

**ASSEMBLY COUNCIL
November 20-22, 2011**

The Assembly Council met within Crieff Hills Community, Puslinch, Ontario, from November 20-22, 2011. B. Vancook led the Council in opening worship and constituted the meeting with prayer.

ATTENDANCE
13/11C

Present were:

Assembly Appointees: Ms. Christina A. Ball, Ms. Janet Clapp, Ms. Heather Crisp, Mr. Charles Greaves, The Rev. Derek Krunys, The Rev. Margaret Mullin, Mr. Kent Smith, The Rev. Bert Vancook (convener).

Presbytery Representatives: The Rev. Mark R.J. Bourgon, The Rev. Benoit (Ben) G. Cousineau, Ms. Lynda Forbes, Mr. Larry Gilchrist, Ms. Carol Glenn, Mr. Gerald Head, Mr. William McGowan, The Rev. Lloyd A. Murdock, Ms. Irene Rose, Ms. Joan Stellmach, The Rev. Mark A. Tremblay, The Rev. Annabelle Wallace, Mr. Hans Wollenberg, The Rev. M. Anne Yee-Hibbs.

Synod Representatives: The Rev. Herb E. Hilder, The Rev. Keith A. McKee, The Rev. Michael J. Marsden, Ms. Moira Robson, Ms. Betty Trevenen, The Rev. Robert D. Wilson, Ms. Gonnice VanderVeer-Carlson.

Ex-Officio – Voting: Mr. Brent Ellis, The Rev. Dr. Herb Gale, The Rev. Dr. H.D. Rick Horst, The Rev. M. Helen Smith, Ms. Joan Smith, Ms. Jennifer Whitfield.

Ex-Officio – Non-Voting: The Rev. Dr. Richard Fee, Mr. Stephen Roche, The Rev. Stephen Kendall (secretary), The Rev. Dr. John A. Vissers (principal).

Others: Ms. Terrie-Lee Hamilton (recording secretary), The Rev. Don Muir.

Visitors
14/11C

The Rev. Heather Vais (Diversity Workshop).

Others
15/11C

Mr. Colin Carmichael (Communications), Ms. Amy MacLachlan (Record).

REGRETS
16/11C

Tim Archibald, Herb Gale (Tuesday).

AGENDA
17/11C

It was moved by I. Rose, duly seconded, and

AGREED, that the agenda and order of business as printed be adopted.

**DIVERSITY
WORKSHOP**
18/11C

The convener welcomed Heather Vais who led the Council through a workshop dealing with racial justice and anti-racism. Through table group discussion and question/answer, the Council was introduced to different concepts and experiences of racism with the expectation that members will be able to recognise situations of racism and to find ways to overcome it.

WELCOME
19/11C

Each member was welcomed to the meeting by the convener, B. Vancook.

EVENING RECESS

The hour for the end of the day having arrived, and upon the motion placed by D. Krunys, the Council agreed to recess. B. Vancook closed with prayer.

MONDAY MORNING

PRAYER

B. Vancook opened the morning session with prayer.

MINUTES
Council
20/11C

It was moved by K. McKee, duly seconded, and
AGREED, that the Council minutes of March 27-29, 2011 be adopted.

Executive
21/11C

It was moved by D. Krunys, duly seconded, and
AGREED, that the Executive minutes of July 7, 2011 be received for information.

CORRESPONDENCE
Overture No. 5, 2012
22/11C

A letter was received from the Business Committee re Overture No. 5, 2012 re developing a five year budget.

It was moved by J. Stellmach, duly seconded, and
AGREED, that Overture No. 5, 2012 be referred to the Finance Committee.

EXECUTIVE
Report
23/11C

H. Crisp took the chair while B. Vancook presented the Executive Committee report.
It was moved by B. Vancook, duly seconded, and
AGREED, that the Executive Committee report be received and considered.

Quebec – Refugee
Sponsorship
24/11C

Recommendation No. 1

It was moved by B. Vancook, duly seconded, and
AGREED, that pending approval of the application to enter into a Refugee Sponsorship Agreement with the Government of Quebec, the Trustee Board be authorized to sign the final agreement.

Vision and Mission
Committee
Mandate
25/11C

The Executive directed the Management Team and conveners of the Assembly Council and Life and Mission Agency Committee to prepare a mandate and name a committee for the Additional Motion asking the Council to look at vision and mission for the church.

Mandate of the Vision and Mission Committee

To lead a process to 'discern, define and articulate a vision for The Presbyterian Church in Canada'. The goal of this process will be a one-page document consisting of:

- a brief, memorable vision statement.
- a mission statement for the church that flows from the vision.

