

ALBERTA AND NORTHWEST CONFERENCE
THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA
EXECUTIVE MINUTES

DATE: Executive Meeting: Wednesday and Thursday, October 17-18, 2018

PLACE: Kirk United Church Centre, Edmonton, Alberta

PRESENT: Kathy Yamashita, President; Paul Douglas Walfall, Past President; Margery Wright, President of Conference United Church Women; Shannon McCarthy, Executive Secretary; Bill Doyle, Executive Secretary (Thursday only); Alwin Maben, Intercultural Ministry Standing Committee; Amy Mueller, Living into Right Relations Standing Committee (Wednesday only); Sue Brodrick, Planning and Administration Committee, Lay Representative to the General Council Executive, and Calgary Presbytery; Carolyn Woodall, Stewardship and Mission Education Committee; Stuart Jackson, Edmonton Presbytery; Gord Waldie, Northern Lights Presbytery; Ruth Lumax, Red Deer Presbytery; Sheila McLeod, South Alberta Presbytery; Scott Reynolds, St. Paul Presbytery; Curtis Tufts, Yellowhead Presbytery; and Donalee Williams, Ordered Representative to the General Council Executive.

Regrets: Alan Richards and Mary Ann Pastuck, Coronation Presbytery; Ray Goodship and Brenda Watt, Foothills Presbytery; and Ed Bardock, South Alberta Presbytery.

Recording Secretary: Kathy Jackson.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2018

CONSTITUTION OF THE COURT:

The meeting was constituted by the President, Kathy Yamashita, with a quorum present, using these words:

"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, and expressed appreciation for the opportunity for all to meet together one last time.

ORDER PAPER:

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

MOTION 2018/2019-6: Ruth Lumax/Margery Wright: BE IT RESOLVED:

1. that the Agenda for this Meeting be adopted, subject to revisions as approved by the Executive;
2. that 12:00 Noon, Thursday, October 18, 2018, be established as an Order of the Day for Adjournment of this Meeting and that any unfinished business be either deferred to a 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 March 14-15, 2018, be adopted as circulated;
4. that the Minutes of the Meetings of the Alberta and Northwest Conference Sub-Executive held May 2, 2018, and September 10, 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, Stewardship and Mission Education, and Youth Ministry Standing Committees, and the Presbytery Representatives be received for information; and
7. that, upon adjournment, the authority to deal with emergent issues be given to the Sub-Executive, meeting either in person or by telephone conference call, as called by the President. **CARRIED.**

WORSHIP and CHECK-IN: Scott Reynolds

The Worship was led by Scott Reynolds, St. Paul Presbytery, beginning with acknowledgement that the Executive was meeting on the lands of the Indigenous Nations who were signatories to Treaty #6. Scott read a poem, *My Stop is Grant*, by Christian Wiman, and reflected on seeing God alive and at work in all places. The Scripture, Isaiah 60:1-6, was read by Scott Reynolds. The Proclamation addressed the hope of God's presence, and what it means for us who are struggling to live into right relations, true justice for the oppressed, and peace for all, concluding that, "when love is there, God is within us". Communion was celebrated, presided over by Scott Reynolds. Executive Members were invited to check in as part of the Great Thanksgiving.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT: Kathy Yamashita

The Past President, Paul Douglas Walfall, chaired the Meeting for the duration of this report. The President, Kathy Yamashita, reported on her visit to Foothills Presbytery, and advised that she would be attending Yellowhead Presbytery immediately following this Meeting. Kathy commented that she was interested in understanding how each Presbytery operates differently. A highlight of her visits to Presbyteries had been the opportunity to bring a stewardship message to each Presbytery by talking about the influence of Home Missions work with Japanese Canadians who had been relocated during World War II, and expressing appreciation for the Mission and Service of The United Church of Canada. The President reported on the recent Intercultural Ministry Event, Looking at Jesus Through an Intercultural Lens. In closing, Kathy Yamashita reported that she had loved the job of being President, and was very grateful for having been elected. Love was expressed for all of the Executive Members, and gratitude for the sense of belonging that was felt at Executive Meetings. At the conclusion of her report, the President, Kathy Yamashita, resumed chairing the Meeting. Paul Douglas Walfall, Past President, expressed appreciation to Kathy Yamashita for chairing these Meetings so graciously, and for sharing her wisdom with the Executive, and with people wherever she had travelled. This was echoed by the applause of the Executive.

Thank You!

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY'S REPORT: Shannon McCarthy

Shannon McCarthy, Executive Secretary, reflected on the Meeting of the 43rd General Council (GC43), and reported that most of the follow-up would be assigned to the Regional Commissions, rather than to Conferences. Shannon reported that most of her recent work had been working with the Commissions for Regions 2, 4 and 5, and closing the work of Executive Secretaries, adding that that staffing decisions were a large part of the work.

The Executive was advised that the Accountant and the Administrative Assistant: Personnel would receive their termination letters on November 1, but that the Accountant had been contracted to work until March 31, 2019, to complete the 2018 Financial Statements and review.

Appreciation was expressed for the work of Melanie Funk, Administrative Assistant: Personnel, who would be continuing until December 31, 2018.

It was reported that Bill Doyle, Executive Secretary, was working with an Appeal Committee regarding a Decision of Yellowhead Presbytery, and that, if the Appeal continues beyond December 31, 2018, the Region 2 Commission would continue oversight of the process.

Shannon reported that she was continuing to work with the Calgary Commission. Executive Members were advised that the best e-mail address to use to reach Shannon was smccarthy@united-church.ca, and that all General Council and Regional staff would use the same format for e-mails in the new system.

Appreciation was expressed to the Conference Staff for their efforts in moving the Conference Office to Kirk United Church Centre.

