

ALBERTA AND NORTHWEST CONFERENCE
THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA
EXECUTIVE MINUTES

DATE: Executive Meeting: Wednesday and Thursday, March 14-15, 2018

PLACE: FCJ Retreat and Conference Centre, Calgary, Alberta

PRESENT: Kathy Yamashita, President; Paul Douglas Walfall, Past President; Margery Wright, President of Conference United Church Women; Shannon McCarthy, Executive Secretary; Alwin Maben, Intercultural Ministry Standing Committee; Amy Mueller, Living into Right Relations Standing Committee; Sue Brodrick, Planning and Administration Committee and Lay Representative to the General Council Executive; Carolyn Woodall, Stewardship and Mission Education Committee; Jope Langejans, Calgary Presbytery; Alan Richards, Coronation Presbytery; Stuart Jackson, Edmonton Presbytery; Ray Goodship, Foothills Presbytery; Neal Palmer, Northern Lights Presbytery; Ruth Lumax, Red Deer Presbytery; Stewart Thomas, South Alberta Presbytery; Scott Reynolds, St. Paul Presbytery; Curtis Tufts, Yellowhead Presbytery; and Donalee Williams, Ordered Representative to the General Council Executive.
Corresponding Members: (Wednesday only) Shelley Den Haan, Communications Consultant; (Thursday only) Allan Buckingham, CnA media Consulting.
Regrets: Bill Doyle, Executive Secretary; Ed Bardock, South Alberta Presbytery.
Recording Secretary: Kathy Jackson.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 14, 2018

CONSTITUTION OF THE COURT:

The meeting was constituted 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 84th 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".

WELCOME: Kathy Yamashita

The President, Kathy Yamashita, welcomed the Executive Members.

Regrets were received on behalf of Bill Doyle, Executive Secretary, and concern was expressed for the health of Ed Bardock, South Alberta Presbytery.

ORDER PAPER:

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

MOTION 2017/2018-32: Sue Brodrick/Margery Wright: BE IT RESOLVED:

1. that the Agenda for this meeting be adopted, subject to revisions as approved by the Executive;
2. that 3:00 p.m., Thursday, March 15, 2018, 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;
3. that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Alberta and Northwest Conference Executive held October 11-12, 2017, be adopted as circulated;
4. that the Minutes of the Meetings of the Alberta and Northwest Conference Sub-Executive held December 6, 2017, and February 15, 2018 and February 20, 2018, be received for information;

5. that Corresponding Privileges be extended to any 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, and Stewardship and Mission Education Standing Committees, and the Presbytery Representatives be received for information;
7. that the Correspondence Log as circulated, and appended to these Minutes, as Appendix A (Executive Minutes, Page 17/18-102), be received; and
8. 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. **CARRIED.**

Appendix A

MORNING WORSHIP and CHECK-IN: Donalee Williams and Curtis Tufts

The Morning Worship was led by Donalee Williams, Order of Ministry Representative to General Council Executive, and Curtis Tufts, Yellowhead Presbytery. The music was led by Margery Wright, Conference UCW.

Donalee Williams led the opening prayer.

The Scripture, John 12:20-26, was read by Curtis Tufts.

Curtis reflected on "letting go" as the church faces anticipated changes: letting go as a three-step process, including, loosening grip/disentangling, letting go; and turning in a new direction/redirecting energy.

Executive Members were invited to think about where each was on this continuum, considering one or more of the following questions.

How are you loosening your grip? And from what?

Are there aspects that have already been let go? What is that like?

Where do you see yourself called into new direction(s)?

After reflection in small groups, Executive Members were invited to introduce themselves and share some of their reflections.

Donalee Williams led a closing prayer and benediction.

At its conclusion, Donalee and Curtis were thanked for their worship leadership.

Amy Mueller, new Chairperson for the Living into Right Relations Standing Committee, was introduced to the Executive.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT: Kathy Yamashita

The Past President, Paul Douglas Walfall, chaired this portion of the meeting.

The President, Kathy Yamashita, gave an update of her travels since the last Executive Meeting.

Kathy reflected on her experiences meeting with diverse groups of United Church people, from visits within our Conference, to her pilgrimage to Kenya.

Global partners and the justice work of the Mission and Service of the United Church were uplifted, as well as the opportunity for Kathy to talk about the relocation of Japanese Canadians during the Second World War.

Kathy Yamashita concluded her report by expressing appreciation to Alberta and Northwest Conference for the opportunity to serve as its President.

Discussion: appreciation was expressed for Kathy's powerful message to Northern Lights Presbytery about Japanese Canadians.

At its conclusion, Kathy Yamashita was thanked for her report and for her work as Conference President.

The President, Kathy Yamashita, resumed chairing the meeting.

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY'S REPORT: Shannon McCarthy

Shannon McCarthy, Executive Secretary, reported that there is a lot going on in the United Church, to ready it for anticipated structural changes, with lots of information to share, and some that has not been released yet.

It was reported that the Conference Staff are "keeping on" in the midst of crazy uncertainty and changing timelines. There is anxiety, but the Conference Office is functioning well.

Executive Members were advised that the Conference Office is moving to Kirk United Church Centre (Edmonton) in July, as the current office lease expires July 31. This will happen during the 43rd General Council. A group appointed by the Planning and Administration Committee will help with disposal of excess furniture, etc.

It was reported that the General Secretary released decisions regarding the staffing regions, which will group Southern Alberta (Region 3) with British Columbia (Region 1), and Northern Alberta (Region 2) with Saskatchewan (Region 4) and Manitoba/Northwestern Ontario (Region 5). Other regional groupings across the church were also noted.

Presbytery leaders in each region were involved in discussions with the General Secretary regarding appointment of Provisional Executive Ministers for the staffing regions, and once the General Council Sub-Executive has confirmed the appointments, announcements will be forthcoming.

Discussion: concern about the grouping of regions 2, 4 & 5 into a such a large swatch of Canada; the Transition Team also shared this concern, as well as comments about the current experience of three Conferences sharing two Executive Secretaries; the number of Pastoral Charges was part of the equation; the Executive Minister position description is very different from that of current Executive Secretaries; and before its decisions were finalized, the Boundaries Commission honoured specific changes that were requested.

Some of the financial principles for the restructuring were shared: governance funding will be split into seventeen portions for sixteen regions with the extra available for contingencies; that around \$550,000 will be distributed to each for mission and ministry, including current Mission Support Grant funding; and that money is set aside for Indigenous Ministries; and some contingency money may be needed to allow for relationship between regions and the Indigenous Ministries within them.

Shannon reported on her trip to Myanmar, which was an amazing opportunity.

Once her learnings have been integrated, Shannon will seek opportunities to share them. Shannon advised that the ministry we support through Mission and Service is particularly useful for empowering women in the Asian context.

It was reported that the Transition Team re Executive Secretary sharing met with Nora Sanders, General Secretary, and David Allen, Remit Implementation Task Group Chairperson, and that the Memorandum of Understanding being used here may be used in the future.

At the conclusion of her report, Shannon offered appreciation to the Executive Members for their work.

The Executive Secretary, Shannon McCarthy, was thanked for her work on behalf of Alberta and Northwest Conference.

GENERAL COUNCIL EXECUTIVE REPORT: Donalee Williams and Sue Brodrick

Sue Brodrick reported highlights from the electronic meeting held on March 4, including the following: Remit 6 did not pass; the preliminary 2019 GC budget is striving to maintain grant levels; regional gatherings are not in the 2019 Budget yet, but will be funded from reserves, as they are one-time costs for the denomination; reserves are higher than projected due to investment income; plans for the Board of Vocation and Candidacy Boards were shared; a change to the Admissions Policy and Procedures will align better with Canadian

Immigration rules; a grant program is being launched for energy audits and there will be grants in the new compensation model for rural and remote churches providing manses; and full communion with the Disciples of Christ (USA) will proceed as soon as it is approved by the General Council.

Donalee Williams shared these highlights: the Moderator's report on groups supported by Mission and Service identified the importance of partnership, both gifts and support, as well as the opportunity for ecumenical/interfaith work and collaboration; the Living Apology has been continuing and both pain and hope have been shared in the stories; the 44th General Council will work towards extending the apology and providing support, at the request for an extended timeline from Affirm United; the Theology and Interfaith Standing Committee presented a report on the theology of adoption which is available on the United Church Commons website; the new decision model used at General Council, involving listening, discussion, and decision, is working well, and includes webinars ahead of the meeting.

