in Edmonton & Committee Chair).

The Committee held its second meeting on November 16, 2016 at Deer Park United in Calgary, with Tom Melvin hosting, Monica on speaker phone (due to both long distance and poor weather), and of course: a personal Church Tour.

Open Discussion resulting in “The Question”: After two hours of roundtable discourse, the committee decided that a question needed to be derived in order to channel thoughts and serve to direct our ongoing work. In that regard, the following Question was composed:

“What is our faith and what does it call us to be?”

Planning for 2016-17 and 2017-18: The Team decided that a presentation may be made at the Mid Triennium Event (to be held at Olds, Alberta from May 25-28, 2017), however, this will not be held to as an “end goal” in nor of itself.

As the Committee have much to accomplish, we request that the Executive extend the Evangelism Working Group mandate for one additional year, until May, 2018.

Michael Blair (General Council representative) was not involved in the second meeting.

Stay tuned, as we hope to engage in some interesting dialogue during the weeks & months ahead.

Respectfully submitted,

Evelyn J. Porter

APPENDIX H

REPORT OF THE AD HOC COMMITTEE
TO REVIEW THE ABNW CONFERENCE POLICY
ADMINISTRATION OF THE SACRAMENTS
February 20, 2017

An Ad Hoc Committee was established to review the current Alberta Northwest Conference Policy: Administration of the Sacraments, Policy and Procedures for Ministry Personnel.

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

The Conference Leadership Resource Development Committee approved that the Ad Hoc Committee Membership would be made up of the following members of Northern Lights Presbytery:

Marilyn Carroll- Diaconal Minister

Joan Kennedy- Ordained Minister

Mary Faith Blackburn- Designated Lay Minister

Margaret-Anne Hall- Lay Representative, Member of Ft. Nelson Worship Committee

Lloyd Henderson- Lay Representative, former member of Yellowknife Worship Committee

The above people are the Pastoral Relations Committee of Northern Lights Presbytery.

COMMITTEE TASKS

Tasks identified in the committee Terms of Reference included:

- review the current policy and training program
- recommend to the Conference Executive appropriate revisions to the policy and preparation program

COMMITTEE ACTION

The committee met during Northern Lights Presbytery meetings to discuss this project. They also corresponded extensively with each other as the work progressed. Consultation with members outside Northern Lights Presbytery was done via phone or email correspondence.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

1. In the 2013 United Church of Canada Sacramental Elders Handbook the policy and procedures section states:

"The presbytery requires the applicant to take a preparation course that is appropriate to their background and experience."

The Mentorship and Ongoing Support section states:

"The preparation course for sacraments elders is a mentorship program that pairs the recommended lay member with a mentor who has studied sacramental theology and is able to help the lay member reflect theologically on the readings and discussion questions in this resource. This reflection through mentorship should take three to five meetings"

Although the committee has not specifically reviewed all the various sacraments training courses in the different educational streams for ministry personnel, it is felt that they would in all cases exceed the level of education training as highlighted in the Sacraments Elders Handbook.

APPENDIX H - Continued

Therefore when assessing any candidate being considered for licensing to preside at the sacraments, we consider that the minimum level of education and training should be that provided through the Sacraments Elders training. If a candidate for licensure has already taken education or training through their educational institution, then that education and training exceeds that of a Sacraments Elder and their education and training should be accepted. If the candidate has yet not completed appropriate sacramental training at their educational institution, then they could start the Sacraments Elders mentorship program and once they have completed that, they should be ready for licensing.

