

EXECUTIVE MINUTES

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FEB 02 2010

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“To strengthen congregations to be Christ for the world”

ROLL:

Diane Blanchard, John Fargey, Marian Ferguson, Don Gibson, Norm Graham, Peter Hoyle, John Hurst, Kim Shantz, Sandy Skinner, Neville Smith, John Tapscott, Bill West, Jean Wilson

REGRETS: Peter Curran, Peter Hancock, Orville James, Lorna MacQueen, Morar Murray-Hayes

Guest: Kathy Toivanen

GATHERING

CALL TO ORDER, WELCOME – Chair, Don Gibson

PERSONAL JOYS & CONCERNS:

- The Grand opening at St. John's United will take place this Sunday, Feb. 7th.
- Jean Wilson's home was robbed while attending the January presbytery meeting.

MOTION: Neville Smith/John Fargey

That Kathy Toivanen be a corresponding member for this evenings meeting. **CARRIED**

WORSHIP: Jean Wilson

Reading from Corinthians – LOVE

SECRETARY'S TIME:

MOTION: Marian Ferguson/Neville Smith

That the Executive minutes of January 5th, be approved as received with changes. **CARRIED**

Correspondence from January 24th through February 2nd, 2010

- | | | |
|----|--|---------------------------|
| 1. | Pastoral Oversight Draft report for Erindale United Church | to File |
| 2. | Update on CIDA Matching Funds for Haiti Donations | to Exec, PC |
| 3. | General Secretary's weekly letter | to Exec, PC |
| 4. | United Church of Canada – New Admission Process for Ministers from
other Denominations – Handbook of Procedures and
- Admission Circulation List for 2010 | to PR, File
for Action |
| 5. | United Church of Canada – Return of 2008 Statistical Forms – Final Tally | to File |
| 6. | United Church of Canada – 2009 Statistical & Information Forms – Extra Sets
- Procedures for Monitoring Returns of Statistic Forms
- Updating Presbytery info on the UCC Website | to File |
| 7. | Centre for Clergy Care & Congregational Health – events | to Clergy |
| 8. | Amy-Jill Levine Retreat & Lecture Series Early Bird Registration | to PC |
| 9. | Hamilton Conference – Call for Nominations for General Council
Committees and Task Groups | to Exec, PC |

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Chairperson's Time:

February 4th at 4: Speaker will be The Very Rev. Dr. Lois Wilson.

It will be a great honour to have Lois visit our Presbytery, and we encourage all presbyters to come to this event. Rev. Dr. Wilson needs no introduction. Among her accomplishments:

- former President of the Canadian Council of Churches
- former Moderator of the United Church of Canada
- former President of the World Council of Churches
- former Senator of Canada
- Companion of the Order of Canada

Currently Lois serves as Ecumenist in Residence at the Theological College at Queen's University.

Please register for this event on our web site, www.haltonpres.org, or by calling 905-469-3172 or e-mailing office@haltonpres.org

- Morar and Don did meet with the folks from Milton St. Paul's in January a follow up from an previous presbytery meeting (09-058) where good conversation took place.

COMMUNICATIONS POLICY AND STRATEGIES: John Fargey

John Fargey made a presentation on behalf of the Strategic Mission Development Committee in accordance with actions of the previous meeting (p 10-002). He reported the executive should expect presentation in four steps. The first one will cover the "Mission" and "Purpose" of Halton. As an overview; Strategic Mission Development Committee feels the Report addresses the issues that it was asked to address. It provides important information on existing communications activities within Halton Presbytery and how the system could be made more effective, plus other revelations. The Committee believes recommendations of the Report are very important for the future vitality of Halton Presbytery and of individual congregations. Because of this, the committee concludes that the report recommendations should be adopted and that the challenge of implementing them should now be taken up.

"Mission Statement" and Statement of "Purpose"

Strategic Mission Development Committee encourages Presbytery to embrace the mission statement, to affirm its use, to use it extensively, to be alert for opportunities to help it come alive and to ask committees to rethink their respective role with the mission clearly in mind. As to the purpose "Growing Disciples" Strategic Mission Development Committee suggests endorsing what the report says on the basis it is direct, straight forward and biblically based.