Shannon reported that she attended the final Northern Lights Presbytery Meeting and that there was a good feeling about ending. She advised that she would also attend Yellowhead Presbytery, which would likely be the last Presbytery Meeting she would ever attend.

It was reported that Bill Doyle would continue to work electronically with Alberta and Northwest Conference, and that he would join this Meeting by video conference the next day.

Shannon reported on her attendance at the Intercultural Ministry Event, which was very good, and that she would be part of a Tri-Regional (Regions 2, 4 and 5) Commission meeting later in October

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

Scott Reynolds was thanked for a powerful sharing time during the Worship, and the Executive Members were thanked for their powerful sharing.

CORRESPONDENCE: Shannon McCarthy

E.Reaburn, Conference Personnel Minister: withdrawing his request to be readmitted to the Order of Ministry of The United Church of Canada. The letter was received for information, as no action was required unless a request was to be received from Yellowhead Presbytery.

Discussion: the issue was the disadvantage for clergy couples in terms of housing allowance and Canada Revenue Agency rules; this will be because of new legislation in Ontario which will require that clergy and lay staff be compensated on the same scale; a bigger justice issue is the church's need to look at salaries and to pay fair equity for education, ability and experience; and how issues are communicated will affect how they are considered.

GENERAL COUNCIL EXECUTIVE REPORT: Donalee Williams and Sue Brodrick

The written report of the General Council Executive Representatives is appended to these Minutes, as Appendix A, Executive Minutes, Page 18/19-16.

Donalee Williams reported that the highlights of the General Council Executive Meeting were contained in the written report, including a record of how concerns of this Conference were supported at the meeting and are moving on to the new General Council Executive and the General Secretary.

Executive Members were advised that the ways and means of moving into electronic communication will be a priority, and that bumps along the way are now better accepted. There are still some places where people are not connected, but the business seems to be accomplished.

Sue Brodrick reported that, based on the number of proposals, the new General Council Executive would need to prioritize its work as there is too much to be

Appendix A

able to take action on within this triennium. The old Executive is still working on business from the last triennium, as well as Remit implementation.

Discussion: all of the changes, i.e., structure and electronic meetings, have helped, but we are not yet living into our resources and we're not quite self-sustaining because of the cost of transition; shared services, and the General Council Office relocation will provide some cost-cutting, as well as shared services with other denominations; and, after January 1, there won't be representatives to the General Council Executive from all regions, but each will have liaison persons from the Executive to maintain lines of communication.

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

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 B, Executive Minutes, Page 18/19-17.

Amy Mueller, Chairperson for the Living Into Right Relations Standing Committee, invited questions about the written report.

Discussion: the Boost for the Journey II Event will have about 58 participants; the funding Proposal from the 85th Conference Meeting will be on tomorrow's agenda; Indigenous Communities of Faith from the Plains and All Tribes Presbyteries will gather on December 1, as planned by National Indigenous Council (NIC), to talk about dual membership with NIC and the regions; the core reasons for asking that the Living Into Right Relations (LIRR) Committee continue are to attend to relationships that have been built and to allow time for the National Indigenous Council to organize itself; and Regions 2 and 3 have had conversations about the LIRR Trust Fund, thinking that if the NIC chooses one Region, it would be administered by that region.

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

Appendix B

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 C, Executive Minutes, Page 18/19-18.

Alwin Maben, Chairperson for the Intercultural Ministry Committee, talked about present Committee Members being divided between the two regions, but who will want to continue the relationships established, and host another Intercultural Event in 2019 for both Regions 2 and 3. They will wait for the regions to tell them whether or not this will happen. The regions will decide what they can budget for regional work.

Discussion: it will be important for Alwin to communicate this intention to the Regional Commissions; networks and clusters can do what they want, but it is the funding that will be the regional decision; intercultural ministry is a priority for Region 2; some ministries defy the boundary of highway 13, so we can encourage the two Commissions to talk about what can be done together; these conversations are already happening, but there are a lot of other priorities; the Intercultural Ministry Committee Proposal to GC43 was referred to the regions, and so the regions will have this conversation; and, nationally, a review of the United Church intercultural ministry vision is already underway.

At its conclusion, Alwin Maben was thanked for his report.

Appendix C

STEWARDSHIP AND MISSION EDUCATION COMMITTEE: Carolyn Woodall

Carolyn Woodall, Chairperson for the Stewardship and Mission Education Committee, reported that the Stewardship Event being held October 19-20, at Sunnybrook United Church, Red Deer, was still open for late registrations.

The Executive Members were advised that the Committee was happy to see Stewardship Trust Fund divided between Regions 2 and 3 to allow each region to provide programming within their own tri-regional grouping. At its conclusion, Carolyn Woodall was thanked for her report.

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 18/19-21.

Margery Wright, President of Alberta and Northwest Conference United Church Women, reported on the 2018 Annual Meeting of Conference UCW, which had a focus on reconciliation.

The Executive Members heard that the Conference UCW has decided to continue in the new structure as a network, and that a name for the network would be determined at its 2019 Annual Meeting.

A concern raised by the UCW was the widespread contamination of single-use plastics. Executive Members were urged to reduce the need for plastic, and to take this message to their networks.

Margery expressed appreciation for her attendance at the 43rd General Council. It was reported that National UCW had a new President; that "Women for Change in Zambia" had been adopted as its new national project; and that planning was underway for a Celebration of the 60th Anniversary of United Church Women in 2022, to be held in Sydney, Nova Scotia.

Discussion: Calgary Presbyterial decided not to disband, and its Executive members will talk to other presbyteries in Chinook Winds Region (Region 3) about how to connect; they also want to keep in touch with other women's groups; and Saskatchewan *Women of the United Church* has been revised.

At its conclusion, Margery Wright was thanked for her report.