2. The current policy makes reference to a one year waiting period. **It is recommended that the one year waiting period should not be required if the individual has met the prerequisite educational requirements.** Once an individual has taken the training through a theological college or through the Sacraments Elder program (both would take considerable time), they must make application through their Pastoral Charge and Presbytery. Additional time will have elapsed to have their application thoroughly assessed both by Presbytery and Conference, a further time delay of one year serves no purpose. The additional year also limits a congregation's ability to offer the sacraments to their members without getting a minister from another congregation to do so. This may not be a problem in urban centers, but in rural centers this can create challenges because of the geography.
3. Section VI of the ABNW Conference Policy provides the course outline to prepare individuals concerning the Theology and Practice of the Sacraments in the United Church of Canada. The committee's Terms of Reference states that the preparation course for those seeking to be licensed who are not members of the Order of Ministry is outdated. **Because the Sacraments Elders course is the basic requirement, there is no need to offer a Conference based course.**
4. **The actual details of the ABNW Conference policy, including the detailed process and procedures, should be revised accordingly once the above referenced major policy decisions have been made.**

Respectfully submitted
The Ad Hoc Sacraments Committee

APPENDIX I

**INTERCULTURAL MINISTRY STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT
TO ANWC EXECUTIVE
March 10-11, 2017**

The Intercultural Ministry Standing Committee has a plan for the 2017 AGM and Educational Event of the Alberta & Northwest Conference on October 4(Wednesday) to October 7(Saturday), 2017 at the Providence Renewal Centre.

Background:

This event is a follow up to the 2016 IM Educational Event and the AGM resolutions on the committee work done in 2017, that I reported on at last October's Executive meeting.

We can facilitate the difficult conversations while working with the Alberta and Northwest Conference. We will prepare our stories to share and raise the difficult conversations such as racism and immigrant struggles in local congregations.

Theme: **An Awkward Conversation in the Church**

This theme and task are given throughout the Alberta and Northwest Conference Executive to encourage becoming an intercultural church in our Conference.

Our committee is honored to have this wonderful opportunity and response to our call to serve.

We as the committee are excited and working together in team as we listen to where the Spirit leads us.

Our hope and prayers are deeply grounded in God, and our desire to help our faith community to serve at this event with grace.

Planning:

The committee has met three times.

One was a face-to-face meeting on November 17, 2016.

Two teleconference meetings were held, on January 17, and February 16, 2017

The Awkward Conversation Event Planning group (5 people): Paul Walfall, Sandy Ferguson and YoonOk Shin, and representatives from the Living Into Right Relations Committee in Conference and Edmonton Presbytery.

What are we in the process of doing?

A Time table outline: there are two separate parts.

Educational Symposium:

Wednesday, October 4 (3:00 pm Registration) to Friday, October 6, 2017 (3:00 pm closing)

Wednesday, 5:00 pm: Formal Opening for all including 9 Presbyteries

Thursday Program: worship, main guest speaker, table dialogue, and discussion of personal experiences of racism in the church

Thursday, 5:00 pm: the Moderator will speak to us and there would be a potluck

Friday: worship, "putting it all together" and wind up for the program.

We expect 75 - 100 participants for the program.

We are going to invite 2 representatives from each Presbytery, and their costs will be looked after as recommended.

We anticipate over 150- 200 people for the formal opening and the Moderator's evening.

AGM for Intercultural Ministry Committee members: October 6-7, 2017

Friday, 5:00 pm: community meal together for the IM members at Providence Renewal Centre.

Friday Evening: Fellowship, debriefing from the Symposium and preparing for AGM the next Day.

Saturday: IM Standing Committee AGM and closing with Lunch at Providence Renewal Centre.

APPENDIX I - Continued

Funding for the Event

- 1) \$ 5,000 has been approved by the General Council.
- 2) \$ 15,000 for grants both from the UC Foundation and ANWC
Paul Walfall, Conference President and Louise Rogers, Ministry Congregational Support Team leader from Edmonton Presbytery, are working on this process for the application for grants for \$10,000 from the Seeds of Hope (United Church Foundation) and \$5,000 from ANWC Mission Transition Fund.
- 3) \$ 5,000 will come from the IM Committee budget for this year.(This needs to be confirmed with the committee.)

The Executive of Alberta and Northwest Conference needs to approve those funding applications with signatures and a letter of support. The United Church of Canada Foundation grant application's document will be distributed at the meeting.

