

## MANITOU CONFERENCE EXECUTIVE MEETING

held by Conference Call  
Wednesday October 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2014 at 9:05 a.m.

### WEDNESDAY October 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2014

<b>Attendance</b>	Will Kunder, Maxine McVey, Mary-Jo Tracy, Cindy Desilets, Stewart Walker
Ministry Personnel	
Laity	Marguerite Hayes, Bill Rowe, Janice Brownlee, Kathie Smith, Joy Galloway, Judy Biondi
Regrets	Ted Harrison, Erin Todd
Staff support	Susan Whitehead, minute-taker
Constitution of the Court and Recognition of Traditional Territories	President Maxine McVey welcomed the Executive members, recognized the Traditional Territories around the Conference and called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m.
Opening Prayer	The President opened with a prayer.
Camp Lorrain 2015 Proposal	<p>The CES shared a financial statement of the year-to-day for Camp Lorrain and reported that Camp Lorrain is still in a surplus situation (attached as Appendix A).</p> <p>The President invited Executive to share their response to the proposal (attached as Appendix B). Discussion resulted in the following:</p> <p><b>Motion 13/15 #40: Marguerite Hayes/Bill Rowe</b> <b>That the Manitou Conference Executive approve the Camp Lorrain Board of Directors “Proposal for 2015” and commend the board for their creative stewardship and passionate guidance of this important ministry. CARRIED</b></p> <p>The Camp Lorrain Board continue to look at ways of making the camp more financially viable, including connecting with realtors to assess property values and possible divestment of some of the property.</p> <p><b>There was consensus that the Camping Ministry Task Group will be an agenda item at the November 27-28, 2014 Executive meeting.</b></p> <p>The Executive Secretary will ensure the above motion is forwarded to the Chair of the Camp Lorrain Board, Bob Jackson, for distribution, so they can continue with planning for the 2015 camping season.</p>
Looking Ahead	November 27-28, 2014 – Executive Meeting – Villa Loyola, Sudbury April 16-17, 2015 – Executive Meeting – Villa Loyola, Sudbury May 22-24, 2015 – GM – North Bay Presbytery, St. Andrew’s and Trinity UC (NB)

Adjournment                      Having completed the business before it, the President declared the meeting adjourned at 9:29 a.m.

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President, Maxine McVey

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Recording Secretary, Susan Whitehead

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Executive Secretary, Rev. Will Kunder



**Appendix B**  
**CAMP LORRAIN PROPOSAL FOR 2015**  
From  
The Camp Lorrain Board of Directors

The Camp Lorrain Board of Directors met to evaluate the 2014 camping season and to develop a proposal for 2015 for the consideration of the Manitou Conference Executive.

We were pleasantly surprised to learn that our various cost saving actions that the Board of Directors have taken, along with the very generous support from the people of Manitou Conference through various sources of donations, and the generous Mission Support Grant could mean that we will end the year without a deficit and perhaps a small balance for the first time in many years. However, while we are glad to be able to report this good financial news, we realize that it is still not enough and more needs to be done in order to place the camp on a solid financial foundation for the future.

To this end we are asking the Conference Executive to give us permission to offer and scaled down camping program for 2015 that we will promote as "The End of Camp Lorrain as We Know It - and I Feel Fine!"

Our proposal is that we be given leave to offer one Junior Camp from July 5 to July 11 and one Intermediate Camp from July 12 to July 18 along with a Staff Training Week from June 29 to July 3. During the rest of the summer, basically from July 19 to the end of August, and possibly for one week at the end of June, the Camp Lorrain Site would be available for rent. We already have had five inquiries about renting the Camp during the month of August.

We believe that we can do this with a much better financial outcome than in 2014 because the Board intends to take the following steps based on our 2014 experience:

1. We plan to use government grants to cover the salaries of two of our senior staff.
2. We plan to further combine two senior staff positions into one, i.e. the Craft Director and the Nature Director. Thus further reducing our staff budget which will already be reduced because we will only be providing three weeks of employment for all but two of our senior staff members instead of the previous five weeks. The two senior staff members will be employed for the entire summer to manage and supervise any and all rentals. They will be on site throughout any rental and we anticipate their salaries will be covered by a government grant as it was in 2014.
3. We have increased the rent for Camp Lorrain from \$1,000 for a weekend (2 overnights) to \$1,250 and from \$2,000 to \$2,500 for a week. We are also making

some other minor changes to our rental policy regarding the disposal of garbage, check-in and check-out times, and the fact that we do not allow RV's electrical plug-ins. These changes are for clarification.

4. We believe we can find qualified volunteers to fill the cooks' positions and our nurse's position, and so will save the expense of the cooks' and nurse's salaries. We are also considering the possibility of volunteer staff for some other positions.
5. We are also exploring more ways to reduce the costs of our water system maintenance.
6. One of our Directors is doing some research with a realtor to determine the market value of the property and the potential value of severing some portions of our large acreage.

We recognize that we need to greatly reduce the cost per camper to make Camp Lorrain viable and we believe that these steps, along with some other cost saving measures that are being explored will go a long way to help us achieve that goal.

This transitional summer Camp Lorrain program will give both staff, campers and their families an opportunity to come to grips with the fact that Camp Lorrain will be used and operated in a very new way - a way that is financially viable and yet still valuable to its users.

We also noted that in 2013 when we really promoted the camp programs through an intensive advertising effort our registrations went up. In 2014 we were unable to do the same kind of advertising. However we plan to reinstate that level of advertising in 2015 in the hopes of increasing our camp registrations. We are also promoting Camp Lorrain as an unique wilderness experience for people in southern Ontario and beyond.

The people of Manitou Conference and the Manitou Conference Executive and Staff have been most generous in their support of this camping ministry. We want to acknowledge that fact and to provide opportunities for that to continue as we move into a new way of being and serving our communities.

We hope and pray that you will be supportive of the directions we are proposing.