

MANITOU CONFERENCE EXECUTIVE MEETING
held at Villa Loyola Retreat Centre, Sudbury, ON
April 19-20, 2018

THURSDAY, April 19th, 2018 – 1:00 p.m.

Attendance	Stewart Walker, Will Kunder, Mary-Jo Eckert Tracy, Cindy Desilets, Erin Todd, Tracy Davis, Linda Saffrey, Maxine McVey, Bill Jones
Ministry Personnel	
Laity	Kathie Smith, Janice Brownlee, Barb Cunnington, Peter Haddow, Dawn Monroe
Regrets	Barb Nott
Staff support	Susan Whitehead, minute-taker
Constitution of the Court	President Kathie Smith welcomed the Executive members, lit the Christ candle and constituted the court with these words: <i>In the name of Jesus Christ, and by the power vested in me by Manitou Conference, I declare this meeting duly constituted for any and all business that shall come before it.</i>
Recognition of Traditional Territory	The President recognized the traditional territory of Atikameksheng Anishinabek (Whitefish Lake First Nation). <i>As we gather to share the work that rightly comes before this court, let us remember we do so on the traditional territory of the Anishinaabe people. Since time immemorial, Indigenous peoples have walked on this land; their relationship with the land is central to their lives and spirituality. The land they share with others is a result of the Robinson-Huron Treaty. May we live in peace and friendship on this land as treaty people."</i>
Recognition of Safe Space for All	The President recognized the safe space for all. <i>In its commitment to be an Affirming Ministry, Manitou Conference seeks to be a safe place for all people to gather and participate in the life of the conference regardless of age, ability, race, cultural background, sexual orientation or gender identity. In this space, all are welcome.</i>
Welcome, Opening Worship	The President led worship by singing MV 150 <i>Spirit God, Be Our Breath</i> . Executive participated in the readings from John, Exodus and Galatians and concluded worship by singing MV 6 <i>Holy Spirit, Come into Our Lives</i> .
Minutes of the Meeting of: • January 19, 2018 Adobe Connect meeting	Executive reviewed the minutes of the January 19, 2018 Adobe Connect meeting.

MOTION 17-19 #28: Will Kunder/Bill Jones
That the minutes of January 19, 2018 Adobe Connect meeting of Executive be approved as printed.
CARRIED

Business Arising

None that isn't included in this agenda.

Kathie encouraged Executive members to open the envelopes before them. These were thank-you letters from Manitou Youth to Manitou Conference for the financial support they have received from Manitou over the years.

Issues Arising from
Review of Conference
Committee Minutes

MPESI, Finance, Affirming Ministry and UCW committees would like report time as a result of issues arising from their minutes.

Correspondence Log

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

Approval of Agenda

The 2018 General Meeting of Manitou Conference has been added to the agenda under New Business.

MOTION 17-19 #29: Erin Todd/Dawn Monroe
That the agenda be accepted, as presented.
CARRIED

Holy Manners and Check
In

The President reviewed the RESPECT holy manners cards and then asked Executive to recite The Creed.

Respect others
Economy of time
Speaking directly (your own truth)
Politeness & prayer
Encourage each other
Caring for all
Truthful & trusting in the spirit

Executive members did a brief check in using the idea of the end of winter and the positive things they see in their life and around them, to guide their response.

Monitoring
Accountability Reports

Executive Secretary

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

When the CES finished, Cindy Desilets expressed deep sadness on behalf of the Executive and Manitou Conference, that Will Kunder will not be continuing into the Executive Minister's position come January 1, 2019.

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

MOTION 17-19 #30: Bill Jones/Linda Saffrey
That the accountability reports for the Executive Secretary and the
President be received, for information.
CARRIED

Break Break from 2:55 p.m. to 3:10 p.m.

*Items for Reporting or
Decision*

Living Into Right Relations Committee Maxine reported that the Minute for Right Relations (M4RRs) reflections are usually completed by committee members but said it would be advantageous to have non-members contribute as well.

The committee has brainstormed ideas for M4RR's topics to distribute to people for their writing.

The LIRR Committee is in the process of doing an overview of their goals, etc. to have a better idea for how to continue into Region 6.

Teresa Jones tendered her resignation from the committee and it was sad to say goodbye to such a long-time member.

May 25, 2018 is the next LIRR meeting and topics for discussion include: how to keep going into the future and the Manitou Collection and its distribution policy.

Will reported that we had anticipated and been excited about the inclusion of 3 First Nation United Churches in the region. The final decision of the Boundary Commission has determined that these 3 churches will be in Region 5.

Maxine stated there may be an upcoming Adobe Connect meeting soon to connect with Algoma and Cambrian Presbyteries to see what they have been doing in regards to Right Relations and how we may see our futures when we become Region 6.

MPESI Committee Mary-Jo Tracy just finished a two-day meeting of MPESI.

The Secretary of MPESI has moved away and there is a vacancy. This is an elected position at a general meeting, therefore, Executive must pass a motion nominating someone.

Motion 17-19 #31: Mary-Jo Tracy/Janice Brownlee
Having received the recommendation of MPESI, Executive appoint
Cory Vermeer-Cuthbert to be the Secretary of the MPESI Committee
from March 15, 2018 to December 31, 2018.
CARRIED

The members of the MPESI committee discussed transitions and the concern over the priority of pastoral relations in the new region.

MPESI will be sending a letter to Peter Hartmans (the new Executive Minister – EM) expressing their concerns.

Mary-Jo discussed JNAC's and how there are several reasons why a congregation would do one, including: church closing or amalgamation, change in minister status or a re-evaluation of church needs. She referred to it as a "living" JNAC.