At its conclusion, Sue Brodrick and Donalee Williams were thanked for their report.

LUNCH: Grace was sung, led by Donalee Williams.

COMMUNICATIONS CONSULTANT: Shelley Den Haan

Shelley Den Haan, Communications Consultant, reported on the change from *PayPal* to *Stripe* for easier online payments, and better customer service.

It was noted that a recent Pastoral Boundaries course referred to the Hamilton Conference social media policy, which was adapted from the same policy of this Conference.

Shelley reminded the Executive Members that articles for the eNewsletter can be submitted using the information provided at the bottom of each newsletter.

CORRESPONDENCE: Shannon McCarthy

H. Reed, Coronation Presbytery: advising that the Big Valley-Erskine-Botha Pastoral Charge had been renamed Big Valley-Erskine Pastoral Charge.

H. Reed, Coronation Presbytery: Advising re dispersal of proceeds from the sale of McNeill Memorial United Church, Empress, Alberta.

H. Reid, South Alberta Presbytery: recommendation re dispersal of assets from the sale of the former Bow Slope United Church.

Proposal:

- a. to pay all costs associated with the sale of said property;
- b. 5% to the Conference Heritage Resources Committee Archives Trust Fund;
- c. 15% to The United Church of Canada Mission and Service Fund;
- d. 20 % to the Brooks United Church
- e. 20% to the Rainier, Alberta, Cemetery
- f. 20% to the Scandia, Alberta, Cemetery; and
- g. 20% to the Bow City, Alberta, Cemetery for maintenance of the burial sites of members and adherents of the Bow Slope United Church.

Discussion: Bow Slope United Church was disbanded by South Alberta Presbytery in June 2014 and the property has now been sold; the buyer will share the costs; there is concern that the suggested dispersal is contrary to the Conference Legacy Revitalization Fund Policy; the Rainier and Bow City Cemeteries do not have charitable status, and Scandia is not a United Church cemetery; this dispersal was approved by the Presbytery; the Canada Revenue Agency does not allow donations from charitable organizations to those with no charitable status; the Legacy Revitalization Fund Policy was instituted to be clear that funds from the sale of UC properties must stay in The United Church of Canada; the sale of the property is ok - dispersal of the proceeds is the question; 60% of the funds are proposed to be given to organizations with no charitable status and/or non-United Church entities; the

Congregation helped with upkeep of these cemeteries while the church was operating; Presbytery could investigate other UC choices; and people had not worshiped at this church for many years before it was disbanded.

MOTION 2017/2018-33: Sue Brodrick/Joep Langejans: That the Alberta and Northwest Conference Executive approve the sale of the property which is the former Bow Slope United Church and which is commonly known as Oasis Subdivision, 153080 Hwy 873, #12 Ranier, Alberta, and legally described as: Meridian 4 Range 15 Township 16 Section 20, that portion of the Westerly 243 feet of the Easterly 923 feet of the North East Quarter which lies to the North of the Ranier Access Road on Plan 611JK containing 1.21 Hectares (3.00 Acres), more or less, excepting thereout all mines and minerals and the right to work same and represented by Title No. 121 120 222 to Justin R. Graham, as purchaser, for the consideration of \$30,000.00, provided that the purchaser and vendor will share equally all costs in relation to the transaction. **CARRIED.**

Executive
Secretary

MOTION 2017/2018-34: Sue Brodrick/Amy Mueller: That the remaining assets of the Bow Slope United Church including the net proceeds of sale of the property which is the former Bow Slope United Church be divided as follows:
5% to the Conference Heritage Resources Committee Archives Trust Fund;
15% to the Mission and Service Fund;
20% to the Brooks United Church;
20% to the Ranier Alberta Cemetery;
20% to the Scandia Alberta Cemetery; and
20% to the Bow City Alberta Cemetery.

POINT OF ORDER: Ruth Lumax

Question: Who is making the proposal?

Response: South Alberta Presbytery.

Question: If we can't approve the dispersal of these funds outside of The United Church of Canada, can we have this motion declared ultra vires?

The President, Kathy Yamashita declared **Motion 2017/2018-34** to be ultra vires.

MOTION 2017/2018-34: Sue Brodrick/Amy Mueller: as presented. **WITHDRAWN.**

Discussion: to honour the intention of the request, the funds could be given to Brooks United Church and they be asked to continue to support the cemeteries; a church can't write a cheque to the cemeteries without risking its charitable status; the Presbytery could work with Brooks to create a charitable society; and we have two things to communicate - due diligence in advising re CRA rules, and that the Presbytery and the Conference can work out options.

IT WAS AGREED that Bill Doyle, Executive Secretary, would be asked to write a letter to South Alberta Presbytery, explaining why such a Decision would be ultra vires and the issues related to the Canada Revenue Agency's rules re Charitable Organization status, and offering to assist the Presbytery to find a way to work with the Trustees to come back with another Proposal.

Executive
Secretary

M.Kaup, Oddleifson & Kaup: advising that the transfer of title for the former Vilna United Church cemetery had been completed. (Follow-up to **Motions 2017/2018-17 to 20**, Executive Minutes, Pages 17/18-34-35).

C.Bouey Shank, ANWC Student Bursary Fund Society: requesting that the offering from the 2018 Celebration of Ministry Service be given to the Student Bursary Fund; and that the Society be granted time on the Agenda of the Conference Meeting for its Annual Meeting.

It was noted that the Student Bursary Fund Society Annual Meeting is already on the Agenda for the Conference Meeting.

Conference Meeting

MOTION 2017/2018-35: Margery Wright/Donalee Williams: That, the offering from the May 13, 2018 Celebration of Ministry Service be designated to the Alberta and Northwest Conference Student Bursary Fund Society. **CARRIED.**

E.Taylor-Kerr, Conference Interview Board: recommending that Christian Kakez-A-Kapend, MiYeon Kim and F. Hati Mvundura be admitted to the Order of Ministry of The United Church of Canada.

MOTION 2017/2018-36: Shannon McCarthy/Alan Richards: That Christian Kakaz-A-Kapend, an ordained minister in the United Methodist Church of the United States of America, be admitted to the Order of Ministry of The United Church of Canada, pending completion of all requirements of The United Church of Canada. **CARRIED.**

Conference Personnel Minister

MOTION 2017/2018-37: Shannon McCarthy/Scott Reynolds: That MiYeon Kim, an ordained minister in the Presbyterian Church of the Republic of Korea, be admitted to the Order of Ministry of The United Church of Canada, pending completion of all requirements of The United Church of Canada. **CARRIED.**

Conference Personnel Minister

MOTION 2017/2018-38: Shannon McCarthy/Neal Palmer: That Hati Mvundura, an ordained minister in the Canadian Baptists of Western Canada, be admitted to the Order of Ministry of The United Church of Canada, pending completion of all requirements of The United Church of Canada. **CARRIED.**

Conference Personnel Minister

Appreciation was expressed for the work of the Conference Interview Board.

W.Youngward, Interim Ministry Committee: recommending designation as Interim Minister for Karen Holmes, Marilyn Carroll, Carolyn Woodall and Kimberly Roy; and continued designation as Interim Minister for Peter Kugba-Nyande.

MOTION 2017/2018-39: Shannon McCarthy/Ruth Lumax: That, having heard the recommendation of the Conference Interim Ministry Committee, and pursuant to Section I.1.7.2 of The Manual of The United Church of Canada, the Executive of the Alberta and Northwest Conference designates Karen Holmes, Marilyn Carroll, Carolyn Woodall, and Kimberly Roy as Interim Ministers, without conditions; that the Executive continues to designate Peter Kugba-Nyande as an Interim Minister, without conditions, and; that these designations be valid from March 14, 2018, for a period of five (5) years, or until such earlier removal by the Conference Executive acting on the recommendation of the Interim Ministry Committee. **CARRIED.**

Conference Personnel Minister

Carolyn Woodall, Stewardship and Mission Education, requested that her abstention to **Motion 2017/2018-39** be recorded.

TRANSITION TO THE PROPOSED REGIONAL COUNCILS:

Copies of the materials outlining the proposed regional staffing model were circulated to the Executive Members prior to the meeting.

It was reported that Presbytery Chairpersons would be involved in decision making prior to the establishment of regional governance.

Shannon McCarthy, Executive Secretary, outlined the feedback loops, and reminded Executive Members that the General Council cannot tell regions what to do, but that a consistent leadership model across the church is needed.

