

Minutes of the SUB-EXECUTIVE OF HAMILTON CONFERENCE

October 21, 2014



"Let's Go Down into the Valley"

Authority

The Sub-Executive of Hamilton Conference met by teleconference call on Tuesday, October 21, 2014 at 12 p.m. A quorum was present.

Calling of the Roll

Peter Hartmans called the roll:

Present:	Peter Hartmans	Executive Secretary
	Ted Smith	President
	Gord Dunbar	President Elect
	Keith Reynolds	Past President
	Dan MacLean	Chair, Erie Presbytery
	Margaret Blewett	Chair, Niagara Presbytery
	Greg Case	Chair, Waterloo Presbytery

Regrets:	Joyce Osborne	Chair, Bruce Presbytery
	Robin Wilkie	Hamilton Presbytery

Recording Secretary: Barbara Hampson

Constitution

The President welcomed everyone and constituted the Court in the name of Jesus Christ to deal with the business that might properly come before it.

Worship

The President opened the meeting with a poem by Wendy MacLean from *Gathering* and offered prayer.

Agenda

Motion: Gord Dunbar/Margaret Blewett

That the agenda be approved:

CARRIED

Sub-Executive Minutes

Motion: Greg Case/Keith Reynolds

*That the Hamilton Conference Sub-Executive approve the minutes of the **May 13, 2014** meeting and the **July 15, 2014** meeting of the Sub- Executive of Hamilton Conference.*

CARRIED

Hamilton Conference Interview Board

Peter Hartmans provided background information.

Motion: Gord Dunbar/Dan MacLean

That the Sub-Executive of Hamilton Conference accept the recommendation of the Hamilton Conference Interview Board that The Reverend Sadekie Lyttle-Forbes, an applicant in the admission process, be approved for appointment in the United Church of Canada:

CARRIED

Motion: Margaret Blewett/Gord Dunbar

That the Sub-Executive of Hamilton Conference accept the recommendation of the Hamilton Conference Interview Board that The Reverend Graham Keech, an applicant in the admission process, be approved for appointment in the United Church of Canada:

CARRIED

Finance Committee Recommendation re Five Oaks:

Peter Hartmans provided background information. Discussion followed.

Motion: Keith Reynolds/Gord Dunbar

That Hamilton Conference Sub-Executive allocate \$75,000 to Five Oaks Retreat Centre to be used toward a redevelopment plan when needed:

CARRIED

Motion: Gord Dunbar/Margaret Blewett

That the Hamilton Conference Sub-Executive direct the Executive Secretary to draft a motion to be brought to the 91st Conference annual meeting requesting a special assessment of \$60,000 over three years to be directed to the development plan of Five Oaks Retreat Centre:

CARRIED

Keith Reynolds asked Peter Hartmans to extend thanks to Finance Committee for their work.

Request from Tobermory United Church re Ordination

Peter Hartmans provided background information. Discussion followed.

Motion: Gord Dunbar/Dan MacLean

That the Sub-Executive accept the recommendation of the Education and Students Committee that the request from Tobermory United Church for a local ordination service for Brad Inglis not be granted: **CARRIED**

Conference Office Lift Update and Recommendation:

Peter Hartmans provided background information.

Motion: Keith Reynolds/Margaret Blewett

That the Sub-Executive direct the Conference Property Committee to work on the project of making the Conference Office accessible with a maximum budget of \$80,000:

CARRIED**43rd General Council**

Peter Hartmans provided background information. We have been asked by General Council if we would consider hosting the 43rd General Council meeting. There was consensus that we don't have sufficient volunteer energy or an appropriate venue to say yes at this time.

Ted Smith offered prayer.

Adjournment

The President thanked everyone for their time. The meeting was adjourned at 1:00 p.m.