We expect that this document will be able to communicate to today's church and culture in contemporary language. We hope that it will be widely accepted by the church and that it will be suitable for posting in every Presbyterian congregation in Canada.

We ask that the committee consult broadly within the church, using technology imaginatively, giving as many of the church's members and adherents as possible the opportunity to provide input and to make comment during the process.

The vision statement of 1989 and the mission statement of 1995 can serve as a resource to the committee, but not as a template.

The committee will be accountable to the Assembly Council.

Timeline:

- Feedback and comment from Assembly Council and Life and Mission Agency Committee during November meetings.
- Initial consultation with church members to be completed by January 15, 2012.
- Draft document to the Assembly Council at its March meeting, 2012.
- Final document to General Assembly – June 2012.

The committee will consist of a convener and 5 members.

Secretarial/technical support will be provided by Assembly Council with additional technical help from Colin Carmichael and Matt Donnelly.

Members
26/11C

A committee made up of Annabelle Wallace (convener), John Crawford, Andy Kuo, Linda Patton-Bowie, Matthew Sams, Betty Trevenen, with administrative support by Janelle Yanishewski was named.

The committee has met in person and electronically and will report separately on the steps they have taken in moving forward.

Mandate and Members
27/11C

Recommendation No. 2

It was moved by B. Vancook, duly seconded, and

AGREED, that the naming of the General Assembly Vision and Mission Committee and its mandate be homologated.

**Terms of Reference
Booklet**
28/11C

Recommendation No. 3

It was moved by B. Vancook, duly seconded, and

AGREED, that the proposed changes to the Assembly Council Terms of Reference Handbook be approved.

**Residential Schools
Working Group**
29/11C

It was moved by B. Vancook, duly seconded, and

AGREED, that the Residential Schools Working Group be dissolved with thanks.

Report
30/11C

It was moved by B. Vancook, duly seconded, and

AGREED, that the report as a whole be adopted.

**REPORTS WITHOUT
RECOMMENDATIONS**
31/11C

It was moved by B. Wilson, duly seconded, and

AGREED, that the following reports be received for information:

- Archives and Records Management
- Church Architecture

S. Kendall informed the Council about the historical materials gathered by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission over the summer and the extra work and support provided by K. Arnold and B. Anger of the Archives.

**LONG RANGE
PLANING
Report**
32/11C

B. Trevenen presented the report of the Long Range Planning Committee.

It was moved by B. Trevenen, duly seconded, and

AGREED, that the Long Range Planning Committee report be received and considered.

Future Plans
33/11C

There are various committees and individuals tasked with items dealing with future items that were illustrated in a chart for the Council. The Council noted that the Long Range Planning Committee is to provide a co-ordinating role at this time for the work of these various committees and individuals.

Emmaus – Toolbox
34/11C

The binder format of the Emmaus Toolbox was shared with the Council. The Council suggested that this material also be available in electronic format.

Report
35/11C

It was moved by B. Trevenen, duly seconded, and
AGREED, that the report as a whole be adopted.

**VISION AND MISSION
COMMITTEE**
36/11C

A. Wallace presented a verbal report for the Vision and Mission Committee noting that the survey, Mission Possible is currently before the church and that the committee will review the responses at its January meeting.

Mission Possible
37/11C

A. Wallace and B. Trevenen led the Council through the discussion using the Mission Possible survey.

LUNCH RECESS

The hour having arrived for lunch, H. Smith offered grace.

MONDAY AFTERNOON

PRAYER

B. Vancook opened the afternoon session with prayer.

**FINANCE
COMMITTEE**

Report
38/11C

C. Greaves, convener of the Finance Committee, presented the committee's report. S. Roche provided information for the third quarter of the year.

It was moved by C. Greaves, duly seconded, and

AGREED, that the Finance Committee report be received and considered.

2013 Budget Principles
39/11C

This year's budget principles will require some flexibility in three areas. First, that all discretionary expenditures need to be under tight control and where possible expenses delayed or deferred. Second, that for 2011-2012 funds from the Bequest Stabilization Fund will need to be transferred to cover any operating deficits. Third, in 2013 not only the Bequest Stabilization Fund will need to be accessed, but other funds will be accessed to cover any potential operating fund deficit. At the moment one projection is looking an operating deficit of \$326,000.