It was reported that the Caretakers of the United Church Indigenous Circle have made recommendations regarding transition for Indigenous Congregations.

Discussion: the Office of Vocation will be filling some of the current Conference Personnel Minister roles; each region will need to determine what it needs for staff support re pastoral relations/effective leadership; the percentages of Assessment vs. M&S grants to regions has not yet determined; regions will decide distribution of Mission Support Grant funding, mission and ministry based staffing, and other grants; and the hope is that Presbyteries will give funding to their projects ahead of time, or designate current funds as explicitly as possible for the regions to continue the work.

TRANSITION CHECKLISTS I:

Copies of transition checklists for United Church courts (November 2017), prepared by the Remit Implementation Task Group, were circulated to the Executive Members prior to the meeting.

It was reported that the Planning and Administration Committee will meet in April to develop a recommendation re division of the Conference's reserves and designated and other funds, between the two regions within its bounds; and that this proposal would be brought to the October 2018 Executive Meeting.

Discussion: Coronation and Red Deer Presbyteries need to look at this as well; the Student Bursary Fund Society will also be looking at this; networks/clusters will not be constrained by regional boundaries; and relationships with congregations in All Tribes Presbytery are still to be determined.

Executive Members were reminded that none of the Presbytery CRA charitable registration numbers will be dropped as it is easier to rename a charity than to apply for establishment of a new one.

Discussion: financial records will need to be kept electronically by the General Council Office, or boxed and put into the archives; internet domain names will become a shared service, and will be influenced by the naming of the regions; current domain names will be archived; and there will be a plan for scanning to keep all records electronically, and the policy will be developed by the denominational council.

It was reported that the oversight of Archives, either regionally or nationally, is being considered.

PROCESS FOR NOMINATIONS OF DENOMINATIONAL LEADERS:

It was reported that the Leadership Resource Development Committee had been asked to develop a proposal for a process by which the Conference could choose nominations to the Denominational Council and the Board of Vocation and its Committees.

Copies of the Proposal were circulated to the Executive Members prior to the Meeting. A copy is appended to these Minutes, as Appendix B, Executive Minutes, Page 17/18-103.

It was reported that the General Council Nominating Committee will receive five nominations from each Conference for the Denominational Council, and five nominations for the Board of Vocation. The names submitted would form pools from which 12 nominees to the Denominational Council and 15 nominees to the Board of Vocation would be chosen.

The proposed process was considered.

Discussion: where more people are involved in electing nominees, there is more opportunity for discernment, and more transparency; this decision should be made by the whole Conference; racial diversity is important; wisdom and experience are important; gender, age, racial and other voices are needed; the General Council Nominations Committee will use diversity markers when choosing its recommendations; and applications will be circulated as soon as possible.

Appendix B

MOTION 2017/2018-40: Sue Brodrick/Carolyn Woodall: That the processes developed by the Leadership Resource Development Committee for the naming of nominees to the Denominational Council and the Board of Vocation be approved.

CARRIED.

Appreciation was expressed for this work of the Leadership Resource Development Committee.

ELECTION OF GC43 COMMISSIONERS:

Copies of a letter from the General Council Office outlining the need to elect a maximum of 27 Commissioners to the 43rd General, and the *Alberta and Northwest Conference Policy on the Election of Commissioners to General Council* were circulated to the Executive Members prior to the meeting.

Attention was drawn to the issues of diversity raised by the General Council Nominations Committee, and the process used in the Conference of Manitoba and Northwestern Ontario was outlined.

Discussion: Three youth went to the GC Youth Forum February event; one was chosen to be a Commissioner from ANWC, and the other two might be interested in Youth Forum; Presbyteries may or not be able to find diversity from which to choose; and work for this General Council will require Commissioners with the ability to participate in webinars before the Meeting.

IT WAS AGREED that the existing Alberta and Northwest Conference process for election of Commissioners to the General Council be used in 2018, and that Presbyteries and the Conference Meeting Delegates be encouraged to ensure diversity when making nominations.

BOUNDARIES COMMISSION FINAL REPORT:

It was noted that Bar Harbour Camp is located on Hwy 13, and not near Grande Prairie, and that this has been corrected by the Boundaries Commission.

TRANSITION CHECKLISTS II:

Further discussion of the Transition Checklists included the following points: a reminder that the Remit Implementation Group will need some positions to carry on into 2019 for financial audits, property, etc., in the interim until The United Church of Canada Act has been amended; closing motions will need to empower Executives to act until the end of 2018; policies that are important will need to be communicated to the regional commissions; and there are Worship resources online for ending Presbyteries.

It was noted that there would be several closing motions for the October Executive Meeting, so the Executive Secretary will work with the President to determine if two days will be sufficient.

EVANGELISM EDUCATION AD HOC COMMITTEE: Paul Douglas Walfall

Copies of the Evangelism Education Ad Hoc Committee were circulated to the Executive prior to the meeting. A copy is appended to these Minutes, as Appendix C, Executive Minutes, Page 17/18-104.

Paul Douglas Walfall, Past President, reported that presentations were made for Presbyteries to advertise the webinar with Dr. Walter Bruggemann, to be held later in March, and that 44 persons had already registered.

Presbytery Representatives were asked to find out which congregations would be participating in clusters to be convened in September. Once the details have been arranged, the Ad Hoc Committee will apply to the Mission Transition Fund for financial assistance.

It was reported that the Ad Hoc Committee will be rolling out its plans to use social media for sharing faith stories closer to date of the Conference Meeting.

Leadership
Resource
Development
Committee

Conference
Meeting
Business and
Technology
Committee

President and
Executive
Secretary

Appendix C

Paul Douglas Walfall concluded his report with the concern that the mandate of the Evangelism Education Ad Hoc Committee ends in May, but that its work will continue beyond its end date.

MOTION 2017/2018-41: Carolyn Woodall/Donalee Williams: That the mandate of the Evangelism Education Ad Hoc Committee be extended to December 31, 2018, to allow for completion of its work. **CARRIED.**

PRESBYTERY MATTERS:

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

Northern Lights Presbytery: (Neal Palmer) The Presbytery is very good at raising money for Mission and Service at its meetings, with the use of great auctioneers. Presbytery is looking at shared ministry in one place. The Lay Commissioner nominee has withdrawn. The largest challenge to preparing for transition is getting started. There is concern that the new Presbytery Treasurer is being overwhelmed.

Yellowhead Presbytery: (Curtis Tufts) The Executive Council has been working on the transition. There is concern that some processes not fall through the cracks. The Drayton Valley Commission will make its final report to the next Presbytery Meeting.

St. Paul Presbytery: (Scott Reynolds) The last Presbytery Meeting continued the conversation about the state of Camp Whitney, where kids' camps in 2017 were cancelled, and yet the camp made money over the year. To emphasize the importance of this ministry, it may be helpful to hold a wider conversation about camping ministry in the Conference or the region. The Elk Point Trustees resigned before the property was sold, so Presbytery Trustees were named. There is concern about what happens if the property is not sold by the end of 2018. Paul DuVal is retiring and leaving Lloydminster, and it is hoped that this vacancy will be filled by the end of 2018.

Discussion: the Trustees issue will likely be moved to the Denomination; and Lloydminster would be a good site for intentional interim ministry.

Edmonton Presbytery: (Stuart Jackson) The President, Kathy Yamashita, was thanked for her visit to the Presbytery. More information will be coming to the Conference Meeting re the Alberta Land Trust, a way for congregations to earn money from their property/assets. The Presbytery is working on the Transition Checklist issues re mission ministries.

Red Deer Presbytery: (Ruth Lumax) The Leading Transformation Event had participants from over 80 people from over 70 Pastoral Charges from seven of our nine Presbyteries. The facilitator is highly commended. There is concern in the Presbytery about recent correspondence re the Sacraments policy.

Amy Mueller, Living into Right Relations, requested, and was given permission, to absent herself from this discussion.

Shannon McCarthy, Executive Secretary, read from the letter sent to Red Deer Presbytery from Earl Reaburn, Conference Personnel Minister, outlining the Conference policy regarding licensing of Sacraments for Designated Lay Ministers. He wrote that licensing is not granted when the Pastoral Charge is served by a team ministry that includes a Member of the Order of Ministry.

Discussion was held about the Red Deer request being outside the policy and whether or not a one-time exception could be made, or if there is a need to change the policy.