The Executive Secretary, Shannon McCarthy, reminded the Executive that, during this time of transition, we are trying to do things differently: if we keep everything as it is in the Conference, we may need to be careful how we use church funds. The UCW is not a charitable organization, and most UCW charitable contributions are made at the local level through churches. Networks will not be able to give charitable receipts.

The Past President, Paul Douglas Walfall, assumed the Chair of the Meeting to allow the President to raise a question.

Kathy Yamashita, President, raised a question about the Alberta and Northwest Conference Student Bursary Fund, which supports bursaries for ministry students in every Presbytery, and expressed the hope that this would continue for both Regions 2 and 3.

It was agreed that this is a wider issue, and further discussion was postponed to later on the Agenda.

The President, Kathy Yamashita, resumed chairing the meeting.

YOUTH MINISTRY:

Discussion was held about the state of Youth Ministry in the Conference.

It was acknowledged that the current Youth Ministry Committee had not really been active since its beginning.

It was further acknowledged that this is a complex issue, but that there is hope that regions may make a difference.

Discussion: youth ministry is happening in local congregations; it does not succeed without staffing and funding; and this Conference used to take a leading role in youth ministry.

Appendix D

EVANGELISM EDUCATION AD HOC COMMITTEE: Paul Douglas Walfall

Paul Douglas Walfall, Past President, reported that the Evangelism Education Ad Hoc Committee had completed its work with a training event held at Providence Renewal Centre in September.

Paul reported that the information is out there, and Communities of Faith are able to run with it.

SUPPER: Grace was led by Scott Reynolds.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2018

MORNING DEVOTION: Kathy Jackson

The Past President, Paul Douglas Walfall, assumed the Chair of the Meeting until the President arrived.

The Morning Devotion was led by Kathy Jackson, who invited the Executive Members to welcome the new day in song.

PLANNING AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE I: Sue Brodrick

Sue Brodrick, Chairperson for the Planning and Administration Committee, reported that the Committee met in April to plan for the motions to be presented here. Sue Brodrick met later with Ann Thomas, Accountant, and added some necessary motions.

It was noted that, using the number of Pastoral Charges assigned to each region, and the 2018 Assessments related to those Pastoral Charges, all calculations were close to 50/50 for each Region, and so, to make it easy, the Planning and Administration Committee recommended that funds be divided equally between Regions 2 and 3.

ANN MAZUR MEMORIAL AND CONFERENCE REVOLVING FUNDS:

Proposal: that the balances of the Ann Mazur Memorial Fund and the Conference Revolving Fund be shared equally between Regions 2 and 3.

Discussion: all externally designated funds will be kept for their intended purposes, and the terms of reference will be sent with the cheque; and the use of internal funds will be left to the wisdom of each region, who will receive clarity about their liberty to change the purpose of the funds.

MOTION 2018/2019-7: Sue Brodrick/Scott Reynolds: That the balance at December 31, 2018, for the Ann Mazur Memorial Fund and the Revolving Fund be shared 50% to each of Region 2 and Region 3. **CARRIED.**

Proposal: that the Ann Mazur Memorial Fund and Revolving Fund loans receivable be assigned to the region where each borrower is located.

Discussion: St. Stephen's College is a ministry beyond one region, but located in Region 2; this will provide easier administration for the unit that is paying the loan; and there might be inequity if it all gets paid back.

MOTION 2018/2019-8: Sue Brodrick/Donalee Williams: That the loans receivable at December 31, 2018 for the Ann Mazur Memorial Fund and the Revolving Fund be assigned to the region where each borrower is located:

All three Ann Mazur Memorial Fund loans to Region 2: Morinville United Church; Riverbend United Church, Edmonton; and St. Peter's Ecumenical Church, Slave Lake; and

The Revolving Fund loans will go as follows: Fifth Avenue Memorial United Church, Medicine Hat, to Region 3; and St. Stephen's College, Edmonton, to Region 2. **CARRIED.**

EMERGENCY RELIEF FUND:

Proposal: that the Emergency Relief Fund be shared between Regions 2 and 3.

MOTION 2018/2019-9: Sue Brodrick/Gordon Waldie: That the balance of the Emergency Relief Fund at December 31, 2018, which was established at the time of the flooding in South Alberta (2013) and used again with the wildfires at Fort McMurray (2016) be shared, 50% to each of Region 2 and Region 3. **CARRIED.**

INTERNALLY RESTRICTED TRUST FUNDS:

MOTION 2018/2019-10: Sue Brodrick/Carolyn Woodall: That all surplus funds and Trust Funds at December 31, 2018; except for the Archives Trust Fund, the Living into Right Relations Trust Fund, the Emergency Relief Fund, and the Heritage Cemeteries Trust Fund, be shared 50% to each of Region 2 and Region 3. **CARRIED.**

ARCHIVES TRUST FUND:

It was noted that both Regions 2 and 3 would be responsible for the Archivist's salary, but that the Archivist would part of the staff of Region 2 as the Provincial Archives of Alberta are located in Edmonton.

Executive Members were reminded that there would be several deposits of archival materials over the next few years.

Proposal: that the Archives Trust Fund be kept in Region 2 until Regional Commissions have determined future plans.

Discussion: each region will determine what part of its assets will go to the Trust Fund; all expenses for conservation of the Archives, with the exception of the Archivist's salary, come from the Trust Fund, and both regions will pay their own expenses; the regions will work out a mechanism for working together; and discussion is still underway regarding how the Archives will be organized, but they are provincial so will always be intertwined.

MOTION 2018/2019-11: Sue Brodrick/Curtis Tufts: That the surplus of the Archives Trust Fund stay with Region 2 to allow the Regional Commissions time to determine their plans regarding the future of their Archives. **CARRIED.**

Sheila McLeod, South Alberta Presbytery, requested that her abstention to **Motion 2018/2019-11** be recorded.

