

MANITOU CONFERENCE GENERAL MEETING
Mindemoya Community Hall, Mindemoya, ON
May 31st - June 2nd, 2013

The Manitou Conference General Meeting met from 2:00 p.m. on Friday, May 31, 2013 concluding with the Celebration of Ministry on Sunday, June 2, 2013 at 2:00 p.m. in Mindemoya, Ontario. The President, Ted Harrison, presided.

FRIDAY May 31st, 2013

Constitution of the Court Ted Harrison, President, welcomed all to the General Meeting of Manitou Conference, and constituted the court with the following words: "In the name of Jesus, the Christ, Sovereign Head of the Church, this General Meeting of Manitou Conference is open for any or all business that shall come before it to the glory of God." Executive Secretary, Will Kunder, lit the Christ candle.

Ted recognized the traditional territory of the Mnidoo Mnising (Manitoulin Island) and acknowledged the honour of sharing this land.

Welcome and Introduction

Leona Nahwegahbow, brought greetings from the United Chiefs of Manitoulin Island and told of living off the land and the history of the First Nations of Manitoulin.

Ted introduced the guests at Conference:

- Moderator, the Right Reverend Dr. Gary Patterson
- Rev. Rob Dagleish
- Music leader – Ron Klusmeier
- Michael Bourgeois & Marilyn Legge – Emmanuel College

Will Kunder, introduced other guests to Conference:

- Keith Stam - Financial Development Office for Manitou and Bay of Quinte Conferences
- Jackie Childerhose – Grand River Bookstore & AVEL Ontario
- Erin Greeno – Central Conferences Archivist
- Emily Duggan – Candidate for ordination
- John Fraser – Candidate for ordination
- Former Presidents of Conference in the Court –Dennis Landry, Elizabeth Frazer and Judith Visser.

Ted introduced the Conference staff.

Mary-Jo Ekert Tracy, Chair of Local Arrangements, welcomed delegates and Councillor Derek Stevens, who brought greetings from the Township of Central Manitoulin.

Opening Worship

President Ted Harrison led opening worship.

Routine Motions

Will introduced the scrutineers and reviewed the routine motions.

- Summary of Actions taken by Manitou Conference Executive (33)
- Executive of the General Council (GCE) Accountability Report (42)
- Expectations of the Executive of the General Council (45)
- Reports from Presbyteries
 - North Bay Presbytery (46)
 - Sudbury Presbytery (47)
 - Spirit Dancing Presbytery (48)
- Reports from Conference Working Groups
 - Music United (51)
 - Camp Lorrain (52)
 - Camp Lorrain Director (55)
 - Manitou Youth (60)
 - Staff Committee (61)
- Partnership Reports
 - Centre for Christian Studies (84)
 - Emmanuel College (86)
 - Huntington University (87)
 - Five Oaks (89)
 - Grand River Spiritual and Educational Resources (AVELON) (90)

MOTION GM 2013-1: Will Kunder/Stuart Taggart that the reports for information, found in the Report Packet, plus any extra reports which have been circulated for information, be received — for information.

CARRIED

Roll of Conference	That the roll of Conference be the lists of Ministry Personnel on the Presbytery rolls, corrected by the Lists of Transfers and the Lay Delegates as authorized by the Presbyteries through their respective Secretaries.
Bounds of Conference	That the bounds of the 2013 General Meeting of Manitou Conference be Mindemoya Community Hall (for Friday May 31st, 2013 - Sunday, June 2, 2013) and Mindemoya United Church (for the Celebration of Ministry Service on Sunday, June 2, 2013) at 2:00 p.m.
Agenda	That the agenda as printed and circulated be the order of business subject to those changes that are recommended by the Business and Agenda Committee and approved by the Conference or as recommended by the Conference itself.
Adjournment of Sessions	That the President have the authority to recess the Conference when business, as ordered, is completed until the next Order of the Day.
Election of Scrutineers	That those selected from each Presbytery (Linda Craig, Micol Cottrell, Linda Todd) and Mardi Mumford appointed as Chief Scrutineer, be declared elected.
Corresponding Members	That the following be made corresponding members: the participants in the Conference program, participants in Manitou Youth Forum, guests and

dignitaries and that their names be added to the record.

