

MANITOU CONFERENCE EXECUTIVE MEETING

held at Villa Loyola, Sudbury, Ontario
April 10-11, 2014

THURSDAY, April 10, 2014

Attendance	Maxine McVey, Will Kunder, Mary-Jo Eckert Tracy, Stewart Walker, Erin Todd, Ted Harrison, Cindy Desilets
Ministry Personnel	
Laity	Marguerite Hayes, Janice Brownlee, Elsie Christian, Joy Galloway
Regrets	Bill Rowe, Kathie Smith
Guests	Linda and Bruce Hutchinson, Bay of Quinte Conference
Staff support	Susan Whitehead, minute-taker
Constitution of the Court	President Maxine McVey welcomed the Executive members and constituted the court with these words: <i>We have been called to this Court to bring our gifts of passion as we seek to make fair judgments, our gifts of conviction as we seek to make a difference, our gifts of vision as we look for new shapes, our gifts of hope as we see possibilities and promises. We are thankful for the faith within us that allows us to be part of this gathering. In the name of Jesus, the Christ, Sovereign Head of the church, this court of Manitou Conference is open for any or all business that shall come before it.</i>
Recognition of Traditional Territory	The President recognized the traditional territory of the Atikameksheng Anishnawbek (Whitefish Lake First Nation).
Welcome and Opening Worship	The CES (Conference Executive Secretary) lit the Christ candle. Marguerite Hayes led in worship, sharing her struggles for clarity with the changes in the church, entitling it "A Different Kind of World." Executive sang MV #115, <i>Behold, Behold, I Make All Things New.</i>
Minutes of the Meeting of: • December 12-13, 2013	Executive reviewed the minutes of the December 12-13, 2013 meeting. MOTION 13/15 #27: Will Kunder/Cindy Desilets That the minutes of December 12-13, 2013 meeting of Executive be approved as printed. CARRIED
Business Arising	None that isn't captured elsewhere in the Agenda.
Issues Arising for Review of Conference Committee Minutes	The additional agenda item for an MPESI discussion re: the Conference Personnel Minister's (CPM) job vacancy and its impact on MPESI and Conference staff.

There was consensus that the Office Coordinator will now distribute the MPESI minutes to the entire Executive for review prior to meetings.

Correspondence Log Correspondence Log (*attached as Appendix A*). Executive reviewed the Correspondence Log.

Item #1 – The Past President inquired whether Huntington University (HU) is still receiving a donation from Manitou Conference. The CES indicated that an amount of \$500.00 is offered to HU as a student assistance bursary.

Item #9 – The CES reported that Manitou Conference's contribution to the M & S Fund had remained consistent for the past several years.

Item #10 – The CES addressed the letter of concern from a Camp Lorrain Board member.

There was consensus that President Maxine would offer to attend the next Camp Lorrain Board meeting to connect on behalf of Executive and to offer ministry and pastoral care.

Approval of Agenda **MOTION 13/15 #28: Marguerite Hayes/Erin Todd
That the agenda be accepted as printed.
CARRIED**

Monitoring

Accountability Reports

Executive Secretary The CES shared his Accountability Report (*Attached as Appendix B*).

Break Break 3:15 – 3:30 p.m.

Executive Secretary
Cont'd **MOTION 13/15 #29: Cindy Desilets/Ted Harrison
To accept Accountability Report of the Executive Secretary, for
information. CARRIED**

President The President shared her Accountability Report. (*Attached as Appendix C*)

**MOTION 13/15 #30: Janice Brownlee/Elsie Christian
To accept Accountability Report of the President, for information.
CARRIED**

Items for Reporting or Decision

Right Relations Home
Group (RRHG) The CES gave a report for the RRHG (*attached as Appendix D*).

Will expressed the group's concern for the lack of signage for the Cairn at Laurentian University. It was noted that the actual Apology is not at the Cairn site. These concerns will be addressed in consultation with Huntington University and the General Council Office.