The President, Kathy Yamashita, apologized for her tardiness due to heavy traffic, and resumed chairing the Meeting.

Discussion of the Archives Trust Fund continued with the following comments: the intention is that the Trust Fund will be self-sustaining to support the Archivist's salary; proceeds from the sale of church property is not guaranteed; there needs to be a board to review investment of the Trust Fund; each region will need to make that decision down the road: we need not direct their work; regions will need to have their own discussions about how the fund is funded; this is an internal fund so it can be changed; authority will be given to region 2 for now; and history should be included in communication going forward.

It was noted that the Archives Trust Fund exists to support archival costs in both Regions 2 and 3.

LIVING INTO RIGHT RELATIONS TRUST FUND:

The Executive Members were reminded that the 85th Conference Meeting considered a Proposal from the Living Into Right Relations Standing Committee regarding future funding for this work, and that the Decisions were as follows:

That that Alberta and Northwest Conference recommend to its representatives that:

Any remaining funds from the LIRR Trust Fund and the 2018 budget line be transferred to Region 2 with the understanding that the funds are for the use of the Circle within Regions 2 and 3. (Motion **C2018-23b**, 85th Conference Meeting Minutes, Page CM-3); and

Support Living into Right Relations work in Regions 2 and 3 by designating a portion of existing resources as determined by the Conference Executive at the conclusion of 2018 (Motion **C2018-23c**, 85th Conference Meeting Minutes, Page CM-3)

Discussion was held about what percentage of the surplus Conference equity would go into the LIRR Trust Fund to be held by Region 2.

Discussion: we don't know yet what the surplus will be; we should let it sit until the All Tribes and Plains Presbyteries meet in early December, and let the Trust Fund sit in the region where the Indigenous churches are affiliated; the percentage needs larger discussion; surplus refers to the balance of Conference money, not just 2018 income over expense; a percentage decision doesn't depend on the amount of surplus that will be available; the General Council was very clear that the Indigenous churches would determine their own self-governance; this money is for our work with right relations, and not directly for the Indigenous churches; LIRR will be known as the Being Good Relations Circle; we need not take the decision about sharing with national funding from the Circle; the wisdom of the Conference Meeting was for this Executive to determine a percentage; the Regional Commissions are budgeting for Intercultural work; the concern is that there will be nothing for living into the new experience; the Calls to the Church document encouraged ways to build relationships between Indigenous and non-Indigenous to be funded, with some specific suggestions; and this response is a gift to be used as the Being Good Relations Circle sees fit.

MOTION 2018/2019-12: Carolyn Woodall/Scott Reynolds: That 10% of the Alberta and Northwest Conference surplus funds as of December 31, 2018, be designated to the Living Into Right Relations Trust Fund. **CARRIED.**

The Executive Members were advised that both Regional Commissions would be represented at the December 1-2 meeting with the All Tribes and Plains Presbyteries.

HERITAGE CEMETERIES TRUST FUND:

Sue Brodrick reported that this fund had been used only once, to place a memorial plaque at the Wahstao cemetery.

It was noted that this Trust Fund was established with a gift in memory of Wes Johnston, by Sheila Johnston, of Calgary.

The Executive Members agreed that Sheila Johnston should be consulted on the future of this Trust Fund.

MOTION 2018/2019-13: Sue Brodrick/Carolyn Woodall: That the Heritage Cemeteries Trust Fund be transferred to Region 3 to facilitate consultation with Sheila Johnston regarding its future. **CARRIED.**

SHARED MINISTRY TRUST FUND:

Sue Brodrick reported that this Trust Fund was established internally as an Ecumenical Fund created with three other denominations to host an ecumenical conference, and that the Fund, with its balance of \$7,540.00, has had no activity in the past sixteen years.

Proposal: that this Trust Fund be divided equally between the Shared Ministries within the Conference:
Campbell-Stone Pastoral Charge, Calgary;
Chetwynd Shared Ministry, Hay River (Grace) Pastoral Charge, Hudson's Hope Shared Ministry, and Manning-Deadwood Pastoral Charge, Northern Lights Presbytery;
Grace Anglican United Pastoral Charge, South Alberta Presbytery; and
Slave Lake Pastoral Charge, Yellowhead Presbytery.

MOTION 2018/2019-14: Sue Brodrick/Ruth Lumax: That the Ecumenical Shared Ministry Trust Fund be divided equally between the seven Ecumenical Shared Ministries within Alberta and Northwest Conference. **CARRIED.**

PLANNING AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE II: Sue Brodrick
Sue Brodrick advised that persons doing any committee or other Conference work for the remainder of the year were asked to please submit any expense forms for reimbursement prior to December 15, 2018 as the Conference would not be able to issue cheques after December 31, 2018.
Executive Members were advised that there would need to be a teleconference meeting of the Regions 2 and 3 Commissions in mid-March (2019) to approve the 2018 Financial Statements for Alberta and Northwest Conference.
At its conclusion, Sue Brodrick was thanked for her report.

PRESBYTERY MATTERS:

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

Northern Lights Presbytery: (Gordon Waldie) the Presbytery has the potential for eight vacancies as of June 2019.

Discussion: appreciation was expressed for the 7-word Stories that were shared in the written report.

Yellowhead Presbytery: (Curtis Tufts) the Presbytery is wrapping up and will have its final meeting this coming weekend; Diane Strickland to come to the meeting to facilitate celebration of and reflection on the life of Yellowhead Presbytery; and a banquet is planned for November, to be held in in Stony Plain.

St. Paul Presbytery: (Scott Reynolds) the Presbytery appreciated President Kathy Yamashita's attendance at its Camp Whitney meeting; conversation is ongoing with Baptists about sharing or selling the camp property; Grace United Church, Lloydminster, became the Affirming Ministry in the Presbytery; the property in Elk Point has been sold, and proceeds will be shared with Pastoral Charges in the Presbytery; three Sacraments Elder requests are awaiting decision; a Church Modernization Grant will be submitted; RSV Pastoral Charge is in a Joint Needs Assessment Process; and Ministry Personnel at Wainwright is on a medical leave.

