

Report of the Synod's Executive to the November 5, 2016 meeting of the Synod of Central, Northeastern Ontario and Bermuda.

The Synod Executive is made up of the Moderator, Past Moderator, Clerk, Treasurer, Chair of the Regional Consultative Committee (that oversees Synod's two full-time staff), Chair of the Synod Camp Board, the President of the Women's Missionary Society Synodical, as well as representatives of some presbyteries. The Clerk asked Presbytery Clerks over the past year to consider having a Presbytery representative on the Executive. Waterloo-Wellington responded and we are welcoming Wilma Welsh to Executive as of this meeting. The task of the Synod Executive is to deal with emergent business between annual meetings of the Synod, as well as to prepare for the annual meeting itself by preparing a proposed budget for the coming year, as well as in other ways. One action that required immediate action was the appointment of a Synod representative to the General Assembly's Committee to Nominate Standing Committees. The Executive has named the Rev Jonathan Dennis to this role.

Motion: That the Synod homologate the action of the Executive in naming J. Dennis to the Committee to Nominate Standing Committees.

Executive has met three times since the 2015 Synod meeting to do its business. Those from a distance joined the meetings by conference call. The Clerk prepared the minutes of the 2015 Synod meeting and sent these out to the Executive and the Clerks of Presbyteries to seek the input of all those present at the 2015 meeting. With that input, some changes and corrections were made. The end result is the minutes you have before you.

As reported last year, \$150,000 of the Synod's resources were moved into the new Synod Ministry Fund and invested with the PCC's consolidated portfolio. A committee was established to discuss ways to grow this fund. The target set by this committee is \$1,000,000, with the interest being used to support the work of the Synod camps and Synod staff's work in congregational development, elder training, children's ministries, youth work and WMS support - as well as any future ministries that Synod may establish or decide to support. The Committee has recommended to Executive that the goal of \$1,000,000 can be reached by the support of the Synod, approaching congregations and former campers, as well as outside foundations. The one item coming out of this report especially relevant for this Synod meeting is that the Executive is recommending that \$20,000 be raised through an increase to Synod per unit rate of about 9% for this coming year, and then to leave that increase in place for 4 more years, thus raising \$100,000. This increase is a part of the proposed budget. It obviously will be a topic of discussion when the budget is presented at this Synod meeting. Executive acknowledges that it will be difficult for some congregations and presbyteries to deal with this increase, but feels that it is an important part of the plan to set up our camping and staff ministries on a firm foundation going into the future.

Last year, notice of motion was given to change the Standing Orders of the Synod regarding time and place for Synod's annual meeting in the following way: That the wording of the Standing orders be changed from "The Synod will normally meet in October at Crieff Hills Community" to "The Synod will normally meet in the autumn at a central location." The reasoning is that the costs will be lower by meeting at a local church, and that some of that savings can be used to build up the program of the afternoon with guest speakers and workshops. Also, the work "normally" allows flexibility in date and place and a greater ability to find appropriate guest speakers.

Motion: That the Standing Orders of the Synod be amended to “The Synod will normally meet in the autumn at a central location”.

The Executive has addressed the issue of the terms of the Clerk and Treasurer coming to an end in the following ways. First, in accordance with the Standing Orders, the Executive has appointed J. Biggs to another three-year term as Synod’s Clerk. The Executive, in accordance with the Standing Orders, would like to present the following motion to the Synod meeting:

That G. Myers be named Treasurer of the Synod for another three-year term, with the thanks of the Synod for his faithful work over the past two terms.

The Executive would also like to make the following motion:

That the thanks of the Synod be extended to the Rev Dr Lance Odland who has finished his two-year commitment to the Synod’s Executive as Moderator and Past Moderator, and leaves the Executive as of this meeting. Also, that the thanks of the Synod be extended to the Rev Jonathan Dennis for his faithful work as chair of the Regional Consultative Committee over the past two years.

May God richly bless our day together!

Jim Biggs

Clerk of the Synod of Central ,Northeastern Ontario and Bermuda