

**Minutes of the
EXECUTIVE OF HAMILTON CONFERENCE**

April 24, 2014



"Trust God; Trust the Body"

Authority

The Executive of Hamilton Conference met at the call of the President on Thursday, April 24, 2014 at Hamilton Conference Office, 1552 Highway #6 North, Hamilton. A quorum was present for all sessions.

Attendance

Laity:

Margaret Blewett, Phyllis Buchner, Greg Case, Ken Pettigrew

Ministry Personnel:

Keith Reynolds (President), Ted Smith (President-designate), Christina Paradela (Past President), Thom Davies, Peter Hartmans, Gerry Hofstetter, Stephen Huntley, Janet MacDonald, John Maich, Aaron Miller, Alison Nicholson, Timothy Reaburn, Adrienne Robertson, Bob Tschanz, Robin Wilkie

Regrets: Bob Brunner, Lillian Gohn

Corresponding Members:

Ross Hibberd, Lorna MacQueen, Diane Matheson, Jenny Stephens, Kim Uyede-Kai.

Recording Secretary:

Barbara Hampson

Constitution

The President constituted the Court in the name of Jesus Christ, Head and Heart of the Church, to deal with the business that might properly come before it.

Opening and Worship

Keith reminded us that we meet on sacred ground, with a history that is fragile and broken, beautiful and sustaining, and one that continues to invite us into right relationship. With first peoples, right relationship with each other, and right relationship with God’s world. He invited discussion of where we are noticing resurrection in our lives and in the life of the world. Opening worship included the singing of the hymn “Morning Has Broken” *Voices United* #409 followed by a time of silence and prayer.

Agenda

Motion: John Maich/Ted Smith

That the agenda be approved as printed:

CARRIED

Effective Leadership: Implementation Team

Lorna MacQueen provided an update on the report from the Chair of the Team (*Appendix B – E79*) regarding the timing of the Action Plan. Lorna, Jenny Stephens, and Kim Uyede-Kai responded to questions. Discussion about the project followed.

Motion: Thom Davies/Aaron Miller

That the report from the Effective Leadership Implementation Team be received for information:

CARRIED

The Executive broke into Sessional Committees at 10:25 a.m. as follows:

#1	#2	#3
Aaron Miller	Adrienne Robertson	John Maich
Margaret Blewett	Phyllis Buchner	Greg Case
Gerry Hofstetter	Thom Davies	Ross Hibberd
Alison Nicholson	Stephen Huntley	Christina Paradela
Tim Reaburn	Ken Pettigrew	Keith Reynolds
Bob Tschanz	Ted Smith	Robin Wilkie
Janet MacDonald		

The Sessional Committees reviewed Conference Annual Reports as follows:

Sessional Committee #1: Standing Committees
Sessional Committee #2: Education Institutions, Miscellaneous, Networks
Sessional Committee #3: Presbyteries, Staff

The Executive reconvened at 11:15 a.m.

Order Of The Day

COVENANTING SERVICE

A covenanting service for Diane Matheson as Hamilton Conference Minister for Social Justice took place.

LUNCH

The Executive broke for lunch at 11:45 p.m., and reconvened at 1:00 p.m.

Executive Minutes

Motion: John Maich/Bob Tschanz

That the minutes of the February 13, 2014 meeting of the Executive of Hamilton Conference be approved as circulated:

CARRIED

Correspondence

Motion: Gerry Hofstetter/Aaron Miller

That the list of correspondence for the April 2014 meeting of Hamilton Conference Executive (Appendix A – E78) be received.

CARRIED

Financial Report

Audited Financial Statements for 2013:

MOTION: Janet MacDonald/Tim Reaburn

That Hamilton Conference Executive received and approved the Audited Financial Statements for the year ended December 31, 2013, and authorizes the President and the Executive Secretary to sign them on the behalf of Hamilton Conference.

CARRIED

Appointment of Auditors for 2014:

MOTION: Tim Reaburn/Gerry Hofstetter

That Hamilton Conference Executive appoint the firm Withey Addison LLP, Chartered Accountants as auditors for 2014.

CARRIED

One abstention – Janet MacDonald.

