

**ALBERTA AND NORTHWEST CONFERENCE**  
**THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA**  
**SUB-EXECUTIVE MINUTES**

**DATE:** Sub-Executive Meeting: Wednesday, December 6, 2017, 3:00 p.m. (MST)

**PLACE:** Telephone Conference Call

**PRESENT:** Kathy Yamashita, President; Bill Doyle, Executive Secretary; Stuart Jackson, Edmonton Presbytery; Ray Goodship, Foothills Presbytery; and Ruth Lumax, Red Deer Presbytery.  
**Regrets:** Shannon McCarthy, Executive Secretary. **Recording Secretary:** Kathy Jackson.

**CONSTITUTION OF THE COURT:**

The meeting was called to order by the President, Kathy Yamashita, 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 84<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Alberta and Northwest Conference, I declare this meeting of the 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".*

Kathy Yamashita, President, welcomed the members of the Sub-Executive.

**AGENDA:**

The Agenda for this meeting was circulated prior to the meeting, and included:

1. An updated proposal from Allan Buckingham in response to conversation with Ruth Lumax after the October Executive Meeting; and
2. A request from Coronation Presbytery, in response to request from the Alsask United Church in Prairie Pine Presbytery of Saskatchewan Conference, to join the Pioneer Pastoral Charge in Coronation Presbytery.

**TECHNOLOGICAL VIABILITY ASSESSMENT:** Ruth Lumax

In response to the discussion of **Motion 2017/2018-14** (Executive Minutes, Page 17/18-34), Ruth Lumax reported on her conversation with Alan Buckingham regarding changes to his proposal to include viability in relation to video conferencing, worship, education and church meetings.

An updated proposal was subsequently received from Alan Buckingham, with the addition of a new final paragraph, to include the additional elements, and indicating an increase to the estimated cost of about \$650.00.

**Proposal:** That **Motion 2017/2018-14** be reconsidered to approve an increased initial expenditure to up to 3,000.00.

**Discussion:** Commissioners to the 43<sup>rd</sup> General Council will need access to online webinars and materials leading up to the Meeting; concern was raised that it is improper to reconsider a Motion of a separate session of a separate body; and it would be better to consider a motion to approve the additional expenditure.

**MOTION 2017/2018-24:** Stuart Jackson/Ray Goodship: That, with respect to the contract with Allan Buckingham to assess technological viability throughout the Conference in relation to video conferencing, worship, education, church meetings and preparatory resources for the 43<sup>rd</sup> General Council Commissioners, the Alberta and Northwest Conference Sub-Executive approves an additional expenditure of \$1,000.00, thus making the initial expenditure for this contract up to a maximum of \$3,000.00. **CARRIED.**

Executive  
Secretary

**ALSASK UNITED CHURCH:** Bill Doyle

Bill Doyle, Executive Secretary reported on the request received from Coronation Presbytery to approve the request of Alsask United Church, of the Prairie Pine Presbytery in Saskatchewan Conference, to move to the Pioneer Pastoral Charge in Coronation Presbytery, effective January 1, 2018.

It was noted that the Pioneer Pastoral Charge had confirmed that it was willing to accept Alsask United Church as a partner, that Coronation Presbytery had approved the request, and that the request had also been approved by the Sub-Executive of Saskatchewan Conference.

Bill Doyle advised the Sub-Executive Members that, because this change would require an adjustment to the boundaries of both Alberta and Northwest and Saskatchewan Conferences, the approval of the General Council would be required, and that its Sub-Executive would be meeting later in December.

**Discussion:** although the GC Sub-Executive has big issues before it, it was determined that this concern of local ministry should take priority over the discussion of denominational structural; hopefully the Boundaries Commission will see the need for "porous" boundaries; and the Boundaries Commission is aware of this action.

**MOTION 2017/2018-25:** Ruth Lumax/Ray Goodship: That the Alberta and Northwest Conference Sub-Executive, having received notice that the Alsask Pastoral Charge of Prairie Pine Presbytery in Saskatchewan Conference and the Pioneer Pastoral Charge of Coronation Presbytery in Alberta and Northwest Conference wish to join together as part of Alberta and Northwest Conference as the Pioneer Pastoral Charge and that each of the Presbyteries have approved the adjustment of their boundaries so that the amalgamated Pioneer Pastoral Charge will become a part of Coronation Presbytery, in Alberta and Northwest Conference, hereby alters the boundaries of Alberta and Northwest Conference as required to effect such a joining together effective January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2018, pursuant to s. D.2.2.1 of the Manual, and instructs the Executive Secretary to request that the General Council, pursuant to s. E.2.3.1 of The Manual, alters the boundaries of Saskatchewan Conference and Alberta and Northwest Conference to effect the same. **CARRIED.**

Executive  
Secretary

A copy of the Proposal to the General Council Sub-Executive is appended to these Minutes, as Appendix A, Sub-Executive Minutes page 17/18-80.

**It was Agreed** that the Executive Secretary, Bill Doyle, would submit the Proposal to the General Council Sub-Executive and communicate this Decision to Alsask United Church, Coronation Presbytery and Saskatchewan Conference.