Executive Members were reminded that, if the relevant Remits are enacted, this may be under the authority of the Office of Vocation.

Discussion: a discussion ensued about whether or not to change the policy for the remaining 10 months that the Conference will exist.

MOTION 2017/2018-42: Sue Brodrick/Donalee Williams: That the Alberta and Northwest Conference change its policy on Administration of the Sacraments to grant permission for Designated Lay Ministers to be licensed to administer the Sacraments for the duration of appointments as Designated Lay Ministers working in congregational ministry, if requested by the congregation through the Presbytery, pending completion of all educational requirements. **CARRIED.**

Executive Secretary

MOTION 2017/2018-43: Ruth Lumax/Carolyn Woodall: That the Alberta and Northwest Conference inform all Designated Lay Ministers currently serving in congregational ministry in Alberta and Northwest Conference that there has been a change in the policy for the Administration of Sacraments, and that they be informed of the process for application and the potential for these privileges to be re-invoked once the new United Church structure is implemented. **CARRIED.**

Executive Secretary

At the conclusion of the discussion, Amy Mueller returned to the Meeting.

Coronation Presbytery: (Alan Richards) The Presbytery will begin working on the Transition Checklist at its Executive Meeting next week. Three Joint Needs Assessment Committees are needed. Supervision of vacant Pastoral Charges is causing stress. A Proposal is being worked on to allow for e-mail meetings. Licensed Lay Worship Leaders have been challenged about pastoral visiting in hospitals. Part of the frustration is that small congregations are trying to get ministry done according to policies they can't meet. This is a pastoral issue. Stettler UC and a community family are sponsoring refugees from Ethiopia.

Foothills Presbytery: (Ray Goodship) Appreciation was expressed for the work of Presbytery Secretary, Greg Woolley. The Presbytery is looking at how to finish well. A cluster "speed dating" exercise will be a chance to match congregations who want to work together. Ray will be taking a sabbatical this summer. The Foothills Presbytery visit by the President has not yet been arranged.

Calgary Presbytery: (Jope Langejans) The check list gets longer as we check things off. The Presbytery and St. Andrew's Regional Ministry have hired an Affirming Ministry Coordinator in Calgary. Knox United Church is installing a coffee shop in its sanctuary. Shannon McCarthy joined a wine and cheese gathering to talk about clustering. Conversation is being held with Northminster re Blessed Harvest Chinese Church wanting to align with The United Church of Canada. A presentation was received from Joel Thiessen on flourishing congregations. Ogden UC is looking at rebuilding to become a community hub. Several Joint Needs Assessment Committees are being encouraged to use the BC Conference process. There are some pastoral relations issues in Calgary.

South Alberta Presbytery: (Stewart Thomas) Canyon Church Camp won't run this year while rebuilding after the 2017 wild fires; the Board is busy with fundraising. Southeastern Alberta is sparsely populated, which creates struggles for its churches. The Transition Checklist hasn't been started yet. Clustering is interesting, and could be the most important thing about this anticipated new structure. Presbyters are looking at the new regional structure positively, as a way to increase the number of people to do the work.

The Past President, Paul Douglas Walfall, assumed the chair in order for the President, Kathy Yamashita to join the discussion.

Discussion: the fires stopped at the midpoint of the camp, levelling some cabins, and leaving the rest intact; the Board is waiting for Parks Canada to give them permission, once the clearing is complete, to work on the site again; the town of Waterton was preserved; fundraising is going well; and the only building insured was the dining lodge and it didn't burn down.

At the conclusion of the discussion, the President, Kathy Yamashita, resumed chairing the Meeting.

South Alberta Presbytery: (continued) A letter regarding retention of Presbytery funds was sent from South Alberta Presbytery to the other Presbyteries. South

Alberta Presbytery is hoping to pay an honourarium to a church to manage funds to look after ministries such as Canyon Church Camp, scholarships to ministers in training, and a fund for congregations to host a student minister.

Discussion: the ministries would need to be itemized; each Presbytery could do this, but it undermines what it means to be United Church; ministries that are important need to become ministries of the region; we need encouragement to look at bigger picture; undesignated funds should go into the region; there would be no control over what a congregation will do going forward; we need help to dispel misinformation; there has been no responses to the letters; and perhaps Bill Doyle, Executive Secretary could do a webinar for Presbytery Treasurers re designated ministries and the Financial Transition Checklist.

SUPPER BREAK: Grace was led by Stewart Thomas.

A song was presented by Alwin Maben.

CONFERENCE UNITED CHURCH WOMEN: Margery Wright

A copy of the report from the Conference United Church Women is appended to these Minutes, as Appendix D, Executive Minutes, Page 17/18-106.

Margery Wright, Conference UCW President, reported that the UCW is looking forward to its AGM, April 12-14, at the FCJ Centre, with the theme, Reconcile and Make New. The planning team has arranged for a presentation of "New Blood: A Story of Reconciliation" at Foothills Mennonite Church, Calgary.

Executive Members were advised that the Child Well-Being Initiative is winding down after ten years, and that the Governments are doing some of the things identified in the project. The Initiative is still underway in London Conference, in their Bread not Stones project.

In response to a question, it was reported that regions will determine if there is UCW representation on their councils, depending on UCW organization.

Margery Wright advised that she had been asked to continue as UCW President through this time of transition, beyond her current term which would normally end at the April AGM.

Discussion: the Child Well-Being Initiative was a very good initiative; regional and denominational councils will not be representative bodies; networks will allow freedom to more widely respond to needs; some regions may not even have UCW in their communities of faith; and it is hoped that UCW will continue to bring important issues to the attention of the church.

LIVING INTO RIGHT RELATIONS COMMITTEE: Amy Mueller

Copies of the written report from the Living Into Right Relations Committee were circulated to the Executive Members prior to the meeting. A copy is appended to these Minutes, as Appendix E, Executive Minutes, Page 17/18-107.

Amy Mueller, Chairperson for the Living Into Right Relations Standing Committee, responded to questions arising from the written report.

Discussion: the September 2017 unveiling of the Memorial Stone for the Red Deer Industrial School was powerful; and transitioning into the new model will elicit two proposals for a national network for Living into Right Relations and talking about continuing to work together as one unit.

At its conclusion, Amy Mueller was thanked for her report.

STEWARDSHIP AND MISSION EDUCATION COMMITTEE: Carolyn Woodall

A copy of the written report of the Stewardship and Mission Education Committee is appended to these Minutes, as Appendix F, Executive Minutes, Page 17/18-108.

Carolyn Woodall, Stewardship and Mission Education Committee Chairperson, reported that the next meeting of the Committee will be held later in March, and will include General Council Staff and Kathy Yamashita, President.

Appendix D

Appendix E

Appendix F

Executive Members were advised that, at its October meeting, the Committee determined that it will host a Stewardship Event, October 19-21, in Red Deer. Chris Levan will address the need for the first world dominant understanding of Stewardship to include relinquishment, to let others be and do their own thing, and workshops will challenge the dominant culture people to “do the right thing”, and further the “Awkward Conversation”. In addition, National Mission and Service staff persons will roll out the next United Church giving program.

Discussion: a question was raised about how to put in place legacy funding, and what kind of motions need to be made by the Committee; recommendations re sharing of the Conference’s designated funds will be discussed by the Planning and Administration Committee and recommendations will be made to the October Executive Meeting; currently there are no mandated committees for regions; designated funds will continue to do the work/mission for which they were created; Chris Levan has let his name stand for Moderator; there are several events planned for the fall of 2018, which may mean that there will be fewer people able to attend; and dates of events need to be communicated throughout the Conference.

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

LEADERSHIP RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE:

Copies of the written report from Martha Dawson, Chairperson for the Leadership Resource Development Committee were circulated to the Executive Members prior to the meeting. A copy is appended to these Minutes, as Appendix G, Executive Minutes, Page 17/18-109.

In the absence of Martha Dawson, Paul Douglas Walfall reported that a Conference Representative is being sought for the St. Stephen’s College Academic Senate.

Executive Members were advised that no further action will be taken to recruit a Chairperson for the Youth Committee.

Discussion: Helen Reed is planning for the Junior and Senior High programs at the Conference Meeting; Anna Constantin is arranging for Children @ Conference; Bill Doyle is working with the GC43 Youth Forum; and may seek input re pilgrimage sites and dates.

85TH CONFERENCE MEETING PLANNING COMMITTEE: Sue Brodrick

Sue Brodrick, Chairperson, reported that the Committee would meet shortly after the adjournment of this Executive Meeting.

