

ASSEMBLY COUNCIL - EXECUTIVE
September 24, 2015

The Assembly Council Executive met by telephone conference call on Thursday September 24, 2015. The meeting was opened with prayer by R. Smith, convener.

ATTENDANCE
7/15E

Present were: the Rev. Robert H. Smith (convener), the Rev. Bradford E. Blaikie, the Rev. Mark R. McLennan, Ms. Cheryl Weeks, the Rev. Ian Ross-McDonald, Mr. Steve Roche, the Rev. Stephen Kendall (secretary), Ms. Terrie-Lee Hamilton (recording secretary).

MINUTES
Executive
8/15E

AGREED, that the Executive minutes of May 11, 2015 and June 29, 2015 be adopted.

Council
9/15E

AGREED, that the Council minutes of March 22–24, 2015 be received for information.

CORRESPONDENCE
General Assembly Referrals
10/15E

AGREED, that the General Assembly referrals be placed on the agenda.

J. Bellsmith
11/15E

An email was received from Jeremy Bellsmith regarding his move to St. Andrew's, Victoria and since he is within the presbytery membership category, this position is now vacant.

AGREED, to contact the Clerk of the Presbytery of Pickering for another member to fill this vacancy.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY
REFERRALS
12/15E

The executive worked through the referrals from the 2015 General Assembly.

Stipends, Annual
Adjustment
13/15E

Assembly Council, Additional Motion (A&P 2015, p. 25) re annual adjustment of stipend for ministers for study and report by January 31, 2016.

AGREED, that the executive receive the replies and formulate a response.

NOTED, S. Kendall will prepare a draft for the executive.

Implementing TRC
Recommendations
14/15E

Assembly Council, Additional Motion, (A&P 2015, p. 25) re plan to implement recommendations of Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

AGREED, to place on the agenda.

2016 Budget
15/15/E

Assembly Council, Rec. No. 1, (A&P 2015, p. 205, 238, 33) re 2016 budget being approved.

AGREED, to receive for information and refer to the Finance Committee.

Council Terms of Reference
and Membership
16/15E

Assembly Council, Rec. Nos. 3 and 4, amended, (A&P 2015, 209–11, 24) re terms of reference and membership of the Assembly Council for comment and report by January 31, 2016.

AGREED, that the General Assembly Office compile the responses for the executive.

Strategic Plan
17/15E

Assembly Council, Rec. No. 5, (A&P 2015, p. 211-13, 24) re presenting a strategic plan to the 2016 General Assembly.

AGREED, to refer to the Strategic Planning Committee.

- Leading with Care in French Overture No. 1, 2015**
18/15E
- Assembly Council, Rec. No. 7, (A&P 2015, p. 214, 24) re Overture No. 1, 2015 re translating Leading with Care into French, noting it was granted.
- AGREED, to receive for information, noting that the Life and Mission Agency is proceeding to work with the Presbytery of Montreal on this translation.
- GA Budget Overture No. 3, 2015**
19/15E
- Assembly Council, Rec. No. 9, (A&P 2015, p. 216, 24) re responding to Overture No. 3, 2015 re budgeting for General Assembly costs to the 2016 General Assembly.
- AGREED, to refer to the Ad hoc Committee re General Assembly Costs and Arrangements.
- Native Ministries Endowment Fund Overture Nos. 13 and 22, 2015**
20/15E
- Assembly Council, Rec. No. 10, amended (A&P 2015, p. 216, 25) re responding to Overture Nos. 13 and 22, 2015 re Establishing a Native Ministries Endowment Fund to the 2016 General Assembly (note to reference 1994 apology and TRC recommendations).
- AGREED, refer to Ad hoc Committee re Overture Nos. 13 and 22, 2015.
- GA – Central Location Overture No. 17, 2015**
21/15E
- Assembly Council, Rec. No. 15, (A&P 2015, p. 233, 24) re responding to Overture No. 17, 2015 re holding General Assembly in a central location and responding to the 2016 General Assembly.
- AGREED, to refer to the Ad hoc Committee re General Assembly Costs and Arrangements.
- CFO/Treasurer – Calling for Nominations**
22/15E
- Assembly Council, Rec. No. 17, (A&P 2015, p. 233, 25) re calling for nominations from presbyteries for the position of Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer.
- AGREED, to place on the agenda.
- Congregation Leaving Denomination Overture No. 37, 2015**
23/15E
- Bills and Overtures, Rec. No. 15, (A&P 2015, p. 249, 17) re Overture No. 37, 2015 (p. 610–11) re process for a congregation leaving the denomination.
- AGREED, that the executive appoint a representative to consult with the Clerks of Assembly.
- Native Ministries Endowment Fund Overture No. 36, 2015**
24/15E
- Bills and Overtures, Rec. No. 14, (A&P 2015, p. 249, 17) re Overture No. 36, 2015 (p. 610) re establishing a Native Ministries Endowment Fund.
- AGREED, to refer to the Ad hoc Committee Overture Nos. 13 and 22, 2015.
- Human Sexuality, Process re Overtures**
25/15E
- Process for Dealing with Overtures re Human Sexuality, Rec. No. 4, reworded and amended (A&P 2015, p. 540, 43) re of prayerful conversation and discernment and Bible study on the topics of human sexuality, sexual orientation and other related matters raised in the overtures.
- AGREED, to receive for information.
- CONTINUING EDUCATION General/Associate Secretaries**
26/15E
- The guidelines for continuing education for general and associate secretaries were reviewed.
- AGREED, that the following interpretation be added to the Personnel Policy Handbook:
1. Continuing education regulations as approved by the General Assembly will apply as far as possible, including the accumulation of up to 5 years of eligible time and money.

