

REPORT OF REPRESENTATIVES TO GENERAL COUNCIL EXECUTIVE TO THE EXECUTIVE OF MONTREAL AND OTTAWA CONFERENCE

The General Council executive met on September 25 to address matters that were left over from GC43 and to implement decisions that were made at GC43. It was more like a General Council Sub-Executive meeting in that it was focused on the completion of specific items with little of the regular reporting that is part of a normal General Council executive meeting. The objective was to leave as clear a slate as possible for the new General Council executive.

A scheduled meeting of up to 7 hours was completed on 1½ hours. This was accomplished in three ways. First, the time estimate was overly generous under any scenario. Second, the Permanent Committee on Governance and Agenda had reviewed the GC43 proposals on which no decisions had been made and had recommended responses to them. Third, the General Council Office had held two webinars during the week before the executive meeting to discuss the proposals. As a result of preliminary deliberations, the questions being brought forward were clear and the participants had had an opportunity to ponder their responses to them.

Decisions made included the removal of discretion that Conference previously had to decline approval of a request to license diaconal ministers in a call or appointment to administer the sacraments. The decision on most of the other matters was to take no action or to refer them for further study.

A draft new Manual reflecting the approved changes was approved. Sections that were unaffected by the approved changes are unchanged. The approved draft will be edited for style and be available by January 1, 2019.

The GCE sub-executive met on November 2 and approved the new Manual appendix on procedures for holding a meeting and decision making, the Vancouver Japanese United Church and the General Council assumption of Maritime Conference property and mortgage.

The procedures appendix puts in plain language rules of order and includes new sections on a whole peoples covenant and holy manners. The concept was that relationships are at least as important as rules. The discussion highlighted the challenge of reconciling plain language with living with the ambiguity that can come from the use of plain language.

In 1953, the Vancouver Japanese church was sold without the permission of the Japanese church. It had been entrusted to the Superintendent of Home Missions as a response to the expulsion of the Japanese from the west coast in 1942. In 2009, the United Church apologized for the sale but left compensation for a future discussion. The General Secretary was authorized to work with the BC Conference to finalize and pay a mutually agreeable compensation to the Vancouver Japanese United Church.

The sub-executive approved the request of the Commissions for Regions 14 and 15 that the General Council assume the responsibility for making mortgage payments on the property that is currently used as the Maritime Conference office/archives. Regions 14 and 15 wish to

continue to use the building. The two regions state that they will be unable to make the mortgage payments. The General Council will acquire the property with the regions paying \$3,000 per annum for its use.

The next meeting of the General Council Executive will take place on November 17.