

Minutes of the EXECUTIVE OF HAMILTON CONFERENCE

February 18, 2016



"Holy Shift!"

Authority

The Executive of Hamilton Conference met at the call of the President on Thursday, February 18, 2016 at Hamilton Conference Office. A quorum was present.

Attendance

Laity: Rosemary Addison, Margaret Blewett, E. Ann Fleming, Amy Hill, John Hurst, Sarah Leffler, Joyce Osborne.

Ministry Personnel:

Gord Dunbar (President), Heather Leffler (President-elect), Gail Clarkson, Micol Cottrell, Peter Hartmans, Ross Hibberd, Dan MacLean, Dale Skinner, Greg Smith-Young, Bill Thomas, Jane Wyllie, Judy Zarubick.

Regrets: Jean Bethune, Heather Davies, Herb Klaehn, Leslie MacDonald, Tim Reaburn, Adrienne Robertson, Ted Smith, Sybil Wilson.

Corresponding Members:

Harold Devenne, Lillian Gohn, Andrew King, Diane Matheson, Jenny Stephens, Kim Uyede-Kai.

Recording Secretary:

Barbara Hampson

Constitution

President Gord Dunbar welcomed everyone. The President constituted the Court in the name of Jesus Christ, Head of the Church, to deal with the business that might rightfully come before it.

Opening and Welcome

Gord invited members of the executive to introduce themselves and the group offered prayer for each individual in turn. We prayed together from *Voices United* #907 and sang a verse of *Voices United* #409. Volunteers read from Luke 18:1-8 and we reflected on the meaning of the scripture in the context of the day's agenda. Gord shared a prayer from the Iona Community.

Agenda

Motion: Ann Fleming/Sarah Leffler

That the agenda be approved as circulated:

CARRIED

Executive Minutes

Motion: Dale Skinner/Heather Leffler

*That the Hamilton Conference Executive approve the minutes of the **October 22, 2015** meeting of the Executive of Hamilton Conference as distributed and amended:*

CARRIED

Motion: Amy Hill/Greg Smith-Young

*That the minutes of the teleconference meeting of the Sub-Executive of Hamilton Conference on **December 3, 2015** be received for information:*

CARRIED

Members of the Executive

Motion: Margaret Blewett/Bill Thomas

That Andrew King and Harold Devenne be made corresponding members for this meeting of Hamilton Conference Executive:

CARRIED

Correspondence

Motion: Sarah Leffler/Dale Skinner

That the list of correspondence for the February 18, 2016 meeting of Hamilton Conference Executive (Appendix A –E 37) be received for information:

CARRIED

Application for Readmission

Jenny Stephens provided background information. Andrew King was placed on the Discontinued Service List of The United Church of Canada at his own request in 2005. He is now seeking readmission to the Order of Ministry of The United Church of Canada. Halton Presbytery has accepted the recommendation of the Review Committee of the presbytery (Appendix B–E 38) to not support Mr. King's application for readmission. This recommendation has been transmitted to the Hamilton Conference in accordance with Section H 9.3 of The Manual.

Andrew King joined the meeting and introductions were made.

Motion: Dale Skinner/Amy Hill

That Hamilton Conference Executive accept the recommendation of Halton Presbytery that Andrew King remain on the Discontinued Service List (Voluntary): **TABLED**

Harold Devenne provided background information on the recommendation of the Halton Presbytery Review Committee.

Andrew King addressed the members of the Executive. President Gord Dunbar offered prayer. Andrew responded to questions.

Break

The Executive took a break at 11:15 a.m. and reconvened at 11:30 a.m. President Gord Dunbar offered a blessing for Andrew, who left the meeting at 11:35.

Discussion followed.

Motion: Dale Skinner/Amy Hill

That Hamilton Conference Executive accept the recommendation of Halton Presbytery that Andrew King remain on the Discontinued Service List (Voluntary): **CARRIED**
One Abstention: Peter Hartmans

Motion: Bill Thomas/Sarah Leffler

That Andrew King be permitted to lead worship and teach on request of the governing body of Maple Grove United Church within the bounds of Maple Grove United Church:
CARRIED
One Abstention: Peter Hartmans

Lunch

The Executive broke for lunch at 12:40 p.m. and reconvened at 1:15 p.m.

Rosemary Addison left the meeting.

Reports for Information**Moderator's Visit Update**

Peter Hartmans provided information about the Moderator's plans to visit Hamilton Conference. Bruce Presbytery has a visit scheduled for June 21, 2016. Niagara is having a youth event at Silver Spire United Church on October 28. Moderator Jordan Cantwell has also agreed to attend our 2018 Hamilton Conference meeting, May 25-27. She is also visiting Saugeen, Cape Croker, and Lion's Head-Pike's Bay. She has time reserved for anniversary visits across the entire church.