It was reported that the Theme Committee, chaired by Taylor Croissant, was working hard, and would also be planning the Celebration of Ministry.

Executive Members were advised that it still isn’t apparent how much business there will be at the meeting, but it should be an exciting meeting at Millennium Place in Sherwood Park, that Liz Paynter and MiYeon Kim would be leading the music and special guests would include Jordan Cantwell, United Church Moderator; Maggie Dieter, General Council Aboriginal Ministries Circle; and Aaron Miechkota, Living Apology Project Coordinator.

MOTION 2017/2018-44: Paul Douglas Walfall/Amy Mueller: That the Alberta and Northwest Conference move in camera. **CARRIED.**

MOTION 2017/2018-45: Alan Richards/Margery Wright: That the Alberta and Northwest Conference move out of camera. **CARRIED.**

85TH CONFERENCE MEETING PLANNING COMMITTEE: Continued

It was reported that the Business Process to be used will be the same as has been used the last few Conference Meetings, and that there will be time for conversation at the Conference Meeting.

Appendix G

Executive Members were asked if conversation about transition is needed. Further discussion of this question was postponed until discussions the next day. At its conclusion, Sue Brodrick was thanked for her report.

EVENING REFLECTION: Stuart Jackson

The evening reflection was led by Stuart Jackson, Edmonton Presbytery. Stuart reflected that all of the things on our minds and hearts might be just the tip of the iceberg. Stuart read from Kneeling in Jerusalem, by Ann Weems, a reading, based on John's Gospel, asserting that, with God, all things are possible, and reflecting that the United Church is not ending: we, not the Martians, will be continuing the work of the Church. Stuart Jackson led a prayer for the end of the day.

THURSDAY, MARCH 15, 2018

MORNING DEVOTION: Jope Langejans and Amy Mueller

The Morning Devotion was led by Jope Langejans, Calgary Presbytery, and Amy Mueller, Living Into Right Relations Committee. Executive Members were welcomed to the new day. Jope Langejans outlined the plan for a time of reflection and quiet. Amy Mueller led the opening prayer. The Scripture, I Kings 19, was read by Amy. Jope reflected on gathering in to the places of our heart where we find God, and that there is good and bad in every day. Amy led the closing prayer.

PLANNING AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE: Sue Brodrick

Sue Brodrick, Planning and Administration Chairperson, reported that the 2018 Financial Statements were in good shape so early in the year. The Executive Members were advised that the Planning and Administration Committee would meet in April.

TECHNOLOGICAL VIABILITY ASSESSMENT: Alan Buckingham

Discussion was held as follow-up to the discussions at the March and October 2017 Executive Meetings regarding the need to review needs for electronic communication throughout the Conference (Executive Minutes, Page 16/17-120 and Pages 17/18-34 and 68). Allan Buckingham, CnA media Consulting, was introduced, and was thanked for his well-written report to answer questions raised by the Executive. Allan expressed the hope that these "snapshots" of the reality in the communities were helpful, and that technology access would continue to improve. Allan advised that the demand for technological support is out there, and responded to questions from Executive Members. **Discussion:** the computer video with telephone audio combination really works as long as the data being discussed is available ahead of time; finding better ways to connect will help, particularly with challenging issues; technology, like the weather, sometimes doesn't work out, but experience helps to find solutions; the report has given good information about how to get started; sites for technology hubs for clustering, etc., will be needed; and seeing facial expression is important to discussion participants. The Zoom software for videoconferencing was demonstrated. **Discussion:** there are concerns about security; the meeting platform will monitor the meeting connections, but not what is said; when everyone uses the same software it works well as everyone learns how to do the same thing; the price

point is lower for Zoom, with similar functionality to other platforms; headsets are very important for sound control; this platform is also useful for Worship when interaction is wanted; and it is important to review options and determine what the expertise and desires of the participants dictate.

Allan suggested using YouTube for presentation/recording not requiring interaction, and introduced his Worship resource, Together We Worship.

Discussion: a streaming licence can be added to a music license already being used; we need to squelch rumours that Allan has a contract for technology support across the Conference; most financial outlay for meetings is travel, and breaking this cycle can be accomplished using these technologies; an intentional step for planning for regions needs to happen before December 31; information sessions and funding will be needed for clusters to learn to use the technology and disarm fears; we need to be cognizant that some of our communities cannot use these technologies; and there is no Conference funding to assist Presbyteries who want a similar demonstration to this one.

MOTION 2017/2018-46: Ruth Lumax/Ray Goodship: That, the report from Allan Buckingham be circulated throughout the Conference. **CARRIED.**

Conference
eNewsletter

SPECIAL PRESENTATION: Ruth Lumax

Ruth Lumax, Red Deer Presbytery, advised the Executive Members that the President, Dr. Kathy Yamashita, had been honoured by the Chinook Primary Care Network with its Spirit of the Hive Award, and that, because she was here for this meeting, the award was presented to her daughter on her behalf.

In appreciation for her dedication to this Executive, an imitation Golden Hive Award was presented to Kathy Yamashita.

Congratulations
President
Kathy!

INTERCULTURAL MINISTRY: Alwin Maben

The written report from the Intercultural Ministry Standing Committee was circulated to the Executive Members prior to the meeting. A copy is appended to these Minutes, as Appendix H, Executive Minutes, Page 17/18-110.

Alwin Maben, Chairperson for the Intercultural Ministry Committee, talked about planning for the Committee's AGM and Continuing Education Event to be held September 26-28, in Edmonton.

A draft Proposal to General Council was circulated and reviewed. The Proposal is intended to address fear that Intercultural Ministry issues may be lost in the United Church structural changes.

Alwin asked Executive Members to share input to the wording of the Proposal, which was also being reviewed by General Council Staff.

Discussion: the wider church supports the intercultural lens, and is working towards building this into the new structure; we need to shift perceptions in homogeneous communities so that they will be more interested in mandating policies and guidelines; the Living Into Right Relations process is more invitational; we're looking for best strategy; regions will need to help communities of faith live into this; the United Church is diverse nationally, and this is beginning to shift into presbyteries; good communication is needed in the face of white privilege; the Proposal may need to be tempered so as not to be confrontational; there is still work to be done throughout the church to accept racialized persons; we need to focus on and clearly name the issue, clearly explain why it is important, and then suggest what could be done; we need to look at justice in terms of as equality vs. equity; and ratios and token representation creates silos.

A question was asked about the need for this Proposal to be submitted through this Executive.

Discussion: it can come through Presbytery or the Sub-Executive; but the conversation is important; Conference Executive approval would give the

Appendix H

Proposal its blessing; a lot still needs to happen to understand what intercultural means, it is not just simply recognizing differences and encouraging those who are different; the question is what to do about white privilege ingrained in the system; we need to recommend that white privilege be defined; and work needs to be done at every level of the church.

MOTION 2017/2018-47: Ruth Lumax/Stuart Jackson: That the Alberta and Northwest Conference express its support in principle to the Proposal from the Intercultural Ministry Committee; encourage the Committee to fine-tune the Proposal using resources they feel necessary; and that the Proposal be submitted to the Conference Meeting. **CARRIED.**

Intercultural
Ministry
Standing
Committee

Executive Members were advised that Paul Douglas Walfall had been asked to join a delegation to travel with the Moderator to Washington D.C., to attend the commemoration of the 50th Anniversary of the death of Martin Luther King Jr. At its conclusion, Alwin Maben was thanked for his report.

CONCERNS ABOUT MOVING INTO TRANSITION I:

Executive Members were invited to talk about concerns arising from the Transition Checklists and other information about the anticipated changes to the church.
Discussion: A discussion was held about the concerns of the Executive Members.

LUNCH BREAK: Grace was led by Paul Douglas Walfall

PLANNING AHEAD: NEXT EXECUTIVE MEETING:

Discussion was held about whether or not the last Executive Meeting will be electronic or face-to-face.
Dates in October and November were examined, and it was acknowledged that the Meeting will basically focus on on shut-down and maintenance work in preparation for the establishment of regional councils.
A sign-up sheet was circulated for Executive Members to volunteer for Worship leadership and other tasks to be assigned.

IT WAS AGREED that the next Executive Meeting would be held October 17-18, 2018, either electronically, using Zoom Video Conferencing; or face-to-face in the Edmonton area, as called by the President.