MOTION: Tim Reaburn/Greg Case

That the signing officers for Hamilton Conference for the 2014-2015 Conference year be:

Past President: Keith Reynolds

President: Ted Smith

Executive Secretary: Peter Hartmans

Program Staff: Jenny Stephens

Administrative Staff: Barbara Hampson

Treasurer: Janet MacDonald

CARRIED

Proposed Budget 2015:**2015 Assessment:*****MOTION: Janet MacDonald/Tim Reaburn***

That, Executive of Hamilton Conference recommend to the 90th Annual Meeting of Hamilton Conference that the maximum assessment for 2015 be \$624,539.

CARRIED

Financial Statements to Date

Janet MacDonald provided background information.

Motion: Janet MacDonald/Tim Reaburn

That the year-to-date financial statements (Appendix C – E80-82) be received for information:

CARRIED

Reports For Action:**Proposed By-Law change for Erin Mills Youth Centre**

Peter Hartmans provided background information.

Motion: Greg Case/Janet MacDonald

That the draft by-law change for Erin Mills Youth Centre (Appendix D – E83) be approved:

CARRIED

Hamilton Conference Interview Board (Appendix E – E84)

Jenny Stephens provided background information and answered questions.

Motion: Adrienne Robertson/Aaron Miller

*That the Executive of Hamilton Conference accept the recommendation of the Hamilton Conference Interview Board that **the Rev Martha Lockwood**, an applicant in the admissions process, be approved for appointment in the United Church of Canada:*

CARRIED

Interim Ministry Designations

Jenny Stephens provided background information and answered questions.

Motion: Steve Huntley/Gerry Hofstetter

*That the Hamilton Conference Executive continue the designation of **the Rev. Ken MacDonald** (OM, Halton) as an Interim Minister in the United Church of Canada:*

CARRIED

Sessional Committees

Sessional Committee #3: Presbyteries, Staff

John Maich commented on the reports:

- Reports were well-written with the exception of a few small required corrections
- Noted reports are contextual to each Presbytery and suggested a template for Presbytery reports, identifying common elements
- Appreciative of Conference Staff: swiftness in responding to concerns and professionalism; a great resource.

MOTION: Ted Smith/John Maich

*That the reports of the **Presbyteries and Conference Staff** be received and recommended to the 90th Annual Meeting of Hamilton Conference for inclusion in an omnibus motion:.*

CARRIED

Sessional Committee #2: Educational Institutions, Miscellaneous Reports, Networks

Adrienne Robertson gave highlights of the reports.

- Challenge of funding for University Chaplaincies
- McMaster Chaplaincy doing interesting programming with a student from Emmanuel College
- Lack of report from the Guelph Ecumenical Chaplaincy was noted
- Five Oaks: increase of 26% of people attending programs in the past year; expansion of programs including overnight camps, focus on First Nations
- Grand River & AVEL: trying to reach out more to un-serviced areas, exploring new technologies, had a 32.9% increase in bookings
- UCW Executive: Phyllis Buchner to be National President starting in September
- Wesley Urban Ministries: highlighted numbers:
 - 1250 people served on a daily basis
 - only 4% of administrative budget used for fundraising
 - \$102,000 raised at Case for Kids Walkathon,
 - 5,420 individuals accessed the Christmas Store,
 - average income - \$6,000.
- Suggested Wesley Urban Ministries share a story or two out of the life of that community
- Children and Youth Network invited people to join network – suggested it be promoted in Presbyteries.

MOTION: Adrienne Robertson/Ken Pettigrew

*That the reports of the **Educational Institutions, Miscellaneous Report and Networks** be received and recommended to the 90th Annual Meeting of Hamilton Conference for inclusion in an omnibus motion:.*

CARRIED

Sessional Committee #1: Standing Committees

Tim Reaburn commented on the reports and mentioned highlights:

- It would be great to see who sits on the committees. There is no consistency in listing the members
- Division of Ministry Personnel and Education: it is always interesting to see so much work reduced to one page:
- Education and Students: Is the Six Oaks material brought forward any other place – especially around the costs?
- Interim Ministry:
 - Wondering about the total number of Interim ministers within Hamilton Conference.
 - Helpful for Presbytery Executives and others who are looking to fill positions
 - Should be more actively discerning those who might be suitable for Interim ministry.
- Mission Strategy and Support: What kind of ownership is there for mission that takes place in Presbyteries that do not host the ministry?