Remits and Comprehensive Review Update

Peter Hartmans reminded the executive that remits will be going out in the next few days. They will all have educational material and instructions. Peter also noted that a Remit 3 is voted on by the board of the pastoral charge, and that a non-vote counts as a “no” vote.

Mission and Strategy Support Committee

Kim Uyede-Kai drew attention to the report (Appendix D – E 45) submitted by Tim Reaburn on behalf of the committee and highlighted the challenges the committee faces. There were more requests and less money to give out this year and Kim related some of the criteria the committee used in making decisions about where to allocate Mission Strategy funds.

Division of Ministry Personnel and Education

Judy Zarubick noted that the Division had approved the request to administer the sacraments for Karen Willis and highlighted the Called to Leadership workshop, April 7, 2016 at Five Oaks. It is hoped this event will provide the collegiality usually enjoyed by ministry personnel at the Conference meeting in May, which will be missed in 2016.

Report for Action

Hamilton Conference Interview Board Recommendations:

Jenny Stephens provided background information.

Motion: Peter Hartmans/Ann Fleming

That the Executive of Hamilton Conference accept the recommendation of the Hamilton Conference Interview Board (Appendix E – E 46) that The Reverend James Brown, an applicant in the admission process, be approved for appointment in the United Church of Canada:

CARRIED

Reports for Information

Financial Statements to Date

John Hurst provided background information.

Motion: John Hurst/Greg Smith-Young

That the Balance Sheet and Income Statement (Appendix C - E 39–44) be received for information:

CARRIED

Presbytery Reports for April

Peter Hartmans reminded the executive about the need for annual reports, even though there is not a meeting of Conference this year, to be reviewed by the Executive at the April meeting. He noted that this year we are asking for more standardized reports based around the four Conference priorities. Peter suggested that the presbytery reports be written by presbytery executives rather than the chairs alone.

UCW Report

Joyce Osborne highlighted the upcoming Hamilton Conference UCW 2016 annual meeting at Eden United Church in Mississauga on April 30. Guest speakers will be Jordan Sullivan and Maggie McLeod. More information is available on the Conference website.

Nominations Committee Report/Update

Ann Fleming reminded the executive that the current list of opportunities to serve is on the Conference website. The deadline for applications is March 18, 2016. Ann reminded the executive of the nominations process. There is a gathering of presbytery Nominations reps on April 6, 9:30 a.m. to noon.

Motion: Bill Thomas/Sarah Leffler

That the above reports be received for information:

CARRIED

Dispersal of Property

Motion: Margaret Blewett/Judy Zarubick

That Peter Hartmans has the authority to disperse of the property at 1926 Bruce Road 3, Brockton, ON, N0G 2V0 on behalf of Hamilton Conference:

CARRIED

Motion: Sarah Leffler/Bill Thomas

That Peter Hartmans has the authority to give administrative approval for Chalmers Community Ministry to purchase property:

CARRIED

Peter expressed appreciation to those who participated in the farewell event for Lorna MacQueen.

Gord expressed appreciation for Kim Uyede-Kai's hospitality towards Andrew King this morning.

Heather Leffler asked that the list of Jubilands be circulated to the presbyteries.

Closing Worship

We prayed together from *Voices United* #907 and sang a verse of *Voices United* #419. Gord offered a Celtic prayer.

Adjournment

The President declared the meeting adjourned at 2:05 p.m.