CONCERNS ABOUT MOVING INTO TRANSITION II:

Executive Members were invited to consider the following:

- Current committees and other structures will not necessarily translate into the new structure
- Decisions will still need to be made regarding vocational calls, etc.
- Work that is mission and ministry oriented will be done in networks and clusters rather than by decision-making structures
- What is actually Governance will need to be discerned
- The current Courts and related committees end on December 31, 2018
- We will likely be asked to name people to Region 2 and 3 Transition Commissions: the default choice is Presbytery Chairpersons

Discussion: Commissions will be the interim governing bodies to enable regions to function as of January 1, and it will not be a small amount of work; the final decision on the commission proposal will be known after the General Council meets in July; the regional commissions will be the governance until the first regional gatherings elect ongoing governance; provisional Executive Ministers will be in place to work with the commissions; General Council will provide some funding.

CLOSING WORSHIP: Stuart Jackson and Kathy Jackson

Stuart Jackson, Edmonton Presbytery, and Kathy Jackson, Recording Secretary, led the closing Worship.

Kathy Jackson read the last section of "A Song of Faith" (Basis of Union, 2.6).

Stuart Jackson reflected on the meantime, and the need to consider what we do while we are waiting.

The closing prayer and benediction were led by Stuart Jackson.

ADJOURNMENT:

As there was no further business to be brought to the Executive, the President, Kathy Yamashita, declared this Meeting to be adjourned at 2:55 p.m.

Kathy Yamashita,
President

Shannon McCarthy,
Executive Secretary

APPENDIX A

Alberta and Northwest Conference
Correspondence Log

Executive Meeting, March 14-15, 2018:

INCOMING	DATE	RECEIVED FROM	DESCRIPTION
Administration	November 1, 2107	H.Reed, Coronation Presbytery	Advising name change for Big Valley-Erskine-Botha Pastoral Charge to Big Valley-Erskine Pastoral Charge
	November 1, 2017	H.Reed, Coronation Presbytery	Advising re dispersal of proceeds from sale of McNeill Memorial U.C., Empress AB
	January 12, 2018	H.Reid, South Alberta Presbytery	Recommendation re dispersal of assets from sale of former Bow Slope United Church
	February 15, 2018	M.Kaup, Oddleifson & Kaup, St. Albert	Completed transfer of Title of former Vilna United Church Cemetery
	March 5, 2018	C.Bouey Shank, Student Bursary Fund Society	Request re offering at the Celebration of Ministry Service
Effective Ministry	December 3, 2017	E.Taylor-Kerr, Conference Interview Board	Recommendation re admission of Christian Kakez-A-Kapend to the Order of Ministry
	December 3, 2017	E.Taylor-Kerr, Conference Interview Board	Recommendation re admission of MiYeon Kim to the Order of Ministry
	December 3, 2017	E.Taylor-Kerr, Conference Interview Board	Recommendation re admission of Hati Mvundura to the Order of Ministry
	March 8, 2018	W.Youngward, Interim Ministry Committee	Recommendations re Designation for Interim Ministry for K.Holmes, M.Carroll, C. Woodall and K.Roy Recommendation re Continuing Designation for Interim Ministry for P.Kugba-Nyande
OUTGOING	DATE	SENT TO	DESCRIPTION
Administration	November 14, 2017	A.Richardson, Boundaries Commission	Report to the Commission from the October 11-12 Executive Meeting
	December 6, 2017	B.Green, St. Paul Presbytery	Approval of transfer of Title of former Vilna United Church Cemetery
	December 15, 2017	H.Reed, Coronation Presbytery	Approval of request to transfer Alsask United Church to Pioneer Pastoral Charge, Coronation Presbytery
	February 21, 2018	L.Penny and W.Flewelling	Advising that Trustees not needed for transfer of Title of former Vilna United Church Cemetery
Effective Ministry	November 16, 2017	A.Musonza, General Council Office	Request to place the name of J.Rock on the Discontinued Service List
	February 12, 2018	Rev. Dr. D.A. James	Advising establishment of Commission re J9 Review

APPENDIX B

Proposed Process to name Nominees to the Executive of the Denominational Council

Background:

At its second Meeting on September 30, 2017, the 42nd General Council directed and authorized the Nominations Committee to recommend the names of fifteen (15) persons to serve with the Moderator, the Immediate Past Moderator and the General Secretary as the new Denominational Executive for The United Church of Canada.

Each Conference has been asked to nominate five (5) persons to a pool of names from which the Nominations Committee will choose its recommendations.

Members of the Denominational Executive will reflect the diversity of the Church in ethnicity, gender, age and designation - ordained, commissioned, recognized designated lay minister, or layperson.

The Process:

1. Interested persons will be offered an opportunity to apply through the completion of an application circulated through the Conference eNewsletter and all the information channels.
 2. The Leadership Resource Development Committee will select at least five and up to ten prospective nominees to be presented to the Alberta and Northwest Conference Meeting in May. Five will be selected by a vote of the Conference Delegates.
 3. The selection process will ensure that the diversity of the church, highlighted above, will be represented.
 4. The deadline to receive applications is April 20, 2018. No further applications will be received unless it is determined that it is necessary to solicit more nominations. Applications will be submitted to Kathy Jackson at the Conference Office, by email to kjackson@anwconf.com, or by regular post to 9911 48 Avenue NW, Edmonton AB T6E 5V6.
-

Proposed Process to name Nominees to the Board of Vocation and Related Committees

Background:

The Office of Vocation [sic] will be overseen by an elected body honouring and living into intercultural mission and ministry, as described in "Vision for Becoming an Intercultural Church"; consisting of a balance of ministers whether ordained or diaconal, or designated lay ministers and lay people, with a variety of active experience. (ROP, 42nd General Council)

The General Council Nominations Committee has been authorized to recommend the names of twelve (12) persons to serve on this elected body, the Board of Vocation.

Each Conference has been asked to nominate five (5) persons to a pool of names from which the Nominations Committee will choose its recommendations. Persons from this same pool of nominees may be asked to serve on committees of this Board.

Members of the Board of Vocation will reflect the diversity of the Church in ethnicity, gender, age and designation - ordained, commissioned, recognized designated lay minister or lay person.

The Process:

1. Interested persons will be offered an opportunity to apply through the completion of an application circulated through the Conference eNewsletter and all the information channels.
2. The Leadership Resource Development Committee will select at least five and up to ten prospective nominees to be presented to the Alberta and Northwest Conference Meeting in May. Five will be selected by a vote of the Conference Delegates.
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APPENDIX C

EVANGELISM EDUCATION ADHOC COMMITTEE

The committee was given an extended life by the October 2017 meeting of the Conference Executive. Since then the chair of the Committee, Evelyn Porter, resigned from the committee. The committee has continued with the existing members and has to date not elected a new chairperson. Rev. Paul Douglas Walfall acts as the convener of the meetings and decisions are made by consensus.

The committee has had three meetings, and these have been held online using the Zoom platform. This has enabled the committee not to spend money on travel. The committee also held a meeting in January 2018 with representatives from presbyteries to share information about the work of the committee and to enable information about the activities to be available to pastoral charges and congregations. Five presbyteries were present at the meeting. This meeting was also held online using Zoom.

For the remainder of its life the committee has agreed that its focus would be to help congregations in the congregation reignite passion in sharing their faith story. Our congregations are communities that change lives. When we support and strengthen our congregations for ministry, their radical hospitality reverberates in their communities and beyond. They are key witnesses to God's inclusive love in the world. Our plan is to provide another "tool" for the toolkit of congregations to faithfully and vibrantly live out God's mission.

The work of the committee is now focused on the following three activities:

- 1) Webinar with Dr. Walter Brueggemann on March 21, 2018
- 2) Clusters of education starting in the Fall
- 3) Use of social media as a tool to encourage the sharing of our story

The first two of these activities are being done in collaboration with the EDGE Ministry.

Webinar

To date we have 44 persons registered for the webinar. The invitation was given to all ministry personnel and to at least one lay leader from each congregation.

Clusters

Those congregations who would wish to put into practice some of what they have learnt on the webinar would be invited to participate in forming clusters. These clusters will be the means of support and further education aimed at practicing what was learnt. The committee is conscious the reality of travel distance would be a deterrent for many congregations. To this end the committee has been considering the plan for these clusters to be virtual communities; which would have one initial face to face meeting and all other meetings would be held on line.

Presbyteries would be asked to name possible leaders for the clusters. Training for leaders would be held on September 14 & 15 at the Providence Centre.