2. Continuing education shall be discussed at annual performance evaluations with a view to using it regularly to benefit both the person and the work.
3. Accumulated continuing education allowance is forfeited at the end of employment. No more than two weeks of accumulated continuing education time may be used in the final year of employment.

**CFO/TREASURER
SEARCH
COMMITTEE/PROCESS**
27/15E

Initial steps in the search for the CFO/Treasurer were discussed.

1. The letter to the presbyteries calling for nominations will be sent by October 15th.
2. The executive will name the search committee, noting R. Smith, C. Weeks and S. Kendall will present a list of possible members.
3. Follow the procedures outlined for the search of a General Secretary.

**TRC
RECOMMENDATIONS,
IMPLEMENTING
Call to Action**
28/15E

While all the Calls to Action from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission are significant for all Canadians, there are seven that directly name the churches, three that ask the government of Canada to work with the churches on missing children and burial information, and three that request the parties to assist with cemeteries and memorials.

The Calls to Action of most significance to our church broadly fall into the following areas (Call to Action numbers follow each area):

1. The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP): Ensure we are using UNDRIP principles as a framework for reconciliation and report how we are doing so. (46 and 48)
2. Repudiate the Doctrine of Discovery and *terra nullus*: Repudiate those concepts that have been used throughout history to justify sovereignty over Indigenous lands and peoples. (46 and 49)
3. Indigenous Spirituality: Educate clergy, laity and candidates for ministry to respect in it's own right, Indigenous Spirituality as 'a valid form of worship equal to their own.' (48, 60, 61)
4. Ongoing Education: Provide to our members ongoing education on the church's role in colonization and Indian Residential Schools. (59)
5. Covenant of Reconciliation: Develop and sign a Covenant of Reconciliation with other parties to the Settlement Agreement. (46)
6. Permanent Funding: Provide permanent ongoing funding for projects that promote Indigenous healing and reconciliation, culture, language and spirituality. (61)
7. Maintain Cemeteries (73, 74, 75): With Aboriginal groups and the Federal Government, support initiatives to provide a registry of children buried at schools, notify families, and properly maintain cemeteries.

Ideas for Implementing
29/15E

It was agreed to invite Stephen Allen (Justice Ministries) to the fall Council meeting.

There was also support for including the Blanket Exercise in the meeting while S. Allen is present. As part of the importance of orientation and education, S. Kendall and S. Allen will prepare some materials on 'the current picture' of elements arising from the TRC and our denominational involvement, along with suggestions for further implementation of the Call to Action recommendations.

2018 BUDGET AD HOC COMMITTEE
30/15E

The membership make-up of the 2018 Budget Ad Hoc Committee is: Convener of the Finance Committee (convener), 2 representatives of Assembly Council, 2 representatives of Life and Mission Agency, 2 members of the church at large with experience in strategic budget development; and the Management Team will be present, ex-officio. (Min.Ref.150/15C).

The two members at large are Heather Crisp and Rick Horst.

S. Kendall and S. Roche will contact other individuals to serve. The final list will be circulated by email to the executive for approval.

STRATEGIC PLANNING
31/15E

The current membership of the Strategic Planning Committee is Bob Smith, Kathy McKay and Stephen Kendall. The Life and Mission Agency will be asked to name a person. Jeremy Bellsmith will be approached to serve.

MANAGEMENT TEAM
32/15E

S. Roche gave a verbal report on the transition within the Management Team and some of the items they are currently addressing.

PERSONNEL POLICY HANDBOOK
33/15E

S. Kendall led the executive through the major revisions to the Personnel Policy Handbook for the national office staff.

AGREED, to recommend to the Assembly Council:
that the revised Personnel Policy Handbook be approved.

COMMITTEES AND AD HOC COMMITTEES
Appointments
34/15E

The executive will approach the following people about serving on the various standing and ad hoc committees.

- Executive Committee: Colleen Walker
- Governance Committee: Christine Ball

Various members will follow up on finding names for the following committees:

- Audit Committee: S. Roche and R Smith will provide suggestions.
- Finance Committee: S. Roche will provide suggestions.
- Representative re Overture No. 37, 2015: S. Kendall to follow-up.

A Life and Mission Agency Committee liaison member will not be appointed at this time.

Update on Work
35/15E

S. Kendall provided an update on the work of those committees that have recently met. Each of them will report directly to the Council.

NOVEMBER MEETING
36/15E

In preparing for the November meeting of Council, the following will be included:

- orientation for full Council
- blanket exercise
- TRC "Call to Action" and current related Life and Mission initiatives and programs.

WORK PLAN FOR COUNCIL
37/15E

S. Kendall and T. Hamilton will work on a draft of the work plan for the Assembly Council.

MEETING
38/15E

The upcoming meetings for the Council are November 22–24, 2015, and April 3–5, 2016 and the executive will next meet at the call of the convener.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the executive adjourned. R. Smith closed in prayer.