**THE LIFE AND MISSION AGENCY COMMITTEE**

**March 2–4, 2020**

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|  | The Life and Mission Agency Committee met at the national office of The Presbyterian Church in Canada (50 Wynford Drive, Toronto, ON) from March 2-4, 2020. Cindy Stephenson welcomed everyone and opened the meeting with prayer. |
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| **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF TRADITIONAL INDIGENOUS TERRITORY** | On behalf of the LMA, Cindy Stephenson acknowledged that the meeting took place on the traditional lands of the Huron-Wendat, Seneca and the Mississaugas of the Credit Indigenous Peoples. The LMA Committee recognizes a long and rich history which predates the establishment of European colonies and acknowledges the territory’s significance for the Indigenous peoples who lived, and continue to live, upon it and whose practices and spiritualities are tied to the land. The LMA Committee confirms its repudiation of concepts used to justify European sovereignty over Indigenous lands and peoples and reaffirms its commitment to healing and reconciliation with Indigenous people. |
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| **ATTENDANCE** | Life and Mission Agency Committee: Sampson Afoakwah, Janet Brewer (Women’s Mission Society), Charles Cook, Amanda Currie (Moderator of the General Assembly), Aubrey Hawton, Robert Griffiths (Atlantic Mission Society), Vivian Ketchum, Marion Lade, Cheryl MacFayden, Allyson MacLeod, Donna McIlveen, Cindy Stephenson (convenor), Carol Stymiest (Assembly Council), Jo Szostak |
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| **GUESTS** | Ron Ensom (Monday a.m.), Tim Herron (Monday p.m.) |
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| **STAFF** | Allyson Carr, Jennifer de Combe, Ian Ross-McDonald, Oliver Ng, Tim Purvis, Guy Smagghe, Barb Summers, Glynis Williams, Jo Morris (Wednesday a.m.), Colleen McCue (recorder) |
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| **REGRETS** | Jinsook Khang (Assembly Council), Sarah Kim (WMS), Jeffrey Lackie, Rob Robertson (PWS&D) |
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| **OPENING WORSHIP** | The Reverend Tim Purvis, Associate Secretary of Ministry and Church Vocations, led the Committee in worship. |
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| **ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA** | The Conversation with Trustee Board and Investment Advisory Committee representative Tim Herron will take place Monday evening. The conversation with Shaun MacDonald postponed for a future meeting.  On motion of Robert Griffiths / Allyson Macleod it was **AGREED** that the agenda as amended be adopted. |
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| **CONSENSUS DECISION MAKING** | The Consensus Decision Making process was introduced to the LMA Committee a couple of years ago when we met jointly with Assembly Council. This decision-making process has been used at General Assembly. LMA Committee members agreed to use this process for portions of the meeting. |
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| **COVENANT OF ORDER** | LMA Committee members reviewed policy 2.1.7 Covenant of Order. |
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| **CONFLICT OF INTEREST** | After a review of policy 2.1.4 Conflict of Interest and a brief discussion, no conflicts were declared |
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| **MINUTES** | On motion of Carol Stymiest / Aubrey Hawton it was **AGREED** that the minutes of the November 2019 LMA Committee meetings be approved as circulated. |
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| **BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES** | No items were identified. |
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| **CORRESPONDENCE** | From Terrie-Lee Hamilton, Senior Administrator, General Assembly Office:   * Nominations for the Life and Mission Agency   From Stephen Kendall, Principal Clerk, General Assembly Office:   * Overture No 5 re: investment in Indigenous enterprises * Overture No 6 re: liturgies for same-sex marriage and blessing of civil marriages * Overture No 7 re: ordination guidelines for part-time and tent-making ministries   From Ian Ross-McDonald, General Secretary, Life and Mission Agency:   * World Council of Churches 2020 Executive Committee Update   Report from the Convenor of the PWS&D Committee, Rob Robertson  January 2020 letter from Douglas Schonberg – notice of resignation. |
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| **CONVERSATION**  **WITH RON ENSOM**  **re: JOINT STATEMENT ON PHYSICAL PUNISHMENT OF CHILDREN AND YOUTH** | The Committee was joined by phone with Ron Ensom, co-author of the Canadian Joint Statement on Physical Punishment of Children and Youth. Ron reviewed the extensive research and data gathered in the development of the Statement with the LMA Committee.  Discussion included:   * Why the Canadian government hasn’t signed on yet as Trudeau promised to repeal Section 43 of the Criminal Code. * Ron spoke of the concern some have that if the laws change and Section 43 repealed, there would be an increase in the number of investigations of parents by social services. However, in countries where laws have changed, such as Sweden, Germany, New Zealand and Scotland, there was not an increase in police or child welfare reports. * There was discussion regarding positive and effective ways for disciplining children that respect the rights of children. * Ron spoke about who the prominent voices in opposition to the Statement are: fundamentalist voices from a variety of faith backgrounds; the Canadian Teachers Federation has expressed concern regarding protection when restraining children. * Need to provide support and education for parents – thousands of programs across Canada that provide parent education re: positive discipline * Please send any further questions on the subject to Ian who can follow up with Ron. * Ron thanked the LMA Committee for their time and interest in the subject. |