Will indicated that the Ontario Government has declined to grant applications to DLM/DM/Students for marriage licenses. The central conferences have retained legal counsel to work on this. The province has indicated that they have not actually changed the Marriage Act but the interpretation. The CES will update Executive as information becomes available.

Finance Committee

Bill indicated that with the new funding formula to regions, each region will get the same amount of money, regardless of how many pastoral charges they serve. In Region 6, this means that \$350,000 will come for "governance and shared services" and \$272,000 for the "mission and ministry". This totals \$622,000 to do the work of Region 6 annually.

In addition to gaining 20 new pastoral charges, the formerly Manitou Conference will also receive 2 new camps that will be coming with Algoma and Cambrian Presbyteries.

All investments from presbyteries and conference will be moved to the new region with the hopes that Region 6 will honour any current restrictions. Conference will have a 6-month period to transfer or close out bank accounts. Conference has requested that maturing GICs be redeemed prior to December 31, 2018.

Affirming Ministry Committee

Peter Haddow reported that the Affirming Ministry Committee sent out a letter to all presbyteries with an invitation for applications to attend the Affirm United Conference as a part of the committee's action plan. Persons from each presbytery will be selected on May 16.

At the March 2018 Executive meeting of the General Council, it was decided that, beginning in 2019, the first Sunday in June be designated as "Pride Sunday".

The Affirming Ministry Committee intends to provide congregational worship resources for those wishing to observe this June 3.

A service will be provided to pastoral charges to encourage people to get involved on June 3.

Peter reported that the committee was hoping to present something at the GM 2018 in recognition of the 30th anniversary of the important decisions of 1998.

It is clear that there are still a lot of people (including ministers) who are still reluctant to discuss these matters in public. The committee acknowledges that this reality is painful for many in our conference. It is hoped that we can celebrate the 30th anniversary while bearing in mind that there is more work to be done.

There will be a letter going out to the conference inquiring if people are planning on celebrating or acknowledging the anniversary and asking for information on their plans.

Affirm United has suggested that the new regions need to initiate Affirming Ministry processes. Within Region 6, each contingency will already be designated as Affirming Ministries.

This could undermine the Affirming process and be counter-productive when this is a priority we already hold in common.

A formal request has been sent asking that their decision be reconsidered at the Affirm United AGM in July.

UCW

Dawn Monroe submitted a written report for the UCW (*Appendix D*).

GC43

Webinars/Proposals:

The GC43 webinar on Business Process is now available on the GC43 website for viewing (<https://generalcouncil43.ca/news/april-webinar-business-process>).

Current List of Commissioners:

There was a vacancy of the GC43 Commissioners list and it has been filled by Barb Nott in Sudbury Presbytery. There are now 8 lay reps and 7 ministry personnel reps for Manitou Conference (*Appendix E*).

Bill Steadman remains a Manitou Commissioner despite his having moved from conference before GC43.

Commissioner's Orientation:

Executive decided that the Commissioner's Orientation should happen in-person. Will is hoping to have some indication in the coming week when we can expect the Workbook. It is hoped a date can be found after the Workbook has been distributed.

YF Pilgrims:

Bella Barbeiro is Manitou's Youth Forum Pilgrim and now fills our final slot as a voting Commissioner. The two other youth that will also be attending GC43 are Connor Ross and Torrin Maag.

Travel or registration logistics:

Conferences will facilitate travel for Commissioners to GC43 and will then be reimbursed by GCO.

Conference Proposals: Regional Accountability to Denominational Council Executive

There is a new format for proposals to GC43 and the two following proposals will need reformatting:

Proposal #1 (GM 2017):

Motion GM 2017-22: Will Kunder/Stuart Taggart
That the 43rd General Council 2018 initiate a process to change current polity which requires 50%+1 of all pastoral charges or presbyteries to vote in favour of a remit in order for it to be approved. We advocate a new formula by which 50%+1 of the pastoral charges that vote be used to determine whether a remit passes or fails.
Carried

Proposal #2 (Nov. 24th, 2017 Executive Meeting):

Motion: 17-19 #20: Stewart Walker/Janice Brownlee
That the proposal “A Call for Peace, Justice, and Reunification in the Korean Peninsula” from North Bay Presbytery be forwarded to GC43, with concurrence.
CARRIED

The CES shared a proposal regarding the regional accountability to the new Denominational Council Executive (*Appendix F*).

In the restructuring of the church, direct representation from each of the regions to the Denominational Council has been eliminated. There will be no direct accountability between the Denominational Council, the Regions, and the congregations.

This is seen to undermine The United Church of Canada’s conciliar system.

It was felt that emphasis needs to be on regional representation that is elected by their region to serve on the Denominational Council Executive and that decisions of the church and by the church should not be guided by money only.

Motion 17-19 #32: Stewart Walker/Bill Jones
That Executive approve the “Membership on the Executive of the Denominational Council” proposal and forward it to GC43.
CARRIED

This proposal will be shared with other Conferences so they can discuss it at their Commissioner Orientations.

Endorsing Presbytery Appointees – Region 6:

The CES explained the process for appointing 3 members of each presbytery to serve on the Region 6 Transition Commission. It is expected this can be accomplished in spite of the tight time line.

People who are interested in being on the Commission will have an opportunity to speak at presbytery meetings about why they wish to serve on the Commission. Presbyteries will vote and forward their 3 appointees by May 2, 2018.

