



MINUTES OF KAMLOOPS-OKANAGAN PRESBYTERY

OF BRITISH COLUMBIA CONFERENCE
The United Church of Canada

February 19-21, 2016

HOSTED BY ST. MARY'S ANGLICAN/UNITED CHURCH
SORRENTO, BRITISH COLUMBIA

Friday, February 19, 2016

PRESENT	<p>Ministry Personnel / Recognized Designated Lay Ministers: Juanita Austin, LeAnn Blackert, Jenny Carter, Bruce Chalmers, Richard Chung, Bruce Comrie, Jo Ann Hinter, Kathy Hogman, Ken Jones (Chair), Nick Judson, Brian Krushel, Michele Rowe, Donald Schmidt, Jeff Seaton, Laura Turnbull, Sharilynn Upsdell; RDLM: Jim Hannah, Cheryl Perry</p> <p>Candidate Minister from Another Denomination: Peter le Roux</p> <p>Retired Order of Ministry: John Burton, Heather Burton, Gloria Christian, Stephen Hershey, David Sparks, Lily Watson</p> <p>Lay Delegates: Micki Andrews, Shawna Banman, Cathie Basket, Barbara Blysak, Beth Campbell, Betty Chenoweth, Patricia Chown, Eva Farquhar, Ian Fraser, Norma Fraser, Edward Freek, Lena Freek, John Howat, Beryl Itani, Kathy Johnson, Linda Langevin, Megan Loyer, Marianne Lummin, Rollanda Mailloux, Kathy McMillan, Gloria Michayluk, Kris Nickerson, Rose Perkins, Geri Pronovost, Edith Rice, Robert Riddle, Reta Robertson, Helen Ross, Leslie Ross (Secretary), Patricia Totten, Judy Veinotte</p> <p>Members at Large: Martha Ashbaugh, Lee Fraser, Dee Hershey (Registrar), Janet McDonald, Don Seaton, Susan Sullivan, Peggy Whitley</p> <p>Youth Council: Keira Millin, Tayana Simpson, Maia Walker</p> <p>BC Conference Staff: Ivy Thomas</p> <p>Past Moderator: Marion Best</p> <p>Guests: Linda Baird, Jack Best, Lynn Bryan, Hugh Chown, Katy Cox, Linda Fortier, Gloria Goodchild, Shirley Richardson, Victoria Simpson, Joan Willey</p> <p>Youth Retreat Participants: David Gravells, Michael Gravells, Tessa Morin, Shaugnessy O'Brien, Chrystal Rohrer</p>
REGRETS	<p>Ministry Personnel / Recognized Designated Lay Ministers: Bari Castle, Elaine Diggie, Armand Houle, Rick Potter, Sandra Stickney</p> <p>Retired Order of Ministry: Harvie Barker, Ann Pollock, Dawne Taylor</p> <p>Student Minister: Ian McLean</p> <p>Lay Delegates: Bob Blakely, Phyllis Campbell, Marena Glacier, Irene Hart, Nan Hendrie, Heather Jackson, Leslie Stirling (Treasurer)</p> <p>Members at Large: Marion Hollingshead</p> <p>Youth Council: Breanna Huet</p> <p>Youth Minister: Keri Wehlander</p>
NEWCOMER ORIENTATION	Stephen Hershey gave newcomers an orientation to the structure and workings of Presbytery.
DINNER	Bruce Chalmers provided information about dinner. Reta Robertson led us in a blessing for our meal. Volunteers from St Mary's provided supper.