Jenny Stephens responded to the question regarding funding for vocational assessment for inquirers. Some Education and Students committees are recommending to their Presbyteries that the vocational assessments be funded 1/3 from the congregation, 1/3 from the Presbytery, and 1/3 from the individual. Discussion followed.

MOTION: Aaron Miller/Tim Reaburn

*That the reports of the **Standing Committees** be received and recommended to the 90th Annual Meeting of Hamilton Conference for inclusion in an omnibus motion:*

CARRIED

Affirm Network Proposal (Appendix F – E85):

Peter Hartmans provided background information. Discussion followed.

MOTION: Christina Paradela/Tim Reaburn

That the Hamilton Conference Executive recommend the Affirm Network proposal to the 90th Annual Meeting of Hamilton Conference for approval:

CARRIED

Reports for Information:

Division of Ministry Personnel and Education Report

Approval of Douglas Brown and Mary Elizabeth Elliott for Administration of the Sacraments

Motion: Gerry Hofstetter/Greg Case

That the report of the Division of Ministry Personnel & Education be received for information:

CARRIED

Nomination for President-Elect

Peter Hartmans let the Executives know that we have received one nomination for President-elect: Gord Dunbar. Peter reminded the Executive that the President-elect will serve as President for two years.

Update from Agenda & Business Committee – Annual Meeting 2014 & 2015:

Adrienne Robertson reminded us that the 2014 Annual Meeting will be held at the UNIFOR (formerly CAW) Centre in Port Elgin. The Moderator will be with us Sunday morning.

Peter Hartmans provided an update on the plans for the location of the 2015 Annual Meeting.

Tim Reaburn gave an update on the proposed silent auction at the 2014 Annual meeting in support of the Mission and Service Fund, and reminded us that looking for more items are still needed.

Comprehensive Review Update

Peter Hartmans highlighted that Niagara Presbytery circulated their feedback on the Comprehensive Review and would find it helpful to see other Presbyteries' feedback. It is the hope of the Comprehensive Review Committee and the Conference Executive Secretaries that the Annual Meeting conversation will be a reflection of the feedback from the Presbyteries.

Fall Meeting of Hamilton Conference Executive

Peter Hartmans updated the Executive on plans for the fall meeting at Five Oaks, which will include five other executives in a cross-conference meeting, September 10-11, 2014, at Five Oaks.

Adjournment

The President thanked the Chairs of Presbytery for their leadership this year; Phyllis Buchner for her ministry within our Conference and her acceptance of the position of President of the National UCW Executive; Adrienne for the seven years she has chaired the Agenda and Business Committee; Christina for her role as past-President; the Executive as a body for the privilege of serving as President; Bob Tschanz for his years as Chair of Staff Committee. Phyllis expressed appreciation for her time on Hamilton Conference Executive. Ted Smith thanked Keith for serving as President.

Christina Paradela reported that the offering at the Hamilton Presbytery Good Friday service was \$6,235.95, which will go towards sponsorship of a refugee family from Syria.

Keith asked for members of the Executive to reflect on what is giving them hope. The meeting was adjourned at 2:50 p.m.

FUTURE MEETINGS

Annual Meeting: May 24-25, 2014
UNIFOR-Canada Family Education Centre
115 Shipley Avenue
Port Elgin, Ontario

Fall Meeting: September 10-11, 2014
Five Oaks Education and Retreat Centre

Keith Reynolds, President

Peter Hartmans, Executive Secretary



LIST OF CORRESPONDENCE
HAMILTON CONFERENCE EXECUTIVE
April 2014

The following correspondence comes to the April 24, 2014 meeting of the Executive of Hamilton Conference:

FOR INFORMATION:

1.	January 1, 2014	Application of Designated Lay Minister to administer the Sacraments
2.	February 10, 2014	Application of Diaconal Minister to administer the Sacraments

FOR ACTION:

1.	February 11, 2014	Motion from Interim Ministry Committee to continue the designation of Ken MacDonald as an Interim Minister in the United Church of Canada
2.	April 2014	CIB recommendation re. Martha Lockwood
3.	April 2014	Affirm Network Proposal

**The Leadership Commission and Implementation Team of Hamilton Conference
For Healthy Pastoral Relationships and Effective Leadership
Report for Hamilton Conference Exec., April 24, 2014**

The Leadership Commission has looked at the information they gleaned from gatherings they have held with Ministry personnel in the Bruce and have decided that there are a few steps they can take to help facilitate ways of meeting the needs of ministry staff. The focus of their work is to provide support to ministry personnel and leadership in matters of discipline within the presbytery.