St. Paul's United Church,
Sudbury - Update

The St. Paul's United Church property has not been sold yet and the decision was made by the Trustees to reduce the selling price.

Effective Leadership Pilot
Project - Update

Stewart reported that there are still changes being made "on the fly" with the pilot.

MPESI recommendation
re: multi-year
appointments for
Designated Lay Ministers
(DLMs)

MPESI reported that the committee is requesting approval from Executive to make the DLM and Retired Supply appointments multi-year instead of yearly.

MPESI Minutes:

Motion: Kathleen McCallum/Brenda Lumsden 2:66

That MPESI give permission to extend for up to 3 years the length of Designated Lay Ministers and Retired Supply appointments up to 3 years.

Carried

This change will cut down on paperwork for MPESI and Conference Staff.

MOTION 13/15 #31: Mary-Jo Tracy/Marguerite Hayes
That Manitou Conference Executive approve the MPESI motion 2:66
to extend, for up to 3 years, the length of Designated Lay Ministers
and Retired Supply appointments. CARRIED

The CES stated that MPESI would not have to action pay increases and Cost of Living Allowances (COLAs) - they would be automatic.

Break

Dinner from 5:16 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.

Neighbours Praising God
(NPG) 2014 Update – Joy
Galloway, Chairperson

Joy reported the NPG registration packages have gone out and promotion has officially started. The keynote speaker, Jonathan Zinck, is booked for the weekend.

There are many workshops in the morning and afternoon, followed by a Murder Mystery night. Before dinner at 4:00 p.m., MPESI will give leadership to the honouring of retirees and recognition of ministry personnel leaving the Conference.

Comprehensive Review

The CES reported that by the end of May, all three Presbytery consultations will be complete and information will be sent to the General Council Office (GCO). The challenge this year is that Manitou does not

have a General Meeting and cannot to do a full consultation with everyone.

Will suggested that Executive and the GC41 Commissioners meet before the end of June to conduct a Comprehensive Review (CR) Consultation and invite any interested Presbyters to attend in person or via Adobe Connect.

Executive decided to hold a CR Consultation on June 17th, 2014 from 1-3 p.m. via Adobe Connect, with a location to be announced. All ballots and information from these consultations will be submitted with the report packet to GCO.

Break

Break 5:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.

Order of the Day –
Affirming Ministries, Bruce
and Linda Hutchinson
(Bay of Quinte
Conference)

Will welcomed Linda and Bruce Hutchinson to Executive for their Affirming Ministries presentation (*see attached Bay of Quinte Conference Affirming Process Summary 2010 to 2013, Appendix E*).

The CES thanked Linda and Bruce for their presentation to Executive.

Adjournment

Executive sang VU #434 *Oh Laughing Light* and VU #278 *In The Quiet Curve of Evening*. The President offered a closing prayer.

The meeting was then adjourned for the evening at 8:50 p.m.

FRIDAY, April 11, 2014

Prayer & Song

Joy shared a scripture from Paul's first letter to the Corinthians. Ted then talked about the Residential Schools presentation.

Executive sang VU #332 *The Churches One Foundation*.

Items for Reporting or
Decision:

Affirming Conference
Presentation Debrief

Executive shared their views about the presentation from last night. There was a discussion around our Conference not only becoming a "Affirming" but and "Inclusive" one.

The chairs of the Presbyteries discussed having an Affirming Ministries presentation at upcoming Presbytery meetings. The CES offered to invite Linda and Bruce to come and give the same presentation to all three Presbyteries.

"Holy Manners"

A suggestion was made to include discussion/reminders of "Holy Manners" at the beginning of Executive meetings.

Criteria for Conference designation as a "Mission Unit"

It was decided by Executive to add the criteria for Conference designation as a "Mission Unit" to the next meeting's agenda and the CES will gather more information to share.

