



Maritime Conference
The United Church of Canada

The 90th Annual Meeting
Sackville, New Brunswick
May 28 - 31, 2015

SECTION 1
REPORTS TO CONFERENCE

President's Message

I took on the role as President of Maritime Conference because I felt, with all the uncertainty about the future direction of our United Church, a pastoral response might be in order. As I feel my gifts lie in that area, I expected I would be doing a lot of pastoral care and it seems I was right. So far this year, we've seen the death of a dozen or so retired clergy and one minister who was presently serving. I've travelled all over our Conference to bring appreciation and condolences at most of these funerals. I've done my best to send condolences to families of those dedicated lay people who have died this year as they, too, have given much to our United Church.

This year, as in every year, some of our congregations experienced crisis; such things as the murder of a beloved church organist, hurricanes, arson, and suspected fraud. On your behalf, I've responded to these and other situations. I've also visited The Gaspé, Valley Presbytery, Saint John Presbytery, Truro Presbytery, and PEI Presbytery where members have spoken of their joys and challenges. I'm looking forward to visiting Bermuda Synod from April 7th to the 14th. While the challenges are many with financial struggles, declining membership, churches closing or going to part time ministry, etc., I'm heartened to hear stories of new life, new ways of being church, stories of outreach and mission into our communities and the world, innovative ways of doing worship, an openness to change, and so on. I sense the Spirit is alive and well!

With the recent report of the Comprehensive Review Task Group, it seems the recommendations are uppermost on people's minds as we go into our meeting and General Council in August. It seems we realize we must change but for most change is difficult and there's both excitement and fear around what these changes might mean for us a United Church. Yet this report is now ours to do with what we choose. The responsibility falls to us and we need to take that responsibility seriously so we must read it, tell others to read it, and come to our meeting prepared to speak and listen, prepared to discuss and discern, prepared to be open to the Spirit's leading in this matter as well as in matter of whether we are to become an Affirming Conference.

In closing, I must say I've been humbled to witness the dedication and commitment of so many of you who give so selflessly to our church in all parts of our Conference and I'm humbled and honoured for the trust you have placed in me to serve as President of the Maritime Conference for the past year. In faith we go forward knowing not what the future holds, but knowing we are not alone. God is with us and the Spirit in me honours the Spirit in each of you as we walk this journey together.

In faith and love,

Rev. Gloria Churchill

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Maritime Conference
The United Church of Canada

CORE VALUES STATEMENT

Guided by the Spirit, mindful of our roots,
we are a community of faith, called to celebrate the Christian gospel
by supporting congregations to practice:

- Inclusion
 - Hospitality
 - Justice-making
 - Stewardship, and
 - Life-long learning
- to bring about transformation and renewal.

MINISTRY PRIORITIES

(2010 – 2015)

- To provide financially- and geographically-accessible leadership development programs and resources
- To support local ministries through congregations, the main mission unit of The United Church of Canada, and efforts which equip people to share their faith
- To practice radical hospitality
- To reach out in our communities to embrace the multigenerational and multi-faith mix of the whole people of God

Affirmed by Maritime Conference, May 2010.

**STATEMENT OF PURPOSE AND GOALS
FOR A CONFERENCE WITHIN THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA**

Through scripture and experience, we know that the Church of Jesus Christ is a body. For any body to function, there must be linkages between the various parts; for the United Church these linkages are conciliar in nature. As a court of the Church, Conference performs three essential functions:

- (a) the episcopal function of exercising care and oversight of the smaller units of the Church, specifically Presbyteries, and through a variety of resources and services, pastoral charges and other local mission units;
- (b) the representational function of participating in the larger parts of the Church and relating to bodies outside the Church such as governments, health and welfare systems and organizations seeking justice;
- (c) the administrative function of providing specific working links for ministry and service between the larger and smaller parts of the body.

Each of the thirteen Conferences develops its own set of goals and priorities within the framework provided by the General Council, but there are at least four goals common to all Conferences:

- (1) to have oversight of the religious life of the Church within its bounds and adopt measures to promote shalom;
- (2) to deal with all matters submitted by Presbyteries which affect the status, faith, and character of ministers and candidates for the order of ministry;
- (3) to appoint, settle or permit members of the order of ministry to exercise appropriate ministries within the Church or outside the Church;
- (4) to deal with matters referred to it by the General Council.

STRUCTURE OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA

PASTORAL CHARGES (2206) statistics from www.united-church.ca

Members – 478,909 - admitted by Session

Meet annually

Committees, Boards, etc.

- | | | |
|-----------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------|
| - Session | - Worship | - Membership |
| - Christian Education | - Stewardship | - Manse |
| - Discipline | - C. E. Committee | - Committee of Stewards |
| - Finance | - Church Sunday School, etc. | - Property |
| - Board of Trustees | - U.C.M. | - Official Board |
| - U.C.W. | | |

or

Church Council or Unified Board (approved by Presbytery)

PRESBYTERIES (85)

Membership

- (a) Ministry Personnel
- (b) lay persons elected by pastoral charges
- (c) 10 lay persons elected by Presbytery

Meet as frequently as determined by each Presbytery

Duties and Powers

- | | |
|--|--|
| - Oversight of Pastoral Charges | - Conduct Covenanting Services with Ministry Personnel |
| - Church property | - Oversight of conduct of Ministry Personnel |
| - Students and candidates for Ministry | - Recommend candidates for Ministry |
| - Pastoral Relations | - Recognition of Designated Lay Ministers |
| - Form new Pastoral Charges | |

Committees

- | | |
|--|---------------------------------|
| - Archives | - Oversight of Pastoral Charges |
| - Education & Students* | - Pastoral Relations |
| - Inter-church and Inter-faith relations | - Pension Fund |
| - Extra Appeals (financial)* | - Property |
| - Finance* | - Communication* |
| - Manse | - World Outreach* |
| - Mission In Canada* | * In many cases are Divisions |
| - Stewardship | |

CONFERENCES (13)

Membership

- (a) Ministry Personnel
- (b) lay members at least equal to (a) elected by Presbyteries.

Meet at least every third year, or more frequently, but always prior to a meeting of the General Council.

Duties and Powers

- Oversight and promotion of religious life in Conference
- Examine and ordain/commission candidates
- Decide number and boundaries of Presbyteries
- Dispose of appeals
- Receive ordained or diaconal ministers from other denominations
- Others

Committees

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------|
| - Settlement | - Finance |
| - Archives | - Pension |
| - Extra Appeals (Financial) | - Communication |
| - Ministry, Personnel and Education | - Stewardship |

GENERAL COUNCIL (1)

Membership (meets every three years)

- (a) Members of order of ministry - approximately 175
- (b) Lay Persons equal to (a) (there is a formula)

Duties and Powers

- In general, to enact such legislation and adopt such measures as may tend to promote true Godliness, repress immorality, preserve the unity and well-being of the church and advance the reign of God throughout the world;
- To legislate on doctrine, worship, membership, government, property;
- Prescribe and regulate courses of study for ordered, diaconal and lay pastoral ministry;
- Others.

Permanent Committees

Committee on Ministry & Employment Policies & Services

Committee on Programs for Mission & Ministry

Committee on Finance

Committee on Governance, Planning & Budgeting Processes

Units

Programs for Mission & Ministry

Racial Justice

Regional Relations

Resources for Mission & Ministry

General Council Support & Services

Resource Production & Distribution

Legal Counsel

Residential Schools

Inter Cultural & Diverse Communities in Ministry

Financial Services

Support to Local Ministries

Justice, Global & Ecumenical Relations

Faith Formation & Education

Financial Stewardship

Ministry & Employment Policies & Services

Ministères en Français

Information Technology Services

MANUAL 2013 PROPOSALS

F. INITIATING ACTION AND CHANGE

The courts of the United Church work in relationship with each other in different ways on governance matters. Two of those ways are through

- (a) proposals; and
- (b) remits.

The four courts of the United Church work in relationship with each other in the spirit of the opening words of A New Creed: "We are not alone." A pastoral charge governing body works in relationship with the presbytery, the presbytery with the Conference, and the Conference with the General Council. Starting with the General Council, the membership of each court comes from the previous court. All court membership ultimately begins with the pastoral charge, as the members of the pastoral charge governing body are chosen from the pastoral charge.



1. Proposals

1.1 Introduction

A "proposal" is a formal request for a court to take action. It is one way that a United Church member may raise an issue that is important to them and ask for the church to take action on it.

In this section (F.1), the court that is being asked to take action is called the "court of action."

1.2 Starting a Proposal

1.2.1 Proposals by Members of a Congregation

In general, a proposal may be started by any one member of a congregation.

If the proposal asks for the following kinds of action, it must be started by 10 members of a congregation:

- (a) action concerning the pastoral relationship;
- (b) action by the presbytery to review the pastoral charge; or
- (c) action by the presbytery to review ministry personnel.

1.2.2 Proposals by Others

A proposal may also be started by

- (a) a member of a court;
- (b) a committee or other church body of a court; or
- (c) a court.

1.3 Process for a Proposal

The process for dealing with a proposal is set out below.

Members and courts are responsible for completing the parts of the process assigned to them.

1.3.1 Proposal by Member(s) of a Congregation

Member(s) of congregation → The member(s) give the proposal to the governing body of their pastoral charge.



Pastoral charge → When the governing body receives the proposal:

If the governing body is the court of action, it makes a decision on the proposal (see section F.1.4 below).

If the presbytery is the court of action:

- (a) The governing body decides if it agrees with the proposal.
- (b) *If it agrees*, the governing body must pass the proposal on to the presbytery.
- (c) *If it does not agree*, the governing body decides whether or not to pass the proposal on to the presbytery.

If the governing body does not agree with a proposal, it normally passes it on to the presbytery only if there is a compelling reason.

fyi

- (d) The governing body may include its own recommendations when passing a proposal on to the presbytery.

If the Conference or General Council is the court of action:

- (a) The governing body passes the proposal on to the presbytery.
- (b) The governing body may include its own recommendations when passing a proposal on to the presbytery.



Presbytery → When the presbytery receives the proposal:

If the presbytery is the court of action, it makes a decision on the proposal.

If the Conference is the court of action:

- (a) The presbytery decides if it agrees with the proposal.
- (b) *If it agrees*, the presbytery passes the proposal on to the Conference.
- (c) *If it does not agree*, the presbytery decides whether or not to pass the proposal on to the Conference.

If the presbytery does not agree with a proposal, it normally passes it on to the Conference only if there is a compelling reason.

fyi

- (d) The presbytery may include its own recommendations when passing a proposal on to the Conference.

F. Initiating Action and Change

If the General Council is the court of action:

- (a) The presbytery passes the proposal on to the Conference.
- (b) The presbytery may include its own recommendations when passing a proposal on to the Conference.



Conference → When the Conference receives the proposal:

If the Conference is the court of action, it makes a decision on the proposal.

If the General Council is the court of action:

- (a) The Conference decides if it agrees with the proposal.
- (b) *If it agrees*, it passes the proposal on to the General Council.
- (c) *If it does not agree*, it decides whether or not to pass the proposal on to the General Council.



If the Conference does not agree with a proposal, it normally passes it on to the General Council only if there is a compelling reason.

- (d) The Conference may include its own recommendations when passing the proposal on to the General Council.



General Council → When the General Council receives the proposal, it makes a decision on it (see section F.1.4 below).

1.3.2 Process for a Proposal by a Court

When a court makes a proposal, the first step is for the court to pass the proposal on to the next court.

Then, the same steps as in section F.1.3.1 above are followed, starting with the next court (presbytery, Conference, or General Council).

1.3.3 Process for a Proposal by a Member of a Court

When a member of a court makes a proposal, the first step is for the member to pass the proposal on to that court.

Then, the same steps as in section F.1.3.1 above are followed, starting with that court (governing body, presbytery, Conference, or General Council).

1.3.4 Process for a Proposal by a Committee of a Court

When a committee of a court makes a proposal, the first step is for the committee to pass the proposal on to that court.

Then, the same steps as in section F.1.3.1 above are followed, starting with that court (governing body, presbytery, Conference, or General Council).

1.4 Response by Court of Action

The court of action is responsible for making a decision on the proposal. It has the following options:

- (a) taking the action requested in the proposal;
- (b) taking the action requested in the proposal with some changes;
- (c) taking different action on the same subject matter as the proposal;
- (d) referring the proposal;
- (e) receiving the proposal but taking no further action; or
- (f) taking some other action that the court of action decides is appropriate.

*The chart on the next five pages is a summary of the process for proposals.
Please refer to section F.1 above for the full requirements.*



PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURES

PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURES

Motion	Interrupt member on the floor?	Seconder required?	Debatable?	Can it be amended?	What motions apply to it?	Can it be reconsidered?	Subject to closure?	Can it be tabled?	Can it be referred?	Vote Required
1. Adjourn/ Recess	No	Yes	No	No	None	No	No	No	No	Simple Majority
2. Privilege	Yes	No	See note #1	No	None	No	No	No	No	Decision by chair; see #9
3. Appeal of the Chair's Ruling	Yes; See note #2	Yes	No; See note #3	No	5, 1, 2, 13	Yes	n/a	Yes	No	Simple Majority
4. Point of Order	Yes	No	No	No	3	No	No	No	No	Decision by the chair
5. Motion to Table	No	Yes	No	No	None	No	No	n/a	No	Simple Majority
6. To extend or limit debate	No	Yes	No; See note #4	See note #5	13	Yes	n/a	No	No	2/3
7. Postpone definitely	No	Yes	No; See note #6	Yes (time)	10	Yes	Yes	See note #7	No	Simple Majority
8. To call for an immediate vote	Yes	Yes	No	No	None	No	No	No	No	2/3's Majority
9. Motion to refer	No	Yes	See note #6	Yes; See note #8	6, 10, 13	Yes	Yes	Yes	n/a	Simple Majority
10. Amend	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	5, 6, 7, 9, 13	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Simple Majority
11. Postpone indefinitely	No	Yes	See note #6	No	6, 13	Yes	Yes	No	No	Simple Majority
12. Main Motion	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	All	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Simple Majority
13. Motion to reconsider	No	Yes	Yes; See note #10	No	See note #10	No; See note #10	No	Yes	Yes	2/3's if in the same meeting; majority if at another meeting; see note #12
14. Motion to Lift from the Table	No	Yes	Yes	No						

CONFERENCE RESOURCE PERSONS

President	Rev. Gloria Churchill
President-Elect	Rev. Matthew Fillier
Executive Secretary	Mr. David Hewitt
General Council Representative	Ms. Pauline Walker (Lay), 1 st Term Rev. Ivan Gregan (OM), 2 nd Term
Annual Meeting Planning Chair	Rev. Annika Sangster
Annual Meeting Planning Secretary	Rev. Catherine Stuart
Proposals Unit Chair	Rev. Dr. Ross Bartlett
Local Arrangements Chair	Rev. Heather Manuel
Worship Planning	Rev. Dr. Shawn Redden
Head Teller	Rev. Melaney Matheson
Past-President/Banquet Coordinator	Rev. Meggin King
Treasurer	Mr. Alan Gray
Office Manager	Ms. Jennifer Whittemore

PRESIDENT-ELECT**Matthew Fillier**

Sisters and brothers, as I write this report I can't help but look at the frozen wasteland that is Lake William outside my window. This lake surrounds the community of Waverley NS which I am blessed to call home. Folks in our village can't travel anywhere without it being a part of our lives, but these days, I can't help but wonder where it's gone. At first glance, all that's left is a surface that makes the moon look downright inviting. Drifts of ice and snow crowd what few islands remain visible. The lush trees and shores once home to all kinds of life, human and fowl alike, are buried in a deep coat of silent white. Lately, my neighbours and I stand at the bottom of our driveways, faces grim with the look that etches its place on the face of snow weary warriors everywhere, and we ask: where's it gone? Will it ever come back?

As incoming president of Maritime Conference, I'm asking the same question of our church. 11 Million dollars is enough to send a chill up any faithful spine, and yet this is the number our Comprehensive Review Task Group is recommending that we cut by 2018. Some of that 11 million will surely be found right here in Maritime Conference. Some of that 11 million could very well be the salaries and livelihoods of our sisters and brothers who serve the conference office day and night on our behalf. Perhaps we should just resign to the inevitable. Who could expect to earn a long term salaried living for yourself and your family in Sackville NB these days? Our region endures crushing debt, massive outmigration, an aging population and an unemployment rate that ensures we are a transitional society. I am not convinced we should remain frozen in that mentality, nor stuck in that prescribed future whose end is all too predictable. Change has to start somewhere. Let it be with us and this annual meeting.

11 million is a big number. We have our own numbers. We are 80,000 members in over 500 congregations that call themselves the Maritime Conference. In the face of millions we might be tempted to think – *that's peanuts*. On the contrary, it's a lot of mustard seeds. I believe that's more than enough for God to continue to create, renew, reconcile and resurrect something we haven't even seen yet, let alone imagined. This conference is home to some of the most remarkable, imaginative, passionate and gifted leaders and communities the United Church of Canada has to offer. It is filled with people of faith who are even now, radically reinterpreting what church means as both a living noun and verb alike. That is not say there isn't pain, loss, and death surrounding the shores of our church and the choices we must make as we evolve into God's future. However, that's to be expected – it's part of our story.

When those who loved Jesus thought about going to visit his tomb, they were stopped cold in their tracks when someone asked: "But who will roll away the stone for us?" Their hearts were warmed when they finally understood they didn't have to. They simply needed the courage and conviction to make the journey despite the frost bite of the stone cold future they thought was inevitable.

When I survey that wondrous lake, I am reminded of what I cannot see, but believe must be true: underneath, there is wild water just waiting to be free. Underneath all that silent white is an absolute bevy of life in splendid rainbow colour and diversity that even now, is taking its first gasps of new life. Even now. Even here. Even without 11 million: We are not alone.

See you in May,
Matthew Fillier

THEME SPEAKER

The Right Reverend Gary Paterson Moderator, The United Church of Canada

Gary was born in 1949 in the Yukon, an “army brat,” who lived in Toronto and Germany before ending up in Vancouver. A couple of degrees in English Literature at UBC and Queens led to his becoming a Sessional Lecturer at UBC, and a “closet poet.” Then came theological studies in Boston and the Vancouver School of Theology, -- a “God struggler” who ended up saying yes to ordination in 1977. His ministry has been varied – small congregations, both rural and urban; several years on B.C. Conference Staff; a call to First United in Vancouver’s Downtown Eastside, an inner city ministry in one of the poorest neighbourhoods in Canada; next, Ryerson United in Kerrisdale, a large suburban congregation; and then, at St. Andrew’s-Wesley United, the “cathedral-like” church in downtown Vancouver at the corner of Burrard and Nelson. Gary is presently on leave from St. Andrew’s Wesley until late 2015.

In August of 2012 Gary was elected as the Spiritual Leader of The United Church of Canada as its 41st Moderator. As such he is the first openly gay person in the world to become the head of any Christian mainline denomination. Gary and his spouse Tim have recently returned from Colombia and Cuba where they were asked by partner churches in those countries to lead workshops on the GLBTQ issues.

Gary is passionate preacher; loves teaching; at heart, he is a pastor. He loves music (get him talking about Jazz Vespers at St. Andrew’s-Wesley); travel (last year’s 2 month sabbatical in Israel and Palestine was a highlight); and long walks on the seawall around Stanley Park in Vancouver.

Gary also loves being a Dad, with three daughters, all in their thirties; and four grandchildren!! He is married to Rev. Tim Stevenson (presently a Vancouver City Councillor), and they have been partnered for thirty-two years.

REPRESENTATIVE OF GENERAL COUNCIL

Rev. Bronwyn Corlett Program Coordinator, Ministry Recruitment Ministry and Employment Unit, General Council Office The United Church of Canada

Rev. Bronwyn Corlett was ordained in the United Church of Canada in 2010. She graduated from Emmanuel College, University of Toronto and she currently chairs the Emmanuel College Alumni Association. Bronwyn was in congregational ministry at Binkley United Church in Hamilton before starting as the Program Coordinator for Ministry Recruitment at the General Council Office in 2013. She has a passion for helping people find their true purpose in life and finding ways to live that out joyfully. Maritime connection – Bronwyn co-led the youth programs at Berwick Camp for 2 years (2012-2013).

MUSIC LEADERS

Thomas Burton (Music Team Leader, Piano and Vocals)

Thomas is just one of the United Church's many young and active leaders. He currently serves on the church's Racial and Gender Justice Advisory Committee, and has been a leader with the GO Project for the past two summers. In 2012, Thomas spoke as a Youth Forum representative at General Conference. During the year, Thomas studies Trombone Performance at McGill University. He is so happy to be able to share his musical talents with his church community!

Paige Morrissey (guitar and vocals)

Paige holds a Bachelor of Music Therapy from Acadia University. While at Acadia, she participated in many performing ensembles including the Acadia Gamelan Ensemble. Outside of Acadia she participated in the Nova Scotia Youth Orchestra and Nova Scotia Youth Choir, and directed a high school glee club. Recently, she was a performer in the Grafton Street Dinner Theatre and is currently conducting an internship at Heartsparks Music Therapy in Halifax to become a certified music therapist.

Thea Burton (vocals)

Thea has been a member of the United Church of Canada for nearly 30 years. She is an active member of what is now Orchard Valley Pastoral Charge, and has led the children and adult choirs there on several occasions. Thea is an avid performer around the Annapolis Valley. She has performed with such theater groups as Quick as a Wink Theater, Stage Prophets, and the Atlantic Theatre Festival.

Dan Edmonds (drums)

Dan lives in Wolfville, Nova Scotia and is known for cooking up good eats and beats. Dan is a music educator, drummer, and a computer tech enthusiast. His talents in worship-based learning were honed in Wolfville, NS under the tutelage of Robyn Brown-Hewitt and the playful Sunday Morning Live service.

CONSTITUTIONAL MOTIONSRE CONFERENCE ROLL

“That the Roll of the Ministry Personnel, as contained in the Record of Proceedings of the last Annual Meeting of the Conference, with the addition of the names of those who have been transferred into the Conference, and the deletion of the names of those who have been transferred out of the Conference, or have died, during the year, be the Ministry Personnel Roll of Conference; and that the lists of Lay Members appointed by the Conference and submitted by the various Presbyteries, subject to such changes as shall be presented in writing to the Executive Secretary’s desk by May 15, signed by the Chairperson or Secretary of the Presbyteries concerned, be the Roll of lay members; and that the Roll as thus constituted be now taken as read and further that the Roll be adjusted between now and the convening of the 2016 Annual Meeting of Conference to delete all members of the Order of Ministry who will be transferred out of the Conference, other Ministry Personnel whose appointments end, and all Lay Members who may move out of the Conference or remove their membership from The United Church of Canada, and to add all members of the Order of Ministry who may be transferred into the Conference.”

RE QUORUM AND BOUNDS

“That the quorum be as indicated in Section D.4.3.1 of The Manual;

(a) at least 1/5 of the members of the Conference who are entitled to vote must be present; (b) at least 1/3 of the voting members present must be members of the order of ministry or designated lay ministers; (c) at least 1/3 of the voting members present must be lay people other than those appointed as designated lay ministers; and (d) there must be members present from at least two presbyteries. And that the bounds of annual meeting of Maritime Conference be the floor of the place of meeting.”

RE CORRESPONDING MEMBERS

“That members of other Conferences of The United Church of Canada who are now present, or who will be present at any subsequent sessions of this meeting of Conference; the Candidates for Ordination at this meeting of Conference not serving pastoral charges; the active and retired Lay Overseas Personnel; ecumenical delegates and observers; The President of the Atlantic School of Theology (or their designate) and the Executive Director of the Tatamagouche Center (or their designate) and any other registered visitors to the Conference sessions; be Corresponding Members of this Court.”

RE AGENDA

“That the programme as printed and distributed be adopted as the Agenda for this meeting of Conference, subject to such changes as may be adopted and such Orders of the Day as may be determined, by the Conference.”

RE MINUTES

“That the Minutes of the eighty-ninth Annual Meeting of Maritime Conference (Pages 157-184, Record of Proceedings) be adopted as printed and circulated.”

RE REPORTS

“That all Reports to the Annual Meeting which do not require other action be received for information.” (*Reports coming to this annual meeting for action are Finance and Property, Ministry Personnel & Education and Nominating.*)

RE RULES OF DEBATE

“That the initial time allocated for the mover to address the motion be limited to three minutes and that all subsequent speakers limit their time to two minutes, including any reply by the mover of the motion.”

CANDIDATES FOR PRESIDENT DESIGNATE
NOMINATION BIOGRAPHICAL SHEET

Name of Nominee: William Drysdale

For Office of: President-Designate

Address: 277 Route 955, Bayfield, NB E4M 3C1

Presbytery: Chignecto

Profession: Minister

Education: GED completed January 1989

Program in Theology & Ministry at AST, Halifax, NS 1995-1998

DLM Program, United Theological College, Montreal, QC 2005-2009

Recognized at Maritime Conference 2009

Service in the Church:

(1) Local Church(s)

Pastor in a three point pastoral charge since 2005 to present

(2) Presbytery(s)

Chair, Chignecto Presbytery July 2013-June 2015

Committee member of Education and Students Committee 2012-2013

(3) Conference(s)

Conference executive member as chair of presbytery

Member of conference interview team, three years

Special Community Services:

Chaplain of Royal Canadian Legion #81

Board Member, Westford Nursing Home

Other Information Which You Feel is Relevant to the Conference:

With the changes that are needed within the structure of the church, I would like to be part of that change. Change is never easy and yet that may well be what we are called to do and be. Having begun the journey of self - change 28 years ago, I can only say that the journey of change can be renewing, refreshing, challenging, and fulfilling. Journey is only possible when we are open to be changed in a way we never realized was possible, for nothing is impossible with God.

Date: May 5, 2015

NOMINATION BIOGRAPHICAL SHEET**Name of Nominee:** Catherine Stuart**For Office of:** President-Designate**Address:** PO Box 4038, 10 Victoria Street, Bedeque, PE C0B 1C0**Presbytery:** Prince Edward Island**Profession:** Ordained Minister

Education: 2006 BA Mount Allison University
 2010 M.Div Atlantic School of Theology
 2007 Clinical Pastoral Education: First Basic Unit
 2014 Phase 1 of Healing Pathways (Healing Touch Ministry)

Service in the Church:**(1) Local church(s)**

River John-West Branch Pastoral Charge July 2010-June 2012
 Bedeque Pastoral Charge June 2012-Present: Three point pastoral charge in
 Borden-Carleton, Cape Traverse, and Bedeque PEI
 UCW member 2009-Present

(2) Presbytery(s)

Chair of Christian Life and Growth for Pictou Presbytery 2010-2012
 Served on Visioning Committee for PEI Presbytery 2013-2014
 Presently Serving on Worship Committee for PEI Presbytery

(3) Conference(s)

Youth Forum Registrar 2003-2006
 Youth Forum Co-Director 2006-2007
 Tatmagouche Centre: Board Member 2010-2014
 Secretary of Annual Meeting Planning Committee 2010-2015
 Table Group Facilitator Coordinator 2013-Present
 Fall Youth Forum Gathering 2014 Served as chaplain
 Nominating Committee 2014-Present

Special Community Services:

In my past ministry, I've led services at various nursing homes, took part as a volunteer at the River John Consolidated School, worked with an ecumenical youth group, and sang with the River John Community Choir and the West Branch and Area Singers, among other activities. Currently, I lead worship on rotation at Andrews Home, Wedgewood Home, and Summerset Home, in Summerside. I am part of a team who plans and hosts an Ecumenical Christmas Carol

Sing each December and plans and hosts, on rotation, a Week of Prayer for Christian Unity Service and World Day of Prayer Service. I am grateful for the opportunity to Take part in Lenten Lunches with South Shore United Church, as well as an occasional member of their Healing Pathways Ministry. I've also led Noon Time Prayer services for Habitat for Humanity in 2014, and take part in various activities at Kinkora Regional High School. In my community, I have taken an adult step dancing class at Reel Talent School of Dance in Summerside, am a member of the Crapaud Curling Club, and with our son, Ethan, I have the joy of being a parent helper at Dreams Unlimited Early Childhood Education Centre in Summerside.

Other Information Which You Feel is Relevant to the Conference:

Born and raised in Glace Bay, Cape Breton, I grew up with a deep love for this United Church of ours. This deep love brought me to experience the church in various ways, including being a participant at Intermediates at Conference, Youth Forum and General Council Youth Forum. I also had the great privilege of being a member of The Message. These experiences, along with working as the Christian Development Director of both Mira Pines and Arthur Kidston Memorial Camp helped me to discern my call to ministry, which after much reflection, has been a life-long dance, with the Spirit as my partner. Being a liturgical dancer also greatly shapes my ministry and enables me to experience my spirituality in a physical way. An equally profound joy in my life is my family, made up of my husband Scott, and our amazing two year old, Ethan. They are the lights of my life and I am so grateful that they have joined me on this journey. We also share our home with our cat and two zebra finches, just to keep life interesting!

Date: May 12, 2015

COMMITTEE REPORTS

ANNUAL MEETING PLANNING COMMITTEE

The 2014/15 year is my third year on the committee. After three years, I'm beginning to learn the routine. On the feedback forms, we often note that many people have similar issues: the lineups in the cafeteria are too long, they're table group is only half full, they were asked yet again to be a table group facilitator, their bed was not comfortable, the food lacked imagination, we spent too much time on business, we didn't spend enough time on business. This year we've attempted to tackle some of these issues in unique ways. You are going to notice changes.

Table groups: this year in an effort to have youth and intermediate participation while maintaining a reasonable conversation size without over taxing our table group facilitators, we are enlisting in the help of youth forum and intermediate facilitators to help with the table groups. You will be assigned a table group number and letter (A or B). While the youth and intermediates are with us we will use all tables. When the youth and Intermediates are not with us, we will use the group A tables only which will be located closer to the front. For example if you are at table 25B, you will sit at 25B when there are youth and intermediates present and move to 25A when they are not. If

you are at table 25A, you will be at 25A all the time. Youth and Intermediates will join the table when they are present and other adults will join when they are not.

Meal Hall Line ups: Breakfast and supper offered reasonable amounts of time to get from the civic centre to the meal hall, lined up, fed and back to the civic centre. Many folks felt quite rushed at lunch though. To accommodate this we've added a boxed lunch option. This also allows for more flexibility for lunchtime meetings. Pre-ordered lunchboxes will arrive at the civic centre to be picked up and taken to any workshop, small group gathering, to your room or table group. This will leave more seating options in the meal hall with shorter line ups. If you are staying on campus there is a small fridge in your room that is for you to use. There is a meal plan option that includes breakfast and one that does not.

Agenda: Another year of a packed agenda. In an effort to provide opportunity for networking, we've arranged for the option of boxed lunches and the possibility of workshop space by filling out a request form. Hopefully this will allow for time to connect, discuss, relax, and learn. We also have a couple of open ended evenings to ensure that optimal amounts of time are possible for discussions. We have implemented a strict deadline for technology in presentations of May 8th. Any presentations or technology requests received after this date will not be granted.

While our agenda is packed, it is our turn to host the moderator. The Right Reverend Gary Patterson is well known for his public speaking and we have done our best to ensure that he has ample time to address our theme: "Live The Promise, That All May Be...". We recognize that while we have many serious and important agenda items (ie. Budgets, General Council business, Affirming Task Group proposals, and Comprehensive Review Reports to name a few) the Maritime Conference Annual Meeting is also about worshipping in new and old ways. It's about connecting clergy and lay. It's about common visions and common stories. It's about building community and growing wisdom. It's about building hope and living the promise.

It's been my pleasure to serve as the chair of the Annual Meeting Planning Committee. I could not have done it without such an open minded team. Thanks to those leaving the committee this year: Catherine Stuart, Shawn Redden, Meggin King, and Tara Ann Gourson. Thanks also to the conference office staff, in particular Marlene Trenholm, Lorraine Horyl, and Jennifer Whittemore. Your support is invaluable.

With Gratitude and Respect,
Annika Sangster, chair AMPC

ARCHIVES COMMITTEE

*For though your people Israel were like the sand of the sea, only a remnant of them will return.
Isaiah 10:22.*

The dictionary defines remnant as "a small remaining quantity of something."

Our archivist and archives committee want to preserve and protect the remnants of our churches and our pastoral charges. We want to take the remnants found in offices, attics and basements and preserve our history and share with future generations.

Sarah Wallace, our Archivist and remnant keeper, shares the history of our conference through new and interesting ways. Through the Maritime Conference website, Sarah posts Histories of Pastoral charges, a Valentine Day Poem, a Newspaper cover (back 85 years), Archival mysteries, recipe of the month, pictures and other records. Each entry she posts reveals a remnant of our past.

Our Maritime Conference Centre is now fully functional with many people using the Centre. We have had numerous people touring the Centre. The archives committee encourages people to contact Sarah and tour our archives centre, and share this experience.

The archive committee is presently using the Centre for our spring and fall meetings. We have planned our spring meeting to coincide with our annual Maritime Conference meeting in May. As a committee we are exploring areas such as oral history, artifacts and digitization.

We have welcomed some new members to our committee, each adding a new flavour to our committee. The archives committee always appreciates our Executive Secretary David Hewitt as he shares updates and insights during our meetings.

Our Archives committee would say a special thank you to our amazing archivist, Sarah Wallace. I believe Sarah is gifted and very humble. She is always willing to share these gifts with whoever comes into her office. She guides our committee to explore different avenues of archives, but always keeps us on course. She is a strong advocate for our Maritime Conference Archives. She may be found in a Presbytery, Pastoral Charge or an individual church working to preserve and enhance our church's records and history for future generations. In the office Sarah works diligently to receive the many boxes that are sent to our Archives. She painstakingly catalogues and stores each record of our history.

Our Archives committee wants to say thank you to our secretary, Beth Johnston, who somehow takes all our discussions and records them faithfully for each meeting. We would also like to say thank you to our support staff and the many people who share their time and talents.

I want to say a special thank you to our professionals Ms. Twila Buttimer, Ms. Rhianna Edwards and to each member of the Archives Committee for your time and talents in preserving our history for future generations.

We look forward to another exciting year as your Maritime Conference Archives.

Sincerely,
Rev. Gary MacDougall
Chairperson

Archivist's Report:

Another year has come and gone at the Maritime Conference Archives and things are as busy and exciting as ever. Almost every day, I come across an interesting record or an intriguing research request which reminds me why I love this job so much.

The records haven't stopped coming in! This past year we have received approximately 36 metres of records and 750 photographs from Pastoral Charges, Presbyteries, the Conference office, and individuals. That's an increase of 36% from last year and perhaps 2015 will see yet another increase. It is encouraging to see so many records coming in as our purpose-built archival facilities help ensure the long-term preservation of the Maritime Conference's valuable records.

Last year the Archives received 133 telephone calls and responded to 289 written requests for assistance. There were 23 people who came to the Archives to do research. These research requests cover a wide variety of topics and come from Presbyteries and Pastoral Charges, the Conference office, and academic and genealogical researchers.

In the winter and spring, I travelled to Kentville, Wolfville, and Dartmouth to help three churches determine which records should come to the Archives. I had the privilege of doing a presentation at South Presbytery in April and I also was a guest speaker at the Maritime Church Administrators Association in April and New Bandon Pastoral Charge in August. As always, I am available to come speak or do workshops at Presbytery meetings as well as other group meetings. I am also more than willing to visit churches if you would like a little extra help in identifying those records which should be sent to the Archives.

The review of the Presbytery minutes took place during the meeting of Conference last May with the help of the Presbytery secretaries. As with last year, the minutes were very well done.

We are renting out archival storage space to The United Church of Canada Archives; the Cumberland County Museum and Archives; and the Canadian Music Centre. It is certainly wonderful to have "customers" and I know these organizations are thankful for a climate-controlled facility in which to store some of their records. The Moncton Museum finished their renovations this past year so they are now able to store their records in their own brand-new facility.

As always, I am extremely grateful for the faithful volunteers who helped at the Archives this past year. Katie Ferguson, Emily Fuller, and Emily Jeffers, all Mount Allison students, were a great help and Judith Colwell comes in faithfully once a week. The Archives Committee continues to be as supportive as ever.

Respectfully submitted,
Sarah Wallace
Archivist

CHRISTIAN LIFE & GROWTH COMMITTEE

The Christian Life and Growth Committee of Maritime Conference met twice over the course of 2014. One meeting was held via conference call (April), and one was held face to face in Sackville, NB (November). Our discussion in April revolved around a possible merger with the Maritime Conference Stewardship Committee and around our participation in the Youth Forum's Faith Fair at Maritime Conference 2014. There was also a discussion around updates and improvements to the Narthex confirmation resource.

Our November meeting featured a report from the Outdoor Recreational Ministries (ORM) about the challenges facing many of the church camps that exist within the confines of Maritime Conference. We have offered our support for early camp promotions for 2015. We also received an update regarding the ongoing updates and repackaging of the Narthex resource. We discussed the amicable separation of Godly Play from Godly Play Maritimes, and the CLG committee.

We have also had a number of changes in personnel on our committee. Nigel Weaver stepped down as chairperson when his term ended after our November meeting. Janice MacLean also stepped down from the committee prior to the end of her term at Maritime Conference. We thank them for their many years of leadership and for sharing their wisdom with us during that time. We wish them well in their future endeavours.

As a committee, we now await the outcome of General Council 2015 to see where we are to go next as a committee and as a ministry within Maritime Conference.

Respectfully Submitted
Mary Jo Harrison

CHURCH IN ACTION COMMITTEE

Mission of the Committee:

- To encourage the church in its work as a compassionate, justice seeking, justice making community.
- To engage in mutual ministry with people experiencing injustice and marginalization.

The Church in Action Committee's mission is accomplished through local Presbytery and Congregational Church in Action Committees and through Conference based Working Groups. We are always aware of the two pronged aspect of our work and strive for balance.

The following Working Groups have been active in 2013 – 2014. The Aboriginal Working Group, Access to Justice Working Group, Environmental Working Group, Just Peace for Israel and Palestine Working Group, Mining Concerns Working Group, Mission Interpretation Working Group, Refugees Working Group.

Aboriginal Concerns and Relations Working Group

Elders who work with and advise the Aboriginal Concerns and Relations Working Group remind us that the work of our group, and all our communities, is building relationships. Over the past few years, we have focused on building awareness and alliances around concerns we hold in common with Aboriginal communities, especially (though not limited to) fracking and our shared treaties. We, all of us, continue to be called to solidarity with all our neighbours in this region.

This is also a year of transition for the Aboriginal Concerns and Relations Working Group. As the Truth and Reconciliation Commission finishes its official mandate in Canada, a particular question arises: how will we, as individuals and as church communities, participate in reconciliation? Our group believes that this considerable “work” begins with relationship-building, through deepening existing relationships and beginning new ones. We are developing resources and events to help congregations and leaders within the church with this work, which is also our calling as communities of faith.

We appreciate the continued and prayerful support of the Church in Action Committee, and of the whole Maritime Conference, as we seek to answer God’s call to be a neighbour to those whom we know, and to those whom we do not yet know.

In Christ.

Andy O’Neill, Convener

Access to Justice Working Group

Maritime Conference in 2010, approved a policy regarding much needed improvement in access to justice and charged the Church in Action committee with organizing a campaign to implement the intent of this policy. The Church in Action Committee, appointed a working group on access to justice which then partnered with a number of other NGOs, creating a coalition in New Brunswick, where the lack of resources for access to justice and other impediments are the worst. The coalition continues to share information, to communicate with other interested entities and individuals, and to keep this issue front and centre before government, and law societies.

In March of 2014 we received the report of the two Pro Bono Law students investigating the challenges of access to subsidized housing and joined them in their meeting with government officials from NB Social Development and NB Housing. Of particular interest was the acknowledgement of the lack of housing in NB for single adults in need who are neither seniors nor officially qualified as ‘disabled’. Also of interest is the difference in regulations governing those in subsidized, privately-own housing (under the Landlord Tenant Act) versus those in government-owned housing (under NB Housing Act).

The Coalition’s core working group met for a half day with a representative of the NB Law Society in early April 2014, to share previously discussed ‘access to justice’ challenges faced by those without financial means. We attempted to highlight both: areas where the law society restrictions act as barriers which could be reduced; and, areas where members of the Law Society might actively contribute to changes or services so as to improve access.

Several members of the Coalition attended the national conference of the Public Legal Education Association of Canada held in Fredericton in September 2014. Written summaries were prepared for the Coalition reporting on the keynote talk by Justice Thomas Cromwell – who headed up the

Supreme Court of Canada's 'Access to Justice' investigation and report "A Roadmap for Change"- and on reports of initiatives to improve access in each of the provinces. There was also a presentation by Moncton Lawyer, Sheila Cameron, on the Canadian Bar Association's two-year report "Reaching Equal Justice", one highlight of which is the need to integrate into the public and high school curricula, "law as a life skill" for "everyday justice" – i.e., a combination of knowledge, skill and attitudes. (This recommendation aligns with the initial 2010 mandate of our Maritime Conference Working group!)

The Coalition and the Co-Convenors from the Maritime Conference Working Committee have been holding discussions in February and March with expert Coalition members and with other New Brunswick legal experts in Family Law and in Legal Aid. This information gathering is preliminary to preparing our 'Priority Access to Justice Recommendations' for an anticipated meeting with the Minister of Justice of the newly elected NB government. (A request for a meeting will be submitted by April 2015.)

The challenges for our Access to Justice Work continue to be how to broaden our base of volunteers and community of interest among churches and community organizations in a much wider circle within New Brunswick and across the other Maritime provinces. Nova Scotia and PEI may well have contributions to make, particularly in light of their more generous and comprehensive Legal Aid systems.

Gail Wylie, Co-Convenor with Norman Laverty

For a Just Peace for Israel and Palestine Working Group

We support and animate the United Church campaign to pray, choose and speak to help end the Israeli occupation of Palestinian territories. We raise awareness of realities 'on the ground', educate and advocate for a just and lasting peace built on International law and human rights for Palestinians as well as security for all in Israel-Palestine. This work has been especially urgent, but challenging during the past year with an aggressive increase in Israel's expansion and construction of illegal Jewish only settlements on Palestinian land, demolition of Palestinian houses and olive orchards, and the military devastation of Gaza which resulted in over 2,200 Palestinians killed, mostly civilians including over 500 children, and 70 Israelis killed mostly soldiers.

Our activities have included:

1. At the 2014 annual meeting of Maritime Conference we: (a) Presented a Resolution (passed) re the killing of 2 youth and destruction of land and fruit/olive trees - asking the Executive Secretary to write letters requesting the Canadian and Bermudian governments to inquire into apparent violations of the 4th Geneva Conventions and letters supporting 2 highly respected peace advocates and UCC partners, Rifat Kassis, of Defence of Children International-Palestine, and Daud Nassar of Tent of Nations; (b) Rev. Steve Berube led a Focus group to share his experiences as an Ecumenical Accompanier in Israel-Palestine; (c) Responded to literature sent to clergy by CIJA (Council on Israel and Jewish Affairs) which was opposed to UCC policy; and (d) Collected names of people interested in receiving more information and began to send periodic emails to these individuals.
2. The week prior to the annual meeting, the Jewish National Fund held a major fund raising dinner in Halifax. To raise awareness of the role of the JNF (to acquire Palestinian land for

exclusive Jewish settlement and use), we organized a film showing of “The Village Under the Forest” after which Rev. Steve Berube and Zalman Amit, Jewish Israeli author and peace advocate, led a discussion reflecting on the film.