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| **JOINT STATEMENT ON PHYSICAL PUNISHMENT OF CHILDREN AND YOUTH** | Ian Ross-McDonald spoke of the ways that the overture response was clarified and amended to consider feedback and respond to concerns from General Assembly. |
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| **GENERAL ASSEMBLY OVERTURES ASSIGNED TO LMA** | Ian Ross-McDonald reviewed development of response to Overture No 15 (2018) re: Workplace harassment. |
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| **LUNCH** | Jo Szostak offered grace. |
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| **SCENARIO PLANNING FOR THE LMA** | Cindy Stephenson, Jo Szostak and Allyson MacLeod led the Committee in reflection and discussion on scenario-based planning for the LMA. Committee members discussed key variables and trends. Committee members met in small groups to discuss. |
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| **GENERAL ASSEMBLY OVERTURES ASSIGNED TO LMA** | Allyson Carr reviewed development of responses to overtures referred to Justice Ministries including:  Overture No 11 (2018) re: support for Truth and Reconciliation Commission Call to Action 57  Overture No 5 (2020) re: investments in Indigenous enterprises (referred to LMA Committee in consultation with Trustee Board). |
|  | Tim Purvis reviewed development of responses to overtures referred to Ministry & Church Vocations including:  Overture No 17 (2018) re: ministry and mental health.  Overture No 2 (2019) re: mandatory interim ministry during vacancy  Overture No 7 (2019) re: requirements for ordination to chaplaincy  Overture No 15 (2019) re: guidelines for Education and Reception  Overture No 7 (2020) re: ordination guidelines for part-time and tent-making ministries |
| **DINNER** | Cheryl MacFadyen offered grace. |
| **RESPONSIBLE INVESTING** | Tim Herron, convenor of the Investment Advisory Committee, discussed the Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) principles and the Principles for Responsible Investing (PRI) that are incorporated into the PCC investment portfolio. The Presbyterian Church in Canada’s ‘Statement of Investment Policies and Procedures’ includes guiding principles regarding securing a financial return on the Church’s investments while acknowledging the risks and moral implications of such investments. |
| **GENERAL ASSEMBLY OVERTURES ASSIGNED TO LMA** | Ian Ross-McDonald reviewed development of responses to:  Overture No. 20 (2018) re: endorsing the Joint Statement of Physical Punishment of Children and Youth.  Overture No. 1 (2019) re: legal advice re: religious freedom and marriage  Overture No. 30 (2017) re: preamble to ordination and induction of ruling elders  Overture No. 11 (2019) re: preamble to ordination and induction of teaching elders  Overture No. 9 (2018) re: vote for Young Adult Representatives at General Assembly  Overture No. 10 (2019) re: network of student charges  Overture No. 6 (2019) re: liturgies for same sex marriages  Overture No. 15, 2018 re: Workplace harassment |
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| **REVIEW OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY REPORT** | The Committee had the opportunity to review the department report for Program Support and Administration and ask questions. |
| **Program Support and Administration** | Ian reviewed the General Assembly report for Program Support and Administration.  Listening to Concerns, Views and Pain re: Remits B and C – heard from 1500 people and received 500-600 written submissions. Will ensure that the report to General Assembly reflects the full breadth of what was heard through the listening process. The report will be drafted in the second week of March. Will schedule a conference call for the LMA Committee to review and consider the report on Listening to Concerns, Views and Pain re: Remits B and C. This will be a supplementary report to General Assembly. |
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| **EVENING PRAYER** | The day’s meeting ended with a prayer and reflection led by Donna McIlveen. |
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|  | **TUESDAY, MARCH 3, 2020** |
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| **DAY TWO** | The LMA Committee gathered at 9:30am on Tuesday, March 3rd to continue meeting. |
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| **MORNING DEVOTION** | The day’s meeting began with worship led by Sampson Afoakwah. |
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| **LMA FINANCE REPORT AND BUDGET DEVELOPMENT** | Oliver Ng, Chief Financial Officer was welcomed to address the Committee. Oliver reviewed the financial outlook for the PCC and the impact on the LMA budget. Oliver updated the Committee on the investments in the Consolidated Portfolio.  Heather Chappell, Program Coordinator in the Stewardship and Planned Giving department updated the Committee on giving to Presbyterian Sharing in 2019. In 2019, congregations and individuals gave $8,389,514 to Presbyterians Sharing.  Ian Ross-McDonald and Colleen McCue discussed the development of the LMA budget for 2020 and the implications of a $91K budget reduction on programming for the LMA. |