GATHERING IN SONG	We gathered in the hall with song at 6:15 pm with Jim Hannah, Rose Perkins, Juanita Austin, and Linda Langevin leading the singing.
WORSHIP	The Worship Animation Working Unit led us in opening worship using the New Creed as a basis for worship.
WELCOME	<p>Bruce Chalmers gave us a welcome from St. Mary's as well as greetings from Sorrento Centre. He noted the history on the walls and in their banner. He provided some logistics for how our meeting space would be used.</p> <p>Ken Jones welcomed everyone to the Spring Presbytery meeting. He also affirmed what was learned from the evaluations of the previous Presbytery meeting and how they shaped the planning for this meeting.</p>
AUTHORITY & CALL TO ORDER	Pursuant to the authority of the 2015 Fall Meeting of Kamloops-Okanagan Presbytery, the 2016 Spring Meeting was Called to Order in the Sorrento Memorial Hall, Sorrento, BC and was declared open to conduct the business properly before it with Chair Ken Jones presiding. A quorum was present.
ADOPTION OF AGENDA	Motion: (Kathy Hogman / Reta Robertson) that the agenda be accepted as circulated. Carried.
MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING	Motion: (Leslie Ross / Martha Ashbaugh) that the minutes of the October 23-25, 2015 meeting of Kamloops-Okanagan Presbytery be adopted as circulated. Carried.
CORRESPONDING PRIVILEGES	Motion: (Jeff Seaton / Laura Turnbull) that Corresponding Privileges be granted to visitors and guests to this meeting of Kamloops-Okanagan Presbytery. Carried.
GREETINGS & INTRODUCTIONS	Ken Jones asked that new members and guests to Presbytery be identified and welcomed.

<u>Introducer</u>	<u>New Member or Guest</u>
Laura Turnbull	Lena and Ted Freek
Bruce Chalmers	John Howat
Nick Judson	Gloria Michayluk
	Linda Baird
Pat Chown	Pieter LeRoux
	Shirley Richardson
SharyInn Upsdell	announced her move to Mountainview in Kelowna
Reta Robertson	Rev. Dr. Donald Schmidt
Juanita Austin	Joan Willey
	Victoria Simpson
Peggy Whitley	Marianne Lummin
Katy Cox	Ken Jones
Brian Kushel	Micki Andrews
Cheryl Perry	Rob Riddle

Presbyters shared their concerns for the following people who were unable to join us this weekend: Harvey Barker, Nan Hendrie, Ian McLean, Ann Pollack, Leslie Stirling, and Keri Wehlander.

ANNOUNCEMENTS	<p>Donald Schmidt and Norma Fraser announced that resources were available for sale from Wood Lake Books, Naramata Centre, and Sorrento Centre.</p> <p>Beryl Itani announced that Peter Rollins will be the speaker for the Lenten Lectures at First United in Kelowna on March 11th and 12th.</p> <p>Bruce Comrie issued an invitation for people to attend the celebrations occurring at Kamloops United Church in mid May.</p>
GIFTS & CALLINGS	Peggy Whitley reported the current vacancies: KOP Representative to the BC Conference Executive, Discipleship Coordinator, and members for the Leadership Circle.

PRESBYTERY REPRESENTATIVE TO BC CONFERENCE EXECUTIVE	Ian Fraser will be completing his second term, totaling six (6) years, as Presbytery's Representative to the BC Conference Executive. He reported that it was a unique opportunity to practice leadership for the entire conference. There were many changes over the term. Highlights included faithfully handling a large bequest, property redevelopment, equipping leadership for lay and ministers, and responding to the Comprehensive Review. Holy Shift was a tangible result of equipping leadership by providing an event outside the lower mainland. There has been a ministry surrounding housing as people of the church and those who understand how to develop and redevelop property and repurpose assets worked together to design and work on a variety of projects. He has one more meeting and is looking forward to having someone else gain the experience of leadership at the Conference level.
GETTING TO KNOW EACH OTHER / CIRCLE PROCESS	Ivy Thomas reviewed the Circle Process, explaining the symbols: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • candle – reminder of Christ in our midst; also, in remembrance of those of those in that past who sat around the fire and shared stories at the end of the day • plasticized card – reminder to hold stories in confidence; be open to the needs of others and yourself; to listen with compassion and curiosity; to yield to moments of silence • talking pieces would be introduced to the tables tomorrow; they become an invitation to share but one can pass • bell – used to start conversation and stop conversation; be attentive to the time; wow minutes; honour stories – take time to breathe
THEME	Ivy Thomas led the evening's theme time. Each person received a card with a virtue. After reading the card, we moved into groups of three, joining people we did not know. We then shared where we were from, an interesting fact, and how the card will affect us through the weekend.
ANNOUNCEMENTS	There was a reminder to pick up camp information. A survey to assist Keri Wehlander, Youth and Young Adult Minister, learn about youth programmes throughout Presbytery was available at the registration desk. If presbyters needed to be absent from the Court during Presbytery or to leave early, they were reminded to make a request in writing to the Secretary. Ken Jones took time to help us centre ourselves prior to the evening Benediction using a shruti box to create sound and "Be Still and Know That I Am God".
BENEDICTION	The Worship Animation Working Unit led us in a time of worship prior to us retiring for the evening at 8:50 pm with the Court to reconvene in the morning at 8:30 am.