Meeting of Presbyteries during the General Meeting	That Presbyteries or Presbytery Executives that need to meet during the General Meeting arrange to do so after the adjournment of regular sessions.
Need to Leave the General Meeting Session:	The hope is that delegates are present for the entire meeting and that travel allowance is not paid otherwise. Please let the Business and Agenda Committee know if you have to leave early, particularly if it is an emergency situation. Any delegate who wishes to leave this meeting before the rise of Conference, must present a written request, (Permission to Retire Form) stating the reason(s) to the Business and Agenda Committee who will present the request to Conference.
New Business	Members of the Court who wish to bring new business items before this General Meeting should advise the Business and Agenda Committee, no later than 5:15 p.m. on Saturday, June 1, 2013.
Distribution of Printed Materials	Any person or group wishing to distribute printed material(s) to the delegates during the sessions of the General Meeting must do so through the Business and Agenda Committee.
Minutes Secretaries	For this General Meeting, the Minutes Secretaries will be Joan MacGillivray (Friday, Saturday) and Susan Whitehead (Sunday). Carried
2011 General Meeting Minutes	MOTION GM 2013-2: Will Kunder/Rick Thorne That the minutes of the 2011 General Meeting be approved as corrected (page 17, page 22, page 28). CARRIED.
Accountability Report of Conference Executive	Judith Visser assumed the chair for the Accountability Report of the Conference Executive. Ted Harrison presented the Accountability Report of the Conference Executive and gave an opportunity for questions and comments. MOTION GM 2013-3: Ted Harrison/Stuart Taggart To approve the Conference Executive's Accountability Report. CARRIED The President resumed the chair.
Accountability Report of Executive Secretary	Will Kunder reflected on the work of staff, the Executive and the anxieties happening in Manitou Conference as it works into new ways of being church with reduced finances. He noted the generosity of B.C. Conference who took a 70% cut in their conference operating grant so that Manitou and ANC Conferences didn't take as much of a cut as other Conferences. He expressed appreciation for colleagues as they do their work in this challenging time.

Will noted, with appreciation, the work of the Right Relations Home Group. It is the work of this group that is leading the Right Relations work across the country.

He noted the 2 churches who have become Affirming Congregations (St. Peter's – Sudbury and St. Andrew's – North Bay). The redesign of the website is improving communications for the Conference. Will thanked the Commissioners to the 41st General Council in Ottawa for their work.

**MOTION GM 2013-4: Will Kunder/Stuart Taggart
To approve the Conference Executive Secretary's Accountability Report. CARRIED**

Accountability Report of
Right Relations Home
Group

Elizabeth Frazer introduced the Right Relations Home Group and their work. She introduced proposal #13-8 from the Right Relations Standing Committee to continue their mandate.

MOTION GM 2013-5: Susan Lindquist/Carol Germa

1. **The Right Relations Home Group proposes that a standing committee of the Conference be formed to explore, develop and nurture just and respectful relationships between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people by:**
 - **Consciousness-raising among the non-Aboriginal United Church population in relation to the Indian Residential Schools and the legacy left with the present Aboriginal population;**
 - **Responding to emergent issues that impact Aboriginal peoples;**
 - **Listening for, responding to and creating opportunities for cross-cultural dialogue;**
 - **Acknowledgment of Traditional Territory;**
 - **Collaborating with KAIROS, the national ecumenical organization in their educational and advocacy work towards living in right relations.**
 2. **This Committee would have a 4-year mandate, give an interim report in 2015, and a final report in 2017.**
 3. **The Committee would report to each Executive meeting as a standing item.**
 4. **There would be a \$1,000 per year budget allocation.**
- Carried (unanimously)**

**MOTION GM 2013-6: Stuart Taggart/Erwin Thompson
To approve the report of the Right Relations Home Group. CARRIED**

Nominations

Will highlighted the posted nominations and invited others to consider opportunities to serve.

Theme Presentation #1
– Midwives of the New

Rob Dagleish talked about the birthing of the new church with new visions and gave a narrative of hope.

Church

Break

With the President otherwise occupied at the rehearsal for Sunday's Celebration of Ministry Service, Past-President Judith Visser called the meeting back to order and welcomed the Moderator.

Supper followed announcements and grace.

