

## MANITOU CONFERENCE EXECUTIVE MEETING

held by Conference Call  
Thursday February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2013

### THURSDAY, February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2013

<b>Attendance</b> Ministry Personnel	Ted Harrison, Will Kunder, Jessica Cottrell, Mary-Jo Tracy, Erin Todd
Laity	Marian Sloss, Marguerite Hayes, Bill Rowe, Elsie Christian, Janice Brownlee
Regrets	Barb Cunnington, Maureen Ellison
Staff support	Susan Whitehead, minute-taker
Constitution of the Court	President Ted Harrison welcomed the Executive members and called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.
Opening Prayer	The President talked about the 2013 GM theme and the “birthing of a new church”, with all the joys and pains we experience in this time of transition. He read a passage from Matthew 24 and offered an opening prayer.
2013 General Meeting (GM)	<p>Mary-Jo Tracy shared that the Celebration of Ministry Service and ordinations will be at the Manitoulin Secondary School and not at the church, as expected. There is indication that as many as three buses may be arranged to bring guests for the ordination service. The B &amp; A Committee will look into a sound system for the service.</p> <p>The Moderator is confirmed to be the “preacher” for worship at the Sunday service and will be with us for the weekend.</p> <p>Rob Dalglish, from the EDGE Network will be the keynote speaker. He is very interested in talking about the new shape the church may take.</p> <p>The President will contact the Moderator ASAP re: the theme and ask what his scripture plans are; Stewart Walker is eager to get planning the congregational service for June 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2013 for those who do not attend the GM.</p> <p>There is an introduction letter in regards to the GM theme that will accompany the GM registration package; Ted will get that to the Conference office to be sent out.</p> <p>The President asked the Executive for creative input on the GM theme for the Sunday service.</p> <p>The President also reminded Executive that there isn't a President-Designate for the next term. <b>He suggested that discussion around possible candidates be an agenda item at the April meeting.</b></p>

Effective Leadership/  
Pastoral Relations pilot  
project

Mary-Jo Tracy gave an introduction to the Effective Leadership team in Sudbury Presbytery; the team is comprised of people from the North Shore. There is 40 minutes of time allotted for the Effective Leadership project at the next Sudbury Presbytery meeting on March 6<sup>th</sup>, 2013.

The project is unfolding each time the team meets; there is excitement around this. They don't know where it will end up but the Presbytery will look very different.

Will stated that during team discussions, there was profound sharing of how the current Presbytery models are failing. There were frank and honest conversation about the hopefulness that Presbyteries can be what we all want and need with the changes this project will bring.

When the GM is over on Sunday June 2<sup>nd</sup>, the pilot project will begin in Sudbury Presbytery.

Moderator's Visit

The Moderator will be in Manitou Conference from Monday March 11<sup>th</sup> to Wednesday March 13<sup>th</sup>, 2013. He is travelling by car with Will to Chapleau on Monday, where the community will gather for a meet-and-greet and a meal.

The same day they will drive on to Matheson or Timmins for the Tuesday activities. Gary needs to be back in Toronto on Wednesday night. He will fly out of Timmins at 6:30 p.m.

People who want to see the Moderator might travel over from places like Kirkland Lake, New Liskeard and Cochrane. Anna Chikoski, Melanie Kirk and Cindy Desilets are coordinating with Will to plan the programming and travel.

Affirm United AGM

Will shared the Affirm AGM planning is going quite well. The group has grown beyond the Conference office staff and people from St. Andrew's NB.

The working theme is "Singing a New Song". Gary Paterson will preach at the Sunday service and offer theological reflection throughout the event.

St. Peter's UC in Sudbury had their Affirming Church vote and they are Manitou Conference's first official Affirming Church. St. Andrew's in North Bay will have their vote in a few weeks. St. Andrew's in Sudbury have started their conversations into possibly becoming an Affirming Church.

The date of the conference is Friday August 2<sup>nd</sup> to Monday August 5<sup>th</sup>, 2013.

Right Relation Home  
Group (RRHG)

The RRHG met last Friday at Huntington University in Sudbury and are working on the report for the GM Report Packet.

There were discussions around how the RRHG will continue now that its mandate is almost complete. Will reported that the majority of the group is committed to continuing being active in the Conference, whatever that will look like.

At the last Executive meeting (January 10/11, 2013), Executive instructed the President to craft and send a letter to the national office asking what their intention was regarding continuing the Right Relations work (**Motion 11/13 #67**). It was brought to our attention by Church House that it was already being worked on and the letter was not needed.

Erin and Janice will be attending the spring CGE meeting (first week of May) and inquired about what the Manitou Conference RRHG would like them to put forth.

**This will be an agenda item for the April 18<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup>, 2013 Executive meeting.**

The President reminded Executive about the “Children of Dancing Sun” First Nations curricula and how there may be a way to draft up a package for all the churches to put in their Sunday School programs. Lisa Blais and Susan Whitehead have volunteered to work on this.

Alcris Limongi is the Program Coordinator for Racial Justice, Gender Justice, and Sexual Minorities at the National Office and is offering “Courageous Conversations”, a presentation about having difficult conversations about race. Anyone from across the wider church are invited to come; Executive may send someone from Manitou to learn and report back to the Conference.

Comprehensive Review  
Task Group request

There are many consultations occurring all over the United Church and the National Church has requested time to speak at Conference GM's. Staff leaders have meetings in the next few weeks and by April, we will know more about what the request will look like.

There have been many changes to the Manual as a result of decisions made at GC41 last summer. The Manual will be available online and in print by June 2013 and will come into effect by September 2013.

Carol Hancock –  
Resignation

Will reported that Carol Hancock is resigning – not retiring – on March 28<sup>th</sup>, 2013.

The CES asked Executive if they are interested in getting her a “token” from Manitou Conference for her service to us.

