

Report of the Executive Secretary

Friday, November 9, 2018

Opening Remarks:

Deutéronome 31:6 (LSG)

6 Fortifiez-vous et ayez du courage! Ne craignez point et ne soyez point effrayés devant eux; car l'Éternel, ton Dieu, marchera lui-même avec toi, il ne te délaissera point, il ne t'abandonnera point.

Deuteronomy 31:6 (RSV) Be strong and of good courage, do not fear or be in dread of them: for it is the Lord your God who goes with you; he will not fail you or forsake you."

Life has become very complicated trying to help wrap up the bureaucracy of The Synode Montreal & Ottawa Conference, prepare to share the office space in new ways and also deal with the range of emotions from great excitement to utter despair that are growing in intensity as we transition to become regional councils, specifically 12 (Ottawa and Seaway Valley presbyteries along with Upper Valley and Four Rivers from the Bay of Quinte Conference) and 13 (les Consistoires Laurentien et du Québec). I am also responsible for 11 (6 presbyteries from Bay of Quinte Conference and 3 pastoral charges from Toronto.) The Transition Commissions are meeting every two weeks, addressing Mission Support requests, regional names, annual meeting possibilities, staffing, on-going priorities such as pastoral relations and property, and so much more.

My prayer daily is for strength, courage and patience with both people, and the process we are sharing.

1. Promote the spiritual support, pastoral care, and professional development of Ministry Personnel - Promouvoir le soutien spirituel, les soins pastoraux et le développement professionnel nécessaires au personnel ministériel.

This is an area of on-going support by all staff.

2. Provide leadership in supporting Presbytery efforts to ensure that all Pastoral Charges have ongoing effective pastoral ministry and participate in the formation of new Ministry Personnel - Diriger et soutenir les efforts des consistoires pour que toutes les charges pastorales bénéficient d'un ministère pastoral efficace et sans interruption, et participent à la formation du nouveau personnel ministériel.

Name	Presbytery	Event + date	Cost of Event	Asking \$	Grant Given
Jim Allen	Seaway Valley	Queen's Theological Conference	522.90	175	200
C. Ashby	Seaway Valley	Professional Development Day: Mental Health	1945.00	500	500
Carolyn Ruda	Seaway Valley	Queen's Theological Conference	583.88	200	200
Emily Sams	Ottawa	Ecumenical Gathering Migratory Theology: Faith and Displacement	505.08	150	200
Brenda Bailey	Seaway Valley	Teilhard de Chardin Retreat	1000		350

TOTAL: \$ 1450.00

Final Continuing Education Report:

Balance forward \$2,158.00

October 2018 \$ 1,450.00

Remaining Balance \$ 708.00 to be returned to the General Council office.

The staff organized for a large group of new ministry personnel at the Orientation on October 1-2, held at Shalom House in Alexandria, Ont. and realized the continued value of such educational gatherings.

The final Conference Interview Board and Education and Student Interviews were held in October, with recommendations coming to the Executive regarding three candidates.

3. Promote the co-ordination of strategic use of resources through exploring regional co-operation - Favoriser la coordination et l'utilisation stratégique des ressources en explorant les possibilités de coopération régionale.

Georgia Barratt-Lamey is working with Shanna Bernier and Jean-Daniel Williams (both former Conference youth leadership) for the fall Youth Forum, November 9-11 in Pointe Claire with 25 youth and 5 leaders registered. There is a great deal of concern about the future of YAYA for both regional councils 12 and 13 if staffing does not continue. Kevin Parnell has been offering presentations on his experience as a GC 43 pilgrim.

4. Promote efforts/initiatives/support of development and redevelopment of Pastoral Charges and Mission Units - Favoriser les projets de développement et de revitalisation des charges pastorales et des unités de mission, et soutenir les efforts dans ce sens.

The Mission Support Committee reconnected on October 3 for conversations about funding and the transition commissions have completed the final decisions approving Mission Support funding for 2019.

5. Ensure ways of providing a collective Conference voice on public Christian witness – S'assurer de faire entendre la voix collective du Synode comme témoignage chrétien sur la scène publique.

6. Provide an inspirational link between local United Church communities and the United Church of Canada as a whole community - Devenir un pont et une inspiration entre les communautés locales de l'Église Unie et l'Église Unie du Canada comme communauté d'ensemble.

Plans will be forthcoming about visits with the new Moderator from British Columbia, Rev. Richard Bott

7. Promote whole-life stewardship - Promouvoir le soutien de la vie dans ses diverses dimensions.

The Stewardship Committee will report separately and we are still awaiting news of a staff person in the Philanthropy unit who will serve Regional Councils 11,12 and 13.

8. Provide administrative effectiveness in the “art” of making our Conference life happen. - Fournir l'efficacité nécessaire à la pratique de 'l'art de faire vivre' notre Synode.

The Archives Committee will meet on November 19.

A major clean-up has been on-going with the help of volunteers shredding and moving furniture to provide appropriate space in the Summerlea United office for the inclusion of staff from regional council 13 in the shared office space of 11, 12 and 13 staff.

Staff gatherings on October 2 and November 7 have helped us be more prepared for change, and we appreciate that we will each continue to serve you, although in different ways in the transformed church.

Respectfully submitted,
Rosemary Lambie (Rev.) - Executive Secretary