Comprehensive Review - Moderator

The Moderator introduced the Comprehensive Review taking place across the church and invited everyone to participate. He illustrated the need for a movement towards change with the parable of the pickup truck.

In table groups he invited everyone to discuss and answer questions which will be inputted into Survey Monkey on the United Church website. He asked questions such as:

- What makes The United Church of Canada unique?
- Where do you see vital ministry emerging?
- What about the current system works well?
- What about the current system is broken?
- Who should have the authority to make decisions?

Recognition

Mary Jo celebrated Martin Garniss' 30 years of ministry in the United Church.

Adjournment

The President adjourned the meeting for the evening at 9:15 p.m.

SATURDAY June 1st, 2013

Welcome and Worship

Ordinands Emily Duggan and John Fraser led morning worship and asked the question "How are we called to choose God in the decisions we make for our church today?"

Will mentioned the rainbow banner on the presiding table and the Affirm Conference which will take place in North Bay in August.

Nominations

Will expressed appreciation to those who have offered themselves to leadership in the Conference.

Ministry, Personnel, Education, Settlement, Internship Committee

Mary-Jo Tracy reviewed her report

The chair asked if anyone would like a secret ballot. There were no requests.

MOTION GM 2013-7: Mary Jo Tracy/Micol Cottrell

Whereas Emily Margaret Duggan has fulfilled all the educational requirements for Ordination, has been recommended by North Bay Presbytery, and has been examined by the Ministry, Personnel, Education, Settlement, Internship Committee of Manitou Conference, the MPESI Committee recommends that Manitou Conference ordain

Emily Margaret Duggan at the Celebration of Ministry Service, to be held on June 2nd, 2013 at the Annual General Meeting. Carried (unanimously)

The chair asked if anyone would like a secret ballot. There were no requests.

MOTION GM 2013-8: Mary Jo Tracy/Micol Cottrell

Whereas John Lean Fraser has fulfilled all the educational requirements for Ordination, has been recommended by Sudbury Presbytery, and has been examined by the Ministry, Personnel, Education, Settlement, Internship Committee of Manitou Conference, the MPESI Committee recommends that Manitou Conference ordain John Lean Fraser at the Celebration of Ministry Service, to be held on June 2nd, 2013 at the Annual General Meeting. Carried (unanimously)

MOTION GM 2013-9: Mary-Jo Tracy/Micol Cottrell

To approve the report of the MPESI Committee. CARRIED

John and Emily were invited to address the Court.

Finance Committee
Report

Bill Rowe reviewed the report of the Finance Committee. He noted the projected deficit of \$9,000 for 2013 and \$27,500 for 2014.

Will Kunder highlighted the 2012 year-end report that is being reviewed by the auditor. The 2013 Budget is for information and has been approved by the Conference Executive. Questions from the Court were responded to.

The Budget for 2014 was introduced. The budget deficit would be covered from the Conference's Unrestricted Reserves. Questions were responded to including concerns raised regarding reducing Conference staff, while needing to grow the church. A question was raised on how designated givings might be directed to Manitou Conference and that this type of giving be encouraged across the Conference. Additional support was also suggested through voluntarily increasing the membership paid.

Mission Support Grant
Committee Report

Bea Webb introduced the work of the Mission Support Grant Committee. Questions and comments were addressed.

MOTION GM 2013-10: Bea Webb/Kathy Mutch
That the criteria for the awarding of Mission Support Grants in Manitou Conference be:

The purpose of Manitou Mission Support Grant is to provide financial support to pastoral charges, outreach and community ministries, and other identified projects that need financial assistance. This is mission support, not life support.

- 1. Primary consideration will be given to applicants demonstrating**

commitment to Manitou Conference priorities:

[Currently: We believe that God's radical hospitality calls Manitou Conference to journey into new ways of being church and to understand and engage with our neighbours' struggle for dignity and economic justice]