Motion 17-19 #33: Bill Jones/Stewart Walker
That the three presbyteries in Manitou Conference be empowered to select 3 members for the Region 6 Transition Commission.
CARRIED

After seeing the composition of the commission, there may be opportunity to add to the group. Matters relating to the Regional Commission will be the responsibility of Executive Minister Peter Hartmans.

Dinner Break

5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

GC43 Cont'd...

- Terms of office for Conference officers, committees, etc.

Will shared that one of the many housekeeping motions the Executive will have to do to close down Manitou is to define the terms of office for its officers, committees, and members of Executive.

Motion 17-19 #34: Stewart Walker/Maxine McVey
That Manitou Conference extend the term of office for its officers, and the members of its Executive, committees and commissions until:

- (a) December 31, 2018, if the three-council restructuring remit is enacted by the 43rd General Council 2018; and**
- (b) October 21, 2018, if the three-council restructuring remit is not so enacted.**

CARRIED

Conference policies recommended to Region

The CES asked chairpersons of each conference committee to review their minutes for any committee policies they wish to be considered for Region 6.

The Manitou Collection was a gift to conference from Dr. David Humphreys and Mollie Petryna. The paintings have been designated as the "real property" of Manitou Conference. The LIRR Committee will bring recommendation to the general meeting for how the collection might be managed with the transition to Region 6.

Executive will need to do another "culling" of the Conference Policies to prepare for the transition to Region 6. Peter Hartmans will have to decide whether it is helpful to have the Conference Handbook and Policies in the new region.

Executive had a discussion about what they believe to be the important committees/initiatives that should be considered in the new region:

- Living Into Right Relations

- Manitou Intentional Learning Community (MILC)
- Youth Ministry
- Affirming Ministry
- Pastoral Relations (and having staff to support PR's)
- Administrative Support
- Technical/IT person in Conference Staff
- Camping Ministry Restricted Fund
- Finance Committee
- Grants
- Licensed Lay Worship Leaders (LLWL)
- Sacramental Elders

Executive recommended we think outside the box so we don't just make another conference and call it a region.

It was suggested that there be some sort of event for all of the new Region 6 to get to know one another before January 2019.

The conversation turned to the Office of Vocations. Now that Remit 6 has failed, we await word from the GCO about how things like covenanting services, educational and pastoral charge supervision, LLWL and sacramental elders education, will be handled in the new system.

Smaller congregations without ministry personnel and M & P Committees may be struggling with questions and concerns about the new system and where they go for help.

Kathie will draft a letter to these congregations to encourage questions and seek to alleviate concerns and/or fears.

The question was raised how will the change to Region 6 impact each church? Executive felt there were two ways: financially and, when they need a resource, they may not know where to go to get it.

Camping Ministry restricted fund

The CES stated that by the end of 2018, there will be approximately \$250,000 left in the Camping Ministry Restricted Fund.

This money is still available for congregations and individuals to access for camping initiatives.

It was suggested that that money be available to pay for camping activities, not just for maintenance of the two camps within the bounds of Region 6. It is hoped that Region 6 will keep this restriction on the money, as originally intended, following the sale of Camp Lorrain.

"Clusters"

Maxine McVey shared with Executive about the Manitoulin clergy circle that meets every month on the island. They just had a retreat recently that deepened relationships with each other.

The group has a proposal about how they will do their meetings in the future and how to invite lay members to gather together with them.

The question was asked how successful will clusters be if they don't have funding? Do we want to encourage Region 6 to set aside some funds for clustering where financial need is present?

The CES asked if presbytery committees are thinking of becoming its own cluster (i.e. Sudbury – MILC, SPROUT; North Bay – Mission).

Executive expressed that if there was some form of funding and passionate leadership from within, that would help with fostering the success of clusters. The region needs to help this happen.

Recess of the Meeting The President recessed the meeting at 8:05 p.m.

FRIDAY, April 20th, 2018 – 9:00 a.m.

Opening Worship The President lit the Christ Candle and led the singing of MV 7 *Each Blade of Grass*.

New Business

Nominations to the Denominational Council Executive Having had no expressions of interest to date, the CES invited Executive members to discern whether they were interested in being elected to the Denominational Council Executive. The closing date for names to be submitted to the GCO is May 31, 2018.

If there are names to consider, Executive will have an Adobe Connect meeting to vet names, fill in a form and send on Manitou's recommended names to the GCO Nominations Committee.

Five Oaks Manitou Conference has a long-standing relationship with Five Oaks, despite the distance.

Looking to the future, it was suggested that it would be helpful if Five Oaks has a kind of travelling "roadshow" across the province to make further connections.

Five Oaks wrote a letter to the Remit Implementation Team indicating their wish to be embodied in a region, while still "relating" to other regions.

The CES wondered if there was anything Manitou would like impart to Five Oaks and their role within the regions of Ontario.

Executive discussed many ideas to help Five Oaks programs become more accessible:

- Having a satellite location (up north?)

- Livestreaming of their on-site workshops
- Not being so focused on having the “Five Oaks experience”, especially with places like Northern Ontario, since we have those experiences in our own backyard
- Using more webinars and video archives (like “Church Next”)
- Position a resource person to facilitate small and large groups
- Off-site groups could have events/meetings/courses/workshops simultaneously and then link in online at the same time for a keynote speaker

Grand River Bookstore

Will talked about the relationship Manitou has had with the Grand River Bookstore over the years and wondered if the bookstore might still be a valued resource to Region 6.

