

Maritime Conference Executive  
Tantramar Veterans Memorial Civic Centre Sackville NB

Executive Meeting Highlights October 16-17 2009

**Emerging Spirit (part 1):**

Aaron Gallegos spoke on “Social media” and how it has changed the way this target generation goes about just about everything including discussing their faith. We as a church need to meet their needs in as many of these new ways as possible.

**Emerging Spirit (part 2):**

Keith Howard reminded us that “change is “not on the way”, IT IS HERE already. A characteristic of this new age is that life is now about relationships. People define themselves in terms of networks, not of neighbourhoods. The church is one of the few places in society where cross generational relationships can take place. We need to find ways to foster these relationships.

**FINANCE AND PROPERTY**

Dean Lawrence reported that the unit is in discussion with various bodies in regard to funding expectations. Other work involves the writing of an investment policy, a job description for the treasurer and a protocol on sale of United Church properties.

Treasurer Stewart Hudson presented the financial statement for Maritime Conference for the 9 month period ending on September 30. He noted that we have an excess of revenue over expenses.

**CANADIAN BIBLE SOCIETY PRESENTATION**

A Bible presented to Bob Johnson. (Usually presented at installation)

**MP&E**

The Executive passed motions to grant sacramental and marriage privileges.  
Approved the designation of one interim minister and the re-designation of another.  
An extensive discussion was held on the amount of supervision required for the Summer Distance MDiv Program at AST.

MP&E is working on concerns about lack of sites for distance based education.  
MP&E is also looking for ways for congregations to keep connections with young people when they leave home after high school as this is often a time when a call to ministry is heard.

The meeting was recessed for the evening with of Rev Flemming Holm who passed away recently.

**ARCHIVES**

An extensive discussion took place on the need for a larger space for the Conference Archives. The executive agreed that our archives is in need of more space and that we are committed to maintaining an archives. Discussions have been held with other denominations and will be continued. As a result of this discussion it was decided that the Archives Committee will discuss the overall facility needs of the Conference with the Finance and Property Committee and bring 2 proposals to Executive including rough cost estimates. One will be

for a stand alone archives and one will be for a combined archives/conference office building.

### **General Council Reports**

Executive members received a handout concerning the action taken on the proposals that originated in Maritime Conference. The following ex officio Commissioners reported on their experience at General Council: **David Hewitt**, Order of Ministry Representative on the General Council Executive, spoke on the atmosphere of council and the ways in which technology made it a very public council. **Letha Mowatt**, UCW President, spoke on the worship at council, the participation of young people and the installation of the new moderator, Mardi Tindall. **Ruth Gamble**, spoke on the work of the Atlantic Commission and noted that the next Council will be smaller. The Israel-Palestine issue took a great deal of time in this commission and caused a great deal of tension. **Bob Bartlett** spoke on the work of the Pacific Commission which focussed on the designated lay ministry and the candidacy process. Pay equity for clergy couples was also an important matter on the agenda of this commission. **Bob Johnson** spoke on the work of the **Arctic Commission** which had the proposals dealing with many Manual changes as well as the inclusion of First Nations Peoples and inclusivity of ALL people. Bob also noted that Ross Bartlett had been nominated as moderator. **Shirley Cleave, Lay Representative on the Executive of the General Council**, spoke on the work of the “listening team” at Council and how this resulted in an intentional process to set goals or “foci” for the next three years. They are the “Emerging church; creating authentic relationships with youth and young adults; social justice; faith formation and ; truly becoming a whole people (inter-cultural, multilingual and inter-generational)

A report on the matters the Commons will come to us later.

### **Presbytery Reports**

#### **Bermuda Synod**

Rita Smith reported on the work of Bermuda Synod. She affirmed that the Spirit is alive in Bermuda. On the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Methodism it is important to realize that the change affecting everyone else is also affecting Bermuda and the church will need to change if it is to survive.

**Inverness Guysborough Presbytery** DJ MacLean reported and highlighted the annual service now held at the former Malagawatch church (now at the Highland Village in Iona) which features singing in Gaelic and the hymn “Called By Earth and Sky” at each service. An “Amazing Grace Race” raised \$420 for the Mission and Service Fund.

#### **Gospel Ecumenism and Theology:**

This committee is looking at rural ministry and passed out a questionnaire to the executive. They know that it is a large task as we need to face the challenges of being church in a rapidly changing world. Much discussion and consultation will need to take place.

#### **Valley Presbytery Proposal regarding the dates of the AGM**

Valley Presbytery has asked us we schedule the AGM so that it does not always fall on the same weekend each year. (Apple Blossom Festival). Annual Conference Meeting dates are carefully planned with Mount Allison and take into account many factors.

Discussion on this ensued and passed a motion to try and avoid picking the same weekend.

**Tatamagouche Centre**

We heard information on the hosted partner events at the Centre and the internationally renowned leaders who have been in leadership there. This is a combined project of the Centre and AST.

**Windsor Elms**

Approval was given to a request from Windsor Elms {an Incorporated body} to list the present Elms property and building for sale.

**Hospital Chaplaincy**

Conference is in the process of starting a needs assessment of “Conference Funded Chaplaincies” (Halifax and Saint John).

**Other**

Michael Mugford let the Executive in a time of theological reflection and prayer at the end of the meeting as he had on Friday evening.