To do this they are working on a retreat in the fall, helping “learning circles” form or support existing ones as well as initiating conversations with ministry personnel around specific issues (see contact article)

They will meet on April 28th to continue this work and planning.

The Implementation Team has focused mainly on the need to provide congregations with the Essence Documents as outlined by Conference. Since the contracting of Chris Grose has taken place we are excited about the work being done to facilitate the creation of these documents in congregations and will continue to support the work that Chris is doing....

“Here is an update from Chris :I have completed the resource piece to the project - now into template development. Still working on the "catchy title". The way I see the "workshop" day unfolding is as a retreat - a creative retreat where different congregations would be represented. The idea is not to get as many people as possible to participate from your congregation - the intent is for a few who have a passion and drive to be centered with the Divine through artistic mediums. There will be small group gatherings - mixed and home congregations, as well as a good chunk of time spent in individual creative meditation. The day will end with a written essence statement.

I will be booking a minimum of three days at Silver Lake United Church Camp- more if needed. They will probably be early June and early September.

As this is an evaluation task - I am still playing with the idea of also offering individual gatherings at home congregations - working one on one. There is an opportunity to piggy back onto an annual meeting that is happening June 1st - a possibility at this point. I look forward to sharing these ideas and more at the Bruce Presbytery meeting tomorrow - as well as with the PIT team!!”

Since the creation of the Essence statement process has begun, it is now that work of the committee to determine what other ways we can support presbytery in its strengthening of healthy relationships between congregations, presbytery and ministry staff. As a result, we will be looking at planning a retreat for the presbytery also to take place in the fall. The real conversation about what will be the focus of this retreat time will unfold at our next meeting on April 28th.

The support being offered by Conference in the way of administrative help and staff support to search committees is also something that the Imp team sees as an important piece in this project.