- 2. Mission support grants are limited in their scope and availability; they are intended as temporary, bridge or seed grants. Such grants will normally have a declining value, over a maximum five year duration. By year six, the value of support will normally have declined to zero.**
- 3. Outreach and community ministry projects must demonstrate financial support from United Church and other partners.**
- 4. Mission support grants are intended to support mission and ministry, not physical plant or capital funding projects. Congregations seeking mission support grants must support paid accountable ministry.**
- 5. Applicants must use standardized Manitou Conference financial reporting forms when appropriate (congregational reporting forms are in development).**
- 6. Applicants must submit a clear and concrete revenue generation/stewardship strategic plan (template in development).**
- 7. Applicants must make a representative available to reviewing bodies (usually presbytery) to speak to or present the application as needed.**
- 8. Applicant congregation members who are also delegates to presbytery and conference Mission Support Grant review bodies must declare conflict of interest and recuse themselves from grant application review and award decision processes.**

CARRIED

**MOTION GM 2013-11: Bea Webb/Kathy Mutch
To approve the report of the Mission Support Grant Committee.
CARRIED**

General Council Report

Ted recognized, with gratitude, the role of Bill Rogers during his time as Manitou's Lay Representative on the GCE.

Erin Todd and Janice Brownlee reflected on their work on the Executive of the General Council. Erin encouraged congregations to become involved with the Comprehensive Review. They talked about the decision and implications of the \$5 million cut in the budget and the sense of unity that comes during times of scarcity. Erin thanked Doug Goodwin, Executive

Secretary of British Columbia Conference, for the generosity of B.C. Conference in taking a 70% cut in their Conference Operating Grant in order to share resources most particularly with Manitou and All Native Circle Conferences.

**MOTION GM 2013-12: Erin Todd/Janice Brownlee
To approve the report of the Executive of the General Council
representatives. CARRIED**

Finance Committee
Report Cont'd

Table groups had conversations about the implications of the first 2 proposals.

**MOTION GM 2013-13: Laurie Field/Jane Howe
That Manitou Conference maintain Presbytery per resident member
assessment at the 2011 level of \$17.00.**

**Motion to amend: Dale Young/Judy Thorne
That Manitou Conference raise the Conference assessment to \$20 per
resident member. DEFEATED**

Motion carried with 2 abstentions.

There was a suggestion that congregations who are able include adherents in their assessment.

Greetings

Jackie Childerhose brought greetings from the Grand River Book Store.

Michael Bourgeois and Marilyn Legge brought greetings from Emmanuel College.

Permission to Retire

**MOTION GM 2013-14: Will Kunder/Martha Cunningham Closs
To grant permission to retire for part of the meeting to the following:
Dave LeGrand, Mardi Mumford, Dawn Vaneyk, Bob Gardner, Joan
MacGillivray, Cory Vermer-Cuthbert, Faye Stevens, Judith Visser and
Dawn Yorke. CARRIED**

Staff Committee Report

Janice Brownlee reported for the Staff Committee. The Staff Committee introduced the staff of Manitou Conference, expressed appreciation for their hard work and presented them with a prayer shawl.

**MOTION GM 2013-15: Janice Brownlee/Jessica Cottrell
To approve the report of the Staff Committee. CARRIED**

Theme Presentation #2
– Midwives of the New
Church

Rob Dalglish talked about the nature of this new baby that is the church.

President Ted Harrison recessed the meeting of the court in order to enable the Camp Lorrain Corporation biennial meeting.

Camp Lorrain

Bob Jackson, chairperson of the Camp Lorrain Corporation, assumed the

Corporation

chair and reminded the court that conference delegates are also members of the Camp Lorrain Corporation.

Bob expressed gratitude for the gifts of the members of the corporation and noted those who had to step down from their positions on the Board. He reviewed the report.

**MOTION CLC 2013-1: Stuart Taggart/Violet Bradbury
Direct the Board of Directors to fill the position of Secretary of the Corporation. CARRIED**

Bob noted that the Treasurer, Jim Butti, was appointed by the Board of Directors.

Bob asked if there were any further nominations for the Board of Directors.

**MOTION CLC 2013-2: Dale Pepin/Martha Cunningham Closs
That the people named be elected to a term as members of the Board of Directors: Barbara Cunnington, Bill Jones, Brenda McLay, Caroline Harrison, Chris Bremner, Jeff Mailloux, Jim Runnells and Sue Jones. CARRIED**

It was noted that Stephanie Sheeler-Armstrong was appointed by the Board of Directors under Section II D.3.d.iii and that there are still 2 openings to be filled.

Ted Harrison assumed the chair for Bob Jackson.