Gord Dunbar, President

Peter Hartmans, Executive Secretary



LIST OF CORRESPONDENCE
HAMILTON CONFERENCE EXECUTIVE
Winter 2016

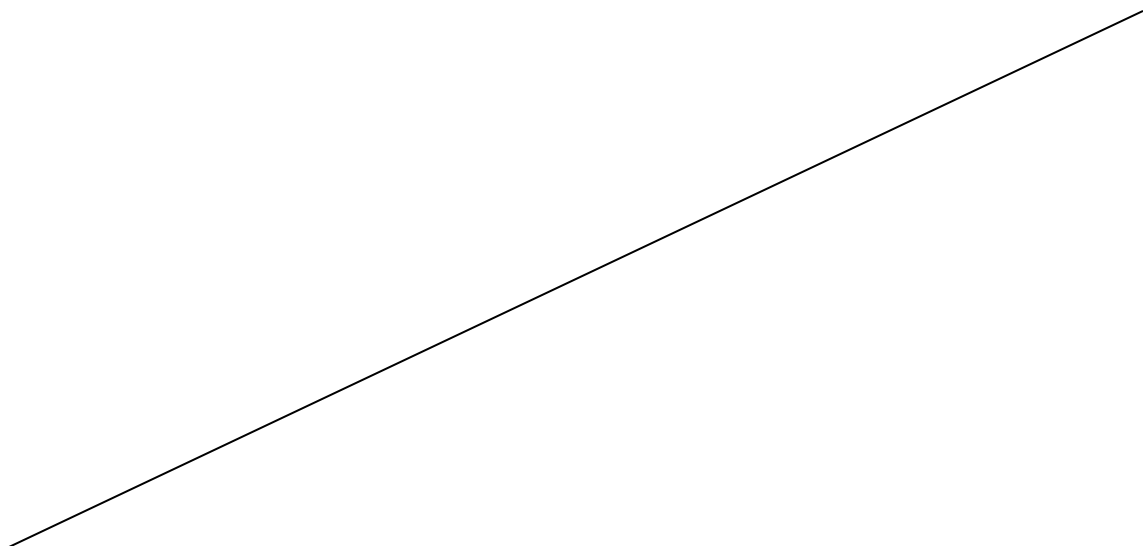
The following correspondence comes to the Winter 2016 meeting of the Executive of Hamilton Conference:

FOR INFORMATION:

| | | |
|----|-------------------------|---|
| 1. | January 12, 2016 | Letter from Moderator to Rev. Ted Kersey |
| 2. | January 25, 2016 | Letter from Moderator's Advisory Committee |
| 3. | January 25, 2016 | Thank-you letter from Five Oaks |
| 4. | February 8, 2016 | Application to Administer the Sacraments – Karen Willis (Approved by Div. M P & E, Feb. 3, 2016). |

FOR ACTION:

| | | |
|----|-------------------------|--|
| 1. | January 5, 2016 | Letter from Dale Skinner re. Andrew King's readmission application |
| 2. | January 12, 2016 | Letter from CIB re. the Rev. James Brown |





"Strengthening Congregations to be Christ for the World"

January 5, 2016

Peter Hartmans
Executive Secretary, Hamilton Conference
The United Church of Canada
P. O. Box 100,
Carleton Place, ON L9R 1H0

Dear Peter,

At a meeting of the Halton Presbytery Executive on December 1, 2015, the Executive Committee received the report of the Presbytery Review Committee regarding the application made by Mr. Andrew King for readmission to the Order of Ministry in the United Church of Canada. At that meeting a motion was passed by the Executive Committee to accept the recommendation of the Review Committee of the Presbytery to not support Mr. King's application for readmission. Mr. King was informed of this decision in person at a meeting on January 5, 2016.

In accordance with Section H 9.3 of the Manual, this recommendation to not support Mr. King's application for readmission has now been transmitted to the Hamilton Conference as it makes its decision. Accompanying this letter you will find the report of the Review Committee.

Your Servant in Christ,

Rev. Dr. Dale Skinner
Co-Chairperson, Halton Presbytery

2500 Mimosa Row
Mississauga, Ontario L5B 1P7
Tel: (647) 892 4463
<http://www.haltongpres.org>

DRAFT Hamilton Conference Balance Sheet As of 31 December 2015

| | <u>31 Dec 15</u> |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|
| ASSETS | |
| Current Assets | |
| Chequing/Savings | |
| BMO- Brokerage Account | 622,205.64 |
| BMO - chequing | 110,813.81 |
| BMO - Mastercard GIC | 20,250.00 |
| BMO - Savings | 5,015.18 |
| BMO Nesbitt Burns - Investment | 238,974.63 |
| Total Chequing/Savings | <u>997,259.26</u> |
| Other Current Assets | |
| Assessments Receivable | 17,334.29 |
| Interest Receivable | 996.49 |
| Other Receivables | 6,353.01 |
| Prepaid Expenses | 6,111.84 |
| Rebates Receivable | 12,845.76 |
| Waterloo Presbytery Staff Rec. | 13,915.62 |
| Total Other Current Assets | <u>57,557.01</u> |
| Total Current Assets | 1,054,816.27 |
| Fixed Assets | |
| Building | 163,199.51 |
| Computer equipment | 3,172.04 |
| Furniture, fixtures & equipment | 21,443.54 |
| Land | 10,000.00 |
| Total Fixed Assets | <u>197,815.09</u> |
| TOTAL ASSETS | <u><u>1,252,631.36</u></u> |
| | |
| LIABILITIES & EQUITY | |
| Liabilities | |
| Current Liabilities | |
| Accounts Payable | |
| Accounts Payable | 542.32 |
| Total Accounts Payable | <u>542.32</u> |