Discussion: camps are not all unique; a concern is need for and cost of renovation when the camp is struggling; camps are important for faith formation and aren't being supported well in the church; we need to find a way to allow inner city kids to experience camp; camps could benefit the whole region now; the former Camp Committee was a forum for this wider discussion, and for camps working with each other; hopefully regions will be able to address this.

Edmonton Presbytery: (Stuart Jackson) plans are underway for a full meeting next week and a celebratory dinner on November 10; a recommendation has been received re disposition of assets from the former Knox-Metropolitan and Pleasantview United Church properties; guidelines have been approved for recognizing appropriate outreach ministries; and Presbytery is asking Region 2 to provide bridging grants using Presbytery funds.; several interesting events.

Red Deer Presbytery: (Ruth Lumax) the Presbytery is excited about the changes, is wrapping up, and has already had a celebration.

Coronation Presbytery: (Alwin Maben) the last Coronation Presbytery Meeting will be held November 20-21, at Stettler, the place where the first Meeting was held; a covenanting was held at Hardisty Hughenden covenanting; and prayers were requested for that Pastoral Charge and its Ministry Personnel, Nam Ok Yoo, who will soon be undergoing brain surgery in Vancouver; .

Calgary Presbytery: (Sue Brodrick) the Presbytery's Personnel Support Commission has 4 candidates who have completed discernment, and 5 others in discernment; the Presbytery will host a Celebration Gala on December 1, and its Christmas Supper and Worship, a de-covenanting service with Michael Blair on December 18; and 3 churches are looking at redevelopment projects.

South Alberta Presbytery: (Sheila McLeod) Ed Bardock has been very ill, and is recovering from surgery; a youth event was held at McKillop with Ruth Grainger Powell; Taber is undergoing a Joint Needs Assessment process, even though their ministry personnel will not be leaving, due to the residency requirements of Canada Immigration; a Joint Search Committee is working at Westminster to find a second minister; Redcliff-Irvine is vacant; one student is ready for a final interview, and one is in discernment; Presbytery received a report from the 43rd General Council, and did a follow-up to a cluster workshop; a Flourishing Congregation Event will be held at McKillop on November 3; several grant applications are underway; and the Executive was excited to learn about the Regional Council Gathering to be held June 7-8, 2019, in Lethbridge; a Lethbridge projects committee is set to administer funds set aside to encourage new ministry in Lethbridge; the final Presbytery Meeting will be held November 21, with Worship and a closing Celebration; and the final Executive Meeting will be held on November 28.

Discussion: the Regional Commissions would like to hear about specific areas of concern from the Presbyteries; all regions have a list of their congregations and are in the process of building communication information networks, including, newsletters and eNewsletter; people are encouraged to sign on to Conference news on the website as it will continue to be used; Helen Reed and Ruth Lumax are the Chairpersons of the Region 2 and Region 3 Commissions, respectively; Shannon McCarthy and Program Assistant, Jamie McKay can be reached by email to smccarthy@united-church.ca and jmckay@united-church.ca, respectively.

CHINOOK WINDS REGIONAL COMMISSION (REGION 3): Sue Brodrick

Sue Brodrick, a member of the Regional Commission, provided a report on the work of the Commission.

Executive Members were advised that:

- the Commission meets every two weeks;
- the Chairperson, Helen Reed regularly distributes a newsletter to share information and build contacts with Pastoral Charges;
- a governance model is being established;
- a committee has been established to plan a two-day Regional Gathering in Lethbridge, June 7-8, 2019;
- staff have not yet been hired, but the search is underway for a full-time Pastoral Relations Minister;
- the Commission will likely have an office in the Calgary area, mostly for identification purposes;
- the name, Chinook Winds Regional Council has been decided; and
- the Regional Council's Mission and Ministry will be discussed at the first Regional Gathering.

REGIONAL COMMISSION #2: Ruth Lumax

Ruth Lumax, Chairperson for the Regional Commission, provided a report on the work of the Commission.

Executive Members were advised that:

- the Commission is meeting regularly, using Zoom videoconferencing;
- the one Indigenous Commission member has had to resign, and one other member is on Medical Leave, and that this was already the smallest Commission;
- Helen Reed and Ruth chat regularly to share collaborative and collegial wisdom;
- the staff serving Regions 2, 4 and 5 are in place: Executive Minister, Shannon McCarthy, Program Assistant, Jamie McKay; and Heather Dootoff, Financial Administrator;
- the Commission is Looking for a Treasurer;
- the staff serving Region 2 will be Earl Reaburn, Pastoral Relations Minister, and Kathy Jackson, Office Support
- the current Conference Office space at Kirk United Church Centre will become the Regional Office, in hopes that Kirk Centre will become self-sustaining;
- challenges around travel make Edmonton the logical place for the office for now;
- the first Regional Gathering is being planned for May 23-26, 2019, in Valleyview, and the planning team is being recruited;
- a meeting of the Regions 2, 4 and 5 Commissions (Tri-Regional Commission) established a property task group to look at policies;
- the Commission is at a crossroads with visioning, the tension with doing something new vs. what is good now; or developing a governance model which would need visioning ahead of time;
- part of re-structuring is finance-driven, so there will not be much left over for anything beyond structure or staffing, and the Regional Gathering may have to have conversation about assessments;
- the Bylaws around regional structures are being formed;
- pastoral relations work is also underway; and
- prayers and patience will be gratefully accepted.

Discussion: suggestion for conversations with Regional Commissions about obtaining a suite or apartment for the use of the Executive Minister or other visiting staff or guests.