"A Future for Camping Ministry" Task Group – Update

The CES shared that the Camp Lorrain Board is requesting direction from Executive to begin planning for a 2015 camping season in August or September 2014.

**MOTION 13/15 #32: Ted Harrison/Cindy Desilets
That Executive communicate to the Camp Lorrain Board that they join in their hopes of a 2015 season, however, if the 2014 camping season is not financially viable, Executive will, with great regret, discontinue Camp Lorrain in its current model in the fall of 2014.
CARRIED**

There have not been any inquiries regarding the Future for Camping Ministry task group. Will will approach the people who were interested in the past and ask them if they are still interested in joining this group.

Possible committee member names are as follows:

Heather Laverdiere (Spirit Dancing Presbytery)

Kathie Smith (North Bay Presbytery)

Wayne Jeffkins (Sudbury Presbytery)

Bill Jones (Camp Lorrain Board)

Executive asked the President to send a letter to the Camp Lorrain Board informing them of Executive's above motion and inquire whether she could attend their next meeting.

Break

10:40 a.m. to 10:50 a.m.

Visioning

MPESI: Staffing CPM position, impact on MPESI

Will reported that Manitou Conference does not have the money to maintain the 4-person staff complement come July 1, 2014. The CES recommended filling the CPM position in October to assist with Conference finances.

The current CPM and the CES are working together to fill in any gaps and MPESI has offered to work with Will to delegate any jobs that are needed to be done.

For example, MPESI will call people to joining JNAC's or Searches instead of Will having to do it. The CES will be a resource only and does not have to actually attend those meetings and will resource Pastoral Relations issues, as needed.

The Staff Committee will begin the Search process for a new CPM at their next meeting on May 14, 2014. The MPESI Committee will amend

the job description then forward it to the Staff Committee. MPESI wants to be kept involved in the search process.

MPESI and the CES will create a list of people who can give “emergency pastoral care” for people to call when the CPM position is vacant.

The hope is that the new CPM position will have a start date of November 1, 2014.

The Search Committee will consist of the President of Manitou Conference, the Staff Committee, the Chair of MPESI, the CES and two members of Executive (MPESI Chair and President).

Updates on Presbyteries Executive requested that the current minutes from the Presbytery meetings be circulated prior to the next Executive meeting, as many feel out of touch with other Presbyteries.

At the next Executive meeting, a “Presbytery Round Up” will be added to the Conference Executive Agenda permanently.

Looking ahead: June 6-8, 2014 – NPG 2014 – “Everyone Needs a Sabbatical: Reboot Your Life” -Timmins, ON
June 17, 2014 – 10:00 a.m. – Executive Conference Call/Adobe Connect
September 10-11, 2014 – Executive Meeting – Five Oaks
November 27-28, 2014 – Executive Meeting - location TBA
April 16-17, 2015 – Executive Meeting – location TBA
May 22-24, 2015 – GM – North Bay Presbytery
The 2015 GM will be significant, as there will be elections of Commissioners for GC 42 and the first weekend of June will be too late.
August 8-15, 2015 – GC 42 – Cornerbrook, NFLD

Theological Reflection Mary-Jo and Stewart shared their reflections of the meeting.

Adjournment Having completed the business before the Executive Committee, the President adjourned the meeting at 12:28 p.m.