**CLOSING PRAYER:**

The Closing Prayer was led by the President, Kathy Yamashita.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

As there was no further business to be brought to the Sub-Executive, the President declared this Meeting to be adjourned at 3:15 p.m.

The Members of the Sub-Executive were wished a wonderful Advent and Christmas seasons.

Kathy Yamashita,  
President

Bill Doyle,  
Executive Secretary

APPENDIX A

**ADJUSTMENT OF BOUNDARIES OF ALBERTA AND NORTHWEST CONFERENCE  
AND SASKATCHEWAN CONFERENCE**

**Origin: Alberta and Northwest Conference and Saskatchewan Conference**

**1. What is the issue?**

The Alsask Congregation of the Alsask Pastoral Charge of Prairie Pine Presbytery in Saskatchewan Conference and the Oyen, Cereal, and Acadia Valley Congregations of the Pioneer Pastoral Charge of Coronation Presbytery in Alberta and Northwest Conference would like to join together as congregations within the Pioneer Pastoral Charge in Coronation Presbytery in Alberta and Northwest Conference effective January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2018. A formal letter of request has been sent by the Alsask Congregation to the Pioneer Pastoral Charge and the Pioneer Pastoral Charge has passed a motion welcoming them as a new member of the Pastoral Charge on the effective date. For this to proceed, it is necessary for both Presbyteries and Conferences to approve the adjustment of their current boundaries and to request that the General Council alters the boundaries of Saskatchewan Conference and Alberta and Northwest Conference pursuant to s. E.2.3.1 of the Manual.

Prairie Pine Presbytery passed the required motion requesting such action by Saskatchewan Conference on April 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2017, and Coronation Presbytery passed the required motion approving the request on October 25<sup>th</sup>, 2017.

**2. Why is this issue important?**

The various congregations of Pioneer Pastoral Charge and the Alsask Congregation have been in relationship for a long period of time. This includes providing Sunday Supply to the Alsask Congregation 6 or 7 times a year by the minister who has been called by the Pastoral Charge. In addition, the ministry personnel also provides worship services during the Christmas season and whenever a funeral is necessary. She is also the pastoral charge supervisor for the Alsask Pastoral Charge and when it is convenient she even attends meetings of Prairie Pine Presbytery of Saskatchewan Conference as well as those of her own Coronation Presbytery of Alberta and Northwest Conference.

The Alsask congregation is 40 km away from the nearest congregation of the Pioneer Pastoral Charge but 65 km away from Kindersley which is the nearest Pastoral Charge in Prairie Pine Presbytery. While there is no relationship between the congregation in Alsask and the congregation in Kindersley, there has been an effective relationship between the Alsask Congregation and the congregations of the Pioneer Pastoral Charge. This includes supporting each other's activities such as fund raising concerts, bake sales, visioning workshops, and other events.

It is the intention of each congregation that this relationship continues and their hope is that the requested reorganization "be done by people who know each other under rules with which we are familiar". Passing the requested Proposal will allow that to happen.

**3. How might the General Council Sub-Executive respond to this issue?**

Pursuant to s. E.2.3.1 of the Manual, the General Council is responsible for the oversight of the Conferences. This responsibility includes (a) deciding on the number of Conferences and their boundaries. The General Council Sub-Executive might adopt the following proposal:

**That the General Council Sub-Executive, having received notice that the Alsask Pastoral Charge of Prairie Pine Presbytery in Saskatchewan Conference and the Pioneer Pastoral Charge of Coronation Presbytery in Alberta and Northwest Conference wish to join**

**APPENDIX A - Continued**

**together as part of Alberta and Northwest Conference as the Pioneer Pastoral Charge and that each of the Presbyteries and the Conferences have approved the adjustment of their boundaries so that the amalgamated Pioneer Pastoral Charge will become a part of Coronation Presbytery, in Alberta and Northwest Conference, hereby alters the boundaries of Saskatchewan Conference and Alberta and Northwest Conference as required to effect such a joining together effective January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2018, pursuant to s. E.2.3.1 of The Manual such that the new Pioneer Pastoral Charge is a part of Coronation Presbytery of Alberta and Northwest Conference.**

Otherwise, the General Council Sub-Executive could decline to take such action. With the restructuring of the United Church that is anticipated to be effective on January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019, either the new Region which includes both Pastoral Charges could then pass its own motion transferring the Alsask Congregation to the Pioneer Pastoral Charge. Otherwise, in case the existing Alberta and Northwest Conference and Saskatchewan Conference are by decision of the Boundaries Commission to be in different Regions, the Commission has already been advised that the boundaries should be drawn to include the Alsask Congregation in same Region as the Pioneer Pastoral Charge.

**4. For the body transmitting this proposal to the General Council Sub-Executive:**

Each of the Presbyteries which are joining in this request have passed the required motions or proposals. Each of the Conferences are being asked to do so at meetings of their respective Sub-Executives on December 6<sup>th</sup>, 2017.

November 30<sup>th</sup>, 2017