ANNOUNCEMENT:

Rendez-Vous 2020, a national Youth Event, and the 44th General Council Meeting are planning to be held in Calgary.

Executive Members were advised that volunteers and other support may be needed, and to contact Vicki McPhee, Ministry Personnel at Symons Valley United Church re Rendez-Vous, or Sue Brodrick re GC44.

STUDENT BURSARY FUNDS:

Discussion postponed earlier in the Meeting was resumed.

It was reported that money can be earmarked by Presbyteries to ask Regions that it be used for students, but it will be for students throughout the Region, not only the current Presbytery students.

Executive Members were reminded to continue to be generous and to work together.

It was noted that the Alberta and Northwest Conference Student Bursary Fund Society, as an Incorporated Ministry, will chart its own course.

PRESBYTERY AND CONFERENCE RECORDS:

It was noted that records needing to be archived, will be sent to the Archives, and other records will be sent to the Regional Offices.

IMMIGRATION ISSUES:

It was noted that the issues of immigration had been raised several times during discussion at this Meeting.

The Executive heard that these issues are dealt with at the General Council in several instances, although we continue to have concerns about this issue and its impact on Ministry Personnel being admitted to the Order of Ministry from other denominations.

The Executive Members were urged to keep those dealing with immigration issues in their prayers.

CLOSING WORSHIP: Kathy Yamashita

The President, Kathy Yamashita led a time of worship, reflecting on religious views that help to end strife:

In India, Namaste, "the divine in me acknowledges the divine in you";
Christians believe that God is love and love makes all things possible, and so we seek justice and love kindness;

Other faiths have their own ways to act their religion, but kindness is recognized in all.

Executive Members were advised to step forward in our denomination, in faith that the ground will be safe.

A ritual of anointing demonstrated that we are all one in the name of God the Father, Jesus the Son and the Holy Spirit to bless us on our journey.

The scripture, Psalm 23, was sung.

The Closing Prayer and Benediction were led by the President, Kathy Yamashita.

ADJOURNMENT:

As there was no further business to be brought to the Executive, the President, Kathy Yamashita, declared this Meeting to be adjourned at 12:15 p.m.

LUNCH: Grace was led by Curtis Tufts, Yellowhead Presbytery.

Kathy Yamashita,
President

Shannon McCarthy,
Executive Secretary

APPENDIX A

October 2018 General Council Executive Representatives
Report to ANWC Executive

First of all, I want to again express gratitude for the privilege of being in this role for the past three years. I also offer my regrets that I am unable to attend this meeting face to face.

Even in this short time there has been a shift to more electronic meetings that at first seemed unwieldy, and over time have become increasingly efficient and comfortable for those of us who participate and lead. Technical glitches that had been a source of stress are now dealt with more matter-of-factly. The use of webinars to prepare for such meetings, which was once again the case for this particular electronic gathering, is extremely helpful.

I believe this is hopeful as we continue to adapt to geographic distances. The Spirit is not hindered.

The Executive of the General Council 42 and the incoming General Council Executive held a special electronic meeting on Saturday, September 29, led by our new Moderator, The Right Reverend Richard Bott.

This was a special meeting to deal with proposals from GC43, unfinished business and to approve resulting changes to the Manual. The current GCE members are continuing in their role until January 1, 2019 to help in the transition to the new structure.

Highlights

Consent Motion

At the meeting we passed a number of proposals in a consent motion, including two proposals from ANW: developing a Disaster Assistance Strategy (ANW03), and Mental Health and the Mission of the Church (ANW07). The General Secretary will consider, identify and implement actions to be taken. One other proposal from the consent agenda names the first Sunday of June LGBGTQ+ Pride Sunday beginning in 2019.

New Business from GC43

The Executive was asked to vote on the ways forward (as opposed to the proposal) on proposals including: Ensuring our decision-making and implementation processes reflect our commitment to being an Intercultural Church; creating a National Young Adult Board and designating a Youth Intern on the Executive; facilitating dialogue on the life of small ministries; addressing the racism in the church through dialogue.

These proposals will be part of the work directed to the new GC Executive.

Decision Making Session

Changes to the United Church of Canada bylaws to reflect decisions by the General Council or Executive were carried.

A proposal on advocacy for decriminalizing drug possession for personal use was discussed and the General Secretary was directed to bring about a webinar to engage the church in conversation.

A proposal from BC Conference to support termination of plans to expand the Trans Mountain Pipeline: the decision was to take no action.

The GCE will hold another electronic meeting on November 17.

Respectfully submitted by
Donalee Williams
On behalf of Sue Brodrick

APPENDIX B

Living into Right Relations Standing Committee
Report to the ANWC Executive
October 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 Evelyn Day

Resource staff: Shannon McCarthy, Charlene Burns

The Living into Right Relations committee has had two primary foci since the Conference Executive last met in March of this year:

1. Discerning our role moving into the new United Church structure, drafting proposals about this to ANWC in advance of the May conference meetings, and communicating with the Region 2 and 3 Commissions.

The work of reconciliation is relational, and we are trying our best to uphold relationships. One of the primary reasons (although not the only reason) for the proposal that went to conference, was to allow the LIRR standing committee to continue to nurture existing relationships while giving the Indigenous church time to consider its future in relationship to the new governance model. The relationships of the existing LIRR standing committee span several treaty lands and encompass congregations within All Tribes Presbytery and the All Native Circle Conference. We are reluctant to fracture any of these relationships by abruptly dividing our committee between two regions, especially since the Indigenous church has yet to name its relationship to the new model. We are hopeful that we will be able to transition into the new model in a more gradual and organic manner by allowing time for discernment and decision-making.