President, Maxine McVey

Recording Secretary, Susan Whitehead

Executive Secretary, Rev. Will Kunder

Appendix A

Correspondence Log – Manitou Conference Executive – April 10-11, 2014

	<i>To/From</i>	<i>Dated</i>	<i>Regarding</i>	<i>Recom'd Action</i>
1	Manitou Conference/Dr. Kevin McCormick, President, Vice Chancellor, Huntington University	December 13, 2013	Huntington University Donation Appreciation	For Information
2	David Armour/Manitou Conference	December 13, 2013	Typhoon Haiyan Donation Appreciation	For Information
3	Lois Brown/Gary Paterson, UCC Moderator and Nora Sanders, UCC General Secretary	December 18, 2013	Service in the Unit Wide Partners in Mission	For Information
4	Susan Whitehead/Cheryl Curtis, UCC Mission and Service Funding Officer	December 30, 2013	Gifts with Vision Send a Kid to Camp Project (Camp Lorrain)	For Information
5	Conference Executive Secretaries, UCC/Nora Sanders, UCC General Secretary	January 21, 2014	Comprehensive Review Agenda Time for AGM's	Agenda
6	Manitou Conference/UCC	January 23, 2014	Members Serving in General Council Roles	For Information
7	Susan Whitehead/Cheryl Curtis, UCC Mission and Service Funding Officer	February 5, 2014	Gifts with Vision Send a Kid to Camp Project (Camp Lorrain)	For Information
8	Will Kunder/Beverlea Oag, Program Coordinator for Duty of Care and Inc. Ministries, UCC	February 19, 2014	Camping Standards Manual Revised Edition 2014	For Information
9	Will Kunder/Cheryl Curtis, UCC Mission and Service Funding Officer	March 2014	Manitou Conference's Mission and Service Contributions 2013	For Information
10	Conference Executive/Stephanie Sheeler Armstrong, Camp Lorrain Board	April 9, 2014	Letter of Concern – Camp Lorrain	Agenda

Appendix B

Conference Executive Secretary Accountability Report to Conference Executive April 10-11, 2014

Appendix C

Conference President Accountability Report to Conference Executive April 10-11, 2014

As your Conference President:

- I have participated in a Conference Call with the presidents and leading elders to discuss the Comprehensive Review's summary of their the workshops for 600 congregations from across Canada. They presented a discussion paper that will go to all the Presbyteries before June. It was a preliminary plan for governance structure for the United Church of Canada. The Comprehensive Review Committee wanted to get the feel of the Conference presidents to get feedback on the process that was suggested.
- I listened in to a webinar with a panel including the moderator The Rev Gary Patterson discussing the report from the Comprehensive Review Committee on January 6.
- I have participated in a Conference Call with the Staffing Committee and our Executive Secretary Will Kunder to discuss how to move forward in light of Catherine Somerville's l resignation.
- I have been the speaker at Trinity Chapleau in Spirit Dancing Presbytery on February 16. I attended Trinity United Church workshop as they struggle to find their way on making some difficult decisions on how to be "church". I pray that that having a presence from the wider church comforted and encouraged them as they continue to move through this difficult transition.
- In addition, I led the worship services in three pastoral charges in Sudbury Presbytery: at St. Peters and St Andrews United Churches in Sudbury in January and at the two points in the Manitowaning Pastoral Charge on March 2. .
- I have been the speaker at Powassan/Chisholm pastoral charge in North Bay Presbytery on February 23.
- I continue to work with the transition team and the interim minister Hugh Macdonald at Mindemoya Pastoral charge-seeking new ways of being church. There have been some interesting developments there. At their annual congregational meeting Mindemoya Pastoral charge voted to extend an invitation to the Board/Council chairpersons on the Manitoulin to meet to look at the future.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:

Maxine McVey

Appendix D

Manitou Conference Right Relations Home Group Meeting Tuesday, February 11, 2014; 9:30am by Conference Call

Present: Elizabeth Frazer (Chair); Teresa Jones (Recorder); Susan Lindquist; Carol Germa
Regrets: Will Kunder

We referred to the minutes of our last meeting in November 2013 minutes as we set our agenda.

Looking Back to Understand our Future

In Sudbury on May 10, 2014, Susan will be leading a day-long session with a somewhat similar format as happened with the Spirit Dancing and North Bay Presbyteries. Susan's contact on this workshop is Gillian Schell. The Sudbury group is working on raising some monies to cover expenses. Will said he was going to connect with Jamie Scott at the national office to try to obtain some funding. Carol will check with Gillian Schell to see if this has happened. If need be, our budget could provide some financial support. Carol will be in attendance at the workshop & will lend Susan some support. This is a presbytery gathering plus others who are interested; uncertain of the numbers of persons who will be attending at this point.