HAMILTON CONFERENCE	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Budget	Budget
2015 Draft Budget	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Income						
Assessments	591,518.40	564,299.97	652,584.25	642,393.54	624,538.63	624,539.00
Other	380,034.37	387,245.83	406,203.57	508,070.25	363,858.37	368,417.00
Total Income	971,552.77	951,545.80	1,058,787.82	1,150,463.79	988,397.00	992,956.00
Expenses	1,033,502.99	1,009,313.89	1,021,428.08	1,083,119.82	988,397.00	992,956.00
	- 61,950.22	- 57,768.09	37,359.74	67,343.97	-	
To Reserves- Budget	27,500.00	11,000.00				
To Reserves - Finance	30,000.00					
	- 119,450.22	- 68,768.09				
CONFERENCE INCOME	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Budget	Budget
	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Annual Meeting	13,985.00	17,782.00	-	34,211.19	15,000.00	
Archives Reserve	15,000.00	10,044.62	3,492.21	1,830.00	24,361.37	8,120.00
Assessments	591,518.40	564,299.97	652,584.25	643,459.51	624,538.63	624,539.00
Government Rebates	9,613.48	17,377.79	-	19,038.82	17,200.00	18,000.00
Hampack Income	456.00	396.00	200.00		-	
MP&E Income	553.72	3,039.69	6,916.17	2,992.39	6,500.00	6,500.00
Network/Workshop	6,060.36	12,169.18	5,264.17	27,076.71	5,000.00	5,000.00
Other Income	19,572.81	7,958.09	-	100,132.83	15,000.00	50,000.00
Salary Grant	314,793.00	318,478.46	322,755.00	322,788.31	280,797.00	280,797.00
	971,552.77	951,545.80	991,211.80	1,151,529.76	988,397.00	992,956.00
% increase in assessments	14.39%	-4.60%	15.65%	-1.60%	-2.90%	-
CONFERENCE EXPENSES	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Budget	Budget
	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Agenda and Business	1,461.67	3,185.25	2,547.74	1,396.77	2,000.00	1,500.00
Annual Meeting	56,531.62	76,646.07	90,994.21	79,920.87	68,200.00	60,450.00
Archives	40,766.00	40,765.99	42,804.31	44,944.52	47,191.00	49,551.00
Archives Committee	466.17	403.44	316.93	129.31	700.00	600.00
Avel/Bookstore Support	14,935.00	14,935.00	14,935.00	14,935.00	16,000.00	16,300.00
Capital Expenses			1,382.94	12,785.22	15,000.00	10,000.00
Conference Oversight			57,896.44	93,363.09	35,000.00	45,000.00
Contingency	129,400.77	70,341.96	1,152.71	1,022.83	15,000.00	10,000.00
Corporation Overview	19,416.44	19,663.21	11,747.46	10,039.19	17,000.00	12,000.00
Effective Leadership				3,842.06		
Executive and Sub-Executive	3,766.87	6,543.94	5,720.11	4,122.70	6,000.00	4,500.00
Finance Committee	16,379.72	14,967.04	18,836.29	18,365.51	18,150.00	20,080.00
General Council Commissioners			3,075.32	62.78	1,500.00	1,500.00
Hampack	640.42	644.79	699.53		150.00	
Ministry, Personnel and Education	27,058.36	28,699.94	34,174.07	29,173.04	33,950.00	32,260.00
Mission, Strategy and Support	4,142.80	1,882.09	1,094.54	2,487.66	2,010.00	1,260.00
Networks/workshops	14,845.89	17,424.59	17,505.15	38,715.32	15,000.00	15,000.00
Nominations	691.24	580.16	409.18	494.61	1,400.00	500.00
Office Operating	70,895.37	66,709.08	62,834.05	61,790.89	62,226.00	65,060.00
Pastoral Care Team	1,177.51	850.71	910.60	665.06	1,000.00	1,500.00
Philanthropy and Stewardship	680.70	852.60	2,711.87	1,158.87	2,800.00	2,000.00
Presbytery and Congregational Reso	2,697.39	25,306.94	13,211.94	220.46	2,800.00	500.00
President's Expenses	2,733.80	3,814.56	2,577.11	4,851.95	3,000.00	3,800.00
Program Partnership	3,275.00	3,742.58	1,350.00	2,975.00	1,500.00	1,400.00
Property Committee	287.80	295.20	131.20	3,231.30	300.00	300.00
Recovery and Healing			960.00	120.00	1,500.00	1,500.00
Resource Development	1,772.23	1,985.03	3,830.86	2,967.55	4,000.00	3,000.00
Sexual Abuse/Prevention/Response	2,193.16	1,218.74	3,240.51	3,856.37	2,100.00	3,500.00
Staff	614,058.21	604,046.89	621,581.08	641,379.31	609,320.00	626,295.00
Staff Committee	3,228.85	3,808.09	2,796.93	4,102.58	3,600.00	3,600.00
	1,033,502.99	1,009,313.89	1,021,428.08	1,083,119.82	988,397.00	992,956.00

1:35 PM
 2014-04-21
 Accrual Basis

Hamilton Conference
Balance Sheet
 As of 21 April 2014

	<u>21 Apr 14</u>
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Chequing/Savings	
BMO- Brokerage Account	708,950.51
BMO - chequing	150,131.65
BMO - Mastercard GIC	20,000.00
BMO Nesbitt Burns - Investment	148,750.11
Meridian Credit Union	102,200.00
Total Chequing/Savings	<u>1,130,032.27</u>
Other Current Assets	
Interest Receivable	966.13
Other Receivables	203.40
Total Other Current Assets	<u>1,169.53</u>
Total Current Assets	<u>1,131,201.80</u>
Fixed Assets	
Building	4,965.98
Computer equipment	4,703.94
Furniture, fixtures & equipment	20,787.71
Land	10,000.00
Telephone System	0.00
Total Fixed Assets	<u>40,467.63</u>
Other Assets	
Oikocredit Bonds	50,000.00
Total Other Assets	<u>50,000.00</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u><u>1,221,669.43</u></u>
LIABILITIES & EQUITY	
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
Accounts Payable	
Accounts Payable	3,065.80
Total Accounts Payable	<u>3,065.80</u>
Other Current Liabilities	
Accrued Liabilities	16,558.84
Accrued Professional Fees	6,000.00
Total Other Current Liabilities	<u>22,558.84</u>
Total Current Liabilities	<u>25,624.64</u>
Long Term Liabilities	
Monies Held in Trust	772,076.93
Total Long Term Liabilities	<u>772,076.93</u>
Total Liabilities	<u>797,701.57</u>
Equity	
Retained Earnings	356,403.98
Net Income	67,563.91
Total Equity	<u>423,967.86</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	<u><u>1,221,669.43</u></u>