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| **PRIORITY FOR MISSION FUND** | On motion of Jo Szostak / Robert Griffiths it was **AGREED** that the Priority for Mission Fund annual disbursement in 2020 be designated for the Healing and Reconciliation fund.  On motion of Rob Griffiths / Aubrey Hawton it was **AGREED** that the approval process for annual disbursement from Priority for Mission Fund be amended so that LMA Committee approval is not required. |
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| **MODERATOR’S REPORT** | Amanda Currie reflected on her experiences as Moderator. She shared photos and stories from events, speaking engagements and meetings. Amanda spoke with appreciation of the opportunities she has had to make connections with people across Canada. Amanda spoke of the challenges facing the constituency and the need for grace and understanding. |
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| **SCENARIO PLANNING FOR LMA** | Committee members met in small groups to continue discussion of scenario planning for the LMA. Feedback from small groups will be consolidated and considered at the November meeting. |
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| **ATLANTIC MISSION SOCIETY** | Robert Griffiths reported on the challenges and opportunities facing the Atlantic Mission Society. |
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| **WOMEN’S MISSION SOCIETY** | Janet Brewer reported on the Women’s Mission Society. There are changes coming within the organization. Glad Tidings is coming to a close and there will be a commemorative issue in the spring. Going forward, the WMS will utilize the Presbyterian Connection newspaper to share stories and information. Janet is completing her term as WMS President. Cathy Reid will assume the role. Appreciation was expressed to Janet for her faithful and joyful leadership. |
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| **GENERAL ASSEMBLY OVERTURES** | Ian Ross-McDonald reviewed development of response to Overture No. 30 (2017) re: Preamble to ordination and induction of ruling elders and Overture No. 11 (2019) re: teaching elders. Feedback from the LMA Committee will be communicated to the Committee on Church Doctrine.  Current preamble is very long and includes explanations of what words mean. The preamble doesn’t need to be a teaching document. |
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| **LUNCH** | Janet Brewer offered grace. |
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| **REVIEW of GENERAL ASSEMBLY REPORTS** | Associate Secretaries met with Committee members in small groups to discuss General Assembly reports. |
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| **GENERAL ASSEMBLY REPORTS** | The Committee had the opportunity to review the General Assembly reports and ask questions. |
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| **Canadian Ministries** | Jen de Combe responded to questions about the report of Canadian Ministries. |
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| **Communications** | Barb Summers responded to questions about the report of Communications. |
| **Stewardship & Planned Giving** | Ian Ross-McDonald responded to questions about the report of Stewardship & Planned Giving. |
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| **International Ministries** | Glynis Williams responded to questions about the report of International Ministries. |
| **Justice Ministries** | Allyson Carr responded to questions about the report of Justice Ministries.  It was **AGREED** by consensusthat the nomination of Thomas J. Kay to the Healing & Reconciliation Advisory Committee be approved.  It was **AGREED** by consensus that the nomination of Germaine Lovelace to the Healing & Reconciliation Advisory Committee be approved.  It was **AGREED** by consensus that the nomination of Jennifer Sokolowsky to the Justice Ministries Advisory Committee be approved.  It was **AGREED** by consensus that the nomination of Dorothy Herbert to the International Affairs Committee be approved.  It was **AGREED** by consensus that the nomination of Duncan Jeffrey to the International Affairs Committee be approved. |
| **Ministry & Church Vocations** | Tim Purvis responded to questions about the report of Ministry & Church Vocations. |
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| **Presbyterian World Service & Development** | Guy Smagghe responded to questions about the work of PWS&D. |
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| **Program Support** | Ian Ross-McDonald responded to questions about the work of Program Support.  Committee members commended the staff of the LMA for their work on the General Assembly reports. |
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| **POLICY 2.2.6 HUNGARIAN MINISTRIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE** | Ian Ross-McDonald reviewed the background and relevance of policy 2.2.6 Hungarian Ministries Advisory Committee.  It was **AGREED** by consensus that Policy 2.2.6 Hungarian Ministries Advisory Committee be removed. |
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| **CONVERSATION WITH THE GENERAL SECRETARY** | Committee members asked Ian Ross-McDonald to reflect on some of the opportunities and challenges facing the LMA. Committee members were eager to discuss the key issues facing the denomination and the role that the LMA Committee can play in strategic decision making. |