MOTION: John Fargey/Norm Graham

That Halton Presbytery Executive affirm the mission statement, which appears on the Halton Web site as, "**To Strengthen Congregations to be Christ for the World**" and that Presbytery meeting February 23, 2010 be asked to sustain this motion. **CARRIED**

MOTION: John Fargey/John Hurst

Whereas: The report, Communications Policy and Strategies, has been shared with all members of Halton Presbytery, and

Whereas: the report suggests that in addition to having a mission statement there must be an answer to "why are we here?" and the report makes Biblical reference thereto, and

Whereas: the report suggests acceptance of the two elements of mission and discipleship provides a clear focus of what to do, and

Whereas: recommendation 3:2 calls to Establish "Growing Disciples" as the primary purpose of all that is done, and

Whereas: "the purpose in many ways is almost a result of faithfully living the mission".

Therefore be it resolved:

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That this executive endorse recommendation 3:2 in the report Communications Policy and Strategies and encourage Presbytery meeting on February 23rd 2010 to accept **Growing Disciples** as its primary purpose in support of the mission statement. **CARRIED**

MOTION: John Fargey/John Tapscott

That the Chair of each committee of Halton Presbytery be requested to take the Communications Policy and Strategies report plus the previous two motions for discussion with members of their committee with a view to formulating a description of the respective committee's role in Presbytery within the context of the Mission and Purpose of Presbytery and present same to the Executive by May 4, 2010 or sooner.

CARRIED

A presentation on March 2nd will deal with recommendation 3:3 Communications and Technical Committee.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES:

Leadership Development Proposal a follow up from November: Peter Hoyle and Kathy Toivanen
The opportunities and challenges facing congregations as they strive to embody the mission statement of Halton Presbytery are significant. Recent statistics speak to the decline in congregations with regard to membership, worship attendance and financial contributions to the work of the church in Christ's mission.

Presbytery's role in "Strengthening Congregations to be Christ for the World" is vital and essential. The question to be asked is, can Halton Presbytery continue to do the same things or do we need to change radically our processes? Can we continue as a Presbytery to operate as we did in the 70's, 80's or 90's or do we need to take a risk to become something new for now and tomorrow?

The groups recommendation is to establish an Action Team of 3-5 people who have an enthusiasm for and experience in congregational transformation. The Action Team will be accountable to one of the standing committees, with their focus being "Strengthening Congregations to be Christ for the World".

MOTION: Bill West/Neville Smith

That Halton Presbytery Executive support the Leadership Planning Group's proposal that three of the regular meetings of Halton Presbytery be replaced with a program and process that will inspire and help congregations to be "Christ for the World".

That the Leadership Planning Group work on future development and design of the proposal.

That this proposal be brought to the Executive in March and subsequently be brought to the Full Court for feed back and final discussion. **CARRIED**

ALL PURPOSE BREAK: Refreshments provided by John Hurst

VIM LOANS: Sandy Skinner

The draft report on the consultation with Erik Mathieson and Halton Presbytery was reviewed. Erik is looking for an endorsement of the compromise plan, or specific suggestions for change. After some discussion.....

MOTION: Sandy Skinner/John Fargey_

That Halton Presbytery Executive support with insertion of the words "up to" in front of 50% in two places, the General Council Office staff recommendation re debt burden of Venture in Mission loan congregations which as of January 26, 2010 is

Process Re Debt Burden

1. VIM Congregations could choose to request "relief" from existing VIM debt.
2. Presbytery would need to endorse the recommendation and terms.

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3. Conference would need to approve the request. (editorial note – I defer to UCC polity experts here – whatever works!)

Options to be made available (GCO staff recommendation)

1. **No unreasonable burden and paying agreed tithe, continue status quo.**
(Arguably all Halton VIM Congregations would have this option)
2. If not currently paying full tithe, start now or invoke one of the restructuring options below. (in practice this likely means invoking debt restructuring).
3. **Restructuring Option A - Moratorium**
 - a. Moratorium on payment for “x” years (3-5). Application to include longer term projections of how the moratorium will enhance ministry and provide for future repayment capacity. Congregation agrees that at end date of moratorium, they will resume full tithe payments or restructure the debt via the non-performing 3% mortgage methodology.
 - b. Presbytery agrees that 50% of the proceeds in excess of other debt obligations arising from any land or church sale proceeds would be applied retirement of VIM debt in Halton Presbytery which in turn provides new ministries funding nationally. (this is modeled on existing Halton policy)
 - c. “Silent” or non-performing mortgage claim added to title. Mortgage claim would grow at 3% per year to preserve the value of the capital written off but would only become payable in the event ministry stopped and the property sold or re-purposed.
4. **Restructuring Option B – Full Restructure**
 - a. Full loan restructure. Congregation agrees that cash payments will be suspended and the tithe requirement replaced with the non-performing 3% mortgage. Mortgage claim would grow at 3% per year to preserve the value of the capital written off but would only become payable in the event ministry stopped and the property sold or re-purposed.
 - b. Mortgage registry costs would be the responsibility of the congregation.
 - c. Presbytery agrees that 50% of the proceeds in excess of other debt obligations arising from any land or church sale proceeds would be applied to VIM debt retirement which in turn provides new ministries funding nationally. (this is modeled on existing Halton policy)

