

Financial Support Committee

Greetings to the conference as the committee shares a brief outline of the work for the FSC for 2013. The members who have served on the committee this past year are as follows: Connie McNamara (Secretary), Keith Adams, Harley Grimmer, Ross MacIntosh, Marilyn Magee, Fred Gamble, and Joan Wright. On the Bequest Review Committee, Gordon MacGregor and Frank Chisholm continued to work behind the scenes as required.

Our committee has continued to respond to the requests of the very special ministries of our Conference, that have decided to reach out to us for financial support and we were able to respond to most of the requests we received. The committee was pleased to be able to offer Mission Support grants to 16 different ministries throughout the conference.

In addition to the MS grants, in 2013 we distributed \$75,000 in Capital Assistance Loans and a total of \$64,701 in Capital Assistance Grants which included: Church Modernization \$40,411; Manse Modernization \$8,590; Technology \$7,700; Camp \$8,000 and Congregational Learning grants of \$9,270 to groups and individuals.

Our committee worked with the conference presbyteries, through each of their MS convenors. We continued to encourage the presbytery Financial Committees to make sure that all requests for funding followed the guidelines in the handbooks. These procedures saved us much time and energy in making our final decisions on grants. With good work being done at the presbytery level, it helps the committee to make on site decisions without having to send the applications back for further explanations and later decisions. The work done at the presbytery level is very important to the final decisions we make.

The reductions in MS allocations for 2014 from 2013 were very significant. The grant money was reduced from \$301,487 down to \$227,876. The applications that were received for 2014 funding totaled \$432,609 so the committee had some difficult decisions to make. In the end we were able to respond positively to many of the requests (with some reductions) and awarded \$211,150 to the 16 ministries. We maintained a small uncommitted balance for any emergency funding that we might want to consider through the year.

The committee also administered the applications that were received for Maritime Conference Bequest funding totaling \$5,250 for 2013.

Much appreciation and thanks are extended to the Conference support staff, Marlene Trenholm, whose dedication keeps us well documented and on track, and to Conference Minister, Laura Hunter who is our navigator and encourager in all our decisions. I want to make a special thank you to all the faithful members of the committee who have served so faithfully. At the rise of

Conference, one or more of the committee members will be finishing their term of office and the nominating committee will be seeking persons to fill those spaces. For those persons that may have an interest in the work of the committee, I would encourage you to contact the Chair of the Nominating Committee expressing your interest. This is my first term as Chair of the committee and I look forward to welcoming some new members to start our new year following the rise of Conference, when we will be preparing for the 2015 Mission Support Grants and continue with the other grant requests that will be received from various PC's and individuals throughout the Conference. At this time we do not have knowledge of our MS funding for 2015, but as always it will be challenging and we will once again be successful in meeting most of the need to the limit of the finances provided to us.

Looking forward to continue serving in the capacity as Chair for a few more years with the help of very capable servants from various parts of the conference.

Respectfully submitted,
Henry Ellsworth, Chairperson FSC