Recommendation No. 1

It was moved by C. Greaves, duly seconded, and

AGREED, that the principles for the 2013 budget be:

1. Presbyterians Sharing: the base will be \$8,100,000 for 2013. (Budget for 2012 was \$8,300,000);
2. grants to the colleges will remain at 9.88% of actual total revenue for the year ended 2013;
3. Cost of Living Allowance (COLA) of 2.0% will be included in the 2013 budget for personnel stipends/salaries;
4. for 2012 onwards that discretionary expenditures should be deferred or delayed as much as possible without unduly harming the services and programs we offer to the congregations, presbyteries and synods;
5. for 2011 and 2012 that funds may be taken from the Bequest Stabilization Fund (current balance of \$1.7 million) to the extent required to cover any operating deficit; and
6. for 2013 that funds may be taken from the Bequest Stabilization Fund and other restricted funds to cover any operating deficit.

2014 Budget Preparation
40/11C

It was moved by C. Greaves, duly seconded, and

AGREED, that the Finance Committee, with power to add members, commence work on the 2014 budget and integrate this preparation with the work that is being done on the new vision statement, which will be presented to General Assembly in June 2012.

The committee will report back to the Assembly Council at their November 2012 meeting with a preliminary 2014 budget. The main constraints are that the budget will be set up to break even prior to including any undesignated estate revenue and the possibility of declining Presbyterians Sharing revenues.

Report
41/11C

It was moved by C. Greaves, duly seconded, and
AGREED, that the report as a whole be adopted.

MANAGEMENT TEAM
Report
42/11C

R. Fee presented the written report of the Management Team.

It was moved by B. Cousineau, duly seconded, and
AGREED, that the report of the Management Team be received and considered.

Report
43/11C

It was moved by J. Whitfield, duly seconded, and
AGREED, that the report as a whole be adopted.

MODERATOR, 137TH
GENERAL ASSEMBLY
44/11C

R. Horst, Moderator of the 137th General Assembly, was invited to share his moderatorial experiences during which he noted two major events. The first was the trip to Palestine, Lebanon and Israel where he was able to meet Christians in various settings and meet with leaders within various communities. Unique to this trip was that the Moderator was joined by seven other church members. The Truth and Reconciliation Commission national event in Halifax was the second event in which Rick Horst listened to the stories of survivors and participated in an act of reconciliation. His itinerary has also taken him to share in congregational worship. His interest this year is on congregations wishing to establish strategic methods to be missional churches.

DAYS AND DESIGN OF
GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Report
45/11C

H. Hilder presented the report of the Days and Design of General Assembly Committee.

It was moved by H. Hilder, duly seconded, and
AGREED, that the report of the Days and Design of General Assembly Committee be received and considered.

Consent Agenda
46/11C

Recommendation No. 1

It was moved by H. Hilder, duly seconded, and

AGREED, that the consent agenda be used for all board and committee reports to the 2012 General Assembly.

Thursday Conclusion
47/11C

Recommendation No. 2

It was moved by H. Hilder, duly seconded, and

AGREED, that the 2012 General Assembly be designed to commence on Sunday and end Thursday at noon.

GA Format Possibilities
48/11C

The committee shared with the Council other ideas that it is considering and invited feedback on them through table group discussion.

Report
49/11C

It was moved by H. Hilder, duly seconded, and
AGREED, that the report as a whole be adopted.

DINNER RECESS

The hour having arrived for dinner, J. Clapp closed with prayer.

MONDAY EVENING

LIFE AND MISSION
AGENCY
Report
50/11C

It was moved by H. Smith, duly seconded, and
AGREED, that the report of the Life and Mission Agency be received and considered.
H. Smith presented the report for information.

- Report**
51/11C
- It was moved by H. Smith duly seconded, and
AGREED, that the report as a whole be adopted.
- SUPPORT SERVICES**
52/11C
- S. Roche informed the Council about what role the Support Services has at the church office and highlighted some of the current projects.
- MISSIONARY RESIENCCE**
Report
53/11C
- The report of the task group to review the recommendation regarding the sale of the mission residence was presented by C. Glenn.
- It was moved by C. Glenn, duly seconded, and
AGREED, that the report of the Ad Hoc Committee re Mission Residence be received and considered.
- Keep Residence**
54/11C
- It was moved by B. Ellis, duly seconded, and
AGREED, that the missionary residence be retained.
- Rental and Management**
55/11C
- It was moved by K. McKee, duly seconded, and
AGREED, that the Management Team look in to property management and rental of the units.
- Report**
56/11C
- It was moved by C. Glenn, duly seconded, and
AGREED, that the report as a whole be adopted.
- EVENING ADJOURNMENT**
- The hour having arrived for evening adjournment, B. Vancook closed with prayer.