Money from the St Paul's UC

Carol reported that a small amount of money will come to the RRHG, once the building is sold. There is another offer in on the building at present but nothing final.

Memory Project

Elizabeth spoke with Hoi Cheu on December 9, 2013. He said he had received some material from John Bird former staff at the national UCC, who interviewed Stan McKay, Bob Smith & Alberta Billy. Hoi is waiting to interview Maxine McVey & Tina Hansen. He might not do these interviews until spring 2014. He says he has enough material to work with at this point. It would be helpful if Gillian were the contact with him and spoke with him directly and didn't wait to go through Elizabeth. Will also forwarded an email from Debbie Siertsiema from the national UCC, wondering about Alf Dumont and Murray Whetung. Elizabeth will forward this on to Hoi Cheu, Carol and Gillian, for their information. This project began as Manitou-focused but it has moved to take on a more national scope.

Tina Hansen has an album of hard copy materials related to the Apology, etc. We hope she might lend or give this material to the Huntington Library. Natasha Gerolami, librarian at the Huntington Library, plans to speak with Tina about this.

Minutes for Right Relations

At our last meeting, we had planned to keep this going but none of us have written anything since.

We made the following commitments for the upcoming months:

March: TRC - Teresa

April: Treaty 9 - Susan

May: Memory Project - Elizabeth

June: Sacred Medicines - Carol

We will take a pause with the M4RR for July and August but speak at the next meeting to make commitments for September to December. Teresa will contact Susan Whitehead about our schedule. These should be sent to Susan at the Conference Office, the last week of the month prior to when we want them circulated.

Another topic for a M4RR is: The Healing Fund (for future reference)

Membership

Fay Stevens is living on St Joseph's Island. We are assuming that she has completed her term with this Group. We are wondering if Maxine McVey might be interested in joining the Group. Teresa will ask Maxine.

We think that any future additions to our membership, should go to the next Conference Executive meeting for their blessing.

Racism Workshop

Teresa took the request to the national meeting in Winnipeg in November 2013, looking for support on this. She spoke to the Chair of the newly configured sexism/racism committee. It seemed unlikely that we would get any response, at least not in the near future.

We decided then as a Group, not to put our energy into this at this time. It is unrealistic re the time and energy that would need to go into it, for us to do it well.

Acknowledgement of Traditional Territory

This is a project that we felt we should continue to work away at in the coming months. We need some resources to support congregations in their discussion of this, perhaps to lead them to the point of acknowledging the traditional territory they are meeting on, each Sunday, as some are already doing, in our Conference.

For example, a template for a 1-hour workshop that could be led in a traditional workshop context or in the context of worship, would be helpful. It would start from the point of why we are doing this and what difference will it make, and lead to how to acknowledge traditional territory with some of the inherent challenges (such as when multiple FNs are involved), etc.

We agreed to meet face-to-face in October to plan this process and develop “a kit” using our own resources, that we will gather over the coming months – from our ruminations on same and also ‘bits and pieces’ that we know are already in existence.

MILC - book study on “Speaking My Truth” - March 2 in Sudbury; Carol to forward this info to our group.

Moose Crossing film - Carol didn’t get to it but apparently it was very good. When there is a general release, it might be possible to show it more widely.

Next Conference call meeting: May 27 (Tues), 9:30am

Face to face meeting: Fri Oct 24, 10am - St Peter’s UC (Carol Germa to book)

Appendix E

Bay of Quinte Conference Affirming Process Summary 2010 to 2013 Linda and Bruce Hutchinson

The context for Bay of Quinte is that we have had, since 2007, an Action Group on Affirming Ministry whose initial objective was to have 10 Affirming Ministries in process or approved by 2010 ... we called the Action Group 10 by '10. We started with one congregation that became an Affirming Ministry in 1999.