3. During the July/August devastating military conflict/assault on Gaza which left so many people dead, injured and homeless, many of us sent letters to Canadian and world leaders, joined in marches and demonstrations against the assault, and prayed often and deeply for peace.
4. In September, several churches throughout the area participated in the World Council of Churches’ World Week for Peace in Palestine and Israel making use of WCC resources.
5. Five members of our group attended the annual meeting of the United Network for Justice and Peace in Palestine and Israel (UNJPPI) in Hamilton, ON. We agreed to host the next annual meeting in Halifax.
6. Mel Early and Larry Haiven co-led a 6-session study group in Halifax.
7. During the fall we promoted and sold the UCC Advent Peace Box resources that relate worship and study materials re Israel-Palestine with Zatoun Palestinian Fair Trade products. During Advent a good number of churches made use of these resources in a variety of ways that often introduced the issue of a just peace to congregations for the first time.
8. During the busy Christmas shopping season some of us joined others to inform shoppers about products made in the illegal settlements urging them not to buy those products.
9. Group members continued to make presentations to church and community groups at Sunday worship services, Lunch and Learn events, Presbytery meetings, and film / discussion nights.
10. UNJPPI, IJV (Independent Jewish Voices), the United Church and other church and peace groups sponsored a Canada-wide speaking tour for Dr. Jeff Halper, Jewish Israeli peace advocate, Anthropology professor, founder/director of the Israeli Committee Against House Demolitions, and author of several books. He was welcomed to Halifax with a lovely reception, but unfortunately a major snow storm prevented most people from hearing him speak in person. Some of his books are still available from members of our group.

For more information re how to get involved in working with others for peace with justice in Palestine and Israel, please contact Linda Scherzinger, convenor, Steve Berube, Jim and Myrna Wicks, Mel Early, Bev McDonald, Sara AvMaat, Larry Haiven,

Linda Scherzinger
Convenor

Mining the Connections Working Group

A. Ongoing work seeking Pension Plan divestment from Goldcorp

- **We continue to seek signatures** from Pension Plan members, Pensioners and United Church members for the Mining the Connections petition to the Pension Board. We urge all Conference delegates to read our backgrounder <http://marconf.ca/resources/treasure/> and consider signing the petition, as well as

encouraging others to do so. The Petition will be presented at the 42nd General Council in April 2015. Direct access to Petition www.churchaction.ca/m_forms/view.php?id=10240.

- **Meeting with United Church Pension Board(UCCPB) and Investment Committee members, June 16th, 2014, followed by MTC meeting June 17th.** MTC met Wed., June 16th in Halifax for an informative meeting with UCCPB members Ian Thomson (KAIROS Resources and Rights Coordinator) and Malcolm Boyle (lives in Halifax), and with UCCPB Investment Committee member Bill MacKenzie and staffer Alan Hall. David Hewitt also attended. We decided to continue to seek divestment because:
 - A. The Pension Board has exempted Goldcorp from the ethical investment recommendations of Sustainalytics (formerly Jantzi) since 2008.** The Pension Board pays Sustainalytics to provide a screening service for its investments. This service identifies companies failing to meet expected standards for responsible investment.
 - B. United Church and ecumenical partners continue to seek divestment,** due to negative social, environmental and health impacts of the Marlin Mine in Guatemala.
- **Follow-up with Sustainalytics** In Sept. 2014 Kathryn Anderson and Rachel Warden of KAIROS met with two Sustainalytics researchers in Toronto to share MTC/KAIROS findings re negative impacts of Goldcorp's Marlin and Cerro Blanco mines, as well as the Tahoe mine (in which Goldcorp is the principal investor.)
- **Proposal** MTC members drafted a proposal seeking divestment from Goldcorp to be presented to Maritime Conference for approval and forwarding to the 42nd General Council.

B. Sign-on regarding Pacific Rim/Oceana Gold, El Salvador

- MTC signed on to a letter forwarded by the United Church National Office, asking Oceana Gold (formerly Pacific Rim) to withdraw a \$301 million claim against El Salvador at the International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes. The State of El Salvador was sued because it rejected Pacific Rim's mining project due to high environmental risks that gold mining poses to local communities and to El Salvador's primary water source.

C. Philippines

- A KAIROS/MTC-sponsored Philippines tour focused on solidarity with mining-affected communities will travel in the Maritimes June 8th-16th, including Fredericton, Saint John, Halifax and Sydney.

Kathryn Anderson
Convenor

Environmental Working Group

Report not received at time of printing.

Refugees and Immigration Working Group

This has been quite a year for refugee and immigration matters in Canada.

1. **Temporary Foreign Workers-** the TFW program has been curtailed for fast food outlets in Canada. Now many workers who came to Canada to work under this program are unemployed and without any visible means of support in the country. Their visas are

terminating April 1st 2015 and they cannot reapply for another four years. **Connie Sorio of Kairos** national office is very active in this part of the work.

2. **The Withdrawal of Federal Health Care Services-** from asylum seekers and privately sponsored refugees is ongoing and has created great hardship for asylum seekers fleeing violence in their source country and hardship for sponsoring groups paying the bills for privately sponsored (PSR's) refugees.
3. **Other Changes in the Immigration Act-** such as the delaying the granting of Permanent Residence status to newcomers, means a newcomer's status in Canada is not as strong as it was and requires them to jump through additional hoops before achieving citizenship.
4. **The Delay and Uncooperative Actions of the Federal Government in Bringing Syrian Refugees to Canada-** 1.62million Syrians in Turkey, 1.2 million in Lebanon, 636,000 in Jordan, 235,000 in Iraq and 140,00 in Egypt means that many families are surviving in camps under very harsh conditions for over two years now and health care, nutrition and the education of children is taking a toll.

CIC (Citizenship and Immigration) does have a number of special refugee sponsorship programs which the UCC (United Church of Canada) is encouraging participation in by its members. See the UCC-General Council website for more information. **BVORS (Blended Visa Office Referred)** cases which come to Canada under a cost sharing arrangement with CIC and are popular. A list of available individuals for sponsorship to Canada is frequently updated. **FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THESE MATTERS PLEASE DON'T HESITATE TO CONTACT ME.**

Bev McDonald, Refugee Resource Person, Maritime Conference

Mission Interpretation Working Group

As we all know the mandate regarding overseas mission in our church has changed considerably. It is a fact that we now have only one person* still engaged in full time overseas employment with the United Church of Canada.

We ourselves as members of the Mission Interpretation Committee of The Church in Action and as people once engaged in overseas work mourn this loss. We believe that through this lack of commitment to full time overseas work as a church we further isolate ourselves from our global partners.

At the same time we recognize the important work of those who continue to serve in short-term service through our church in areas outside of Canada. We give thanks for this commitment.

Determined as we are to continue an awareness of overseas issues and concerns among our sisters and brothers throughout the world we remain as a committee believing that a voice in support of overseas mission is essential for the full work of our church.

In the past year we have been active in supporting the work of Breaking the Silence and A Just Peace for Israel/Palestine. Gary was part of the March 2015 Breaking the Silence Alumni Delegation to Guatemala.

Educational and Business/Financial institutions in Canada have realized the importance of a continued work in the global world. We remain hopeful that our church will once again realize the same.

In the meantime, we continue on in the ways we are able.

* Katherine Kristie now working in South Korea is the last remaining full time employee of the United Church of Canada. At the termination of Ms. Kristie's employment there will be no other full time appointments.

Gary MacDonald
Georgina Baisley

UCW Presbyterian CiA and Environment Report 2015

United Church Women are active in their respective churches reaching out in thoughtful acts of charity to their communities and beyond. In this way they provide services such as food, clothing, shelter, etc. continually providing short term relief. Of course, there is also worship, socializing, supporting one another Bible Study, discussion and raising money for our local churches. UCW Women realize the importance of charity work and they will no doubt continue this as long as it is necessary. However, because they are realizing that if they want things to change for the better in our society they must focus on long-term just solutions and understanding the root causes of injustice.

This is exactly why UCW women are being asked to get involved with "Taking Action to end Child Poverty", the Conference/Presbyterial UCW Child Well Being Initiative Plan.

Some of the tasks to be undertaken are planning, praying, learning, inviting the whole church to join in, connecting with community partners, speaking with elected officials, speaking the truth about child poverty while keeping all the United Church Women connected with the initiative. Presently a Presbyterian UCW Child Poverty Committee is gathering facts under specific categories and compiling the findings to prepare easily accessible factual information to discuss poverty issues with candidates during the upcoming elections.

It is a daunting 5 year plan that we hope will be enthusiastically embraced by all United Churches especially when we understand that POVERTY is a CHOICE that and YOU and I MAKE when WE ALLOW POVERTY to EXIST. *Read Mandate Feb 2013 by Julie Graham.*

Myrna Wicks UCW Representative to CiA

This report respectfully submitted on behalf of the Maritime Conference Church in Action Committee by:

Jim Wicks
Chair-Church in Action Committee

FINANCIAL SUPPORT COMMITTEE

Greetings to the conference as the committee shares a brief outline of the work for the Financial Support Committee for 2013. The members who have served on the committee this past year are as follows: Connie McNamara (Secretary), Keith Adams, Ross MacIntosh, Gayle MacDonald Lynn McKinnon, Fay Smith 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 positively to most of the requests we received. The committee was pleased to be able to distribute Mission Support grants to 17 different ministries throughout the conference.

In addition to the MS grants, in 2014 we distributed a total of \$72,001 in Capital Assistance Grants which included: Church Modernization \$32,130; Manse Modernization \$12,700; Technology \$7,171; Camp \$12,000; 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 timely 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 Mission Support grant money allocation remained the same as 2014 which is \$227,876. The applications that were received for 2015 funding totaled \$363,117 so the committee had some difficult decisions to make. In the end we were able to respond positively to most of the requests (with some reductions) and awarded \$212,350 to the 17 ministries. We retained a small uncommitted balance for any emergency funding that may be called upon to consider through the year.

The committee also administered the applications that were received for Maritime Conference Bequest funding totaling \$12,000 for 2014.

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 third 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 2016 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 2016, 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

FINANCE AND PROPERTY COMMITTEE

The Finance and Property Committee held one day long meetings in person at the new Maritime Conference Centre during the past Conference year and one telephone meeting to review the conference financial reports.

A meeting of the full committee was held at the Maritime Conference Centre on April 15, 2015. At the start of the meeting, a new member to the committee, Jane MacDonald from Valley Presbytery, was welcomed. Paul Wood sent regrets for the meeting, due to a timing conflict with a full day Truro Presbytery meeting held on the same day. All other committee members were present at the meeting. The meeting had a full agenda, with a focus on the preparation of the 2016 budget proposal for approval by conference delegates at the Conference Annual Meeting to be held in May 2015. A narrative budget was prepared for inclusion with the 2016 budget proposal to be presented at the 2015 Annual Meeting. The other major item addressed at the meeting were the preparation of a set of recommendations to the Executive Committee of Maritime Conference on the dispersal of funds received at Maritime Conference from the sale of abandoned church and funds available from the disbandment of Pastoral Charges within Maritime Conference in 2013 and 2014. The committee also addressed requests from two presbyteries related to presbytery allocation calculation and the setting of a specific date for allocations to be presented to presbyteries.

This year, as in past years, the format for our budget process included sending a letter early in the year to committee chairs asking for due diligence in finding areas for restraint and then reviewing the results in a conference call with the committees chairs during the meeting. A special word of thanks and commendation was extended to committee chairs for the hard work in finding an additional approximately \$5,500 reduction in their 2016 budgets, after reducing their budgets over \$40,000 for the 2014 budget year and approximately \$9,100 for their 2015 budget year. Once again, as in the past, we sincerely thank the committee chairs for their continued thoughtful deliberation in considering the budget realistically and with great care. Our budget preparation methodology has worked extremely well over the past number of years, allowing for transparency and accountability.

At its April 17-18, 2015 meeting, Maritime Conference Executive Committee was presented with the following motions, which it approved and authorized to be presented to the Maritime Conference Annual Meeting in May 2015:

- That the proposed operating budget for the year 2016 be established with expenditures of \$1,213,863.64, with revenues other than Allocations of \$298,972.00, including a 2.5% allocation increase of \$22,789.41, an operating deficit of \$525.65, and a cash reserve of \$20,000 as a hedge against the projected total loss of the General Council operating grant of approximately \$194,000 by 2018.
- That the proposed allocation to presbyteries be set at \$934,365.99, which is an increase of \$22,789.41 (2.5%) over the allocation set in May 2014 for 2015.
- That the proposed capital expenditure for 2015 budget be approved at \$3,000.00.
- That a narrative budget for the 2016 financial year be presented to the Conference Annual Meeting to assist delegates in their understanding of the 2016 budget.

- That Maritime Conference committee travel rate of \$0.30/km, meal rates of \$30/day, and annual meeting travel rate of \$0.10/km remain the same for 2016.
- That Maritime Conference ask Presbyteries to annually supply by September 30, a list of all congregations within their presbytery closed within the previous five years for purpose of Conference removal of such congregations from the statistics used for calculation of allocations.
- That Conference will provided Presbyteries by October 30 annually with their allocations for the next financial year using the currently available statistics, adjusted for closed congregations.
- That the audited financial statement of the Maritime Conference Fund for 2014 prepared by Grant Thornton, CA, Moncton, NB be approved.
- That Grant Thornton, CA, Moncton, NB, be re-appointed as auditors of the Maritime Conference Fund for the year ending December 31, 2015.

The above items will be duly presented to the Conference Annual Meeting on May 29, 2015.

The economy continues to be stagnant or improve very slowly, while costs of operations rise with the rate of inflation or in some cases at a higher rate. Our changing church nationally and locally along with ongoing personal commitments increase the financial challenges before us as a conference as we move forward with much optimism and hope.

Respectfully Submitted,

Malcolm (Mac) MacLeod, Chair
Finance and Property Committee
Maritime Conference

Proposed Budget for 2016

2014 Actual	2015 Budget		2016 Recommended
		<u>Revenue</u>	
\$889,343.00	\$911,576.58	Allocations to Presbyteries	\$934,365.99
		<u>Other Revenue</u>	
\$277,282.00	\$264,095.03	From General Council	\$194,097.00
\$34,940.00	\$28,000.00	YF Registrations	\$27,275.00
\$31,680.00	\$24,000.00	I@C Registrations	\$29,000.00
\$34.50	\$0.00	Bank Interest	\$0.00
\$103.00	\$150.00	Archives Fees	\$150.00
\$9,285.00	\$8,150.00	Archives Rent	\$9,000.00

\$1,050.00	\$0.00	Revenue Generation	\$0.00
\$490.00	\$700.00	Camp Staff Registrations	\$100.00
\$15.00	\$400.00	Camp Staff Training	\$1,000.00
\$3,530.00	\$500.00	CLG Project Income	\$500.00
\$6,536.00	\$6,000.00	Online Courses	\$3,000.00
\$0.00	\$0.00	CiA Project Income	\$0.00
\$775.00	\$0.00	MPE Projects	\$0.00
\$975.00	\$1,200.00	Banquet Tickets	\$1,000.00
\$0.00	\$0.00	Stewardship Promotional	\$0.00
\$311.25	\$200.00	AVEL Fees	\$200.00
\$1,185.73	\$4,150.00	Office Supply Recoveries	\$3,650.00
\$0.00	\$1,000.00	Ministry Development	\$0.00
\$0.00	\$0.00	Travel Recoveries	\$0.00
\$4,682.20	\$5,000.00	Rental Income	\$5,000.00
\$167.52	\$0.00	Other Income	\$0.00
\$14,459.34	\$12,500.00	Amortization of Campaign Proceeds	\$25,000.00
\$1,276,844.54	\$1,267,621.61	Totals	\$1,233,337.99
		<u>Expenses</u>	
		<u>Conference Executive</u>	
\$10,196.54	\$13,500.00	Meetings of Conf. Executive	\$12,500.00
\$1,497.48	\$1,000.00	Task Groups	\$1,000.00
\$0.00	\$3,000.00	Commissioners' Training	\$0.00
\$0.00	\$250.00	Moderator's Visits	\$100.00
\$441.08	\$450.00	Camp Wegesegum	\$450.00
\$385.93	\$80.00	Atlantic Ecumenical Council	\$0.00
\$5,166.13	\$4,500.00	Presbytery Officers Gathering	\$5,000.00
\$440.21	\$250.00	Ordination Costs	\$250.00
\$8,344.67	\$5,000.00	Conflict Resolution / Legal	\$5,000.00
\$45.00	\$0.00	Miscellaneous	\$0.00

\$0.00	\$0.00	Personnel Emergency	\$0.00
\$551.85	\$1,000.00	Financial Campaign	\$1,000.00
\$27,068.89	\$29,030.00	Total Conference Executive	\$25,300.00
		<u>Administration</u>	
\$3,307.03	\$5,700.00	Officers' Expenses	\$5,500.00
\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00	Treasurer's Honorarium	\$5,000.00
(\$13,058.83)	\$28,000.00	Auditors' Fees	\$15,000.00
\$1,816.65	\$2,000.00	User Fees & Bank Charges	\$2,000.00
\$1,500.00	\$0.00	Bad Debts Expense	\$0.00
\$2,101.56	\$250.00	Interest Expense	\$2,000.00
\$666.41	\$40,950.00	Total Administration	\$29,500.00
		<u>Conference Office</u>	
\$5,551.77	\$4,721.17	Financial Services Interest	\$0.00
\$114,689.08	\$115,820.44	Mortgage Interest	\$90,163.64
\$59,177.31	\$73,100.00	Office Operations	\$68,300.00
\$21,594.05	\$28,500.00	Staff Travel	\$24,200.00
\$586,863.70	\$599,000.00	Staff Salaries and Benefits	\$597,400.00
\$787,875.91	\$821,141.61	Total Conference Office	\$780,063.64
		<u>Standing Committees</u>	
\$101,594.67	\$96,350.00	Annual Meeting Committee	\$99,325.00
\$53,006.54	\$57,750.00	Christian Life and Growth Committee	\$54,600.00
\$8,160.92	\$18,250.00	Church In Action Committee	\$15,775.00
\$402.11	\$800.00	Nominating Committee	\$650.00
\$4,679.67	\$7,150.00	Stewardship Committee	\$5,600.00
\$1,503.42	\$1,550.00	Finance & Property	\$1,650.00
\$3,114.44	\$4,300.00	Financial Support	\$4,150.00
\$1,321.57	\$1,500.00	Archives	\$1,500.00

\$20,801.31	\$33,200.00	Ministry Personnel & Education Committee	\$32,450.00
\$4,688.69	\$9,650.00	Staff Committee	\$9,300.00
\$199,273.34	\$230,500.00	Total Standing Committees	\$225,000.00
		<u>Grants to Organizations and for Ministry Education</u>	
\$50,000.00	\$50,000.00	Tatamagouche Centre (ACTC)	\$50,000.00
\$103,816.00	\$101,000.00	Depreciation	\$104,000.00
\$0.00	\$0.00	Reserve	\$20,000.00
\$1,168,700.55	\$1,272,621.61	Total Expenses	\$1,233,863.64
\$108,143.99	(\$5,000.00)	Excess of Revenue over Expenses (Expenses over Revenue)	(\$525.65)
		<u>Capital Expenditures</u>	
\$0.00	\$500.00	Furniture and Office Equipment	\$500.00
\$0.00	\$3,000.00	Computer Hardware Upgrades	\$2,500.00
\$0.00	\$3,500.00	Total	\$3,000.00

BEQUEST FUNDS

Application Procedures and Guidelines

Maritime Conference has received several bequests over the years. The Conference Executive has designated that the Financial Support Committee will administer these funds. The procedures and guidelines outlined below are intended to maintain easy access to them from various groups, pastoral charges and individuals, while simplifying the review of the applications.

Guidelines:

- Applicants can be groups, congregations, pastoral charges, presbyteries, committees of conference, and individuals. Individuals are only able to apply for grants for educational purposes or due to financial distress for medical or other reasons.
- After receiving presbytery approval, applications must be submitted to the

Financial Support Committee. The committee meets 4 to 6 times per year and will review applications at the next meeting following receipt.

- Applicants from groups, congregations, and pastoral charges must have their application reviewed and supported by their presbytery. Presbyteries are to ensure the application is completed in full. Individuals should send their applications directly to the Financial Support Committee. Applications submitted by Conference committees or staff must be reviewed and supported by an independent review group (hereafter referred to as Review Group) before they are forwarded to the Financial Support Unit.
- Successful applicants must submit a report of the work carried out using these funds at the conclusion of the project.

Application Process:

1. The applicant would complete an application and prepare all the necessary documents and obtain the agreement of the sponsoring body, e.g., official board, etc. The representative of the ministry or project would sign the application and send to the Presbytery Mission Support Convener or the Review Group.
2. The presbytery or Review Group would review the application to determine if it feels it is a worthy ministry/project and meets the guidelines for bequest funds. If the presbytery or Review Group feel more information is needed, they will be in touch with the applicant before endorsing it. The secretary of presbytery or representative of the Review Group would sign it and send it to the Maritime Conference Financial Support Committee.
3. The Financial Support Committee, will review the application using the terms of the bequest funds available to determine the amount of financial support and which of the funds will be used.
4. The Financial Support Committee will notify the contact person named on the application. If the application is successful, details on the transfer of funds will be arranged.

Criteria:

The bequests administered by the Financial Support Committee each have different criteria and therefore, it is sometimes difficult to match a request with a particular bequest. It is not important for applicants to identify the particular bequest to which they are applying or the criteria they feel they meet. The most important information needed is a complete application. The Financial Support Committee will match the application with the particular bequest depending upon the criteria of that bequest and the funds requested and available at the time. However, it may be instructive to know some of the criteria set out in the bequests themselves. They are:

1. For small United Churches in Nova Scotia
2. For religious and educational purposes in New Brunswick
3. For the support of needy (urban outreach) missions in Nova Scotia
4. For any purpose the Conference deems wise

The Financial Support Committee feels that although some funds can be used for any purpose, criteria are needed to prioritize the applications for the limited funds available. The criteria presently being used are:

1. Innovative or new programmes will be a higher priority than established programmes.
2. Programmes related to the work of the church will have a higher priority than capital projects.
3. Applicants would normally receive funds once.

4. Applicants would normally be expected to financially contribute to the programme for which funds are being requested
5. If other sources of funds are available for a programme, an explanation would need to accompany the application outlining why Bequest funds are being requested.
6. If an application is not completed in full, including the approval of presbytery or Review Group, then the application could be held to the next date.

Applications are available from your Presbytery Mission Support Convener, Conference Office and also online at:

<http://www.marconf.ca/wp-content/uploads/2011/08/Bequest-Fund-Application.pdf>

Maritime Conference Office
c/o Bequest Fund
21 Wright St.
Sackville, NB E4L 4P8

(506) 536-1334 - Phone
(506) 536-2900 - Fax
Website: www.marconf.ca

Email: info@marconf.ca

Updated May 3, 2013

MARITIME CONFERENCE BEQUEST FUNDS

1. **Edith MacPherson Bequest (1983)**.....\$5,000.00
Amount expected to be available..... **\$2,537.93**
Nova Scotia only
**Interest from this fund to be used to assist small United Churches in Nova Scotia.
2. **Guy R. King Bequest (1973)**.....\$75,330.71
Amount expected to be available..... **\$21,330.94**
Nova Scotia only
**Interest to be used for United Churches in Nova Scotia as the church may determine.

Recommended uses of income:

- assist congregations in imaginative, experimental projects, especially in Christian Education and Outreach
- assist ministers who suffer acute and unusual financial distress for medical and other reasons
- assist Rural Congregations in meeting maintenance and improvement costs for Manses and Church Buildings
- assist Summer Ministries in tourist areas
- assist Smaller Congregations and charges in enabling their ministers to take advantage of the Church's continuing education programme
- assist Lay Persons in increasing their leadership potential

3. **Annie V. King Bequest (1960)**.....\$23,000.00
 Amount expected to be available.....**\$5,641.52**
 Nova Scotia only
 **Interest to be used for United Churches in Nova Scotia as the church may determine.

Recommended uses of income:

- assist congregations in imaginative, experimental projects, especially in Christian Education and Outreach
- assist Ministers who suffer acute and unusual financial distress for medical and other reasons
- assist Students for the Ministry by way of increased bursaries over and above those available through Pine Hill
- assist Camps for necessary capital expenditures
- assist Ministers or Lay Persons to attend a school of Church Music

4. **Agnes J. Ross Bequest (1973)**.....\$36,383.45
 Amount expected to be available..... **\$12,741.80**
 New Brunswick only
 **For religious and educational purposes in the province of New Brunswick. Requisition should include a description of terms.

Recommended uses of income:

- assist Ministers who suffer acute and unusual financial distress for medical or other reasons
- assist Rural Congregations in meeting maintenance and improvement costs for manses and church buildings
- assist Summer Ministries in tourist areas
- assist Smaller Congregations and charges in enabling their ministers to take advantage of the church's continuing education programme
- assist lay persons in increasing their leadership potential

5. **Metzler Bequest (1902)**.....\$822.00
 Amount expected to be available.....**\$619.50**
 For the cause of Christ
 Unrestricted

6. **William A. Crawford (1935)**.....\$1,975.00
 Amount expected to be available.....**\$963.70**
 For any purpose the Conference deems wise
 Unrestricted

7. **J. Oscar Young (1967)**.....\$39,000.00
 Amount expected to be available.....**\$7,376.17**
 Anywhere in Maritime Conference
 **For some purposes to be determined by Maritime Conference for its benefit.
 Unrestricted

Recommended uses of income:

- assist congregations in imaginative, experimental projects, especially in Christian education and Outreach
- assist Ministers who suffer acute and unusual financial distress for medical and other reasons
- assist Ministers in post graduate studies for extended periods of a year or more

8. Jost Bequest (1984)	\$8,000.00
Amount expected to be available.....	\$7,957.58

Nova Scotia only

**To support needy missions in Nova Scotia with no mission to receive aid, from these funds, after having been established ten years. Court Decision - waiting to make change in interpretation of "Mission." Started in 1984, S/B "Urban Outreach Ministry" would meet term of Mission. Should not be restricted.

Applicants to submit to the chair of the Bequest Committee:

- Name, mailing address and telephone number;
- Name of contact person or individual applying if different from above;
- Presbytery, Pastoral Charge, Church Committee and/or Group;
- Reason for requesting Grant (Project, etc.);
- Funds available and/or source of additional funding;
- All other pertinent information which would assist in processing of Grant;
- All innovative requests considered unless restriction applies.

Mail your application to the following address:

Maritime Conference Office
 c/o Bequest Fund
 21 Wright St.
 Sackville, NB
 E4L 4P8

(506) 536-1334 - Phone
 (506) 536-2900 - Fax
 Website: www.marconf.ca

Email: info@marconf.ca



Financial Statements

Maritime Conference Fund of The
United Church of Canada

December 31, 2014

Maritime Conference Fund of The
United Church of Canada

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Independent auditor's report

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 633 rue Main Street, PO Box 1006
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www.GrantThornton.ca

To the Members of
 Maritime Conference Fund of The United Church of Canada

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of Maritime Conference Fund of The United Church of Canada "the Organization" which comprise the balance sheet of "the Organization" as at December 31, 2014, the statements of revenues and expenses, statement of fund balances and statement of cash flows for the year ended December 31, 2014 and a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

Management's responsibility for the financial statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Those standards require that we comply with ethical requirements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the accounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making these risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the Organization's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion of the effectiveness of the Organization's internal control. An audit also includes assessing the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence that we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our qualified audit opinion.

Basis for qualified opinion

In common with many non-profit organizations, the Organization derives revenue from donations and contributions from the public, the completeness of which is not susceptible to satisfactory audit verification. Accordingly, our verification of these revenues was limited to the amounts recorded in the records of the Organization therefore we were not able to determine whether any adjustments might be necessary to revenues, excess of revenues over expenses, assets and net assets.

**Qualified opinion**

In our opinion, except for the possible effects of the matter described in the Basis for Qualified Opinion paragraph, the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Organization as at December 31, 2014, and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the year ended December 31, 2014, in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations.

Moncton, New Brunswick
April 18, 2015

Grant Thornton LLP
Chartered Accountants

Maritime Conference Fund of The United Church of Canada

Balance Sheet

December 31

	General Fund	Bequest Fund	Special Funds	2014 Total	2013 Total
Assets					
Current assets:					
Cash	\$ 66,122	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 66,122	\$ 89,355
Funds held in trust (Note 4)	507,250	-	-	507,250	-
Restricted cash and equivalents	-	-	130,814	130,814	128,077
Accounts receivable (Note 5)	101,194	-	-	101,194	77,546
Prepays	6,669	-	-	6,669	3,755
Land held for resale	20,800	-	-	20,800	20,800
	702,035	-	130,814	832,849	319,533
Investments (Note 6)	-	206,125	-	206,125	206,125
Property and equipment (Note 7)	3,100,148	-	-	3,100,148	3,203,964
	\$ 3,802,183	\$ 206,125	\$ 130,814	\$ 4,139,122	\$ 3,729,622
Liabilities					
Current liabilities:					
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities (Note 8)	\$ 44,876	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 44,876	\$ 79,319
Funds held in trust (Note 4)	507,250	-	-	507,250	-
Unearned revenues (Note 9)	35,357	-	-	35,357	35,857
Current portion of private mortgages and loan (Note 11)	46,968	-	-	46,968	73,208
	634,451	-	-	634,451	188,384
Long-term Liabilities:					
Deferred contributions (net) (Note 10)	551,564	-	-	551,564	386,629
Private mortgages and loan (Note 11)	1,623,163	-	-	1,623,163	1,935,400
Total liabilities	2,809,178	-	-	2,809,178	2,510,413
Fund balances					
Externally restricted	-	206,125	130,814	336,939	334,202
Unrestricted	993,005	-	-	993,005	885,007
	993,005	206,125	130,814	1,329,944	1,219,209
	\$ 3,802,183	\$ 206,125	\$ 130,814	\$ 4,139,122	\$ 3,729,622

On behalf of the Executive: Members of Conference Executive

Executive Secretary



Treasurer



See accompanying notes to the financial statements.

**Maritime Conference Fund of
The United Church of Canada**
Statement of Revenues and Expenses
Year ended December 31

	General Fund	Bequest Fund	Special Funds	2014	2013
Revenues					
Allocations from Presbyteries and Bermuda Synod	\$ 889,343	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 889,343	\$ 658,411
Contributions	-	-	821	821	821
Grants from The United Church of Canada	277,282	-	-	277,282	327,755
Event receipts	67,110	-	-	67,110	41,770
Other	28,650	-	-	28,650	55,591
Interest earned	-	-	11,373	11,373	13,478
Amortization of financial campaign contributions	14,459	-	-	14,459	10,494
	1,276,844	-	12,194	1,289,038	1,108,320
Expenses					
Executive	25,560	-	-	25,560	58,737
Administration	21,880	-	-	21,880	38,986
Interest on long-term liabilities	120,241	-	-	120,241	129,899
Office operation	56,458	-	-	56,458	61,823
Salaries and benefits	588,475	-	-	588,475	579,392
Staff travel	19,174	-	-	19,174	16,402
Standing committees	202,801	-	-	202,801	195,237
Grants to agencies and institutions	50,000	-	-	50,000	50,000
Amortization of property and equipment (Note 7)	103,816	-	-	103,816	103,816
Grants	-	-	9,457	9,457	10,790
Other expense recoveries	(19,559)	-	-	(19,559)	-
	1,168,846	-	9,457	1,178,303	1,245,062
Excess of revenues over expenses (expenses over revenues)	\$ 107,998	\$ -	\$ 2,737	\$ 110,735	\$ (136,762)

**Maritime Conference Fund of
The United Church of Canada**
Statement of Changes in Fund Balances
Year ended December 31

	General Fund	Bequest Fund	Special Fund	2014	2013
Fund balances, beginning of year	\$ 885,007	\$ 206,125	\$ 128,077	\$1,219,209	\$ 1,355,971
Excess of revenues over expenses (expenses over revenues)	107,998	-	2,737	110,735	(136,762)
Fund balances, end of year	\$ 993,005	\$ 206,125	\$ 130,814	\$1,329,944	\$ 1,219,209

See accompanying notes to the financial statements.

Maritime Conference Fund of The United Church of Canada

Statement of Cash Flows Year ended December 31

	2014	2013
Increase (decrease) in cash and equivalents:		
Operating		
Excess of revenues over expenses (expenses over revenues)	\$ 110,735	\$ (136,762)
Amortization of financial campaign contributions	(14,459)	(10,494)
Amortization of property and equipment	103,816	103,816
Capital contributions	-	(20,800)
Change in non-cash working capital:		
Increase in accounts receivable	(23,648)	(6,467)
(Increase) decrease in prepaids	(2,914)	3,767
(Decrease) increase in accounts payable and accrued liabilities	(34,443)	2,224
(Decrease) increase in unearned revenues	(500)	2,928
	138,587	(61,788)
Financing		
Restricted contributions to project development costs	179,394	242,811
Received from Wesley Memorial United Church	-	-
Advance of promissory note from financial services	-	51,000
Repayment of promissory note from financial services	-	(51,000)
Proceeds from funds held in trust (Note 4)	507,250	-
Repayment of long-term liabilities	(338,477)	(69,185)
	348,167	173,626
Investing		
Expenditures on equipment	-	(23,169)
	-	(23,169)
Net increase in cash and equivalents	486,754	88,669
Cash and equivalents, beginning of year	217,432	128,763
Cash and equivalents, end of year	\$ 704,186	\$ 217,432
Cash and equivalents, end of year, consist of the following:		
Cash	\$ 66,122	\$ 89,355
Funds held in trust (Note 4)	507,250	-
Restricted cash	130,814	128,077
	\$ 704,186	\$ 217,432

See accompanying notes to the financial statements.

Maritime Conference Fund of The United Church of Canada

Notes to the Financial Statements

December 31, 2014

1. Nature of operations

The Maritime Conference Fund of The United Church of Canada (the "Organization") is a Court of The United Church of Canada operating in the Maritime Provinces of Canada. Its principal activities include the provision of services to the presbyteries and pastoral charges affiliated with The United Church of Canada in the region and in Bermuda. It is a registered charity under the *Income Tax Act*. In 2014, the United Church of Canada has begun a Comprehensive Review of their organizational structure. The Organization relies on allocations from presbyteries to support its activities.

2. Summary of significant accounting policies

Basis of presentation

The Organization has prepared these financial statements in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations ("ASNPO").

(a) Fund accounting

The Organization follows the restricted fund method of accounting for contributions.

The General Fund accounts for the Organization's delivery of services and administrative activities. This fund reports unrestricted resources and restricted operating grants.

The Bequest Fund reports the assets, liabilities, revenues and expenses related to the assets bequeathed to the Organization.

The Special Funds report the assets, liabilities, revenues and expenses related to the Organization's seven funds that have been set up for specific purposes.

(b) Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash on hand, balances with banks and short-term deposits. Bank borrowings are considered to be financing activities.

(c) Property and equipment

Property and equipment are recorded at cost. Any contributed property and equipment is recorded at the date of the contribution. Property and equipment is amortized on a straight-line basis over their estimated useful lives as follows:

Land improvements	5%
Buildings at Sackville, NB 21 Wright Street	2.5%
Equipment	
Office equipment and furniture	10%
Computer hardware	20%

When property and equipment no longer has any long-term service potential to the Organization, the excess of its carrying amount over any residual value is recognized as an expense in the statement of operations. Any write-downs recognized are not reversed.

Maritime Conference Fund of The United Church of Canada

Notes to the Financial Statements

December 31, 2014

2. Summary of significant accounting policies (continued)

(d) Post retirement benefit plan

The employees of the Organization participate in a defined benefit pension plan administered and held nationally by The United Church of Canada. The Organization is not responsible for the obligations due for the employees under this employee benefit plan.

(e) Revenue recognition

Restricted contributions are recognized as revenue of the appropriate restricted fund in the year in which the contribution is received or receivable. Restricted contributions for the purchase of property and equipment that will be amortized are deferred and recognized as revenue at the same rate of amortization as the related property and equipment. All other restricted contributions for which there is no restricted fund are recognized as revenues when the related expenses are incurred in the general fund.

Unrestricted contributions are recognized as revenue of the general fund when received or receivable if the amount can be reasonably estimated and receipt is reasonably assured.

Investment income earned on restricted investments is recognized as revenue as it is earned in the appropriate fund. Other investment income is recognized in the general fund statement of operations.

(f) Use of estimates

In preparing the Organization's financial statements, management is required to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities, and reported amounts of revenues and expenses. Management determines these estimates based on the assumptions that reflect the most probably set of economic conditions and planned courses of action. Items subject to management estimates include estimated useful lives and residual values of property and equipment. These estimates are reviewed periodically and adjustments are made in operations as appropriate in the year they become known. Additionally, management reviews the carrying amount of items in the financial statements at each balance sheet date to assess the need for revision and for any possibility of impairment.

Maritime Conference Fund of The United Church of Canada

Notes to the Financial Statements

December 31, 2014

2. Summary of significant accounting policies (continued)

(g) Amounts held in trust - Financial Services

Due to the Organization's legal status, management was instructed by legal counsel that the Organization is unable to enter into certain legal contracts. Financial Services of the Maritime Conference of The United Church of Canada, Inc. ("Financial Services") was incorporated in 1987 to assist The United Church of Canada, Presbyteries, Pastoral Charges, local congregations and groups within a congregation and the Organization by holding in trust properties and entering into certain contracts, among various other financial services, on behalf of the aforementioned entities. Financial Services holds in trust all of the investments of the Bequest and Special Funds and held the remaining proceeds of the sale of the properties that are or were presented in the financial statements of the Organization.

Financial Services, in signing documents respecting the purchase of land at 21 Wright Street in Sackville NB, the Construction Loan Agreement for the erection of facilities at that location, related mortgage documents, and any other documents securing the mortgage loan such as insurance, cost-overrun and completion undertaking and general assignment of contracts, licenses, permits and other documents in relation to the construction, has acted solely in its capacity as nominee and "bare trustee" on behalf of the Organization. The Organization is the sole owner and beneficiary of the land, buildings and furnishings and equipment contained therein. The Organization is the principal debtor and obligor of the Mortgage.

(h) Funds held in trust - Cash and property

Cash and property held in trust arise from the disbandment of churches and camps governed under the Maritime Conference Fund of the United Church of Canada. The decision to disband a church or camp is made by the laypeople of the congregation as well as the local Presbytery. The Manual of The United Church of Canada indicates that if a church or camp is disbanded, the respective Conference is responsible for the remaining assets. This responsibility includes discharging any remaining liabilities and expenses, listing the property for sale, and maintaining the property in good working order until sale occurs.

When an organization has been disbanded, the Conference recognizes the cash received as funds held in trust with a corresponding liability of funds held in trust. All other assets of the disbanded property are recognized at a nominal amount (\$1) as the fair value of the specialized assets is not determinable until the actual sale occurs.

Upon sale of the property, the proceeds are recognized as funds held in trust and recorded as a corresponding liability of funds held in trust. The distribution of any residual cash remaining after discharging the costs associated with the property is determined by the Conference Executive with advice from the applicable Presbytery. The Conference records allocations in the general fund once approved by the Conference Executive.

Maritime Conference Fund of The United Church of Canada

Notes to the Financial Statements

December 31, 2014

3. Financial instruments

The Organization considers any contract creating a financial asset, liability or equity instrument as a financial instrument. The Organization's financial instruments consist of cash and cash equivalents, accounts receivable, restricted cash, accounts payable, mortgages, investments and funds held in trust.

The Organization initially measures its financial assets and liabilities at fair value adjusted for transaction costs. Transaction costs related to financial instruments subsequently measured at fair value are recorded in the statement of revenues and expenses on initial measurement. The Organization subsequently measures all of its financial instruments at amortized cost.

The risks that arise from financial instruments include market risk, credit risk and liquidity risk. Unless otherwise noted it is management's opinion that the Organization is not exposed to other price risks arising from financial instruments.

Credit risk

Credit risk includes the potential financial loss that may be experienced by the Organization caused by debtors failing to honour its obligations to the Organization. Accounts receivable on allocation from presbyteries exposes the client to credit risk along with investments. The Organization has assessed this risk as low based on collection history.

Liquidity risk

Liquidity risk is the risk that the Organization may not have the cash available to satisfy financial liabilities as they come due. The Organization is, therefore, exposed to liquidity risk with respect to its accounts payable and accrued liabilities and its mortgage and loan.

Market risk

Market risk is the risk that the fair value of future cash flows of a financial instrument will fluctuate because of changes in market prices. The Organization is exposed to interest rate risk.

(i) Interest rate risk

Interest rate risk is the potential for loss arising from changes to interest rates. Financial instruments that potentially subject the Organization to interest rate risk are the mortgages and investments. The Organization does not hedge interest rate risk.

**Conference Fund of
The United Church of Canada**
Notes to the Financial Statements
December 31, 2014

4. Funds held in trust

	2014		2013
Camp Woolastook	\$ 14,205	\$	-
Forest Hills United Church	410,342		-
MacLennan Memorial Camp	15,937		-
McKinleyville United Church	18,097		-
St. Mark's United Church	44,527		-
Welsford United Church	4,142		-
	\$ 507,250	\$	-

During the year, the Organization received proceeds from various churches and camps as a result of their disbandment (Note 2 (h)). These funds are held in trust until the distribution is approved by the Conference Executive.

5. Accounts receivable

	2014		2013
Allocations from Presbyteries	\$ 79,005	\$	48,999
Miscellaneous	4,620		6,630
HST/GST rebates – 50% of HST/GST paid	15,821		19,975
Accrued interest	1,748		1,942
	\$ 101,194	\$	77,546

Conference Fund of The United Church of Canada

Notes to the Financial Statements

December 31, 2014

6. Investments

Bequest fund

Investment certificates issued and held in trust in (Note 2 (g)) by Financial Services.

	2014	2013
Investment – interest for distribution as bursaries for ministerial candidates		
Aitken Memorial Trust	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000
Vera Dickey bequest	17,614	17,614
Wesley Memorial United Church	2,000	2,000
	24,614	24,614
Investment – interest for distribution as support for special projects		
William A. Crawford Trust	1,975	1,975
Annie V. King Bequest	23,000	23,000
Guy R. King Bequest	75,331	75,331
Edith MacPherson Bequest	5,000	5,000
Metzler Bequest	822	822
Agnes J. Ross Bequest	36,383	36,383
J. Oscar Young Bequest	39,000	39,000
	181,511	181,511
Total investments	\$ 206,125	\$ 206,125

Interest earned on the above investments is 4.88% in quarter one, 4.75% in quarter two, 4.63% in quarter three, and 4.50% in quarter four (2013 – 5%); and is received annually.

7. Property and equipment

	Cost	Accumulated amortization	2014 Net book value	2013 Net book value
Property at 21 Wight Street, Sackville, NB,				
Land	\$ 166,907	\$ -	\$ 166,907	\$ 166,907
Land improvements	94,359	10,934	83,425	88,143
Building, offices, meeting rooms and archival space	2,830,758	174,729	2,656,029	2,726,799
Office equipment and furniture	115,101	29,370	85,731	97,241
Archives equipment, including rolling shelving	178,780	75,884	102,916	116,594
Computer hardware and peripherals	28,865	23,725	5,140	8,280
	\$ 3,414,770	\$ 314,622	\$ 3,100,148	\$ 3,203,964

**Maritime Conference Fund of
The United Church of Canada**
Notes to the Financial Statements
December 31, 2014

8. Accounts payable and accrued liabilities

	2014	2013
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$ 43,366	\$ 77,926
Payable to or on behalf and as directed by others	1,510	1,393
	\$ 44,876	\$ 79,319

The United Church of Canada and certain other agencies related to the activities of that organization have deposited monies with the Organization which are to be disbursed upon the direction of these agencies. Certain other amounts are received on behalf of The United Church of Canada and are payable to that organization.

