

**MINUTES OF HOME MISSIONS**

**COMMITTEE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA CONFERENCE**



**The United Church of Canada**

**June 8 and 9, 2011**

**BC CONFERENCE OFFICE  
BURNABY, BRITISH COLUMBIA**

AUTHORITY	The regular meeting of the Home Missions Committee was convened at the call of the Chair at BC Conference Office in Burnaby, B.C. at 1:00 PM on Wednesday, June 8, 2010, David Martyn, Chair, presiding, Sandra Nixon, Secretary. A quorum was present.
PRESENT	David Martyn, Chair Sandra Nixon, Secretary & Convenor, Vancouver-South Presbytery Jim Martin, Convenor, Prince Rupert Presbytery Bob French, Convenor, Victoria Presbytery Bruce Comrie, Convenor, Kamloops-Okanagan Presbytery Dale Gillard, Convenor, Comox-Nanaimo Presbytery Bill Walsh, Convenor, Fraser Presbytery Carole Finch, Convenor, Westminster Presbytery Ted Giesbrecht, Convenor, Kootenay Presbytery Jane Harding, M&S Convenor & Financial Development Office UCC
STAFF PRESENT	Nellie Tang, Finance Minister, BC Conference Michael Hare, Conference Minister (Prince Rupert) Ivy Thomas, Conference Minister (Kamloops-Okanagan) Bill Laurie, Conference Minister (Comox-Nanaimo) Paul Davis, Conference Minister (Cariboo) George Meier, Conference Minister (Kootenay) Jim White,
GUESTS	
REGRETS	Clare Hill, Conference Minister (Native Ministries) Keith Pederson, Convenor, Cariboo Presbytery Terry Harrison, Conference Minister, Victoria Sandra Severs, Acting Convenor, Vancouver-Burrard Presbytery
12:00 LUNCH	The meeting began with lunch and fellowship.
GATHERING/WELCOME	The Chair convened the meeting at 1:00 pm. Bruce Comrie led the Committee in opening worship and prayer.
INTRODUCTIONS	Members introduced themselves around the table.
DECLARATION OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST	Michael Hare – works part-time for the Central Mainland Marine, which is funded by Home Missions.
ADOPTION OF MINUTES	M/S/C (Sandra Nixon/Bruce Comrie) that the minutes of the November 3-4, 2010 meeting be adopted as presented. CARRIED.
ADOPTION OF AGENDA	M/S/C (Jim Martin, Bob French) that the agenda be adopted as presented. CARRIED.
REVIEW OF TERMS OF REFERENCE	No question or comments.

UPDATE ON REAL PROPERTY TOUR Michael - working on deficiencies identified. Church in Klemtu has now come down (due to severe mold problem), in conversation about replacement. Hazelton work completed, bills submitted. Kispiox - work on church underway. Manse is vacant, and being upgraded. Preparing for stage 2 of repairs. Eavestroughing for manse in Port Simpson underway. Haisla still needs work. Bella Coola waiting for better weather to begin work on chimney.

Haida Gwaii - vandalism in March, needing repair.

Property transfer issues remain unresolved, lawyers working on things.

Stuart property (owned by UCC but never used) will likely be put up for sale in the summer.

INTRO TO POLICY GOVERNANCE ENDS STATEMENTS Doug Goodwin, Executive Secretary for BC Conference, presented the theory around policy governance and the development of ends statements.

RURAL MINISTRY PANEL Ivy Thomas, Paul Davis & George Meier led a discussion of the current context of rural ministry and the church's situation in rural areas.

Main factors: shrinking populations, communities struggling to survive with closure of mines & mills. Depression, "survival mode" can set in.

Hard to fill part-time positions, and often communities are too far apart to share a ministry position. Lay leadership burnout common, not enough people to "rotate".

Problems finding and retaining ministry personnel.

Selling buildings/renting has its own problems.

Still commitment to M&S and First United. Still stories of joy, new life, creativity.

WORKING GROUPS: POLICY GOVERNANCE ENDS STATEMENTS The committee divided into working groups (Native Ministries, Outreach, Rural Ministry, Congregations) to develop Ends Statements around specific types of ministries.

5:30 PM DINNER

ENDS STATEMENTS CONT'D Working groups presented the results of their discussions in plenary for feedback.

ADJOURNMENT The meeting adjourned for the evening at 8:00 PM.

9:00 AM WORSHIP Jane Harding led the committee in morning worship.

ENDS STATEMENTS CONT'D Clarification: Categories we are using to formulate End Statements are categories set by UCC National.

Do we need to develop an Ends Statement for the HM Committee in general first, before looking at specific categories?

Working groups continued their discussions.

Revised End Statements were presented and discussed in plenary.

ENDS STATEMENTS:

ETHNIC MINISTRY - "Intercultural congregations and events in communities where there is a multicultural demographic at a cost of \$8,000 from Mission BC Funds."

OUTREACH - "Recognized (by a Presbytery or BC Conference) Outreach Ministries where there are needs for social services, advocacy and justice seeking, financially supported to the level they can fulfill their ministry, at a cost less than 1/3 of the HMC Funds."

NATIVE MINISTRIES - "Sustained and healed aboriginal communities where the United Church has or has had a historic presence."

RURAL MINISTRIES - "Realized BC Conference mission strategy in rural congregations at a cost of 1/3 of the Conference Mission Support Grant."

STEWARDSHIP - JANE HARDING

Jane Harding, UCC Financial Development Officer for (BC), spoke with the committee about the current state of the Mission & Service Fund, bequests and gift planning.

LUNCH 12:30PM

Michael Hare offered grace.

STORYTELLING UPDATES & MSG  
REVISED ESTIMATES

**Mission Support BC Fund** - \$8,000 has been allocated for this year for extraordinary situations. To date, no funds have been spent.

**Real Property** - requests will be dealt with at the November meeting.

**Unspents:** requests anticipated from Long Beach & Lumby.

APPLICATION DEADLINE

Deadline for applications to be received by conference office is October 28. \*Please ensure application forms are submitted to David and Nellie by the deadline, and **have all the appropriate signatures** (congregational and presbytery).

Application forms are available online at the Conference website.

FALL MEETING DATE

Fall meeting is scheduled for November 9-10, 2011. Item for discussion: shared ministry.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 1:47 PM, with thanks to everyone for their work.

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David Martyn, Chair