MONDAY EVENING

- PRAYER**
- The convener opened the morning session with prayer.
- MISSIONARY RESIENCCE**
R. Wallace
57/11C
- The Council expressed its appreciation to Ron Wallace, Associate Secretary of International Ministries for his leadership and stewardship relating to the missionary residence.
- EXPERIMENTAL FUND**
Report
58/11C
- It was moved by B. Cousineau, duly seconded, and
AGREED, that the report of the Experimental Fund be received and considered.
- Undesignated Bequest Policy**
59/11C
- Recommendation No. 1**
It was moved by L. Gilchrist, duly seconded, and
DEFEATED, that the Assembly Council suspend its current policy with respect to this particular undesignated bequest, for the benefit of The Experimental Fund, thus enabling it to expand its present creative ministry within The Presbyterian Church in Canada.
- Avondbloem Experimental Fund**
60/11C
- Recommendation No. 2**
It was moved by L. Gilchrist, duly seconded, and
AGREED, that, in accordance with the Constitution of The Experimental Fund approved by the Assembly Council in its meeting of November, 1997 and which took effect from January 1, 1998, the name of The Experimental Fund be changed to “The Avondbloem Experimental Fund of The Presbyterian Church in Canada”, reflecting the deceased benefactor’s expressed wishes.

Administration to LMA
61/11C

Recommendation No. 3

It was moved by L. Gilchrist, duly seconded, and

AGREED, that, in accordance with the Constitution of the Experimental Fund (1998), the administration of The Experimental Fund be transferred to the Life and Mission Agency of The Presbyterian Church in Canada.

Directors, discharged and thanked
62/11C

Recommendation No. 4

It was moved by L. Gilchrist, duly seconded, and

AGREED, that, in accordance with the Constitution of The Experimental Fund (1998), the present directors of The Experimental Fund, permanent, non-permanent and honorary, be discharged of their duties with the thanks of the church.

Funds transferred to LMA
63/11C

Recommendation No. 5

It was moved by L. Gilchrist, duly seconded, and

AGREED, that the present assets of The Experimental Fund, held by the treasurer of The Presbyterian Church in Canada on behalf of The Experimental Fund, be transferred to the Life and Mission Agency which will henceforth administer the fund.

Records to Archives
64/11C

Recommendation No. 6

It was moved by L. Gilchrist, duly seconded, and

AGREED, that all records pertaining to the life and work of The Experimental Fund, presently held by the secretary/administrator, be transferred for safe keeping to the Archives of The Presbyterian Church in Canada, after the Life and Mission Agency has consulted them to its satisfaction.

Application Form and Publicity
65/11C

Recommendation No. 7

It was moved by L. Gilchrist, duly seconded, and

AGREED, that the Constitution of The Experimental Fund (1998), the application form, and any publicity presently in use, whether in print form or on the internet, be revised to reflect the above changes resulting from the death of the benefactor, and the acquisition of his estate by The Presbyterian Church in Canada.

Effective January 2012
66/11C

Recommendation No. 8

It was moved by L. Gilchrist, duly seconded, and

AGREED, that the above recommendations come into effect on January 1, 2012.

Constitution
67/11C

Constitution of Avondbloem Experimental Fund

Introduction

In 1981, through the inspirational foresight and benevolence of two generous donors, Evelyn and George J. Van Beek (1919-2011), *The Experimental Fund* of The Presbyterian Church in Canada was established. For 30 years this fund was governed by a board and administered first by The Rev. Dr. Tom Gemmell and then by The Rev. Dr. Fred Rennie as secretary/administrator. Mr. and Mrs. Van Beek were residents of Glengarry County and Mr. Van Beek served as an elder and as clerk of session of St John's Presbyterian Church, Cornwall, Ontario. Mrs. Van Beek died in February, 2001 and Mr. Van Beek died on January 12, 2011.

The Guidelines and Procedures for the operation of the fund may be altered without reference to amendments to the Constitution. Changes must be affirmed by the Life and Mission Agency (or its representative body) of The Presbyterian Church in Canada.

The Avondbloem Experimental Fund will report to the General Assembly through the Life and Mission Agency, under whose supervision the fund will be administered. Bequests received by The Presbyterian Church in Canada for similar purposes may be added to the fund.

The Purposes of the Fund

Primary: To provide funding to individuals or groups within The Presbyterian Church in Canada, or to projects recommended by them, to support experimental projects which will help to spread the message of Jesus Christ, and to further the Kingdom of God in this world.

Secondary: If funding is available, at the discretion of the Life and Mission Agency or its representatives, funding may also be provided:

- for emergency situations in the church, when brought to its attention;
- for bursaries to our colleges, allowing students (or the colleges) to undertake research and development of projects in keeping with the principle outlined in the above paragraph;
- for the support of special building projects or facility expansion.

The Life and Mission Agency may initiate specific projects in keeping with the above, provided such action has unanimous approval. This may include engaging the necessary staff to carry out a project.