9. Unearned revenues

	2014	2013
Beginning of year	\$ 35,857	\$ 32,929
Less: amounts recognized as revenue in year	(500)	(4,920)
Add: amounts received for future expenses	-	7,848
End of year	\$ 35,357	\$ 35,857

10. Deferred contributions

The Organization has received donations designated as contributions toward the cost of the new facility. These contributions and others anticipated to be received as the result of a campaign for contributions for the new facility and other needs of the Organization, which began in late 2011, are recognized as revenues in the year in which the related expenses are incurred.

	2014	2013
Financial Campaign proceeds received to date	\$ 578,374	\$ 398,979
Amortization of restricted contributions	26,810	12,350
	\$ 551,564	\$ 386,629

The restricted contributions are amortized at 2.5%, the same rate as the building, the related acquired asset.

Maritime Conference Fund of The United Church of Canada

Notes to the Financial Statements

December 31, 2014

11. Private mortgages and loan

The Organization, with Financial Services (see Note 2 (g)), acting on its behalf, entered into an agreement with the individuals who sold the land to them for the provision of \$1,900,000 to assist in payment for the construction of the new facility, secured by collateral mortgages on the property. The ten year term mortgages are repayable \$12,727 monthly, including interest at 6.5% on 25 year amortization. Interest only payments were due and paid on amounts drawn down from the mortgages and added to the cost of the building up to the date of completion of the building in 2012. There is also provision for extra payment without penalty of 10% of the principal then outstanding on each anniversary date.

The Organization also borrowed \$200,000 from Financial Services. The five year term loan was repayable \$3,774 monthly, including interest at 5% over the term. The outstanding balance was paid off in 2014.

	Private mortgages	Private loan	2014	2013
Amount borrowed to date	\$1,900,000	\$ 200,000	\$ 2,100,000	\$ 2,100,000
Principal paid to date	229,869	200,000	429,869	91,392
Principal outstanding at date	1,670,131	-	1,670,131	2,008,608
Current portion	46,968	-	46,968	73,208
	\$1,623,163	\$ -	\$ 1,623,163	\$ 1,935,400

The Organization has committed to indemnify Financial Services (Note 2 (g)) for any costs that the entity may incur in relation to deeds, contracts and mortgage agreements that it has signed on behalf of the Organization, and any costs that may result in holding the properties in trust for the Organization.

The principal payment commitments remaining on the private mortgages are set out below:

Year	Private mortgages
2015	46,968
2016	50,070
2017	53,377
2018	56,903
2019	60,662

**Maritime Conference Fund of
The United Church of Canada**
Notes to the Financial Statements
December 31, 2014

12. Non-monetary transaction

The Organization received an unrestricted contribution of land which had a value of \$20,800 in 2013. This transaction was measured and recognized based on the fair market value of the land received and was included in other revenue on the statement of revenues and expenses.

The Organization has listed the land for sale and as such, it is classified on the balance sheet as land held for resale.

13. Comparative figures

Certain comparative figures have been reclassified to conform to current year financial statement presentation.

MINISTRY, PERSONNEL AND EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The Conference Ministry Personnel and Education Committee supports a broad piece of work done by a number of sub-committees. We gather three times during the course of the year (twice face to face and once by Conference call) to hear about the work being done by the sub-committees and to discuss and reflect upon emerging issues as they relate to ministry personnel and those who are in various processes towards ministry. Also, this year we will recommend six candidates for Ordination, and we have reviews requests from Presbyteries for the granting of Sacramental privilege and marriage licenses as required for ministry personnel serving in pastoral charges.

There has been a lot of discussion about transition in the United Church of Canada and this year there will be a number of proposals which will go to the General Council meeting in Corner Brook which would impact the work of the MPE Committee in Maritime Conference. We don't know what form these recommendations will take, but over the coming years the committee will offer support and guidance to all the committees that work within the MPE umbrella.

The reports that follow highlight with a few more details some of the work being done by committees under the umbrella of MPE and I want to thank the chairs who work with me on MPE and all the volunteers who help out along the way. Also a thanks to Kendall Harrison and Lorraine Horyl for their ongoing support within the Conference.

Blessings
Steve Longmoore

Education & Students Committee

The Conference E&S Committee held Ordination Interviews from January 14th through 16th, 2015, for those recommended by Presbyteries. In accordance with our mandate, reporting through the Ministry Personnel & Education Committee, we are pleased to advise the Conference Executive for information, and we will advise the Conference for action, that the undernoted 6 candidates have been recommended for Ordination, subject to satisfactory completion of their academic requirements where applicable:

Barbara Cairns	PEI Presbytery
Bethe Benjamin Cameron	South Shore Presbytery
Susan Gamblin	Chignecto Presbytery
Anne Hoganson	Halifax Presbytery
Rachael Campbell	PEI Presbytery
Yvette Swan	Chignecto Presbytery

In addition E&S conducted Progress Assessment Interviews for those Residential Students with approximately 8 months before start of Internship and for Distance Education Candidates with approximately 18 months until anticipated ordination/commissioning.

A total of 9 interviews were conducted in all categories. We were able to add a Diaconal Minister to our team for the first time in a number of years.

Respectfully submitted
Dan Wellwood
Convener, Conference E&S

Biographies

ORDINANDS

Bethe Benjamin-Cameron

Bethe has lived a passion for ministry for many years. She was called to ministry at the age of eighteen and has spent many years discerning her call and living it out in a variety of ways in many places. While studying at AST she delighted in offering ministry at the New Germany Pastoral Charge. Along her journey she has been surrounded by a cloud of witnesses including her Dad and Grandparents. The support of her family and friends especially her mother have been a blessing. Once ordained she looks forward to continuing to share her spiritual gifts through creative worship, community outreach, children's spirituality and labyrinth workshops. She enjoys gardening, creating with fabric and walking on the beach. She shares life with her soul mate husband Rick. Her life is enriched by her three step children Craig, Scott (Jenny and Makenna) and Allyson. As well she delights in her three sons Alexander, Ian and Peter who teach her about life, love and how to use the apps on her iPhone.

Barbara Cairns

As a small child growing up in Southern Ontario, I loved to play outside. It was a place that offered freedom and wonder. I found this when I was playing in streams looking for tadpoles, swimming in lakes, running among the trees playing hide and seek, or sitting by a campfire listening to stories being told. I have come to realize that these early years have played a role in my spiritual formation and in how I experience holy presence. I find this same presence in church. It happens in the voices of the community, singing, praying, and responding to the Word. It is an embodied feeling that connects me to holy mystery and I have come to treasure these moments as a source of ongoing nurture.

I give thanks for my family, especially my husband David who from the beginning has supported this journey towards ordination with love and grace. I can honestly say that without it I would not have finished. My children have been amazing as we learned to dance within the places to which this call has brought us. I thank my mother who has always modeled for me the importance of family with strength and love. I thank my dear friends who have helped me to take the necessary steps towards realizing this goal. I thank the mentors who have challenged me to be authentic; Madonna Fradsham, Barb Wagner, John Moses, Keith Gale and Kevin MacKenzie. I am grateful to the members of my home church Park Royal United in Prince Edward Island for the ongoing

support and prayers. A special thanks to the members of the Learning Support Teams at Park Royal, Central Queens and St. David's.

I end by giving thanks to the One who has called me by name. I love you Holy One, Creator, Friend, and ever present God. It was over 25 years ago when my life was changed. Thank you for the ongoing love that continues to be my rock and salvation. This crazy thing called love is an ongoing dance that I embrace with excitement, passion, creativity, enthusiasm, integrity, and joy. I can't wait to see what the next 25 years will bring! Amen.

Rachael Anne Campbell

I was born and raised in Prince Edward Island. Growing up, there were two main topics of discussion at all times at our kitchen table: religion and politics. As a toddler, I was first introduced to The United Church of Canada in a joint Sunday School where children from our United Church (Victoria West United Church) and the neighbouring Presbyterian Church would worship together. It was (and continues to be) in my nature to question everything, and I would look things up in the Bible from a very young age. Throughout my childhood I was always asking for more information, more involvement in the Church. As a pre-teen I decided I wanted to become a confirmed member of the Victoria West United Church. In my teens I again requested to become an Elder and Steward in the Church and this request was embraced by our minister at the time and the entire Charge. This led to ten years as the Chair of the Wellington Pastoral Charge and as an adult I became involved in many aspects of Church, Maritime Conference, and PEI Presbytery. I gained knowledge in the business side of the Church and growth in the spiritual side of my faith throughout this time.

I have been very blessed to have experienced a wonderful Discernment and Education & Students Committee Process that allowed me to spread my wings and trust fully. Throughout my years of study at the Atlantic School of Theology I have met many wonderful and gracious mentors and friends who not only challenged me but supported me. I cannot put into words the impression that each one has left on my heart. St. Matthew's United Church in Halifax has become home to me in so many ways and I leave Halifax knowing they will always be with me. The truth is, I would not be here today without the love and support of my Mother, Father, family members, and friends that I call my "true family". They have embraced me in times of joys and sorrows, allowed me to jump in, struggled with me, rejoiced with me, and through it all never turned away. I am so ready and extremely excited to start full time ministry. God is so very good and all glory is God's.

Susan Sandford Gamblin

Born in Parrsboro, NS, Susan was baptized in the UCC while her father, George, was stationed in the army in Brandon, Manitoba. Also growing up in Oromocto and Halifax she moved to the states in 1967. It was with great joy that Susan returned to NS in 2009 with her precious mother Dorin. Susan is grateful to and humbled by **all** those who have prayed for her and walked the way with her these many years - notably the congregations of the Parrsborough Shore Pastoral Charge, Rockingham United, and McClure United in Edmonton. Susan is a proud mother to Greg and

Christine and grandmother to Dessiea, Harlyn, and Andrew. She eagerly anticipates entering full time ministry and serving alongside those in the Welsford Pastoral Charge in New Brunswick at Wesley United and Patterson United churches.

Anne Hoganson

I was born and raised in Nova Scotia. I've been married to my amazing and supportive husband Dave for almost 28 years and we are the proud parents of three awesome humans: our daughters, Sara and Moira, and our son-in-law, Jake. I delight in travelling (especially to Italy with my mom!) and have an eye for photography. In a previous life, I had a management career in accounting and budgeting, most recently with the NS Government.

Fifteen years ago, I would never have imagined myself standing at this threshold. Then I came to church. I fell in love. With God, with Jesus, with our sacred stories, with being part of a community of faith, with The United Church of Canada. I became active in the life of both congregations in my pastoral charge (Waverley PC). I joined study groups and discussions. I became a full member through confirmation. I kept falling deeper in love and feeling pulled toward something more.

When I first wondered if that "something more" might be ordained ministry, I pushed the idea away. (As I secretly googled how to enter ministry in The UCCan.) I kept pushing it away...surely ministry was for people far more faithful, pious, biblically literate, <insert other excuses here> than me. The pull grew stronger, the restlessness more persistent, until I could resist no longer; I needed to find out where the Spirit was leading. When I first said out loud that I felt called to ministry, it came as no surprise to Dave, who had seen it coming before I did.

My pastoral charge was thrilled when I requested a discernment committee. I spent time with a group of wonderful people who challenged, supported and affirmed my sense of call. Upon being received as a Candidate, I took a deep breath, and gave my notice at work. I dove into full time studies at AST and obtained my M. Div. This past year of internship has been rich with learning of a different kind. I am incredibly grateful to all who walk with me on this journey. My heart sings a song of joy as I look forward to being in ministry with my new pastoral charge in July!

Yvette V.A. Swan

Yvette was born the daughter of two teachers, Rebecca Emily and Webster Wellesley Lewic of St. Thomas, Jamaica. At an early age, Yvette was asked by her mother about her ambitions for the future. She told her Mother that she wanted to be a pastor, to which her Mom told her that only boys could aspire to become pastors. This only encouraged her to, like Peter, to "Step out of the boat" knowing that she would encounter "rough seas and a long journey". Throughout her life, Yvette knew that her faith in God/Jesus would be one of serving and obedient belief in God. Yvette studied at the Paddington Technical College (now the University of Westminster) in London UK and the Aston University in Birmingham UK where she studied Optometry. She moved to Bermuda with her husband Malcolm, where she became active in the Bermudian ethos. She became a member of the Methodist Churches of Bermuda, became the leader of the Cobb's Hill

Methodist Church Explorers and a Counsellor of the Girls in Training at Cobb's Hill. Yvette arranged a number of exchange visits between the Young people of Cobb's Hill and those of Kettleby, Ontario, and Lower Bedeque on Prince Edward Island.

She is a Charter Member of the Business and Professional Women of Bermuda, and in 1989 became the World President of the International Federation of Business and Professional Women, a position she held for four years. She was a member of the Committee of Non-Governmental Organisation (CONGO) of the United Nations, and President of the International 5-O, an alliance of five women professional organisations.

From 1993-1998 Yvette served the Bermudian Government as a Senator, and Cabinet Minister, and represented the Government as a delegate and head of Delegation to a number of International Conferences.

Her interest stretches across the Social Strata of the community including music, academia, social justice and swimming. She was also a lay preacher of the Methodist Church of Bermuda. Yvette decided to leave her Optometric Practice and move to Canada to study Theology at the Atlantic School of Theology (AST), with the goal of becoming an Ordained Minister of the United Church of Canada. She graduated from AST with a M.Div.(Hons) with a Concentration in Pastoral Theology. While at AST, Yvette attended St. John United Church, in Halifax and volunteered with the Breakfast for Learning Program, and the Brunswick Street Mission. She is a member of the Board of the AST Integrated Alumni Association, and was President from 2012 to 2014.

After graduation, Yvette became an assistant to Rev. Steve Berube at St. Paul's United Church, in Riverview, NB, while the pastoral charge searched for their second pastor. At St. Paul's Yvette continued her journey towards ordained ministry. She became a member of the UCW, Senior Fitness Class, Comfort Hats and Quilts Group, a member of the Senior Choir and led the Film Study Group. Yvette was an on-call chaplain at the Moncton Hospital as well as the co-ordinator of the Wednesday Ecumenical Services, a part of her role in Pastoral Care, which she believes is one of the gifts she brings to her ministry. Yvette now serves the Nashwaak Pastoral Charge, which runs along the beautiful Nashwaak River north of Fredericton in New Brunswick, where she will fill their Vacancy after her Ordination.

Conference Interview Board

The Conference Interview Board is scheduled to meet twice a year, once in the fall and once in the Spring. We met in November of 2014 and interviewed 2 people who were recommended for candidacy. In May we will interview one person for admissions. The Board is made up of a group of committed individuals who are passionate about the United Church. The May meeting will be my final one as chair of the Board. It has been a privilege to share in the journey of so many as they discern the call of the Spirit in their lives.

Conference Committee on Internships & Educational Supervision

The Committee on Internship and Educational Supervision has provided its members with the options of face to face and conference call meetings this year. All reports and evaluations are shared by email as they are received so they can be reviewed by committee members and questions can be raised.

Presently we have 8 candidates under supervision (5 Summer Distance candidates and 2 eight month internships and 1 half time 16 month internship. We have also had two other internships completed earlier this year making a total of 10 candidates working with us since the last Annual Meeting. As of the rise of Conference will with have 3 summer distance candidates, 1 halftime 16 month intern and, at this point, an undetermined number of candidates for eight month internships working with us.

We continue to seek out suitable learning sites and appropriate supervisors to offer their gifts to the candidates and the church and are grateful for all those who have responded to our needs.

Each fall we hold an orientation event for candidates, supervisors and Lay Supervision Team members. We tried a new format this year with candidates and supervisors gathering for a one day event in Sackville and members of our committee going out to various locations to hold one day sessions with the Lay Supervision Team members. This was well received and we are considering a similar format for the fall.

Members of the committee carried out site visits to all our learning sites between November and January and reports from site visits and mid-term evaluations from internships were reviewed by the committee. There are many good things happening and we are pleased with the work being done by all involved.

This year marks the end of my term as chair of the Committee and I want to express my appreciation to the committee members, to our Personnel Minister Kendall Harrison and to our support person Lorraine Horyl for the support and encouragement they have offered me in this ministry. As well Rev. Scott Hillier and Rev. Dr. John Moses complete their terms on the committee with the rise of Conference so I want to offer thanks to them for the gifts they have shared with us.

Jack Spencer
CIES Chair

Conference Interim Ministry Committee

The Conference Interim Ministry Committee meets for the purposes of interviewing persons seeking designation or re-designation as Interim Ministers. The Committee is composed of ministry personnel who themselves have served as Interim/transitional ministers and lay persons who have had an experience of Interim Ministry, often by serving on a Transition Committee during a time of Interim Ministry. During a time of significant transition in the life and work of

our church, those persons who have completed the training for Interim Ministry, and who the Committee discerns to have the skills and training necessary to this particular Ministry, may be able to assist congregations moving forward with new mission and ministry directions. The ability to act as a non-anxious presence, bringing “balcony view” observations and analysis to a congregational setting can be of great benefit when communities of faith feel over-whelmed by the challenges before them. If you have questions about Interim Ministry, please do not hesitate to contact our Committee.

Rev. Debbie Aitken,
Convener of Maritime Conference Interim Ministry Committee

Settlement Committee

The Maritime Conference Settlement Committee is made up of two representatives from each of our Presbyteries and Bermuda Synod and formally meets as a committee in early May, though for the last number of years it has been done by Conference call. It is out of that gathering that the Settlement Report is prepared for presentation on the floor of the Maritime Conference Annual meeting. Besides the written report, the better known function of the Settlement Committee is the prayerful matching of Ordinands and Commissionands to settlement sites in the conference. However, with changes made to the transfer and settlement process, there have been fewer matches, and this year (2015) there were no candidates nationally who sought to be settled through this traditional model.

As chair of the Settlement Committee, I am in conversation with potential Ordinands/ Commissionands in the early fall so that they can begin thinking about their settlement options. In past years I met with folks at AST in Halifax, but this year it was done through online communications. There are certainly many questions and challenges as students and pastoral charges continue to adapt to changes in the settlement process.

Many thanks, in advance, to the Presbytery representatives to the Settlement committee and the ongoing support of Kendall and Lorraine Horyl (support staff at Conference Office) which makes this responsibility just that much easier.

Sincerely,
Steve Longmoore

NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE

It has been an honour to be Chair of the Nominations Committee over the past year. The patience, dedication and cooperation of the persons serving on the committee is been second to none. We are privileged to have David Hewitt as our support staff person from Maritime Conference. David has been most helpful and patient and has managed to get us all on board through Webex which results in more meetings; fewer hours needed to travel to and from meetings; as well as, not being

subject to winter weather. We save mileage costs and other travel expenses. I am sending a huge shout out to all for their efforts in learning technology and getting things done!

The task of the Nominations Committee is to receive requests from various committees as members are needed; resignations from members as they move on; as well as occasional offers from some to serve on committees. We are limited by our knowledge of “who is who” on the rolls of Maritime Conference. We are challenged by geography.

We have requested people to serve through our weekly announcements for Maritime Conference. Responses are very limited in number and not always in a timely fashion after the announcements but we attempt to work through all communications as we seek persons to serve. In filling the vacancies on committees, we attempt to balance the committees on the basis of gender, age, ordered or lay, and geography. This is becoming more and more difficult to maintain. It seems apparent that more and more people are feeling the burnout of too many tasks for too few hours. There is also the uncertainty of the future structures of the church which seem to play on people’s minds as we move forward into the future.

Do you have time, talent or energy to serve on a committee? You may find a new breath of the Spirit as you take up a new focus. If you feel the call, please contact the Chair, either while you are at Conference or as you read the notices on the Maritime Conference Web Page.

We offer our sincere thanks to all who serve and those who are retiring from committee work this year. We thank Laura and Kendall, for their support; as well as Janice, who has left the Conference staff and who we will miss greatly. We also sincerely appreciate the huge contributions of Jennifer, Lorraine, and Marlene as they support the work, in various ways, of each committee within the conference. Thank You!

May the Holy Spirit guide us all as we journey.

Blessings

Bonnie Fraser, Chair, Nominations

DIRECTORY OF MEMBERSHIP OF STANDING COMMITTEES

President of Conference and Executive Secretary are Ex-officio members on all conference committees.

Terms of office are normally for three years with one additional year when necessary.

The year shown indicates the end of the term. * Indicates the fourth and final year.

For contact information visit the directory link <http://marconf.ca/directory-page/>.

ANNUAL MEETING PLANNING COMMITTEE

Chair – Ms. Annika Sangster	2016
President – Rev. Matthew Fillier	
Past President – Rev. Gloria Churchill	
Executive Secretary – Mr. David Hewitt	
Secretary – Rev. Ricky Bowley	2017

Members at Large (4):

- | | |
|------------------------------------|------|
| 1. Rev. Lori-Beth Sheffield-Bowles | 2017 |
| 2. Ms. Karen Ross | 2018 |
| 3. VACANT | |
| 4. VACANT | |

Representative of Christian Life and Growth - Children & Youth Programs

1. Ms. Shannon MacLean

Youth Forum Members:

1. Chair – Rev. David Campbell
Co-Directors / AMPC Rep – Ms. Alicia Walls
Co-Director – Mr. Mat Whynott
2. Secretary – Mr. Larry Hale
3. Facilities Coordinator / Representative to AMPC – Ms. Andrea Rogers
4. Registrar / Treasurer – Mr. Christopher Lane

Worship Planning Team – VACANT**Table Group Coordinator – VACANT**

Computer Use & Education – Mr. Roland Easter 2017

Local Arrangements

Chair – Rev. Heather Manuel 2016

Members: VACANT

Proposals Unit

Convenor – VACANT

Members at Large:

- | | |
|-------------------------|------|
| 1. Rev. Mary White | 2018 |
| 2. Rev. Rachel Campbell | 2018 |

ARCHIVES COMMITTEE

Chair – Rev. Gary MacDougall 2016

Secretary – VACANT

Professionals: Indefinite Term

1. Ms. Hannah Lane
2. Ms. Rhianna Edwards

Presbytery Archives Convenors (3 year terms):

- | | |
|------------------------|------|
| 1. Ms. Joyce Wylie | 2017 |
| 2. Ms. Heather Maclean | 2017 |

Members at Large:

- | | |
|---------------------------|-------|
| 1. Ms. Julielynn Anderson | 2016* |
| 2. Rev. Audrey Louder | 2016* |
| 3. Rev. Don MacQueen | 2016* |
| 4. VACANT | |
| 5. VACANT | |

Convenors of Working Groups

A Just Peace for Israel/Palestine:

Co-Convenors: Ms. Beverley McDonald and Ms. Linda Schzeringer

Aboriginal Concerns and Relations:

Convenor: Rev. Dr. T. Andrew J. O'Neill

Access to Justice:

Co-Convenors: Mr. Norman Laverty and Ms. Gail Wylie

Children and Youth in Crisis:

Convenor: VACANT

Environmental:

Co-Convenors: Ms. Emma Hebb and Ms. Margaret Machum

Mining Concerns:

Convenor: Ms. Kathryn Anderson

Mission Interpretation:

Convenor: Ms. Georgina Baisley

Refugee and Immigration Issues:

Convenor: Ms. Bev McDonald

Atlantic Christian Training Centre Representative: Rev. Robyn Brown-Hewitt

UCW Representative: Ms. Myrna Wicks

Men's Ministry Network: Mr. Robert Bartlett

Community Partners Members:

1. Atlantic Council for International Cooperation – VACANT
2. KAIROS Atlantic – VACANT
3. Breaking the Silence – Guatemala Solidarity Network – Ms. Myrna Wicks

Corresponding Members:

*Members of General Council Committees (Partners in Mission) Resident in Conference:
Ms. Kathryn J. Anderson

*Conference Facilitator for Global Mission Personnel,
Overseas Personnel Recently Returned, Resident in Conference:*

1. Mr. Gary MacDonald
 2. Mr. David and Ms. Zenora Rackham
- Conference Staff Resource: Ms. Laura Hunter

FINANCE & PROPERTY COMMITTEE

(10 members including Contact, Treasurer, & UCW representative)

Chair – Mr. Malcolm MacLeod	2016
Secretary – Mr. Michael Ball	2016
Members	
1. Ms. Margaret Ann Plant	2016*
2. Mr. Paul Wood	2016
3. Rev. Doreen Bird-Daley	2016*
4. Ms. Joan Linkletter	2016
5. Ms. Jane McDonald	2017
6. Mr. Ross MacIntosh	2018
UCW Representative – Ms. Joan Wright	
Treasurer of Conference – Mr. Alan Gray	

FINANCIAL SUPPORT COMMITTEE

Chair - Rev. Connie MacNamara	2016
Secretary – VACANT	
Members at Large (6):	
1. Ms. Fay Smith	2017
2. Rev. Lynn MacKinnon	2017
3. Rev. Gayle MacDonald	2017
4. Rev. Keith Adams	2016
5. VACANT	
6. VACANT	

U.C.W. Representative – Ms. Joan Wright
 Staff Resource: Ms. Laura Hunter

Bequest Review Committee:

1. Mr. Gordon MacGregor
2. Mr. Frank Chisholm

MINISTRY PERSONNEL AND EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Chair – Rev. Steven Longmoore	2017
Secretary – VACANT	
Chair Designate – Rev. Brian DeLong	

Categories of Ministries:

Ordained – Rev. Pix Butt	2017
Diaconal – Ms. Nan Corrigan	2016
Designated Lay Minister – VACANT	

Candidate Representative – (AST sends name)
 Church Secretaries' Association – Ms. Marg Lee
 Pensions Convenor – VACANT

Committee On Internship And Educational Supervision

Chair – VACANT

Secretary – Rev. Stephen Mills

2016

Members at Large:

- | | |
|----------------------------|-------|
| 1. Rev. Joan Griffin | 2016* |
| 2. Rev. Val Chongva | 2016 |
| 3. Mr. Mike Griffin | 2016 |
| 4. Rev. Cora Krommenhoek | 2017 |
| 5. Rev. Michael Goodfellow | 2017 |
| 6. VACANT | |
| 7. VACANT | |

(This committee will add as required)

Coordinating Committee On Sexual Abuse

Contact - Rev. Kendall Harrison

Education & Students

Convenor – VACANT

Secretary – Ms. Lorraine Horyl, Conference Staff

Interim Ministry Committee

Chair – Rev. Debbie Aitken

2017

Members at Large:

- | | |
|----------------------------|------|
| 1. Rev. Heather MacDougall | 2017 |
| 2. Rev. Curtis MacDonald | 2017 |
| 3. Ms. Heather Facey | 2017 |

Interview Board

Convenor – VACANT

Secretary – VACANT

Chair Designate – VACANT

Members:

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|-------|
| 1. Rev. Donna Tourneur | 2017 |
| 2. Rev. David Hann | 2017 |
| 3. Rev. Allison Davies | 2017 |
| 5. Rev. Elizabeth Bachem-Jennings | 2017 |
| 6. Rev. Pam Reidpath | 2016* |
| 7. Mr. R. Kent Gibbons | 2016* |
| 8. Rev. Sheila Redden Smith | 2016* |
| 9. Dr. Margot Roach | 2016* |
| 10. Mr. Wallace Ellis | 2016* |
| 11. VACANT | |
| 12. VACANT | |
| 13. VACANT | |
| 14. VACANT | |

- 15. VACANT
- 16. VACANT
- 17. VACANT
- 18. VACANT
- 19. VACANT

Related Staff Member: Rev. Kendall Harrison

Settlement Committee

Chair – VACANT

Secretary – Rev. Robert L. Johnson

NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE

Chair – Rev. Bonnie Fraser 2017

Members at Large (5):

- 1. Rev. Alison Etter 2017
- 2. Ms. Pauline Walker 2017
- 3. Rev. Catherine Stuart 2017
- 4. Mr. John Peach 2018
- 5. Rev. Rachel Campbell 2018

Conference UCW Representative – Ms. Anna Peters

Conference Past President – Rev. Gloria Churchill

Conference Staff Resource – Mr. David Hewitt, Executive Secretary

STAFF COMMITTEE

Chair – Rev. Jane Johnson 2018

Secretary – Rev. Rose-Hannah Gaskin 2016*

Members at Large (4):

- 1. Rev. Scott Stuart 2016
- 2. Rev. Susan Estabrooks 2018
- 3. Rev. Phillip Kennedy 2018
- 4. Rev. Meggin King 2018

Staff Liaison Persons:

- Ms. Elaine Gray
- Mr. Bill Drysdale
- Ms. Anne Pirie

Conference Representative to General Council – Ms. Pauline Walker

Conference Staff (Corresponding Members) - Rev. Kendall Harrison, Ms. Laura Hunter

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

Chair – VACANT

Members at Large:

- | | |
|-------------------------------|-------|
| 1. Rev. Ross Wiseman | 2016* |
| 2. Rev. Keltie van Binsbergen | 2016* |
| 3. Rev. Betty-Jean Friedman | 2016* |
| 4. Ms. Reta Manuel | 2018 |
| 5. VACANT | |

UCW Representatives (2):

1. Ms. Catherine MacLean
2. Ms. Olive Archibald

Related Staff Person – Ms. Laura Hunter

Financial Development Officer – VACANT

OTHER APPOINTMENTS**EXECUTIVE OF CONFERENCE - YOUTH REPRESENTATIVE**

Ms. Alison Wornell 2017

A.C.T.C. SOCIETY (3 Year Terms)

- | | |
|---------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. Rev. Betty Darby | 2015-2017 (2 nd Term) |
| 2. Rev. Allen Darby | 2015-2017 (2 nd Term) |
| 3. Ms. Nan Corrigan | 2015-2017 (2 nd Term) |
| 4. VACANT | |

ATLANTIC ECUMENICAL COUNCIL

Representatives:

- | | |
|---------------------------|-------|
| 1. Rev. Dr. Arthur Davies | 2016* |
| 2. Rev. Gerald Blaquiere | 2016* |

A.S.T. SENATE

Rev. Donna Tourneur 2017

CAMP WEGESEGUM (2 Year Terms)

- | | |
|------------------------|-------|
| 1. Ms. Wendy Cornfield | 2016 |
| 2. Mr. Robert Bartlett | 2016* |

GENERAL COUNCIL ARCHIVES COMMITTEE

Ms. Julielynne Anderson 2016

GENERAL COUNCIL EXECUTIVELay – Ms. Pauline Walker 2018 (2nd Term)Order of Ministry – 2015 (1st Term)

GENERAL COUNCIL JUDICIAL COMMITTEE

Rev. Steven Longmoore	2018
Rev. Dr. Susan MacAlpine-Gillis	2018
Ms. Kerri Seward	2018
Ms. Diana Ginn	2018

MOUNT ALLISON BOARD OF REGENTS (4 Year Terms, effective January 1)

Ms. Carol Chapman	2015-2019
Rev. Dr. Andrew Richardson	2015-2019 (2 nd Term)

N.S. INSTITUTE OF PASTORAL TRAINING (4 Year Terms)

1. VACANT

PINE HILL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

1. Mr. David Hewitt, Executive Secretary
2. VACANT

MARITIME CONFERENCE UNITED CHURCH WOMEN

President – Ms. Catherine MacLean
 Past-President – Ms. Anna Peters
 President-Elect – Ms. Sarah Goodfellow
 Recording Secretary – Ms. Irene Caswell
 Corresponding Secretary – Ms. Jean Smith
 Treasurer – Ms. Joan Wright
 CLG - Prog & Literature – Ms. Adell Thomas
 CLG - Leadership – Ms. Sharon Moyse
 Church in Action – Ms. Myrna Wicks
 Stewardship – Ms. Olive Archibald
 Archives – Ms. Marina Russell
 Finance – Ms. Joan Wright
 Press/Publicity/Newsletter – Ms. Fran Harding
 Berwick Cottage Committee – Ms. Joan Fraser
 Nominations – Ms. Anna Peters
 Website Assistant – Ms. Reta Manuel

UCW Presbyterian Presidents

Bermuda – Ms. Marilyn Dyer	Chignecto – Ms. Judith Colwell
Halifax – Ms. Rena Mae MacDonald	Miramichi – Ms. Barb Badger
Pictou – Ms. Olive Archibald	Prince Edward Island – Ms. Helen MacLeod
Saint John – Ms. Marilyn Magee	St. Croix – Ms. Dorothy Jackson
South Shore – Ms. Ruth Rudderham	Sydney – Ms. Mary Quirk
Truro – Ms. Joanna Leblanc	

U.C. HOME, SACKVILLE, N.B. TRUSTEES BOARD

Reported to Executive

STAFF COMMITTEE

The Staff Committee serves the Maritime Conference by providing oversight and support for all of the employees of the Conference and a confidential and consultative forum. Each staff person is provided the opportunity to have a liaison who is a full member of the Committee. The hope and aim is the maintaining of good relationships that will serve everyone well in addressing challenges when they rise. The day to day supervision of the Conference staff is the responsibility of the Executive Secretary.

We continue to be deeply grateful for all the staff of Maritime Conference. They respond to an extremely diverse set of expectations and requests with grace and competence while, at the same time, exploring new and creative facets and expressions of ministry in these changing times. They provide crucial support for the many volunteers and committees who make the vibrant life of this geographically vast and socially diverse Conference possible. We are pleased to note their continued roles in making the Maritime Conference Centre a welcome and hospitable place for church and non-church visitors and users. We also note that staff have been active in exploring new ways of serving Presbyteries and Congregations.

During this year we gave deep and real thanks to the Rev Janice MacLean as she completed her ministry of education and nurture in our midst. Her time at the conference office has spanned an incredible technological revolution in the methods of programme delivery as well as many changes in the theological and logistics of responding to spiritual nurture for all age groups. And Janice has kept the Conference at the cutting edge of most – if not all – of those changes. We wish her well in her new vocation as she seeks to build spiritually supportive community through Internet-delivered programming.

The Conference Executive – on the advice of the Staff Committee and the Executive Secretary – decided not to immediately fill the position vacated by Janice. Monies realized by this action have been made available to congregations, presbyteries, groups and committees to find other methods of supporting necessary work. Another reason for not filling the position is the overall state of uncertainty facing the United Church. The General Council will receive the report of the Comprehensive Review Task Group, which recommends significant restructuring. It is not clear how this restructuring will impact our Conference Staff, as the Report lays out neither geographical nor deployment specifics. Whether or not the Report is adopted (in whole or in part) the financial realities of the national church are such that we will see significant shrinkage in the size of the grant for Conference operations. So, in any event, the Conference will be faced with major decisions, some of which will inevitably impact on our Staff. The Staff Committee is committed to support all of those we employ in this period of uncertainty which has already existed for some time and promises to continue for a number of years.

We continue to hear from the program staff about the many and various draws on their time. They are hard working resource people, teachers and confidants not only for their committees, but also for Presbyteries and Pastoral Charges. In a time when there is much energy and attention being given to ministries in different shapes and forms as well as anxiety about an uncertain future, the staff are sometimes the focus of a wide variety of emotions. We are impressed by their ability to

respond to many different calls and, at the same time, initiate new and exciting forms of ministry and consultation and we are grateful for the ministry of all the staff in our midst.

In Christ's service

Ross Bartlett* for the Staff Committee:

Staff Liaisons: Bill Drysdale, Elaine Gray, Jane Johnson, Anne Pirie

Members at large: Brett Anningson*, Rose-Hannah Gaskin, Scott Stuart, Jean Ward*

Maritime Conference General Council Executive Rep: Pauline Walker

*Concluding their service with the rise of Conference

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

Once again the people of Maritime Conference have proved themselves to be wonderfully generous souls. Gifts to the Mission and Service of The United Church of Canada from this Conference in 2014 totalled \$2,949,826. A special thanks to United Church Women's groups who raised \$174,439 of that total!

In November, current and past members of the Stewardship Committee hosted a grand dinner and celebration at the Conference Centre to honour the ministry of Pam Harrison as she retired from her years as the Financial Development Officer for this region. Pam's colourful personality and flair for story-telling provided the theme for the evening. Many thanks to Pam for the enthusiasm and fun she brought to the work.

After the success of last year's Stewarding the Stewards learning event at Tatamagouche Centre, follow-up events were requested. To respond, the Committee co-hosted a well-attended webinar offered in February by Rev. Dr. Rob Fennell called *The Stewarding Self: Giving and Our Christian Identity*. Also, a practical, hands-on stewardship workshop was planned for early in 2015 again at Tatamagouche. However, storms and numbers caused this event to be postponed until September 2015. We look forward to having the depth of experience and skills of our national staff from the Philanthropy Unit with us once again for that event. If your congregation is wondering about ways to increase givings at the local level you will want to mark this event on your calendar! Watch for announcements.

As always, the committee would like to commend the many volunteers who keep us thinking and living generously!

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORTS

Affirming Ministry Task Group – Maritime Conference

Members: April Hart, Rev. Jane Johnson, Rev. Meggin King, Rev. Bob Johnson,
David Hewitt, Executive Secretary.

Since the May 2014 meeting of Maritime Conference, we have focused on preparing a Vision Statement and Plan of Action regarding Maritime Conference formally taking action to become an Affirming Ministry within The United Church of Canada. We have directly developed these statements on the basis of feedback from the process we shared with the delegates to the 2014 Conference Annual Meeting.

These statements have been carefully reviewed by the Conference Executive (in October 2014 and in April 2015). They have been vetted by the Affirm United Council. They have been shared widely with Conference Committees, Presbyteries – and through the Presbyteries, with Pastoral Charges. The responses we have received throughout this process over the past eight months have been carefully reviewed, considered, and many included in the final statements which are a part of our annual report to you.

We once again commend Youth Forum members for encouraging us to undertake this journey some four years ago. We look forward to sharing our final report with them and with Intermediates at Conference at our upcoming Annual Meeting. We also look forward to the contribution our youth and young adults will make in our discussions.

We are deeply grateful for the time and care that the people of Maritime Conference have taken in considering this Vision Statement and Plan of Action. Further careful and prayerful consideration will be undertaken as part of our presentation to the Conference on Friday morning. As a Conference-appointed task group, we hope that formal positive action will be taken in regards to these statements at that time or within the business agenda of this Annual Meeting.

Submitted by Bob Johnson on behalf of the Affirming Ministry Task Group

Envisioning Affirming Ministry
within Maritime Conference, The United Church of Canada
(Draft 6 – April 9, 2015)

- In keeping with the Core Values Statement and Ministry Priorities affirmed in May 2014 (noted below) and recognizing the wide range of diversity of peoples within its bounds, Maritime Conference seeks to create a safe and welcoming space for all people.
- Maritime Conference understands affirming to mean “gifts shared for the good of all, resistance to the forces that exploit and marginalize,...human dignity defended...” (A Song of Faith, UCC), as seen in the teachings and actions of Jesus, the Christ**.
- Therefore, Maritime Conference will celebrate the blessings of, and support one another in the challenges of, our diverse life experiences, including but not limited to: sexual orientation, gender or gender identity, life experience, different abilities, ethnicity, race, generational culture, age, geographic location, economic circumstances, and others we have yet to discern. That said, we note that this work was born out of a particular concern for discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity within the church.
- Maritime Conference will equally welcome all people as children of God and offer them the complete range of opportunities to fully be part of and participate in the life

and work of the church, continually seeking to identify and dismantle barriers that hinder the participation and inclusion of marginalized groups and individuals. Listening actively and attentively, we will strive to live into understanding one another, treating those with whom we disagree with love and respect.

** (*Some* scripture references to “teachings”: Matthew 22:34-40 [*Love Your Neighbour as Yourself*], Matthew 25:31-46 [*The Final Judgement: “Inasmuch as you have done...”*], Luke 10:25-37 [*The Good Samaritan*], Luke 15:11-32 [*The Prodigal Son*], and “actions”: Mark 5:21-23 [*Jairus’ Daughter and the Woman Who Touched the Hem of Jesus’ Garment*], Mark 10:13-16 [*Jesus Blesses Little Children*], Luke 19:1-10 [*Zacchaeus*], John 4:1-26 [*The Woman at the Well*].)

Core Values Statement

Guided by the Spirit, mindful of our roots, we are a community of faith, called to celebrate the Christian gospel by supporting congregations to practice:

5. Inclusion

6. Hospitality

7. Justice-making

8. Life-long learning

to bring about transformation and renewal.

Ministry Priorities (2010-2015)

7. To provide financially- and geographically-accessible leadership development programs and resources

8. To support local ministries through congregations, the main mission unit of The United Church of Canada, and efforts which equip people to share their faith

9. To practice radical hospitality

10. To reach out in our communities to embrace the multigenerational and multi-faith mix of the whole people of God

Enacting Affirming Ministry

within Maritime Conference, The United Church of Canada

(Draft 6 – April 9, 2015)

“Seeking to continue the story of Jesus by embodying Christ’s presence in the world” (A Song of Faith, UCC), Maritime Conference is committed to enacting this vision for affirming ministry within the Conference. Therefore, in fulfillment of this vision, Maritime Conference will:

- a. Incorporate this vision and plan of action into the mandate of a standing Conference Committee for Affirming Ministry in order to support and provide resources to the congregations of Maritime Conference in an ongoing process of being an affirming ministry within The United Church of Canada.
- b. Expect the Maritime Conference administrative and programming staff to fashion their ministry, at all times and in all places, in keeping with this vision.
- c. Expect the Maritime Conference standing and ad hoc committees, units, and task groups to regularly assess their agendas and their ministry to see that they are in keeping

- with this vision and to report on the same to the Conference Committee on Affirming Ministry.
- d. Promote and identify Conference's Affirming Ministry status in official Maritime Conference signage, facilities, ways of being welcoming, our social media, our documentation, etc.
 - e. Direct the Conference Ministry Personnel and Education Committee to encourage Inquirers, Candidates, and Applicants for ministry within the Conference to carefully and prayerfully discern whether Maritime Conference, as an Affirming Ministry, can be a place for them to actively pursue their call to ministry.
 - f. Actively advocate for issues of sexual orientation and gender identity, both within the churches and ministries of our Conference and in the wider non-church community.
 - g. Not discriminate against ministers applying to serve in the Conference on the basis of sexual orientation, age, gender or gender identity, race, ethnicity, or ministry category (Diaconal, Ordained, Designated, Lay).
 - h. Work toward becoming a Conference in which inclusive marriage is available and recognized in all pastoral charges. To that end, Maritime Conference will expect oversight of pastoral charges to include conversation around fully inclusive marriage policies (as already recommended by the 2009 General Council).

Incorporated Ministries Reporting

The mandate of the IMAC is to receive annual reports from all incorporated bodies related to The United Church of Canada and resident in the Maritime Conference and report to the Conference.