The committee is asking presbyteries to underwrite the cost of travel for cluster facilitators.

Congregations/presbyteries are responsible for the cost of travel to the initial cluster meeting.

Social Media

This being worked out.

Finance

Proposed Budget for year ending December 31, 2018

All in Canadian dollars

EXPENSES

Webinar with Walter Brueggemann	1000	1000
Training for Cohorts		
Curriculum Design and Training	4000	
Accommodation & Meals	<u>5400</u>	9400
Social Media	200	
Contingency	<u>400</u>	
		<u>11000</u>

APPENDIX C - Continued

INCOME

ANW Conference	6000	
Embracing the Spirit Grant	<u>5000</u>	
		<u>11000</u>

The committee has received a grant from the Embracing the Spirit programme. Depending on the outcome of our discussions about setting up virtual clusters there may be need for additional funding of up to \$4,000.00. If this becomes necessary the committee would make an application from the Mission in Transition Fund.

Respectfully submitted by

Monica Rosborough
Tom Melville
Nicholas Coates
Paul Douglas Walfall

March 7, 2018

APPENDIX D

**Report from the Alberta and Northwest Conference United Church Women
To the Conference Executive meeting, March 14 & 15, 2018**

Shortly after the October meeting of the ANWC Executive, the Conference UCW held our Full Executive Meeting, held from October 21 to 23 at Camrose United Church. Among the highlights of the meeting were Carmen Lazzarotto's report on reviving women's ministry, and Dr. Kathy Yamashita's presentation on her Mission and Service pilgrimage to Kenya. We appreciated the hospitality we received from the Camrose United Church women and minister, Rev. Liz Carter-Morgan.

We have held two Sub-Executive meetings, one on January 10 by teleconference, and one on March 7 at Strathmore United Church.

Our Child Well Being Initiative, now ten years old, is winding down. However, our concern about child poverty has been picked up by the national UCW, and especially in London and Maritime Conferences. In November, we used our CWBI funds to send Sharon Prenevost, chair of our CWBI committee, to Ottawa. The United Church group participated in a breakfast and panel discussion hosted by the All Party Anti-Poverty Caucus, and provided 338 Dolls of Hope for Members of Parliament and Senators, as a reminder to consider the needs of children when making policy decisions. 25 of the dolls were hand made in Alberta.

We are looking forward to our AGM, to be held April 12 to 14, 2018 at the FCJ Centre. The theme is "Reconcile and Make New", a phrase which comes from the New Creed, and which also connects us to our journey of reconciliation with First Nations people. We have three speakers, Wendy Kalkan, Sheryl-Ann Carscadden, and Chantal Chagnon. Our planning committee has also arranged for a presentation of "New Blood: A Story of Reconciliation", to be held on Friday, April 13 at 7:30 p.m. at Foothills Mennonite Church. Women registering for the AGM will get a ticket to "New Blood" as part of their registration. Others may purchase a ticket to see "New Blood" for \$14 on Eventbrite (www.bit.ly/New-Blood). This presentation has been made possible through the help and cooperation of the Mennonite Central Committee (for the venue and for setting up the Eventbrite page), and grants from Calgary, South Alberta and Foothills Presbyteries. For more details, see the current issue of "In Contact".

The United Church Women are in an unusual position with regard to the transition to the Three Court Model of the church. We have been told, at our national consultation, that we may do what we like with regard to our own structure, a freedom which tends to create some uncertainty. We will be discussing our future at our AGM, and I hope to gain some wisdom and knowledge about the possibilities open to us before that time. Certainly one question which will likely come up at the AGM is whether the UCW will continue to have representation in the Regional body, as we now do at Presbytery (Manual C1.2) and in some Conferences, including this one. Perhaps someone here has the answer to this question?

I am completing my two year term as Conference UCW President at the April meeting, but have been asked by the Nominating Committee if I am willing to continue to serve through this transition period.

Submitted by Margery Wright
ANWC UCW President, 2016-2018

APPENDIX E

Living into Right Relations Standing Committee
Report to the ANWC Executive
March 2018

Alberta & Northwest Conference Living into Right Relations Standing Committee
Amy Mueller Bill Phipps Charles Wood Sandra Hayes-Gardiner
Valerie Mintenko Tilly Meyer Cecile Fausak Don Fraser Lavera Goodeye
Sharon Woodhouse Gerry Dyck Paul Andrew Russel Burns
Resource staff: Shannon McCarthy, Charlene Burns

The Living into Right Relations committee continues to be excited by the many things that witnesses have done across the conference throughout 2017!

In May 2017, approximately 70 witnesses from across the ANWC met at Kasota East Camp for a challenging and affirming weekend of learning and relationship building. We participated in a KAIROS blanket exercise, considered ways to weave the theme of reconciliation into worship, studied the Calls to Action about child welfare that were issued by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, learned about the principles and norms outlined in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and what it would mean to implement them, and received several Cree, Stoney, and Metis cultural teachings. Feedback from this weekend was so positive that plans are underway for another similar "Boost for the Journey" at Kamp Kiwanis (just west of Calgary) on October 26-28, 2018, details to follow.

In September 2017, through the hard work and dedication of the Remembering the Children Society, there was an unveiling ceremony for a memorial stone erected in the Red Deer Cemetery for four children that died at the Red Deer Industrial school in 1918. Over 200 people attended.

Witnesses also attended the hearing of the Public Inquiry for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls in Edmonton in November 2017.

As a committee, we have begun preparations to participate in the ANWC meeting to be held in Sherwood Park from May 10-13, 2018. Also, we have begun to consider how we will continue to live out the work of reconciliation through a network and regions in anticipation of the changes to the United Church governance and financing models to take effect January 2019.

We now have a presence on Facebook! Our Facebook page, which is public, is named Living Into Right Relations and provides regular updates and information. Please 'like' and 'follow' it:

<https://www.facebook.com/Living-into-Right-Relations-Alberta-Northwest-Conference-159503007982883/>

As well, we have a private group for conversation, sharing stories, and building community. It is called Living Into Right Relations-Private Group-Alberta Northwest Conference and you are invited to join it, also.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/165687250695166/>

Respectfully submitted,
Amy Mueller
LIRR chair, on behalf of the LIRR committee

APPENDIX F

Stewardship and Mission Education Committee

The Stewardship and Mission Education Committee meets this coming Friday.

We have answered a call to offer one more Stewardship Event before the changeover. So, October 19-21, 2018, we will be providing a weekend of keynote speaker, workshops/conversations and Worship.

Our keynote is the Rev. Dr. Christopher Levan, who studied with Douglas Hall. We have asked him to share reflections on the dominant culture task in stewardship, being relinquishment, and letting go.

We hope this will be in some measure a continuation of the Awkward Conversation with dominant culture folk being challenged to, in the words of Spike Lee, "Do the Right Thing".

We have not confirmed a venue yet, but hope to offer it in the Red Deer/Lacombe area.

Two questions:

How do we put in place our legacy funding for the mission money we have?

Is a mandated Mission and Service Committee maintained in the Regional Council structures?

Respectfully submitted,
Carolyn Woodall, Chairperson
Stewardship and Mission Education Committee

APPENDIX G

Leadership Resource Development Committee
Report to Conference Executive
March 7, 2018

Meetings: LRDC met on November 22, 2017 and March 1, 2018 by telephone conference call.

Conference Committee Memberships:

Terms of Office: a letter was sent to all Committee Members with Terms of Office expiring before December 31, 2018, to ask them to consider continuing in their positions until the end of 2018. Very few responses were received, all positive. LRDC is working on the assumption that those we have not heard from are willing to continue.

Youth Ministry Committee: LRDC received the resignation of Julia Heesing, Chairperson. Knowing that this committee has not met since very early in its inception, we decided not to take any further action towards recruiting a new Chairperson so late in the Conference Year.

Appointments:

Living into Right Relations Standing Committee: Don Fraser, Tilly Meyer, Sharon Woodhouse

Evangelism Education Ad Hoc Committee: Paul Douglas Walfall (Paul had served ex officio when he was Conference President)

Other Action:

St. Stephen's College: LRDC will be recruiting a United Church representative to the St Stephen's College Academic Senate. Interested persons may contact Martha Dawson or submit a Committee Member Form to Kathy Jackson. As one of the duties is to be present at St. Stephen's College functions, it would seem that someone from the Edmonton area would best be able to fulfill membership.

