Region 15 Transition Commission
The United Church of Canada
MINUTES
Sept. 10, 2018
Knox United Church Lower Sackville, NS
2PM – 5PM

The Chair called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. and invited Ruth Gamble to open with prayer.

- Attendance: Catherine MacDonald, Janet Sollows, Fay Smith, David LeBlanc, Joyce Wylie, Ross Bartlett, Krista Anderson, Derek Elsworth, Donnie Morrison, Faith March-MacCuish, April Hart, Ruth Gamble, Donna Tourneur, Anne Cameron, Carol Smith, Bev MacDonald
- By Phone: Alison Etter, Peter Hardy
- Regrets: Max Martin, Alicia Cox, Elaine Gray, Bill Drysdale

1. Welcome
2. Approval of Agenda. *The agenda was agreed to by consensus with additions of clusters and correspondence from Bermuda*
3. Agreement to approve notes from Aug. 7 meeting – *Agreed by consensus*
4. Aug. 7 Joint notes from meeting to be shared with presbyteries *Includes commitment to a balanced budget*
5. Correspondence:
    a. Letter from Nora Sanders, re conference office and sharing of space. There is no agreement at this time as to the use of the conference office. At this point it is unclear who will own and make the mortgage payments ($12,000/mo). GC requests a letter indicating our wishes and inquiring as to what GC needs to go through. Retain Sackville as archive and regional staff office (until at least 2020); ask GC to cover the $12,000/mo; inquire as to what rental will be charged by GC. It was agreed that Donnie and Faith will be empowered to write such a letter.
    b. Email from Leo Mills
    c. Email from Peter Hardy. There an historic agreement that the Bermuda Synod will be a Presbytery. This appears to have been overlooked in the move to Regions. The agreement also states that a year's notice is required prior to replace Presbytery. This notice of change must come from GC. The Synod exists regardless of action of UCC because it is a creation of an act of the Bermuda Parliament. Faith undertook to communicate with GC Legal/Judicial as something we are committed to see through to proper conclusion.
6. Next Region 15 meeting *Discussion ensued about subsequent meetings; the benefits of face-to-face; the benefits of meeting with other Regions; having smaller groups nominated to meet on behalf of the Regions; individuals will be asked to respond to a doodle poll for October 12th-13th; October 15th-16th. November meeting by teleconference. (Carol and Joyce volunteered to help plan October event with Region 14 and 16)*

7. Budget – *a more up to date budget was circulated. Various questions were asked and answered. PLEASE TREAT THIS AS CONFIDENTIAL By consensus the budget was accepted as presented. NB: salaries and benefits are based on General Council scale and recognizing that the estimates will need to be tested against new realities.* Effective Sept 10th.
8. Letter to presbyteries/synod *The Chair circulated a letter to the Presbyteries/Synod - to be circulated with amendments*
9. Governance Discussion - *a small group was appointed Krista Ross Anne*
10. Listening day with First Nations presence. *Derek will contact Laura Hunter to explore what this might look like*
11. Title for position of "Regional Minister" – *we will allow this to evolve*
12. Shared Services with GC –*results of Doodle poll. Still trying to get clarity about costs of each option. There was consensus to accept the telecom platform and the IT support and the common email platform. Also agreed to not enter the accounting option but to do more work on the comparisons and to have conversation with Jennifer and Alan Gray (treasurer).The web site piece needs to be further discussed.*
13. Joint notes from meeting to be shared with presbyteries – *Faith will circulate a power point for use at Presbytery*
14. Naming Region – delayed to next time
15. mission support grant process. *The Conference Financial Support will meet Sept 18th to review applications and will forward recommendations to Commissions*
16. hiring administrative support for David Hewitt/office manager assistant hire (1/2 time position) – need people for an interview team: Ruth
17. Clusters *Maritime Conference has had a Cluster Task Group that will be forwarding a report to the Commissions. Please encourage cluster development in your Presbytery*
18. The business concluded, the Chair declared Adjournment
19. Closing Prayer: Derek Elsworth