#	Name	Constitution/ Bylaws	Liability Insurance	Directors Report	Last Financial Report
1	Abbey St. Andrew Inc.	2008	2015	2014	2014
2	Arthur Kidston Memorial Camp	2011	2015	2014	2013
3	Atlantic Christian Training Centre (Tatamagouche Centre)	Revised 2013	2015	2013	2014
4	Brunswick Street Mission	2015	NR	NR	2014
5	Camp Abegweit Organization	UR	2015	2015	2014
6	Camp Ta-Wa-Si Inc.	Revised 2015	2016	2014	2015
7	Camp Wegesegum	2001	2015	2015	2013
8	Carleton Kirk Complex	1992	2015	2014	2014
9	Centenary-Queen Square Care Centres Inc.	1989	2016	2014	2014
10	Church Extension Board - Halifax Presbytery	Revised 2014	2015	2014	2014
11	Church Extension Board - PEI Presbytery	Revised 2013	2016	2010	2013
12	Fairview United Family Resource Centre	2002	2015	2014	2014

13	Financial Services	1992	2015	2014	2014
14	Home Mission Council Saint John	2003	2016	2015	2014
15	Hunter Church Building Fund	NR	NR	2015	2000
16	Ken Val United Church Suites	2006	2015	2014	2014
17	Mount Allison University	1994	2015	2015	2014
18	Newport Village	2008	2016	2014	2014
19	North Dartmouth Outreach Resource Centre	1996	2015	2015	2013
20	Ossekeag Place, Hampton	2011	2015	2014	2014
21	Prince Place (Miramichi) Inc.	2013	NR	NR	NR
22	Sherbrooke Lake United Church Camp	NR	2015	NR	2011
23	St. Paul's Family Resources Institute	1985	2015	2014	2014
24	UC Camp Meeting Association (Berwick Camp)	1885	2015	2014	2014
25	UC Home For Senior Citizens – Drew	2012	2015	2014	2014

List of Incorporated Ministries Directory

Abbey St. Andrew Inc.

Andrea Brown
David Cleveland
John Manning
Carl Trickey
Tanya Mackenzie

Bart Claus
Adam Dickinson
Terry Robertson
Charles Wanamaker

Arthur Kidston Memorial Camp

Cyndy Allen
Angela Falkenham
David Hart
Grace MacMillan
Cheyllynne Morris
Jennifer Power
Lauren Scott

Pam Carter
Jennifer Forster
David Lea
Janet Moffatt
Mike Pottie
Elliott Prouty

Atlantic Christian Training Centre (Tatamagouche Centre)

Wilf Bean
Berta Gaulke
Theresa Halfkenny
Ida MacPherson
Jim Wicks

Lori Crocker
Jennifer Graham
Karen MacNeill
Avi Singh

Brunswick Street Mission

Sherri Aikenhead
Margo Beveridge
Doug Brown
Noni MacDonald

Grace Beazley
Paul Bowlby
Doug Jarvis
Carol MacLean

Susan MacQuarrie
 Barbara McLean
 Tim Peach
 Andrew Scollick
 Brian Williams

Martha Martin
 Scott Noddin
 Anne Peltekian
 Ted Tupper

Camp Abegweit Organization

Jackie Affleck
 Jim Blanchard
 Linda Durdle
 Bob Lockhart
 Gary Paynter
 Michelle Wilson

Joan Barlow
 Garth Cousins
 Sharon Howatt
 Lynn MacKinnon
 Nancy Pearson

Camp Ta-Wa-Si Inc.

Daniel Bernardi
 Stanley Dixon
 Graham Hansen
 Kourtney Logan
 Allan McLaughlin
 Melissa Merrithew
 Chantal Roy
 Roger Russell
 Lynne Wells

Lois Budd
 Alice Dupuis
 Wayne Jarvis
 Angela MacLeod
 Ruth Mitton
 Jonathan Morton
 Allison Russell
 Larry Wells

Camp Wegesegum

David Appleby
 Robert Bartlett
 Rhonda McAllister Copeland
 Margaret Fanjoy
 Gwen O'Brien Reid

Lois Bartlett
 Jim Brewster
 Wendy Cornfield
 Shirley Hunt
 George Richardson

Carleton Kirk Lodge

George Burchill
 Judy Harrity
 Shirley Martin
 Peter Perry
 Heather Toole

Nancy Gillies
 Paul Hooper
 Mary Melanson
 Donald Scott
 Ian Wilson

Centenary-Queen Square Care Centres Inc.

Bob Barton
 Jim Crooks
 Elizabeth Ann Gallant
 Deborah Tremblay
 Lauren Wiesel

Christopher Boudreau
 Melanie Dickinson
 Eric Marr
 Amanda Van Malsen-Parent

Church Extension Board – Halifax Presbytery

Michael Bird
 Ron Cochrane
 Alan Ellis
 Louisa Horne
 Steven Pace

Dale Chisholm
 Diana Dalton
 Jim Fraser
 Vincent Ihasz

Church Extension Board – PEI Presbytery

Susan Dalziel
 Joan Linkletter
 Barbara Prowse
 Gordon Vessey

David Hamilton
 Elaine Palmer-Harding
 Ernie Stavert

Fairview United Family Resource Centre

Natalie Brown
 Sandra Fenn
 Denise Hirtle
 Brenda Munro

Robert Carter
 Tia Forsythe
 Cathi MacDonald
 Daniel Veldhuijzen van Zanten

Financial Services of The Maritime Conference of The United Church of Canada

Doug Cosman, Chair
 Donald Mackay, Secretary
 Anne Thompson, Treasurer
 W. Grant Thompson, Assistant Treasurer
 Alan Gray, Treasurer, Maritime Conference
 David Hewitt, Corresponding Member
 Irene Caswell, Halifax Presbytery
 Roy Einarson, Inverness-Guysborough Presbytery

Terry Mathews, Miramichi Presbytery
 Richard Boulter, PEI Presbytery
 Kevin Dingwell, PEI Presbytery
 Mark Hatfield, St. Croix Presbytery
 David MacLean, Sydney Presbytery
 Alex MacClure, Sydney Presbytery
 Cliff Moase, Woolastook Presbytery
 Lloyd Penney, Woolastook Presbytery

Home Mission Council Saint John

Bruce Campbell
 Martha Crabbe
 Vince Galbraith
 Carolyn Johnson
 Douglas Loughery
 Joanne McLaughlin
 Irvine Robertson

Corrine Carpenter
 Brion Crossman
 Gerald Higgins
 Bill Kearns
 James McKenzie
 Doreen Rankine

Hunter Church Building Fund

Charles Baxter
 Trent Cleveland-Thompson
 Ross Hallett
 Elroy McKillop
 Robert Mills
 Jim Sykes

Blake Caldwell
 Louise Gosbee
 Vincent Ihasz
 Harriet McWhirter
 Vivian Moores

Ken Val United Church Suites

Jack Brien
 Lisa Dunnett
 Sean Handcock
 Dirk Larooi
 Harold McKinnon
 Debbie Ogden
 Cheryl Raeburn
 Bill Whittaker

Mary Crowley
 George Fisk
 Hally Kimball
 Audrey Lounder
 Karen MacNeill
 Bruce Phillips
 Sheree Trecartin

Mount Allison University

Robert Campbell, President
 David Booth
 Andrew Clark
 Jane Craighead
 Mark Fraser
 Tom Hierlihy
 Robert Inglis
 Susan McIsaac
 Ian Nason
 Jill Rafuse
 Andrew Richardson
 Heather Webster
 Sarah Young

Peter Mansbridge, Chancellor
 Carol Chapman
 George Cooper
 James Dickson
 Blois Hennigar
 David Hornidge
 Barry Kyle
 Brian MacLeod
 Ron Outerbridge
 Jane Ralling
 Bruce Robertson
 Peter Winters

Newport Village

David Andrews, Administrator
 Dorothy MacDonald
 Jean Pond
 Peter Thompson, Manager
 Carolyn Vail

Thomas Baduik
 Lester Mott
 Ian Stead
 Bill Vail
 Sandra Winchester

North Dartmouth Outreach Resource Centre

Helen Carpenter
 Tom Clarke
 Lamont Dobbin
 Brigit Hurst
 Charles Jeffrey
 Betty Kemp
 Gordon McKeen
 Kees Zwanenburg

Kevin Clarke
 Carl Day
 Frances Hunter
 Gerry Irwin
 David Kaiser
 Dale Knox
 Martin Walker

Osseakeag Place, Hampton

Georgie Day
 Shirley Gamble – Tenant Relations
 Brian Gesner

Bob Gallup
 Barb Gates
 Kelly Hudson-Lewis

Blanche Jones
 Anne MacAndrew
 Lloyd McKinley
 Debbie Sproule – Tenant Relations

Darrell Kilpatrick
 Jim McKenzie
 Judy Milley

Prince Place (Miramichi)

Georgina Baisley
 Royden Donald
 Gwen Geikie
 Earle Howe
 Hal Raper
 Linda Treadwell

Penne Buckley
 John Fraser
 David Hewitt
 Stan Knowles
 Elwin Hubbard

Sherbrooke Lake United Church Camp

Not received at time of printing

St. Paul's Family Resources Institute

Elaine Amirault
 Doug Brown
 Stan Lake
 Nancy McQuinn
 Marilyn Pierce

Paul Britton
 Ron Buckley
 Betty Maxner
 Carolyn Mont
 Dorothy Rudolph

United Church Home for Senior Citizens (Drew Nursing Home)

Judith Cairns
 Janet Crawford
 Gerald Hannah
 Lillian MacMellon
 Mona Meldrum
 Ron Roper
 Nancy Vogan

Frank Chisholm
 Catherine Gaw
 Glenna Lightfoot
 Roin Maund
 Nelson Price
 Wayne Trail

United Church Meeting Association (Berwick Camp)

Gordon Cameron
 Brian DeLong
 David Hewitt
 Steve Miller
 Andy O'Neill
 Krista Rietzel
 Eric Schurman
 Dawn Wood

Chrissie Crooks
 Wayne Fiander
 Mark MacLean
 Tim O'Brien
 Tim O'Neill
 Brian Rietzel
 Jack Spencer

United Church Men

Our Vision Statement: *“To lead men to an understanding of the work and witness of the church, that through commitment to Christ, they may fulfill the ministry to which they are called, in the home, in daily work, in the community and in the world.”*

Just prior to the MC AGM 2014, we hosted our seventh Biennial Men’s Rally at Trinity-St. Stephen’s United Church in Amherst, NS. Guest Speaker, Rev Dr. Andrew Stirling, former minister at Woodlawn United in Dartmouth, now Senior Minister at Timothy Eaton Memorial in Toronto, challenged us with his theme, “Setting a Destination . . . a GPS for the church.” We elected our executive for 2014-16: President, Bob Bartlett, Fredericton, NB, Past-President, Don Hill, Dartmouth, NS, 1st VP, Carl Wilson, Stanley, NB, 2nd VP, Allan Borden, Moncton, NB, Secretary, Bob Lindsay, Dartmouth, NS, Treasurer, Dwight Perkins, Dartmouth, NS, Members-at-large for NB, Layton Peck, Hampton, and Wally Ellis, Stanley, Members-at-large for NS, Dick Charlton, Dartmouth, Ron Patterson, Amherst, and Members-at-large for PEI, Fred Connolly. We need one more representative from that beautiful island!

A DVD of our last rally will soon be available and planning is underway for our next rally in the spring of 2016. Any ideas would be greatly appreciated.

Since our last rally, the Cape Breton Men’s Conference, September, 2014, and the Fredericton Christian Men’s Retreat, February, 2015, have successfully been held. Although both of these events have become ecumenical in nature and attendance, they both have their beginnings from men in the United Church. Besides, a variety of Men’s Breakfasts are held monthly at various locations throughout the Maritimes.

We were deeply saddened with the death of one of our most dedicated supporters, Gil Collicott, of Amherst. Gil was a key contributor for all the rallies, from assisting in planning and local arrangements, to his major role as photographer and recording for the DVDs of each rally. He will be sorrowfully missed most for his friendship and his wit. Gil, our loss is heavens gain!

We should also have a newsletter coming out soon. Please keep in touch and let us know what is happening in your piece of Maritime heaven.

Bob Bartlett, President
Maritime Conference
United Church Men

United Church Women

Over the past few months, it has been a great pleasure for me to visit with so many dedicated UCW members across Maritime Conference. Although there are fewer of us in this time of transition, I know that we still have the will and the ability to do good work in a society that is much in need. It pleases me to report that while our numbers are down, M and S donations have not decreased.

In every Presbyterian I visit, I meet so many capable women who have been and continue to be leaders in their home units and in their congregations. From this pool of very competent people, the Church has drawn many notable leaders and this will keep on happening. In a changing Church world we are doing things differently. Some churches have had to close the doors. We live in a different time, so we will not be doing things the same old way. Some congregations shrink in winter as “snowbirds” go south. Others lose momentum in the warmer seasons as outside activity increases. We continue to adapt.

“Caring at Home” is the theme chosen for Maritime Conference UCW until the next Biennial. There are lots of ways to do this. Children, adults and seniors have been the focus of many local projects.

With the “Caring at Home” theme in mind we hope to contribute in a worthwhile way to the National project “Child Well-Being Initiative”. Child Poverty is a big concern in Canada. Our Conference is no exception. We need to be better informed. Collect newspaper articles. Listen for other media reports. Gather information from schools, food banks, child welfare agencies, hospitals and shelters. A plan of action called “Bread, Not Stones” is available for downloading on our UCW website. It contains Worship and Bible Study resources as well as a plan of action. I urge you to get it and use it. It is my vision and plan that a MCUCW leadership team will be formed to facilitate this vital work. It’s a big job, but we can make a difference.

We all look forward to General Council in Corner Brook when the Comprehensive Review will be discussed in depth and in detail. We are praying for a sustainable church model.

Phyllis Buchner, our National UCW President has chosen “Roots and Wings” as a theme for her term of office. We can recall that phrase being used in relation to our new Conference building. It is a good concept to hold up and to remember in these challenging times.

Under the guidance of Cynthia Gunn, UCW Guidelines are receiving a careful review. The process is well advanced. The revised UCW Handbook will be available soon. In my view, the UCW is alive and well, and I am pleased to be counted among their number.

Respectfully submitted,
Catherine J. MacLean, President

OTHER REPORTS

Atlantic School of Theology Senate

The Senate of Atlantic School of Theology is made up of faculty, appointed representatives from ASTIAA, denominational partners, and student representatives. Together these twenty-five or so people assume oversight of the academic life of the institution.

I was appointed in February to fill the Maritime Conference Representative position, left vacant when Don Uhryniw answered a call outside our conference. There has only been one meeting of

the Senate since I assumed the responsibility of representing the Maritime Conference. The following is a summary and some brief observations from that meeting.

The AST strategic plan was presented, we received a report from the diploma in Youth Ministry, heard about a proposed recruitment strategy, and considered a specific student request. Other reports were presented from committees responsible for curriculum, worship/ chaplaincy, lectureship, academics, honorary degrees, arts and theology. Also the senate received reports from the President, the Board of Governors, Property, the Academic Dean, the Director of Summer Distance MDiv, and the Registrar. We were assured that the search for a new president was yielding promising results, but there was no public announcement at that point. We have since learned that the Rev. Neale S. Bennet, MBA, MDiv, has been appointed the next President of the Atlantic School of Theology (AST) effective July 1, 2015. Bennet, a graduate of AST, is an Anglican priest with a background in strategic organizational leadership, organizational learning, and leadership development. He will be perfectly poised for the work AST has been about recently.

Readers may be interested to learn that at the core of the **recruitment** strategy is an effort to strengthen long standing relationships and building on new ones. Invitations for congregation members to visit the AST campus rather than sending a recruitment team out is one such initiative.

AST is lobbying against the recommendation that the United Church of Canada adopt a “**competency model**” as the measure by which preparation for ministry is adjudicated. AST had compiled a review of the model and is prepared to make a bold statement at the meeting of the General Council this summer. The Academic Dean voiced the challenge for theological education, which is to aspire for something more than baseline competency, rather strives for excellence and employs best practices.

The **strategic plan** is detailed within several priorities: Inspired learning, Living Ecumenism, Vibrant Partnerships, Influential thinking, Sustainable Stewardship. It is interesting and well developed, providing focus for helpful outcomes.

I look forward to serving the church in this capacity, at this very important and interesting time in the life of AST. I will attempt to offer a grass roots perspective, as the term unfolds.

Sincerely,
Donna Tournour

Atlantic School of Theology

The past year at AST has been one of transitions and foundation building for the future.

With the departure of President Eric Beresford in June 2014 the Board opted to appoint a temporary President whilst conducting a search for a permanent replacement for President Beresford. Dr. Daniel O’Brien who served a one year term as President three years ago was again enlisted to serve this role. You may be aware from previous announcements Dr. O’Brien is and experienced

university President having served sixteen years as President of St. Thomas University, Fredericton. Since retiring from that post he has maintained a very active consulting practice and has served both AST and NSCAD University in transitional Presidency roles. A very thorough search for a new permanent President was successfully concluded with the selection and appointment of Reverend Neale Bennet effective July 1, 2015. Bennet, a graduate of AST is an Anglican priest with a background in strategic organizational leadership, organizational learning, and leadership development. He is currently Director of Organizational learning at Nova Scotia Community College and previously was Director of Organizational Development and Transformation at Capital Health. He co-leads the vision, strategy and support team on Building Healthy Leadership for the Anglican Diocese of Nova Scotia and PEI and is a conference leader at the annual diocesan gathering for those discerning a call to ordained ministry. An Honorary Assistant at St. Paul's Anglican Church in Halifax, the Rev. Bennet was ordained in 2004 after a successful career in the marketing and communication business.

Another major initiative concluded this year was finalizing and approving a comprehensive five year strategic Plan which contains our hope, aspirations and measurable action plans.

A further major undertaking this year has been the teasing out of alternate options for "right sizing" our campus and its buildings. We have received interesting proposals from bona fide groups which we are deeply involved in vetting at the current time. Ultimate go-forward decisions will be balanced against demonstrable improvements to our financial sustainability; quality and adequacy of alternate space on our campus; compatibility of alternate users with our mission and purpose; confidence that the risks associated with alternate developments are tolerable.

We have been actively engaged in early stages of new program development in inter-faith programs and in Pastoral counselling with a particular focus on the spiritual care of those facing imminent end of life.

A final initiative this year has been in the area of student recruitment. Under the leadership of Dean Jody Clarke a new robust recruitment plan has been developed, and approved, and is in the process of implementation.

As my time at AST is drawing to a close I should like to thank all those in our community who have supported me as an "outsider" in this all important transitional year.

Dr. Daniel O'Brien, C.M., O.N.B.
President Atlantic School of Theology

Financial Services of Maritime Conference

Financial Services of Maritime Conference has three primary functions: to manage pooled investments comprised of trust monies placed in our care by cemeteries or congregations and two-year deposits from congregations or individuals; to provide loans to congregations for capital projects; and to hold in trust any real property of Maritime Conference.

We meet twice a year, the fourth Tuesday of April and October. Other meetings are called as needed. Each October we set the interest rates for the coming year. The interest rates for 2015 for Trust Accounts is 4.5%; for the 2 year deposits is 4.0% ; and the 2015 rate for new loans is 4.5%.

Our greatest challenge is with regard to membership. The Board of Directors is made up of two representatives from each Presbytery, one ministry person and one layperson. We have been blessed with some excellent people with considerable wisdom and skill. However, we rarely have a full slate of representatives. There are many Presbyteries who send only one person or none at all. Directors are accountable to their Presbytery but do not have to be a member of Presbytery. Please give prayerful consideration to people from your region who could serve.

Respectfully submitted,
Karen MacNeill

General Council Executive

The General Council Executive meets 2 times a year in the National Church Office located in Toronto, this term in November 15-17, 2014 and March 21-23, 2015. It is composed of 1 Lay and 1 Ordered Ministry person from each Conference with the assistance of our General Council support staff and the General Secretary (Nora Sanders) and The Moderator (the Rt. Rev. Gary Paterson).

The November meeting debated, discussed and decided upon the following:

- Comprehensive compensation for ministry personnel;
- Future directions for Diaconal ministry;
- Program for debt re-payment for ordered ministry;
- Apology to the LGBTTTQ community;
- National strategy for ministries in French;
- Competency based approach to ministerial education;
- Candidacy pathway report;
- Effective Leadership and Healthy Pastoral Relations Report;
- One Order of Ministry.

We also received reports from our Ecumenical Partner from Palestine, Aboriginal Ministry Council, Theology and Inter-Church and Inter-Faith, Finance Committee, Pension Board, World Council of Churches, and the General Council Planning Committee.

Proposals came forth and were carried concerning:

- Licensed Lay Worship Leader policy;
- Congregational designated Ministry Policy;
- Group Insurance Renewal;
- Human resources Policy Changes.

Memoranda of Understanding were signed with the Methodist Caribbean Church, and Methodist Church Zimbabwe.

The March Meeting worked upon the following:

One Order of Ministry;
Towards a new Model of Membership;
Youth and Young Adult Strategy;
LGBTQT Living Apology;
On Line Communion;
Extension of Unsettling Group Campaign;
Mission and Ministry with Migrant Church;
Physician Assisted Death.

Proposals decided upon were:

Sabbaticals for persons involved in Interim Ministry;
Changes to Admissions Policy and Procedures;
Addressing Systematic Inequality in Clergy Compensation;
Gender Transitioning Health Spending Account.

Topics discussed in plenary were:

Mutual recognition with the Presbyterian Church in the Republic of Korea;
Full Communion agreement with the United Church of Christ in the USA;
and Effective Leadership.

The full contents of the meeting workbooks are available on line before every meeting and we would recommend them to your attention as well as the summary that comes out following the meetings.

Thanking you for your kind attention, we remain your servants,
Pauline Walker and Ivan Gregan

Hunter United Church Building Fund

It has been a very busy year for the Trustees of the Fund. We have welcomed the Rev. Vivian Moores as our latest member.

The greatest challenge this past year has been our attempt to broaden the eligibility for applicants in response to the great needs in congregations and pastoral charges in these very challenging times. This, of course, must be done within the basic framework established many years ago when the fund was first established.

A one year trial period was announced whereby 'special' grant applications would be received with a deadline of November 30th 2014. This information was shared with all Presbyteries who have congregations within the province of Nova Scotia. Nine 'special' applications were received and considered at our December, 2014 meeting in Halifax. \$78,000 in total was approved pending notification that project(s) had been completed accompanied by matching receipts.

At our Spring meeting in May of 2015, we will examine our financial position and determine the level of assistance we might be able to offer in the new year.

We will be providing information as it becomes available with Maritime Conference and Presbytery Secretaries when a course of action has been approved.

We have received letters from many of the congregations and pastoral charges that we have been able to assist.

In the new year, we will continue to prayerfully exercise this special ministry in our attempt to carry out the challenging, yet gratifying mandate entrusted to us.

Trustee Members:

Ross Hallett, Chair

Charles Baxter, Treasurer

Louise Gosbee

Rev. Dr. Robert Mills

Rev. Trent Cleveland-Thompson

Jim Sykes

Rev. Blake Caldwell, Secretary

Harriet McWhirter

Rev. Vivian Moores

Rev. Vincent Ihasz

Rev. Elroy Mckillop

Respectfully Submitted

Rev. Blake Caldwell, Secretary

Hunter United Church Building Fund

Review of 2014 Mission and Service Giving

With gratitude, we celebrate the gifts we have shared for God's mission. Our gifts enable us and others to walk in justice and act with loving kindness. The generosity of the people of Maritime Conference in 2014 for both local mission and ministry *AND* Mission & Service offers hope and kindness to people and places in Canada and around the world.

1. **Annual giving to the Mission and Service "Unified Fund"** marks a positive improvement over trends of the past few years with \$25.67M nationally of which \$2,949,826 was given by the people of Maritime Conference. Nationally this represents a decrease of only \$0.39M below 2013. This is an improvement over the last two years' decreases of over \$1M each year. Across the church, we note that 1185 congregations are in 816 pastoral charges that increased their Mission & Service giving in 2014. Thank you to the 212 congregations in 119 pastoral charges in Maritime Conference who are a part of this generosity!

2. **Giving through wills and other planned giving to Mission & Service** is being reported differently in 2014 to provide greater transparency and donor centred communication.

- a. **Giving through wills and proceeds from life insurance policies:** In 2014, rather than announcing an allocated 4 year average, actual gifts received from wills and proceeds from life insurance policies are reported. This results in reporting \$0.75M in gifts through wills and life insurance.
- b. **Annuity gifts:** Also beginning in 2014, gifts to Mission and Service in the form of final residual gifts from annuities are counted in the year that they are received (\$0.19M).

3. **Total giving to Mission & Service in 2014 was \$26.6M:**

- i. \$25.66 annual gifts
- ii. \$ 0.94 legacy gifts

- iii. \$26.60M total gifts for Mission & Service (vs last year's announced total of \$28.03M)

4. Designated giving for Mission and Service partners and ministries:

- i. \$0.51M through the Gifts with Vision gift-giving catalogue
- ii. \$0.33M for emergencies: Ebola, Philippines, and Syria
- iii. \$0.84M total designated gifts

Maritime Conference

Mission and Service Unified Fund Contributions	Amount
For WDR	\$26,615
From UCW	\$174,439
From Special Gifts	\$68,036
From Congregational Giving	\$2,680,736
Total Mission and Service Giving 2014	\$2,949,826

Thank you for your role in this generosity!

David Armour

Director of Philanthropy

Mount Allison University Board of Regents

Dear friends:

It has been my honour and privilege to serve along with the Rev. Meredith Fraser as the conference representatives on the board of regents of Mount Allison University. Although matters of religion are rarely the subject of board deliberations, I do believe that Meredith and I have been valued voices around the table.

Mount Allison continues to be one of the premier educational institutions in the Country. Once again it was selected in Maclean's Magazine as the top small liberal arts university in Canada. As well in 2014 another smart, capable, globally aware student, Bernard Soubry, was selected as a Rhodes Scholar. He is the 53rd student from MTA to receive this honour, surely an extraordinary feat for any university let alone a small school.

2014 was a difficult year for the university as it was rent by a particularly acrimonious strike that disrupted classes for an extended period. However, with the help of an adjudicator Administration and faculty were able to reach agreement on most issues. Mount Allison continues to be fiscally responsible and a well-managed institution. Starting with the President, the administration are capable stewards of the universities future. Vice-President of student services, Ron Byrne, who has been an instrumental person in ensuring that the campus community is a safe and enjoyable experience for all students and received national prominence for his work on student mental health issues, is moving to another job and will be missed.

Over my period as a board member I have been astounded at the way students have been involved globally and in local community issues. The school is not just an excellent academic environment but truly an incubator for future leaders who have a fierce desire to make the world a better place.

In the past Mount Allison has had a strong commitment to the United Church and was often the place clergy did their first degree. I believe that any prospective candidate for ministry would find Mount Allison to be a stimulating environment in which to determine one's sense of call. The Religious Studies program is strong as is the humanities in general and the school has a supportive and lively sense of community that our candidates would thrive in.

Meredith is completing her term on the board and thus is finishing her work with her alma mater. On your behalf, and the board's I thank her for her service, her wisdom and her often penetrating questions. She has been an excellent representative of our conference. I look forward to my second term with the board.

Rev. Dr. Andrew Richardson

Pine Hill Board of Governors

Friends I bring you greetings as my current term as Pine Hill Board chair draws to a close. After six years of serving both AST and Pine Hill Board, it's my pleasure to report there are many exciting changes afoot for us all.

Of significant note for the Conference is the appointment of our newest president, Rev. Neil S. Bennet. Rev. Bennet is an Anglican priest who is also a graduate of AST and holds an MBA. He brings a background in strategic organizational leadership, organizational learning, and leadership development. These skills will be essential as the AST community continues to discern its future in our evolving theological landscape in North America. I hope you will join us in welcoming him as we look forward to his leadership in this critical time.

This year I'm happy to report that we have thirty nine United Church students in theological education at AST. We currently have one student in the lay ministry program, twenty two students studying via distance education, and seventeen enrolled in the on campus program. Seven students will leave convocation this year with their Master's in Divinity – a rich gift of leadership for our United Church. Our Continuing Education Bursary was awarded to Rev. Elizabeth Hayward who is ministering with the Canadian Memorial Pastoral Charge in Vancouver BC. We were also pleased to award Rev. Mary Taylor the first Tri-Annual Pine Hill Alumni Associates Scholarship (formerly Campbell-Carmichael Traveling Fellowship).

Our students are the heart and focus of our ministry together. It is with deep thanks and appreciation that we acknowledge the gift we have in Rev. Sally Shaw as our formation director, whose leadership and skill continue to shape the ministers who will serve our church today and tomorrow. Our faithful Bursary Committee chaired by Rev. Scott Hillier works on the front lines of student needs with our Executive Director Brenda Munro. Together, they ensure that student's needs are met through the support of Pine Hill.

Like the United Church, AST and Pine Hill are in the midst of an evolution. The face of our church and our role in society has changed at an unprecedented rate and the same is true for theological education. Currently, we are working hard with our ecumenical partners to position AST as a community that evolves into the future the Spirit surely has in store. Pine Hill has created joint executive discussions in partnership with the AST board executive and we will be holding joint board meetings as we discern the future together. No matter what changes our United Church faces in the years to come, one thing's for certain: we will need educated, passionate, skilled and determined leaders who are grounded in the gospel. Pine Hill is dedicated to making sure that happens through AST, both for the sake of our Conference and for the wider church and world of which we are a part.

There are many items on the Pine Hill plate these days, including how we can partner with the United Church of Canada Foundation and support for a Ministry of Supervision workshop. On just about any given day we owe a great deal to Bob Carter and his Finance wizards (they are magical) and to Brenda Munro, whose dedication to our church and the mission of Pine Hill is an amazing gift to witness.

Tatamagouche Centre

For 60 years, Tatamagouche Centre has lived God's mission in the world. It has been a place for spiritual renewal, for deepening faith and discerning our call on how to live in God's creation. It has been a place of justice seeking and peace building. We have contributed to leadership skills within the Church and within the world. We have transformed countless lives.

This past year, it was one where many dreams, some that have been worked on for years - became manifest: Festimagouche; new First Nations partnerships; Black Youth Leadership Gathering; Social Justice Youth Camp leaders taking on new responsibilities, to name a few.

“With a melodious voice, a fourteen year old youth called out to us with South Africa's freedom song, “*and united we shall stand*” while African drums beat. Around the room were two dozen youth participants attending the Black Youth Leadership program, and over a half dozen First Nation's elders and leaders along with a smattering of white environmental activists who were jointly participating in a cross-cultural program. It was a merging of two pivotal Tatamagouche Centre events in the spring that happened to coincide on the same weekend and was emblematic of our efforts in working towards diversity, inclusion and cross-cultural engagement.

Following on the heartbeat of these two programs, the Centre hosted Creating a Trans-Friendly Environment where participants explored and challenged gender binaries, and we were afforded an opportunity to open our doors more widely to transgender and gender non-conforming individuals.”
Steve Law

Festimagouche, grew out of the concept of Greenbelt in England, an eclectic mix of emerging voices in faith communities. It was wonderful to see so many United Church people and others fully engaged in helping make this a reality. We had a children's area, 8 different workshops, a full blown main stage concert and an inspiring Sunday morning Spirits Rising session.

This year we had a number of requests from First Nations to partner with us, a change from us doing outreach. The first event was ***Building Non-Violent Indigenous Movement*** which brought together First Nations and non-natives around issues like fracking and protection of water. It was thought provoking, shifting the way we view the world and providing hope that peaceful means can bring the needed changes.

This year we undertook an evaluation of the last ten years of the ***Peace and Friendship project***. The evaluation was done by Tina Bernard and Cathy Martin, two Mi'Kmaq women. It was uplifting and inspiring to hear the stories of all the ways this project has created significant changes and awareness. For example one participant is a Professor and now begins all her courses with acknowledging that we live in Mi'kmaq Territory.

During this year we also laid the ground work in partnership to offer a two year Licensed Lay Worship Leadership program! We are very excited about this and hope you will help spread the word. It is also coming full circle to our first years at the Centre.

It was also the year Calling Lakes closed its doors and put the property up for sale. Naramata now, sadly, has closed its doors as well. Five Oaks is deep in sustainability planning and actions. And we too realized how vulnerable we are. The approach being taken by the staff and Board is that we need to increase revenues and not cut expenses. We have also worked hard fund raising to create special bursaries to make our programs more accessible. For example, this year we have special bursaries for anyone 55 years or older to reduce the cost of all programs.

If you have not been to the Centre in a while, please come check us out. This is your Centre! Our bedrooms are warm and cozy. There is an elevator in Stewart Hall. There is hearty home cooked meals, welcoming staff and dynamic interactive programs. And we are also open for personal and team retreats!! www.tatacentre.ca or email info@tatacentre.ca

The United Church Home For Senior Citizens, Inc.
(Drew Nursing Home/Tantramar Residences)

The mission of The United Church Home For Senior Citizens, Inc. is to ensure the quality of life of its residents and tenants. As in the past years, we continually strive to ensure this mission is met.

In December, Nursing Home Services completed the Annual Nursing Home Inspection. We are pleased to announce that full compliance was met in all areas in this inspection.

This year is the 60th Anniversary of The United Church Home For Senior Citizens, Inc. Plans for this celebration are underway to mark this special occasion.

It has been a busy year with recruiting new members of the management team. Mary Gregoire is our new director of care services, Joceline LeBlanc Roy is our new accountant and Amanda Shea is the new activity director. We welcome Mary, Joceline and Amanda to the Drew family.

We have recently developed new brochures for the Nursing Home, Tantramar Residences and the Drew-Tantramar Foundation. As well, the website was revised with a fresh new look, and the Drew Logo also received a “refresh”.

The Board of Directors have had a productive year, which included a revision of the By-laws and review of the Strategic Plan.

The activity department continues to provide various forms of spirituality to the residents. A popular resident activity is the bible study group who meet on a regular basis. A Memorial Service is also held annually to remember those residents who passed away during the year.

A variety of programs are offered to our residents including; music therapy, drum therapy, bingo, bowling, walking club, narrative care, etc. Activation programs are invaluable to the life of a resident living at the nursing home.

In Closing, all of us associated with The United Church Home For Senior Citizens, Inc. will continue to make every effort to fulfill our mandate.

Linda Shannon
Executive Director

PASTORAL OVERSIGHT REPORTS

Bermuda Synod

What trends in Celebration, service, justice seeking and proclamation are filled with the Spirit in your Synod?

During the past year the Spirit has been calling us to consider the affirming initiative with respect to the LGBTQ community.

Many of the churches in Bermuda have been openly disparaging of the LGBTQ community so the American Consul General, Robert Settje, arranged a number of events aimed at dialogue between the two to see if there could be some kind of healing and coming together. Needless to say those who were most openly opposed to the LGBTQ community did not attend, but the Bermuda Synod was well represented and able to affirm that our doors are open to all.

While this affirmation is held by most within the churches that make up the Synod, there are still some who are struggling with the issue so workshops have been held to discuss discrimination, both racial and sexual orientation. The Spirit was present in guiding the timing of the workshop on discrimination based on sexual orientation, because it just so happened to coincide with the visit of our moderator the Right Reverend Gary Paterson and his spouse, Tim Stevenson, who were able to participate and bring further insight to the issue.

Some people have chosen to leave the church because of this issue and their fear for what the future holds if we continue down this path of affirmation. This has been distressing for those who are choosing to remain because while those leaving are relatively few in number they are in many cases, people who have attended the church for many years and were active members.

Where is the Spirit of Jesus, our judge and our hope, evident within the life and work of your Synod?

The Spirit of Jesus was evident when we held a Bermuda Convention in June. All three churches came together for worship and praise on a Friday night to start the weekend with a bang. On Saturday morning workshops were held on the history of Methodism, planning for the future, healthy eating and church music to name but a few. A panel discussion on Saturday was a prelude to discussing how we move forward as a community and the event concluded on Sunday with a combined service followed by a BBQ lunch.

The Spirit of Jesus was evident when the Wesley church found itself in a period of transition and the Emmanuel church agreed to share their minister Rev, Gary Clark who felt called to minister to Wesley and help heal them as they came through this period. The Spirit of Jesus was evident when Leo Mills was called to minister at Wesley through visitation and the Spirit of Jesus was evident when David Atwood was called to be an intern minister at Wesley. The gifts that Gary, Leo and David have been called to share have come at a time when the Wesley church needed them and has enabled the transition team to move forward to a point where a JNAC team can now be appointed.

Where is God calling your Synod?

God is calling the Synod to move forward with the education around what it means to be an affirming congregation and to help each church as they work through this.

Chignecto Presbytery

There are 26 pastoral charges in Chignecto Presbytery and over the past year we have been privileged to share in their joys and sorrows, as we are called to be the Church.

Our work with these churches has brought us to the development of a comprehensive Joint Needs Assessment process, which includes a standard survey questionnaire for the Pastoral Charge. The PowerPoint presentation follows the UC handbook but has been prepared in a manner that offers clear direction to the JNA Committee. At the end of the exercise we have a standard, complete document for the candidate and pastoral charge to use for ongoing evaluation of the ministry. The Joint Needs Assessment report is to be updated on an annual basis which allows the document to remain current. Our committee is presently working with six of the pastoral charges in the Joint Needs Assessment process.

Of the 26 pastoral charges, 46 % are being served by part-time ministry personnel; while 69% are served by appointments, leaving 31% served by called ministry.

We are a combined Pastoral Relations/Pastoral Oversight Committee and the need to work with charges as they face the challenges of decommissioning buildings, amalgamations, dwindling resources and disbanding of congregations has not granted us any time for Oversight.

We are constantly amazed at the resourcefulness and strength many of our charges exhibit to remain strong in the United Church and a strong part of their community.

Halifax Presbytery

We are called to be the Church. The life of the Church is never static and that is certainly true for Halifax Presbytery. We have a number of congregations that are in significant transition – which is, of course, not always a negative thing! A year ago we agreed to the closing of Forest Hills United Church and have cooperated with the Conference to generate proposals for the proceeds from that closure which we hope will benefit creative ministry throughout the Conference. United Memorial United Church community is in the midst of significant discernment and seeking as they look towards a future that holds either amalgamation or closure. With the end of the vision of *Spirit Place* the congregation of St John's United is preparing to enter a period of intentional interim ministry to discern their future and that of their historic building. St. Matthew's United is awaiting word on a shared development on their property. Fairview United is renting space to a Korean congregation. Woodlawn United celebrated the completion and inauguration of a new wing that provides accessibility, office, meeting and community space. We rejoice in the move of the Brunswick Street Mission towards incorporation within the United Church and the continued existence of the Brunswick Street United Church congregation as a small, but vital community of faith, that reaches those who are not always seen in our midst.

We celebrate several healthy pastoral relationships that are twenty years and more in duration: Port Wallis, Cole Harbour Woodside, Fort Massey, and Bedford. We have a couple of new pastoral relationships for which we need to hold covenanting services – those that were planned were stormed out! We were shocked and deeply grieved by the death of the Rev Ewen Moase, a week following his covenanting with Bethany, and continue to walk with that community through the aftermath of that event.

Halifax Presbytery is also part of the future. A number of our congregations are Field Education Sites for Atlantic School of Theology and at least one is seeking to become an internship site, despite the devastating changes in the funding model. Many of our ministry personnel and laity are involved in various boards and committees related to AST, Pine Hill and the Centre for Ethics in Public Affairs as well as serving as adjunct members of the teaching faculty. Finally, we have several students in various stages of the preparation journey for ministry.

We are called to be the church; to love and serve others; to seek justice and resist evil: Halifax Presbytery is active in justice seeking and justice doing. For example, members are involved in the Face of Poverty coalition; KAIROS; United for Peace and Justice in Palestine and Israel; the Brunswick Street Mission; the Out of the Cold shelter at St Matthew's; weekly meal programs hosted at St Andrew's and St Matthew's and numerous food banks – some stand alone and others as the focus of interfaith and/or ecumenical groups. In a period of time when many are seeking to score advantage by stirring up fear and hatred of the “other” some of our congregations are engaged in interfaith partnerships, learning circles and community projects.

We are called to be the church; to celebrate God's presence: Geographically and socio-demographically, Halifax Presbytery covers a large space, ranging from urban core congregations in Halifax and Dartmouth, through bustling suburbs to truly rural villages such as Sheet Harbour. As such it is often difficult – and sometimes impossible - to provide resources and programming useful for all. We attempt to support those experiences (usually around food) that are important

to community in many different places. Many of our ministry personnel meet regularly for lunch on a monthly basis. Our pastoral charges face some very different social and demographic challenges – not always based solely on where they are located. Some are seeking to respond to depopulation, shrinking congregations and aging buildings. Others are looking for the grace and wisdom to respond to growing communities often made up of people who have no lived memory of God’s good news. In some pastoral charges we have significant clusters of people who are deeply affected by government cutbacks and the downloading of service fees. While many of our congregations are currently financially stable, many are painfully aware that an unequal portion of their revenue is provided by a few aging givers – making stewardship education a priority for many charges. But, through all of this – and in the midst of it – we proclaim in word and in deed that Jesus is our judge and our hope and in almost every pastoral oversight visit we hear from congregations how important making a joyful noise is – so we continue to sing the Lord’s song in our time and place.

Written by Ross Bartlett

Inverness-Guysborough Presbytery

Omnia Mutantur – Changing Scenes

From St. Paul’s United Church in Canso to Calvin United Church at Margaree Harbour, from Greenwood United Church in Baddeck to St. Stephen’s-Jubilee in Port Hood/Port Hood Island, the people of Inverness-Guysborough Presbytery of the United Church have tried to be faithful to what it means to be “called to be the Church.”

As the Latin phrase states, everything changes and those changes affect our congregations and pastoral charges. And yet, “through all the changing scenes of life, in trouble and in joy,” services of worship have been times of inspiration, sacraments have been celebrated, baptisms have taken place, funerals held, budgets prepared and the times of difficulty and those of joy have been shared.

Two pastoral charges faced the reality of changing financial limitations and developed plans so that they could identify their charges as being able to support a minister half-time. Through prayerful and extensive conversation, the charges agreed to participate in a shared ministry while maintaining their individuality. The spirit of Jesus was evident as they met the challenge of changing circumstances. With a willingness to try to be just and loving, the two pastoral charges, Eastern-Guysborough and Mulgrave have met the exigencies of new times. In addition, one of the two pastoral charges recognized the reality that comes with declining attendance in two of the five congregations. So with sadness for the conclusion of the life of churches in New Harbour and Whitehead and with joy for the life of the spirit that had been in those communities for many years, appropriate services of conclusion were held.

After several years of few changes in pastoral relations, two other pastoral charges had to engage in the work of Joint Needs Assessment Committees and then Search Committees. For one pastoral charge, the process proved to be very painful. But both are now preparing to welcome new ministers in the coming months. The careful and loving attention of members of Inverness

Guysborough Presbytery has assisted the congregations to meet the new challenges with justice and the beginning of some healing following times of disappointment and disagreement.

For all the pastoral charges, these are days when the effects of declining economy, outmigration of young families and the seeming lack of interest in organized religion are topics of conversation. For the Presbytery, it has been a time of trying to communicate more effectively with the people of the congregations. As well, the slow erosion of enthusiasm for the other courts of the church is a matter of great concern.

It seems as though God is calling the people of Inverness-Guysborough Presbytery both to maintain traditional services for one portion of the faithful and to develop new ways of being the Church in communities for others. The slow growth of a “congregational mode” of response to the work of the United Churches is recognized widely, but the method of reducing that change of attitude is a challenge for all those faithful to the Call of Jesus as understood and practised by the United Church of Canada.

Omnia mutantur... indeed...but as a Presbytery we are called to hear the words of the hymn, “the praises of my God shall still”
my heart and tongue employ.”

Miramichi Presbytery

At our September meeting, we had a report from the youth group of the Campbellton-Escuminac Pastoral Charge. They reported on their participation at the GO Project in Halifax. It was from previous exposure to the GO Project that their youth group got the idea of hosting a monthly meal for all people, free of charge. They have been doing this for the last few years, and it has been very successful.