**MOTION CLC 2013-3: John Fraser/Linda Todd
That Barbara Cunnington, Bill Jones and Bob Jackson be the trustees of Camp Lorrain. CARRIED**

It was noted that there is still one opening to be filled.

MOTION CLC 2013-4: To install Bob Jackson as the President of Camp Lorrain. CARRIED

Bob Jackson resumed the chair.

Bob reported on the efforts to increase the number of campers. He noted that to date there are 50 campers registered for this summer. Jeff Mailloux reviewed the 2 year plan for the camp.

Questions were asked and responded to including a suggestion that the camp program be expanded to include a Men's Retreat.

**MOTION CLC 2013-5: Micol Cottrell/Tom Fisher
To adjourn the Camp Lorrain meeting. CARRIED**

Camp Lorrain Sustainability Ted resumed the chair and introduced proposal #13-2 on Camp Lorrain Sustainability. Questions and comments were addressed and clarified.

MOTION GM 2013-16: Jim McKean/Sylvia Carscadden

That in the event that Camp Lorrain is not able to demonstrate reasonable financial viability for the 2013 camping season, authority be given to explore divesting Conference of the Camp Lorrain property and direct the assets to future camping initiatives, prior the next General Meeting.

Carried (7 opposed with 2 abstentions)

Worship The Executive Secretary led a Memorial Worship and remembered the following in memoriam:

Sheila Sorensen, July 25, 2011
Edna May (Dupuis) Moores, July 25, 2011
Barbara Ramsey, October 3, 2011
Dr. Andrina Newbery, December 2, 2011
Paul Bwalya, November 29, 2011
Rev. Dr. Leonard Keighley, March 7, 2012
Jill Secord, May 20, 2012
Roberta McKenzie, May 21, 2012
Mary Reid, May 24, 2012
Elizabeth Ann "Betty" South, May 31, 2012
Rev. Robert McCrea, October 29, 2012
Rev. Bonnie Burnett, November 5, 2012
Dorothy Walton, November 28, 2012
Rev. Dr. David Bould, December 16, 2012
Rev. Peter Tucker, December 31, 2012

The churches that have closed their doors a final time since Conference last gathered were remembered:

Swastika United Church
Zion United-Spanish
Walford United
St. Paul's United-Charlton
Laurier Avenue United

Theological Reflection The Moderator reflected on the meeting beginning with the reading of the children's story, *Scaredy Squirrel*.

President's Banquet After dinner, the following milestones were celebrated:

Elizabeth Frazer, Erwin Thompson and Faye Stevens were honoured as they move into retirement.

The following were honoured for their years in ministry:

- 45 years of ministry –
 - Bob Jackson
 - Douglas Joblin

- 35 years of ministry –
 - Waldemar Gundrum
 - Dennis Landry
- 30 years of ministry –
 - Martin Garniss
 - William Jones
 - Richard Smith
- 25 years of ministry –
 - Dale Young

Those present were invited to address the delegates and guests.

The meeting adjourned for the evening at 8:15 p.m., followed by a public concert by Ron Klusmeier.

Sunday June 2, 2013

Nominations
Introductions

Will introduced the two nominees for President – Maxine McVey and Bob Gardner. Maxine was given an opportunity to address the court; Will did this for Bob in his absence.

Will then introduced the two nominees for President-Designate – Mary-Jo Tracy and Stewart Walker. Both were given an opportunity to address the court.

Theme Presentation #3
– Midwives of the New
Church

Rob Dalglish continued his talk about the new church.

Election Results

Will Kunder gave the nominations report.

MOTION GM 2013-17: John Fraser/Erin Todd
After being duly nominated the following be acclaimed for 2013 – 2015:

Treasurer: Bud Thompson

Finance Committee Chair: Bill Rowe

Finance Committee Member: Stuart Taggart

MPESI Chair: Mary-Jo Tracy

Settlement Chair: Joan Smith

Internship Chair: Stewart Walker

Secretary of MPESI: Joan MacGillivray

Mission Support Grant Chair: Bea Webb

Staff Committee Chair: Janice Brownlee

Secretary of Staff Committee: Cory Vermeer-Cuthbert

CARRIED

The court cast ballots for the President, President-Designate and General

Council Lay Rep. The ballots were collected by the scrutineers.

