

October 12, 2005

Minutes of the meeting of Vancouver-Burrard Presbytery Executive held at Canadian Memorial United Church, Vancouver beginning at 2:00 PM, with a quorum present, and duly called under the authority of the Chair, Rose-Hannah Gaskin.

Present: Cheryl Black, Pat Burns, Hugh Creighton, John Culter, Rose-Hannah Gaskin, Sally Harris, Syd Lewis, Ruth Wright.

Regrets: Tressa Brotsky, Philip Cable, Simone Carrodus, Linda Gunn, Marianna Harris, Barry Morris, Janice Young.

Guest: Ellen Coburn

Opening:

Rose-Hannah Gaskin opened the meeting by welcoming everyone and reading a prayer by Joyce Rupp.

Chair Comments:

Rose-Hannah introduced the topic of re-visit the existing Vision Statement and exploring new ways to handle issues efficiently and effectively.

Camp Fircom Update:

Hugh Creighton provided a report on the current situation with Camp Fircom :

- B.C. Conference not prepared to advance any further funding
- Camp facing closure and layoffs due to lack of funds
- Considering feasibility of sale of portion of land
- Conference provisos for such a sale are:
 - a) Sale not to compromise ability of Camp to offer programs
 - b) Sale to be at market value
 - c) Portion of proceeds to go to a Business Plan indicating sustainability, improved rentability
 - d) Camp to do work, prior to subdivision and sale, of consolidating existing lots, doing percolation tests, access layout
 - e) Market research to be done
 - f) Infrastructure repairs to sewage system, etc. to be a high priority

Concern was expressed by Executive about the need for a Ministry Plan, perhaps following the successful Camp Pringle model.

Concern was expressed by Executive about the priority of implementation of the Camping Report at Conference.

The suggestion was made that a portion of any loans received be applied to the existing debts to Conference.

Vision Document Review:

There was a discussion of the history and current way in which the Executive functions. There was general agreement that Executive needed to continue to do the bulk of the work of the Presbytery and that it would continue to do that work through its committees. Concerns were expressed about who actually makes the determining decision. It was suggested that

- a) Presbytery and/or Executive need to be able to amend a committee's work
- b) Time constraints can result in committees being decision makers
- c) Clarification of when an issue needs to go to the full court is required.

The participation of an affected congregation in decision-making and a definition of "oversight" were matters for further discussion. It was agreed that Ruth, Cheryl and John would draft some amended wording of the Vision Document for further consideration by Executive.

Minutes:

Moved by John Culter, seconded by Syd Lewis

That the minutes of the Executive meeting of September 14,2005 be adopted as circulated.

Carried.

Business Arising:

Trinity :

Sally Harris reviewed the work of the Trinity congregation over the summer. In order to have a full discussion of the issues relating to the motion from Long Range Planning which was postponed at the previous Executive meeting:

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Moved by Cheryl, seconded by John Culter

That Executive move to Committee of the Whole.

Carried.

In Committee the Executive had a lengthy discussion leading to wording of amendments to the original motion that would be acceptable to Trinity as represented by Sally Harris.

Moved by Cheryl black, seconded by John Culter

That Executive move out of Committee of the Whole.

Carried.

The original motion had a preamble including the following recommendations.

- a) A lease agreement be developed that will protect Trinity's investment in the property.
- b) A new covenant be developed and agreed upon which outlines how building operations will take place.
- c) A repayment plan to be developed for the basement renovations.
- d) Separate office space for Trinity be arranged.

The original motion read:

Moved by Syd Lewis, seconded by John Culter, that the executive approve the recommendation of Long Range Planning that the Trinity Pastoral Charge remain in its shared premises with St Mark's Anglican congregation, and that the executive approve the detailed recommendations 'a' through 'd' above.

The following amendments were then made:

Moved by Ruth Wright, seconded by Cheryl Black

That the word "covenant" in (b) above be changed to "Operational Contract".

Carried.

Moved by Cheryl Black, seconded by Ruth Wright

That (c) above be replaced with " A repayment plan for basement renovations be developed with the proposal that one half of the renovation costs, being \$86,219.65, be repaid by November 30,2005, or that an acceptable schedule of repayment be developed. Carried.

The motion as amended was then Carried with Sally Harris abstaining.

Squamish Manse: Syd Lewis reported that the date for the finalization of the sale of the Squamish Manse had been extended from October 31st to November 30th in consideration of an increased deposit amount. Appreciation was expressed to Syd and John for their work in supporting Squamish United through the sale process.

Treasurer Report: Although absent Philip Cable had provided a draft Budget for 2006 which was received for information and further discussion at the next meeting.

Pastoral Relations:

Moved by Ruth Wright, seconded by Cheryl Black

That transfer of the Rev. Jim Erb from Comox-Nanaimo Presbytery to Vancouver-Burrard

Presbytery be approved.

Carried.

It was suggested that Pastoral Relations invite the Rev. Bob Miller to transfer to our Presbytery.

Correspondence: the Secretary circulated a folder of correspondence for information.

InterSpiritual Centre:

Ellen Coburn joined the meeting and gave a presentation and handouts on the formation and current activities of the InterSpiritual Centre. The purpose of the Centre is:

- to bring together spiritual and religious organizations and initiatives with the mandate of creating peace and justice through interfaith, inter-cultural, inter-disciplinary dialogue, education, cooperation, and contemplative and business practices
- to discuss collaboration and creation of a unified network, consortium, or alliance to facilitate our common goals.

More than a dozen groups are involved including the Anglican Church, although most are small organizations. Fees are based on each organization's budget and for Vancouver-Burrard would be about \$100. Members are encouraged to have people become involved in programs as they are developed. A \$16 million facility is hoped to be constructed on a site in southeast False Creek as part of the Olympic Village. A developer would purchase the site, build the facility and turn it over to the City in exchange for an equivalent building density bonus useable elsewhere. The City would make the facility available to the Centre for \$1 per year. Executive will consider the information further at its next meeting.

Campus Ministry:

Ellen Coburn provided an update on her actions over the summer, contacting a number of people regarding Campus Ministry. The Chair mentioned that an application is expected from University Hill Congregation for Home Missions funding for a Campus Ministry project.

Closing: The meeting closed with prayer led by Rose-Hannah Gaskin at 5:03 PM.

Next meetings:

Presbytery: Tuesday, October 25, 2005 at 4:00 PM at Longhouse Ministry
Executive: Wednesday, November 9, 2005 at 2:00 PM at Canadian Memorial
(Worship/ Cheryl and Refreshments/ Linda)

Rose-Hannah Gaskin, Chair

Pat Burns, Secretary