

**THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF UNITED CHURCH AOTS MEN'S CLUBS**  
**Biennial Convention Business Meeting**  
**Saturday, April 18, 2015 – Sutton, ON**

The business meeting of the 2015 Biennial Convention was called to order on April 18 at 3:00 pm EDT by President Jim Upright.

Attendance at the meeting was 36 as detailed below.

Jim Upright	Bill Love	Larry Iler
Gary Ross	Jim McKibbin	Harley Jackson
David Morris	Wally Shouts	Gary VanWort
John Cooke	Dwight Smith	Bill Welsh
Terry Pond	Al Anthony	James Bondy
George Bishop	Bill Holdaway	Doug Brookbanks
Paul Cooper	Frank Doolittle	Bill Brownlee
Alex Jackson	Ross Wallace	Garnet Thompson
Ray Cockburn	David Stephensen	Tom Deas
Bill Gilbert	Stan Van Neste	Sam Jackson
Howard Dyck	Victor Smith	Grant Harrison
Sam Helsdon	Peter Quimby	Dwain Ketcheson

The Agenda for this meeting was discussed and approved by consensus.

Approval of the minutes of the 2013 Biennial Convention Business Meeting of August 16 & 17, 2013.

Motion to approve the minutes as presented: George Bishop/David Morris                      Carried

**Treasurer's Report: Terry Pond**

Terry presented a report for 2014 and 2015 YTD as of April 15. A question about the source of funds for the National Camp Improvement grants was answered as follows: Funds come from donations from Clubs or Individuals. Any shortfall is made up from General funds. It was noted that since the 2013 Biennial the Kids for Camp Fund and the Harry Colnett Scholarship Fund were both closed and remaining proceeds directed to general funds.

Motion to approve the financial report: Terry Pond/John Cooke                      Carried

**President's Report**

On behalf of our National AOTS Executive, I would like to thank you for attending this Round-Up and allowing us to be part of the program.

We have met at Newmarket Thursday evening, and Friday morning for some items on our National Agenda. I hope you all find this weekend an interesting and hopefully an uplifting spiritual experience

**2017 Biennial Convention**

It was noted that the Executive is tentatively planning to hold the 2017 Biennial Convention in conjunction with the 2017 Central Region Round-up, likely in April 2017. Details to be announced.

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**Nominating Committee Report: David Morris**

David presented the following slate of officers:

President Elect	John Cooke, ON
Western VP	Bill Love, AB
Central VP	no candidate at this time
Eastern VP	Derek White, NL
Treasurer- Finance	Terry Pond, ON
Recording Secretary	Mark Browning, NWT

In addition:

President	Gary Ross, NL
Past President	Jim Upright, BC

No further nominations were received from the floor.

Motion to accept the nominations as presented: Wally Shouts/George Bishop Carried

David indicated that At-Large members will be added to the Executive as nominated by the Regional Vice-Presidents. The men who agreed to stand for these positions are:

West	David Adams
Central	David Morris
East	Ernest Paddock

**Future Direction of AOTS**

David Morris presented a resolution on behalf of the Executive. Those present were asked for their comments and the group was divided into small groups for further discussion. The following comments were captured:

- We believe there is a need for a resource within the Church that supports men's clubs, AOTS clubs, men's fellowships, men's ministries and other men's organizations at the congregational, regional, or national level. There is nothing available today to tie such organizations together in a way that facilitates communication and sharing.
- We believe there would be value in a common website and better use of social media.
- We want to ensure that men are not forgotten as the Church evolves and changes.
- The National AOTS is the only national organization involved in men's work. As such, AOTS is the only organization that could initiate a national initiative.
- It is important that AOTS continue this initiative since Men's Ministry is a very low priority for the Church.
- We hope the Church will embrace this initiative and see it as a process that must be implemented with some urgency.
- Suggestion: Use the AOTS website, or a new website, in cooperation with the Church as a key element of this strategy. Encourage all other men's clubs and groups to use it.
- Question: Who will do this work? Answer: The Executive will be doing this work initially; but may draw in others.
- It was noted that communication to clubs and individuals has been problematic for a long time.
- The camp improvement grants are seen as a good use of AOTS funds.
- We recognize that clubs are declining in size and numbers.
- We are concerned about spiritual growth opportunities for younger men. Do they need a small group (in person or on line) that fosters their spiritual growth?

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- Churches are closing. As such, the UC representation in the community may be in decline.
- Many people see themselves as “spiritual” or “religious”; but don’t feel they need a church experience to support them.

Resolved that: Resolved that Executive investigate a new approach to Men’s Ministry across Canada in conjunction with the United Church of Canada

Moved by David Morris, Seconded by Bill Love

Carried unanimously

**Conference Updates:**

Brief updates about conference activities were offered by Bill Love (West), John Cooke (Central), and Gary Ross (West).

**National Camp Improvement Project: John Cooke**

Project status and activity to date was reviewed briefly. A presentation prepared by John will be made available on the web site. Newmarket Trinity Club will take on the role of Project Committee as of September 1, 2015. The Executive approved the following changes to the Project Guiding Principles for the next 3 years:

- Grants to be a maximum of \$2000.
- Total funds available will be \$6000/yr. If donations to the project are greater than \$6000, then the additional funds will be made available for grants.
- Terry Pond will need to advise Newmarket Trinity of the total funds available in January of each year

**Motion of Thanks to Jackson’s Point Camp & Conference Center:**

Resolution: Whereas the Salvation Army staff at Jackson’s Point has again provided us with splendid accommodation and fine food; be it resolved that AOTS express our deep appreciation for their hospitality and fine service. We look forward to continuing this relationship in the years ahead.

Moved by Gary Ross, seconded by Garnet Thompson

Carried

The meeting was adjourned at 4:15 pm on a motion by Terry Pond/John Cooke.