Saturday, February 20, 2016

GATHERING IN SONG	We gathered in the hall with song at 8:30 am.
CALL TO ORDER AND ANNOUNCEMENTS	Ken Jones called the meeting to order at 8:50 am. He recognized that we were meeting in the territory of the Neskonlith and Shuswap Okanagan, the indigenous people who have resided here long before the arrival of settlers to this region.
OPENING WORSHIP	The Worship Animation Working Unit led us in worship. To reflect on how or where our communities were living with respect in creation, loving and serving others, and seeking justice, talking pieces were used. A bulb represented living with respect in creation; a heart, loving and serving others; and a rock, seeking justice.
THEME EXPLORING WAYS OF BEING PASTORAL CHARGES	LeAnn Blackert from Mount Paul United explained how rock climbing which sometimes requires twenty (20) or thirty (30) tries to get past a problem and relies on a rope and belay buddy for support was a metaphor for Mount Paul and their journey to decisions about their building. After an unclear vote, they spent time examining their mission and vision, realizing that the heart of the congregation was the kitchen and not the sanctuary. Their vision statement became "faithful presence, nurturing body and soul". The question was then "How do we live into this?" Originally, they became part of the BC Conference Property Development Plan. However, the developer was not willing to include them in the final plan. Locally, Interior Community Services is willing to purchase the building but that leads to a "what next". The congregation will vote on a proposal next Sunday. It did hurt to hear "no" but the congregation is thanking God for the two "no's" that

led them to a “yes” that will work much better. The belay buddy in the process has been Presbytery, in particular the Property and Manse Working Unit and prayer.

Gloria Goodchild and Lynn Bryan from St. David’s By the Lake in Celista provided information about the congregation that worships in the little brown church. It is an Anglican / Uniited Shared Ministry although Google reports it as a Community Church. There is a depth to worship as a result of the mixture of denominational backgrounds. They have no minister since that would not be affordable if they are to do their outreach work. Rev. Brian Smith is the priest in charge. Three other ministers and lay ministers provide pulpit supply with communion being offered twice a month, alternating between Anglican and United liturgies. Pastoral care is provided by people in their church family. In answering the question “What makes St. David’s a special place for the church family?”, they are reminded of “It takes a village to raise a child.” Everyone takes a part, feeling connected because of their involvement. The “I can help with _____” list provides opportunities for people to know what is needed. There is intentional phoning every week. They have a meditation garden. Everyone is very hungry to learn with people participating in book and Bible studies. They have a prayer shawl ministry. Their “bear” in which loose change is collected for outreach programmes raised \$6,950 last year. To demonstrate, they asked presbyters to feed the bear for St. Mary’s outreach programmes.

Ivy Thomas told two stories about Celista. To demonstrate how having a minister would interfere with their ministry, she reported that ten percent of their income goes to the Mission and Service Fund and another ten percent goes to the Primate’s World Relief and Development Fund. When they received a gift for flooring, they tithed ten percent of that to their outreach programmes.

WELLNESS BREAK

THEME

HOLY SHIFT

Kathy Hogman, Chair of Leadership Circle, reported that they had a dream of hosting Faith Fest or a Resource Fair or some sort of event that would inspire and provide tools for leadership. Holy Shift: Spirit Rising is the result. Pamphlets and posters were distributed. Video clips to introduce the theme speakers were presented. The \$50.00 registration fee is low to make the event accessible to as many people as possible. This event is not just for presbyters. All are welcome to attend.

PRESBYTERY BUSINESS

CORRESPONDENCE

There was no correspondence to bring before the court.

PRESBYTERY QUORUM

Ian Fraser presented information about quorum. *The Manual* provides two ways for presbyteries to determine quorum. By June 30th of each year, Presbytery must choose which option will be used for the following pastoral year.

Option 1:

1. at least one third (1/3) of the settled, retained, or appointed members of the order of ministry and appointed designated lay ministers on the roll of presbytery must be present; and
2. at least one third (1/3) of the lay members on the roll of presbytery (other than those appointed as designated lay ministers) must be present.