There were many issues discussed:

- It is very hard to compete with places like Amazon, where they will get the book to you within 2 days and gives Aeroplan points
- On-line books are very popular now and maybe Grand River needs to offer electronic books for Kindle, etc.
- Having a specialty bookstore/person matching the ethos of The United Church of Canada is important
- If you go to a course, it would be lacking if there wasn't a bookstore to visit after
- Cannot imagine a church without great resources (Observer, Mandate, etc.)
- What will be the vehicle to ensure these resources get to the people?

Presbytery Round-up

The Chairs of each presbytery gave a verbal “round-up” of what is happening in their area.

The CES shared that there will be a process for presbyteries regarding how to cull minutes and archiving.

Break

10:55 a.m. – 11:05 a.m.

GM 2018 Planning

The GM 2018 will be hosted by North Bay Presbytery and held at St. Andrew's and Trinity United Churches in North Bay. North Bay Presbytery is in the process of setting up a local arrangements committee.

Executive brainstormed theme ideas for the GM:

- Hello, Goodbye
- Imagine the Dance
- Lord of the Dance
- We Will Dance Anyway
- Dancing with the Spirit
- Dance Like No One Is Watching

- Dancing to an Unheard Tune
- Composing a New Dance

MPESI has indicated that instead of recognizing anniversaries, etc. all at once at the banquet, they will be interspersed during the whole weekend. The point was made that there could be a song from each era the anniversaries are from played before the person is introduced.

Staff Committee Chair, Janice Brownlee, stated that there would be time devoted to celebrating the staff and volunteers.

Other Business

There was no other business before Executive.

Looking ahead:

- May 28, 2018 – Adobe Connect at 9:30 a.m.
- August 2018 – Adobe Connect (TBA)
- September 27-28, 2018 – Villa Loyola
- General Meeting 2018 – October 19-20, 2018 – North Bay
- December 2018 – Adobe Connect (TBA)

Theological Reflection

Linda Saffrey gave a brief Theological Reflection.

Adjournment

Having completed the business before Executive, the President adjourned the meeting at 11:30 a.m.

President, Kathie Smith

Recording Secretary, Susan Whitehead

Executive Secretary, Rev. Will Kunder

Appendix A

Correspondence Log – Manitou Conference Executive – April 19-20, 2018

	<i>To/From</i>	<i>Dated</i>	<i>Regarding</i>	<i>Recom'd Action</i>
1	The UCC/Boundaries Commission	October 2017	Boundaries Commission Members Announced	For Information
2	Will Kunder, CES Manitou Conference/Jim MacDonald, Affirm United	November 21, 2017	Congratulations on Declaration to be Affirming Ministry	For Information
3	Omond Memorial United Church/Manitou Conference	November 22, 2017	Lease Agreement	For Information
4	Will Kunder, CES Manitou Conference/Cindy Lennips	November 22, 2017	Forward Motion Change of Logo (Wheelchair Access Logo)	For Information
5	Manitou Conference/Will Kunder, CES Manitou Conference	December 11, 2017	Amalgamation of Trinity United and St. Luke's United Churches	For Information
6	Canada Revenue Agency/Cynthia Gunn, Legal-Judicial Counsel, UCC	December 11, 2017	The United Church of Canada – Congregations	For Information
7	Manitou Conference/Dawn Monroe, UCW President-Manitou Conference	December 2017	Manitou Conference UCW Winter Newsletter 2017	For Information
8	Manitou Conference/Yvonne Stewart, Chair – Five Oaks Board of Directors	December 2017	Conference Wind-Down and Reallocation of Funds	For Information
9	Manitou Conference Executive/Kathie Smith – Manitou Conference President	January 10, 2018	Regional Council Staffing Models	On Agenda
10	The UCC/Boundaries Commission	January 11, 2018	Interim Report on Regional Council Boundaries	On Agenda
11	Will Kunder, CES Manitou Conference/Rev. Ted Harrison, Trinity United-North Bay	January 15, 2018	"Region Seven" Boundaries Letter – NB MP&E Committee	For Information
12	Rev. Dr. Bill Steadman-St. Andrew's UC-Sudbury/Will Kunder, CES Manitou Conference	January 15, 2018	Boundaries Report	For Information
13	Will Kunder, CES Manitou Conference/Rev. Joshua Kang – Trinity UC-Manitoulin	January 16, 2018	Closing of St. Paul on the Hill UC re: allocation of funds	For Information
14	David Allen and Carol Hancock, Remit Implementation Team & Boundaries Commission/Will Kunder, CES Manitou Conference	January 19, 2018	Manitou Conference Response to Proposed Boundaries & Staffing Models	For Information
15	Marian Sloss, Church Council Chairperson – Trinity United – Manitoulin/Will Kunder, CES Manitou Conference	January 26, 2018	Dispersal of Funds re: St. Paul's on the Hill UC	For Information
16	Boundaries Commission/Barbara Maki, Secretary, Church Council – St. Andrew's UC-Sudbury	January 26, 2018	Request for Change to Region 7 as Planned	For Information
17	Manitou Conference/Five Oaks Retreat and Education Centre	January 30, 2018	Five Oaks Education and Retreat Centre Newsletter	For Information
18	The UCC/Nora Sanders, General Secretary-The UCC	January 31, 2018	Nominations for Denominational Council	On Agenda
19	Will Kunder, CES Manitou Conference/Helmut Wipprecht, Cobalt, ON	February 6, 2018	Response to Letter re: Discontinued List Designation	For Information