Reflection

On behalf of the IM Committee members, I personally would like to say thank you to Rev. Paul Walfall , Conference President and the ANWC Executive Members for trusting our Intercultural Ministry Standing Committee to plan and take action on this racial justice symposium educational event in our Conference 2017.

I believe it is such important work and ministry, we would like to continue to explore where God's hope and desire for us is, to walk our faith journey for the future of the United Church including an openness, inclusiveness and justice for all cultures and races.

We have been faithfully dedicated to the church's mission and ministry of justice for the hungry, and of gender issues.

It's time to be more inclusive and aware of the justice issues of various races and promote justice in the church and hope for the future as one body of Christ.

Our committee needs your prayers and support for this event, not only because we want to succeed, but to come together and celebrate God's goodness in fabric and gifts of persons of different races.

Intercultural Ministry of the Edmonton Presbytery

Some Pilot projects: Summer Vacation Bible School will be held on July 11-14, Summer BBQ will be on July 15, and ESL (English as a Second Language) program third term is under way at St Paul's United. We also established Intercultural Bible study for ministers this year, it has gone well. 10 ministers have been enjoying their learnings and fellowship.

The Third Annual IM Intercultural Christmas Choir concert will be held (If parking is available) on December 3, at McDougall UC. 9 Congregations are willing to perform, including 4-6 ethnic and migrant churches.

Respectfully submitted,
YoonOk Shin (DM),
Co-Chairperson for the Intercultural Ministry Standing Committee

APPENDIX J

LIVING INTO RIGHT RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Alberta & Northwest Conference
March 10-11, 2017
Robert McClure United Church - Calgary, AB

Current Members:

Paul Andrew	Charlene Burns
Russel Burns	Geraldine Dyck
Cecile Fausak	Lavera Goodeye
Sandra Hayes-Gardiner	Shannon McCarthy
Valerie Mintenko	Bill Phipps
Tracy Robertson	Charles Wood

Because I am so new to the LIRR committee, I asked the members to send me their highlights of the past year.

Cecile:

- 1) The Remembering the Children Society continues to pursue designation of the Red Deer Industrial School cemetery as a provincial historic resource, and the installation of a memorial monument on the burial site of 4 children who died at the school during the Spanish flu epidemic in 1918, and were buried in the Red Deer City Cemetery.
- 2) Yellowknife United Church hosted a day-long workshop in October 2016 "Walking a Path Towards Reconciliation", with Commissioner Marie Wilson; John Stewart, NWT Dept. of Education; Elder Paul Andrew, and Cecile Fausak making presentations. An excellent list of actions the congregation could take was generated.
- 3) Yellowhead Presbytery is implementing their policy that 10% of the gross proceeds from any church property sales be forwarded to the Aboriginal Ministries Council of the United Church of Canada for their use and distribution in ministry with First Nations, Metis and Inuit peoples in Canada, including ministry education and emergency responses on reserves.
- 4) The Moving Forward with Reconciliation Group and the Inner City Pastoral Ministry within Edmonton Presbytery partnered to employ a part-time reconciliation facilitator, Michelle Nieviadomy. They have received a grant \$12,000 from the Justice and Reconciliation Fund towards this 3-year project.
- 5) The dance/play New Blood produced by folks at Strathmore High School has been performed in many locations, included Ponoka United Church.
- 6) Several vigils and walks remembering and seeking justice for missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls involved United Church folk around October 4 and February 14.
- 7) KAIROS Blanket Exercises are being done in many places. So many have become aware of a history they were never taught in school. A Mass Blanket Exercise was held at Edmonton City Hall on June 2, the anniversary of the TRC delivery of the 94 Calls to Action.
- 8) Members of St. Paul Presbytery gathered with some people at Saddle Lake and Goodfish Lake on June 11 for a time of learning and fellowship, also accessing support from the Justice and Reconciliation Fund.