Option 2:

1. at least one fifth (1/5) of the members of presbytery who are entitled to vote must be present;
2. at least one third (1/3) of the members present must be members of the order of ministry or designated lay ministers; and
3. at least one third (1/3) of the members present must be lay members on the roll of presbytery other than those appointed as designated lay ministers.

Motion: (Michele Rowe / Jenny Carter) that KOP adopt Option 2 for quorum. **Carried.**

WORKING UNITS

Working Units met to discuss business.

MEETING TIME

LUNCH

The youth led us in grace with volunteers from St Mary’s providing lunch.

GATHERING IN SONG

We gathered with song.

THEME	Jenny Carter, Ken Jones, and Leslie Ross reported on the Presbytery Consultation on Four Courts to Three held February 12 th to 13 th at the BC Conference Office. The report is attached to these minutes [Appendix 1, pages 9 - 12].
BC Conference Gathering Report	
WORKING UNITS	Working Units met to discuss business.
MEETING TIME	
WELLNESS BREAK	
GATHERING IN SONG	We gathered with song.
PRESBYTERY BUSINESS	
ANNOUNCEMENTS	A reminder was given to have someone from each congregation to complete the YAYA Survey. Some of the resource displays would be packed up in the evening.
PERMISSION TO LEAVE EARLY	Motion: (Leslie Ross / Reta Robertson) that LeAnn Blackert, Jenny Carter, Gloria Christian, Linda Fortier, Ian Fraser, and Lily Watson be given permission to leave the Court early. Carried.
GIFTS AND CALLINGS	Janet McDonald provided a bit of a challenge with the question “How is God calling you to serve our changing church?” She announced that three individuals were allowing their names to stand for the position of KOP Representative to the Executive of BC Conference: Jenny Carter, Stephen Hershey, and Susan Sullivan. She led us in prayer asking for strength, guidance, and confidence. Each person was given two minutes to tell a bit about themselves and why they would be willing to serve the church in this way. Motion: (Janet McDonald / Peggy Whitley) that Gloria Christian and David Sparks be appointed as scrutineers. Carried.
WORKING UNIT REPORTS	
ADMINISTRATION	Don Seaton reported that there was some additional information to that which appeared in the Information and Reports Book. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Property and Manse Working Unit St. Paul’s United Church in Kelowna has run into a serious snag and is unable to go ahead as planned. There is great heartbreak. Presbytery needs to support and uphold this congregation as it works through a way forward. The elevator at St Andrew’s United Church in Enderby is well on the way towards being installed. • Communication Working Unit Osoyoos United Church has just gone live with a new website. • Treasurer Don Seaton noted that one of the highlights of Presbytery is the Treasurer’s Report. He noted that although he could change hats he regretted that he was unable to tell any jokes like Leslie Stirling would have done. The good news was, as a result of Presbytery’s policy regarding surpluses, that there would be a reduction of twenty-seven thousand dollars (\$27,000.00) in Presbytery assessments.
DISCIPLESHIP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outdoor Ministries Gloria Christian was delighted to report that Breanna Huet has been recognized by the National Church with the Staff & Volunteer Award, which recognizes those who are integral to the success of a camp and the leadership development and spiritual formation of everyone who attends camp. A video highlighting the experiences at MacKenzie Camp was shown.
HUMAN RESOURCES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Educational Support Committee Motion: (Susan Sullivan / Sharilyn Upsdell) that applicants Louise Burton, Fern Gibbard, Victor Ince, Lillian McLeod, Judi Ritcey, and Diane Stuart be relicensed with Kamloops-Okanagan Presbytery as Licensed Lay Worship Leaders for the February 2016 to February 2017 period. Carried.

