

UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA
National AOTS Council Annual Meeting

Gaetz United Church, Red Deer, AB - Saturday September 13, 2008

The meeting of the 2007 - 2009 National Council was called to order at 8:10 am by President Bill Love. President Bill open with a reading of letters of greeting and congratulations for the 85th Anniversary from the Moderator - David Giuliano and the General Secretary - General Council Nora Sanders

Present for the meeting were: Honorary President -Ernie Orpin , President - Bill Love, Past President -Garnet Thompson, President Elect -Jim McKibbin, Treasurer - Marvin Bildfell, Western Vice President - Harvey Douglas, Eastern Vice President -Gary Ross, Recording Secretary- Jim Upright, National Secretary - Wally MacDonald, C&CS Chair - Jim Lawrence, Membership & Fellowship - Al Anthony Spiritual Life & Leadership -George Bishop, Member at Large - Keith Elliot, Conference Reps - Howard Wills and Wally Shoults

Also present for part of the meeting were spouses of members as observers - Joyce Douglas, Evelyn Elliot, and Peggy Lawrence

AM-08-01 - **Meeting Agenda** MOTION: *Orpin/Anthony* that the circulated agenda be approved for this meeting. Carried.

AM-08-02 - **Minutes of Conference call of July 6, 2008**

MOTION: *Bildfell/Douglas* that the minutes of the Conference call meeting of July 6, 2008 be approved with the correction to item E08-07-01 - Orpin - mover in error Carried.

AM-08-03 - **Kairos 2008 Report and Funding** - Jim McKibbin

MOTION: *Shoults/Bildfell* - To rescind the motion at the Biennial Convention in 2007 to send \$500 to Kairos 2008 - Carried.

MOTION: *Thompson/Ross* - To ratify the decision of the Executive to approve the Regeneration Committee spending of \$7500 for Kairos 2008 - Carried.

The Kairos 2008 Organizing committee Chair sent a letter thanking AOTS for the funding and participation in the event.

AM-08-04 - **Forward Planning Report** - Jim McKibbin - The working group consisted of the Pres Elect, The three VP's, and Ken Lane. Jim gave his comments on the groups report and his concept of the future of the National Council. He pointed out that the National Council will need to be open to a change to the National Council structure. He noted from the study we are all getting older and the difficulties in finding men to fill the positions. All members in attendance were given an opportunity to comment on the report.

Some of the comments were as follows:

A change of name may be needed and a coed group might be a good option, Some of the problem is a lack of communication, and there is still a good potential in some groups, The Clergy need to be informed and supportive of men's groups and work, Coed groups should be recognized and ladies as full members, Concern about lack of support from the National Church particularly in past, Again a need to communicate what National is doing to the local groups, The costs of Annual and Biennial meetings are a concern, that second mile support has been expected, and essential to fund the meetings. This may inhibit some from being part of the National Council, Joint activities between the Men's and Ladies groups have been shown to be very successful, and what happens a Gaetz UC may work well for them, but not necessarily for others,

MOTION : *Thompson/Shoults* the Forward Planning Report be accepted. Carried.

MOTION : *Bildfell/Bishop* **A notice of motion to the 2009 Biennial Convention of a name change to National AOTS Association of the United Church of Canada**, and included in the Constitution change that: Women are welcome to join the Association as full participants in support of the objectives and goals of the organization.

Discussion on the motion was around how to communicate this motion if it is passed to those not present and to Clubs. It was suggested the "Handshake" and Web site could be used. A publication of the report could provide a preamble to reasons for a change.

The motion was - Carried.

AM-08-05 - **Treasurer's Report - The** Treasurer Marvin Bildfell's report for Jan 1 - July 31, 2008 was presented

MOTION : *Bildfell / Lawrence* that the Treasurer's report be received. Carried.