The Action Group operated under a Conference Committee know at that time as Mission, Outreach and Advocacy which meant that the group had a small budget for travel and workshops. The initial focus was on congregational ministries and the Action Group has held a workshop (attended by 50 to 70 people) since 2007. We achieved the goal of 10 ministries in process and approved by 2010 and we now have six congregations and two presbyteries and the Conference as approved ministries. So the annual conference had heard about the affirming process as it was reported on over the years.

A small group from the above Action Team took on the task of bringing the possibility of becoming Affirming to the Conference Executive in 2009. Our process could be summarized as follows:

BOQ Affirming Process History

- November 2009 – Decision by Executive to enter the Affirming Process
 - 2010-2011 –
 - Meetings with Conference Committees
 - Executive dialogue and education
 - CAM 2011 – Skit and dialogue in the court
 - Cam 2012
 - Presentation and dialogue
 - Decision to become an Affirming Conference
 - CAM 2013
 - Vision and mission goal statements for approval
 - Action Plan for approval

We took the position early on, that Conference becoming an Affirming Ministry meant that in the areas of work for which Conference was responsible, we would commit to being Affirming but it did not mean that all the Presbyteries had to become Affirming nor did it mean that all the pastoral

charges in the Conference were to be Affirming. We did encourage Presbyteries to enter the process but there was no expectation that it was automatic.

We also decided that we needed to have the support and understanding of the Executive if we were to be successful, so you will notice that we spent two years in dialogue and education with the Executive. We were delayed a year due to the personnel meltdown in our Conference and we pulled back from discussion with the court at CAM 2010 which we had planned to do.

At our first meeting with the Executive and the first open session with the whole conference, we asked two questions "What would you celebrate about becoming an Affirming Conference" and "what would you be concerned about becoming an Affirming Conference". This gave us some idea about what to include in the education/story telling times both at the Executive meetings and at the CAM presentation times.

You will note that we met with Committees of the Conference in 2010-2011. At each of those meetings, we asked what it would mean to them if Conference were to become Affirming ... we met once with most committees but met twice with the Ministry Personnel, and Education Committee which oversaw the candidacy programs, children's and camp programs etc. We found committees open to the dialogue and picked up on issues they raised ... for example in the Children and Youth Events Committee (and later in the Camping Committee) they discussed why teenage boys and girls were assigned to separate sleeping quarters recognizing that this was a heterosexual view of relationships. They also raised the issue of a teenager who is biologically male but identifying and living as a female and sleeping and accommodation issues ... since one has to be at least 18 for sex reassignment surgery. Our candidacy assessment group was very supportive and decided to add to their letterhead, that the Committee was participating in the Conference Affirming process.

One of the effective speakers at the CAM meeting in 2011 was a lay person who had left the UCC in 1988 because of the decision made at that time by the church, who found out that her niece was lesbian and who did a 180 degree turn in her position ... she had a compelling story. We had planned to have a minister who had preached against gays and lesbians speak as well, but he could not fit into our plan. All of this to say that straight people have stories to tell as well as people from the GLBT community.

Having done the background work described above, our Conference made the decision to become an Affirming Conference in 2011 but still had to do the Vision/Mission statement and the action plan. A small group of us, led by a Presbytery Chair who is a member of the Executive, worked on that piece and brought it to the CAM this year with pre-approval by Affirm United, so we were able to have the recognition presentation at the Celebration of Ministry Service at the end of the Conference.

Each process needs to be designed to fit the needs of the specific situation, so this is not a template, just our experience. BTW, two presbyteries picked up on the initiative and both have finished and become Affirming Presbyteries during the time our group has been active.

Blessings in this work

Bruce Hutchinson, 613-542-7645 - July 26, 2013