At our January meeting, we had a workshop on Ministry & Personnel committees, led by Kendall Harrison. We also discussed material on being an Affirming Conference.

At the last annual meeting of Maritime Conference, Gerald Blaquiére, a student from Miramichi Presbytery, was ordained. He accepted a call to serve in the Tabisintac Pastoral Charge in our presbytery.

Heather Ferrier served as an intern in the Red Bank Pastoral Charge this year. This was a good experience for all. The Red Bank Pastoral Charge would like to continue being a learning site.

A number of ministers in our presbytery have been on disability leave. This has made more work for others to serve as Pastoral Charge supervisors and to lead worship services.

There are still vacancies in the Blackville Pastoral Charge and the New Richmond/New Carlisle Pastoral Charges.

The Douglastown Pastoral Charge disbanded. Most people from St. Mark's in Douglastown transferred their membership to the Chatham Pastoral Charge, but the church in Derby is its own pastoral charge now, and is called the Millerton Pastoral Charge. It is currently being served by week-end supply.

It is a challenge to do much in the area of outreach, but there is some interest in refugee sponsorship.

Respectfully submitted by
Kent Gibbons, Chair, Pastoral Oversight Committee
Miramichi Presbytery

Pictou Presbytery

We are called to be the Church, but the Church is changing rapidly. In Pictou Presbytery, we are blessed to have all our preaching positions filled, except for Sharon St. John who were blessed to have had Ms. Ann Hoganson as an intern this past year. Like so many Churches now-a-days, financial and membership issues are a constant concern. Many here are looking into part-time or co-operative ministries which we are actively exploring through our M.P.&E. Committee. Because of our geography, this will take some imagination. Yet, despite this, there is great enthusiasm within the Presbytery as we continue to *celebrate God's presence*, in a myriad of ways. Many congregations are thinking outside the box, initiating children's programs into the community on Saturday's, where Sundays Schools are waning. Some have tried Saturday worship services. Some explore musical themes from modern day composers. We still do outreach in serving our communities with meals averaging about 80 –90 families per week from Trinity United. We are diligently working within our communities helping and serving others. We joined forces for the Coldest Night of the Year Walk and the goal was \$30,000.00. We surpassed that by \$13,000.00! Through our Church in Action Committee, we continue to *seek justice and resist evil*, as we learn and debate the Israeli-Palestinian issue and we continue to sell Fair Trade products at Church run fairs and at Presbytery. A couple of our members evangelize through their writings in the local newspaper as we, *proclaim Jesus, crucified, and risen, our judge and hope*. It is amazing the response we receive from this ministry. Though we are a small Presbytery, we are an enthusiastic one, as we work together to serve Jesus with joy and love. Yes, we struggle like everyone else, but we always rely on the Spirit who guides us in showing heaven's love to our world. We are few, in this part of the vineyard, but God equips us with unity in service. We are constantly exploring new ways of sharing God's Word to our Churches and to seekers everyway. In everything we do, we do it to God's glory. And we have fun doing it! The future can only be great!

Submitted,
Rev. Doug Pilsworth

Prince Edward Island Presbytery

In reviewing the life of our Presbytery over the past year there are many changes that have taken place and will take place in the future. A number of ministry personnel have asked for a change in pastoral relations. The following is the list:

Rev. Susan Drake (Retained) and Rev. Boyd Drake – November 2014 of 2014 – St. Andrew's Vernon Bridge – Rev. Bill MacLeod is interim minister at present.

Cornwall – Rev. Nigel Weaver and Rev Jean Ward. August 2014

Kings United – Beth Johnston. August 2014

Margate – Anne Dalziel Singer Retired – Feb.2015.

Memorial – Keith Gale ordained at Maritime Conference – 2014. Presently served by Rev. Don Macpherson.

O'Leary-West Cape – Rev. Ewen Moase October 2014. We are saddened by his recent death. Rev. Bob Lockhart is presently supplying

Spring Park – Rev. Gayle MacDonald – June 2015.

Trinity Clifton – Rev. Dr. John Moses – June 2016

York-Covehead – Rev Joy Noble Retired – September 2014

We have many and varied memories of their friendship and inspiration. We will miss them and we wish them success in every way.

We have as our major responsibility the triennial visit. We have made three visits: Park Royal, Montague, Wellington. We too have responsibility to provide a detailed manse inspection when a manse becomes vacant. To date several manse inspections have been completed.

We celebrate the ongoing faithful work of our members who support the mission of the United Church in our communities; those who participated in mission trips to other countries ; those who have sought to bring attention to the 'farmers' and 'fishers' and their struggles. We are grateful for those in our church communities who give time and energy to maintaining a place of worship and caring for our people. Camp Abegweit is an important part of our ministry. We are challenged and encouraged to be creative in our plans for programming.

The work of the pastoral oversight committee is important, and we are privileged to serve.

Submitted by the team-Linda Bowley, Shirley Affleck, Joyce Bryenton, Don MacPherson, Garth Wood, Gail Carter-Jay & Sandrabelle MacEwen.

Saint John Presbytery

The Spirit is moving in Saint John Presbytery. We celebrate the efforts of our congregations to seek new, more co-operative visions of ministry. Park Avenue and St. Andrew's & St. David's are now sharing a minister while remaining independent Pastoral Charges. Silver Falls and Glenview both have vacancies for half time positions but are searching together in the hopes of establishing a shared ministry. Lorneville is exploring the possibility of sharing ministry with their Presbyterian

neighbours. Even when the congregations are in stable pastoral relationships, there is an increased interest in doing things together, getting to know our United Church neighbours in a more intentional way.

We have a number of Pastoral Charges in various stages of Search and are eager to see what new things might develop there. We have a number of Pastoral Charges who are in well established pastoral relationships who are continuing their fine ministry and outreach. We were sad to see the closure of Redhead United Church in December of 2014. We continue to be concerned about the number of Pastoral Charges who struggle financially to maintain full time ministry, or have already gone to part time ministry.

For most of our congregations, we simply continue – to offer our praise in worship, to live our faith in our day to day lives, and to work together in such a manner as to give witness to the gospel Kingdom.

God is good. Thanks be to God!

Submitted by
Karen MacNeill,
Pastoral Oversight

St. Croix Presbytery

Whoosh—and there goes another year in what must be one of the smallest and friendliest presbyteries in the country. Why are we friendly? Is it because we are more kind? Of course, not. We get along because when a group is as small as ours, we must cooperate. If we don't, we will sink. In this report I want to highlight an achievement which may give hope to other groups, who are working just as hard as us to keep the United Church presence blooming where ever we are planted. Two charges each with their own distinct attributes have agreed to “share” the services of Rev Jane Doull. Previously, Jane was the fulltime minister at the Wesley United Church in St. Andrews. Now, she commits ¾'s of her time to Wesley and ¼ to St. James. I am pleased to report that the partnership is working very well thanks to excellent lay leadership and a mutual commitment to adapt by being flexible. This new configuration offers pastoral continuity and financial viability in the present, and openness to the movement of the Spirit in the future.

To conclude, our churches face many challenging realities. Therefore, sometimes, when I think about the state of the local church (United and otherwise) in the St. Croix region or in the Washington County area of Maine where I also serve, I get depressed. In response, what do I do? Can't say it will work for you but to hearten my spirits I start singing the unique “hymn” I learned from Sister Odell in the *Kings of Comedy* skit:

I'm gone tell how good God's been, I'm gone tell how good God's been,
the weather started getting rough, the tiny ship was tossed
if it wasn't for the courage of the crew, the Minnow would be lost,

I said the Minnow would be lost ...
 now we up in the big league, got my turn at bat
 as long as we got you and sweet Jesus,
 there ain't nothing wrong with that,
 there ain't nothing wrong with that.

Respectfully submitted,
 Rev Dr Mark Hatfield

South Shore Presbytery

We are called to be the church. We celebrate God's presence in those who are called to lead – both Ministry and laity.

Ministry in the 19 Pastoral Charges remains similar to the past 3 years:

- 9 Full Time Ordained Ministry
- 2 Part Time Ordained 2 Part Time Retired Ministry
- 2 Supervised Learning Sites 2 Lay / Pulpit Supply [*roster of pulpit supply*]
- 1 Half Time Congregationally Designated
- 1 Contract with a Pastoral Charge that is served by a full time minister

We rejoice in welcoming two new ministry personnel. Covenanting Services were held with Rev. David Campbell in Bridgewater and Rev. Carol Smith in Caledonia.

We celebrate that we have one individual enrolled in the Adult Education Certification Program. Several congregations experienced the need for supply ministry during long periods when full time Ministry Personnel were unable to work. The spirit is alive among our congregants who faithfully provide leadership for both worship and outreach at times when ministry personnel are unable to work. Over the long term though, pastoral charges have pointed out to us the difficulty of finding trained supply, short term ministry personnel. Eventually there is a strain on both the church family and on their professions and businesses while they make arrangements to replace the absent minister.

New Trends

New trends involve increased communication and a spirit of encouragement across Pastoral Charges. Pastoral Oversight Committee Members read Annual Reports and responded in writing, complementing pastoral charges on their strengths and accomplishments and inviting them to set up a visit.

The Christian Life and Growth Committee has presented information on Regional Cooperative ministry and several Pastoral Charges have expressed a willingness to pursue this topic. A step by step plan is in progress to engage those who are willing to join in discussion of regional cooperative groupings.

Highlighting the strengths of congregations has contributed to building good will among the Pastoral Charges. Having discussions about cluster ministry has led to an awareness of the importance of a strong connection between the points within a Pastoral Charge.

The Comprehensive Review has been a catalyst and we celebrate God's presence in the sharing of these concepts. South Shore Presbytery is eager to embrace Council's concept of connectional space and the potential for shared projects.

To Live With Respect in Creation:

South Shore Presbytery seeks to live out our faith with respect to all peoples and all of nature. The Affirm Document was studied and is seen as a positive statement of inclusion and of respect for all God's people.

As we work to be respectful we extend beyond the human race and are also reminded of our stewardship and responsibilities to the natural world.

Some of our churches have examined heating costs and building sizes with a view to making improvements. Steps include: a New Horizons grant for a heat pump and modifications to a building; sharing of community halls and church halls with other denominations and non-profits; study of solar panels and costs; community gardens and garden advisories. 'Tiny steps but good fellowship and much learning!

Outreach: To Love and Serve Others:

Immediate Church Family Needs: All congregations have programs to extend worship and care to those who are unable to physically attend programs. Examples are: home and hospital visiting teams, visiting and leading worship in nursing homes, taking church music to nursing homes and sharing prayer shawls as needed. Several of our ordained ministers have formed partnerships with churches that lack ministry personnel and are able to serve communion in the home where requested. At the request of the membership, the Church in Action committee has formed a sub-committee to set up a Presbytery wide workshop on pastoral care visiting.

Wider Communities: A wide range of activities are reported by the churches of the South Shore. Support varies from being either financial or in kind. Churches report support for: Atlantic School of Theology, Sherbrook Lake Camp, Brunswick Street Mission, Seamen's Mission, Sou'West Transit Association., local food banks, Provincial Feed NS Program, Habitat for Humanity, Elementary School Breakfast Program, Seniors Health Matters, Association Supporting Inclusion, Salvation Army, clothing drives, Lions Club Sight International, Rural Communities are ecumenical in their outreach work. The sparse population necessitates cooperation among faith communities and non profits. Some churches prefer to run solely United Church outreach while some choose to partner with other faith communities in projects.

Two of our larger churches are community-use buildings. The shared uses include: child care programs, private schools, community gardens, recreation activities, seniors programs, summer music festivals, public meetings. Such activity creates healthy connections to the wider community and has potential for growth.

National and International: Pastoral Charges rely on Mission and Service and World Vision to recommend and distribute funds to significant projects beyond our own communities and our own range of knowledge of needs. Our churches regularly read the Mission and Service stories. While Mission and Service offering has not increased this year a consideration of the size and income level of the congregations does show that amounts are respectable.

To Seek Justice and Resist Evil:

Our congregations have members with a wide range of interest in justice issues: many individuals and some churches support projects and events for: Amnesty International; Black Heritage; Native Communities; Guatemala; Palestine; issues around gold mining.

Our Presbytery itself contains areas and congregations where there is poverty. We have some Pastoral Charges that are vibrant in worship and outreach even though they meet stats Canada definition of marginalized and isolated communities. Some advertise for ministry personnel and go through long periods without applicants. Some fundraise in hopes of hiring ministry personnel

in the future. All these marginalized churches have developed leaders within their group and have strengthened contacts with neighbouring churches while solutions are sought. In response to this difficulty, a group has been formed to work on building Regional teams. As well, there is a need to train more lay supply leaders. Congregations are learning to create rosters and publicize locations as churches learn to include more than one community under the leadership of a contract minister.

The treatment of our own marginalized United Churches is a justice issue in the church.

On a positive note, there is a Lay Leadership Course being offered at Tatamagouche. We sent representatives to an excellent workshop run by the Theology and Worship Committee of the Truro Presbytery which addressed these issues.

The isolated communities are experiencing some new members; retirees from other provinces with working experience in United Churches in other conferences have settled in the South Shore and are offering volunteer hours.

Proclamation: The proclamation of faith is strong in the churches of the South Shore. They are resilient in the face of all obstacles because they are spirit filled. The United Church empowers them with an emphasis on grace and a spirit of openness which is compatible with their strong faith and overwhelming sense of acceptance of others. The area is predominantly low income with a high degree of seasonal/part time employment yet the churches maintain a financial stability even though it is a challenge. Several churches on the South Shore have continued to worship and to run outreach programs for long periods of time even though they were unable to secure ministry personnel employees.

Reports list many creative ways to raise funds to keep a minister. Pastoral Charges consider the minister's salary the highest priority in their financial responsibilities.

We are not afraid: we are not alone. Jesus is a mighty example for these small groups of worshippers living by the sea and tending tiny churches. South Shore Presbytery moves forward with Jesus as our judge and our hope.

God is calling our Presbytery to show leadership in building trust and good will among these churches spread over the geographic area from Lunenburg to Yarmouth. Our churches are excited about the suggestions of new structures and new accountability in the Comprehensive Review Recommendations. We are open to change and aware that Conference may take over some of the structured work. We are hopeful that this will lead to opportunities for communities of faith to build connections based on other topics that are significant to their spiritual lives.

South Shore Presbytery April 2015 Annual Report as per Manual C3.4.5

Sydney Presbytery

This year, as most years, we have seen many changes in Sydney Presbytery.

Gordon United, after many year's of doing God's work, decided to disband, but they celebrated their years as one of God's United Church Congregation during their closing service. On the positive side, the union of First United, Trinity United, St. Andrew's United and Baptist Heritage was celebrated on October 19, 2015, with the new congregation being called "United Heritage".

God moved some ministers to our area - Revs. Carolyn & Victor MacLeod came to St. Peter's as of May 1, 2014. Sylvia Fitzgerald, DLM came to Boularderie as of July 1, 2014. Rev. Rosemary Godin replaced Rev. Boyce Elliot at United Heritage as of October 1, 2014. Rev. Nancy Ritchie came to North Sydney as of January 1, 2015. Some of our friends and colleagues were called to move on. We will miss Rev. and Mrs Clayton Austin.

There are still retired ministers feeling God's call to minister as pulpit supply or part time appointments. We celebrate all of the lay, ordained and DLM clergy who serve our Presbytery.

Our presbytery is one full of celebrations - the good news portion of our meeting minutes over the year covers activities ranging from celebrations of ministry, celebrating long-time members birthdays, to musical events to dinner plays to the ever-present food fests - from baked beans and fishcakes to strawberry socials to lobster suppers - all manner of food is shared in fellowship in all of our church halls. This is a ministry of shared love and service as gathering in community for meals is the oldest Christian practise of all.

We recognized the Spirit moving in this area by deciding to honour "Places that Matter". Under the inspiration of former Chair Dianne Kempt we began to recognize different community groups during our Order of the Day. We invite a deserving group or organization to come and celebrate their initiatives of outreach in the community. The groups would attend a Presbytery meeting, give us a presentation of their work, and receive a certificate of appreciation. The of the groups we honoured were the Community Cares Youth outreach program in Sydney Mines, the Lenten Lunch program at St. John the Baptist Anglican Church in North Sydney, Access 808 Youth Centre in Sydney, New Waterford and District's Historical Society and St. Mary's Polish Parish in Whitney Pier.

Our Presbytery has also had Habitat for Humanity explain their local building program, and of course our own Catherine MacLean, the Maritime Conference UCW President brought us her "Poverty Dolls" project - patterns and all!

Some of our ministers are active in various Safer Communities initiatives, and one Presbytery member in particular is active in the reform of the Social Services Act of Nova Scotia.

We have spent many hours reviewing different reports from the Comprehensive Review Task Force, and have passed our comments and questions back to the appropriate persons.

Our Clergy and our lay members and adherents are all believers in Christ - as I told my own congregations on Earth Sunday - we are all here in this building today because we believe in Christ, the Holy Spirit and God - We recognize that in today's society and world, it is all too easy to drift away from being an active participant in Christ's Church. So each Church, each Pastoral Charge and each Presbytery in Maritime Conference that is actively serving and worshipping is upholding our United Church Creed - we all recognize that:
"God is with us, we are not alone. Thanks be to God"

Rev. Margie Wood
Co-chair Pastoral Care and Support
Sydney Presbytery

Truro Presbytery

Pastoral Relationships Committee of Truro Presbytery covers the mandates of 2 committees -- Pastoral Relations and Oversight. As such, committee members take part in Triennial Visits, Joint Needs Assessments, Joint Search Committees as well as other duties of Supervisors, visioning, governance, special services, working with Presbytery Finance & Property and Future Directions Committees, etc.

The structure for Triennial Visits has been enlarged with: a “prior to visit” questionnaire, opportunity for individual responses, knee groups as a congregation/pastoral charge and includes the “Manse” sheets. These are returned prior to the visit and any concerns are addressed.

In two areas of the presbytery, 2 pastoral charges are now under a “Cooperative Ministry Agreement” for one full time position. There is one Pastoral Charge “Cooperative Shared Ministry” with the Presbyterian Faith.

We hear, from most pastoral charges/congregations but not all, of dwindling numbers, volunteers, and finances. Camping Ministry for children/youth is directed to Arthur Kidston Camp (Halifax Presbytery). Conference Incorporated Ministries through a Board of Trustees is in process of closure and disbursements of assets from MacLennan Memorial Camp.

Finance & Property committee has seen an increased property work load in 2014:

- a pastoral charge closing, --a congregation closing, --manses for rent, manses being sold,
- usage/rental/lease of church building or portions for non-church business or other faith communities,
- cemeteries choosing to become independent stand alone incorporations,
- Much encouragement to the securing of a deed for all properties, maintaining UCC polity, federal charity status regulations and provincial guidelines, placement of trustees where needed, etc.

But, we do hear of Anniversary services, enthusiastic youth groups, dedicated quilters, keen Bible studies and films, going Green/vegetable gardens, choir and music events, etc.

Truro Presbytery became an Affirming Presbytery and Clifton Pastoral Charge became an Affirming Pastoral Charge in November 2014.

28 pastoral charges: 17 -- full time ministries
 7 -- ¼ to ½ time positions
 1 -- ¾ time position (appointment)
 1 -- pulpit arrangement
 4 pastoral charges making 2 cooperative ministries, each 1 full time

In Ministry Together--Pastoral Relationships, Chair, Harvey Gullon
 --Finance & Property Chair, Rev David LeBlanc
 --Presbytery Chair, Rev Ian Harrison

Valley Presbytery

Observations:

The number of Pastoral Charges in our Presbytery has remained stable, buildings continue to be closed, 3 charges and the Presbytery are strengthened by 3 new calls.

<u>Operating</u>	<u>Closed</u>	<u>Newly named/formed</u>
Annapolis/Granville		
Aylesford	Morden (closing)	
Cornwallis	Juniper Grove	
Hantsport		
Kingston		
Kingsport		
Middleton		
Newport		
Orchard Valley		
Rivers of Grace		
Ste. Croix		
Vaughans		
Walton		
West Cornwallis		
William Black		
Windsor		

Last year saw several calls successfully completed:

St. Croix P. C. and Newport P.C. are now served by ½ time calls each. Both have several preaching points.

Hantsport completed the sale of the Juniper Grove building and amalgamation of the two congregations into one (Avon United), and has full time ministry.

Charges in transition:

Aylesford P.C. is preparing for the retirement of their minister, the previous chair of this committee, and is in the process of closing and selling the Morden church building, with many of the Morden families intending to transfer membership to Aylesford.

Walton PC. served by pulpit supply.

Rivers of Grace P.C. served by pulpit supply.

Kingsport Emmanuel United functions as “Community Church” served by retired supply.

Vaughans holds worship services with pulpit supply.

The new OVPC has called ministers and continues to work out its identity and ministry.

William Black – sold the church building to an artist and worships at R.C. church, in search for ¼ time call or appointment.

Since the last report the Pastoral Oversight Committee completed visits to Sherbrooke Camp and the West Cornwallis Pastoral Charge.

In the second half of 2014 the committee had insufficient membership to effectively do its job.

This situation is slowly being remedied in 2015. We are working on a standardized process and Oversight Checklist for the visits.

Many of our church families must be commended for working diligently to maintain worship and some form of outreach in their communities while finding it difficult to fulfill stipulations of the manual and other corporate obligations due to lack of members. I follow the developments of the “Comprehensive Review” process with great interest, and what this review will mean for the definition of “communities of faith” and oversight of the existing Pastoral Charges. Over the difficulties I do not wish to forget the strong and creative ministry that is being carried out in many of our charges. There are many innovative ways in which this is carried out, but I would like to mention three that stood out for me in 2014: William Black UC and St. Alphonse RC received a Women’s Institute of NS award for their harmonious co-operation, Windsor created a United Church Orchestra, and the Kingston Pastoral Charge became the first Affirming ministry in the Valley in Nov. 2014.

This report was written by the current Chair of Pastoral Oversight for Valley Presbytery,

Respectfully,
The Rev. Elisabeth Bachem-Jennings
Annapolis-Granville P.C.

Stats received to date:

Pastoral Charge	Baptisms	Marriages	Burials/Memorials	New Members & Transfers in
Annapolis Granville	1	1	6	0
Aylesford	1	1	8	2
Cornwallis				
Hantsport				
Kingston				
Middleton				
Newport	3		1	0
Orchard Valley				
Rivers of Grace				
Ste. Croix	1	2	4	0
Vaughans				
Walton				
West Cornwallis				
Windsor	19	4	34	19
William Black	no	Stats given in	report	

Woolastook Presbytery

Given the busy-ness of everyone, and the inability to afford much time to reading yet another report, I can certainly proceed with “just the facts ma’am.” And so, from that perspective, our committee followed its mandate:

We met to arrange, and in follow up meetings, discuss, the appropriate **Triennial Visits** of the 30 pastoral charges in our presbytery. We attended to 3 this fall. That lower number is in part due to scheduling difficulties, although in one instance it was the result of devastating fires in Edmundston where they experienced the loss of both church and hall. Our calling was to aid and support as best served the people of that pastoral charge, rather than follow a schedule. We will certainly be looking at a busy spring of triennial visits.

We held what is referred to as our **Festival of Annual Reports** on March 12th. We received 20 of the possible 30 Annual reports in time for our gathering. This is almost entirely due to pastoral charges having very delayed annual meetings as the result of continual snow storms that forced cancellations. We do value the in depth time we spend on this meeting. However, we also decided this year that we would look at ways to improve the focus and structure of it, to better serve the presbytery and our time. We assigned 2 readers per report as usual, but we then had the pair correspond with one another ahead of time and prepare a clear, concise joint report. We found we were able to move through the reports more efficiently, thereby allowing greater time to be spent on those situations requiring deeper attention.

We organized a **Ministry & Personnel Workshop** in the spring of 2014, led by Kendall Harrison. The large turnout in the midst of bad weather expressed the deep desire of folks to ensure that they are attending, in good and helpful ways, to the relationship of their clergy and congregations.

Re: Joint PR/PC&S: We have also continued to work in connected ways with the Pastoral Relations Committee of Presbytery. We meet in plenary occasionally, but on a routine basis we now assign a PC&S member to a JNAC where the sensibilities of our committee might be helpful. Likewise, when the perspective and attention to process of a PR member is warranted, we invite one of their members to accompany us on a Triennial visit.

So...those are the basics of our committee's work this past year – that which is mandated. If time constrains you, please feel free to stop reading here.

But, I would be amiss and negligent of what it is we do, see, and experience as a committee, to stop reporting here.

It feels strangely apropos to be writing about our committee's work in late March/early April, amidst the liturgies of this season that speak of death and dying and awaiting the resurrection to new life. It is that in-between or threshold time. This is precisely the time in which our churches are dwelling. It is by no means a passive time. Rather, it is from our experience, a time of working and watching and waiting. It is a time of learning from one another, a time of leaning into the challenges and not only waiting for, but indeed, expecting a new thing.

- We see it in congregations investing in Shared Ministry as a means of being the Body of Christ in wider ways. In Woolastook we have two of these ministries at work: Plaster Rock/Grand Falls/Riley Brook and Edmundston.
- We see it in the terse reports of pastoral charges that lay out only their financial bottom line (plenty of red); where they are too spent of energy to relay a narrative.
- We see this in congregations open and honest about their decline, as they form learning groups to go out and explore possibilities of being church in do-able ways;
- We see this in congregations gathering to explore sharing scarce resources rather than competing for them.

It is easy to respond with a cynical “Well, it’s about time!” But cynicism sits awkwardly on followers of the Way. And well it should. We seldom move to new ways and new positions on things according to a timely schedule. Instead, in our humanness, we wait until the last moment; until push comes to shove; until all our hiding places have been overturned.

But there are also some bold instances to the contrary here in Woolastook, and it is our deepest work as a committee to support these pastoral charges in their endeavours. While it has been removed from this committee’s name, we do still attend to the *oversight* of the pastoral charges. We are called to be not only a listening presence, but a challenging presence: one that will name the reality we see, not as chastisement, but rather to live fully into our mandate to be one in the struggle, one in the joys, one in the body.

On behalf of the Pastoral Care & Support Committee of Woolastook Presbytery,
Kelly Burke, Chair

DECISIONS AND ACTIONS OF EXECUTIVE AND SUB-EXECUTIVE

Executive Meeting, May 25, 2014

1. MEETING SCHEDULE: Approved that the meeting dates for the Executive be November 21-22, 2014 with a storm date of November 28-29, 2014; and April 17-18, 2015.

2. ELECTION OF SUB-EXECUTIVE: Elected the following as the Sub-Executive of Maritime Conference for the 2014-15 year:

President	Gloria Churchill
President-Elect	Matthew Fillier
Executive Secretary	David Hewitt
Treasurer	Alan Gray
General Council Executive Representative	Ivan Gregan
Members-at-large	Henry Elsworth
	Linda Yates
	John Moses
	Steven Longmoore
	Meggin King

3. MINISTRY PERSONNEL AND EDUCATION:

SACRAMENTAL PRIVILEGES:

- Approved sacramental privileges and permission to perform marriages for Sylvia Fitzgerald, Designated Lay Minister (Recognized), for the duration of her appointment to the Boularderie Pastoral Charge.
- Approved sacramental privileges and permission to perform marriages for Martha Martin, Diaconal Minister, within the bounds of the Halifax Presbytery, for the duration of her call to the Dalhousie University Chaplaincy.

Sub-Executive Meeting, June 3, 20144. COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW:

- Agreed that the Sub-Executive select eight people to serve on the Comprehensive Review Task Group.
- Agreed that Margaret Atwood, Emily Duggan, Derek Elsworth, Jane Johnson, Daniel MacDonald, Michael Mugford, Dan Wellwood, and Grant Vaughan be elected to form the Comprehensive Review Task Group.
- Agreed that the Comprehensive Review Task Group report to the Sub-Executive by June 27, 2014.

Sub-Executive Meeting, June 27, 2014

5. MINISTRY PERSONNEL AND EDUCATION:

SACRAMENTAL PRIVILEGES:

- Approved sacramental privileges and permission to perform marriages for Yvette Swan, Candidate for Ministry, within the bounds of the Woolastook Presbytery for the duration of her appointment to the Nashwaak Pastoral Charge.
- Approved sacramental privileges and permission to perform marriages for Nancy Whitney-Latham, Designated Lay Minister (Recognized), within the bounds of the Sydney Presbytery for the duration of her appointment to the Waterview Pastoral Charge.

6. ST. DAVID'S UNITED CHURCH, MIRAMICHI PRESBYTERY: Agreed that Maritime Conference approve the recommendation from Miramichi Presbytery with respect to the allocation of the financial assets of St. David's United Church, Burnt Church, NB.7. COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW:

- Approved the report as received and forward to the General Council Comprehensive Review Task Force, and that it also be posted on the Maritime Conference website, shared in the Maritime Conference weekly announcement and requested that it be published on United Futures.
- Agreed that the Maritime Conference Task Group on the Comprehensive Review be disbanded with thanks.

Sub-Executive Meeting, August 11, 2014

8. CHURCH IN ACTION: Approved that Maritime Conference of the United Church of Canada enter into a Contribution Agreement with the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency; and designates the duly authorised signatory, to be the Executive Secretary, David Hewitt, on behalf of Dr. Mary Lou Harley, for the purposes of signing the application for funding, the Contribution Agreement, or any other documents required under the Contribution Agreement.
9. GENERAL COUNCIL YOUTH FORUM DELEGATES: Approved Whitney Walls (Quispamsis, NB), Steven Reid (Lower Sackville, NS), Max Martin (Lower Sackville, NS), Breanna Billard (Middle Sackville, NS), Andraia Gregory (Stratford, PE) to be the Maritime Conference Delegates to General Council Youth Forum.

10. HALIFAX PRESBYTERY, FOREST HILLS: Approved the sale of Forest Hills United Church (PID 41278201), Cole Harbour, NS, to Atlantic District of the Wesleyan Church for \$660,000 plus legal fees and any other associated costs, and authorize the Trustees, Susan MacAlpine-Gillis, Henry Ellsworth and James Gunn, to execute the required documentation to effect the transfer to the purchaser.
11. MIRAMICHI PRESBYTERY, ST. MARK'S UNITED CHURCH: Approved the sale of St. Mark's United Church (PID 40244915), Quarryville, NB, to Maxwell Turcotte for \$17,000 including legal fees and any other associated costs, and authorize the Trustees of St. Mark's United Church, Quarryville, NB, D. Glengarry Gerrish and Alonzo Sturgeon, to execute the required documentation to effect the transfer to the purchaser.
12. VALLEY PRESBYTERY, BURLINGTON UNITED CHURCH: Agreed that Maritime Conference approve the recommendation from Valley Presbytery with respect to the allocation of the financial assets of Burlington United Church, Centre Burlington, Hants County, NS.

Sub-Executive Meeting, September 4, 2014

13. MINISTRY PERSONNEL & EDUCATION:

SACRAMENTAL PRIVILEGES:

- Approved sacramental privileges and permission to perform marriages for David Eagles, Designated Lay Minister (Recognized), within the bounds of the Chignecto Presbytery, for the duration of his appointment to the Bridgedale Pastoral Charge.
 - Approved sacramental privileges and permission to perform marriages for Keith Selwyn-Smith, Designated Lay Minister (Recognized), within the bounds of the Chignecto Presbytery, for the duration of his appointment to the Parrsboro Shore Pastoral Charge.
14. VALLEY PRESBYTERY, BURLINGTON UNITED CHURCH: Agreed that Maritime Conference approve the recommendations with respect to the financial assets of Burlington United Church, Centre Burlington, Hants County, NS.
 15. MIRAMICHI PRESBYTERY, ST. MARK'S UNITED CHURCH, DOUGLASTOWN PASTORAL CHARGE: Agreed that Maritime Conference approve the recommendations with respect to the financial assets of St. Mark's United Church, Douglastown Pastoral Charge as amended.
 16. CAMP WOOLASTOOK: Approved that Maritime Conference authorize the Trustees to sell the contents of Camp Woolastook by auction.
 17. BERWICK CAMP: Agreed to the sale of a portion of the Camp property to the Province of Nova Scotia for highway improvements.
 18. BRUNSWICK STREET MISSION: Approved that Brunswick Street Mission should be incorporated.

19. BECOMING AFFIRMING: Agreed that the draft Affirming Statement and accompanying cover letter be distributed to the Conference Executive with feedback requested in time for the meeting of the Sub-Executive scheduled for October.

Sub-Executive Meeting, October 3, 2014

20. MINISTRY PERSONNEL & EDUCATION:

SACRAMENTAL PRIVILEGES:

- Approved sacramental privileges and permission to perform marriages for Brian Curtis, Student Supply, within the bounds of the Rexton Pastoral Charge, for the duration of his appointment to that charge.
- Approved sacramental privileges and permission to perform marriages for Sim Rushton, Designated Lay Minister (Recognized), within the bounds of the Chignecto Presbytery, for the duration of his appointment to the Salisbury Pastoral Charge.

Sub-Executive Meeting, October 30, 2014

21. MINISTRY PERSONNEL & EDUCATION:

SACRAMENTAL PRIVILEGES:

- Approved sacramental privileges and permission to perform marriages for Annika Sangster, Diaconal Minister, for the duration of her call to the Orchard Valley Pastoral Charge.
 - Approved sacramental privileges for Anne Hoganson, Intern Supply, within the bounds of the Stellarton Pastoral Charge, for the duration of her appointment to the Sharon-St. John United Church, Stellarton Pastoral Charge.
 - Approved sacramental privileges and permission to perform marriages for Dale Crawford, Designated Lay Minister, within the bounds of the Rawdon Pastoral Charge, for the duration of her appointment to that charge.
22. BECOMING AFFIRMING: Agreed that the draft Affirming Statements be circulated within Maritime Conference with feedback to the Affirming Task Group by February 28, 2015.

Executive Meeting, November 21-22, 2014

23. FINANCE & PROPERTY:

- Approved third quarter financials be received as reported.
- Approved the on the recommendation of the Finance & Property Committee the balance of the \$200,000 bridging loan (approximately \$116,141) from Financial Services of the Maritime Conference of The United Church of Canada be repaid from available funds before 31 December 2014.
- Agreed that the revised allocation formula approved by the 2014 Conference Annual Meeting will take effect with the 2015 budget.
- Approved that Welsford United Church, Saint John Presbytery, PID #45035573, be sold for \$5,000.

- Agreed that the use of the proceeds of the Forest Hills United Church, Halifax Presbytery, be referred to the Finance and Property Committee for consideration and recommendation back to the Executive.

24. MINISTRY PERSONNEL & EDUCATION:

- Approved that on the recommendation of the Conference Ministry Personnel and Education Committee that at the appropriate completion of the paperwork of a call and/or appointment for a diaconal minister that the Executive Secretary of Maritime Conference be given authority to extend both sacramental responsibility and a marriage license to the individual for the duration of their call/appointment. The Executive Secretary would report the action to the Chair of the Ministry, Personnel and Education Committee and to the Conference Executive.
- Approved that on the recommendation of the Conference Ministry Personnel and Education Committee that the Executive Secretary be empowered to act upon requests for sacramental privileges and licenses to marry upon the recommendation of the Ministry Personnel and Education Committee between meetings of the Executive and/or Sub-Executive when it is deemed a delay in decision could cause a hardship for a Ministry site. The Executive Secretary would report the action to the Chair of the Ministry, Personnel and Education Committee and to the Conference Executive.

25. STAFF COMMITTEE:

- Agreed that the position of Conference Minister, Christian Nurture and Enrichment, be suspended pending the actions of the 42nd General Council in August 2015.
- Agreed that without foreclosing on future actions the Maritime Conference agree that Janice MacLean may continue to develop “Email Retreats” and “Online Small Group Spiritual Studies” as an independent ministry.
- Agreed that during the suspension period the following will obtain:
 - a. That the Christian Life and Growth Committee evaluate and make decisions about the other existing and future online initiatives of Conference.
 - b. That the position of Archivist be expanded by 3 hours per week in order to offer support for AVEL.
 - c. That as a “holding” measure, other essential tasks presently addressed by the Conference Minister, Christian Nurture and Enrichment, be assigned to existing Conference staff.
 - d. That proposals for projects that might involve contract or interim staff may be submitted to Conference through the Executive Secretary.
- Agreed that in the fall of 2015 the Conference Staff Committee will reassess the situation and bring further recommendations to the Executive.

26. SACKVILLE UNITED CHURCH, PIANO GIFT: Agreed that Maritime Conference accept the gift of the baby grand piano from Sackville United Church with thanks.

Sub-Executive Meeting, January 19, 2015

27. SAINT JOHN PRESBYTERY, RED HEAD UNITED CHURCH SALE: Approved the sale of Red Head United Church (PID #00340422) to Charles Gow and Melanie Parent for \$70,000.

28. PROCEEDS OF SALE: Approved the disposition of proceeds of sale for Red Head United Church, Saint John Presbytery; Welsford United Church, Saint John Presbytery; and St. Mark's United Church (Quarryville) Miramichi Presbytery be referred to the Finance and Property Committee for recommendation to the April Executive.
29. ATLANTIC ECUMENICAL COUNCIL: Agreed that Maritime Conference express appreciation for the work of the Atlantic Ecumenical Council and encourage them on the dissolution of the Council at their 2015 annual meeting with thanks.
30. CAMP TA-WA-SI: Approved that the Camp Ta-Wa-Si by-laws and forward to General Council for administrative approval.
31. CAMP PROMOTIONS TEAM: Approved the proposal for Camp Promotions Team for 2015 including the hiring of four short-term, part-time staff people with a total budget of \$6,230.

Sub-Executive Meeting, February 20, 2015

32. NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE: Approved the appointment of Carol Chapman to the position of Maritime Conference Representative to the Board of Regents of Mount Allison University; Alison Wornell to the position of Youth representative to the Executive of Maritime Conference; and Reverend Donna Tournour as Maritime Conference Representative on the Senate of the Atlantic School of Theology.
33. MINISTRY PERSONNEL AND EDUCATION, CONFERENCE INTERIM MINISTRY COMMITTEE: Approved that on the recommendation of the Conference Interim Ministry Committee that Rev. Heather MacDougall continue designation as an Interim Minister.
34. CAMP KIDSTON: Approved that the 2013 Camp Kidston investigation expense of \$2,241.91 be assumed by Maritime Conference.
35. MINISTRY PERSONNEL & EDUCATION: Approved sacramental privileges for Barbara Cairns, Student Supply, be licensed to administer the sacraments within the bounds of the Kings United Pastoral Charge, for the duration of her appointment to that charge.
36. CONFERENCE ANNUAL MEETING: Agreed that a representative from the Comprehensive Review Task Group be invited to attend the Conference Annual Meeting as a resource person.

Executive Meeting, April 17-18, 2015

37. NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE: Approved that Ross Bartlett be named to the Proposals Unit until the rise of Conference Annual Meeting, listed within the Annual Meeting Planning Committee; and that Mary White be named to the Proposals Unit, listed within the Annual Meeting Planning Committee.

38. FINANCE & PROPERTY:

- 2014 Audited Statements: Approved the 2014 audited statements to be reported to the 2015 annual meeting of Maritime Conference.
- First Quarter Financials: Agreed that the first quarter financials be received as reported.
- 2016 Narrative Budget: Approved that a narrative budget be provided to the Conference Annual Meeting.
- 2016 Budget: Agreed that the Executive of Maritime Conference recommend to the Annual Meeting of Maritime Conference a budget for 2016 with expenses totaling \$1,233,863.64 including a 2.5% allocation increase of \$22,789.41 for a total allocation of \$934,365.99, an operating deficit of \$525.65, and a cash reserve of \$20,000 as a hedge against the projected total loss of the General Council operating grant of approximately \$194,000 by 2018.
- Conference Annual Meeting Travel: Approved that Maritime Conference committee travel rate of \$0.30/km, meal rates of \$30/day, and annual meeting travel rate of \$0.10/km remain the same for 2016.

39. SAIN'T JOHN PRESBYTERY, ST. GILES UNITED CHURCH: Approved the sale of St. Giles United Church (PID 295337, 55221840, 55221832), Saint John, NB, to Raymond La France for \$60,000 plus legal fees and any other associated costs.

40. FINANCE & PROPERTY:

- Halifax Presbytery, Forest Hills United Church
Approved that the net funds realized from the disbandment of Forest Hill United Church, Cole Harbour, NS, and the sale of its property in the amounts of \$410,342 be disbursed as follows:
 1. \$100,000 be approved for Maritime Conference Building Fund to be used to pay down the principal of the mortgage on the approved anniversary dates;
 2. \$100,000 be approved for the support of ministerial internships sites across the Conference, with each internship grant to not exceed 40% of Pastoral Charge cost for one internship, to a maximum of \$8,000. The grant program is to be administered by the Conference through the Ministry, Personnel & Education Committee;
 3. \$100,000 be approved for use by Conference for Youth Opportunities Fund;
 4. \$100,000 be approved for use by Halifax Presbytery for the support of new ministry initiatives (i.e. church revitalization, church renewal, hiring of consultants to help congregations, etc) according to criteria set by Halifax Presbytery; and
 5. \$10,342 be approved to assist in the care of disbanded church buildings and abandoned United Church cemeteries across the Conference. These funds are to be administered by the Conference through the Finance and Property Committee.
- Miramichi Presbytery, St. Mark's United Church
Approved that the net funds realized from the disbandment of St. Mark's United Church, Quarryville, N.B. and the sale of its property in the amounts of \$44,526.55 be disbursed as follows:
 1. 20% (\$8,905.30) to be approved for submission to Hospice Miramichi, Miramichi, NB;
 2. 20% (\$8,905.30) to be approved for submission to Miramichi Hospital Foundation, Miramichi, NB;

3. 15% (\$6,678.98) to be approved for submission to the United Church Mission and Service Fund;
 4. 10% (\$4,452.66) to be approved for submission to Miramichi Presbytery of Maritime Conference;
 5. 5% (\$2,226.33) to be approved for submission to Blackville, NB, Food Bank;
 6. 25% (\$11,131.65) to be approved for submission to Maritime Conference; and
 7. 5% (2,226.33) to be approved for submission to the IWK Hospital, Halifax NS.
- Saint John Presbytery, Red Head United Church
Approved that the Maritime Conference Executive refer the proposed distribution of funds from the sale of Red Head United Church back to Saint John Presbytery with a request that the amount to Maritime Conference be increased to 25%.
 - Saint John Presbytery, Welsford United Church
Approved that the net funds realized from the disbandment of Welsford United Church, Welsford, NB, and the sale of its property in the amounts of \$6,411.63 be disbursed as follows:
 1. 10% (\$641.17) to be approved for submission to Mission & Service Endowment Fund, United Church of Canada;
 2. 15% (\$961.74) to be approved for submission to the Maritime Conference;
 3. 37.5% (\$2,404.36) to be approved for submission to the Patterson United Church, Patterson, NB; and
 4. 37.5% (\$2,404.36) to be approved for submission to the Wesley United Church, Browns Flat, NB.
 - Truro Presbytery, St. James United Church
Mac MacLeod / Ian Harrison moved that Maritime Conference require all remaining funds from St. James United Church, Great Village, NS, be transferred to Maritime Conference to be held for the care and maintenance of St. James United Church until such time as it is sold and/or transferred to another charity. Also that the trustees continue to work with the Executive Secretary on a plan for disbursement of remaining funds that satisfies CRA requirements and United Church guidelines.
 - Presbytery Allocation Date
 1. Approved that Maritime Conference ask Presbyteries to annually supply by September 30, a list of all pastoral charges closed within the previous five years so that Conference can remove such charges from the statistics used for calculation of allocation.
 2. Approved that Maritime Conference prepare allocations by October 30 annually using the most currently available statistics adjusted for closed pastoral charges.
 - Atlantic Christian Training Centre, Tatamagouche Centre Fundraising Request
Approved the fundraising request of Tatamagouche Centre in recognition of the 60th anniversary of the Centre.
41. CAMP WOOLASTOOK: Approved the sale of Camp Woolastook (PID #65038481) property to Jeremy Rhodes for \$59,000.
42. GENERAL COUNCIL COMMISSIONERS:
- Agreed that Maritime Conference elect four (4) Youth and Young Adult Commissioners (ages 15-30) including one (1) Commissioner as nominated through the General Council Youth Forum process.