DRAFT Balance Sheet as of 31 December 2015 Continued

| | |
|--|----------------------------|
| Other Current Liabilities | |
| Accrued Liabilities | 36,328.67 |
| Accrued Professional Fees | 8,500.00 |
| Hamilton Pres non repayable | 25,000.00 |
| Total Other Current Liabilities | <u>69,828.67</u> |
| | |
| Total Current Liabilities | 70,370.99 |
| | |
| Long Term Liabilities | |
| Monies Held in Trust | 593,291.83 |
| Total Long Term Liabilities | <u>593,291.83</u> |
| | |
| Total Liabilities | 663,662.82 |
| | |
| Equity | |
| Retained Earnings | 473,323.75 |
| Net Income | 115,644.79 |
| Total Equity | <u>588,968.54</u> |
| | |
| TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY | <u>1,252,631.36</u> |

DRAFT Hamilton Conference Profit and Loss as of 31 December 2015

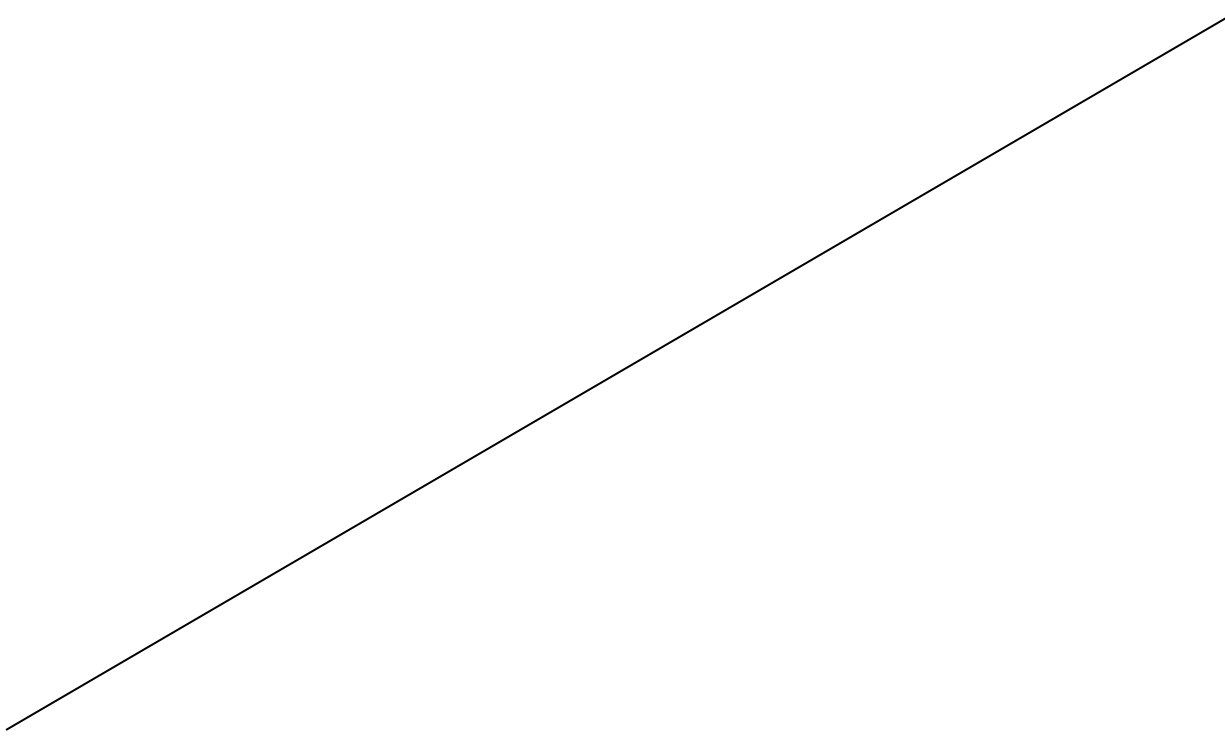
| | Jan - Dec 15 |
|--------------------------------|---------------------|
| Ordinary Income/Expense | |
| Income | |
| Annual Meeting Income | 28,555.91 |
| Assessment Income | 631,134.45 |
| Fees Collected | 0.00 |
| Government Rebates | 24,234.25 |
| MP&E Income | 4,432.75 |
| Network Income | 2,556.86 |
| Other Income | 26,011.87 |
| Salary Grant | 272,931.99 |
| Total Income | 989,858.08 |
| Expense | |
| Agenda and Business | 1,215.88 |
| Annual Meeting | 72,527.65 |
| Archives | 41,431.34 |
| Archives Committee | 592.76 |
| Ave/Bookstore Support | 16,300.00 |
| Capital Expenses | 2,981.41 |
| Conference Oversight | 6,560.75 |
| Contingency | 6,607.07 |
| Corporations Overview | 3,720.17 |
| Effective Leadership Project | 1,865.13 |
| Executive and Subexecutive | 2,655.66 |
| Finance Committee | 22,212.67 |
| Ministry Personnel & Education | 15,379.79 |
| Mission Strategy and Support | 1,205.26 |
| Networks | 13,891.60 |
| Nominations | 337.80 |
| Office Operating | 61,103.35 |
| Pastoral Care Team | 1,372.85 |
| President's Expense | 4,822.94 |
| Program Partnership Expenses | 1,200.00 |
| Property Committee | 54.19 |
| Sex. Abuse Prevention/Response | 3,423.76 |
| Staff | 589,807.79 |
| Staff Committee | 2,248.44 |
| Stewardship Education | 695.03 |
| Uncategorized Expenses | 0.00 |
| Total Expense | 874,213.29 |
| Net Ordinary Income | 115,644.79 |
| Net Income | 115,644.79 |