1:37 PM

2014-04-21

Accrual Basis

Hamilton Conference
Profit & Loss Budget vs. Actual
1 January through 21 April 2014

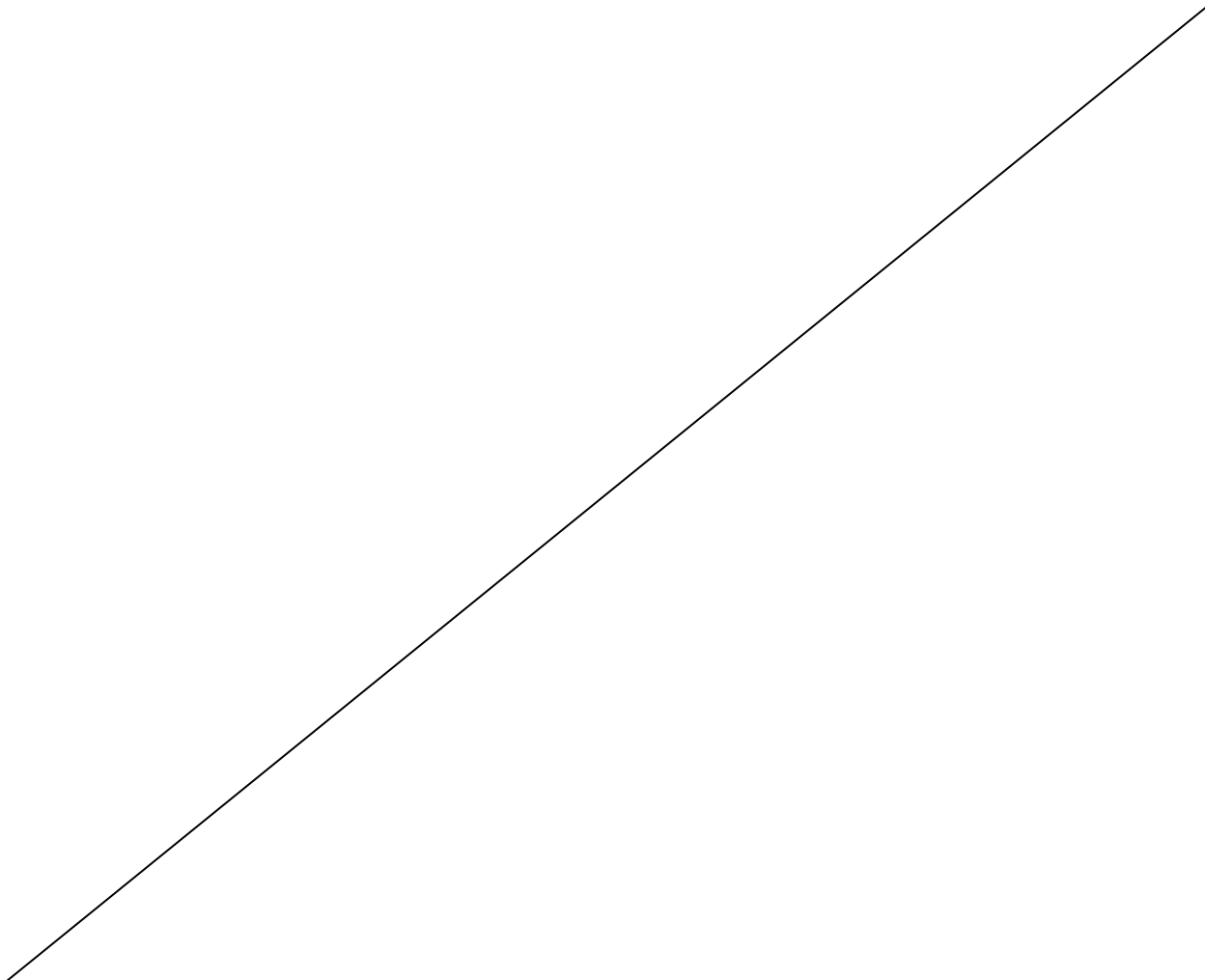
	1 Jan - 21 Apr 14	Budget	\$ Over Budget	% of Budget
Ordinary Income/Expense				
Income				
Annual Meeting Income	23,312.55	5,250.00	18,062.55	444.0%
Assessment Income	155,625.55	155,625.21	0.34	100.0%
Effective Leadership	15,500.00	0.00	15,500.00	100.0%
MP&E Income	3,130.00	2,004.14	1,125.86	156.2%
Network Income	1,246.76	1,850.00	-603.24	67.4%
Other Income	13,674.75	4,625.00	9,049.75	295.7%
Salary Grant	45,488.67	86,579.08	-41,090.41	52.5%
Total Income	257,978.28	255,933.43	2,044.85	100.8%
Expense				
Agenda and Business	945.05	1,160.00	-214.95	81.5%
Annual Meeting	2,961.74	0.00	2,961.74	100.0%
Archives	5,707.59	11,797.75	-6,090.16	48.4%
Archives Committee	0.00	245.00	-245.00	0.0%
Avell/Bookstore Support	8,000.00	6,800.00	1,200.00	117.8%
Capital Expenses	593.07	4,625.00	-4,031.93	12.8%
Conference Oversight	5,578.71	10,791.64	-5,212.93	51.7%
Contingency	19,223.08	4,625.00	14,598.08	415.6%
Corporations Overview	774.05	5,241.64	-4,467.59	14.8%
Effective Leadership Project	4,056.88	0.00	4,056.88	100.0%