- Agreed that Maritime Conference elect nominees to the General Council Sessional Committee on the Comprehensive Review at the Conference Annual Meeting.
43. MINISTRY PERSONNEL & EDUCATION: Reported that permission was given as follows:
- Miramichi Presbytery, Ms. Heather Ferrier, Student Intern, to administer the sacraments;
 - Miramichi Presbytery, Rev. Jean Herman, Supply, to administer the sacraments; and
 - South Shore Presbytery, Mr. Peter Anthony, Student Supply, to officiate at a wedding near Windsor, NS in July 2015.
44. ANNUAL MEETING PLANNING COMMITTEE: Agreed that Maritime Conference receive proposals until May 1 and receive proposals related to Conference Review until May 15.
45. INCORPORATED MINISTRIES:
- Camp Woolastook
Approved the dissolution of the Camp Woolastook Incorporated Ministry.
 - MacLennan Memorial Camp
Approved the dissolution of the MacLennan Memorial Camp Incorporated Ministry.
 - St. John's Spirit Place
Approved the dissolution of the St. John's Spirit Place Incorporated Ministry.
 - Brunswick Street Mission
Approved the by-laws for the Brunswick Street Mission Incorporated Ministry, and forward to General Council for administrative approval.
 - MacLennan Memorial Camp
Approved the transfer of kitchen equipment from MacLennan Memorial Camp to Camp Kidston with Camp Kidston responsible for all costs.
46. DISCONTINUED SERVICE LIST (VOLUNTARY):
- Agreed to waive written ballot in order to deal with a request to have a name placed on the Discontinued Service List (Voluntary) of The United Church of Canada.
 - Approved the recommendation of Chignecto Presbytery to approve the request of Christine MacLeod to have her name placed on the Discontinued Service List (Voluntary) of The United Church of Canada effective April 18, 2015.
 - Approved that Maritime Conference, under Manual Section I.3.3.5, stipulate that Christine MacLeod not be granted permission to exercise any of the functions of an ordained minister while her name is on the Discontinued Service List (Voluntary).
47. CHRISTIAN LIFE & GROWTH, AND FINANCIAL SUPPORT: Approved in principle the purpose and criteria for Youth Opportunities Fund and encourage their further refinement.
48. STAFF COMMITTEE:
Approved that the position description title for Office Coordinator be renamed Office Manager.
- Sub-Executive Meeting, April 24, 2015**
49. SIGNING OFFICERS: Approved that Judith Colwell be made a signing officer for Maritime Conference.

50. REAL ESTATE: Approved that Maritime Conference enter into a formal relationship with the real estate firm, Turner Drake, to assist in property sale and development matters.
51. TASK GROUP ON COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW: Approved that a task group be formed to prepare a Proposal for the Maritime Conference Annual Meeting with regard to the report from the Comprehensive Review Task Group. Members of the task group to be Jane Johnson, Lorna Fillier, Daniel MacDonald, Emily Duggan, and Matthew Fillier with power to add.

Sub-Executive Meeting, May 13, 2015

52. MINISTRY PERSONNEL AND EDUCATION, CONFERENCE INTERIM MINISTRY COMMITTEE: Approved that on the recommendation of the Conference Interim Ministry Committee that Rev. Rose-Hannah Gaskin continue designation as an Interim Minister.
53. CHRISTIAN LIFE & GROWTH, YOUTH OPPORTUNITIES FUND: Approved the criteria and terms of reference for the Youth Opportunities Fund.
54. INVERNESS-GUYSBOROUGH PRESBYTERY, NEW HARBOUR UNITED CHURCH: Approved the listing for sale of New Harbour United Church, Inverness-Guysborough Presbytery, seek the best offer, and authorize the Executive Secretary to act on behalf of the Conference in this matter.
55. ATLANTIC CHRISTIAN TRAINING CENTRE, TATAMAGOUCHE CENTRE: Approved that Tatamagouche Centre (Atlantic Christian Training Centre) increase its line of credit by \$40,000 to a total of \$190,000.
56. SAINT JOHN PRESBYTERY, RED HEAD UNITED CHURCH: Approved the listing for sale of Red Head United Church (PID #00340422), Saint John Presbytery, seek the best offer, and authorize the Executive Secretary to act on behalf of the Conference in this matter

2015 Annual Meeting – Jubilarians

Presbytery	Name	Degrees	Anniv
Bermuda			
Chignecto			
Halifax	Eric W. Pace	BA	55
Inv-Guys			
Miramichi			

Pictou			
	Nancy K. Fraser		50
PEI			
	Herbert W. Reid	BA, Mdiv	65
	Hugh C. MacLean	BA, BD	50
Saint John			
St. Croix			
South Shore			
	J. Raymond H. Corbett	BD, STM	55
Sydney			
	J. Allan McIntosh	BA, Mdiv, DMin	50
	Thomas G. Whent	BA, BD	50
Truro			
	Morley P. Bentley		55
	Heber G. Colbourne	BA, Mdiv	55
Valley			
	Ray A. Francis	BA, MDiv	55
	A. Ross MacDonald	BA, Mdiv	50
	Robert A. Wallace	BA, BD, STM, DMin, STD	60
Woolastook			
	Garth Caseley	BA, Mdiv	50
	Ian K. MacDonald	BA, Mdiv	55
	Donald S. MacDougall	BA, BD, STM	55
	H. Gilmour MacKenzie	BA, Mdiv	65

2015 Annual Meeting – Retirees

Presbytery	Name
Bermuda	
Chignecto	
	Keith Selwyn-Smith

Halifax

Gordon S. Murray
Jeanne M. Manning Stright

Inv-Guys

Miramichi

John W. Fraser

Pictou

PEI

Gayle MacDonald
Joy Noble
Anne Dalziel Singer

Saint John

Pamela S. Reidpath

St. Croix

South Shore

Ron Frampton

Sydney

Truro

Valley

Brenda McKay

Woolastook

OBITUARIES

M. Isabel Archibald

1934-2014

Isabel Archibald, 79, of New Town, Guysborough County, passed away suddenly in St Mary's Memorial Hospital, Sherbrooke, on 30 May 2014. Born in New Glasgow 03 July 1934, Isabel was

the eldest daughter of John G. and Sadie (Fraser) Reid, Riverton. She attended school in Riverton, Stellarton and graduated from the Nova Scotia Agricultural College, Truro at the age of seventeen. Before her marriage, she worked for two years in the agricultural office in Pictou. She managed the St Mary's Mutual Telephone Company before it was acquired by MT&T. She worked part-time in Registry of Deeds office in Sherbrooke. Isabel was very involved in community life: organist for over 40 years at Kirk Memorial Church; UCW member for 60 years; member of Pictou Presbytery; 4-H leadership for over 40 years; East River St. Mary's Fire Dept Auxiliary; past president of the Women's Institute of Nova Scotia; Nova Scotia's representative for WI at world conferences in Holland, New Zealand, Washington, DC; St Mary's Memorial Hospital Board; hosted families in the Farm Vacation program; Eastern Woodlot Owners' Association. Isabel was extremely industrious and knowledgeable about their dairy farm. She was a great partner in marriage and business. Isabel always had delicious nutritious meals for the family and whoever else was around. Their 60th wedding anniversary would have been marked on June 8 quietly as they wished, as well as her 80th birthday on July 3. She is survived by her husband, Robert E.; children, Marie (Robert) MacLeod Stellarton, Ian (Cathy) Garden of Eden, Karen (Anthony) Waugh Lower Truro, Helen (Fraser) McCallum Tabusintac NB, Susan (Denis) Langford Assiniboia Sk, Dale New Town; grandchildren: John & Keith MacLeod; Jenna, Jelisa, Jonathan Waugh; Robyn, William, Katie, Daniel McCallum; sisters Catherine (David) MacLean Glace Bay, Alice Hewitt Port Hilford, Helen Cruickshank Riverton, Mary (Gerald) Romsa Riverton, Ruth Douglas Lower Sackville; many nieces and nephews. Predeceased by brothers-in-law Jim Hewitt, Glenn Cruickshank, Albert Douglas; nephew Shaun Romsa.

"Involvement in 4-H and general day-to-day operations of a dairy family farm has been both interesting and challenging. Many technical challenges require much reading to better our situations in an ever-changing society. I am fortunate to have had so many opportunities to see life beyond my own area; I have a responsibility to give back to others in any manner I can."

Isabel Archibald - Who's Who of Canadian Women 1999 - 2000

The celebration of life was held at Kirk Memorial United Church, Aspen, Guysborough County, NS, on 04 June 2014.

Reverend Ranald MacDonald Cameron

1926-2015

Ranald MacDonald Cameron, 88, died at home in Charlottetown on 27 February 2015. Survived by his wife Jean (MacPherson), daughters Ann (Paul) Atkinson, Kathy Patton and Heather Cameron, sister Helen Munro, daughter-in-law Joyce Cameron and brother-in-law Joe Shannon. Also survived by grandchildren Natalie (Greg) Mitton, Colin (Emily) Atkinson, Patricia (Gordie) Walsh, Tami Cameron, Neven (Shawna) Cameron, Nathan Cameron, Erin (Ian) Jamieson, Daniel and Luke Patton, 16 great-grandchildren and numerous nieces and nephews. Predeceased by his parents Neven and Florence Cameron, step-mother Mae Cameron, sons Neven and Ranald, sisters and brothers Margaret MacKenzie, Evelyn Wood, Alexander (Buddy) Cameron, Marie MacLeod, Heather Cameron and Ruth Shannon and nephew Rannie Cameron. Rannie attended Pine Hill Divinity Hall and was ordained in 1953. During his ministry he served the following Pastoral

Charges: Weymouth, NS; Whycocomagh, NS; Bedeque, PEI; Saint John, NB; Brookfield, NS; Sussex, NB; and Cornwall, PEI from where he retired. After retirement he served at St. Andrew's in Vernon Bridge, PEI and at Trinity in Charlottetown, PEI.

The celebration of life was held at Trinity United Church, Charlottetown, PE, 02 March 2015.

Eldon Rogerson Critchley
1926-2015

Eldon Rogerson Critchley, 88, passed peacefully at home on 23 February 2015. Born in Sydney Mines on Christmas day in 1926, Eldon was the son of the late Claude and Annie Mae (Merritt) Critchley. He was a member of Carman United Church, Sydney Mines. During his youth, he joined the sea cadets and participated in hockey and baseball. Also during this time Eldon was a member of the militia band and the town band as a drummer. During the Second World War, at the age of seventeen, Eldon enlisted in the Canadian Navy and completed his basic training in Cornwallis, N.S. Following basic training Eldon served on the HMCS Bowmanville and HMCS Kapuskasing during the Battle of the Atlantic. Able Bodied Seaman Critchley was discharged from the navy in April 1946. Following his time in the navy, Eldon married his wife, Helen (Bragg) and together they took up residence in Sydney Mines and raised a family of five children. Eldon worked for the British Canadian Co-op Dairy in Sydney Mines for 10 years and during that time he attended courses in pasteurizing milk and other daily works in Guelph, Ont. Following his work at the dairy, Eldon worked at the Princess Colliery Wash Plant in Sydney Mines for 10 years. Once again, the sea called and Eldon left the wash plant to work for Marine Atlantic. During his 30 years with Marine Atlantic, Eldon sailed ships to all the outports of Newfoundland and the Labrador Coast, as well as on the main ferry run from North Sydney to Port aux Basques. During this time Eldon attended the marine school in Halifax and he worked his way up through the ranks on ship to become chief engineer. In terms of service to his community, Eldon devoted a great deal of time and effort over the years. He was a member of the Cape Breton Naval Veterans and a lifetime member of the Canadian Legion Branch 008 in Sydney Mines. He always participated in the annual poppy sale campaign and he played the trumpet for the Last Post during the annual Remembrance Day services held in schools throughout the area each year. Eldon was an active member of the Kiwanis Club (Golden K) for 30 years and he was a member of the Sydney Mines Legion Centennial Band as a trumpet player for 47 years. Throughout his working years and retirement years, Eldon participated on many various bowling leagues in the area. Eldon was a former member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. He served on the official board for Carman United Church in Sydney Mines and he was past chairman of the Sydney Presbytery. Eldon is survived by his loving wife of 63 years, Helen (Bragg); daughters, Carl Ann Critchley of Sydney, Kim (Kevin Teather) Critchley of Prince Edward Island, Joan (B.J.) Fiset of Dartmouth; sons, Stuart (Mary) Critchley of Sydney Mines, Billy Critchley of Millville; grandchildren, Evan Critchley, Paul Bonnar, Kyle Roberson, Colin Bonnar, Kate Roberson, Laura Fiset, Michael Fiset; sister-in-law, Sheila Critchley of London, Ont. and his nieces and nephews. Besides his parents, Eldon was predeceased by his sister, Eva Scott of Halifax and brother-in-law, Rev. Mel Scott of Halifax and his brother, Reg Critchley of London, Ont.

The celebration of life was held at Carman United Church, Sydney Mines, NS, 26 February 2015.

Reverend Robert Alexander (Bob) Crooks
1931-2015

Robert Alexander (Bob) Crooks passed away on 05 April 2015. He was the beloved son of the late Thelma (Muggah) and George Crooks, was born 07 March 1931 in Sydney, Nova Scotia. Bob's early education was in Central School, Sydney and Sydney Academy. As a young man, he showed a great talent for music, studying both piano and organ and obtaining an Associate diploma in organ performance from McGill University. His university studies began at Prince of Wales College (Charlottetown), culminating in a B.A. from Dalhousie in 1956. He then pursued theology at Pine Hill Divinity Hall (Halifax), graduating with an M.Div in 1958. Bob was ordained by the Maritime Conference of the United Church of Canada on June 10th of that year. In 38 years of dedicated ministry, Bob served churches in all three Maritime Provinces (Elmsdale, P.E.I., Moncton and Fredericton, New Brunswick, Halifax, Nova Scotia) and in eastern Ontario (Cardinal, Belleville, Ottawa). He was president of Maritime Conference in 1983/4, Conference Organist for 10 years and both a commissioner and an executive member of the highest body of the United Church – its General Council. Bob leaves a family deep in mourning and thanksgiving: his wife, life-long love and partner in all things Margery (MacLean), his four children – Jamie (Willa), Cathie, Chrissie (Robert) and Tim (Alison) – and his eight grandchildren – Bill and Sam, Sydney and Jackson, Whitney, Ellis and N'Kysha, and Lily. He leaves also his brother Roland (Jean), sister-in-law Marilyn, brothers-in-law Ian (Wilma), Sandy (Lila), Hugh (Norma) and Alan (Alison) and 17 nieces and nephews. Bob's parishioners will remember the benevolent thunder of his sermons, the inspiration of his own unshakeable faith, and the selfless dedication of his pastoral care. His family will remember, above all, his abiding love for them. We are called now to take up the example of his irrepressible humour and his seemingly effortless kindness. Anyone who heard Bob preach could attest his ability to 'speak with the tongues of men and angels'. But, for us, he was above all a living embodiment of the knowing love celebrated in I Corinthians 13. Now, by that love, he sees God 'face to face'.

The celebration of life was held at First United Church, Truro, NS, 10 April 2015.

Pauline Ervin
1920-2014

Pauline "Polly" Ervin, 94, passed away on 03 October 2014 surrounded by her children at The Moncton Hospital. Born on 13 July 1920 in New Ross, Lunenburg County, Nova Scotia, she was predeceased by her father, Rev. Asaph Whitman and her mother, Alice (Sanford) along with half sisters Eva Crawford, Mable Humphrey, Violet Sabin, Lillian Ross, Beulah Whitman, and half brothers Lawrence and Paul Whitman, and her husband Roderick (Rod) Ervin. Rod and Polly were married in 1947 in Halifax and the family moved to Moncton in 1956 when Rod was transferred with Transport Canada. Polly leaves behind her children: Lynne (Dave) Duffy, Shediac Bridge, NB; Anne (Jim) Johnson, Scotch Settlement, NB, and son Donald (Annette) Ervin, Bridgewater, NS.; much loved grandchildren Shawn (Tracy), Craig (Vanessa) Duffy, Aaron (Stephanie) Johnson, Amy Johnson, Terah (Charles) McKinnon, Madelyn (Chris) Beatty, and James (Claire Worthington) Ervin; great-grandchildren who brought her much joy: Kyla and Logan Duffy (Calgary), Olivia and Andrew Duffy (Rothesay), and Roan McKinnon (Halifax); her very special

brother Paul (Amanda) Whitman, Berwick, NS and their children Alan (Marnie) Whitman, Alice Whitman, Janet (Mark) Mahoney and their children Matthew (Melissa) and Julie Mahoney; her brother-in-law Fraser Ervin and his children Alexis and Kevin Ervin; many other relatives and friends in Canada and the United States. Polly was active in many groups and committees. Through the United Church of Canada she was a member of Mountain View United Church and the Esther Unit of the UCW, President and Chair of Chignecto Presbytery, first lay woman President of Maritime Conference, President of the Women's Missionary Society, a representative of Maritime Conference for 4 years on the executive of General Council, and a 5-time commissioner to General Council. She was a volunteer at Moncton Hospital, President of Moncton Meals on Wheels, and member of the Primus Toastmistress Club. Her list of acquaintances is extensive and she was well cared for by many, especially her good friends at Peoples Park Tower. Special thanks goes to staff at the Extra mural Hospital (Driscoll Unit), the nursing and medical staff of 3600 unit and Palliative Care at The Moncton Hospital, and to her well loved family doctor, John Park.

The celebration of life was held at Mountain View United Church, Moncton, NB, 09 October 2014.

Reverend Murray Favier
1926-2015

Murray Favier, 88, peacefully passed away at Debert Court Nursing Home on 01 March 2015. He was a son of the late Cyrus "Saddie" and Lottie (Bigney) Favier, of Westville. Rev. Favier served in various United Churches in his vocation, including Guysborough/Canso (1955-1959); Clifton (1959-1968); Charlottetown (1973-1978); and Elmsdale (1979-1990), where he served both the United and Presbyterian Churches, sharing ministry relationships. Upon retirement, supplied at Stewiacke, from 1990-1992 and St. Andrew's, Truro (1994), and finishing his ministry at St. David's United Church in Bible Hill (1995-1996). He also worked on the Maritime Conference Staff (1968-1973). As well, he acted as Secretary for the Hunter Building Church Fund for 12 years. Murray is survived by sons Steven Favier, Toronto; Neven Favier (Joanne) and grandson Michael, Charlottetown, PE; sister, Isabelle Conrad and brother Richard Favier; nephew Perry Conrad (Jackie); brother and sisters in law, Janet Campbell and John and Beth MacLeod. He was predeceased by his loving wife Irene (MacLeod) and his brother-in-law Harold Conrad.

The celebration of life was held at St. David's United Church, Bible Hill, NS, 06 March 2015.

Alan R. Fleming
1936-2014

Alan Richard Fleming, 78, New Glasgow, passed away in the Aberdeen Hospital on 22 June 2014. Born on 02 March 1936, he was the son of the late George and Alice (Fraser) Fleming. Alan was a loving husband and proud father, survived by his wife, Mary (Whitman) Fleming; daughter, Catherine; son, Bruce; as well as brother-in-law, George Whitman, London; nieces: Susan (Mick) Williams; Janet Whitman; Barbara (Scott) Elliott, all of Halifax. He was predeceased by his nephew, Peter Whitman. Alan attended schools in New Glasgow and graduated with his LLB from Dalhousie University in 1962. After moving to New Glasgow, he worked for Scott

Paper. Alan's service to his community over the years was exemplary. He was President of the New Glasgow Music Festival, the Gyro Club, Children's Aid Society, Pictou County Council of Churches, United Way, Pictou County Minor Hockey Association and New Glasgow Riverfront Association. Upon his retirement, he found true enjoyment as Volunteer Victim Assistance Co-ordinator for the Stellarton Detachment of the RCMP which he did for several years. Recently he became a member of the Town of New Glasgow Heritage Committee. Alan was a life-long member of Trinity United Church and over the years served in many different capacities. Presently, he was a member of the Pictou Presbytery for the United Church of Canada.

The celebration of life was held at Trinity United Church, New Glasgow, NS, 25 June 2014.

Mary Tait Fraser
1919-2014

Mary Tait (O'Brien) Fraser, from a life lived richly, fully and generously entered into eternal rest on 30 December 2014 at her home in New Glasgow, NS, surrounded by her nearest and dearest. Born in Toronto, ON on 13 October 1919, she was the daughter of George Erle O'Brien and Hilda Dunlop Tait. She attended Brown School, Bishop Strachan School, Mount Allison University, and received her BA from the University of Toronto in 1940. While at U of T, she was a member of the Alpha Chi Omega Sorority. In December 1941, she married Chesley Drummond Fraser of New Glasgow, Second Lieutenant and later Captain in the Royal Canadian Artillery. They honeymooned briefly before Chesley returned to active duty in England. At the close of the war they moved to New Glasgow to raise their family of seven: Peter, Jennifer, George, Bill, Brien, Meredith and Bronwyn. Mary was tremendously proud of her O'Brien name and her Irish roots. However, they did little to prepare her for the quintessential Scottishness of Pictou County, where she promptly discovered that she was one of many 'Mary Frasers.' Continuing in the strong faith tradition of her forebears, she became involved in the life and ministry of Trinity United Church through the Women's Missionary Society, later the United Church Women, from which she received a life membership, and also in the broader courts of the United Church of Canada, including Pictou Presbytery. Her abiding interest in outreach and social justice made her a passionate supporter and promoter of the Mission and Service Fund of the United Church all her life. Her conviction that "where two or three are gathered" good things happen, led two of her children to enter the ministry. She often welcomed students from the Coady Institute in Antigonish into the family home for holidays, and became an active volunteer for Tearmann House when it opened its doors in New Glasgow in 1984. She was subsequently honoured by the Pictou County Women's Centre as one of "12 Women Who Made a Difference" in Pictou County - chiefly for her work with Tearmann. She was involved in sponsoring Vietnamese families to come to New Glasgow with their families. Her artistic and literary interests included the Nova Scotia Drama League, Scottish country dancing - and a love of good books. Her large, extended family - Chesley, children, grandchildren, daughters- and sons-in-law, siblings and cousins, nieces and nephews - remained her primary focus throughout her life. She took great pride in all their accomplishments, while remaining their staunchest defender when the chips were down. On one public occasion she referred to her children as her "seven shining achievements." Mary was predeceased by her beloved, Chesley; her eldest son, Peter; and her brother, George Allan O'Brien. Her death is mourned and her life is celebrated by Jennifer and Derek Grout, New

Glasgow; George and Nora Fraser, New Glasgow; Bill and Gloria Fraser, Lanark; Brien Fraser and Michele Vyge-Fraser, Halifax; Meredith Fraser, Quarry Island; Bronwyn and Bill Bagnell, Quarry Island; Libby (Fraser) Cassidy, Fredericton; sister, Carolyn T. (O'Brien) MacIntosh, New Glasgow; and by grandchildren: Patrick (and Amy) Grout; Andrew Grout; Allan Fraser (and Meghan Mulcahy); Mairi Fraser (and Jeremy Parent); Sam Fraser; Drummond Fraser (and Terri Cundy); Beth Fraser; Peter (and Natalie) Fraser; Meredith Fraser; Jock Fraser; Mary Bagnell; Adam Fraser; Caroline Fraser; and great-grandchildren: Ezra Mulcahy; Fiona Grout; Eamonn Fraser; Benjamin Fraser. The family would like to express thanks to Alyson MacDonald, Maureen MacIvor, Deborah Hosking, Joyce Roode, Alma Rogers and Sandy Hart who graced Mary's days and nights with skill, care and affection; and to Elsie Sample, who helped raise her brood.

The funeral service was held at Trinity United Church, New Glasgow, NS, 05 January 2015.

Reverend Eric G. Fullerton

1927-2015

Eric G. Fullerton, 87, passed away on 19 February 2015 at Beach Grove Home, surrounded by his family. The Reverend Eric Grenfell Fullerton was born in Amherst, Nova Scotia, son of the late Sydney B. and Elsie M. (Kilcup) Fullerton. He received his education in the Amherst Schools, Maritime Business College, Dalhousie University, Mount Allison University and Pine Hill Divinity Hall. He was ordained by Maritime Conference, The United Church of Canada in 1955. Eric served Student Mission Fields in Saskatchewan, New Brunswick, and Nova Scotia. Following ordination, he served Pastoral Charges in Gaspé-Cap Aux Os, Quebec, Cole Harbour-Lawrencetown, and Lr. Sackville, N.S. and Cornwall, P.E.I.. He was Conference Minister for Congregational Support, Maritime Conference, and Atlantic Special Gifts Consultant, Department of Stewardship Services, The United Church of Canada. He is survived by his wife, Gloria (Jay), sons David (Carol Ann), Brookside, N.S. Glen (Patsy), Cornwall, P.E.I., daughters Beverley (Blythe Murray), Marshfield, P.E.I. and Robin, (Peter White), Chapel Hill, North Carolina, sister Enid Craft, Amherst, N.S., and ten grandchildren: Brianne, Alicia, Rebecca, Tristan, Olivia Lewis, Mark, Steven, Sarah, Katie Fullerton, Bev White. He was predeceased by an infant daughter, sisters Mildred, and Vivian (Roland Blenkhorn), and a brother Bruce.

Reverend Allan E. Griffin

1938-2014

Allan E. Griffin of Amherst, passed away Wednesday, 20 August 2014 at Aberdeen Hospital, New Glasgow, NS. He was the son of the late Vernon and Frances (Campbell) Griffin of Springhill, Nova Scotia. Upon graduation from the Springhill High School, Allan attended Acadia University where he received his B.A. (1963) and his M.Div (1966). In 1966 he was ordained by the Atlantic United Baptist Convention. He served Baptist churches in Kentville, Montreal and Bridgewater. In 1988 he was received into the ministry of the United Church of Canada serving United Churches in Moncton, N.B and Amherst. He retired as Senior Minister of Trinity St. Stephen's in Amherst in 2004. During the course of his ministry he served on many boards and committees, including two terms on the Board of Governors of Acadia University and Acadia Divinity College Senate.

After retirement he served as Chaplain of the Moncton City and the George Dumont hospitals in Moncton. He is survived by his wife of 46 years Marilyn (Legge); daughters Karla (Mark) Gillis, Michelle and son David, grandchildren Brooke, Ella, Samuel and Charlotte; sister Darlene Chisholm of Digby; brother Douglas (Shirley) of Truro, Vernon (Jean) of Whitby, ONT and Norman (Shirley) of Five Islands as well as many nieces and nephews.

The celebration of life was held at Trinity-St. Stephen's United Church, Amherst, NS, on 25 August 2014.

Reverend Ross Hamilton

1924-2014

Rosborough Brydone "Ross" Hamilton, B.A., B.D., M.Th., 90, Northumberland Veteran's Unit, Pictou, passed away 07 November 2014 in the Unit. Born on 25 May 1924 in Sydney, he was the youngest child of Rev. James Henry "Harry" and Flora Christine (Rosborough) Hamilton. The last surviving member of his family, Ross was raised in Sydney and Maxville, Ont. During the Second World War, he enlisted with the Royal Canadian Air Force in 1942. Selected for aircrew training, he trained and served in Canada and Great Britain as a bomber pilot. At the conclusion of the war, he was flying with the Number 6 (RCAF) Group in Yorkshire. Following the war, he attended Dalhousie University (1946-1949) where he was President of the Student Council in 1948 and was active in number of international student conferences in Oslo, Norway and Sophia, Bulgaria. Upon graduation from Dalhousie in 1949, he entered Pine Hill Divinity Hall where he was captain of the Pine Hill hockey team, the "Holy Terrors". In 1949, he married Mary Duffus Farquhar, daughter of Rev. George and Ruby (Duffus) Farquhar. He graduated from Pine Hill Divinity Hall and was awarded the Campbell Travelling Scholarship for post-graduate studies at New College, Edinburgh, Scotland. Ross was ordained by the Maritime Conference in 1952 and prior to assuming his studies in Scotland, he served at North River / North Shore Pastoral Charge in Victoria County, Cape Breton. Returning to Canada in 1954, he began pastoral work for the United Church of Canada serving charges in Norton and the West Side Kirk, West Saint John, New Brunswick; John Black Memorial in Winnipeg, Man. and Bethany in Halifax. Ross served on numerous boards and committees, both local and national, for the United Church. He was on the organizing committee for the Inter-faith Curling League in Winnipeg, which had initiation problems, as it was difficult to find someone "without sin" to cast the first stone! In 1973, after six years at Bethany United, he resumed postgraduate studies and completed a Master of Divinity degree at Union Theological Seminary, Princeton becoming Professor of Homiletics at Pine Hill / Atlantic School of Theology, Halifax. After several years at the Atlantic School of Theology, he returned to pastoral ministry in Margaree Centre, Cape Breton. Post retirement, Ross served in pulpit supply in the communities of Liverpool, Halifax (Bethany), Saint John and Sherbooke. Since retirement, he lived in New Glasgow and had been active in various branches of the Royal Canadian Legion, church choirs and a variety of community organizations. Surviving are his wife of 65 years, Mary Duffus (Farquhar) Hamilton, Antigonish; children, Dr. John Rosborough Hamilton (Dr. Minoli Amit), Antigonish; James Gordon Hamilton (Gantsetseg Rentsendorj), Ottawa; Sheila Jean Tucker, Porter's Lake; Neil Farquhar Hamilton (Juliet Escher), Ottawa; Dr. Andrew Yorke Hamilton (Dr. Joanne Nicholson), Kingston, Ont.; grandchildren, Dr. Joshua Tucker (Jessa Carr), Providence, Rhode Island; Dr. Matthew Tucker (Karen Chase), Petawawa,

Ont. ; Mary Beth Tucker, Dartmouth; Alistair Hamilton, Antigonish; Dr. Claire Hamilton (Glenn Graham), Halifax; David Hamilton, Ottawa; Scott Hamilton (Peggy Rae), Toronto ; Daniel Hamilton, Toronto ; Kirsten Hamilton, Halifax; Meghan (Alexis Fafard), Ottawa; Erin Hamilton, Peterborough; Jadumba Hamilton, Ottawa; four great grandchildren; many nieces and nephews. Besides his parents, he was predeceased by sister, Elizabeth; brothers, Hugh, Chalmers, Walter and Steve; son-in-law, Michael Tucker.

The celebration of life was held at First Presbyterian Church, New Glasgow, NS, 30 November 2014.

Jean Eleanor Hannan

1918-2014

Jean Eleanor Hannan, 96, died 22 September 2014 at the Charlotte County Hospital. Born at Oak Hill, NB on 16 July 1918, she was the daughter of Fred and Estella (Sabine) Fraser. Jean was privileged to live all of her 96 years in her family homestead at Oak Hill. She was predeceased by her parents, her husband Everett (2005), and her sister, Alice Trafton (2005). She is survived by her daughter Sharon Hannan of Blackville, N.B., cousins, nieces, and nephews. She will be especially remembered by life-long friend Marjorie Caldwell and long-time friend Annie Palmer. Jean graduated from Provincial Normal School (Teachers' College) in 1936 and taught in several local country schools. She also taught two years in Grand Bay, NB. Her teaching career was interrupted when she chose to help out on the family farm. Later she returned to teaching, retiring in 1981. At a young age she became involved in her local church. This interest and commitment continued throughout her life. She took on several roles in the Oak Hill United Church, St. James Pastoral Charge and St. Croix Presbytery. Jean was equally dedicated to her community and was always involved in organizing community events.

The celebration of life was held at The S. O. Mehan & Son Funeral Home Ltd, St Stephen, NB, on 25 September 2014.

Reverend Richard F. Humby

1917-2014

Richard F. Humby, 97, Truro, passed away Wednesday, 24 September 2014, at Colchester East Hants Health Centre, Truro. Born 24 January 1917, in Summerville, a fishing village in Newfoundland, he was a son of the late Joseph and Ellen (Fry) Humby. For several years, he followed the trade of his ancestors who were known as Labrador fishermen, sailing a fishing schooner to Labrador. His thoughts turned to ministry and eventually he attended Mount Allison University in New Brunswick and Pine Hill Divinity School in Halifax. Graduating in 1950, he was ordained by the Newfoundland Conference of the United Church of Canada, and served churches in Newfoundland and Nova Scotia until his retirement in 1984. Retiring in the Truro area, he became Minister of Visitation at First United Church, a position he held for eight years, and was then honoured with the title of Minister Emeritus of the congregation. He was predeceased by his wife, Eleanor (Dunbar); brothers, Eli, John, Albert. He is survived by his children, Sidney,

Hubbards; Nancy Humby, Hemford, Lunenburg County; Karen (Rick) Logan, New Glasgow; grandson, Mitchell Wentzell, Bridgewater; sister, Evelyn Parsons, Newfoundland; brother, Clem, Newfoundland; many nieces and nephews.

The celebration of life was held at First United Church, Truro, NS, 03 October 2014.

Reverend Dr. Leonard “Avery” Kempton
1937-2014

Avery Kempton, 76, of Halifax, passed away on 15 August 2014, after a long struggle with Parkinson’s. Avery was a son of the late Alice and Clayton Kempton. He was ordained as a United Church of Canada minister in 1961. Later, he completed studies for a Doctor of Ministry degree in Psychology and Pastoral Care from Andover-Newton Theological School in Boston. Clinical Pastoral Education became his specialty. For many years, Avery was pastor, counselor, and educator as a United Church Chaplain in the hospital and university settings in Halifax. He also served pastoral charges in the areas of Inverness, Tantallon, and Marion Bridge. He enjoyed times with his family, basketball, running and spending time “out on the Mira”. He is survived by his wife, Marjorie; his children, Alan, Karyn, Allison and son-in-law, Daniel Organ; his grandchildren, Mark, Laura, Grant, and Brayden as well as his sister, Betty Powell, and many nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by siblings, Daisy Kempton, Gloria Bryan, Anne Lowe, Frances Harding, and Robert Kempton.

D. Vivien Kierstead
1946-2015

D. Vivien (Armstrong) Kierstead, RN, BN, 67, passed away peacefully at the Georges L. Dumont University Hospital Centre on 20 October 2014, surrounded by family and friends, following a courageous battle with cancer. Born 26 October 1946, Vivien was the loving wife of Michael Kierstead Sr. and beloved mother of Susan (Roger) Stapleton and Michael (Sonia) Kierstead Jr. The light of her life was her grandchildren, Ainsley, Evan and Gavin Stapleton and Dante Kierstead. She is survived by sister Susan (Jean-Guy) Arseneault, brother Wayne Armstrong, her special cousin Wendy Carter, her dear Great-Aunt Peggy Faulkner and several cousins, nieces and nephews. She was pre-deceased by her parents, Walter and Muriel Armstrong, infant brother David, infant granddaughter Katelyn Vivien (Katey) and sister-in-law Janet Armstrong. Vivien devoted her career to nursing, having graduated from Moncton Hospital School of Nursing in 1968 and earning her Bachelor of Nursing degree from U.N.B. Fredericton in 1991. She was an active member of her church community at Bathurst First United, including the UCW. She was a member of Miramichi Presbytery, serving on the Christian Life & Growth Committee. She was an officer of the Bathurst Chapter Order of Eastern Star and an affiliate member of Zetland Chapter OES in Shediac Cape, N.B. She enjoyed many summers at her cottage in Pte. du Chene, N.B., where she loved to garden and spend time with her family, especially her grandchildren.

The celebration of life was held at First United Church, Bathurst, NB, 27 October 2014.

Dean Arnold Lawrence

1950-2014

Dean Arnold Lawrence, 64, husband of the late Heather Allison Lawrence, passed away at the Miramichi Regional Hospital on 15 September 2014. Born in St. Stephen, NB, he was the son of the late George and Joyce Lawrence. He was a retired Military Police Officer and United Church Minister. He is survived by his Fiancé, Lucy Copp; his daughters, Jennifer Elkorazati (Islam), Izmer, Turkey and Natalie Dayman (Roger) of St. George, Ontario; his sister, Ruth McGuire (John) of Fredericton, NB; and his 7 grandchildren. Besides his wife and his parents, he was predeceased by his sister Dianne Lawrence.

The celebration of life was held at St James and St John United Church, Miramichi, NB, 19 September 2014.

Reverend James Allistar MacDonald

1932-2015

James Allistar MacDonald passed away, surrounded by family, on 25 April 2015 in Saint John, NB. He was born in 1932 in Port Hawkesbury, Cape Breton, Nova Scotia, the son of the late Effie (MacLean) and John D. MacDonald. Jim graduated from Sydney Academy in 1950, Mount Allison University in 1953, and Pine Hill Divinity College in 1956. While at Mount Allison, besides being Student Body President, editor of the campus newspaper, involved in ROTC and playing on the rugby team, he also found time to meet and fall in love with Gwen (Bailey), also a student there. Married a few months after graduation, they started their life together in North River Bridge on the Cabot Trail at his first church. He subsequently served pastoral charges at St. Andrews United, Sydney, NS; Anjou United, Montreal, PQ; Park Avenue United, Saint John and St. James United, Woodstock, NB. During “retirement”, he supplied in the Pastoral Charges of Welsford, St. Martins, Norton and Lorneville-St Giles – an incredible 55 years of Ministry. A natural leader, throughout the years he shared his talents as Chairman of the Saint John Presbytery, in many roles in the Boy Scouts of Canada, as Captain in the army reserves, and involvement with various committees in the work of the United Church. Jim was a very kind, gentle and humble man. His family was the most important thing in his life. He loved the many family vacations, MacStack reunions, lobster boils and get-togethers with friends and family over the years. He loved all types of music, and found great joy in many Saint John concerts. He is survived by his wife of 59 years, Gwen (Bailey), his sons Alan (Laurie) of Kitchener, ON, Ross (Sharon) of Moncton, and his daughter Mary-Gwen (David) Alston of Grand Bay-Westfield. He was so very proud of his eight grandchildren – Sydney, Kelsey, Brett, Sarah, Alec, Ceileigh, James and Emily. He is also survived by his brother Rev. Ian (Virginia) MacDonald of Fredericton and his sister Sheila (Rev. Jackie) MacDonald of Sydney, NS. He was predeceased by his older brother Fraser (Paulette) MacDonald of Cornwallis, NS.

The celebration of life was held at Brenan’s Bay View Chapel, Saint John, NB, on 30 April 2015.

Reverend John “Fraser” MacDonald
1931-2015

Fraser MacDonald, passed away on 12 March 2015 in Sydney, N.S. after deteriorating health from Vascular Dementia. Born in Sydney; the son of John Angus MacDonald and Annie (Gordon) MacDonald. He grew up on the family farm in Dutch Brook where there was an abundance of love, lots of cousins and laughter and fondly remembered by many as Jeep. Fraser graduated from Sydney Academy, Mount Allison University and Pine Hill Divinity School. In his earlier years Fraser served the church as a student minister in Sunnybrook, Alberta, West Bay and Loch Lomond, Cape Breton. In 1966 Fraser was ordained into The Christian ministry of The United Church of Canada at the Maritime Conference; he continued his education by graduating with a Masters of Divinity from the Atlantic School of Theology in 1983. Fraser’s first pastoral charge was in Bermuda at The Wesleyan Methodist Church. In his 35 years as a minister Fraser served at The United Church in York, P.E.I., Nashwaaksis United Church in Fredericton, N.B., First United Church in Sydney, N.S., Marysville, N.B. and St. Anns Bay, N.S. Survived by his wife, Kathy Cranton and children, Matthew (Tina), Miriam (Will), Ian (Julie) and Tim (Monique). Grandchildren, Alexander, Jean, Calum, Katie, Sarah (Scutt), Maria, Keira, Alyssa and Erika and predeceased by infant grandson, Benjamin Scutt. Also survived by sisters-in-law, Norma MacDonald (Mackie), Eva (late Bob) Colpitts; brother-in-law, Gordon (Betty) Cranton. Besides his parents he was predeceased by brothers, Reverend Jim ‘Sonny’, wife Evelyn and twin brother, Malcolm ‘Mackie’. Besides many church related activities Fraser enjoyed gardening and canoeing as well as community events; The Golden K, Loaves and Fishes, Meals on Wheels. He had a love for genealogy especially researching the family Clan Donald and Angus of Cape Breton. Fraser touched many people’s lives on his faith journey. His quick wit, sense of humour and compassion endeared him to all he met.

The celebration of life was held at United Heritage Church, Sydney, NS, 20 March 2015.

Reverend Norman D. MacDougall
1932-2015

Norman MacDougall, 82, passed away at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Charlottetown on 06 March 2015. Beloved husband of Shirley. Loving father of Ruth MacDougall, Janet MacDougall and Paul (Lauren) MacDougall. Granddad of Kate and Rachel Turner. Brother of Gordon (Betty) MacDougall. Predeceased by his son-in-law, Alan Turner, his parents, Neil and Catherine MacDougall, sisters, Louise and MaryBelle (Bob) Goodwin, and brothers, George (Eleanore) and Neil Donald (in infancy). Brother-in-law of Isabel (the late Doug) Fletcher. Norman was ordained in 1965 and served pastoral charges in Gysborough-Canso, Inverness-Guysborough Presbytery; Winsloe, P.E.I. Presbytery; Upper Londonderry-Truro Presbytery; Waverley-Halifax Presbytery; Stellarton-Pictou Presbytery, Red Bank-Miramachi Presbytery, Trinity-Clifton, P.E.I. Presbytery; Bideford-Tyne Valley–P.E.I. Presbytery; and Minister of Visitation for Mount Stewart-Morell-St. Peter’s Bay.

The celebration of life was held at Trinity United Church, Charlottetown, PE, 10 March 2015.

Johanna Jessie MacKenzie
1918-2014

Johanna Jessie Mackenzie, 96, passed away at her home in West Bay, 01 October 2014. It would have been she and Duncan John's 74th wedding anniversary. She born in Whycocomagh, on 01 March 1918. She was the second oldest of fourteen children. She spent her early years growing up on MacLean Island, what we now call the Crammond Islands. Johanna married Duncan John MacKenzie, 01 October 1940 and together they raised their family in West Bay. In the 50s and 60s Duncan John ran lumber camps around Cape Breton Island and Johanna along with raising her family, cooked and managed the camps for her husband. Her cooking skills are legendary. She was devoted to her family, her church and her community and throughout her life she worked tirelessly for all of these. Johanna was the Postmistress in West Bay for many years so she was well known and very respected by everyone. Johanna was an active member of the West Bay United Church and served in many positions on the official board. She was a steward until only a few years ago when her health began to deteriorate. She was a charter member of the West Bay United Church UCW and served faithfully for more than 60 years. She was instrumental in the West Bay UCW fund-raising to enable the group to sponsor a child. Even in later years when the group was down to only two or three members, Johanna would bake a fruitcake and have the Seniors Club sell tickets on it so they could continue that sponsorship. She was a founding member of the Strait Richmond Hospital Advisory Committee; a founding member of the Head of the Lake Seniors Club where she enjoyed playing cards and attending various events sponsored by the club. She was a lifetime member of The Order of the Eastern Star, Starlight Chapter# 66; Johanna was a member of the Inverness-Guysborough Presbytery for more than 34 years and she worked on the various committees of the Presbytery until her 91th year, although she remained a member until her death. She was always very active in the community, attending and cooking for everything that went on including church and community events. Johanna was a very beautiful woman and she carried herself with the grace and dignity that was always her trademark. She loved animals and could see no reason to destroy any life, no matter how large or small. She worked hard all her life and although she lost two sons and a son in law over the years, she was always able to rise above the loss. She loved her children, her grandchildren and great grandchildren, which was very evident at her funeral service as they paid their respects to their much loved and respected matriarch.