FUTURE MEETINGS

- Sub-Executive Conf. Call:** Thursday, November 25, 2014, 9:30 a.m.
- Winter Meeting:** Thursday, February 12, 2015, 9:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Hamilton Conference Office
- Snow Date – February 19, 2014**
- Spring Meeting:** Thursday, April 30, 2015, 9:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Hamilton Conference Office
- Annual Meeting:** May 29-31, 2015
Redeemer College, Ancaster

Ted Smith, President

Peter Hartmans, Executive Secretary

Appendix A – Correspondence

To: Hamilton Conference Executive
From: Hamilton Conference Interview Board
Re: The Reverend Sadekie Lyttle-Forbes

The Reverend Sadekie Lyttle-Forbes has applied to have her ordination recognized by the United Church of Canada. Presently she is an ordained minister serving in the United Church In Jamaica and The Cayman Islands. Sadekie has had her credentials checked by General Council and her ordination is in good standing. We interviewed her on October 6, 2014 by Skype. All of the interview team thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to meet Rev. Lyttle-Forbes and throughout the discussion she was open and honest, showing her good sense of humour and reflecting many of the attributes that were named by her references.

Reverend Lyttle-Forbes has been ordained for seven years and comes to the UCC assessed as having three years of previous ministerial experience and is in category B – year 4. As well as serving as an associate minister in a congregation of 570 plus members and another with 30 members, fulfilling the full range of ministry duties she has been a lecturer, Faculty of Arts and Science at the International University of the Caribbean, Kingston, Jamaica and been responsible for the Counselling Programs on the four campuses of Knox Community College, Spalding P.O. Clarendon Jamaica. She loves to teach and to preach and has (as she reflects) “the best of both worlds”.

Reverend Lyttle-Forbes is hoping to immigrate to Canada in one or two years and serve within the UCC. She is finding that her work and ministry is not challenging her. She is energized by new situations, meeting new people and exploring new possibilities. Luckily her family likes an adventure too. The governance structure of the UCC is very similar to the one that she is used to. She appreciates the inclusive nature of the UCC, its acceptance of women in leadership roles and the language of the New Creed. She senses that the UCC has an organized and systematic way of doing things and looks forward to working within that order.