Budget 2009 A discussion about some of the items on the proposed budget took place. Some changes were recommended

MOTION : *Bildfell / McKibbin* that the Executive be empowered to make the final decision on the budget for 2009 Carried.

Expense Claim form - A discussion suggested the amount be changed 0.39 per Km in line with the approved amount by General Council U.C.C.

MOTION : *Shoults /McKibbin*

The claim amount be 0.39 per Km on the AOTS Claim form.

The amount would be adjusted to the approved amount by General Council U.C.C. Carried.

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Hospital Project Funds - now the **Lloyd Clark Memorial Fund** after the bequest in 2007

A discussion took place on the fund expenditures

MOTION : *McKibbin / Shoults* The Past Treasurer/Honorary President and others he asks report on the review, expansion & restrictions on the above funds and other project funds and bequests.

This will also cover Agenda item 10 Review of current AOTS projects

AM-08-06 **Spiritual Life & Leadership Report** - George Bishop presented his report
The Web site is updated regularly and devotions posted. The Spiritual Life Handbook is no longer distributed in printed form. The devotions can be printed out by clubs from the AOTS Web site
This should be communicated to clubs by VP's and Conf. Reps

AM-08-07 - **Regeneration Committee Report** - George Bishop commented on his report
A discussion took place on how to improve communications to clubs and individual members
Camp support in the Toronto Conference was identified and discussed.

AM-08-08 - **AOTS Task Group to "help people in need in another country"**

George Bishop provided a detailed report provided by the "Angola" group.

After considerable discussion about the concerns around the costs, the following motion was made:

MOTION : *Thompson / Bildfell* That the task group let go of the International Angola project
Carried.

AM-08-09 **Youth to Camp** A request to have the National Secretary contact Mark Browning on an update on Youth to Camp for the next Executive meeting Conf Call

AM-08-10 **Church & Community Service**

Great to have Jim with us at this meeting considering his request to resign from this position
We are thankful for his continuing recovering from his stroke. Gill Reashore unable to take on the position of chair of the Committee at this time due to personal family illness

Jim presented his report and has continued to work, even with his own health concerns
Jim wished to note that the 2008 Scholarship went to Ms. Bronwell Powell who is now working in Tanzania on a one year project..

MOTION : *McKibbin / Bishop* The report be received with thanks
Carried

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National AOTS Structure Wally Shoults commented on our structure and what Committee's are required still. Some would require a change to the Constitution and/or Bylaws

A Committee was appointed to look at our structure. Members are Wills, Shoults, Love, and Thompson

E08-05-11 - **Membership & Fellowship** - Al Anthony is starting to looking into communicating with Clubs and Individual members. A suggestion that we send out AOTS aprons to clubs as a means of promotion.

MOTION : *Anthony/Thompson* That AOTS aprons be given to VP's to be given free to Clubs who would use them for promotion. About 30 aprons would be required Carried

MOTION : *Upright/Shoults* That the new AOTS promotion DVD be distributed to Council members and Clubs. Carried

E08-05-12 - **The Handshake** - Some of this area was covered in the Regeneration Report

MOTION : *Thompson/Ross* That the recommendation of Ken Lane and the Editor Howard Lorenz that mailing method be upgraded from bulk mailing to "package" mailing to ensure undamaged distribution. Carried

President Bill commented on the great care and quality of the "Handshake"

National Secretary - Wally reported that he has tried to send out information on Clubs that will be of help. A list of Clubs by Conference would be most useful.