Sandra:

Our meeting in Saddle Lake was a highlight for me. I think our committee was struggling at that point – with where were we going etc. etc. and we were able to share that and somehow get more energy and direction with and among one another....God's good grace. Our meetings and food arranged by Charles at the cultural center, and worship on Sunday were truly supportive and uplifting events for me. The granddaughter of Edith Memock (spelling?) spoke at church about accompanying her grandmother to the anniversary of the apology, and a young indigenous man and I think ministry candidate lead us in a candlelight ritual of missing and murdered women – and sang powerfully in a strong voice. I shall not forget that service, out in the bush, with bannock and breakfast and fellowship before we worshipped together. that seems to me to be 'reconciliation' in process.

APPENDIX J - Continued

Tracy:

Being new to the committee, I have appreciated the support of the team, especially Cecile. I also very much appreciated the nation-wide LIRR network conference call which was of great interest to me. I look forward to continuing the work of right relations; however that may unfold. I was asked by Linda Robinson (former co-chair) to join the committee as the non-Indigenous co-chair and I agreed; however, before my first meeting, Linda resigned for personal reasons. I am unsure whether I will continue as sole chair since I am lacking experience in this work (passion, yes, but no experience). The co-chair positions are, technically, vacant at the moment.

Things to Look Forward To:

LIRR is re-igniting their call for every pastoral charge to name 2 witnesses/facilitators to build right relations, who are all invited to a gathering May 5-7, 2017. A PowerPoint presentation is available for Presbyteries to use at Presbytery Meetings on the importance of witnesses and right relations work.

Two Co-Chair positions to be filled – one Indigenous and one non-Indigenous.

APPENDIX K

REPORT FROM CONFERENCE UCW
TO ALBERTA AND NORTHWEST CONFERENCE EXECUTIVE MEETING
MARCH 10 & 11, 2017

This year we are celebrating the 55th anniversary of the formation of the United Church Women (UCW), which came into being on January 1, 1962. In Alberta and Northwest Conference, we will be holding our 55th Annual General Meeting from March 30 to April 1 at Providence Renewal Centre in Edmonton. From July 10 to 14, women from across Canada will be celebrating the 55th at a gathering in Vancouver. Information and registration forms are available on the British Columbia Conference website.

We have much to look back on in our 55 years. We have a legacy of dedicated service in our churches, communities and in the wider world. We have learned together and worshipped together. We have supported each other in fellowship, and I am impressed with the way some of the UCW women I know have maintained that support and fellowship over many years.

Since the last Conference Executive meeting in October, our Conference UCW has held a full executive meeting and two sub-executive meetings (one by teleconference). Reports from our Presbyteries and from UCW units show that there is still a lot going on in UCW locally, in Presbyteries, and through our Child Well Being Initiative. However, we are fewer and older than we used to be, and it is more difficult to find people to take leadership roles. There is also uncertainty about what will happen to the UCW structure if Remit 1 passes and our Presbyteries and Conferences are replaced by regions of currently unknown size and boundaries.

As we go into the future, I believe we need to support and continue what is good, let go of things which no longer work for us, and have confidence through all this in God, who goes with us and remains faithful.

Margery Wright
President, ANWC UCW.

APPENDIX L - Continued

Mission Unit	First Year of MSG	2014 Actual Grant	2015 Actual Grant	2016 Actual Grant	Unit Request	2017 Presby. Request	Grant Approved
<u>YELLOWHEAD PRESBYTERY</u>							
Fort McMurray: First United Church	1983	6,000	6,000	0	0	0	0
Grande Cache Pastoral Charge	1982		5,000	0	0	0	0
Presbytery Total		6,000	11,000	0	0	0	0
<u>INCORPORATED MINISTRIES</u>							
Bissell Centre (ED)	Pre 1981	50,000	50,000	48,000	65,000	65,000	51,000
Ecumenical Campus Min. Lethbridge (SA)	2002	12,000	10,000	8,000	9,000	9,000	9,000
Ecumenical Campus Min. Med. Hat (SA) *	2013	12,000	12,000	8,000	12,000	12,000	8,000
Faith Lift/St. Paul's Campus Ministry (ED)	Pre 2001	15,000	15,000	12,000	15,000	15,000	12,000
Inner City Pastoral Ministry (ED)	1981	15,000	15,000	15,000	18,000	18,000	15,000
United/Presbyterian Campus Ministry (CA)	Pre 2001	35,000	35,000	25,000	35,000	35,000	25,000
Incorporated Ministries Total		139,000	137,000	116,000	154,000	154,000	120,000
* Application in Transit							
Conference Total MSG		229,340.27	214,500	171,000	210,500	210,500	176,000
Grant Available		231,483	231,483	177,305	177,305	177,305	177,305
Uncommitted Balance (UB)					(33,195)	(33,195)	1,305
Return to (Draw from) Common Fund		2,142.73	16,983	6,305			