HUCEC would be asked to enter into a parallel agreement for any option chosen.

CARRIED

Questions for Hamilton Conference (09-099) Morar Murray-Hayes – postponed till march

Persistent Friend: Lorna MacQueen – regrets

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- ❖ **Pastoral Relations:** Norm Graham
In the past Police Record Checks have been available through “Backcheck” but this has been changed and now they are of no value because ‘Backcheck’ are unable to do a complete records check. You must deal with your local Police authorities.
- ❖ **Strategic Mission Development:** John Fargey
A written report was provided. Moving the communications report forward is consuming a great deal of time and attention by members of the committee as part of their role of strategic/visionary thinking.

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- ❖ **Treasurer's Report:** John Hurst
 - 1. Assessments:** Assessments for 2009 have all been received and Hamilton Conference has been paid in full for 2009 and all the cheques to them have been cashed. Invoices for the first quarter (2010) have been mailed and show a due date of February 15, 2010.
 - 2. Payroll and Remittances:** The APD Payroll for Rev. Pete Hoyle is working properly and the transition is complete. A T4 has been supplied to Pete. I am still waiting for information to complete and issue T4A's.
 - 3. Current Financial Position:** The December 31 net loss is \$45,090 compared to a budgeted loss of \$73,572 and a surplus last year of \$18,708. The December 31st balance sheet shows \$12,900 in cash, \$989,000 in short term investments, \$100,000 in long term investments, and small amounts of receivables and payables. The balance sheet remains strong. The books for 2009 have been submitted to Withey Addison for auditing and Financial Statement preparation. Withey Addison is working on the submission and we should have draft financial statements sometime in February.
 - 2010 Budget:** No additional report.
 - Other:** No additional report.
 - MOTION:** John Hurst/Neville Smith
That this Treasurer's report be received for information. **CARRIED**
 - See final budget for 2010 on page 10-019**

- ❖ **HUCEC:** Sandy Skinner
Directors will meet on February 10th at Palermo.

- ❖ **U.C.W.:** Jean Wilson
The Annual meeting will take place April 10th at St. Paul's in Oakville – encourage your women to attend. Starting time is 8:30 A.M.

- ❖ **Faith Formation & Outreach:** Neville Smith
 - Everything is in place for the Network Day event to be held at Eden United Church on Saturday, February 20 from 8am to 12.55 pm. Registrations are now expected. The Network Day will pay for itself. No cost to the Halton Presbytery.
 - The analysis re the Vacation Bible School Project has revealed that most congregations will be able to run well. Some congregations are recommended to form a cluster of two or more. Financial help will be required for materials and training volunteers. The amount will be set at the next Faith Formation & Outreach Committee meeting on Thursday, February 25TH 2010.
 - The "Discipleship" half-day Workshop planned for April 17 is not feasible for one of the leaders so we'll re-schedule the date soon. Details will be forth coming.
 - Human Trafficking is a big issue and congregations are again urged to contact their political representatives urging that Human Trafficking be put on the Agenda when World Political Leaders meet in Canada this year.

- ❖ **Candidacy & Vocations:** Kim Shantz
Kim supplied the executive with an overview of their committee.

- ❖ **Regeneration:** Peter Hoyle spoke to report received via e-mail
We are pursuing several methods toward renewal and regeneration -
 - 1. Clergy Clusters.** The hope is to gather Halton's clergy into clusters of 6-8, who meet semi-regularly for the purpose of support, fellowship, & education. This is

intended to be an antidote to the sense of isolation. It is also to develop our collegiality and mutual support -and affection. Thirdly the hope is that we will

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actually learn from each other... trade ideas, spark and stimulate creativity, share 'best practices' toward problem solving, growth and renewal.