- LEADERSHIP CIRCLE** Kathy Hogman gave more information about Holy Shift. Registration is all on-line, so those in your congregation without computers may need help to register. There will be billeting available. They are investigating the possibility of bus travel (eg. starting at Osoyoos and picking up people as it moves north).
- CONFERENCE MINISTER** Ivy Thomas reported that most of the work done is confidential. She is adjusting to full-time work because she is also serving as the interim Conference Minister for Kootenay Presbytery. Six congregations are at some stage of the Ministry Profile Search process. Only one is for a full-time position. She announced that the Celebration of Ministry would be held on June 4, 2016 at West Vancouver United. Nine (9) people will be ordained, commissioned, recognized, or admitted to the United Church of Canada.
- GIFTS AND CALLINGS** The results of the vote for the KOP Representative to the BC Conference Executive were announced. Fifty-four (54) votes were cast with Stephen Hershey chosen to be our Representative. **Motion: (Janet McDonald / Peggy Whitley)** that the ballots be destroyed. **Carried.** Peggy Whitley thanked Ian Fraser for his years of service.
- REGISTRAR'S REPORT** Dee Hershey gave her report.
- The numbers:**
- 16** offered Regrets for not being with us this weekend.
- 77** attended the 2016 Spring Presbytery Meeting with a breakdown as follows:
- Order of Ministry and those Retained on the Roll = **16**
 - Order of Ministry Retired = **6**
 - Recognized Designated Lay Minister = **2**
 - Designated Lay Minister = **0**
 - Student Minister = **0**
 - Lay Delegates = **27**
 - Alternate Lay Delegates = **4**
 - Member at Large = **7**
 - Representative: Camp/UCW = **0**
 - Youth Council = **2**
 - Guests = **9**
 - Under the category of Others, there were:
 - **1** Former Lay Moderator
 - **1** Conference Staff
 - **1** Anglican Lay Minister
 - **1** Candidate Minister from another Denomination
- 13** were attending a Kamloops-Okanagan Presbytery meeting for the first time.
- The total number of billets required was 9.
- Under the category of food:
- **70** attended the Friday night dinner
 - **55** requested Sunday lunch
 - **9** required vegetarian meals
 - **19** responded to having Food Allergies/Diet Restrictions
- And finally, please hand in your name tags before you leave.
- DINNER** Ken Jones led us singing "For Health and Strength and Daily Food" as a round for grace. Volunteers from St Mary's provided supper.
- GATHERING IN SONG** We gathered with song.

PRESBYTERY BUSINESS

GIFTS AND CALLINGS **Motion: (Peggy Whitley / Janet McDonald)** that LeAnn Blackert, Jenny Carter, Jim Hannah, and Nick Judson be appointed to the Leadership Circle. **Carried.**

Gifts and Callings would like to thank all those who put their names forward to be part of this team. Also, the Court demonstrated its appreciation of the time and energy that Kathy Hogman gave to the Leadership Circle as her term ends this spring.

Motion: (Martha Ashbaugh / Beryl Itani) that KOP appoint Keri Wehlander as a Member at Large. **Carried.**

Motion: (Norma Fraser / Martha Ashbaugh) that all lay members of Kamloops-Okanagan Presbytery be elected as lay members of BC Conference. **Carried.**

YOUTH Maia Walker described Youth Retreat that was being held in conjunction with Spring Presbytery. She thanked those that answered the questions that youth asked so that they could become more familiar with Presbytery. She encouraged all to attend the campfire time being organized by the youth.

ANNOUNCEMENTS As an experiment, nametags will be collected after Sunday worship so they can be worn Sunday morning.

CIRCLE In table groups, lists were made of the ideas, images, memories, activities, concerns, information, and joys that presbyters would be taking home with them. As each group reported to the Court, the Secretary collected the lists so that the information could be gathered into a report. It is attached to these minutes [Appendix 2, pages 13 - 15].

WHAT WE ARE TAKING HOME

BANNER The Worship Animation Working Unit will take charge of the KOP banner that was created many years ago and occasionally is present at Presbytery meetings.

COURTESIES Laura Turnbull provided these appreciations:

- Dee Hershey and Peggy Whitley who warmly greeted us at the registration table
- Bruce Chalmers’ gracious welcome to St. Mary’s
- We were well fed both in body and spirit.
- Our meeting was well facilitated by Ken Jones and Leslie Ross.
- We enabled one another to do the work of Presbytery.
- We lifted our voices with song being ably led by our music group.
- We worshipped together.
- For being part of this United Church for all of the above and so much more, we give thanks.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRESBYTERY MEETING DATES	Year	Spring Presbytery		Fall Presbytery	
		Date	Place	Date	Place
	2016	February 19 - 21	St Mary’s, Sorrento	October 21 - 23	Summerland United
	2017	February 17 - 19	Kamloops United	October 20 - 22	Revelstoke

MOTION TO EMPOWER **Motion: (Leslie Ross / Beryl Itani)** that the Presbytery Executive be empowered to carry out the business of Presbytery until Presbytery meets October 21-23, 2016, at Summerland United, in Summerland, BC. **Carried.**

ADJOURNMENT Ken Jones declared that this meeting of Kamloops-Okanagan Presbytery would adjourn with the benediction at the close of worship on Sunday morning.