APPENDIX L - Continued

ALBERTA AND NORTHWEST CONFERENCE
SUMMARY OF MISSION TRANSITION FUND GRANTS

Applicant	2013 Grants Approved	2014 Grants Approved	2015 Grants Approved	2016 Grants Approved	2017 Grant Approved
Edmonton Presbytery New Ministry Development	10,000				
Corporations Ctte: Foundation Search Pilot Project Unused Portion Returned	10,000		(3,273.59)		
Naramata Centre Winter Session Food Source Focus	7,500	7,500			
Rundle's Mission Local History Education Program	7,200				
Coronation Presbytery: Unstoppable Church		3,000			
Foothills Presby. Congregation & Mission Development		9,850			
Robertson-Wesley, Edmonton: Spiritual Arts Collective		20,000			
South Calgary Youth Mission Engagement Camp		6,750			
St. David's, Leduc: Connections Project		0			
Youth and Young Adults: Rendezvous 2014		0			
High River Advocacy and Visitation Program		20,000			
Wild Rose United Church, Calgary: Human RITES		10,000			
Trinity, Edmonton: Changing the Plate Project		11,900			
Southminster-Steinhauer Edm.: Web/Digital Ministries		10,000			
St. Andrew's U.C., Edmonton: Community Hub Project			0		
Deer Park U.C., Calgary: Summer Play			3,500		
Red Deer Presbytery: Mission Transition Project			0		
South Calgary Youth Revolution Camp			5,000		
Trinity U.C., Picture Butte: Discovery Tuesday			1,600		
McKillop U.C., Lethbridge: Spirit Kids Day Camp			7,500		
Athabasca United Church: Small Group Ministries Project			14,000		
Edmonton Presbytery Intercultural Ministry Project			10,000		
McKillop Community Engagement Project			23,000		
McDougall U.C., Calgary Lunch Program			9,000		
Inner City Pastoral Ministry, Edmonton Oskapew Project			7,000		
Foothills Presbytery Technology Pilot Project (Phase 2)				5,000	
Symons Valley UC Zambia Tour				10,000	
United/Presbyterian Campus Ministry				15,000	
MW Moving Forward with Reconciliations (9,860/3yrs)				9,860	
Claresholm Community Conversation				500	
Claresholm Community Conversation				500	
President-Elect UCC Pilgrimage to Kenya					1,000
Total Requested					
Total Approved	34,700	99,000	80,600	40,360	1,000
Grant Available	75,000	115,300	94,573.59	88,973.59	123,613.59
Carried to Subsequent Period	40,300	16,300	13,973.59	48,613.59	122,613.59

APPENDIX M

ALBERTA & NORTHWEST CONFERENCE
PLANNING & ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE
REPORT TO MARCH 2017 EXECUTIVE MEETING

The Planning & Administration Committee met in April 2016 and again in September 2016. At each of our meetings we review the current financial situation of the Conference, hear from Appeals & Grants and the Leadership Development Resource Committees on their work since the last meeting and always are talking budget.