Election Results

Will Kunder announced the new President is Maxine McVey, the President-Designate is Stewart Walker and the General Council Executive Lay Rep is Janice Brownlee.

MOTION GM 2013-18: Will Kunder/Linda Todd That the ballots be destroyed. CARRIED

Visioning Session

Ted Harrison introduced the visioning session with a look back at the 2009 and 2011 Conference Priorities:

2009 - Manitou Conference will be a greener, more creation-centred church; to allow ourselves

to let go of old ways of being church, to turn more attention to issues of poverty and

economic injustice and to direct more resources to our own youth constituency;

2011 – We believe that God's radical hospitality call Manitou Conference: to journey into new

ways of being church; and to understand and engage with our neighbours' struggle for dignity and economic justice.

Ted posed two questions to the court to discuss in their table groups.

1. How have we been faithful to this calling?
2. How have we neglected this calling?

Due to time constraints, table groups did not discuss these priorities and it was done in open court instead.

Proposal 13-1 re: Manitou Conference Mission Priorities 2013- 2015

Ted Harrison outlined the proposal and asked the court to discuss any changes to be made.

MOTION GM 2013-19: Jane Howe/Stewart Walker That the Manitou Conference Mission Priorities for 2013-2015 be as follows:

We believe that God's radical hospitality calls Manitou Conference:

- ***To journey into new ways of being church and,***
- ***To understand and engage with the struggle for dignity and economic justice for our neighbours and God's Creation***

CARRIED (unanimously)

The new Executive will convene this summer and begin discussions on how to animate the Priorities. Delegates were invited to offer suggestions. These should be forwarded to the Conference Office, President, or any member of Executive.

MOTION GM 2013-20: Kay Heuer/James Clarke

A letter be sent from Manitou Conference advising pastoral charges of the decision to maintain Presbytery per-resident-membership assessment at the 2011 level of \$17.00, and inviting pastoral charges to increase this level voluntarily by including adherents in their membership count; and furthermore, that Conference Executive be directed to consider alternative, creative funding formulae for assessments. CARRIED

Proposal #13-5 re:
Approval of 2014
Proposed Budget

Will shared that the proposed budget is essentially the same as that approved for 2013, maintaining a \$27,458.00 deficit.

MOTION GM 2013-21: Bill Rowe/Stuart Taggart

That the attached 2014 budget be approved. CARRIED

Proposal #13-6 re:
Triennial General
Meeting

Will explained to the court that even if this motion passes, the Conference will still meet for NPG 2014, and will require a GM in 2015 to elect Commissioners for the 42nd General Council.

MOTION GM 2013-22: Bill Rowe/Bob Jackson

That Manitou Conference move from a biennial General Meeting (GM) schedule to a triennial. And further, that the GM be scheduled for the same year as the meeting of General Council. DEFEATED

There was concern by the court that a triennial GM would mean a 9 year term for Presidents, President-Designates and Past Presidents.

Proposal #13-7 re:
Reduction of
Conference Staff
Complement

The court expressed its concerns about reducing staff when there is a greater need of their time with the upcoming Pilot Project and other issues. There was discussion around changing the wording of the motion from "effective January 1st, 2013" to "if necessary".

MOTION GM 2013-23: Bill Rowe/Faye Stevens

That in light of the projected budget shortfall in 2014, Manitou Conference empower its Executive to reduce the Conference staff complement to 3.5 positions, if necessary, in light of the projected significant deficits for 2014 and beyond. CARRIED

Covenanting Liturgy

The President and Executive Secretary led the Covenanting and Commissioning of members of the Executive of Manitou Conference, chairpersons and members of the Committees of Manitou Conference.

Courtesies

Mary –Jo Tracy brought courtesies and thanked the many people who had made the General Meeting a success.

Will Kunder thanked President Ted Harrison for his ministry to Manitou during 2011- 2013.

Theological Reflection

Moderator Gary Paterson expressed appreciation for this time with Manitou Conference and encouraged us in the birthing of our new church.

Closing Motion

**MOTION GM 2013-24: Will Kunder/Stuart Taggart
To adjourn following the Celebration of Ministry Service and the
Installation of President. CARRIED**

President, Ted Harrison

Recording Secretary, Joan MacGillvray/Susan Whitehead

Executive Secretary, Will Kunder