20	Will Kunder, CES Manitou Conference/Erin Greeno, Central Ont. Conferences Archivist – The UCC	February 8, 2018	Archiving Presbytery Records	On Agenda
21	Remit Implementation Team/Yvonne Stewart, Chair – Five Oaks Board of Directors	March 2, 2018	Five Oaks Location and Area of Service	On Agenda
22	Marian Sloss, Chair of Council – Trinity Manitoulin UC/Will Kunder, CES Manitou Conference	March 2, 2018	Letter re: St. Paul's on the Hill Closing	For Information
23	Manitou Conference/Am Crawford, Team Leader, Faith Formation and Mission – The UCC	March 5, 2018	Youth Forum Pilgrims	On Agenda
24	Manitou Conference/Diane Bosman, Member Engagement – The UCC	March 2018	Nomination Forms for the Executive of the Denominational Council	On Agenda
25	Affirm United, S'Affirmer Ensemble/Cheryl-Ann Stadelbauer-Sampa, CES London Conference	March 15, 2018	Affirming Designations for Conferences and Presbyteries and the Move to Regional Councils	On Agenda
26	Dianne Everitt – Student Supply at Trinity UC-Magnetawan/Will Kunder, CES Manitou Conference	March 15, 2018	Marriage License for DM/DLM/Students in Manitou Conference	For Information
27	Affirm United, S'Affirmer Ensemble/Will Kunder, CES Manitou Conference	March 21, 2018	Prescribed Affirming Process re: Affirming Regions	On Agenda
28	Members of Manitou Conference's Presbyteries/Will Kunder, CES Manitou Conference and Kathie Smith, President Manitou Conference	April 6, 2018	Naming People to Regional Council Transition Commissions	On Agenda
29	Will Kunder, CES Manitou Conference/Tracy Davis, DLM – St. Andrew's UC-North Bay	April 10, 2018	Resignation of GC43 Commissioner	For Information

Appendix B

Executive Secretary Accountability Report

April 19, 2018

Following are many of the major tasks that the staff are engaged with at this time. I'll be glad to expand upon some of these during the reporting time.

Susan

- Sue continues to impress with her teleconferencing expertise:
 - Presbytery Executives
 - meetings of conference committees
 - meetings of the SJNOC
 - this Saturday – NB Presbytery Adobe event with Erik Mathiesen
 - coordinating a ministers' gathering with Randy Boyd from Thunder Bay
- implementation of new ministry personnel data base
- MYF planning – in support of Melody

Lillian

- JNACs, searches, and assisting congregations to prepare for 2019
- facilitating ministry personnel circles:
 - North Bay
 - Spirit Dancing
 - connecting us with ministry personnel in Algoma and Cambrian
- MPESI – this week
- staff support to our Affirming Ministry committee
- continuing support to the candidacy work of London Conference and preparing for their Annual Meeting

Melody

- Worshiplude in Ottawa – Feb 2-4
- GC43 YF pre-event at Five Oaks – hospitalized in Brantford
- excited about GC43 – attending as staff support to the YF
- MYF planning
- Holy Week – hospitalized in Sudbury – Easter morning: surgery – doing well
- checking in pretty much every day – off work for 5-6 weeks
- MILC – ReThink Green initiative resulted in Sudbury churches honoured Apr. 12

Myself

- disappointment over the Executive Minister decision
- its been a 14-year privilege and will be sad to no longer be in this leadership role
- working now to assist Peter, while doing what needs to be done to be ready for an orderly transition to January 01, 2019
- Peter met with us on Thursday, April 5 – worst storm day of the winter
- excited about the financial stability that we have been able to ensure for Region 6

Appendix B Cont'd... Executive Secretary Accountability Report

- current focus:

- Region 6 Commission membership
- support to Presbytery Executives
- archiving material (the fire really helped!)
- 2017 financial review
- future of Grand River Books
- Moderator's visit – Conference UCW annual mtg
- preparing Commissioners for GC43
- connecting LIRR folks here with others in Cambrian and Algoma
- remembering Jackie Childerhose

Please do have a look at the monthly calendars to see the variety of things that your staff have been and are working on, while anxiously awaiting word on what our futures hold.

Respectfully,

Will Kunder
Executive Secretary

Appendix C

President Accountability Report

April 19, 2018

President's Report April 2018:

1. Attended SP in January, attended the viewing of "Truly and Humbly" documentary at St. Peter's in Sudbury;
2. I attended the Conference Presidents/ Presidents Elect Orientation meeting at church house – in early February;
3. EM consultation meeting for Region 6 & 10;
4. Together with Will, we sent out the invitation to discern whether delegates might like to serve on the Regional Council Commission;
5. Participated in the GC43 Learning event last evening which introduced the decision-making process to commissioners – hopeful we can share this with Commissioners as part of our orientation;

Appendix D UCW Report

MANITOU



CONFERENCE



NEWSLETTER 2018



From the President's Desk

Spring is always a time of rebirth and joy. There is the special joy of seeing friends at spring meetings after we have been at home over a long winter. Spirit Dancing led the way this year with having their AGM on March 24. Sudbury has given me the date of their spring Presbyterial at St Peters as May 25. How about you North Bay when is your spring Presbyterial? I am feeling much better after some health issues this past winter and I am looking forward to being able to visit with many UCW groups now that traveling weather seems so much better. When I was in Sudbury for medical appointments this month I took in a service at St Peter's UC. Rev Dawn Vaneck and her church family certainly made me feel most welcome. It seems each year Rev Dawn takes the awards season to heart and prepares services around award winning films. She certainly allowed me to have a different perspective on the movie *The Shape of Water* with her sermon. It was interesting to be in attendance at a service where the choir was bigger than my own home congregation! Thank You St Peter's for your kind hearted hospitality. I look forward to attending the Sudbury Presbyterial this May and being once again at St Peter's. Here is hoping that you all are enjoying the rejuvenation that spring affords and the beauty of the change of seasons that God provides for us here in Canada. Hope to see you soon at our AGM or an event near you.