2. Planning and preparing for Boost for the Journey 2: Moving Forward in Truth and Reconciliation, a retreat for witnesses to be held October 26-28, 2018 at Camp Kiwanis. Registration will end soon, but the response seems good so far, and we are excited! This will be a chance for witnesses to connect, deepen relationships, share experiences, and learn. We are grateful that there will be several elders joining us and some skilled facilitators.

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

APPENDIX C

**THE INTER-CULTURAL MINISTRY STANDING COMMITTEE,
REPORT TO THE ALBERTA AND NORTHWEST CONFERENCE
OCTOBER 2018**

Greetings from the members of the Intercultural Ministry Standing Committee.

During the year we met at least eight times either for Face-to-face meeting or on Conference call to discuss and plan on our two main concerns - Proposal to the GC 43 and the Education event 2018.

1. Proposal to the GC43.

At the last Executive meeting of the Alberta and Northwest Conference in May 2018, we sought the wisdom and direction of the executive to help us with the Proposal to the GC43 to have an Inter-cultural Standing Committee at every structural level in the new structure to carry out Church's important and challenging mission. With the guidance received from the executive and with help from our committee members, Michael Blair and Allan Buckingham, we were able to present the proposal to the 85th Conference meeting held on May 10-13, 2018 in at Millennium Place, Sherwood Park, AB. It was accepted and then forwarded to the GC43 with concurrence. As Commissioners to the General Council, YoonOk, and I had the privilege to present this Proposal to the GC43 as **"ANW 09 – Racism, Racial Discrimination, Racial Justice and White Privilege"** under Listening Session 2: **Intercultural and Dominant Privilege Lenses** - on July 23, 2018. We had a short video presentation highlighting the works of Intercultural ministry of the Conference and Edmonton Presbytery during this presentation. It can be watched in the GC43 Website. On the final day (Friday, July 27), commissioners approved all seven proposals under the above mentioned theme. They are now referred to the General Secretary for timely implementation. We look forward to the implementation of this proposal.

2. The Education Event - "The Church's Struggle to see Jesus from Intercultural Eyes", Sept. 26-27, 2018.

As indicated in our last report, following the success of **"An Awkward Conversation in the Church"** we decided to have a follow up of that as this year's Conference Education event. Edmonton Presbytery – Intercultural Ministry and Mission joined us in planning this event. A planning committee was formed consisting of members from both the committees (Edmonton Presbytery - Evelyn Day, David Elliot, Janice Brisson, Jun Hyok and Peter Kugba-Nyande and Pam Won and Yoon Ok Shin Kang and myself were from our committee.)

"The Church's Struggle to see Jesus from Intercultural Eyes" was the theme of our Education/Learning Day event. Dr. Mary (Joy) Philip - Assistant Professor of Lutheran Global Theology and Mission at Martin Luther University College federated with Wilfrid Laurier University in Waterloo, Ontario was our Main Speaker. The Edmonton Presbytery Intercultural Ministry & Mission planned the Public meeting on September 26, 2018 (5:00 – 8:30 PM) with Pot-luck Supper at Korean United Church, Edmonton. We are grateful to Korean United Church for opening their door for this event. The event was graced by our Moderator – The Most Rev. Dr. Richard Bott, Rev. Sharon McCarthy, our Executive Secretary, Dr. Kathy Yamashita, President of ANWC. They all brought greetings and addressed the gathering. We also had Elder Charles Wood from the First Nations to Inaugurate as per custom and address the gathering. We had the Korean Church choir sing along with other cultural events that set the tone for the following day's event. This public event was well attended.

The Conference Education/Learning day event was held in Providence Renewal Centre on September 27, 2018. We had 49 people register for this event and were challenged by Dr. Phillips Bible Study/lectures. Apart from the "Color line" Exercise, we had good table talks and discussions and Theological reflections. There will be reflections from some of those who attended in the forthcoming Conference News letter. Those who evaluated the event have given a high score (7-10) for this event and have encouraged us to carry forward this mission. We hope that all who attended are challenged further to address Racism and White privilege in their given context.

Apart from all those who attended, we are especially grateful to the Presbyteries who sent two representatives to this event.

We say a big thank you to Rev. Shannon McCarthy our Executive Secretary for all her help and guidance. We are very much grateful to our Conference staff – Kathy Jackson and Shelly Den Haan who have helped us in publicity material, registration, booking the facility, covering the event, etc. We are also grateful to Ann Thomas for all her help.

A special word of thanks to Dr. Kathy Yamashita who, not only as the Conference President, but also as a valuable member of our committee helped us and guided us with passion.

APPENDIX C - Continued

Funding for the Event.

We couldn't have carried out this Education event with the budget that is made available to us. Hence we tapped many doors without much success. In desperation we approached Susan Brodrick and we express our sincere gratitude to her and the Conference Executive for considering our request and granting us additional funds of \$5,000.00. Much later, we also received \$2,500.00 from "Embracing the Spirit". We are grateful for all the support we have received.

3. Our Last AGM:

On Friday, September 28, 2018 we met for the last time as the Intercultural Ministry Standing Committee of ANWC at Providence Renewal Centre, Edmonton. Among other things our focus was on continuing the work of the Intercultural Ministry in the New Regions. Since the present Intercultural Ministry Standing Committee members are almost equally divided between Regions 2 & 3, it was resolved that we write to the Chairs and Executive Ministers of this regions expressing our intent to hold an Education event in October 2019 for both the regions and provide budget for the same, so that we do not lose the momentum. We seek the wisdom of the executive in this regard.