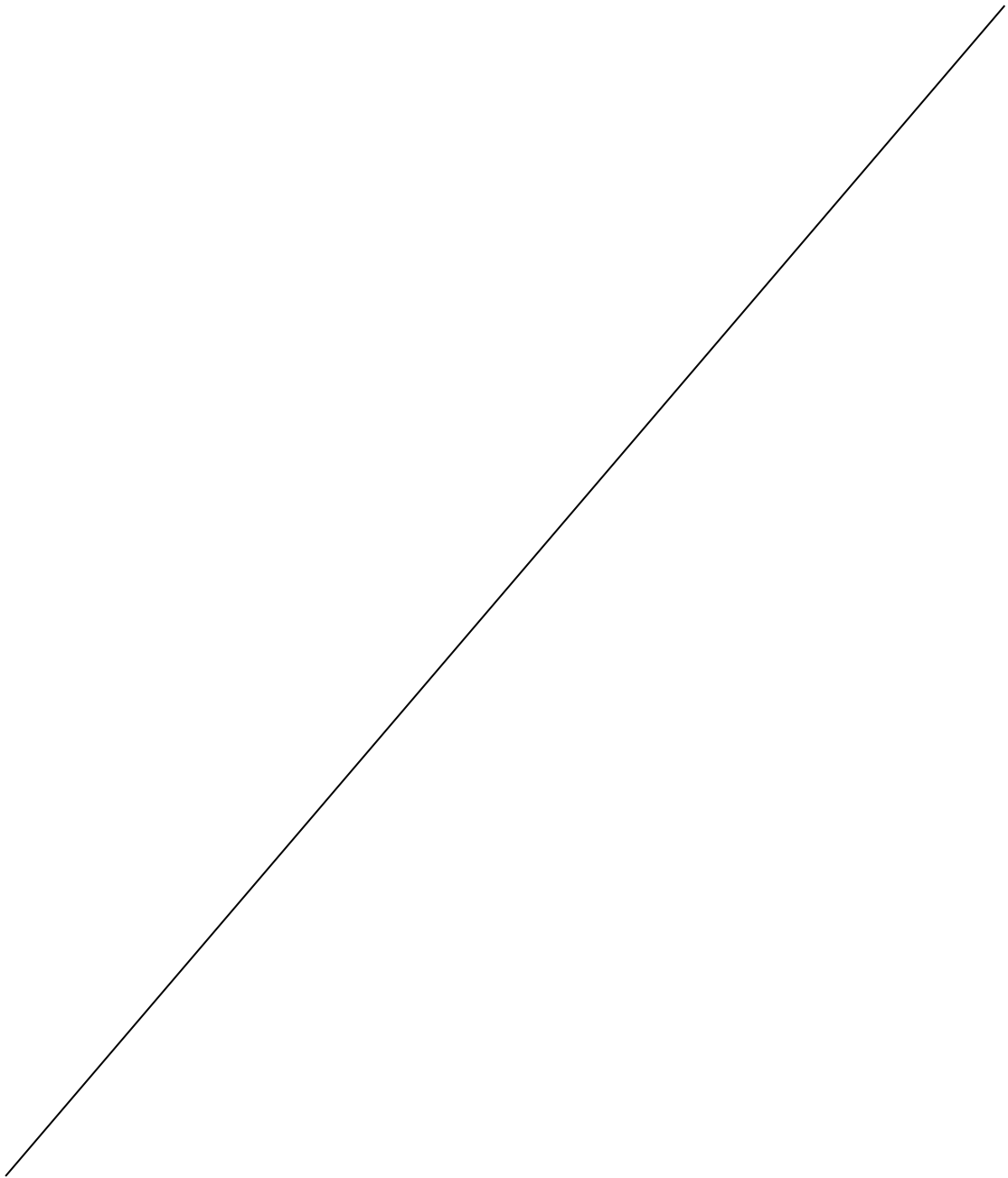
She believes that all people should come to know and experience the love of Christ and lives her life for the sole purpose of proclaiming and teaching this love. We believe that her theology aligns with the range of theologies within the UCC. The leadership model in her denomination is more structured. The minister is the chair of the board and holds a lot of “authority”. This model does not lend itself well to Rev. Lyttle-Forbes style of leadership. She is a confident leader who is able to facilitate consensus and motivate persons to buy into a vision and she understands how to garner support from members in the fulfillment of her ministry goals. She wants people to own the ministry with her so that whenever she leaves nothing dies. She has strong conflict management skills and can respond to issues no matter how delicate they are and bring them to resolution. She is a natural caregiver who is intuitive and sensitive. She is willing to go the extra mile to insure that whatever tasks she has to undertake get done with efficiency and alacrity.

One of her references states “She is dedicated to her calling as a minister and counsellor and has contributed positively to the development of her community. She has been a role model and inspiration to her peers. She has a passion for what she does and expresses enthusiasm to her call to pastoral ministry.”

The Hamilton Conference Interview Board recommends to the executive of Hamilton Conference that The Reverend Sadekie Lyttle-Forbes, an applicant in the admissions process be considered fit for appointment in the United Church of Canada,

Sincerely,

Rev. Claudia Adams, Chair, Conference Interview Board



Appendix A – Correspondence

To: Hamilton Conference Executive
From: Hamilton Conference Interview Board
Re: The Reverend Graham Keech

The Reverend Graham Keech has applied to have his ordination recognized by the United Church of Canada. Presently he is an ordained minister serving in the Uniting Church of Australia. Graham has had his credentials checked by General Council and his ordination is in good standing. He comes to the UCC with 24 years of experience. We interviewed him on October 6, 2014 by Skype. All of the interview team thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to meet Rev. Keech and throughout the discussion he was open and honest, showing his good sense of humour and reflecting many of the attributes that were named by his references.

