

Westminster Presbytery **Executive Meeting Held at Eagle Ridge United Church, Tuesday June 9, 2009**

Present: Dave Anderson, Jan Bihl, Richard Bott, Bruce Cowburn Carol Cox, Kim Horwood, Sue Kellas, Ian Macdonald, Fred Nienaber, Barb Tunnicliffe,

Regrets: Carole Finch

Quorum present

Chairperson: Dave Anderson

Secretary: Sue Kellas

Authority: The executive meeting of Westminster Presbytery of The United Church of Canada was convened by Dave Anderson at Eagle Ridge United Church, Coquitlam B. C. at 1:00 pm on Tuesday June 9, 2009.

Check In: Members were given an opportunity to check in.

Opening Prayer: Richard Bott offered an opening prayer.

Agenda: Items for discussion were presented and agreed upon.

Fall Retreat

Carol Cox reported that there is funding available for one youth from each pastoral charge in the presbytery to attend the fall retreat. The preferred weekend would be October 23 to 25 to take advantage of the provincial teacher's professional development day. The retreat will be held at Chehalis Retreat Centre, Agassiz, B. C.

East Burnaby Property

Conference Office is anxious to move forward on a decision about the East Burnaby site. The Ethnic Ministries committee meets this week and Bruce will present the idea of a congregation using the site.

Deer Lake

It was agreed that Barb Tunnicliffe would attend the June 16/09 board meeting at Deer Lake to qualify the quorum requirements during Scott Turnbrook's sabbatical.

Pastoral Oversight

Richard Bott volunteered to investigate the policy concerning Baptismal Rolls and Historic Rolls. There is confusion around 'membership' and 'full membership'. He will email his findings to the executive.

After discussion it was agreed that Oversight should compile a summary sheet following their visits to congregations. This sheet might include statistics, trend lines and recommendations to presbytery.

Proposal re a Strategic Review of Westminster Presbytery

Dave Anderson referred the executive to Derek Evans' report about Fraser Presbytery. He encouraged all presbyters to read this report found on Fraser Presbytery's web site. Dave contacted Marina Gilson, a member of Eagle Ridge United Church trained in research and she submitted a proposal to conduct a review for Westminster Presbytery.

Many churches are questioning their future and it was agreed that it is time for presbytery to act.

Motion 29/2009 Moved and seconded (Barb Tunnicliffe/Jan Bihl) That Westminster Presbytery contract with Marina Gilson to conduct a gathering of congregational information, as per the June 2009 proposal discussed at the executive meeting, to help us with our visioning process. **Carried**

Dave Anderson, Richard Bott and Jan Bihl will work with Marina to prepare information to go to pastoral charges. This project will be worked on over the summer and early fall so the report can be presented at the fall retreat.

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Pastoral Relations

Kim Horwood will contact Treena Duncan about whether paid ministry personnel who are completing training are accruing time towards eligibility for a sabbatical leave. Bruce reminded pastoral charges that there is a fund available to help congregations pay for pulpit supply during ministry personnel sabbaticals.

Refugee Support

Ian Macdonald circulated information about the need for sponsorship of Iraqi-Palestinian families. Pastoral charges are encouraged to contact Heather Macdonald for more information. A request for support for Mikhail Lennikov, currently seeking refuge from deportation was also circulated.

Presbytery Delegates

Fred Nienaber confirmed that Deer Lake and West Burnaby do not have lay delegates. We also have vacancies for 1 youth and 1 young adult.

Housing Allowance Policy

Bruce Cowburn has contacted all pastoral charge treasurers and requested that they check current real estate rental figures in their area. The housing allowances will be approved at the October retreat.

Staying Connected

Members of presbytery are encouraged to check the web site regularly to keep in touch with the work of presbytery. Read and process emails and minutes. Committees of presbytery should allow time for discussion of items of business that fall outside their jurisdiction but are important to the wider court. With our current meeting structure we need to build enthusiasm to help presbyters 'get on board'.

Minutes

Motion 30/2009 Moved and seconded (Jan Bihl/Carol Cox) That we approve the minutes from the executive meeting held April 28, 2009. **Carried**

The meeting adjourned at 3:35 pm

Chair: Dave Anderson

Secretary: Sue Kellas

**Next Executive Meeting - September 15, 2009
1:00 pm Eagle Ridge United Church**

**Next Regular Meeting - Fall Retreat
Tentative Date October 23 to 25, 2009
Chehalis Retreat Centre, Agassiz, B. C.**