

Westminster Presbytery **Executive Meeting Held at Eagle Ridge United Church, Tuesday October 6, 2009**

Present: Dave Anderson, Jan Bihl, Richard Bott, Bruce Cowburn, Carol Cox, Kim Horwood, Ian Macdonald, Fred Nienaber, Carole Finch (arrived late)

Regrets: Barb Tunnicliffe, Sue Kellas

Quorum present

Chairperson: Dave Anderson

Secretary pro tem: Fred Nienaber

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, October 6, 2009.

Opening Prayer: Dave Anderson offered an opening prayer.

Agenda: Items for discussion were presented and agreed upon.

Retreat Planning:

Carol Cox provided an update on the numbers signed up for the Chehalis regular meeting and retreat: 30 adults plus 10 youth. There will be enough youth to provide for separate activities (Youth Council) and activities together with the full court (meals and some discussions). Permission forms and waivers will be sent out by Communications to the churches with youth attending, and these will be returned when they arrive at Chehalis. Youth leadership will be provided by Shannon Baird, of South Burnaby United.

Education and Students

Carol Cox reviewed the paperwork for Christopher Burkholder, an Inquirer for ministry. Scott Turnbrook and Marilyn McCutcheon offered to be on the Discernment Committee.

The name of Barbara Grant, a new Inquirer from St. Andrew's Haney was brought forward. Kathleen Edmunds has offered to be on the panel for her, and another person will be identified later.

Dona Lethbridge's name was also presented as an Inquirer from Deer Lake. Julie Lebrun and a lay person from Deer Lake have offered to be on her Discernment Committee.

A transfer for a potential candidate from Calgary, Sue Rodgers, was received. She has just completed the discernment process.

Motion 42/2009 Moved and seconded (Carol Cox/Jan Bihl) That we appoint Kathleen Edmunds to the Discernment Committee for Barbara Grant.

Carried

Motion 43/2009 Moved and seconded (Carol Cox/Kim Horwood) That we appoint Marilyn McCutcheon and Scott Turnbrook to the Discernment Committee for Christopher Burkholder.

Carried

Motion 44/2009 Moved and seconded (Carol Cox/Jan Bihl) That we concur with the transfer of Sue Rodgers as a student to Westminster Presbytery and B.C. Conference from Calgary Presbytery, Alberta Northwest Conference, under the oversight of Westminster Presbytery after consultation with B.C. Conference.

Carried

It was noted by Carol Cox that, with the loss of co-chair Ruth Stebbing, who is now working at the Conference Office, the remaining members of our Education and Students Committee are Carol Cox, Scott Turnbrook and Kevin Hegseth. An effort will be made to expand the committee at the next meeting at Chehalis.

Carol Cox left the meeting at this point, thanking the executive for giving her priority on the agenda.

Check In:

Members of the Executive took the time to check in with each other about recent events and news in their lives.

Carole Finch joined the meeting at this point.

Dave Anderson again led the Executive in prayer in response to the joys and concerns which were shared.

Correspondence for the record:

1. Strategic Review from Marina Gilson - Distributed with return requested
2. Events Announcements: Covenanting for Brian Burke: Distributed
3. Events Announcements: 50th Anniversary at Cliff Avenue: Distributed
4. Reminders about practices during flu season from National: Distributed
5. Registration for Chehalis Meeting and Retreat: Distributed; response requested.
6. Announcement: Talk by Mairead Maguire at UBC Downtown: Distributed

7. Information about Vancouver Food Bank Society: Filed for reference
8. Connex, Pensions and Benefits; Information from Martha Watt; Distributed
9. Cold Wet Weather Mat Program advertisement: sent to Website
10. East Burnaby information from Executive Secretary: Chair sent to Executive
11. Information about First United Listserve from Sandra Severs: Distributed
12. Information about Louise Best's Memorial from Shannon Tennant: Distributed

Minutes of the September 1, 2009 Executive Meeting

Motion 45/2009 Moved and seconded (Carole Finch/Richard Bott) that we approve the minutes from the executive meeting held September 1, 2009.

Carried

Business Arising from the Minutes:

National Statistics and Mission and Service Information

Carole Finch sought clarification regarding which churches were up to date with statistics and mission and service information.