EVENING WORSHIP The evening concluded with worship at 8:30 pm, knowing that we would reconvene for Sunday worship at 10:00 am.

Sunday, February 21, 2016

SUNDAY WORSHIP Sunday morning worship, beginning at 10:00 am, was celebrated with the St. Mary’s Anglican/United congregation. Before the service, Laura Turnbull thanked the congregation for its hospitality and support throughout our weekend meeting. All the youth at Presbytery participated in the service either by reading scripture, collecting the offering, or serving communion.

ADJOURNMENT With the benediction at the close of worship, Kamloops-Okanagan Spring Presbytery adjourned.

Ken Jones, Chair

Leslie Ross, Secretary

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Appendix 1

Report to 2016 Spring Presbytery Meeting

about the

4 to 3 Presbytery Consultation

held February 12-13 2016 at the BC Conference Office

In December, 2015, Doug Goodwin, Executive Secretary of BC Conference sent an e-mail to presbyteries requesting that three people be chosen to represent the presbytery at a gathering in mid-February to explore what could happen in BC Conference as a result of the decision at General Council this summer to move the governance of the United Church from four courts to three courts. The Executive determined a discernment process to select representatives in which names were suggested, Gifts and Callings Working Unit checked with individuals about their willingness to attend, and the Executive chose who would represent our Presbytery. Jenny Carter, Leslie Ross, and Leslie Stirling were chosen, with Ken Jones being the alternate if one of them could not attend. Those who attended on our behalf were Jenny Carter, Ken Jones, and Leslie Ross.

The purpose of the consultation was

- to explore the merits for the United Church in BC in having one (or more) Region(s) instead of a Conference and ten Presbyteries;
- to explore how the Comprehensive Review vision of Regions, Clusters, and Networks might work in BC;
- to explore any advantages of reassigning responsibilities between the Conference and Presbyteries prior to any amalgamation of the two; and
- to provide advice to the General Council on how many Districts would be advantageous across the country (a very specific question).

About thirty people attended the consultation. There was representation from all presbyteries except for Kootenay. Several members of the BC Conference Executive also attended. Keith Howard was the facilitator.

Friday evening was primarily spent in small groups using a process called the Question Formulation Technique in order to determine the essential questions that need to be asked. As with most research or experimental study, we began with a thesis statement.

Thesis: The vision of Regions, Clusters, and Networks will foster the health and effectiveness of the United Church ministry within British Columbia.

After brainstorming to identify as many questions as possible that could be asked of the thesis, we worked on refining and consolidating the questions and chose the three most important questions that needed to be asked. This work was then shared with all. A final opportunity was then given for the groups to hone the questions. Prior to the end of the evening, we gathered in plenary so that participants could share their observations of the process and the questions.

Overnight, Keith Howard and Doug Goodwin developed a summary statement based on the questions and conversations. In plenary, the statement was discussed and revised.

Doug Goodwin provided us with some perspective regarding the push to make changes to governance, function, or programmes of the United Church. The initial consideration came as a result of the recognition that presbyteries were struggling to function. They were experiencing difficulty in meeting

all *The Manual* requirements. The Comprehensive Review work came afterwards when the national church realized the extent of the financial crunch it would be experiencing.

Our next task was to take a look at the idea of clusters in the context of the summary statement. We worked in small groups using much the same process as Friday evening beginning with brainstorming questions. The questions were refined. We then were asked to answer our top three questions. These questions and answers were shared with the plenary.

A process and timeline was developed for continued work. There are several points when those in the original consultation group and presbyteries will be consulted. BC Conference Executive will consider a more detailed document based on this weekend's work and initial responses from presbyteries, staff, and congregations. General Council will also be kept abreast of the work.

With respect to our opinion and/or advice to the General Council regarding regions, we agreed that the present BC Conference bounds be a Region. There was consensus that the Region should not be smaller than the present bounds if the Region was to be effective. There was an understanding that we would be open to adding to it. Some identified principles for determining the Regions, such as transportation corridors, should be articulated. There was also agreement that the total number of regions should be twelve to fifteen.