You are invited to...Manitou Conference UCW AGM

Thursday April 26 and Friday April 27 In New Liskeard!!!

Please note the dates. We have changed the dates that were originally scheduled to coordinate with the visit of a very special guest...The Moderator will be at our meeting on Friday April 27! We are so excited! Please let everyone know that they are welcome to come to the AGM and meet the moderator!! Fees will be collected at the door.

Contact Wendy Whalen 1231 Lakeshore Rd., RR % 1 Haileybury, ON P0J 1K0 705-647-7194

wqwhalen@persona.ca Registration for the two days is \$40.00 this covers meals and entertainment.

If your church has a Manitou Banner please bring it with you so that we can exchange with other churches.

Sharing News from out and about ...

Notes for this section depends entirely on folks sending me information from their church.

Spirit Dancing Presbyterial reports that while their 2017 membership was 75 they do not have large attendance at Presbyterial events. They have cancelled its May 5 spring AGM and also cancelled the Fall Rally. There are just not enough people willing to take on these events and there are no volunteers for



executive positions. A memorial donation was made through Gifts for Vision in memory of Juanita Hardy, the SD Treasurer who passed away earlier this year.
The Individual UCW groups in Spirit Dancing continue to be busy...

Englehart UCW reports that they are joining with the Presbyterian Women in their new combined church. The Presbyterian women live by the rule of the %W's...We Will Work Won't We. The UCW teas now make more funds by accommodating takeout orders and have had up to 200 orders to fill at times!

Chapleau UCW is busy with two teas a year, monthly Soup Kettle, and Carnival Super. Last year they purchased new chairs for the church hall. They participate in a Suitcase Project each year providing suitcases with essentials for children that need to leave home in a hurry.

St Paul's UCW, Cochrane, reports that the group continues with the Christmas Bazaar which was a little slow this year, however monies were still raised to help with the church life. St Patrick's Day at the Villa Minto Nursing Home this year was dedicated to the late Betty May Ouellette, the former organizer. Nancy Irving joining the performers this year.

Trinity UCW, Iroquois Falls, reports that they are continuing with their Wednesday luncheons and bake sales. Their Snow Flake Bazaar was a big success this year. They set up a rotating chair with individuals volunteering to chair monthly meetings and this seems to be working very well.

The Porcupine UCW continues to enjoy lots of laughter at their meetings. They were the host in 2017 for the World Day of Prayer.

Sudbury Presbyterial will be holding their Spring Presbyterial at St Peter's Church on York St. May.23.

St Peter's UCW is busy preparing for their annual May luncheon and everyone is looking forward to the annual trip to Marian Gilmour's summer home on Manitoulin Island in June. . The annual spring yard sale is always a big fundraiser and they are hoping new coordinators will be found. Fair trade Coffee donations along with additional fundraisers allow the group to provide support to designated charities as well as the church.

North Bay Presbyterial reports that is doing well with an attendance of 60 members who participated in a fall event to visit historical places during their last rally!



New Church Regional boundaries have been established.

In case the news has not filtered down to your units as yet, there will be 16 new regions replacing the current Conferences and Presbyterials. Region no 6 comprising of most of Northern Ontario as far west as Thunder Bay is our new Region. Executive Ministers for regional councils have been named by the Sub-Executive of the General Council on March 22, 2018. These appointments have been made in consultation with the leadership in Conferences and presbyteries and are provisional until the results of Remit 1 have been enacted by the 43rd General Council in July 2018. Conference offices will remain open and

presbyteries will continue to function until December 31, 2018. Regions 6 and 10 (southcentral Ontario from the Toronto area to northern Ontario) Executive Minister will be Peter Hartmans, Executive Secretary of Hamilton Conference
National UCW will be discussing the organization of UCW at their National meeting in Toronto in September 2018.

Some musings on future UCW...

As we as a church begin to see the picture of the new organization I have noticed that even our UCW is opening up naturally to a new reality. **St Andrew's, Sudbury** formally closed their UCW in 2013 but Diane Trollop reports that some of the former members have navigated their way to joining other UCW's that are still active. Meanwhile the women of St Andrew's continue to support the activities of their church. I have also heard that Elliot lake, who closed their UCW last year have requested of Sudbury Presbyterial that they be included in their 'Cluster' that seems to be arising around St Peter's Church UCW. "Clusters" word that is being used by national lately. National feels that with the New Regions that perhaps new "Clusters" will naturally form within the regions so that groups may keep in touch and even visit. Are we, the UCW in Manitou ahead of the game with this Sudbury St Peter's 'cluster'?

Birthday Corner... Congratulations one and all!

Josephine Kitt, former longtime member from Spirit Dancing who is currently living in Thunder Bay area Celebrated her 104 birthday March 23.

Rose Irving of Iroquois Falls will be 99 this June and Trinity UCW will be hosting a luncheon with everyone going to the nursing home for dessert to wish Rose a very Happy birthday. Please contact Gayle Thomas for details if you are interested to attend.

Zion UC in Sundridge celebrate every year with all their members who are 90 plus seniors with cake and flowers. **I am sure there are lots of members celebrating milestone birthdays...please sent along information for the birthday corner in the next newsletter.**



A smile to share...