We are in the process of recruiting the leadership for these Clusters, and hope to launch a first series of gatherings later this spring. They may become quarterly, or bi-monthly events.

2. BIG events - This is in the conversation and possibility stage. Will we bring in a 'Major' speaker for a renewal/regeneration conference such as a William Willimon for next fall or winter? An event like that could easily expand to be 'regional' and invite friends from around the GTA, and Hamilton Conference.

OR - will we target Halton only, with a Regeneration weekend/conference? or series of learning and inspirational events. There are other options under consideration - including an 'Unbinding' conference -based on a series of books by a United Methodist leader (Unbinding the Gospel, Unbinding Your Church, etc..).

❖ **Finance & Property:**

Peter Hancock has volunteered, by e-mail, to put the subject of a replacement for Doug Chandler as VIM liaison Officer onto the agenda of the finance and Property Committee and take "ownership of the responsibility."

❖ **Stewardship: Bill West**

Final figures for 2009:

- The National Church: total \$28,364,912. which is 4.54% less than in 2008. There are 12 Conferences and 1 All Native Circle across the country, all contributed less.

- Hamilton Conference: total \$3,604,490. which is 6.17% less than in 2008.

- Halton Presbytery: total \$953,185. which is 0.25% less than in 2008.

In Halton, the biggest percentage improvement year over year came from Streetsville United at 276.55%.

St. James in Waterdown 139.37%

Carlisle/Kilbride 121.34%

Port Nelson 118.61%

Sheridan 114.95%

Erindale 114.50% and on and on.

14 of our congregations contributed more in '09 than in '08.

7 of our congregations contributed the same as in '08 or within 3% of it.

12 of our congregations contributed less than in '08 with more than 3% less.

The Stewardship Education Network of Hamilton Conference is planning bus tours through each presbytery in 2010 to varied local projects that are supported by the M&S Fund. It is hoped that this will increase the awareness throughout the presbytery and that the increased interest will develop into increased contributions.

❖ **Pastoral Oversight: John Tapscott**

John reported that they completed a visit to Cawthra Park on Dec. 1st. and a draft has been sent to Cawthra Park with recommendations.

❖ **New Business:**

❖ **Closing and Adjournment**

MOTION: Kim Shantz

That this meeting be adjourned at 9:10

Don Gibson closed with some thoughts,

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December 31, 2009 Final	Halton Presbytery Final Budget 2010					
	Budget 2010	Est. 2009	Dec. 2009	Budget 2009	Total 2008	Total 2007
		Estimate	Actual			
Revenue						
Congregation Assessments	206,350	186,637	186,638	186,637	188,870	244,327
Donations	4,000	3,802	3,802	4,000	6,136	3,599
Interest Income	32,600	37,600	37,670	43,000	65,300	25,502
Total Revenue	242,950	228,039	228,110	233,637	260,306	273,428
Expenses						
Assessment paid to Ham Conf	131,945	110,509	110,509	110,509	108,665	112,555
Paid to Ministry Candidates	4,000	4,700	4,700	4,000	5,000	4,600
Committee Expenses	21,005	6,721	6,721	20,950	5,668	4,008
Presbytery Office	17,500	17,258	17,258	17,100	16,979	19,809
Annual Audit Fee	2,500	851	4,351	2,400	2,400	
Mission Support						
Mississauga Chinese Allocated		7,250	7,250	7,250	8,000	8,000
Unallocated (Contingency)	47,000	7,365	7,365	50,000	57,409	58,250
Total Mission Support	47,000	14,615	14,615	57,250	65,409	66,250
HUCEC Grant	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000
Communications Consulting		19,010	19,010			
Mission Development Officer	81,000	81,036	81,036	80,000	22,477	13,809
Total Expenses	319,950	269,700	273,200	307,209	241,598	236,031
Net Income / Loss	(77,000)	(41,661)	(45,090)	(73,572)	18,708	37,397

Chair, Don Gibson

Secretary, Marian Ferguson

NEXT MEETINGS:

EXECUTIVE – March 2, 2010 7:00 P.M. at Palermo Untied Church

FULL COURT – February 23rd 2010, 7:00 P.M. at St. John's Oakville