The draft document giving the summary statement, background reflections, general affirmations of the consultation, and a timeline for the work as sent to the consultation participants is attached.

Respectfully submitted,
Jenny Carter, Ken Jones, and Leslie Ross

Presbytery Consultation

Four-to-Three Courts

Summary Statement:

Given that we want 'good' communities of faith in all their variety and diversity, we want a wider church 'container' that will:

- provide strong community and connexion where mission discernment and enhancement can occur;
- provide direct contextual support;
- represent and work as "us together – the UCC" in society and the world, holding identity.

Background Reflections:

1. There are much bigger questions facing our church these days than the ones about church structures, especially ones about mission and ministry in congregations and other ministries. But while not the biggest, this is an important matter, and deserves our serious thought and attention. We should just not get too "hung up" with it.
2. We are not looking at the relationships of the church structures in BC primarily for financial reasons or to follow up on the General Council decisions. We are looking because we have recognized for some time that in BC and across the church the original vision for the work of Presbyteries is no longer viable. Numerous things have changed which has meant that Presbyteries can no longer do well what they were conceived of as doing. There is a national sense of dis-ease with Presbyteries. Responsibilities and expectations need to change.
3. We have the ability to make some changes no matter what happens with the remits related to the General Council decisions on the Comprehensive Review, if we want to.

General Affirmations of the Consultation:

1. We generally feel encouraged and positive by the vision of Regions, Clusters, Communities of Faith and Networks.
2. We focused our discussion on the relationships between a Region and Clusters (this is reflected in the following affirmations which do not refer to Communities of Faith or Networks).
3. We feel that most governance and management functions should happen on the Regional level. This is the level that provides professional, accountable oversight and support for Clusters, Communities of Faith and Networks.
4. The Region needs to be strong. It needs resources, staffing and the ability to act.
5. Some of those areas where the Region could provide direct contextual support might include: pastoral relations; personnel management; finances; communication; lay and ministerial leadership development; property; legal.
6. While desiring a strong Region, we recognize our anxiety that some areas or constituencies within the Region might be neglected or not treated equitably, particularly in areas requiring funding and/or staff support. We want to ensure that some areas and/or people are not simply forgotten or neglected in any future arrangements.

DRAFT: February 16, 2016

7. We envision Clusters as being the primarily place where community, connexion, and collegiality are sought and expressed. They focus on relationship, not regulation. Clusters are the place where mission is jointly discerned, supported, and challenged.
8. Clusters are not places where colleagues have to make judgments on one another or on Communities of Faith; they are not “gate-keepers.” They are places of support and mutual challenge; accountability is to each other in terms agreed upon, not (primarily) to monitoring and maintaining the regulations of the church. Management functions are minimal.
9. Clusters need to be well-supported with resources (financial and staffing). Although Clusters might have a time-limited lifespan, they would need some forms of stability and sustainability through the term of their life. Doug suggested that the model of the ProVision Funds (dedicated monies not controlled by the “core” work of the Conference but by the work in the Presbyteries) might be a helpful one to consider in the future.
10. While there was an assumption that a starting point for thinking about Clusters was Presbyteries, it was not assumed that all Presbyteries would become Clusters, nor that Clusters would look similar to Presbyteries in the future. Doug suggested that the present Native Ministries Council might not be a bad example of what some Clusters might look like in the future: membership is based on common context and interests; people participate primarily out of interest (not because they “have to”); the group sets its own agenda, tasks and expectations; it is supported financially and with staffing; it relates formally to other parts of the church.

What’s Next? A Timeline for This Work

1. Testing the Affirmations (this document) with Consultation participants and producing a final version.
2. Testing the final Affirmations with the wider church:
 - a. Presbyteries
 - b. Staff
 - c. Congregations
 - d. Web page and general communication channels
3. Based on responses received, to produce an Affirmations document and more detailed implementation plan which would be considered by the Conference Executive
4. Conference Executive consideration and (potential) adoption - March 10-12; or May 26-28
5. Presbytery consideration and (potential) endorsement
6. Request to the General Council to be a “test” place
7. Implementation (“one step at a time”) either as a “test” place or within existing structures

Throughout this process we will keep information and progress reports flowing among all interested parties.