Normally, projects shall be of a practical, innovative and informative nature, to help people grow in their Christian faith. They are to stand on their own merit and should normally be completed within a two year period. Projects may include such activities as investigation, research, training or special work.

General Project Selection Guidelines

Projects should be relevant to the teaching and communicating of the Word of God.

Projects should have a practical application, and be innovative, clarifying and expository in their form. Normally, a project would be self-contained.

Projects should promote the unity of the church.

The results of any study/training or research project shall be made available to The Presbyterian Church in Canada.

Project staffing shall be funded only when the staff time is solely devoted to the purpose of the experimental project.

Seed money for projects may be granted, although this must not be the only or primary function of the Avondbloem Experimental Fund. The term “seed money” means partial funding of projects to encourage the start-up of a project, or to renew a project that has become moribund.

The ultimate disposition of any equipment which has been acquired from the Avondbloem Experimental Fund project grants must be disclosed and agreed upon by the Life and Mission Agency, especially if a project has been discontinued or abandoned.

Avondbloem Experimental Fund project grants are to express creativity and imagination as implied by the use of the term “experimental”.

Grants

The Avondbloem Experimental Fund will welcome applications from any person professing faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

The fund will also consider group projects only when an individual is clearly identified as being responsible.

Grants will be approved by the Life and Mission Agency on the recommendation of a committee named by the Life and Mission Agency and comprised of members of staff and committee members.

Grants will be made from the income of the fund and, with the permission of Assembly Council on recommendation by the Life and Mission Agency, may also be made from the capital.

Promotion

The Avondbloem Experimental Fund shall be promoted periodically in any of the regular channels employed by the Life and Mission Agency for its various funds. People at large, particularly the presbyteries of the church, shall be made aware of its existence.

Dissolution of the Fund

Upon recommendation of the Life and Mission Agency, the Assembly Council may recommend the dissolution of the Avondbloem Experimental Fund by the General Assembly. Should such a decision be made, any residue funds shall be distributed to The Presbyterian Church in Canada.

Declaration of Limits of Responsibility

The Life and Mission Agency, the Avondbloem Experimental Fund and The Presbyterian Church in Canada hereby declare that the various officials of the above named entities, and the fund itself, accept no financial responsibility beyond the amount of any grant made in respect to each project application submitted and approved by the Life and Mission Agency. The directors do not accept responsibility for escalating or unforeseen costs involved in any project, nor do they accept any liability for consequences arising out of particular projects. Responsibility for any liability arising from a particular project must rest with the initiators of the project. It is recommended that appropriate insurance be obtained by such project initiators.

Effective Date

This revised constitution shall come into effect January 1, 2012, and thereby render void all previous constitutions.

Recommendation No. 9

It was moved by L. Gilchrist, duly seconded, and

AGREED, that the Constitution of the Avondbloem Experimental Fund of The Presbyterian Church in Canada be adopted.

It was moved by L. Gilchrist, duly seconded, and

AGREED, that the report as a whole be adopted.

**NOMINATING
COMMITTEE
Report**
69/11C

The Nominating Committee report was presented by J. Stellmach.

It was moved by J. Stellmach duly seconded, and

AGREED, that the report of the Nominating Committee be received and considered.

**Appointments by
Executive**
70/11C

The following were appointed by the Executive in the fall:

- Executive: Larry Gilcrest
- Nominating: Tim Archibald
- Life and Mission: Benoit Cousineau

Committee Appointments
71/11C

It was moved by J. Stellmach, duly seconded, and

AGREED, that the following be appointed to:

- Search Committee re Associate Secretary of Stewardship Moira Robson
- Audit Committee Kent Smith
- Church Architecture Ian Grinnell
- Finance Committee Gonnie VanderVeer-Carlson
- Personnel Policy Mark Tremblay
Lynda Forbes

CTE, convener
72/11C

The Council expressed its appreciation to Brent Ellis for his membership on the Council as convener of the Committee on Theological Education.

Report
73/11C

It was moved by J. Stellmach, duly seconded, and

AGREED, that the report as a whole be adopted.

**MEETINGS
Council**
74/11C

It was moved by H. Smith, duly seconded, and

AGREED, that the future meetings of the Council be March 25-27, 2012 and November 25-27, 2012.

Executive
75/11C

The date for the Executive meeting is to be set.

**General Secretary
Reviews**
76/11C

The convener indicated that the performance reviews for the general secretaries will be done in conjunction with the March Council meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business the Council adjourned with prayer by B. Vancook.

The Rev. B. Vancook
Convener

The Rev. S. Kendall
Secretary