

# UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA

## National AOTS Executive/Council Meeting

### Minutes of the Conference Call Meeting – Sunday October 23, 2016

The meeting of the 2015 - 2017 National Executive/Council was called to order at 7:01 pm EDT by President Garry Ross with a story and a prayer.

Executive Attendance (P = Present, R = Regrets)							
Garry Ross	P	Jim Upright	P	Jim McKibbin	P	David Adams	P
Bill Love	P	Derek White	R	John Cooke	P	Mark Browning (M)	P
Terry Pond	P	David Morris	P	Paul Cooper	P		

Guests:

**E15-17-01 Agenda:** An Agenda for this meeting was discussed and a number of items were added including the Banff Men's Conference, Biennial and the Camp Improvement Project.

#### *Adoption of the Agenda*

**Motion:** Adams/Cooke

**Carried**

**E15-17-02** Approval of the Conference Call Meeting minutes of Sunday, June 26, 2016.

**Motion:** Love/Adams

**Carried**

#### *Business Arising from Minutes:*

**E15-17-03 Financial/Treasurers report:** Terry sent out a treasurer report showing an income of \$1,445.00 a majority of which came from St James AOTS (St John's) and Harrow Maiden AOTS clubs closing down. There was a money that came back that was not needed for the Round-up and a total expense of \$5,511.90. The closing balance of \$7,908.77. Our major expense was the Camp Improvement Project, giving out \$6,099.82 to the chosen camps.

**To adopt the Treasurers Report**

**Motion:** Upright/Adams

**Carried**

#### *Business Arising*

**E15-17-04 2017 Future Visioning: John Cooke** – This was a follow-up from the discussion at the last meeting where we talked about the Visioning issues. The documents are a recap on the previous visioning discussions and the proposed next steps.

The plan is to start a process to suspend the activity of the National AOTS Executive indefinitely and all activities wound up. Encourage clubs to continue all activities. Regional events such as the Central Region Roundup continue to operate without the support of National. By using the word "suspended" we are left with options to start it up again if there is a desire and a renewed energy to reactivate it in some form.

They would suggest starting this process at the 2017 Biennial. There are some decisions that need to be made and they are:

1. Financial resources and how that are to be distributed
2. The future of the AOTS website; and
3. Develop a communication plan of our new status to individual members, clubs and to the United Church of Canada.

Find some way to celebrate and honor the AOTS history and successes over the years and work more with the United Church of Canada to define men and women in the church.

Bill Love – started off by saying that when this topic first arose he was against it, but in the last few months had done a complete 180 on the issue. He supports the direction and appreciates all of the work being done to continue working with UCC and the visioning.

Terry Pond – talked about being new to National Executive but that he has a sadness with the direction but appreciates the reality of the situation.

Jim McKibbin echoes the sentiments of Bill and Terry but talks about a time for change. Many contributions to the UCC over the years but it is a transition time and he likes the timetable to let the national structure go.

Jim Upright talked about the Men's and Women's events across Canada and the movement is declining with national conferences. Some restructuring is taking place and is hopeful for some sort of continuation in a new form.

Gary Ross – Requested that he would like to see as many of the National Executive as possible make it to the Biennial to discuss these topics in depth.

John Cooke – wanted all thoughts to be sent to him so that he can compile them with what has been gathered so far.

Mark Browning – will work out some suggestions for the website and some ideas to have it continue with no updating required.

### New Business

**E15-17-05 2017 - Banff Men's Conference:** There is a 6 people task-force put together to discuss options of other directions that may be considered. Continue on in Canmore but will be a different type of event. Oct 13-15<sup>th</sup> Theme speaker is theme are up on the website (<http://banffmen.org/>)

**E15-17-06 2017 – Camp Program:** The \$6,100 worth of grants have been paid out for this year. The Newmarket club is getting the application form in place and gathering feedback from the clubs that have received the grants.

**E15-17-07 2017 – 2017 Biennial:** Paul Cooper – reminded us that because they were dealing with dwindling numbers they are doing a survey to discuss what kind of numbers they are looking at for 2017. Starting with a commitment with National to see national members would be going.

### **Schedule the Biennial in conjunction with the Central Region Roundup**

**Motion:** *Morris/Love*

**Carried**

Meeting in early December 4<sup>th</sup> to decide on details about numbers in order to promote the conference

John Cooke mentioned that information was forwarded to the Executive with background information about gender justice that could possibly be discussed more.

### Roundtable:

Gary thanked John Cooke for his help through all of his difficult times and the AOTS Nationals support during the passing of his brother.

**Next meeting date: Sunday December 4, 2016**