Our April 2016 meeting was done by conference call, and thanks to Ann Thomas and Shauna Scott we had some preliminary budget numbers for 2017 to start to work with. We knew already that our 2017 budget as well as the upcoming 2018 budget will create some challenges for our Conference as funding from the National office was going to be cut, we received the same as 2016 for 2017 but already knew there would be no National Funding for staffing in 2018. We worked hard on what would be the best scenario for our pastoral charges going forward.

Our September 2016 meeting was held in Edmonton which our time was mainly spent on finalizing the 2017 budget in order for the Conference Executive to approve it at the October Meeting of the Executive. We as a committee felt that it was necessary to increase the 2017 assessments in order to lessen the blow that will happen in 2018.

As chair of Planning & Administration I also chair the January Forum which is a time set aside for all chairs of every committee to share with us both the volunteer resources and the financial resources they will need the following year in order to live out the work they have been engaged to do. The forum held on Jan 19, 2017 was talking about moving forward into 2018 with so many uncertainties.

The biggest challenge I see for the Planning & Administration Committee in doing their work in 2017 will be trying to create a 2018 budget that is sustainable, yet fulfills the needs of all involved in Alberta & Northwest Conference. We need to be able to do the great work that we are all passionate about, with a strong focus on how realizing that every dollar of our budget in 2018 will either come from our reserves, if a New Model is approved, and from assessments to our congregations. If per chance a New Model isn't approved we would then need to assess our congregations for the entire budget, is this sustainable. Sometimes it is hard being the realist at the table, but reality is that moving forward the work of our conference is very important, and our congregations will be the ones funding this good work. Even now as we do our work in 2017 we need to think about our budget, and say how our committee lives out this work the most economical, yet still does what we need to do and want to do and do it well.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Brodrick
Chair Planning & Administration Committee

APPENDIX N

LEADERSHIP RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
REPORT TO CONFERENCE EXECUTIVE

March 10, 2017

Meetings: the Leadership Resource Development Committee (LRDC) met by telephone conference call on November 29, 2016 and again on January 24, 2017

Appointments: Since our last report to Conference Executive the following appointments have been made to:

Corporations Committee: Sally Boyle as a Member

Living into Right Relations Committee: Tracy Robertson as the Co-Chairperson; Paul Andrew and Lavera Goodeye as Members

Education and Students Committee: Leigh Sinclair as Secretary (effective the Rise of Conference 2017)

Planning and Administration Committee: Jim Litchfield as a Member

Conference Meeting Planning Committee: Katharine Moore, Business and Technology; Wayne Flewelling, Local Arrangements; and Leigh Sinclair, Secretary

Note: it was reported that the Conference Meeting Planning Committee recruits Members for specific roles, and that LRDC assists with recruitment of 3-5 Members-at-Large as needed

Heritage Resources Committee: Pat Dyson as Secretary

Other Notes:

The **In Contact Editorial Board** remains a concern, having only two members.

Recruitment: LRDC is also focusing on several positions that will be vacant at the Rise of Conference.

LRDC Terms of Reference: in response to the approval by Conference Executive for Presbytery representation on the Committee, a letter has gone out to the Presbyteries asking that such appointments be made.

Staff Resource: The support of Kathy Jackson is invaluable. Thank-you, Kathy!

Respectfully submitted,
Martha Dawson, Chairperson,

On behalf of Committee Members: Peter Chynoweth, Henriette Kelker, Kathy Koehler, Deborah Laing, Leigh Sinclair, Members; and Kathy Jackson, Staff Resource.

APPENDIX O

MID TRIENNIUM EVENT PLANNING TEAM REPORT
CONFERENCE EXECUTIVE MARCH 2017

The Mid-Triennium Event Planning Team consists of Ray Goodship, Carolyn Woodall, Leigh Sinclair, Ruth Lumax, Paul Walfall, Kathy Yamashita, Bill Doyle and Kathy Jackson, with support from Local Arrangements Sue Hertell and Tammy Allan.

We have met three times face to face and numerous emails in between. It is exciting to see the event take shape. The original purpose of Mid Triennium events were to keep us connected in between meetings and provide spiritual nurture. We have chosen to build on the Conference Call to Prayer and Fasting.

