

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

DATE: Sub-Executive Meeting: Thursday, February 15, 2:00 p.m. (MST)

PLACE: Telephone Conference Call

PRESENT: Kathy Yamashita, President; Shannon McCarthy, Executive Secretary; Stuart Jackson, Edmonton Presbytery; Ray Goodship, Foothills Presbytery; and Ruth Lumax, Red Deer Presbytery. **Corresponding Member:** Earl Reaburn, Conference Personnel Minister.
Regrets: Bill Doyle, 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.

The President, Kathy Yamashita, welcomed the Members of the Sub-Executive, and led the opening prayer.

AGENDA:

The Agenda for this meeting was circulated prior to the meeting, and included a request from Calgary Presbytery for Conference Executive action regarding the Report of a Section J.9 (2016 United Church Manual) Review of the Rev. Dr. Danielle Ayana James and Hillhurst United Church, Calgary.

CORRESPONDING MEMBER:

Earl Reaburn, Conference Personnel Minister, was welcomed to resource the discussion.

MOTION 2017/2018-26: Stuart Jackson/Ruth Lumax: That Earl Reaburn, Conference Personnel Minister, be named as a Corresponding Member of the Sub-Executive for this Meeting. **CARRIED.**

MINUTES: May 23, 2017; June 20, 2017; and December 6, 2017

MOTION 2017/2018-27: Ray Goodship/Ruth Lumax: That the Minutes of the Sub-Executive Meetings held May 23, 2017; June 20, 2017; and December 6, 2017, be adopted as circulated. **CARRIED.**

REQUEST FROM CALGARY PRESBYTERY:

Shannon McCarthy, Executive Secretary, outlined the request from Calgary Presbytery:

Motion 2017/2018 – E35 Hugh Johnson/John Den Hoed: That Calgary Presbytery receives the Section J.9 Report (2016 Manual) concerning Danielle Ayana James, Ordained Minister, Retained on the Roll of Calgary Presbytery, and forwards it to the Executive Secretary of Alberta & Northwest Conference, to be dealt with by said Executive Secretary.
Motion carried. John Pentland abstained.

The Sub-Executive Members were advised that the primary reason for this request was concern about conflict of interest and the close relationships within Calgary Presbytery.

Shannon advised the Sub-Executive Members that it was their responsibility, on behalf of the Conference, to decide whether to take this on, acting in the role of Presbytery, and to decide whether the Sub-Executive would act and deal with the Report and its Recommendations or appoint a Commission to act.

Earl Reaburn, Conference Personnel Minister, confirmed that Calgary Presbytery Motion was in order.

Proposal: that the request from Calgary Presbytery be received and that the Sub-Executive agrees to act on behalf of Calgary Presbytery in this matter.

The President, Kathy Yamashita, admitted that she was acquainted with Rev. James, and offered to refrain from the discussion. It was determined that most of the Members of the Sub-Executive were acquainted with Rev. James.

Questions and clarification about the process were discussed, including a discussion on conflict of interest, perception of bias, and funding.

There was also a discussion on the merits of a Commission acting on behalf of the Sub-Executive as opposed to the Sub-Executive acting.

MOTION 2017/2018-28: Stuart Jackson/Ray Goodship: That the Sub-Executive of Alberta and Northwest Conference receive the request of Calgary Presbytery and agree to act on behalf of Calgary Presbytery with regard to the recommendations of the Report of the Manual Section J.9 Review of the Rev. Dr. Danielle Ayana James, and that Calgary Presbytery be held responsible for any costs incurred. **CARRIED.**

Proposal: that a Commission of 3-5 people be established to consider the recommendations of the Review Report.

The Members of the Sub-Executive were advised that the tasks would include the following: to meet with Rev. James to allow her to respond to the recommendations; to alter the recommendations if necessary; and to follow through on any recommendations.

Discussion was held about the makeup of the Commission. It was agreed that a balance of Ministry Personnel and Lay Members, gender, and race were important in naming the Commission Members.

MOTION 2017/2018-29: Ruth Lumax/Ray Goodship: That a Commission be established to consider and act upon the recommendations of the Report of the Manual Section J.9 Review of the Rev. Dr. Danielle Ayana James and that Kathy Yamashita, President and Shannon McCarthy, Executive Secretary recruit three (3) people to serve as said Commission, subject to the approval of the Conference Sub-Executive. **CARRIED.**

Discussion was held about who might make up the Commission.

The Sub-Executive Members were invited to email any further suggestions to Shannon McCarthy.

The Members of the Sub-Executive were reminded that all documents circulated with respect to this matter were to be held confidential and that all would need to be destroyed following this meeting.

NEXT MEETING:

It was agreed that the next meeting of the Sub-Executive would be held by telephone conference call on Tuesday, February 20, 2018, at 11:30 a.m.

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 President, Kathy Yamashita, gave the Benediction.

Kathy Yamashita,
President

Shannon McCarthy,
Executive Secretary