E08-05-13 - **Observer on Tape** Garnet commented on concerns as to volunteer resources available at this time. A mass mailing to all previous subscribers has increased the numbers from about 150 to approximately 220

E08-05-14 - **2009 Biennial** - Ernest Paddock has advised that personal family conflicts has prevented him from attending. As indicated in the minutes of the Conf. Call of July 6, 2008 item number E08-07-14 the Maritime Men are not able to support our Convention in 2009

Jim McKibbin in the same Conf. Call indicated that all of the S. Ontario Conferences might be involved to combine the Spring Roundup with Biennial Convention. An invitation to the Moderator has been extended and it looks like it might be possible. The Spring Roundup at Jackson Point on Lake Simcoe is scheduled for April 24-26, 2009

MOTION : *Thompson/Ross* That the 2009 Biennial Convention be changed to the Spring Roundup at Jackson Point on Lake Simcoe on April 24-26, 2009
This decision will be taken to the Conferences affected for final approval and a committee formed

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E08-05-15 - **United Church of Canada Partnership Review** - Jim McKibbin explained the requirement to review organizations, which was an outcome of a General Council meeting. The documents presented ask question that need to be answered. Jim gave some of the answers that should be given. Jim will provide a draft of the answers to the questions and a copy given to Bill Love for approval.

E08-05-16 - **Constitution review** -Howard Wills indicated that unless Coed Clubs or other change was approved no Constitution change was required at this time. He presented a document "Is there a future for Men's Fellowships". This was discussed and provided for information The booklet "Man to Man" by Ralph Milton, was mention as one other source which identified the need for men to talk intimately with each other

E08-05-17 **Publicity** - Tony Hodge is not available because of family commitments. George advised that we should refer things for him to do such as brochures, etc. Gary Ross suggested a AOTS Power Point presentation would be useful.

E08-05-18 Conference Reports

Gary Ross - Newfoundland - No additional report

Wally Shoults - Alberta - Reported on Clubs in AB

Al Anthony - B o Q - No Clubs decrease, no additions

Manitoba - Roundup in Winnipeg being planned in Sept by Charlie Kline

Jim McKibbin - Toronto- Fall Rally - Nov 1/08 - Celebration of Water, Gift of Life

Wally MacDonald - Hamilton - gave informal report

B.C. - Jan Maandag - Not available due to health concerns for him and his wife

E08-05-19 - **Leadership - Faith Potential & Limitations** - to be distributed

E08-05-20 - **Nominations** - Garnet Thompson - A new nomination form to be out soon in the Handshake, and by mail to Clubs. Nominations to close Feb1, 2009

E08-05-21 - **Second Mile Support Brochure** - Gary Ross will be willing to help with input to be forwarded to Tony Hodge for a brochure preparation

E08-05-22 - **AOTS Aprons** - About 5 dozen to be ordered

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E08-05-22 - **New Business**

(A) Marvin Bildfell proposed **\$200 "One Laptop Computer per Child" for native communities**

MOTION : *Thompson /Douglas* - That a **new task group** be struck to consider this project & permission to buy one computer for evaluation. Carried

New task group be to composed of: Bishop, Bildfell, Douglas, Thompson, & Ross

(B) Jim McKibbin raised the issue of **Gay and Lesbian persons and AOTS** at this time. He asked that we prayerfully reconsider this matter.

(C) New item added at the request of President Bill as it should have been included on our agenda. Item is from 2007 Biennial Convention

Report on the Environment

Bill - I made a motion (that was approved) that, given the focus on the environment and specifically Green House Gases, and considering that many AOTS members are also members of or interested in property and facilities, AOTS support efforts to make our Church facilities more energy efficient with the goal of achieving a status of 'carbon neutral'.

This could involve energy conservation efforts, education and awareness efforts or facility revamps and upgrades.

There was no report associated with the motion.

There have been a number of articles in the Observer and other Church publications hi-lighting efforts underway in the United Church in this area.

I would be interested in feedback from the National Executive meeting if anyone is aware of any specific efforts in their congregations along this general theme.

Trust that this explains the background and answers your question.

Paul Cooper

President - AOTS 4 County

Closing - Bill Love read a closing inspirational story about a golfer
George Bishop read the Scripture passage in the Regeneration Report
Philippians 3: 12 -16 and closing prayer

The Meeting adjourned at about 5:45 pm

As recorded by Jim Upright, Recording Secretary