Called to Be (Based on Esther 4) - Save the Date posters, registration information has gone to presbyteries.

Call to Prayer and Fast - from technology, from business. Meals will be simple.

Key Note Speaker - Dianne Baker - Emerging Wholeness work that flows out of Parker Palmers "Five Habits of the Heart". Dianne is a facilitator in Courage and Renewal.

She invites us to "Listening from our soul in response to the Spirit. Deep listening that allows us to live into the life that wants to be lived."

Music will be by Joyful Noise (who made their debut at Slave Lake Conference Meeting).

Audio/Visual Support through Allan Buckingham's company.

The event will offer three main sessions in the plenary using a cycle of Worship, Listening, Response and Engaging.

Called to Be - When God Speaks

I and Thou - Listening to the Other (Andrew Kinoti will be part of this session)

Good News - Sharing our Story

We're working on Facilitators to encourage us in our listening and response from Creative Writing to Yoga, Drumming to prayer and pilgrimage; lining up a Children's worship experience which will offer stories in a Godly Play style of Esther, Parable of the Good Samaritan and Parable of the Soils, as well as local activities.

Location is the Pomeroy Inn & Suites on the grounds of Olds College. We appreciate their hospitality and intentionality about community partnerships. And look forward to seeing you all there!

APPENDIX P

CELEBRATION OF MINISTRY 2017
UPDATE TO THE MARCH 2017 CONFERENCE EXECUTIVE MEETING.

The plans for the annual Celebration of Ministry events are almost complete. All the events will be held at the Pomeroy Inn, Olds, from May 27 – 28.

To date we have fifteen (15) ministry personnel retiring, (4) candidates for ordination and one candidate for admission.

Banquet

- Rev. Leigh Sinclair will be MC for the start of the event.
- Planning for 200 guests.
- Cost per ticket is set at \$40 which is due in large part to a subsidy from the Mid-Triennium Budget.
- Every effort is being made to have the event occur within a 2-hour time span.

Service

- Preacher will be Rev. Dr. Robert C. Fennell, Associate Professor of Historical and Systematic Theology, Atlantic School of Theology.
- Rev. Tammy Allen, Ministry Personnel for Olds-Sundre Pastoral Charge, will participate in the opening of the service and assist in the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper.
- Service has been amended to fit into a 2-hour time span.
- Offering received will be towards the Student Bursary Fund.
- New Conference President will be inducted during the service and will celebrate the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper.
- Reception will follow service for all in attendance.

The usual order of service for congregational use will be provided and made available by the beginning of April. Plans are being made to have online a recorded sermon as a resource for congregations that may have difficulties in having pulpit supply for Celebration of Ministry Sunday. Rev. Adam Hall has been asked to be the preacher for this resource.

Planning Team is made up of:

Rev. Bill Doyle	Executive Secretary
Rev. Leigh Sinclair	Immediate Past Conference President
Dr. Kathy Yamashita	Conference President Elect
Rev. Paul Douglas Walfall	Conference President
Melanie Funk	Staff Support

APPENDIX Q

2018 ALBERTA AND NORTHWEST CONFERENCE MEETING
PLANNING COMMITTEE REPORT: MARCH 2017

Greetings from the 2018 Conference Meeting Planning Committee. Even though we are still over a year away from the Conference Meeting I wanted to share with you some of the work that we have done so far.

Committee Members:

Paul Douglas Walfall (President)
Kathy Yamashita (President-Elect)
Bill Doyle (Executive Secretary)
Leigh Sinclair (Past President/Committee Secretary)
Katharine Moore (Chairperson for the Business and Technology Committee)
Stuart Jackson (Technology)
Wayne Flewelling (Local Arrangements)
Adam Hall (Chairperson for the Planning Committee)

To date the committee has met twice; once via conference call and then once in person at Sherwood Park United Church. Most of our meetings thus far have been about setting timelines and ensuring that we know all the elements that need our attention this far ahead of the actual meeting. After our meeting in Sherwood Park we were able to walk through the facility that will be hosting the meeting (Millennium Place) and felt very good with what we saw. The dates for the Conference Meeting have been set, by Conference Executive, as May 10-13, 2018 and a save the date email will be sent to the Conference very soon.