4. A Brief from Edmonton Presbytery – Intercultural Ministry and Mission

YoonOk Shin Kang, the Facilitator Reports as follows:

i). Summer Children Bible Camp

For the 3rd year ICM children Bible camp (age 5-12) was held in Chinese United Church with the theme "Going Fishing" from July 10-13, 2018. There were 26 kids, 2 main teachers, 2 adult activity supervising volunteers, 4 youth and young adults assisting teachers committed to this event. It was a joyful event with laughter, fun, games, lunch, snacks and drinks. Thanks to the sub working group for their hard work.

ii). BBQ Summer Picnic, on July 14, at Rundle Park

The sub working group along with some volunteers organized this Picnic which was attended by 70-80 folks from diverse communities of faith, in spite of the bad weather. There were varieties of good food and wonderful fellowship.

iii). ESL program in the Fall

This programme resumed on September 19, and will go on till November 7. Deborah and I are working together for this ESL Fall session. There are 15 students registered and 4 ESL volunteer teachers who have made commitments to teach. We are planning on Spring classes too, but will have to find a new location as St. Paul's UC is planning on renovation of the church.

iv). Intercultural Bible Study for Clergy

The Bible Study for clergy, resumed on Sept 25 at McDougall UC. 7 ministers gathered to have a wonderful and joyful time of discussion and fellowship. Next gathering is at Beverly UC on Oct 25, Thursday at Noon.

v). Education Learning Day - September 26-27, 2018.

The sub working group members: Janice Brisson, Jun Hyok Chon, Evelyn Day and myself, worked with Alberta and Northwest Conference Intercultural Ministry Standing Committee team and planning group for the learning Day as an educational event with the theme: "**The Church's Struggle to see Jesus from Intercultural Eyes**" The Edmonton Presbytery Intercultural Ministry working group met a couple of times to plan for the public meeting held on September 26, 2018 (5:00 – 8:30 PM) with Pot-luck Supper at Korean United Church, Edmonton. We took the responsibility of hosting this event. The dining hall was tastefully decorated and there was plenty of varieties of food before the Inaugural programme with cultural songs. It was a very successful event.

vi). Upcoming events: Christmas Choirs on December 2, 2018

An Intercultural celebration of Christmas in songs and music will be held on Sunday, Dec 2 (first Sunday of Advent) at 3:00p.m. at Sherwood Park United Church.

APPENDIX C - Continued

5. Invitations:

Some of our committee members have been invited to participate in:

- i) **Stewardship Event – Sunnybrook United Church, Red Deer, Oct 19-20, 2018.**
- ii) **ANWC Living into Right Relations Standing Committee- “Boost for the Journey II – Moving Forward in Truth and Reconciliation” : Oct 26-28, 2018 Kamp Kiwanis.**

We are looking forward to attend these events to learn and to offer different perspectives where possible.

We very much appreciate all the support and encouragement to Intercultural Ministry Standing Committee has received. Thank you. Without your prayer and support, we wouldn't have succeeded. Glory be to God.

Respectfully submitted

Alwin Maben & YoonOk Shin Kang.

Co-Chairpersons, Intercultural Ministry Standing Committee (ANWC)

DRAFT

APPENDIX D

Report from ANWC UCW to ANWC Executive, October 18, 2018

Since the last meeting of the Conference Executive, we in the Conference UCW have held our AGM, two Sub-Executive meetings, and one Full Executive meeting, which was held just this past weekend in Vermilion. We thank First United Church, Vermilion, for hosting us.

Our 2018 AGM was held at the FCJ Centre in Calgary April 12 to 14, 2018. Our theme was "Reconcile and Make New". Our focus on Reconciliation attracted a few women who do not usually come to UCW events, but who were interested in the topic. On Friday evening, we hosted a performance of the play "New Blood", open to both our registrants and the general public. It was a very moving performance. Tickets sold out, and we also broke even on the cost, with the help of grants from Calgary, South Alberta and Foothills Presbyteries, and the Mennonite Central Committee, which provided the venue and set up the Eventbrite page for ticket sales.

At our Full Executive meeting, we made the decision to continue as a network operating across both Regions 2 and 3. We will name our network at our spring AGM, which will be held April 4 to 6, 2019, at Star of the North retreat centre in St. Albert. Our Child Well Being Initiative is currently on the back burner, but there is still a line in the budget in case we need to revive it. One member of our Executive presented compelling reasons why we should all reduce our use of plastic; we will discuss this further at our AGM, but in the meantime I encourage everyone to use less single use plastic whenever possible.

As ANWC UCW president, I was automatically made a commissioner to General Council 43. I am glad to have had this experience. My work there included presenting Proposal ANW 11, in which we asked that the UCW be represented on all Regional Councils, as we are now in Presbyteries and some Conferences. I was able to present the Proposal twice, at two listening sessions. I realized after the first presentation that I was speaking to people who knew much less about UCW than those who had been at our ANW Conference meeting, and so took the opportunity to give more information the second time. However, I had little hope of it passing after reading Proposal GCE 02 and hearing it explained in one of the pre-GC 43 webinars. The feeling I had from the webinar and at the GC 43 meeting is that this is the structure we have accepted, and we should not make any changes to it until we have lived into it. Three other Proposals concerned with representation at the Denominational Council and Denomination Council Executive were equally unsuccessful. The decision on our Proposal was "That the 43rd General Council refer Proposal ANW 11 to the Regional Councils for consideration and take no further action". Since the Regions can make this decision, we intend to ask for representation on Regional Councils 2 and 3.

At the UCW National meeting in September, we installed a new President, Beulah Hayley, from Newfoundland. We also adopted a new national UCW project, called "Women for Change Zambia". Its main focus is education for girls, and it is already supported by the Mission and Service Fund through local partners. Our Maritime Conference offered to host a 60th anniversary gathering for UCW, and it was decided that it will be held in Sydney, NS in the summer of 2022. As the church transitions to a three court structure, the UCW is free to do what serves us best. It looks as though some will be following the new Regional boundaries immediately, some will do so later, and some will keep old boundaries.

I have enjoyed being part of the Conference Executive, and wish everyone God's blessing as we move into our new Regions.

Margery Wright, ANWC UCW President