Rev. Keech has had a wide range of experiences from being in ministry in rural North Queensland with multiple points (much like our circuit model) to a single ministry in a multiple staff and many life groups and ministries. He's shared leadership with his congregation as they have been in the process of "re-inventing" themselves. Over the years he has used his gifts to transition his current church from a program based church to a relational based church to a growing missional church. As a leader in a large church for over sixteen years he has developed a leadership style that respects and empowers others. He is a team player. He has learned to understand the differences between governance and leadership and the need for both within his role as a leader of his current church. He describes himself as a servant leader in the sense that he is always seeking the best for the other. His references suggest that he takes very seriously that an important part of his role is visionary and he doesn't step back from this responsibility of leading people and organizations into new territory, even when it is difficult. He understands that he may be serving in a small congregation in the Canadian context but believes that it's not the size that is important but the faithfulness of the people. He is personally committed to see people drawn into a life transforming relationship with Jesus Christ. He is a much loved pastor. He is a gifted preacher and teacher with special skills in building teams for ministry.

Rev. Keech is hoping to serve within the United Church of Canada because he needs a freshness to his ministry after twenty four years and would like to experience the ministry of Jesus Christ in a different setting. He has explored the possibilities of other denominations but feels that the UCC is the best fit. He believes that the UCC is farther along in celebrating diversity than his current denomination and is interested to see how we have grown since we have been "united" longer than the Uniting Church of Australia. He appreciates how courageous the UCC has been in its social justice work and decisions. His theology connects with that of the UCC through the centrality of Jesus Christ.

Any congregation would be blessed to have Rev. Keech in ministerial leadership.

The Hamilton Conference Interview Board recommends to the executive of Hamilton Conference that The Reverend Graham Keech, an applicant in the admissions process be considered fit for appointment in the United Church of Canada,

Sincerely,

Rev. Claudia Adams, Chair, Conference Interview Board

September 15, 2014

Reverend Peter Hartmans, Executive Secretary
Hamilton Conference, The United Church of Canada
P. O. Box 100
Carlisle, Ontario
L0R 1H0

Dear Rev. Hartmans:

On behalf of the congregation of Tobermory United Church and in consultation with our current student minister, Brad Inglis, I am making a special request. Brad is scheduled to be ordained in the spring of 2015 through Hamilton Conference. Our request is that Brad's ordination take place here in Tobermory. Just as a matter of record, an ordination was held in Tobermory previously when George Trigger was ordained here in 1971.

Our little village of Tobermory here at the tip of the Bruce Peninsula has learned what community ministry is all about during Brad's three years of ministry here. We feel that we have grown at each step of our journey with a better understanding of our call to ministry, ecumenical relations and the ability to reach out to the whole community.

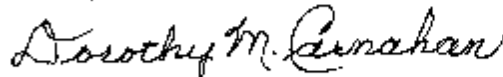
Brad's journey has been a community-wide endeavour where he and his style of ministry have been embraced. We, as a congregation and community, feel blessed to be part of this experience.

We understand that a covenanting service is part of Brad's call to this pastoral charge. *It would truly be a cause for celebration for the actual ordination to take place here!*

Many of our people would be unable to make the trip to the spring conference because of distance. Also, we know that community members beyond our congregation and from other denominations in the area would like to be a part of this experience. It is our hope that you will consider making this exception due to our isolated (remote) location. We would feel blessed to have the opportunity to host Brad's ordination here.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



Dorothy M. Carnahan
Chair of Church Council
Tobermory United Church

cc: Brad Inglis, Student Minister

Tobermory United Church • P.O. Box 129 • 5 Brock Street • Tobermory Ontario • N0H 2R0 • 519-596-2394



We warmly welcome all who wish to enter and become part of our community of faith regardless of their age, background and lifestyle. Newcomers will be valued for the wealth of ideas they bring from their varied experiences.

(Taken from THE Mission Statement 2002)