Katharine Moore (Chairperson for the Business Committee) has been busy with her committee already and they have put together a draft timeline for us to follow. You will note in her timeline that there is some question about the format of proposals coming in from the Presbyteries to the Conference meeting and we are waiting to hear from General Council about that. I have included the Business Committee's draft timeline at the end of this report.

Our committee named Taylor Croissant as the Chairperson of the theme committee and he, along with the help and support of Kathy Yamashita, will further develop the theme and then form a committee of interested people to help implement that theme for the conference. We have asked that the committee be aware that there will be a great deal of business to attend to at the meeting, but as per the reminder of Bill Doyle, "we also need to have fun."

A couple more exciting things to note are that as a committee we voted on and approved the use of the D.O.T.S voting system for the conference meeting. The committee felt that ability to electronically vote was an AWESOME experience. There was a concern raised about how poorly it work at GC42, but we felt with the capable (and lively) instructions of Peter Chynoweth that the system would indeed work for us again. We also have recommended that the same Audio Visual group that worked the last Conference meeting be contracted for our 2018 meeting. Last, but certainly not least, we received word from General Council in October of 2016, that it had been quite a few years since a Moderator had attended our annual meeting. Upon receiving this letter, I, with the blessing and the guidance of the committee, drafted a letter of invitation to The Rt. Rev. Jordan Cantwell asking her to be present and to take part in our conference meeting. I have since received a letter in return that our Moderator will be in attendance at our meeting and was very open to participating in the meeting, particularly with the youth, but also as the preacher for the Celebration of Ministry Service.

Submitted by,
Rev. Adam Hall
Rev. Adam Hall, Chairperson, 2018 Conference Planning Committee

APPENDIX Q - Continued

85th Alberta and Northwest Conference Meeting
10-13 May 2018
Millennium Place, Sherwood Park

PLANNING GUIDE FOR BUSINESS AND TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE
DRAFT dated 8 February 2017

November 2016	Business and Technology Committee (B&TC) constituted. Members are Stuart Jackson, Peter Chynoweth, Paul Walfall, Kathy Koehler, Gord Waldie and Katharine Moore (convener). The committee will work closely with ANWC staff Bill Doyle and Kathy Jackson.
December 2016	Blaine Gregg agreed to serve as Parliamentarian for the Conference meeting. Still working on securing the Chief of Stewards for the meeting.
8 January 2017	First meeting of the Conference Meeting Planning Committee (CMPC), chaired by Adam Hall. Update from the B&T committee. It was agreed that DOTS would be used for voting at the meeting, and that UVS (in Calgary) would be approached about supplying the audiovisual support for the meeting. The CMPC toured the venue (which had hosted the Conference meetings in 2008 and 2009).
8 February 2017	Circulate draft meeting agenda and timeline for review by CMPC and B&TC. The theme of the meeting to be confirmed by President-Elect - working title is "Called to be Faithful".
September 2017	Notify all Presbyteries about earlier deadlines for submission of proposals and selection of Presbytery nominees for General Council due to the Conference meeting being held in early May 2018
October 2017	Regular (at least monthly) phone meetings of B&TC begin. Drafting of instructions for submitting a proposal (including proposal format).
October 2017	Communication with Presbyteries as to requested format for proposals coming to the Conference meeting (check on possible guidance from GCE)
March 2018	Identify potential members of Reference in Council Committee. Continue to work on agenda for meeting.
1 April 2018	Deadline for Proposals to be received at the Conference Office for inclusion in the Agenda Book
15 April 2018	Deadline for Proposals to be included in the Registration Pack.
10-13 May 2018	85 th ANWC Meeting at Millennium Place in Sherwood Park