There was once a woman who had two young sons, who were always getting into mischief. If something happened, it was probably they who were involved. One day, she decided to take them to the pastor of her church, to see if it might help them be less mischievous. The pastor took them, one at a time, for an interview. The first son's interview went like this. The pastor asked him, "Where is God?" After asking him a third time, "Where is God?", he bolted out of the office and said to his brother, "God is missing and they think we did it!"

Poverty Dolls Update

It was reported in the winter newsletter about the Poverty Dolls/Dolls of hope that represent the 1.3 million Canadian children living in poverty were presented to Members of Parliament and members of the Canadian Senate in Ottawa. One might think that the momentum might slow down after such a presentation but no, we still have more areas of government and more churches who need to have these dolls. The women in London area who spear headed the Ottawa trip admit they have slowed down somewhat but they continue to go to churches in their areas and spread the word. There are also municipal politicians who need to have knowledge of the project.

As we enter this last year of this particular project some church UCW are still climbing on the band wagon. The UCW of Zion UC, Sundridge have completed making dolls and are waiting a chance to make sure they are presented to their local MP and MPP this spring.

When I attended Sunday services at St. Peter's UC in Sudbury I presented the church with a poverty doll and that morning the Sunday School children discussed a name and chose to call the doll Hope. After services some of the women asked about where they could obtain more information. In case other groups

wish to have more information about what the dolls represent, how to make the dolls etc. I suggest visiting the web site of endchildpoverty.ca where most all questions can be answered. While I have slowed down in making dolls I am still producing some dolls as I am mindful that only Cochrane municipal leaders have received dolls in my own area and we will see what we can do to provide dolls to other municipalities.

Got to love those church signs...



Did You Notice?

Have you seen the tears that are slipping from so many now being persecuted for who they are? Or, the tears of women and children lost inside the Powers of nations hidden and weary of blame for being female? Men being sold as slaves because they are refugees of human hate and fear?

And did you notice the tears that are slipping from the eyes of the Creator? Of those who are incarcerated by others' fears? Of those languishing in hallways; stuck in battle stations; those who wait endlessly for peace? Even now there are hidden tears dripping around the Statue of Liberty, which stands in solidarity against a crumbling freedom?

With God's unconditional love, there are no favourites. There will be tears until we turn our selves into the desire, so strong, it speaks out and up to make peace real, tangible, and for humans all over this planet. Tangible peace is real life accountability; housing people can afford; food that is available; being able to sleep without fear; medical help that is fair and creates health and harmony within the seeker, who are all created to be well.

Why is it so scary to put people before profits? Money did not, does not, create earth sky and water, or fire. It seems to be used to divide, destroy earth, very little to heal. This love of money is fear based, not love based. Not able to see that people make the money we need to do anything. So be not careless to abandon humans for things. Life is fair.... people choose not to be, and the results are the hungry, homeless and the undone and in power people that exploit for profit. Instead serve Love's risky call to Love.

God is good. God is love. So people of faiths who believe in grace and peace, cause it to be. Live it, call on it within you... it is there ready for action. Worship not the human Books of Religions, but notice only the Call of the loving God within them.

Did you notice Jesus calling again and again... to go out, in peace to tell all people, that they are loved by God? And the 1st above all others being: Love your Creator-God, and love your neighbour as yourself. Wave your palm branches for Love is God's grace is alive!

S. Diane Trollope© Palm Sunday . 2018 Thank you Diane for granting permission to publish this poem.

Attached to this newsletter are the pages from the UCW Guidelines which contains information on the closing of a UCW Presbyterial. Spirit Dancing Presbyterial has formally requested of Manitou Conference UCW that their Presbyterial be closed. This will be discussed at the upcoming Manitou UCW Conference.



Appendix 3: Policy and Procedures regarding Closing of Presbyterials or Locals

Because the finances of Conference and Presbyterial UCWs are affected by the number of women in the local church, it is important that advance notice be given and consultation be held. Local UCWs should advise the Presbyterial that they are considering closing. The Presbyterial should appoint two or three people to meet with the local. The reasons for closing and the distribution of finances should be discussed. As money has been given to UCW, it should not automatically be given to the local church, Presbyterial, or presbytery. Because Canada Revenue Agency considers the assets of UCW's to be part of the charitable assets of a pastoral charge, any disbursements in the event of closure must comply with the restrictions placed on all Canadian charities for disbursements. Assets must be disbursed to other registered charities (with some exceptional circumstances for global mission). The charitable purpose of the receiving charity should be congruent with the charitable purpose of the pastoral charge. These disbursements are reported to CRA as gifts to "qualified donees." A final report on disbursements should be provided to the pastoral charge treasurer to include in the annual reporting to CRA. If the final decision is to close, six months' notice should be given and the local assessment for the following year should be paid to the Presbyterial, since the assessment is based on the previous year's membership. A service of celebration for the local UCW's work in the past should be held and attended by Presbyterial representatives.

If a Presbyterial feels that it should cease, notice should be given to Conference, and Conference should appoint two or three people to meet with the Presbyterial. The reasons for ceasing and the distribution of Presbyterial funds should be discussed, as well as arrangements for collecting allocations from the locals in the future.