Executive and Subexecutive	1,616.20	2,550.00	-933.80	63.4%
Finance Committee	3,254.38	3,423.36	-168.98	95.1%
General Council Commissioners	0.00	462.50	-462.50	0.0%
Ministry Personnel & Education	11,026.76	8,833.75	2,193.01	124.8%
Mission Strategy and Support	460.83	619.75	-158.92	74.4%
Networks	2,410.46	4,625.00	-2,214.54	52.1%
Nominations	0.00	510.00	-510.00	0.0%
Office Operating	23,281.34	22,398.01	883.33	103.9%
Pastoral Care Team	37.85	308.36	-270.51	12.3%
Presbytery & Congregational Res	1,075.75	863.36	212.39	124.6%
President's Expense	1,362.52	925.00	437.52	147.3%
Program Partnership Expenses	0.00	462.50	-462.50	0.0%
Property Committee	41.00	92.50	-51.50	44.3%
Recovery and Healing	0.00	462.50	-462.50	0.0%
Resource Development	3,875.84	1,233.36	2,642.48	314.3%
Sex Abuse Prevention/Response	0.00	647.50	-647.50	0.0%
Staff	89,793.68	187,873.72	-98,080.04	47.8%
Staff Committee	1,156.91	801.64	355.27	144.3%
Stewardship Education	294.62	863.36	-568.74	34.1%
Uncategorized Expenses	2,886.06	0.00	2,886.06	100.0%
Total Expense	190,414.37	283,242.20	-92,827.83	67.2%
Net Ordinary Income	67,563.91	-27,308.77	94,872.68	-247.4%
Net Income	67,563.91	-27,308.77	94,872.68	-247.4%