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| **DINNER** | Rob Griffiths offered grace.  During dinner a toast was made to retiring Committee members Janet Brewer and Carol Stymiest. |
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|  | **WEDNESDAY, MARCH 4, 2020** |
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| **DAY THREE** | The LMA Committee gathered at 9:30am on Wednesday, March 4th to continue meeting. |
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| **MORNING PRAYER** | The day’s meeting began with a devotion and prayer led by Carol Stymiest. |
| **CANADA YOUTH** | Jo Morris, Coordinator for CY 2020 expressed thanks for the support that has been given to Canada Youth over the years. Jo highlighted the importance of CY as an opportunity to bring youth, young adults, youth leaders together from across Canada for a time of faith formation, nurture, leadership development and Christian education.  CY 2020 to be held from July 6-11 and the theme will be ‘No End in Sight’. Leadership Track designed for congregational leaders. Emily Bisset and Derek Macleod will be worship leaders and Reuben St. Louis will provide music leadership.  Jo assured Committee members that the CY leadership team will work with local public health authorities to ensure that all guidelines are followed regarding the health of CY participants in the face of COVID19. |
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| **LMA NOMINATING COMMITTEE** | Committee members asked to pass along to Ian any names for potential nominations to the LMA Committee. Would be looking for nominations of those with a background in education, finance or law.  On motion of Marion Lade / Cheryl MacFadyen it was **AGREED** that the name of Aubrey Hawton be forwarded to the Nominating Committee to serve a second term on the LMA Committee.  On motion of Marion Lade / Cheryl MacFadyen it was **AGREED** that the name of Sampson Afoakwah be forwarded to the Nominating Committee to serve a second term on the LMA Committee.  It was **AGREED** by consensus that the name of Marion Lade be forwarded to the Nominating Committee to serve a second term on the LMA Committee.  On motion of Marion Lade / Cheryl MacFadyen it was **AGREED** that the name of Allyson MacLeod be forwarded to the Nominating Committee to serve a second term on the LMA Committee.  On motion of Marion Lade / Cheryl MacFadyen it was **AGREED** that the name of Amanda Currie be forwarded to the Nominating Committee to complete the term on the LMA left vacant following Doug Schonberg’s resignation. |
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| **FORMAL LMA COMMITTEE MOTIONS** | On motion of Jo Szostak / Vivian Ketchum it was **AGREED** to adopt the reports and recommendations of the LMA report to General Assembly.  On motion of Cheryl MacFadyen / Robert Griffiths it was **AGREED** to adopt the 2021 LMA Budget with the understanding that the LMA strategic planning exercise may require funds to be sourced for new initiatives. |
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| **MATTERS UNFINISHED** | On a motion of Sampson Afoakwah / Robert Griffiths it was **AGREED** that Cindy Stephenson and Allyson Macleod be available to consult with the General Secretary about any unfinished matters that require attention. |
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| **PLANNING FOR INTERIM MEETINGS** | There may be a need for the LMA Committee to meet by phone in April or May to deal with General Assembly overture responses and supplementary reports to General Assembly. |
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| **CONVERSATION WITH GENERAL SECRETARY** | Concern was expressed about the rail blockades across Canada in solidarity with Indigenous groups and allies opposed to a natural gas pipeline to be built on the traditional territory of the Wet’suwet’en people. Vivian asked that members of the Committee walk together in solidarity. Amanda Currie read from the special statement and prayer that the PCC issued regarding Wet’suwet’en Territory.  Concern also expressed about COVID-19 and if any material will be shared to help congregations adopt best practises for public health to avoid the spread of infection. Suggestion made that any statements issued by the church should express concern regarding racism that has arisen in the wake of the virus.  Concern regarding the outcome if the remits should be approved at the upcoming General Assembly and how the church can find ways to seek unity and be gracious and loving in the face of division and conflict. |
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| **MEETING DEBRIEFING AND EVALUATION** | Committee members were encouraged to complete the evaluation form for the meeting. |
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| **DISCUSSION OF UPCOMING MEETINGS** | LMA Committee November 2-3, 2020  LMA Committee March 1-2, 2021 |
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| **ADJOURNMENT** | |  | | --- | | The LMA Committee **AGREED** by consensus that the meeting be adjourned. | |
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| **WORSHIP** | The Committee members were joined by staff of the national office and members of the Presbytery of East Toronto for a service of worship. The service began with an Acknowledgement of Traditional Indigenous Territory upon which the group was gathered. Holy Communion was celebrated.  There was a moment of recognition for Allyson Carr as Associate Secretary of Justice Ministries and Tim Purvis as Associate Secretary of Ministry & Church Vocations. |
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