Statistical Review

Information was shared with the executive about the returns which have been received, and how the information gathered will be used. The following churches have not returned their information to date:

Korean United - will be contacted by Bruce Cowburn

Deer Lake United - will be contacted by Dave Anderson

Ioco (St. Andrew's United) - will be contacted by Dave Anderson

Fall Clergy Retreat

Ten clergy have indicated that they will not be coming to the retreat, so Richard Bott suggested that the retreat be cancelled. Bruce Cowburn will look after the details.

A one day guided retreat will be explored with Richard Bott, Ian Macdonald and Bruce Cowburn.

Queens Avenue United

The executive was informed that the leadership covenant is working well. A membership covenant has been accepted and will be integrated in due course. The search committee for a new minister is in place and ready to begin. Doug Alexander is facing his last of a series of treatments, and is ready to move to his new home.

Pastoral Relations

Kim Horwood has sought volunteers for the Pitt Meadows short term JNAC

process and has been unsuccessful. She had Shannon Tennant in agreement to assist but needed one more representative from Presbytery. Carole Finch agreed to help with this process. A Pastoral Charge Supervisor will also be needed.

Motion 46/2009 Moved and seconded (Ian Macdonald/Richard Bott) that we appoint Bruce Cowburn as Pastoral Charge Supervisor for Pitt Meadows United Church effective November 1, 2009.

Carried

Discussion took place over distribution of tasks in Presbytery. Comparison was made to the Eagle Ridge Ministry Development Team model, where two or three people are tasked with helping members discern their gifts for ministry, and then match them with the opportunities available. It was noted that there are a number of presbyters not currently active in the life of presbytery. It was agreed that the Presbytery Representative Handbook should be distributed to all congregations prior to the general meetings which appoint Presbytery Representatives, so that all will be aware that it is a position of active participation in the work of presbytery, and not just a passive role of listening and reporting back to the congregation.

Congregational Support

Ian Macdonald passed on information about meetings with Hammond United and the need for a mission statement which will inform and guide their work. It was noted that the Board of that congregation is almost ready to conclude that process.

Developments at Willingdon Heights United were also brought forward and discussed.

For clarification, it was agreed that, within our revised practices, the Oversight Committee reports to the Executive, and Congregational Support and other groups then respond to implement recommendations. We are still working on refining that process. It was also noted that the Statistical Analysis recently commissioned will be guiding future actions.

Spiritual Care Network

Julie Lebrun met with Richard Bott and prepared a letter to be sent out to all ministry personnel, asking what is needed to improve personal spiritual development and building ministers' relationships with God. Questions asked included "who ministers would turn to", and "what would help in order to maintain good ministerial health."

Oversight

Jan Bihl spoke about the success of a recent healing process at the Pitt Meadows congregation, with emphasis on collaboration and conflict resolution. Richard

Bott confirmed his willingness to speak to the Pitt Meadows Board and Trustees in November.

Ian Macdonald asked to be excused and left the meeting at this point.

Willingdon Heights United has asked for a \$10,000 grant from Home Missions to help pay the salary of the minister. Their Manse Fund will be eliminated due to expenses for roof repairs. It is anticipated that salary support will be needed for the next three years. Carole Finch agreed to endorse the application and speak to it at the meeting, using information from our recently commissioned statistical analysis.

Motion 46/2009 Moved and seconded (Carole Finch/Richard Bott) that the application from Willingdon Heights United be brought to the Home Missions Committee with our concurrence.

Carried

Bruce Cowburn: abstention noted

Kim Horwood asked permission to leave the meeting at this point.

Budget

Our third quarter statement is on its way. Bruce Cowburn will e-mail information prior to our next meeting at our October 22-24 Retreat.

Some discussion took place about the need for the executive to review and approve any staffing suggestions prior to placement of those suggestions before the full court. The executive agreed to the need for provision of detailed information and the opportunity for vetting (following the presentation of any proposal in principle) prior to approval or implementation.

Discussion took place with Bruce Cowburn over the honouring of retired ministry staff and the need to avoid unnecessary obstacles in the way of being made to feel welcome, and encouraged to participate. It was noted that many clergy "disappear" after retirement, without worshipping in congregations or volunteering. Bruce has kept in touch with pensioners and related some situations involving difficulties in dealings with the national pensions office. The executive agreed to continue to monitor this issue.

Adjournment

The Chair declared the meeting adjourned at 3:30 pm

Chair: Dave Anderson

Secretary pro tem: Fred Nienaber

Next Regular Meeting and Retreat
October 22-24 at Chehalis Conference Centre

Next Executive Meeting
November 17, 2009 at 1:00 pm
Eagle Ridge United Church