Carol Loewen from Edmonton Presbytery will have completed two terms (4 years) at the end of June 2018. We thank Carol for her participation on the Senate.

Recommendation for Conference Executive Action:

Denominational Council and Board of Vocations: LRDC has submitted proposals for the process to select nominees for the General Council Nominating Committee. The two proposals have been sent in a separate document for consideration by the Conference Executive.

Respectfully submitted,
Martha Dawson, Chairperson

APPENDIX H

**REPORT OF THE INTER-CULTURAL MINISTRY STANDING COMMITTEE, ANWC
PRESENTED TO THE CONFERENCE EXECUTIVE MEETING
MARCH 14-15, 2018 – FCJ CENTRE, CALGARY, AB.**

The members of the ANWC – Intercultural Ministry Standing Committee, met for a face-to-face meeting on February 22-23, 2018 at Providence Renewal Centre, Edmonton, Alberta. Among other things, we discussed the following important things during the meeting:

1. VISIONING INTER-CULTURAL MINISTRY BEYOND 2018

The members present concurred on the following as our vision for ministry beyond 2018.

- 1) To support Immigrant Ministers serving in the region/s, (especially those beyond Edmonton.). Providing Spiritual as well as Practical help, as well as providing guidance for Continuing education.
- 2) To continue and expand our mission in promoting Racial Justice and challenging the reality of White Privilege especially at Congregational level and reminding people that it is part of the Mission of the Church.
- 3) To support Ethnic/Migrant Churches with Theological Orientation. Especially with regard to Critical Theological Questions and issues such as LGBTQ, Inclusiveness, etc. This to be done with mutual respect and not as assimilation through varieties of Theological perspectives that exist within the United Church of Canada
- 4) To support Inter cultural Youth Ministry and to be more proactive in enabling the voices of Non-White Youth to be active in the Ministry of the whole church.
- 5) To support Ethnic/Migrant congregations with English Language skills.
- 6) To maintain fellowship with racialized minorities in the United church (both Ordered and Lay),

While it is true that United Church of Canada has declared itself to be an “Inter-cultural” Church, in practice racism exists still in the church. Hence, the task of our committee is to bring awareness to all concerned with regard to racism and white privilege and to promote equity more than equality. It is to encourage each region to be intentional in promoting inter-cultural ministry. We sought suggestions and advice from Shannon McCarthy, Co-Executive Secretary ANWC, through Skype meeting and also from Adele Halliday (GC: Discipleship and Witness) and Michael Blair (GC: Church in Mission) over Teleconference. Since, “Inter-cultural” is a very broad term and inclusive, it was felt that we should focus on specifics so as not to lose that focus. As such our Inter-cultural committee wishes to focus on Racism and White Privilege. We were given to understand that there would be a transition team to help with four courts to three courts and to send/recommend members from ethnic minorities to be in this team so that their voices are heard.

Apart from Kathy Yamashita who will be a member of the Transition Team as President of the Conference, we wish to recommend the following persons to the various positions that might be available:

Denominational Council: Paul Walfall, Andrew Kinoti-Lairenge
Office of Vocation: Alwin Maben
General Council Commissioner – YoonOk Shin

2. PRESENTATION AT THE 85TH ANW CONFERENCE – MAY 10-13, 2018:

The Business & Technology Committee has invited us to use 45 minutes of time to present a follow up to the Awkward Conversation Event on Friday, 11 May 2018 from 11.15 to Noon. We are grateful to them for this invitation and have accepted the same. We discussed about it and will be working on this presentation.

3. PROPOSAL TO THE GENERAL COUNCIL 43.

Recognising the importance of the ministry of the Inter-cultural Standing Committee, the ANWC Executive had suggested that we make a proposal to GC 43. We are grateful to the Executive Secretaries for their support and encouragement and for sending us the Template. We have formed

APPENDIX H - Continued

a small committee to work on the proposal and have also sought help from concerned General Council staff to help us in this regard. If the draft is ready before the Conference Executive meeting, it will be shared for your reflection and input.

4. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM) AND THE CON-ED EVENT FOR 2018.

It was proposed that the AGM and CON-ED, event be held on October 11-13, 2018 at Providence Renewal Centre, Edmonton. However, we may have to change the date as suitable venues are not available on the proposed date, we are considering September 26-28 as alternative dates. While definite theme has not been arrived at, the General theme will be **“Seeing Christ through multicultural eyes”**. We wish to extend invitation especially to all ethnic ministers serving both ethnic and non-ethnic churches and request all Presbyteries to send two representatives. We also hope to receive funding if necessary from “Seeds of Hope” mission grant. Building Communities of Hope is our vision for this event.

Our Committee will meet again for a Teleconference on Wednesday, April 4, 2018 at 2.00 pm

I would also like to submit here below from YoonOk Shin who is our Co-Chair and Facilitator of Intercultural Ministry, Edmonton Presbytery concerning their vision and work.

With a vision of Growing and expending in community, Edmonton Presbytery has been networking through Intercultural Ministry focussing on how to build relationships among the churches, including migrant, ethnic congregations and communities, through diverse programs, pilot projects, etc.

Some examples:

- Since its inception, The English as Second Language program has helped over 100 students, through Spring, Fall and Winter sessions.
- Justice Language Workshop has had very positive results for some churches. The Mission seeds sown had enabled ESL students attend the United Church’s for worship and activities.
- The Intercultural Christmas Choirs concert was held very successfully in Dec. 2017. Seven Church choirs along with Linnea Good, celebrated Advent and Christmas through the gifts of music, voices in diverse cultures and costumes. Around 350 people attended. This programme has been growing as we are many in One Sprit of God. A video is available to watch these vibrant choirs performances.
- The Bible Study for Ministers program has also had very positive response. We are getting encouraging feedbacks as a new network. There is a clergy gathering once a month; around 12-15 Ministers attend and explore the Good News of the Bible through an Intercultural lens; they share personal ideas, stories, experiences, fellowship and connections among the clergy. In Feb, we have learned about Korean history and tensions between the North and South, from Jun Hyok (a Korean United Church Minister) and Kurt (a Sherwood Park United Church Minister).
- There is an increasing awareness and learning about the ‘White Privilege’ and ‘Racism’ issues, within churches.
- YoonOk has been invited to address about racial justice, and to promote/ introduce the Intercultural Ministry to the Board and conduct worship services.
- This coming summer, we will be offering a Vacation Bible School for children and youth, followed by BBQ and games, which is open to all again.

Respectfully submitted

Alwin Maben

Co-Chairperson, Inter-cultural Ministry Standing Committee (ANWC)

APPENDIX H - Continued

Appendix:

MISSION STATEMENTS

Prepared by Michael Blair, Director, Church in Mission, General Council Office

COMMUNITIES OF FAITH

Mission:

- living in covenant with the regional council with mutual responsibilities for the life and mission of the community of faith, and fulfilling its responsibilities under the covenant;
- joining the hearts, voices, and resources of the community to witness to the gospel and vision of Jesus for a compassionate and just society, both in Canada and around the world;
- local, regional, national and global initiatives and partnerships (community, ecumenical and interfaith) for ministry, mission and justice work;
- ministry with children and youth and young adults;
- honouring and living into intercultural mission and ministry, as described in Vision for Becoming an Intercultural Church.
- living in covenant with Mother Earth and All My Relations in the Earth community.

REGIONAL COUNCILS

Mission and ministry:

- joining our collective hearts, voices, and resources to witness to the gospel and vision of Jesus for a compassionate and just society, both in Canada and around the world;
- local regional national and global initiatives and partnerships (community, ecumenical and interfaith) for ministry, mission and justice work;
- ministry with children, youth and young adults;
- honouring and living into intercultural ministry and mission as described in Vision for Becoming an Intercultural Church;
- living in covenant with Mother Earth and All My Relations in the Earth community.

DENOMINATIONAL COUNCIL

Mission:

- joining our collective hearts, voices, and resources to witness to the gospel and vision of Jesus for a compassionate and just society, both in Canada and around the world;
- engaging denominational-level ministry and mission including resource development and being a resource to regional councils and communities of faith;
- encouraging local and regional mission and ministry, partnerships, ecumenical and interfaith;
- engaging in national and global partnerships, ecumenical and interfaith relationships;
- honouring and living into intercultural mission and ministry as described in Vision for Becoming an Intercultural Church; and
- living in covenant with Mother Earth and All My Relations in the Earth community