The celebration of life was held at West Bay United Church, West Bay, NS, 05 October 2014.

Dorothy Ethel MacNeill
1934-2014

Dorothy Ethel MacNeill died peacefully at Willow Lodge, Tatamagouche, N.S. on 11 August 2014. Dorothy was a secretary, church organist, and writer during her professional career. Dorothy participated in the music and education programs of every congregation she was a member of, and was an active member of UCW. She was a member of Maritime Conference over a 30 year period, representing the following Presbyteries: Chignecto, Halifax, Inverness-Guysborough, Truro, and Woolostook. Dorothy served as Maritime Conference Representative to the General Council Executive from 1986-1990. She is a past President of Maritime Conference UCW. Dorothy has

also published a number of resource books for small groups including Program Ready and Program Ready II through UCPH and Sharing Signs of the Spirit, Worship for Seniors, and Sermon Ready which she self-published and distributed. Many people have enjoyed reading her reflections on ministry in her book And does your wife/spouse play the piano? Born on 26 January 1934, she was the daughter of Isaac and Minnie Bourne of St. John's, NF. Dorothy was predeceased by her parents, her brother John Bourne and her nephew Gary Bourne, all of St. John's. Dorothy is survived by her husband of 57 years Kenley MacNeill of Truro, NS; and by her children Kathy (Ron) Curtis of Amherst NS, Karen MacNeill of Lower Norton, NB, Mae Douglas of Richmond Hill ON, Peter (Linda) MacNeill of Fergus ON, and John (Terri) MacNeill of Valley NS, as well as seven grandchildren, two great-grandchildren, numerous nephews and nieces. The family wishes to thank the staff at Willow Lodge, and Dr. Michael Glasgow for their wonderful care.

The celebration of life was held at Saint Andrew's United Church, Truro, NS, 22 August 2014.

Reverend Boyce M. Martin
1940-2014

Boyce Martin, 74, passed away on Saturday, 25 October 2014 at the Dr. Everett Chalmers Regional Hospital in Fredericton, NB. Boyce was born in La Scie, Newfoundland on 19 July 1940. He was ordained pastor of the United Church of Canada for 37 years and spent most of his career ministering in Newfoundland and the Maritimes. Boyce is survived by his loving wife Daisy (Miller) Martin of 49 years. They have two sons, David and Rodney; and one grandson, Jaron. David resides in Ontario and Rodney resides in Fredericton with his son Jaron. Boyce was the youngest of eight children. He was predeceased by his father, Jacob and his mother Lavinia; also brother William (Ruby) Martin and sisters, Lillian, Doris (Thomas) Wimbleton and Irene (Harvey) Newbury. Boyce is also survived by brothers, Eric (Ruby) Martin, Jacob (Ruby) Martin; and sisters Joyce (Oswald) Burton and Ivy (Robert) Cooper; numerous nieces and nephews; many relatives and friends. He is also survived by his mother-in-law, Bessie Hancock of Botwood, Newfoundland and many brothers- and sisters-in-law.

The celebration of life was held at York Funeral Home's T. Gordon MacLeod Memorial Chapel, Fredericton, NB, 28 October 2014.

Reverend Ewen Moase
1966-2015

Ewen Moase, 48, passed away peacefully surrounded by loved ones, at the Halifax Infirmary Hospital on 08 March 2015. Ewen was the minister at the Bethany United Church in Halifax, and had four previous congregations prior. The Rev. Ewen Moase was born in Summerside on 19 October 1966. Son of Mary (McLure) Moase and the late Vernon Moase, father to Charlotte Moase and Samuel Moase. He also survived by many cousins and great friends.

The celebration of life was held at Bethany United Church, Halifax, NS, 11 March 2015.

Reverend Linda Elizabeth Reid

1946-2014

Linda Elizabeth Reid, 68, died peacefully at home on 30 July 2014 after a brave and determined struggle against a rare and progressive neurological illness. She was the beloved spouse of L. Joanne McFadden (Rev.), devoted mother of Danielle Marryatt (Jeff Wilson), Dan Marryatt (Jana O'Neil), Darren Marryatt (Leah), and adoring grammie of Alex and Kylee Marryatt. Linda was blessed with a rich interior life, deep intuition, a huge heart, and a brilliant wit. Spiritually she drew from a very deep well that few have access to. Linda was ordained at the Annual Meeting of Maritime Conference in Fredericton, NB in 2000. She served the Digby Pastoral Charge and the Brooklyn Pastoral Charge, South Shore Presbytery. Prior to her studies she was an active member of St. Andrew's-St. Mark's United Church, Ingramport, NS where her gifts for ministry were recognized and encouraged. Linda is survived by her sisters Pat and Roberta and several nieces and nephews. Linda was deeply loved by all the members of Joanne's family, who grieve her dying. Linda's brain was donated to the Maritime Brain Bank for research purposes.

The celebration of life was held at Trinity United Church, Shelburne, NS, on 04 August 2014.

Reverend Samuel Patterson Shields

1920-2015

Samuel Patterson Shields, 94, passed away peacefully at the Prince County Hospital on 16 March 2015. Samuel was born in Belfast, Northern Ireland on 13 May 1920. He was the oldest child of Thomas and Elizabeth Shields. He grew up in Belfast along with 5 brothers and a sister. His call to the Lord came early and in his late teens he was conducting services in the smaller communities on the outskirts of Belfast, often commuting from his home to the churches by public transit. His early twenties found him working as a fitter at Belfast's most prestigious men's wear store, Robinson & Cleavers. During the blitz bombing of Belfast through World War II, he would spend his nights as fire watchman at the store. After the war he attended college in Dublin, Ireland where he trained to be a minister. It was there, while attending Grovenor Road Baptist Church, that he met Lylagh Ryder, a soprano in the church choir. They were married in 1948 and spent almost 67 inseparable years together. As a minister, Samuel served pastorates in Devon & Somerset England as well as Dublin, Ireland. Upon immigration to Canada he served many churches in rural Nova Scotia. His charges included Parrsboro, Debert, Oxford, Kennetcook and Upper Stewiacke. He retired at 65 to PEI to be with family and by the ocean. His retirement lasted about 6 months and soon he was filling in as minister at churches throughout the Island. In his last position he was Visitation Minister at Trinity United Church in Charlottetown, finally retiring at 82. Samuel had a special gift for helping bereaved families and many who met him under such circumstances remember him for the comfort he was able to provide to them. In 1958 he was at the pithead in Springhill during the mining disaster that claimed 75 lives. He provided grief counseling to many of the miners families. Samuel was a kind and caring person, always willing to help the weak and disenfranchised. As a minister he was ecumenical in spirit, befriending and working with people of all faiths. He chose to lead and not follow. He will be fondly remembered by all whose lives he touched. Family was very important to Samuel. He was a fabulous father and caring husband. He is survived by his wife Lylagh (nee Ryder), daughter Jennifer (Terry), sons Brian (Sandra) and

Eric (Liz), granddaughter Jillian (Shaylor), twin great-granddaughters Kestrel and Larkin, brother Raymond and sister Martha. He was predeceased by his parents, son Niall, brothers James, Tom, Moore, and Clifford.

The celebration of life was held at Trinity United Church, Charlottetown, PE, 20 March 2015.

Myles Burton Silliker
1940-2015

Myles Silliker, Sunny Corner, occurred at the Dr. Georges L. Dumont CHU in Moncton, on 04 February 2015 with his loving wife and family by his side. Born 25 April 1940 Myles was the son of the late LeRoy Silliker and Jean (Amos) MacCullam. He grew up in Derby, NB. Myles is survived by his wife of 52 Years: Anna (Matchett). Besides Anna, he is survived by daughters: Darla Fenelon (Terry) of Miramichi, NB; Twila Taylor (Grant) of Grand Prairie, AB; Phyllis Thurrott (Scott) of Riverview, NB; sons: Roy Silliker (Ellen) of Whitney, NB; Brett Silliker (Christine) of Lyttleton, NB. Myles also leaves behind his adoring grandchildren: Quenton Taylor (Chelsey), Jennifer Phillips (Jay), Kelsie Law (Ryan), Shannon Fenelon, Kirsten Silliker, Morlan Silliker, and great granddaughter: Sophia Phillips and great grandchildren due in 2015 for Kelsie (February) and Quenton (July). He will also be missed by his honorary grandchildren: Patrick, Katie and Shanna O'Shea. Myles has four sisters: Barbara Hall of Saint John, NB; Muriel MacCullam (Ivan) of Lower Derby, NB; Katherine MacCullam of Pembroke, ON and Valerie MacCullam (Kim) of Harvey, NB. He is also survived by: five brothers in law and five sisters in laws and several nieces and nephews. Besides his parents, he is predeceased by: his step father: Percy MacCallum and special nephew: Giles Matchett. Myles worked as a pipefitter in the Pulp and Paper Industry for 39 years. He retired in 1998 from Repap UPM. He was a member of the CUPE Local 689. Myles was very active in the United Church of Canada. He has been an elder and member of the official board at St. Stephen's United Church in Red Bank, NB. He was a member of Miramichi Presbytery for many years. Myles was a charter member of the Sunny Corner Lions Club. He was also the club's leader for their Leo Club for many years. He enjoyed taking the local teams on trips to meet other Leo clubs and camping weekends. He served as NB District Governor of Leos in the late 1970's. He enjoyed travelling NB and PEI helping other Lions Clubs set up the Leo Clubs for the teen in their communities. Myles loved reading, travelling, camping and family time. Myles and Anna were the first volunteers to open and run the canteen at the Sunny Corner Arena. He loved frying burgers and hot dogs for players and visitors to the local rink.

The celebration of life was held at St. Stephen's United Church, Red Bank, NB, 09 February 2015.

Reverend John T. Stewart
1922-2014

John T. Stewart, 91, passed away peacefully at home in West Vancouver, B.C. on 29 May 2014. He is survived by his loving wife, Lillian; daughter, Janelle (Neal); sons, Graeme (Stella) and Larry; seven grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren; brother, Leslie (Margaret). John was

born in Centre Musquodoboit, a son of E. Arnold and Ethel (Reid) Stewart. John was an ordained United Church minister with a THD from Boston University. He was instrumental in founding the Tatamagouche Centre (ACTC), Nova Scotia and Living Systems (North Shore Counselling Centre), British Columbia. In his retirement, he followed his roots and soul as a Christmas tree grower and author.

The celebration of life was held 09 August 2014 at the Riverside United Church, Elmsdale, Musquodoboit, NS.

Reverend Kimly “Ruth” Stuart

1927-2015

Kimly “Ruth” Stuart of Harvey Station, NB passed away 28 January 2015 at Dr. Everett Chalmers Hospital. She was born in Halifax, NS in 1927, a daughter of the late Ansel and Matilda (Henneberry) Stuart. Ruth attended High School (& grade school) in the Sacred Heart Convent in Halifax, then went on to Dalhousie University, Maritime School of Social Work and Toronto University, Covenant College, Maritime Business College, Teachers’ College in Truro and Princeton University in New Jersey. She then joined the Social Work Staff as a Protection Worker with Childrens’ Aid, following which she became a “Deaconess-Social Worker” in Brunswick St. United Church in Halifax. During her eighteen years there, she went to Pine Hill, was ordained in 1963 and continued to work at Brunswick St. United for another five years. Ruth served Pastorates in Bathurst, Westfield, Dartmouth (St. James), Moncton (Mount Royal) and St. Andrews United Church in Harvey until her retirement. Following retirement, she served as Interim Pastor in Loggieville (Miramichi), Norton (Saint John) and thirteen years in the Sheffield Pastoral Charge. She is survived by two daughters, Gillian Nicholson, Whitby, ON and Sarah Stuart, Calgary, AB; three grandchildren, Peter, Rebecca and Rachael Nicholson; a special friend, Marie Coburn, Harvey, NB. In addition to her parents, she was predeceased by a lifelong friend, Maxine Dauphinee.

The celebration of life was held at St. Andrews United Church, Harvey, NB, 01 February 2015.

Ruby Helen Wills

1938-2015

Ruby Helen (Phillips) Wills, 76, passed away on 15 February 2015 at the Dr. Everett Chalmers Hospital, Fredericton, NB. Born on 16 February 1938, she was the daughter of the late Clarence and Ruby (VanWart) Phillips and wife of the late William David Wills. Ruby resided in Saint John until 1978 then moved to Fredericton with her husband and three children. She became a devoted member of the Wesley United Church in Lincoln. At the church, she was a former member of the Official Board and the first woman Clerk of Session for over 20 years. She was the former President of the UCW and a former member and President of The Seekers Circle of The Kings Daughter group. She enjoyed her time as the Organist and Choir Director at church and will always be remembered for her love of music. She is survived by her children, Kathryn Lee Wills of Saint John, Rick Wills (Lynn) of Balmertown, Ontario and Bruce Wills of Saint John; grandchildren,

Stephanie of Whitehorse, Foster, Spencer (Jessica Cavan) and her son Kayden and Ryan all of Saint John; Richard and Andrew of Balmertown, Ontario; great grandsons, Jacob of Whitehorse and Chayce of Saint John; brother, Jim; sister-in-laws, Dot, Marjorie and Shirley and several nieces and nephews. Ruby is predeceased by her husband, William; her parents; stepmother, Martha A. Mae (Dunham) Phillips; sisters, Jean and Betty and brothers, Allan, Jack, Ronald and Jim.

The celebration of life was held at Wesley United Church, Lincoln, NB, 19 February 2015.

Norma V. Williston

1947-2014

Norma Violet Williston, 67, passed away at the Miramichi Regional Hospital on 04 October 2014. Norma was the wife of Frank Williston of Wellington St., Miramichi. Born in Black River Bridge, on 06 June 1947, she was the daughter of the late J. Everard and Bertie (MacKnight) MacLean. She was a homemaker and Secretary for Williston Development Ltd.; a member of Knox United Church, Loggieville; a member of the U.C.W.; a United Church Lay Preacher; a member of Miramichi Presbytery. She is survived by her husband, Frank; one daughter, Jacqueline Williston, of Campbell River, B.C.; one son, Colin Williston (Sara), of Miramichi; one sister, Faye Behnsen (Gerry), of Campbell River, B.C.; one brother, Roy MacLean (Mary Laura), of Miramichi; one brother in law, Bud Walsh, of Miramichi; four grandchildren, Kristi, Alex, Tristen, Braydon; and several nieces and nephews. She was predeceased by her parents and one sister, Barbara Walsh.

The celebration of life was held at Knox United Church, Miramichi, NB, 08 October 2014.

PROPOSALS PROCESS

Proposals to Maritime Conference

As we prepare for our Annual Meeting, we recognize that individuals and other courts of our church may wish to engage those present at the Annual Meeting and/or the wider church in conversation regarding a particular issue or topic. This may be for a number of reasons or outcomes:

Education > a desire to inform the Court about something important and to share information with others.

Conversation > a desire to engage in conversation with others about a particular topic / concern. A sharing of information and ideas.

Decision-making > a desire for a decision to be made or to initiate action to be taken by the Conference or the General Council.

As you consider topic you wish to engage others in, please think about the above reasons/outcomes. If your reason and desired outcome is focused on education or conversation, we would ask that consult with the Executive Secretary, David Hewitt, that he might assist you in developing an approach to raise your concern with the appropriate groups within the structures of the church.

If your reason or desired outcome is focused on decision-making then you may want to consider a “PROPOSAL”. As stated in the *Manual*, one of the ways for members of congregations, congregations/pastoral charges, committees and courts of the church to initiate action and change is through the proposals process.

A “proposal” is a formal request for a court to take action. It is one way that a United Church member may raise an issue that is important to them and ask for the church to take action on it.

Manual (2013) F.1.1

In drafting your proposal we would ask you to look at the following template for guidance. Again you might also wish to consult with the Executive Secretary, David Hewitt, for guidance in drafting your proposal.

PROPOSAL TEMPLATE

Title: _____
Originating Body _____
Intended Court(s) for Action _____
Financial Implications _____
Staffing Implications _____
Source of Funding if known _____

Courts (as applicable) Receiving Proposal and Action Taken by :

Congregation/Pastoral Charge _____ Concurrence (Agree with Proposal)
Date _____ Non-Concurrence (Disagree with Proposal)
Comments:

Presbytery/Synod _____ Concurrence (Agree with Proposal)
Date _____ Non-Concurrence (Disagree with Proposal)
Comments:

The [originating body] proposes that

The Maritime Conference (2014)

➤ *Name the specific action being proposed.*

Remember these words must stand alone when the decision is made. The specific action requested needs to be a measurable objective or doable

task. It need not explain in detail how but should be clear as to what is to be achieved.

➤ *Name where/to whom the action is being directed (eg. The Maritime Conference Executive; the Executive of the General Council; a Committee of the Conference; the General Council (2015)) Care should be taken to avoid acronyms and pronouns which hinder clarity.*

Multiple sections should be numbered and lettered for easy reference.

Background:

In paragraph form tell the story of how and why the question emerged; what the matter to be addressed is; theological rational and/or relevant information that has been considered; the implications of the recommended action; how the proposed action addresses the need. The background information is not to convince others of your conclusion but to assist them in their discernment. The Proposal and background summary should not normally exceed two pages. The background is for information and does not form part of the Decision.

Proposal 1

Title: Continuation of Unsettling Goods Campaign

Originating Body: Church in Action Committee, of PEI Presbytery, Maritime Conference

Intended Court(s) for Action: The 42nd General Council 2015

Financial Implications if Known: If current program is continued, financial implications should not significantly increase over current spending

Staffing Implications if Known: We recommend this work to be made a priority for staffing.

Source of Funding if known: Mission and Service

Volunteer Implications: United Network for Justice and Peace in Palestine and Israel would continue their active animation of this Campaign

Be it proposed that the General Council provide allocation of adequate General Council Office (GCO) resources for the continued implementation of the UCC Unsettling Goods campaign until the rise of GC43 in 2018.

Background:

- The “Unsettling Goods” Campaign is the UCC’s response to and implementation of the GC resolution on Palestine/Israel which passed with a strong majority at the 41st General Council meeting in August 2012
- We commend the General Council Office staff, elected members, as well as United Church members and friends for the implementation to date of the Unsettling Goods campaign
- To honour the call of our Palestinian Christian partners (as found in the Kairos Palestine document), more time is needed for consciousness raising, education and communication across the United Church on this complex issue. Continuing courageous conversations can help inform our analysis and strengthen our faithfulness.
- The campaign encourages church members and supporters to pray, choose and speak to help end the Israeli occupation of Palestinian territories and includes resources for worship and study, ethical tours of the Holy Land, trust-building programs between Israelis and Palestinians, support for Palestinian livelihoods by purchasing fair trade products such as Zatoun olive oil and planting olive trees, and avoiding purchasing products made in the illegal* Israeli settlements.
- The economic action part of the “Unsettling Goods” campaign is a non-violent response to the call of United Church of Canada’s global partners in the region and reflects a core biblical value that “peace requires justice”.
- The “Unsettling Goods” economic action campaign is a response focused not at Israel itself, but only against those products made in the illegal Israeli settlements* on Palestinian land.
- The latest news from the region shows an aggressive increase in both illegal* settlement construction and demolition of Palestinian houses by the Israeli military.
- There is evidence that global pressure (including economic action) to end the occupation is having an impact. Keeping the pressure on could more quickly lead to just peace. The “Unsettling Goods” campaign encourages modest justice-seeking consumer choices (economic action against products made in the illegal Israeli settlements) that aim to help end the occupation and lay the foundation for a just peace in Palestine and Israel.
- As a non-violent response to the disproportionate violence being experienced daily by Palestinians, the “Unsettling Goods” Campaign should be continued until the illegal occupation ends or until a more effective response is identified.

* The Fourth Geneva Convention is an international law that forbids an occupying power from moving its own people into areas it occupies. On its website the Canadian government policy states clearly that “Israeli settlements in the occupied territories are a violation of the Fourth Geneva Convention. The settlements also constitute a serious obstacle to achieving a comprehensive, just and lasting peace.”

Proposal 2

Title: United Church of Canada Pension Board Divestment from Goldcorp

Originating Body: Church in Action Committee, Maritime Conference

Intended Court(s) for Action: The 42nd General Council 2015

Financial Implications if Known: Unknown

Staffing Implications if Known: Unknown

Source of Funding if known: Unknown

That the 42nd General Council 2015, responding to the ethical imperative of our faith as expressed in the social Policies of The United Church of Canada, and commitments to Partnership and Right Relations including support for free, prior and informed consent, instructs the General Secretary to communicate to The United Church of Canada Pension Board (UCCPB) that the will of the church is to divest of its shares in Goldcorp and make public that divestment.

Background:

Because of your money, you are complicit. Give your money to something that gives life.

~ Catholic Parish Committee in Defense of Mother Earth, San Miguel Ixtahuacan Nov. 2013 in meeting with the Mining the Connections/KAIROS Mining Delegation

We bring this proposal forward as an urgent concern for immediate attention. United Church, KAIROS and Canadian aboriginal partners have urged the UCCPB to publicly divest from Goldcorp.^{i ii} We are acutely aware of the ongoing suffering of indigenous Mayan communities, related to negative environmental, social and health impacts. The presence of the Marlin Mine for a period of more than nine years in Guatemala has resulted in:

- ~ serious environmental damage, especially water contaminationⁱⁱⁱ
- ~ disruption of community cohesion and an increase in community conflict
- ~ an increase in domestic violence and family breakdown
- ~ a huge increase in alcohol abuse and sex trade
- ~ a loss of *Mam*, the principal indigenous language
- ~ an increase in health issues including the spread of HIV/AIDS, skin lesions
- ~ malnutrition among children due to inflated prices for basic products

The statement of Beliefs and Guiding Principles for the Pension Plan of the United Church of Canada (2005) Article 33 states: Socially responsible investment procedures can be employed provided there is reasonable assurance that the best long term interest of the members is being served. The United Church has always affirmed that **respect for human dignity and the well-being of the planet serve the long-term interests of pension plan members.** United Church policies direct that maximizing economic return on investments must give way to economic justice, human rights, and environmental protection.^{iv}

Since 2008 the UCCPB's ethical investment advisor, Jantizi Research (now Sustainalytics) has recommended **against inclusion of Goldcorp in the UCCPB portfolio**, due to ongoing community conflict. (UCCPB communications to Maritime Conference Mining the Connections Working Group.)

Goldcorp continues to obtain exploration and exploitation licenses without the free, prior and informed consent of indigenous communities (required by the UN Declaration on Indigenous Peoples, Article 26.)^v **It has obtained licenses in regions where indigenous communities have**

voted massively against mining projects in municipal referenda and where Catholic diocesan and parish environmental justice committees are courageously resisting the presence of mining project.^{vi} In 2010, the Goldcorp-funded Human Rights Assessment recommended a moratorium on exploration, expansion and conversion of exploration to exploitation licenses, pending effective State involvement in consultation processes. Yet Goldcorp has extended the Marlin Mine underground and plans to develop the nearby Los Chocoyos open-pit mine.

The Cerro Blanco geo-thermal mine near the border with El Salvador threatens the eco-system providing water to 67% of Salvadorans. It was built despite water and soil scientists' warnings of a flawed environmental impact assessment. Goldcorp has suspended mine operations, citing gold prices. However, problems of extremely hot water and unstable soil containing a naturally high level of arsenic remain unresolved. The El Salvador Roundtable on Metallic Mining (UCC partner ADES is a lead member) and El Salvador's Ombudsperson seek the mine's permanent closure.^{vii}

The UCCPB contracts SHARE to engage with Goldcorp management. We question this involvement when our partners see no significant change after nearly a decade of management engagement. SHARE's management engagement takes place within a framework of ensuring the long-term value of the company, making it unlikely to take on issues that may reduce Goldcorp's financial value.^{vii}

ⁱ United Church, KAIROS partners: Ecumenical Christian Council of Guatemala, Conference of Evangelical Churches of Guatemala, CEIBA (Association for Community Development and Promotion), ADES (Social and Economic Development Association of Santa Marta, El Salvador), www.kairoscanada.org/sustainability/resource-extraction/whose-development-reflections-on-my-visit-to-the-marlin-and-meeting-with-community-members/

ⁱⁱ *Where Our Treasure Is*, <http://marconf.ca/resources/treasure/> Messages from Bishop Ramazzini (Ecumenical Christian Council member) and Catholic parish leader, Sister Maudilia Lopez Cardona. p.9. Letter by a Canadian aboriginal woman, Cathy Gerroir, who has collaborated with the United Church in the Maritimes. p. 15

ⁱⁱⁱ National Institute of Forensic Sciences March, 2013 report on government ministries' surface and groundwater samplings near the Marlin mine. Commission on Peace and Ecology www.ciel.org/Law_Communities/Guatemala/copae%202nd_water_report%20english.pdf

^{iv} Examples: The United Church social policy *One Earth Community –Ethical Principles for Environment and Development* (1992), *the resource Mission and Investing: A Guide for The United Church of Canada Congregations and Organizations* (2002), resources that followed from *Living Faithfully in the Midst of Empire* (2006) See *Where Our Treasure Is*, p. 15

^v issuu.com/karinzylsaw/docs/un_declaration_rights_indigenous_peoples

^{vi} www.mimundo.org/2014/11/18/2014-11-mayan-communities-use-democracy-as-a-tool-to-safeguard-their-territory/

^{vii} www.stopesmining.org/j25/index.php?option=com_content&view=category&id=81&Itemid=468
<http://portalfio.org/inicio/noticias/item/11811-el-salvador-la-pddh-presenta-el-informe-sobre-proyecto-minero-cerro-blanco-ubicado-en-guatemala.html>

^{viii} Shareholder Association for Research and Education http://www.share.ca/files/SHARE-Human_Rights-Mining-Final.pdf

Proposal 3

Title: Continuation of Unsettling Goods Campaign

Originating Body: Church in Action Committee, of Halifax Presbytery, Maritime Conference

Intended Court(s) for Action:	The 42 nd General Council 2015
Financial Implications if Known:	If current program is continued, financial implications should not significantly increase over current spending
Staffing Implications if Known:	We recommend this work to be made a priority for staffing.
Source of Funding if known:	Mission and Service
Volunteer Implications:	United Network for Justice and Peace in Palestine and Israel would continue their active animation of this campaign

Be it proposed that the General Council mandates the allocation of adequate GCO resources for the continued implementation of the UCC Unsettling Goods campaign until the occupation, as defined by the 4th Geneva Convention, has come to an end.

Theological Rationale:

There is a strong biblical call to seek justice throughout the new testament and parts of the old testament. We see God's call to justice clearly articulated in Micah 6:8 "What does the Lord require of you but to seek justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God." We also see it in Jesus' sermon on the Mount "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God" (Matthew 5:9)

Background:

- The "Unsettling Goods" Campaign is the UCC's response to and implementation of the CC resolution on Palestine/Israel which passed with a strong majority at the 41st General Council meeting in August 2012
- We commend the General Council Office staff, elected members, as well as United Church members and friends for the implementation to date of the Unsettling Goods campaign
- To honour the call of our Palestinian Christian partners (as found in the Kairos Palestine document), more time is needed for consciousness raising, education and communication across the United Church on this complex issue. Continuing courageous conversations can help inform our analysis and strengthen our faithfulness.
- The campaign encourages church members and supporters to pray, choose and speak to help end the Israeli occupation of Palestinian territories and includes resources for worship and study, ethical tours of the Holy Land, trust-building programs between Israelis and Palestinians, support for Palestinian livelihoods by purchasing fair trade products such as Zatoun olive oil and planting olive trees, and avoiding purchasing products made in the illegal* Israeli settlements.
- The economic action part of the "Unsettling Goods" campaign is a non-violent response to the call of United Church of Canada's global partners in the region and reflects a core biblical value that "peace requires justice".
- The "Unsettling Goods" economic action campaign is a response focused not at Israel itself, but only against those products made in the illegal Israeli settlements* on Palestinian land.

- The latest news from the region shows an aggressive increase in both illegal* settlement construction and demolition of Palestinian houses by the Israeli military.
- There is evidence that global pressure (including economic action) to end the occupation is having an impact. Keeping the pressure on could more quickly lead to just peace. The “Unsettling Goods” campaign encourages modest justice-seeking consumer choices (economic action against products made in the illegal Israeli settlements) that aim to help end the occupation and lay the foundation for a just peace in Palestine and Israel.
- As a non-violent response to the disproportionate violence being experienced daily by Palestinians, the “Unsettling Goods” Campaign should be continued until the illegal occupation ends or until a more effective response is identified.

* The Fourth Geneva Convention is an international law that forbids an occupying power from moving its own people into areas it occupies. On its website the Canadian government policy states clearly that “Israeli settlements in the occupied territories are a violation of the Fourth Geneva Convention. The settlements also constitute a serious obstacle to achieving a comprehensive, just and lasting peace.”

Proposal 4

Title: Extending Support for a Just Peace in Israel/Palestine

Originating Body: Chignecto Presbytery

Financial Implications if known:

Staffing Implications if known:

Source of Funding if known:

That the 42nd General Council 2015:

- 1. Affirm the work of the United Network for a Just Peace for Palestine and Israel and General Council staff in raising awareness of the United Church of Canada policy in support of a just peace for Palestine and Israel.**
- 2. Expand the current strategies and actions approved at the 41st General Council to provide additional resources for use in local mission units to deepen understandings for denominational members as to why Palestinians, cry out from their suffering under Israeli occupationⁱ by:**
 - a) Providing additional resources to allow UNJPPI and General Council staff to build and deepen relations with Canadian, American and British churches and church related NGO's in order to co-ordinate and share in the production of resources and programs focused on supporting a just peace for Palestinians and Israelis,**
 - b) Developing a partnership with Independent Jewish Voices and deepening our relationship with that group in advocating for a just peace for Palestine and Israel,**
 - c) Dialoguing with other denominations and church related bodies about their research into companies that are complicit in or substantially benefit from**

violations of the 4th Geneva Conventionsⁱⁱ and/or the suppression of human rights and/or international humanitarian law from the illegal occupation^{iii iv} and the conflict between Israel and Palestine.

- d) develop and implement an ethical divestment strategy from companies that derive substantial financial benefit or that contribute significantly to furthering the illegal Israeli occupation of Palestinian territory and recommends to the United Church of Canada, its Pension Fund and Foundation and other related bodies including congregations to divest from companies that derive substantial financial benefit from the illegal Israeli occupation.**
- e) Developing a program of education and advocacy relating to divestment from and economic sanctions against corporations and institutions complicit in or substantially benefitting from the illegal occupation. This would include education about nostalgia tourism which bolsters the oppression of Palestinians; and**
- f) Encouraging all courts, bodies and members of The United Church of Canada to apply such divestment strategies and sanctions, until such time as the ongoing illegal occupation as defined within the parameters of the 4th Geneva Convention^v of Palestine ends.**

Background:

“A Moment of Truth: Kairos Palestine” issued in December 2009 by Christians in Palestine calls upon Christian Churches around the world “to stand alongside the oppressed and to preserve the word of God as good news for all... not to offer a theological cover-up for the injustices we suffer, for the sin of the occupation imposed upon us... We call on you to say a word of truth and to take a position of truth with regard to Israel’s occupation of Palestinian land. As we have already said, we see boycott and divestment as tools of non-violence for justice, peace and security for all.” (A Moment of Truth: Kairos Palestine: Section 6).

Bishop Tutu has stated that “If you are neutral in situations of injustice, you have chosen the side of the oppressor.”

The report of the Working Group on Israel/Palestine policy and subsequent motion passed at the 41st General Council approved a number of strategies and actions by the United Church aimed at ending the occupation (numbered 1-11 in proposal GS3), including a boycott of products produced by Israeli companies and groups in the occupied territory (actually worded “products produced in the settlements”).

“For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their soul?” These words of Jesus have guided the United Church of Canada since our inception in regards to how we use our resources in standing for social justice.

Reports from UCC EAs, Partners, Israeli and Palestinian Peace Activists, NGO’s and the UN:

Since the last General Council all of the above named bodies have reported the situation for Palestinians has deteriorated significantly. Settlements continue to expand along with settler violence. The destruction of olive trees and other crops by settlers and Israeli forces continues in the occupied territories including an attack this year against UCC partner, the Tent of Nations, where over 1,500 trees were destroyed.^{vi}

Dr. Jeff Halper, co-founder of The Israeli Committee Against House Demolitions, on his cross Canada tour in 2015, spoke at length about the level of disruption of Palestinian lives through increasing levels of property confiscations and the demolitions of homes and other structures^{vii}.

Another UCC partner, Defense for Children Internal – Palestine (DCI-I), has launched the #Beituniaboys campaign^{viii}. It focuses on the killing of two innocent boys, Nadeem Siam Nawara and Mohammad Mahmoud by Israeli soldiers near Ofer Prison on Naka Day 2014. The murders were captured by video cameras. The Israeli soldier(s) who fired the shots were recorded on CNN footage. With overwhelming evidence there has still been no prosecution. The #Beituniaboys campaign is meant to focus attention on the impunity of Israeli soldiers from prosecution for war crimes.

A recent report by UNICEF confirms several of the concerns elucidated by DCI-P around this and other violations of the rights of children such as underage arrests, illegal detention, forced confessions, confessions written in Hebrew rather than Arabic, use of children as human shields by Israeli military and settlers, forcing children to inform on other Palestinians, harassment of children, violence against Palestinian children and killing of Palestinian children by Israeli military forces.^{ix}

Amnesty International in its 2013 report, “Trigger Happy”, documents Israeli abuse of power in the West Bank in provoking responses from Palestinians, illegal arrests including those of under-aged children, illegal detentions, Israeli military court abuses including a conviction rate in excess of 99% against Palestinians, use of excessive force up to and including deadly force against the Palestinian population in the West Bank.^x

The World Council of Churches in July 2014 issued the, “Statement on Economic Measures and Christian Responsibility toward Israel and Palestine”. In the document, the WCC commends the Presbyterian Church (USA) and the United Methodist Church for their recent economic actions in support of peace. It noted that boycotts are, “bearing fruit especially with the European Union.” The statement reminded members that, “We are called to take action in support of peaceful solutions to the Palestinian-Israeli conflict. Economic pressure, appropriately and openly applied, is one such means of action.”^{xi} Ethical investing and divesting from certain companies and industries has been a hallmark of our United Church since inception.

The disproportionate level of violence launched in 2014 by Israel against Palestinians and especially those living in Gaza requires deeper levels of commitment and action if a just peace is to emerge.

In the summer of 2014 Israel broke the existing cease fire with Gaza and then launched attacks for 50 days. The Israel Palestine Mission Network of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) published the following detailed statistical information on the 50 days:

People

- 2,147 Palestinians were killed, including 530 children and 302 women. 81% were civilians, compared to 9% of the 70 Israelis killed.
- Among the dead were 16 journalists, 23 health care personnel and 11 UNRWA employees.
- 10,870 Palestinians were wounded, including 3,303 children and 2,101 women. A third of the injured children (around 3,000) will suffer permanent disabilities.
- 100,000 Palestinians were evacuated from their homes either because of Israeli threats or because their homes were destroyed or seriously damaged. They have found refuge in UN facilities or with other families, with dozens of people housed in the same home.

Buildings and equipment

- The total number of homes partially or completely destroyed since the start of this latest war on Gaza reached 17,132: 2,465 homes were completely destroyed and 13,644 homes seriously damaged. Tens of thousands of additional homes suffered less- severe damage.
- The number of mosques targeted totaled 171; 62 mosques were totally destroyed.
- 10 churches were damaged.
- 222 schools were destroyed, including 141 government, 76 UNRWA and five private institutions. In addition, six universities were demolished.
- 29 hospitals and primary health care clinics were damaged, along with 36 ambulances.
- 55 fishing boats also were destroyed affecting 3,000 individuals dependent on them for a living, along with 48 NGO's that provide the civilians with services.
- 372 businesses, factories and other industrial or commercial operations were damaged, as well as 19 financial institutions.

Economic impact

- The direct and indirect economic losses from the war are estimated to be \$3.6 billion.^{xii} Each United Church Ecumenical Accompanier has reported and documented breaches of the 4th Geneva Convention, violations of international human rights and humanitarian laws. Their experience of living in the West Bank gives them a unique vantage point. Certainly these eye witness accounts bear faithful and credible witness to the reality of the oppression and the loss of human dignity suffered by Palestinians in the West Bank.^{xiii}

It is helpful for Commissioners to recognize certain information not widely reported in the mainstream media in Canada or the US.

- A ten year statistical analysis shows a disproportionate level of violence against Palestinians.^{xiv} The last three years have been even more devastating.^{xv}
- According to UN documentation, since the end of the devastating conflict between Israel and Gaza this summer Israel was responsible for 94 of the 95 recorded cease fire violations between the end of Aug and Dec. 21, 2014^{xvi}.
- Five Gazan children have frozen to death this winter because of lack of adequate shelter created by the devastation of Israel's assault this past summer.^{xvii xviii} The situation in Gaza is not improving because of the continuing Israeli blockade.

Recent visits to the occupied territory have shown that the rate of illegal settlement, demolition of Palestinian homes and farms, confiscation of land, restriction on Palestinians' movements, diversion and confiscation of water resources, and other illegal actions has not decreased since the General Council last met in 2012. There are now approximately 600,000 Israeli settlers in the occupied territory. In the month of January (2015) alone, 1700 additional Palestinians were made homeless by demolitions. Approximately 100,000 Palestinians are still homeless after the 2014 attack on Gaza. The level of violence directed toward Palestinians and suppression of human rights has only deepened since GC 41.

Many non-Jewish, Israeli citizens such as the Bedouin and Palestinian Christians are also being denied rights, services and privileges afforded to Jewish citizens. Legislation introduced in the Israeli Parliament (Knesset) has further entrenched these injustices in law.

The continued expansion of Jewish roads and settlements and takeover of Palestinian lands and resources has all but destroyed the possibility of a two-state solution. On March 16, 2015 Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu stated there would never be a Palestinian state while he was in power. This is a complete reversal of his Bar-Ilan two state speech in 2009.

Decisive and effective action is urgently needed from churches and civil society to push governments to create a long term solution.

Palestinian and Israeli peace activists, ecumenical and global partners continue to call for solidarity and ongoing supportive action in working toward a just and lasting peace for all who are suffering as a result of the ongoing conflict.

There is evidence that global pressure (including economic action) to end the occupation is beginning to have an impact. This is highlighted by SodaStreams decision to move its factory out of a West Bank settlement.^{xix}

It is helpful to remember that the boycott campaign against apartheid in South Africa began in the 1960's and only gained minimal support in the 1970's and fuller support in the 1980's. Apartheid began to be dismantled in 1990.

It is time for the General Council and the United Church of Canada to follow the lead of several European churches to stand for justice for Palestinians. The Presbyterian (USA) church has bravely extended its boycott to include Hewlett Packard, Motorola and Caterpillar because of their complicity in the occupation. The WCC statement notes economic pressure is appropriate and it is beginning to show results. And, what will it profit us to not take a stand while our Palestinian brothers and sisters continue to suffer the loss of dignity, heart and soul through an illegal occupation that is over 47 years old?

ⁱ Introduction Kairos Palestine document: <http://www.kairospalestine.ps/content/kairos-document>

ⁱⁱ www.icrc.org/applic/ihl/ihl.nsf/7c4d08d9b287a42141256739003e636b/6756482d86146898c125641e004aa3c5

ⁱⁱⁱ <http://www.icj-cij.org/docket/index.php?pr=71&code=mwp&p1=3&p2=4&p3=6>

^{iv} Roberts, Adam. "Prolonged Military Occupation: The Israeli-Occupied Territories Since 1967". *The American Journal of International Law* (American Society of International Law) **84** (1): 69.doi:10.2307/2203016. SC Res. 446 (Mar. 22, 1979), adopted by 12 votes to none, with 3 abstentions (Norway, the United Kingdom and the United States), reaffirmed the applicability of the fourth Geneva Convention, as well as opposing the establishment of Israeli settlements in the occupied territories.

^v <https://www.icrc.org/en/war-and-law/treaties-customary-law>

^{vi} <http://rabbibrant.com/2014/05/21/israeli-military-destroys-orchards-at-tent-of-nations-please-act-now/>

^{vii} <http://www.icahd.org/>

^{viii} <http://www.nomoreforgottenlives.com/>

^{ix} http://www.unicef.org/oPt/Children_in_Israeli_Military_Detention_-_Observations_and_Recommendations_-_Bulletin_No._2_-_February_2015.pdf

^x <https://www.amnesty.org/en/articles/news/2014/02/trigger-happy-israeli-army-and-police-use-reckless-force-west-bank/>

^{xi} <http://www.oikoumene.org/en/resources/documents/central-committee/geneva-2014/statement-on-economic-measures-and-christian-responsibility-toward-israel-and-palestine>

^{xii} <http://www.israelpalestinemissionnetwork.org/main/component/content/article/18/282-gaza-in-crisis>

^{xiii} The blog postings and letters from Ecumenical Accompaniers can be found at: <http://www.united-church.ca/getinvolved/global/returned>

^{xiv} Data collected from B'Tselem and UN agencies:

Fatalities	Palestinian	Israeli	Palestinian Youth	Israeli Youth
2005-2014	5921	252	1293	21

Ratios: 23.5 Palestinians: 1 Israeli

61.5 Palestinian youth: 1 Israeli youth

^{xv} Data collected from B'Tselem and UN agencies

Fatalities	Palestinian	Israeli	Palestinian Youth	Israeli Youth
2012	254	4	43	0
2013	38	1	5	0
2014	<u>2262</u>	<u>86</u>	<u>511</u>	<u>4</u>
	2554	91	559	4

Ratios: 61 Palestinians: 1 Israeli

112 Palestinian youth: 1 Israeli youth

^{xvi} <http://www.imemc.org/article/70072>

^{xvii} <http://www.nbcnews.com/storyline/middle-east-unrest/father-finds-five-month-old-son-frozen-death-gaza-n289371>

^{xviii} <http://mondoweiss.net/2015/01/exposure-freezing-temperatures>

^{xix} <http://www.theguardian.com/business/2014/oct/29/sodastream-move-factory-west-bank-israel-slash-forecast>

Proposal 5

Title: Existing Social Justice Networks and the Comprehensive Review

Originating Body: Chignecto Presbytery

Financial Implications if known:

Staffing Implications if known: None

Source of Funding if known:

That GC 42 strongly affirms the work of the United Network for a Just Peace in Palestine and Israel (UNJPPI) and the United for Mining Justice Network (UMJN) networks.

That these networks be directly and significantly involved in any future discussions surrounding Comprehensive Review and how networks can support the social justice ministry of the denomination under a new structure.

That a representative of each network be made an ex-officio member of the Permanent Committee – Programs for Mission and Ministry (PC-PMM) until a new structure evolves.