DRAFT: February 16, 2016

Appendix 2

What We Are Taking Home! Spring Presbytery 2016

Appreciations

- good food
- great hospitality
- accommodations great
- book displays
- good tips to use in worship and pastoral charges
- great singing
- gratitude over handling sudden need for replacement of speaker
- the usual: music, food, singing, hospitality
- caring for special diets
- great sense of hospitality
- good attention to dietary needs
- great hosting – food
- agenda – offering extra time for appreciation of site
- good food
- Don's "hat"
- generous outpouring of money by St. David's by the Lake
- 2 pounds from food
- lots of opportunity for conversation
- delicious turkey dinner
- hospitality
- Ken Jones as Chair – his ability to "go with the flow"
- energy of lay people
- Chair's presence/style
- book displays
- very good displays

Relationships

- coming home – used to live here
- see the lake again – used to vacation here
- friendship
- sense of connections
- networking with others
- a sense of support from colleagues
- support from other presbyters
- new connections
- getting acquainted
- caring for each other
- met lots of new people; support from other presbyters

Music & Worship

- great music
- worship very meaningful this year
- music was great
- good music
- appreciation of worship theme – the Creed – hearing respective churches stand as they are called
- great music
- worship around the Creed
- new ways to pray for and uplift other congregations (happy and sad)
- liked Creedal Litany, circle grace
- shruti box
- youth's grace
- wonderful music ministry!
- worship around the Creed
- shruti box

The Work of Presbytery This Weekend

- working unit working well
- Ivy's cards
- Ian Fraser's report on quorum
- Seven people came to Stewardship Working Unit!
- these papers on what we're taking home
- enough time for sharing
- Virtue Cards (Ivy's)
- in depth discussions
- learning from other congregations
- explanation of quorum
- experiences shared with other shared ministries in working unit
- enjoyed "getting to know you" exercises with Ivy's cards
- for new delegates, better idea how Presbytery works
- good discussions regarding shared ministry: what is working; what may be worth trying; different ways of functioning
- loved the Virtue Project cards
- the talking circle process with candle and talking pieces
- explanation of the quorum

Information about the Work of the Church

- sharing what is happening in other congregations
- enjoyed the Mount Paul and St. David's by the Lake presentations
- good message from LeAnn Blackert: "Don't give up."
- how congregations adapt to stress
- excitement about coming events:
 - Kelowna – Peter Rollins
 - Vernon – Holy Shift
 - Kamloops – celebrations that Bruce Comrie reported will be happening in May
- teddy bear jar
- presentations by St. David's by the Lake and St. Mary's
- Mount Paul's excitement of new reality
- lots of good fund raising ideas

- good presentations by the congregations
- Presentation from St. David's by the Lake in Celista – the way they are doing ministry
- interest and excitement over Holy Shift Conference
- appreciation for presentations by LeAnn Blackert and St. David's by the Lake
- Kairos petition information
- reports from Mount Paul, Kamloops and St. David's by the Lake, Celista
- Holy Shift event in Vernon
- Mount Paul and St. David's by the Lake presentations
- Holy Shift announcement
- Celebration of near completion of Kamloops United
- MacKenzie Camp video
- exploring ways of being pastoral charges; sharing
- camp report
- Holy Shift
- Peter Rollins event
- Mount Paul and St. David's by the Lake presentations
- Holy "Shift"

BC Conference and General Council

- ability to discuss aspects of new structure of the United Church and hear different opinions
- greater articulation of where we are going
- helpful information (process and status of Comprehensive Review)
- information from Ian Fraser about the Representative on BC Conference Executive
- Comprehensive Review presentation – given a lot to think about
- the 4 to 3 presentation from the consultation
- appreciation of conversation at our table about the Comprehensive Review
- progress on remits, ie 4 to 3 courts
- hope for this United Church of ours
- "Take Action" section of the United Church of Canada website
- confusion from "wording" in changing of the number of courts in the General Council Report
- 4/3 consultation
- looking forward to information on the remit

Curiosities and Concerns

- some level of frustration
- concern over vacancies (pulpit)
- challenge for congregants to go to Holy Shift
- prayers for St. Paul's, Kelowna
- challenged by discussion regarding restructuring (4 to 3)
- challenged by meeting space
- looking ahead to restructuring to be completed

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