Appendix E

List of Manitou Commissioners to GC43

- | | | | |
|---|---|----|---|
| 1 | Janice Brownlee (Lay Rep to GCE)
659 Jane Street
North Bay, ON P1B 3H1
Phone: (705) 472-6653
Email: hbrownlee@cogeco.ca | 8 | David Clarke (Lay Rep)
509 Eastern Avenue
Lively, ON P3Y 1M9
Phone: (705) 692-2989
Email: aus.dave@hotmail.com |
| 2 | Erin Todd (Ministry Rep to GCE)
3326 Eden Twp. Road
Sudbury, ON P3G 1G1
Phone: (705) 207-9362
Email: todd_erin@hotmail.com | 9 | Eric Brownlee (Lay Rep)
237 Lake Heights Road
North Bay, ON P1A 2Z4
Phone: (249) 358-6857
Email: ericrb@outlook.com |
| 3 | Cindy Desilets (Ministry Personnel Rep)
230 Eighth Avenue
Timmins, ON P4N 5S1
Phone: (705) 264-5518
Email: cincorp@yahoo.com | 10 | Bill Steadman (Ministry Personnel Rep)
111 Larch Street
Sudbury, ON P3E 4T5
Phone: (705) 674-0721 Ext. 103
Email: westeadman03@gmail.com |
| 4 | Kathie Smith (Lay Rep)
830 L'Etang Road
Sturgeon Falls, ON P2B 2K7
Phone: (705) 753-4954
Email: kgssmith7@gmail.com | 11 | Gord Roberts (Ministry Personnel Rep)
17 Vermont Crescent
North Bay, ON P1C 1L5
Phone: (705) 840-5548
Email: grnb014@gmail.com |
| 5 | Stewart Walker (Ministry)
69 Arthur Court
Espanola, ON P5E 1C1
Phone: (705) 675-6189
Email: webminister@eastlink.ca | 12 | Linda Saffrey (Ministry Personnel Rep)
1886 Courtland Drive
Sudbury, ON P3A 1J8
Phone: (705) 522-3454
Email: lindasaffrey@hotmail.com |
| 6 | Susan Lindquist (Lay Rep)
Box 144, 141 Monk St.
Chapleau, ON P0M 1K0
Phone: (705) 864-1398
Email: susanlindquist52@gmail.com | 13 | Maxine McVey
57 Hwy 540 B
Gore Bay, ON P0P 1H0
Phone: (705) 368-6529
Email: mcvey602@gmail.com |
| 7 | Peter Haddow (Lay Rep)
686 Morin Street
North Bay, ON P1B 5R7
Phone: (705) 474-3869
Email: peatmoss58@yahoo.ca | 14 | Bella Barbeiro (MYF Appointee)
9 Emery Street East
London, ON N6J 1R3
Phone: (705) 465-3160
Email: isabellabarbeiro@hotmail.com |

Appendix E Cont'd...

List of Manitou Commissioners to GC43

- 15. Barbara Nott**
1330 Wedgewood Drive
Sudbury, ON P3A 3E4
Phone: (705) 566-3735
Email: barbaranott@persona.ca

- 16. Will Kunder (Conference Executive Secretary)**
319 McKenzie Ave.,
North Bay, ON P1B 7E3
Cell: (705) 493-8087
Email: wkunder@manitouconference.ca

Appendix F

Manitou Conference Proposal #3 to the 43rd General Council

MEMBERSHIP OF THE EXECUTIVE OF THE DENOMINATIONAL COUNCIL

Origin: **Manitou Conference Executive**
 Transmitted with Concurrence by Manitou Conference

1. What is the issue?

It is being proposed to the 43rd General Council that the Basis of Union be changed to define membership of the Executive of the Denominational Council as follows:

7.5 Executive of the Denominational Council.

The executive of the Denominational Council is the decision-making body for the United Church between meetings of the Denominational Council, living into covenantal relationship and mutually accountable with the Denominational Council, Regional Councils, and Communities of Faith, with the following membership, authority and responsibility:

7.5.1 membership: a fixed number between 12 and 18 members, with the exact number set by the Denominational Council;

Within our understanding of a conciliar and connectional church, decisions made by the Executive of the Denominational Council should have direct accountability through the Regions to all pastoral charges. While hearing the desire for a smaller denominational executive, we believe that is necessary to enlarge the membership to ensure direct accountability to the Regions through an elected representative. With more and more of the work of Executive being done by videoconference, we believe that a slightly enlarged membership will not pose a significant financial hardship.

2. Why is this issue important?

We contend that The United Church of Canada was formed as a conciliar system, in which each court of the church has direct relationship and accountability to one another. Each court clearly has its own distinct responsibilities, but each court of The United Church of Canada has had some measure of accountability to the others.

We believe that in making the decision to establish a smaller denominational council executive, without direct representation from and accountability to each regional council, the church fails to honour the conciliar nature of our church that has been central to our being since Church Union.

We are aware of no theological rationale having been provided for what we consider to be an unacceptable departure from our conciliar system.

In November 2015, the Executive of the General Council approved, in the Appendix to Theology and Inter-Church Inter-Faith Committee Report, a section which speaks directly to *“the conciliar nature of The United Church of Canada.”*

The Committee notes the following understandings about our conciliar system of governance:

- *The church in its essence is conciliar.... (p.64)*

Under the proposed change, actions of the denominational council executive will have no direct accountability to the wider church between General Councils. We believe this to be unacceptable and during this time of tremendous institutional change is likely to significantly undermine trust between the various courts.

Appendix F Cont'd...

Manitou Conference Proposal #3 to the 43rd General Council

3. How might the General Council respond to this issue?

It might accept the recommendation of Manitou Conference that:

1. Membership of the Executive of the Denominational Council include one representative (either ministry personnel or lay), nominated by and accountable to each Regional Council.
2. Regional Councils nominate a pool of candidates from which one would be chosen through the approved General Council nominations process.
3. And that General Council initiate a robust discussion about what it means when we speak of our church as “conciliar.”