

Report of the Synod's Executive to the October 21, 2017 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 the Synod's two full-time staff), Chair of the Synod Camp Board, President of the Women's Missionary Society Synodical, as well as representatives of some presbyteries. Synod Staff and Camp Directors are also present ex officio. The Clerk invited Presbytery Clerks to consider naming a representative to the Executive to enable excellent communication between the Synod and Presbyteries. Waterloo-Wellington, Lindsay-Peterborough and East Toronto have named representatives, but our representative from Algoma-North Bay has moved to another presbytery.

The task of the Executive is to deal with emergent business between annual meetings of the Synod, as well as to prepare for the annual meeting itself, submitting a budget for the coming year for the commissioners to consider.

Executive has met three times since the 2016 Synod meeting to do its business. Those from a distance joined the meetings by conference call. The Clerk prepared the minutes of the 2016 meeting and sent these out to the Executive and the 2015 commissioners to seek input and corrections. With that input, some changes and corrections were made. The end result is the minutes you have before you.

Last year the budget proposed by the Executive was amended to remove approximately \$20,000 that was originally included to build up the Synod Ministry Fund. This fund was adopted by the Synod a few years back. Currently there is about \$160,000 in it. The goal is to build it up and use the interest to support the camping and staff ministries of the Synod and set them up for a great future - as well as any future endeavours in mission. Synod Executive agreed to a proposal by the Fund's committee to include an extra \$20,000 in the budget for the next five years to raise \$100,000 for this Fund. This information was not adequately presented to the Presbyteries before the 2016 meeting of Synod and, as I said, the motion to remove the \$20,000 increase was passed, with the proviso that Presbyteries be given all the information possible well ahead of the 2017 meeting so it could be thoroughly discussed. This was done and the

feedback from most presbyteries has been positive. Hence, the 2017 budget contains the \$20,000 increase, with the plan of doing this for five years.

The Executive would like to make the following motion: That the thanks of the Synod be extended to Geoff Ross, whose two-year commitment to the Synod's Executive as Moderator and Past Moderator has finished. Also, that the thanks of the Synod be extended to Jonathan Dennis and Deon Slabbert, whose have served on Executive for many years, and who rotate off as of this meeting.

May God richly bless our day together!

Jim Biggs

Clerk of the Synod of Central, Northeastern Ontario and Bermuda