That GC 42 mandate the GCO staff assist with negotiations for appropriate Director's insurance for the networks so they can speak truthfully and bravely to the church and other power structures.

Background:

1. Currently, UNJPPI and UMJN have no direct ties to the General Council. UNJPPI was incarnated by the GCO to help with the work mandated by GC 41 with respect to Palestine and Israel. UMJN has evolved out of United Church groups who had been working on the issue of Canadian mining interests being involved in human rights violations in foreign countries.

Both networks play a significant role in these two key social justice issues within the denomination. Both provide thousands of volunteer hours.

The leadership of these networks take seriously the Biblical call to proclaim social justice. These networks stand in solidarity with our international partners who have turned to the United Church of Canada seeking our support in their struggle to have their voices heard in our churches and beyond.

To date, there has been no formal acknowledgement, affirmation or appreciation expressed for their ongoing work and commitment from either GCO or GC.

2. Currently, there has been no direct or indirect contact with UNJPPI or UMJN about the future of social justice work in the denomination even though the Comprehensive Review provides an appendix to the main report and notes the key role networks will play in animating the social justice ministry of the United Church of Canada.

It would make sense for these networks who already understand the struggles and the blessings of their existing structure to provide direct input into how we might effectively embrace the concept of networks as we explore how to live out God's call to work for social justice.

3. Currently, the Permanent Committee (PC) - Programs for Mission and Ministry has not invited the networks to provide any input directly to the PC which could assist the PC in supporting the work mandated by the GC.

An ex-officio role on the PC would allow the networks to remain free and independent of the PC and the current power structure within the denomination while still being able to be build relationships. PC-PMM and the networks would mutually benefit from a closer relationship through improved alignment regarding these key social justice issues.

4. The leadership of the networks face the prospect of vexatious lawsuits from those who hold power and privilege in Canadian society. Yet, the networks who work faithfully and diligently on behalf of the denomination are not afforded the same protection as officers of the courts of the church because under our present structure this is not possible. Ironically, the leadership of the networks often function in other roles in various courts of the church where they are covered by the insurance policy of the United Church.

In order to support the work of these networks and allow them to focus on the issues where they have expertise it makes sense to have the GCO staff with expertise in insurance help negotiate on behalf of the networks with the United Church of Canada insurance provider.

Proposal 6

Title: Pilgrimage for a Just Peace in Israel/Palestine

Originating Body: Chignecto Presbytery

Financial Implications if known: Approximately \$50,000

Staffing Implications if known:

Source of Funding if known:

That the 42nd General Council 2015 encourage the Moderator to organize a pilgrimage of justice and peace, affirming the UCC's commitment to support the peace process in the Holy Land and in the Middle East, and to reflect on the on-going and clear wish for a peace with justice for Palestinians and Israelis as well as all people of the Middle East.

We propose the members of the Moderators group include: a member of the leadership of the Aboriginal Council, a returned UCC Ecumenical Accompanier, a representative of the United Network for a Just Peace for Palestine and Israel (UNJPPI), a representative of the General Council Executive, and a member of the GCO staff who has worked closely with partners in Palestine and Israel.

We propose the Moderator also invite: the Primate of the Anglican Church, the Moderator of the Presbyterian Church in Canada, the National Bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada, The Executive Director of the Mennonite Central Committee, the President of the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops, a representative from the Quaker's.

Further that the Moderator invite: at least one Rabbi and at least one Imam to join the pilgrimage.

Background:

This proposal arises out of a pilgrimage by the leadership of World Council of Churches in March 2015 to express solidarity with the Christian churches and people in Israel and Palestine focusing on peace-building and inter-religious initiatives.

The suggested composition of the United Church members reflects:

- a belief there is a strong connection between Canadian First Nations and the Palestinian experience and understanding of a Theology of the Land.
- Returned EA's have a depth of experience in relation to the Occupation that most others cannot replicate and are aware of aspects of the occupation that may escape the notice of many.
- A representative from UNJPPI would be helpful in strengthening the Networks ties with that of the key leadership within the denomination. Additionally, many of the key UNJPPI leaders have a deep knowledge of the existing situation in Palestine and Israel.
- Some of the GCO staff have long and deep relationships with key partners in Palestine and Israel and can help in building trust and offer perspective that the local partner may not offer in the moment.

The suggested ecumenical partners are from denominations that have deep ties with the people of Palestine and Israel.

It would be helpful to have a Rabbi(s) and an Imam(s) to offer greater depth to the theological and cultural reflection within the group.

The breadth of this group and its inter-religious composition would serve as a sign to Palestinians and Israelis that Canadians from all backgrounds desire and pray that the people of the "Holy Land" may all be able to live in peace with justice.

Proposal 7

Title: Continuation of Unsettling Goods Campaign

Originating Body: The Church in Action Committee of Maritime Conference

Financial Implications if Known: If current program is continued, financial implications should not significantly increase over current spending

Staffing Implications if Known: We recommend this work to be made a priority for staffing.

Source of Funding if known: Mission and Service

Volunteer Implications: United Network for Justice and Peace in Palestine and Israel would continue their active animation of this campaign

Be it proposed that the General Council mandates the allocation of adequate GCO resources for the continued implementation of the UCC Unsettling Goods campaign until the occupation, as defined by the Fourth Geneva Convention, comes to an end

Background:

- The “Unsettling Goods” Campaign is the UCC’s response to and implementation of the CC resolution on Palestine/Israel which passed with a strong majority at the 41st General Council meeting in August 2012
- We commend the General Council Office staff, elected members, as well as United Church members and friends for the implementation to date of the Unsettling Goods campaign
- To honour the call of our Palestinian Christian partners (as found in the Kairos Palestine document), more time is needed for consciousness raising, education and communication across the United Church on this complex issue. Continuing courageous conversations can help inform our analysis and strengthen our faithfulness.
- The campaign encourages church members and supporters to pray, choose and speak to help end the Israeli occupation of Palestinian territories and includes resources for worship and study, ethical tours of the Holy Land, trust-building programs between Israelis and Palestinians, support for Palestinian livelihoods by purchasing fair trade products such as Zatoun olive oil and planting olive trees, and avoiding purchasing products made in the illegal* Israeli settlements.
- The economic action part of the “Unsettling Goods” campaign is a non-violent response to the call of United Church of Canada’s global partners in the region and reflects a core biblical value that “peace requires justice”.
- The “Unsettling Goods” economic action campaign is a response focused not at Israel itself, but only against those products made in the illegal Israeli settlements* on Palestinian land.
- The latest news from the region shows an aggressive increase in both illegal* settlement construction and demolition of Palestinian houses by the Israeli military.
- There is evidence that global pressure (including economic action) to end the occupation is having an impact. Keeping the pressure on could more quickly lead to just peace. The “Unsettling Goods” campaign encourages modest justice-seeking consumer choices (economic action against products made in the illegal Israeli settlements) that aim to help end the occupation and lay the foundation for a just peace in Palestine and Israel.
- As a non-violent response to the disproportionate violence being experienced daily by Palestinians, the “Unsettling Goods” Campaign should be continued until the illegal occupation ends or until a more effective response is identified.

*The Fourth Geneva Convention is an international law that forbids an occupying power from moving its own people into areas it occupies. On its website the Canadian government policy states clearly that “Israeli settlements in the occupied territories are a violation of the Fourth Geneva Convention. The settlements also constitute a serious obstacle to achieving a comprehensive, just and lasting peace.”

Proposal 8

Title:	Restructuring the Four Court Model
Originating Body:	Prince Edward Island Presbytery
Intended Court(s) for Action:	The 42nd General Council 2015
Financial Implications:	As indicated in the United in God's Work, March 2015 report. "All staffing numbers are based on financial modelling completed by General Council Office finance staff in consultation with the Permanent Committee on Finance. They are based on the best estimates available of the financial resources that will be available. More detail is provided in Backgrounder #10: Finances." It is suggested that these same estimates be used for the suggested proposed revision.
Staffing Implications:	As noted in the United in God's Work, March 2015 report. The equivalent of 60 ministry and other professional staff would work in the regions and provide operational advice and support. The re-visioning of the four court model could use the same proposed staffing model if it meets the needs of the Conference.
Source of Funding if known:	Existing funds collected through the established allocations Courts (as applicable)

In response to the three council model suggested in Proposal 3 of the Comprehensive Review Task Group Report the Prince Edward Island Presbytery proposes to the 42nd General Council that the current four court model be retained and embraced with the aim to improve efficiency both financial and in terms of oversight of Pastoral Charges and/or Faith Communities and the ministry personnel within their bounds.

Theological Rationale:

We believe the Spirit lives and works and moves in all our people. The communities of faith and the denomination as a whole need to be structured in such a way that as many voices as possible can be heard in a way that includes them in theological reflection, deliberation and decision-making.ⁱ

Background:

We make this proposal believing that the three council model diminishes the opportunities for the many voices to be heard in the life and work of the wider church and note the following:

1. Presbytery Meetings provide frequent opportunities for large numbers of lay and ministry personnel to gather for providing a forum for voices to be heard on the work of the wider

church and the concerns of local congregations; networking, and supporting necessary for ongoing vitality and the life of the church.

2. The geographical reality in many parts of the country is such that the distances to be travelled to attend regional councils and the consequent cost to faith communities by sending one lay person and one ministry person might stretch the already limited resources of faith communities and thus prevent their being represented. ⁱⁱ
3. The financial and logistic implications of providing a facility with the capacity to accommodate several thousand people of a meeting of the Denominational Council in the proposed three council model is unclear and there is not a detailed plan of budget or logistics as to how this will occur.
4. We feel the voice of individuals would be diminished in such a large gathering as the proposed Denominational Council, and as well could potentially cost much more than holding a General Council under the current four court model.
5. Although there will be a reduction in staff and services it is clear that there is no reduction of the financial burden placed on faith communities to support the denominational structure.
6. Moving the membership of Ministry Personnel to the community of faith (as proposed in the Three System) has the potential to restrain their voices and present more places of potential local conflict when speaking on behalf of the church or on issues of a prophetic (wider) concern.
7. Removing the Court of Presbytery appears to remove the voices of retired and retained ministry personnel and deprives the church of their years of wisdom and experience.

ⁱ (See United in God's Work (all references via pages are to this document) see page 10 -12 re the demographic decline reported. In response to this trend we affirm the need for change but in our proposal we believe that restructuring the whole process is not necessarily the best path to travel. We agree that there is evidence for the need for renewal and transformation but believe that the proposed change in structure will ultimately leave behind the congregations that have faithfully worshiped, served, and supported the work of the United Church. How is it evident that changing the church structure will bring about the new things hoped for? The idea of transformational ministries- as presented in the "big picture" clearly indicates that it would "require a significant shift in church culture to create space to experiment with new approaches to ministry free from institutional pressures" how will this translate into respecting and honouring our traditions based on our Basis of Union? (pg. 13)

ⁱⁱ It is stated on page 22 of the United in God's Work that regional councils world perform some but not all functions of current presbyteries and Conferences and that decisions that sharing of resources and staff will be amalgamating Conferences. This creates a large geographical and economic burden on the Atlantic region.

Proposal 9

Title: Investigation of an Alternate Funding Model for Maritime Conference Office

Originating Body: South Shore Presbytery

Intended Court(s) for Action: Finance Committee of Maritime Conference for recommendation to Conference as a whole

Financial Implications if Known: Saving of half (or more) of interest charges on loan to Maritime Conference

Staffing Implications if Known: Existing staff and committees

Source of Funding if Known: General Membership and Adherents

That Maritime Conference investigate the possibility of offering bonds to members and adherents of the United Church within the Maritime Conference at the rate of 3% per annum with the value of the bonds used to offset the loan currently held for the construction of the Maritime Conference Archives building. The savings in interest on the existing loan would be applied to the increased allotments to Presbyteries and Pastoral Charges. If a financial and legal analysis suggests that this is possible that an invitation be issued for the purchase of bonds immediately.

This action is recommended for Maritime Conference Executive, the Finance Committee and Legal Counsel of the United Church of Canada. A favourable decision would then have implications for members and adherents of all pastoral charges.

Background:

Discussion, debate and discord around the financing of the Maritime Conference Office and Archives has consumed a considerable part of the discussion at each Maritime Conference meeting for at least the past two years. In our own pastoral charge, when a loan for the repair of the church roof was needed, inviting members to purchase bonds paying an interest rate lower than a commercial lender was charging for a loan but more than most commercial institutions were offering on GICs resulted in offers that exceeded what was required. Why couldn't this same model be applied to the financing of the Maritime Conference Office and Archives?

Many people have savings that are currently earning minimal interest in financial institutions. It is assumed that the interest rate on the loan for the construction of the Maritime Conference Office and Archives is at 6% or more. Any loan at anything less than the interest rate currently being paid will be a savings to Maritime Conference and the Pastoral Charges it serves. Giving those sitting in the pews (and even those who are not) an opportunity to address what has become a fundraising challenge (the interest and the loan for the construction of the Maritime Conference Office) could conceivably help the situation we find ourselves in. In essence, it is looking at a kind of co-op model to address our finances.

Proposal 10

Title: Provision of training for facilitators to assist UCC transition from Presbyteries to Clusters

Originating Body: South Shore Presbytery

Intended Court(s) for Action: Maritime Conference (2015)

Financial Implications: In accordance with "Practical/Financial Implications of "United In God's Work" Recommendation #6: Funding a New Model", p. 33, published March 2015 or as amended.

Staffing Implications: Unknown

Source of Funding if known: In accordance with document “United in God’s Work”, Recommendation #6, p. 33 or as amended.

That Maritime Conference (2015) in its response to the Comprehensive Review Report in Recommendation # 3: A Three Council Model, section b) (page20): include a directive for steps to be taken to provide assistance for the transition from Presbyteries to “Clusters of communities of faith” by establishing leaders (lay and clergy) from each Presbytery whose mandate would be to consult, design and organize meetings that would facilitate the formation of Clusters of communities of faith for the purpose of mutual support and cooperative initiatives.

Background:

In the proposed Three-Council Model of governance proposed by the Comprehensive Review (i.e. “United in God’s Work”, Recommendation #3, p 20-22) there is:

- the assuming of “more responsibility” by communities of faith (i.e. congregations and pastoral charges) which are not presented in the “implications” of the proposed model p. 22;
- in the creation of new “regional councils”, there are no precise mandates or transitional procedures and communication functions articulated in the “implications” of the proposed model (p. 22)
- unnamed implications of “opportunities” for the “engagement” by communities of faith with other decision-making bodies and/or with representatives;
- a call for increased unnamed engagement with ‘outside bodies’ and unknown mandates and supports for those involved;
- unarticulated implications for communication support between communities of faith and ‘outside’ bodies;
- removal of funding support for participation in denominational council decisions, such support to be replaced with bursaries (p 22) which, by definition, imply disposable and yet unverified disposable income by participants who must acquire unknown training on their own resources
- these being the same people who are already supporting the communities of faith (i.e. congregations and pastoral charges) with volunteer time and financial stewardship;
- an absence of a systematic training and support system for community of faith and their representatives to comply with the proposed “shared interests” (p 22)
- no facilitator or facilitator’s position(s) established in the Three-Council Model of governance specifically designated to the training of facilitators of the transition of UCC governance from a presbytery-based local decision and support system to that of ‘Clusters’

Goal of Proposal:

Trained facilitators, as envisioned by this proposal, would provide continuum and conduit for information and support between communities of faith and their respective Regional Councils.

The presence of such facilitators would also provide a systematic conduit of communication between a College of Ministers and communities of faith – Recommendation #4 (College of Ministers, p23-27) as proposed (March 2015) presents no conduit of information or input from communities of faith in its “implications” (p 27). The proposed “competency-based system” for

assessing either candidates for ordination or designation as well as provision of accountable input concerning ongoing Ordered Ministers' effectiveness. This current proposal would include voices of both lay and clergy.

The function of such trained facilitators in this proposal would support Recommendation #1 (Chasing the Spirit, p15) in making known the "variety of ministries" of which communities of faith and configurations of ministry-sharing which may not yet be known as we Chase the Spirit.

The proposed facilitator(s) would provide 'front-line' input from communities of faith in line with implications which have not been spelled out in Recommendation # 1 ("implications, p15-16) which cannot be obtained in any other way than from those communities which are actually both "new life" and "endings".

Finally, in the spirit of Southern African *ubuntu*¹ ("I am because we are/I participate therefore I am", facilitator(s) as per this proposal would be living voices between formerly-predominantly northern European communities of faith and Aboriginal/First Nations communities of faith. In many Canadian communities founded by northern Europeans (i.e. Occidentals), secular community life is experienced in close proximity, even overlap, of non-Aboriginal and Aboriginal/First peoples. Recommendation # 2 (Aboriginal Ministries, "implications", p19) in its current form does not acknowledge the cross-cultural *ubuntu* nature of many Canadian communities and the need for increased transitions from previous colonial mindsets. The importance of right relations demands trained and supported lay and clergy communications in this intentional transitional time toward the lived experienced of ALL of our relations – including that in a multi-cultural – even post-denominational - milieu.

¹ See various sources, i.e. *South African Journal of Philosophy*: Teffo 1996; Allen 2001; Graaff 2001; Ramose 2003; Du Toit 2003; Van den Berg 2003; Bewaji & Ramose 2003; Bamford 2007; Metz 2007a; Wood 2007; Ramose 2007; Farland 2007; Van Niekerk 2007; Metz 2007b; Janz 2008; Krog 2008; Praeg 2008; Eze 2008; Van Niekerk 2008; Du Toit 2008; Gade 2011; Praeg 2011.

Proposal 11

Title: Restructuring the Four Court Model

Originating Body: Valley Presbytery

Intended Court(s) for Action: The 42nd General Council 2015

Financial Implications: As indicated in the United in God's Work, March 2015 report. "All staffing numbers are based on financial modelling completed by General Council Office finance staff in consultation with the Permanent Committee on Finance. They are based on the best estimates available of the financial resources that will be available. More detail is provided in Backgrounder #10: Finances." It is suggested that these same estimates be used for the suggested proposed revision.

Staffing Implications: As noted in the United in God's Work, March 2015 report. The equivalent of 60 ministry and other professional staff would work in the regions and provide operational advice and support. The re-visioning of the four court model could use the same proposed staffing model if it meets the needs of the Conference.

Source of Funding if known: Existing funds collected through the established allocations Courts (as applicable)

In response to the three council model suggested in Proposal 3 of the Comprehensive Review Task Group Report the Valley Presbytery proposes to the 42nd General Council that the current four court model be retained and embraced with the aim to improve efficiency both financial and in terms of oversight of Pastoral Charges and/or Faith Communities and the ministry personnel within their bounds.

Theological Rationale:

We believe the Spirit lives and works and moves in all our people. The communities of faith and the denomination as a whole need to be structured in such a way that as many voices as possible can be heard in a way that includes them in theological reflection, deliberation and decision-making. ⁱ

Background:

We make this proposal believing that the three council model diminishes the opportunities for the many voices to be heard in the life and work of the wider church and note the following:

1. Presbytery Meetings provide frequent opportunities for large numbers of lay and ministry personnel to gather for providing a forum for voices to be heard on the work of the wider church and the concerns of local congregations; networking, and supporting necessary for ongoing vitality and the life of the church.
2. The geographical reality in many parts of the country is such that the distances to be travelled to attend regional councils and the consequent cost to faith communities by sending one lay person and one ministry person might stretch the already limited resources of faith communities and thus prevent their being represented. ⁱⁱ
3. The financial and logistic implications of providing a facility with the capacity to accommodate several thousand people of a meeting of the Denominational Council in the proposed three council model is unclear and there is not a detailed plan of budget or logistics as to how this will occur.
4. We feel the voice of individuals would be diminished in such a large gathering as the proposed Denominational Council, and as well could potentially cost much more than holding a General Council under the current four court model.
5. Although there will be a reduction in staff and services it is clear that there is no reduction of the financial burden placed on faith communities to support the denominational structure.
6. Moving the membership of Ministry Personnel to the community of faith (as proposed in the Three System) has the potential to restrain their voices and present more places of

potential local conflict when speaking on behalf of the church or on issues of a prophetic (wider) concern.

7. Removing the Court of Presbytery appears to remove the voices of retired and retained ministry personnel and deprives the church of their years of wisdom and experience.

ⁱ (See United in God's Work (all references via pages are to this document) see page 10 -12 re the demographic decline reported. In response to this trend we affirm the need for change but in our proposal we believe that restructuring the whole process is not necessarily the best path to travel. We agree that there is evidence for the need for renewal and transformation but believe that the proposed change in structure will ultimately leave behind the congregations that have faithfully worshiped, served, and supported the work of the United Church. How is it evident that changing the church structure will bring about the new things hoped for? The idea of transformational ministries- as presented in the "big picture" clearly indicates that it would "require a significant shift in church culture to create space to experiment with new approaches to ministry free from institutional pressures" how will this translate into respecting and honouring our traditions based on our Basis of Union? (pg. 13)

ⁱⁱ It is stated on page 22 of the United in God's Work that regional councils world perform some but not all functions of current presbyteries and Conferences and that decisions that sharing of resources and staff will be amalgamating Conferences. This creates a large geographical and economic burden on the Atlantic region.

Proposal 12

Title: Membership of Order of Ministry Personnel ~ "United In God's Work"

Originating Body: Halifax Presbytery

Intended Court(s) for Action: Maritime Conference, General Council 2015

Financial Implications: Unknown

Staffing Implications: Unknown

Source of Funding if known: Unknown

That Maritime Conference ask the General Council 2015 that in the event of restructuring according to the parameters outlined in "United In God's Work", the membership of Order of Ministry personnel be in the Regional Council rather than in local communities of faith.

Background:

At present, Order of Ministry personnel -- whether in covenant relationship, retired, or serving in other ministries -- are members of Presbytery and therefore Conference.

"United In God's Work", however, proposes instead that the membership of Order of Ministry personnel be in the local community of faith. Only those for whom this membership derives from covenant relationship with the local community of faith would further serve as the Order of Ministry representatives to the Regional and Denominational Councils.

This represents a major change in the theological understanding of ordered ministry and in our current practice.

Given that our theological understandings of ministry include an ordered minister's service to, responsibility to, and representation of the whole Church, and not only local contexts;

and that our Reformed heritage encourages ordered ministers to be in personal, accountable, and supervised relationships with ministry peers and lay people;

and that the continuity of ministry leadership and service are important to the stability and mission of The United Church of Canada;

and that lodging ordered ministers' memberships only in a local context does not support these goals;

Therefore, locating the membership of Order of Ministry personnel in the Regional Council in the event of restructuring according to the parameters of "United In God's Work", would remain consistent with our current theology and practice.

Proposal 13

Title: The Denominational Council Structure and Funding
Regarding the United Church of Canada report "United in God's Work"

Originating Body: Halifax Presbytery

Intended Court(s) for Action: General Council

Financial Implications: The cost to the church as a whole is unchanged from the proposals contained in United in God's Work, but the distribution would shift, giving the Regional Councils 67% of the assessed funds and the Denominational Council 33%.

Staffing Implications: The Denominational Council staff would be decreased, and the staff of the Regional Councils increased.

Source of Funding if known:

That all current standing committees and working groups associated with the General Council office be dismantled and that the Denominational Council office be reconstituted with only those personnel and committees that are essential to our new structure, and that 33% of assessments be used to maintain the functions of the Denominational Council and 67% be used to maintain the functions of the Regional Councils.

Rationale:

The United Church has always been a national church with strong regional identity. This proposal is born out of a belief that the spirit moves most freely when people gather within the groups who

have the strongest relationships. People hold the strongest bonds with those in their faith community, and the next closest bonds would be with the people who live and work in the same region - people that they see from time to time in their church life. The national office is very distant from the faith communities that make up the backbone of our church.

Much of the work that furthers our ministry as individual churches or as a church happens regionally, or could happen within networks, and does not need to be driven by a national staff. The United Church is best served by a model that gives the greatest power to the congregations and ministry units first, and that works its way up to the regions second, rather than a model that is driven by policy and action flowing from the national church down.

It is the intent of this proposal to free resources from the national structure to be used by the regions for ministry, gathering, and staff support.

It is also the intent of this proposal to strengthen the connections of many faith communities to the denominational structure that is closest to them. This may help to close what often seems to be an increase in perceived distance between the congregation and the wider church.

Implementation:

The Denominational Council would be pared down to only that which is essential. Some structures that may be necessary include:

- The Moderator and the General Secretary and necessary support staff
- Small groups for
 - o The Manual
 - o Theology and Faith and Interchurch/Interfaith Relations
 - o Finances
 - o Minimum legal requirements for Pension and Benefits and appropriate support to Pension Plan members
 - o Publications (these to be run at break-even or for-profit basis only)
- Support structure for the Triennial Denominational Council meeting
- Support structure for the Denomination Council Executive
- Support structure for global partnerships
- Support structure for Regional Relationships

In so far as possible, denominational tasks will be addressed either through assigning them to regions (e.g. archives) or in more active partnership (e.g. KAIROS or the ACT Alliance). Denomination-shaping tasks could be assigned to regionally-based work groups with provision of networking as necessary by the Denominational Council.

Proposal 14

Title: United for Mining Justice Network

Originating Body: Halifax Presbytery

Intended Court(s) for Action: General Council

Financial Implications:

Staffing Implications:

Source of Funding if known:

- a. That GC 42 strongly affirm the work of the United Network for the United for Mining Justice Network (UMJN). (See Comprehensive Review Recommendation #3: A Three-Council Model; Backgrounder #8: Networks)
- b. That this network be directly and significantly involved in any future discussions surrounding how networks will be involved and supported under a new structure.
- c. That a representative of each network be made an ex-officio member of the Permanent Committee - Programs for Mission and Ministry (PC-PMM) until a new structure evolves.
- d. That GC 42 mandate the GCO staff assist with negotiations for appropriate Director's insurance for this network so they can speak truthfully and bravely to the church and other power structures.

Background:

- a. Currently, UMJN has no direct ties to the General Council. UMJN has evolved out of United Church groups who had been working on the issue of Canadian mining interests being involved in human rights violations in foreign countries. This network plays a significant role in this key social justice issues within the denomination and provide thousands of volunteer hours. The leadership of this network takes seriously the Biblical call to proclaim social justice. This network stands in solidarity with our international partners who have turned to the United Church of Canada seeking our support in their struggle to have their voices heard in our churches and beyond.
To date, there has been no formal acknowledgement, affirmation or appreciation expressed for their ongoing work and commitment from either GCO or GC.
- b. Currently, there has been no direct or indirect contact with UMJN about the future of social justice work in the denomination even though the Comprehensive Review provides an appendix/backgrounder to the main report and notes the key role networks will play in animating the social justice ministry of the United Church of Canada.
It would make sense for this network who already understand the struggles and the blessings of their existing structure to provide direct input into how we might effectively embrace the concept of networks as we explore how to live out God's call to work for social justice.
- c. Currently, the Permanent Committee (PC) - Programs for Mission and Ministry has not invited the network to provide any input directly to the PC which could assist the PC in supporting the work mandated by the GC.
An ex-officio role on the PC would allow the networks to remain free and independent of the PC and the current power structure within the denomination while still being able to build relationships. PC-PMM and the network would mutually benefit from a closer relationship through improved alignment regarding these key social justice issues.
- d. The leadership of the networks face the prospect of vexatious lawsuits from those who hold

power and privilege in Canadian society. Yet, the networks who work faithfully and diligently on behalf of the denomination are not afforded the same protection as officers of the courts of the church because under our present structure this is not possible. (Leadership of the networks often function in other roles in various courts of the church where they are covered by the insurance policy of the United Church.)

In order to support the work of these networks and allow them to focus on the issues where they have expertise it makes sense to have the GCO staff with expertise in insurance help negotiate on behalf of the networks with the United Church of Canada insurance provider.

Proposal 15

Title: United Network for a Just Peace in Palestine and Israel

Originating Body: Halifax Presbytery

Intended Court(s) for Action: General Council

Financial Implications:

Staffing Implications:

Source of Funding if known:

- a. That GC 42 strongly affirm the work of the United Network for a Just Peace in Palestine and Israel (UNJPPI) (See Comprehensive Review Recommendation #3: A Three-Council Model; Backgrounder #8: Networks)
- b. That this network be directly and significantly involved in any future discussions surrounding how networks will be involved and supported under a new structure.
- c. That a representative of each network be made an ex-officio member of the Permanent Committee - Programs for Mission and Ministry (PC-PMM) until a new structure evolves.
- d. That GC 42 mandate the GCO staff assist with negotiations for appropriate Director's insurance for this network so they can speak truthfully and bravely to the church and other power structures.

Background:

- a. Currently, UNJPPI has no direct ties to the General Council. UNJPPI was incarnated by the GCO to help with the work mandated by GC 41 with respect to Palestine and Israel. This network plays a significant role in this key social justice issue within the denomination and provide thousands of volunteer hours.

The leadership of this network take seriously the Biblical call to proclaim social justice. This network stands in solidarity with our international partners who have turned to the United Church of Canada seeking our support in their struggle to have their voices heard in our churches and beyond.

To date, there has been no formal acknowledgement, affirmation or appreciation expressed for their ongoing work and commitment from either GCO or GC.

- b. Currently, there has been no direct or indirect contact with UNJPPI about the future of social justice work in the denomination even though the Comprehensive Review provides an appendix/backgrounder to the main report and notes the key role networks will play in animating the social justice ministry of the United Church of Canada.

It would make sense for this network who already understand the struggles and the blessings of their existing structure to provide direct input into how we might effectively embrace the concept of networks as we explore how to live out God's call to work for social justice.

- c. Currently, the Permanent Committee (PC) - Programs for Mission and Ministry has not invited the network to provide any input directly to the PC which could assist the PC in supporting the work mandated by the GC.

An ex-officio role on the PC would allow the networks to remain free and independent of the PC and the current power structure within the denomination while still being able to build relationships. PC-PMM and the network would mutually benefit from a closer relationship through improved alignment regarding these key social justice issues.

- d. The leadership of the networks face the prospect of vexatious lawsuits from those who hold power and privilege in Canadian society. Yet, the networks who work faithfully and diligently on behalf of the denomination are not afforded the same protection as officers of the courts of the church because under our present structure this is not possible. (Leadership of the networks often function in other roles in various courts of the church where they are covered by the insurance policy of the United Church.)

In order to support the work of these networks and allow them to focus on the issues where they have expertise it makes sense to have the GCO staff with expertise in insurance help negotiate on behalf of the networks with the United Church of Canada insurance provider.

Proposal 16

Title: Comprehensive Review: United in God's Work Representation of United Church Women on Councils

Originating Body: Sydney Presbytery / U.C.W. Presbyterial

Intended Court(s) for Action: General Council

Financial Implications: Cost of Meeting Participation

Staffing Implications: None

Source of Funding if known:

That the 42nd General Council ensure that in the three Council model proposed by United in God's Work, provision is made for the full voting participation of a representative of the United Church Women on the Regional and Denominational Councils and their Executives.

Background:

The involvement of a representative of the United Church Women (UCW) in the United Church of Canada's current structure is not consistent. Some Presbyteries and Conferences and their Executives do include a representative as a full voting member, while others, including the General Council Executive, only permit these representatives to serve as corresponding (non-voting) members.

The proposals from United in God's Work offer an opportunity to address this inconsistency across the church and to recognize the vital role that the UCW play in the denomination by ensuring that a representative of the UCW is able to participate fully in the Regional and Denominational Councils and their Executives.

UCW have traditionally supported their local congregations, fulfilling their purpose by expressing their loyalty and devotion to Jesus Christ in Christian witness, study, fellowship and service. It is recognized by many, that without the devotion and commitment of the UCW, many congregations would have ceased to exist long ago. It could also be noted that the commitment to the wider work of our church through support of the Mission and Service fund is evident, as in 2014 alone, \$1,462,840 was given to M&S by the UCW across Canada.

Including a representative of the UCW as a full voting member on these Councils will allow for the wisdom and the work of UCW to inform and guide the Councils. It will also provide a link between a key population and network and the governing structure.

Proposal 17

Title: An Alternative Structure to the proposed "College" of Ministers

Originating Body: Maritime Conference

Intended Court for Action: 42nd General Council, 2015

Financial Implications: unknown

Staffing Implications: Approximately the same number of staff as the proposed College of Ministers, distributed with approx. 1/3 at the Denominational level, and 2/3 at the Regional level

Source of funding: unknown

Maritime Conference proposes that as the recommendations of the CTRG regarding oversight and discipline of ministry personnel are being considered by the 42nd General Council, 2015

- (1) **Standards for training and accreditation, and discipline of ministry personnel be the responsibility of the denominational body, through a Federation of UCC Ministers, and that**
- (2) **the recognition, support and oversight of ministry personnel be the responsibility of the Regional Council.**

These responsibilities will be administered in the following manner:

- 1. Denominational Responsibilities (Through the Federation of UCC Ministers):**
 - (a) **Disciplinary procedures for all ministry personnel, including the administration of the DSL list, both disciplinary and voluntary**
 - (b) **The authority to determine the definition of ministry and its requirements and standards of recognition within the church**
 - (c) **As the sole body that recognizes and credentials all persons within the ministry of the United Church, all ministry personnel would be required to maintain the status of “Registrant” within the Federation in order to continue to practice the rights and privileges of the office of ministry.**
- 2. Regional Responsibilities:**
 - (a) **Training and oversight of ministry personnel would be administered through an elected committee of regional council, with appropriate staff support**
 - (b) **Candidacy and Education and Students processes would be implemented at the regional level.**
 - (c) **Ministry Personnel, including retired ministry personnel, would be covenanted members within their Regional Body.**
 - (d) **Consideration would be given to the size of regional bodies, ensuring that Regions are not larger than current conference structures, at the expense of accessibility to communities of faith.**

Background to 1. Denominational Responsibilities

- There is a confusion of terms concerning what constitutes a membership association and a regulatory body. *United in God’s Work* presents the nomenclature and status of a “College” without the pursuant legislative requirement to be a self regulatory governing body. For this purpose alone, we would recommend not using this term as it is misleading in both larger society and law. We believe the use of the term “Federation” is much more in keeping with the cut and thrust of the report’s proposal.
- A **Federation** is the uniting of a national body, composed of provincial and/or regional entities each retaining their own control of internal affairs while being supported by a National voice and perspective.
- Avoiding the requirements of a College will allow the church to stay true to the vocational and covenantal roots of the United Church rather than vying for a quasi professional status. *United in God’s Work* recommends a change to a profession of ministry. In the public realm, the regulation of professions are basically the regulating of transactions between the public and the

professionals where governments are expected to ensure the public has some form of protection. We believe this understanding alone is not compatible with the rich vocation of ministry currently practiced and understood in the United Church of Canada.

- The specific legal authority transferred from government to the profession's regulatory body varies with different regulatory models. A Federation would allow for professionalism without the need for stringent government oversight. Under our proposal we still preserve the emphasis of highly skilled professionals exercising discipline of ministry personnel through the Federation.
- Given that government selects from different regulatory approaches, based on the nature of the activities performed by the profession's members and the extent to which the public might be harmed if an incompetent member of a profession provided services (ministry), how then can this aspect of government oversight be ignored in the establishing of a professional College as *United In God's Work* seeks to propose?

Background to 2. Regional Responsibilities

- There are potential difficulties with pastoral relationships that make it necessary to remove oversight and discipline of ministers from the local jurisdiction. Complexities in these relationships require higher levels of specialized information and skills. At the same time, it is desirable for this oversight to be able to respond as early as possible when difficulties arise, and for this oversight to be aware of the local context.
- By removing oversight and discipline from the regional level, we risk having an uninformed response because one is less aware of regional particularities. It would also require the added expense of further travel.
- The best balance would be to have the oversight responsibilities rest at the regional level, while the corrective disciplinary responsibilities would reside at the denominational level.
- The work of the Steering Group on *Candidacy Pathway of The Permanent Committee on Ministry and Employment Policies and Services* has been monitoring the Candidacy Pathway pilot project currently underway in BC, Manitou and Bay of Quinte Conferences. It provides favourable insight into a ministry oversight and evaluation model administered almost entirely at the regional level which is especially poignant in the Bay of Quinte Conference where all decision-making powers are held at this level (see "Interim Report of the Steering Group on Candidacy Pathway" Record of Proceedings of the 41st General Council, 2012). These pilot projects have effectively assumed a model of centralized authority much similar to that proposed by the College model, with the exception that such authority lies at the regional rather than denominational level.

Sources:

Manitoba Law Reformed Commission (1994). *Regulating professions and occupations*. Winnipeg: Manitoba Law Reform Commission

Bayles, M.D. (1988). Profession power and self regulation. *Business and Professional Ethics Journal*, 5(2), 26-43

Glen, E. Randall, (2000). *Understanding profession self regulation*. Toronto Ontario

Proposal 18

Title: Actively Promote Actions and Ideas Designed to Bring Peace to the Ukraine

Originating Body: Sydney Presbytery

Intended Courts for Action: Maritime Conference; General Council

Financial Implications: Minimal

Staffing Implications: One General Council Staff Person possibly 2-4 days

Source of Funding: n/a

Sydney Presbytery proposes that the Moderator and Executive of the General Council urge the government of Canada to adopt a more conciliatory approach to Russia with regard to solving the crisis in the Ukraine and to formally recognize Crimea's reunification with Russia.

Background:

The United Church has always been a justice seeking Church based largely upon Micah 6:8 but if one looks at the actions of Nathan the Prophet in 2 Samuel 12:2-9 God also wants us to speak out against our Government if it is doing wrong.

From the outset of the rise of tensions in the Ukraine the actions of the Canadian Government, when viewed critically, seem more likely to promote war rather than peace.

It has consistently backed a government in Kyiv that has several neo-Nazi members (see Neo-Nazi Newsnight You Tube) and has cried foul when Russia supported other Russians in the eastern Ukraine. Its latest action in sending 200 soldiers to help train the western Ukraine's army to better fight (and kill) their fellow Ukrainians in the east of the country appears to show most clearly that the Canadian Government is promoting war rather than peace.

The intent of this resolution is to encourage the Canadian Government to work with Russia to bring peace to the Ukraine.

In addition to the Canadian Government incorrectly identifying Russia as an aggressor, it has promoted the notion that the Crimea voted to rejoin Russia only due to threats from the Russian military. A view of the You Tube Article titled The Crimea Returns to Russia shows that in fact the vote in the Crimea truly reflected the wishes of its people. According to writer Scott Taylor in The Halifax Chronicle Herald a Canadian government funded survey of 800 Crimean residents taken in January 2015 reported 82% fully supported the Annexation (Return to Russia). The same article indicates that the original referendum was 95% in favour of returning to Russia. Reference is made to a return to Russia since from the 1700's to 1954 the Crimea was Russian territory. In 1954, when both the Ukraine and Russia were part of the Soviet Union, the government of the USSR gave the Crimea to the Ukraine.

The United Church has already recognized that an undivided Ukraine with no conflict is desirable. It is searching for concrete ideas to achieve this. Some of these together with the ideas in the Resolution might be:

1. A Ukraine, like Switzerland, that is a neutral country.
2. A Peacekeeping force for the eastern Ukraine.
3. A constitution that will protect both Eastern and Western Ukrainians and guarantee a neutral country.

Proposal 19

Title: Membership of Ordered Ministry

Originating Body: Sydney Presbytery

Intended Courts for Action: Maritime Conference; General Council

Financial Implications:

Staffing Implications:

Source of Funding:

That Maritime Conference ask the General Council 2015 that, when the Comprehensive Review is implemented post-General Council, members of the order of ministry be counted as members of the regional Council rather than (members) of a local community of faith.

Background:

Given that our theological understandings of ministry includes an ordered minister's service and responsibility to the whole Church, and not only local contexts; and that our Reformed heritage encourages ordered ministers to be in personal, accountable, and supervised relationships with ministry peers and lay people; and that continuity of ministry leadership and service are important to the stability and mission of The United Church of Canada; and that lodging ordered ministers' membership only in a local context does not support these goals.

**THE 90TH ANNUAL MEETING OF MARITIME CONFERENCE
DRAFT AGENDA**

THURSDAY, MAY 28th

- 11:00 Check-in begins (Civic Centre, Lower Level Lobby)
- 3:00 Orientation for New Delegates (Maritime Conference Centre)
Table Group Facilitators Training (Avard Dixon, G12)
- 5:00 *Supper*
- 6:15 Business Desk Open until 6:45
- 6:45 Constitution of the Court & Opening Motions
Acknowledgement of Place – An Act of Reconciliation
Introductions & Greetings
- 7:15 Introduction of Theme
Table Groups Covenant
- 7:50 Gathering Worship & Service of Remembrance
- 9:00 President's Reception (Civic Centre)

FRIDAY, May 29th

- 7:00 Mount Allison Chapel
- 7:00 *Breakfast*
- 8:00 Business Desk Open until 9:00
- 8:50 Gathering Music
- 9:00 Worship & Theme
- 9:50 Affirming Process
- 11:45 General Council Youth Forum
- 11:55 Announcements & Blessing
- 12:00 *Lunch at Jennings Meal hall*
Preordered lunchbox pick-up outside the bookroom
Business Desk Open until 1:30
Check the flip charts and screens for workshops & gatherings
- 12:30 *Choir Practice, MTA Chapel*
- 1:30 Church in Action
- 2:00 President Designate Nominees
- 2:10 Settlement Committee Report
- 2:20 MP & E Report
- 2:40 Nominations Report
- 3:00 Ballot Circulated for Ordinands/Comissionands
- 3:10 Finance Report and Budget
- 3:55 Introduction of and Presentation to the Ordinands/Commissionands
- 4:10 Maritime Conference Executive Accountability Report
- 4:30 Nomination of Commissioners to General Council
- 4:40 Archives Committee
- 4:55 Announcements and Blessing
- 5:00 *Supper*
- 6:00 Business Desk Open until 6:45
- 6:30 Ballot for President Designate

- 6:45 General Council Executive Representatives Accountability Report
- 7:00 Staff Committee Report
- 7:15 Tatamagouche Centre
- 7:30 Atlantic School of Theology
- 7:45 Stewardship
- 8:00 Proposals/Business

SATURDAY, May 30th

- 7:00 Mount Allison Chapel
- 7:00 *Breakfast*
- 8:00 Business Desk Open until 9:00
- 8:50 Gathering Music
- 9:00 Worship & Theme
- 10:00 Comprehensive Review
- 11:50 Announcements & Blessing
- 12:00 *Lunch at Jennings Meal hall*
Preordered lunchbox pick-up outside the bookroom
Business Desk Open until 1:30
Check the flip chart and screens for workshops & gatherings
- 12:30 *Choir Practice, MTA Chapel*
- 1:30 General Council Ballots
- 1:45 Church in Action
- 2:45 Proposals/Business
- 4:30 *Choir Practice, MTA Chapel*
Business Desk Open until 5:00
- 5:00 *Supper*
Banquet for Retirees and Jubilarians at the Legion
(pre-purchased ticket required)
- 6:30 Business Desk Open (final time)
- 7:30 Introduction of Retirees and Jubilarians
Business Desk Closes: mileage receipts & evaluations due, (final time)
Book Room Closes
- 7:35 Report from the Ecumenical Guests
- 8:00 Worship
- 8:45 Introduction of President Designate
- 8:50 Courtesies and closing motions

SUNDAY, May 31st

- 7:00 *Breakfast*
- 8:30 Ordinand/Commisionand Rehearsal (Worship Stage)
- 10:00 Service of Praise and Celebration of Ministry
- 12:00 Closing of Conference
- 12:15 Meeting of the new Conference Executive