Proposed By-Law change Governing Erin Mills Youth Centre:

- a. EMYC By-Laws. The advantages of having the Executive Director added as a signing officer were discussed. This change in policy would require that Article 2.05 of the current By-Laws be amended.

Motion: that Article 2.05 of the By-Laws governing Erin Mills Youth Centre be amended to read:

The President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Secretary, and Executive Director shall be designated as the signing officers for the Corporation, and additional members of the Board may be designated by Board approval as required. Two signing officers must sign each cheque, money-order, purchase order or instrument of like kind.



To: Hamilton Conference Executive
From: Hamilton Conference Interview Board
Re: The Reverend Martha Lockwood

The Rev. Martha Lockwood has applied to have her ordination recognized by the United Church of Canada. She was interviewed by the CIB on March 25, 2014. Presently she is an ordained minister in the Brethren in Christ Church of Canada and served them from 1988 to 2008. Martha has had her credentials checked by General Council and her ordination is in good standing. She has provided a current vulnerable sector police records check. Martha was originally cleared for Admission in February of 2005 but was unable to find an appointment because she limited herself to the Niagara area. The Admission policy has now changed and so she has gone through the process of updating her file and submitting current references.

The interview team enjoyed the time spent with Martha. She is warm and personable and exhibited what one of her references called her “joie de vivre”. She is a good communicator and easy to talk with. She is confident and comfortable in a variety of situations. While she is steadfast in her perspective and convictions, she remains open to new insights as well as the needs, opinions and ideas of others. Martha is not afraid to change course or rethink her perspective or plans when circumstances warrant it. She is an excellent community builder and a good motivator. She has highly developed networking skills and thrives on connecting individuals and drawing them into meaningful and productive activity. With her non-judgmental approach she is able to relate and care for a wide range of age groups and personality types. Martha has a deep spirituality rooted in the gospel message and this informs her strong preaching skills and her approach to ministry.

Martha would like to move in a more liberal direction theologically and feels comfortable with the doctrine and practices of the United Church of Canada. The interview team was pleased to note that Martha is now more flexible around the area in which she can seek an appointment.

The Hamilton Conference Interview Board recommends to the Executive of Hamilton Conference that The Reverend Martha Lockwood, an applicant in the admissions process be considered fit for appointment in the United Church of Canada.

Sincerely,

Claudia Adams, Chair, Conference Interview Board.

PROPOSAL – Affirming Conference Task Group Statement	
<p>WHEREAS Hamilton Conference, meaning that the Hamilton Conference is the gathered annual meeting of Conference, committees of Conference, and staff of Conference, and WHEREAS the reign of God has a yet/not yet quality to it; and WHEREAS in some ways God's realm is already in our midst.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">The presence of a hope-filled shalom is something that has broken in on the world in moments of history when justice and mercy has been enabled, when liberation and compassion has been encouraged, when truth and love have been embodied; and,</p> <p>WHEREAS it is also true that the realm of God has too often gone wanting.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">The powers and principalities of the world have dominated the globe and infiltrated the church. the kin-dom of heaven is notably absent on earth in the existence and reality of exclusion and unkindness, violence and discrimination, hatred and oppression; and,</p> <p>WHEREAS for those who are gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender in our faith communities, and those who support them, these twin realities are self-evident.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">There have been signs of promise where issues of inclusion and welcome have been addressed and embraced. These signs of promise deserve to be acknowledged and celebrated with joy and thanksgiving</p> <p>WHEREAS there has also been hurtful demonstrations of ignorance and intolerance.</p> <p>WHEREAS The United Church of Canada, General Council in 2000, declared all orientations as gifts from God:</p>	
<p>? moved, seconded by ? that Hamilton Conference of The United Church of Canada move toward authentically becoming an affirming ministry by: <i>(meaning that the Conference is the gathered annual meeting of Conference, committees of Conference, and staff of Conference)</i></p>	
<p>a. Acknowledging and celebrate the inclusive work of our Church in its efforts to work for healing, justice and wholeness for the world and for creation itself but also acknowledge the challenges and presence of homophobia and heterosexism in the church</p>	
<p>b. Reflecting upon the issues of heterosexism and, individually and corporately, continue to work towards challenging and changing policies and practices to engender safety, respect, and inclusion of gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender persons, and avoid heterosexist assumptions and expectations</p>	
<p>c. Asking Conference Executive to establish a monitoring, auditing, and reporting process (mindful of confidentiality) on the work of Conference regarding issues of heterosexism and homophobia; and</p>	
<p>d. Actively inviting and encouraging presbyteries, pastoral charges, and ministry personnel to engage processes that promote the authentic inclusion of gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender people in our faith communities; and</p>	
<p>e. Offering educational resources to presbyteries and pastoral charges that will support transformational learning about heterosexism and homophobia; and</p>	
<p>f. Inviting Affirm United to recognise this Conference as an affirming ministry in the hope that this recognition could be celebrated liturgically at the annual meeting of Hamilton Conference in 2017.</p>	