

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

DATE: Sub-Executive Meeting: Monday, September 10, 2018, 2:30 p.m. (MDT)

PLACE: Telephone Conference Call

PRESENT: Kathryn Yamashita, President; Bill Doyle, Executive Secretary; Stuart Jackson, Edmonton Presbytery; Brenda Watt, Foothills Presbytery; and Ruth Lumax, Red Deer Presbytery.

Corresponding Member: Sue Brodrick, Planning and Administration.

Recording Secretary: Kathy Jackson.

CONSTITUTION OF THE COURT:

The meeting was called to order by the President, Kathryn Yamashita, with a quorum present for the work before it, to the glory of God. The President, Kathryn Yamashita, welcomed the Members of the Sub-Executive, and led the opening prayer.

AGENDA:

It was reported that the Agenda for this Meeting included:

1. Response to an Appeal by Members of Drayton Valley Pastoral Charge to Decisions of Yellowhead Presbytery; and
2. Consideration of recommendations regarding the 2018 Budget and Financial Statements.

SUB-EXECUTIVE MINUTES: February 15, 2019; February 20, 2018 and May 2, 2018
The Minutes from the previous meetings of the Sub-Executive were reviewed.

MOTION 2018/2019-1: Stuart Jackson/Brenda Watt: That the Minutes of the Meetings of the Alberta and Northwest Conference Sub-Executive, held February 15, 2018, February 20, 2018, and May 2, 2018, be approved. **CARRIED.**

It was reported that the Commission established in February was continuing to meet to work through the recommendations of the Review Report, and that there was no report to be received at the present time.

CORRESPONDING MEMBER:

Sue Brodrick, Chairperson for the Planning and Administration Committee was welcomed to the meeting.

MOTION 2018/2019-2: Bill Doyle/Ruth Lumax: That Sue Brodrick, Planning and Administration Committee Chairperson, be named as a Corresponding Member of the Sub-Executive for this Meeting. **CARRIED.**

APPEAL: DRAYTON VALLEY UNITED CHURCH and YELLOWHEAD PRESBYTERY

The Executive Secretary, Bill Doyle, reported that this matter had arisen from a Decision of Yellowhead Presbytery at its Meeting on March 24, 2018. The Decision was appealed by 6 Members of Drayton Valley United Church (the Appellants) and had been responded to by Yellowhead Presbytery (the Respondent).

It was reported that both the Appellants and the Respondent had acted in accordance with the requirements of Section J.13 of The Manual (2016) of The United Church of Canada.

It was further reported that, if the Appeal was ongoing after December 31, 2018, with changes to the United Church structure, the Appeal Panel would continue its work, with the role of the Respondent being assumed by Region 2, and the role of the Appeal Court being assumed by the General Council Judicial Committee.

The following information was shared as background to the discussion:

- In January 2017, a Commission was established by Yellowhead Presbytery to operate Drayton Valley Pastoral Charge until the congregation was deemed to be in a state of health and vitality.
- This was not realized, and on the recommendation of the Commission, Yellowhead Presbytery disbanded the Drayton Valley Pastoral Charge on March 24, 2018, effective April 1, 2018.

The Sub-Executive Members were advised that, having received the Appellants' Statement and the Response, it was the responsibility of the Conference, as the Appeal Court, to establish an Appeal Panel to determine whether or not there was grounds for the Appeal to proceed or if there was no basis for an Appeal.

Discussion: it was noted that the 6 Appellants likely represented other church members, but that they were within their rights to launch the Appeal as they were deemed to have been affected by the Decision being appealed.

MOTION 2018/2019-3: Bill Doyle/Ruth Lumax:

1. That the Alberta and Northwest Conference hold an Appeal as the Appeal Court, pursuant to Section J.13 of The Manual (2016), and the relevant policies, rules, and procedures in response to the Notice of Appeal / Appellant's Statement initiated by some members of the Drayton Valley United Church arising from a Decision made by Yellowhead Presbytery as Motion #70-17/18 at its meeting of March 24th, 2018, that Yellowhead Presbytery disband the Drayton Valley United Church; it being acknowledged that, by a decision of the General Council, effective January 1st, 2019, the role of the Conference as appellate court will be automatically assumed by the General Council Judicial Committee and the role of the Presbytery will be automatically assumed by the regional council;
2. That an Appeal Committee be appointed, pursuant to paragraph 13.7.13 of the Rules and Procedures, consisting of Shauna Gibbons as Chairperson, Larry Derkach as Secretary, and Jim Lochhead;
3. That the Appeal Committee should consider the appeal and submit its report to the Alberta and Northwest Conference through its Executive or Sub-Executive or, if after December 31st, 2018, to the General Council Judicial Committee by June 30th, 2019, but the Appeal Committee has the right to extend its work past the indicated date if, at its discretion, it becomes necessary or advisable to do so; and
4. That the Alberta and Northwest Conference will pay for the costs associated with the appeal proceedings to December 31st, 2018, as may be approved in advance by the Executive Secretary of the Conference, provided however that the Conference is not responsible to pay for the costs of the parties to the appeal.

CARRIED.

2018 BUDGET:

Sue Brodrick, Chairperson for the Planning and Administration Committee, reported that a request had been received from the Intercultural Ministry Standing Committee to have permission to over-run its 2018 Budget, due to the costs of its upcoming event, *The Church's Struggle to See Jesus from Intercultural Eyes*. The Intercultural Ministry Standing Committee had applied for grants to make up the shortfall, which were not approved.

The Sub-Executive Members were advised that, the request was for \$5,000.00, so it was necessary to have permission to approve this substantial over-run.

Executive
Secretary
Persons
Named

It was reported that news had just been received that a grant in the amount of \$2,500.00 had been approved by Embracing the Spirit, and so the draw from the Conference budget might not be the full \$5,000.00.

Discussion: it would be better to consider approval for the full \$5,000.00 as that was the amount requested; and the overrun would be covered from the amount allotted for severances, as it is known that two of the Conference staff members would be continuing as regional staff.

MOTION 2018/2019-4: Bill Doyle/Brenda Watt: That the Alberta and Northwest Conference Sub-Executive approve an over-run of \$5,000.00 of the Intercultural Ministry Standing Committee to continue the work started in 2017 on "An Awkward Conversation; and that the funds for this over-run will come from the over budget of severances required in 2018. **CARRIED.**

Sue Brodrick reported that, as the Conference is winding down at the end of 2018, Shauna Scott, Treasurer, and Ann Thomas, Accountant, had agreed to continue their work to complete the year-end and produce the final 2018 Financial Statements.

It was also reported that the 2018 Financial Statements would need to be independently reviewed, and that the current reviewer, Edwin Radke, had agreed to conduct the 2018 review engagement.

MOTION 2018/2019-5: Stuart Jackson/Ruth Lumax: That the Alberta and Northwest Conference Sub-Executive appoint Radke Professional Corporation Chartered Accountants to carry out the review engagement for the 2018 fiscal year. **CARRIED.**

ADJOURNMENT:

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

Kathryn Yamashita,
President

Bill Doyle,
Executive Secretary