DRAFT Hamilton Conference Balance Sheet As of 15 February 2016

| | <u>15 Feb 16</u> |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|
| SETS | |
| Current Assets | |
| Chequing/Savings | |
| BMO- Brokerage Account | 622,205.64 |
| BMO - chequing | 124,833.28 |
| BMO - Mastercard GIC | 20,250.00 |
| BMO - Savings | 5,015.18 |
| BMO Nesbitt Burns - Investment | 238,974.63 |
| Total Chequing/Savings | <u>1,011,278.73</u> |
| Other Current Assets | |
| Interest Receivable | 996.49 |
| Other Receivables | 3,200.79 |
| Rebates Receivable | 61.74 |
| Waterloo Presbytery Staff Rec. | 701.16 |
| Total Other Current Assets | <u>4,960.18</u> |
| Total Current Assets | 1,016,238.91 |
| Fixed Assets | |
| Building | 163,199.51 |
| Computer equipment | 3,172.04 |
| Furniture, fixtures & equipment | 21,443.54 |
| Land | 10,000.00 |
| Total Fixed Assets | <u>197,815.09</u> |
| TOTAL ASSETS | <u><u>1,214,054.00</u></u> |
| LIABILITIES & EQUITY | |
| Liabilities | |
| Current Liabilities | |
| Accounts Payable | |
| Accounts Payable | 765.63 |
| Total Accounts Payable | <u>765.63</u> |

Hamilton Conference Balance Sheet As of 15 February 2016 Cont'd

| | |
|--|-----------------------------------|
| Other Current Liabilities | |
| Accrued Liabilities | 1,802.49 |
| Accrued Professional Fees | 8,500.00 |
| Hamilton Pres non repayable | <u>25,000.00</u> |
| Total Other Current Liabilities | <u>35,302.49</u> |
| | |
| Total Current Liabilities | 36,068.12 |
| | |
| Long Term Liabilities | |
| Monies Held in Trust | <u>612,541.88</u> |
| Total Long Term Liabilities | <u>612,541.88</u> |
| | |
| Total Liabilities | 648,610.00 |
| | |
| Equity | |
| Retained Earnings | 588,968.54 |
| Net Income | <u>-23,524.54</u> |
| Total Equity | <u>565,444.00</u> |
| | |
| TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY | <u><u>1,214,054.00</u></u> |



DRAFT Hamilton Conference Profit and Loss as of 15 February 2016

| | <u>1 Jan - 15 Feb 16</u> |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Ordinary Income/Expense | |
| Income | |
| Fees Collected | -23.10 |
| MP&E Income | 1,055.00 |
| Network Income | 625.25 |
| Other Income | 86.00 |
| Total Income | <u>1,743.15</u> |
| Expense | |
| Avel/Bookstore Support | 4,000.00 |
| Contingency | 87.25 |
| Corporations Overview | 649.75 |
| Finance Committee | 1,272.10 |
| Ministry Personnel & Education | 2,609.29 |
| Networks | 344.37 |
| Nominations | 20.50 |
| Office Operating | 10,130.75 |
| President's Expense | 545.30 |
| Sex. Abuse Prevention/Response | 117.26 |
| Staff | 5,226.86 |
| Staff Committee | 264.26 |
| Total Expense | <u>25,267.69</u> |
| Net Ordinary Income | <u>-23,524.54</u> |
| Net Income | <u><u>-23,524.54</u></u> |

Mission, Strategy and Support Committee Report

The Mission, Strategy and Support Committee continues to celebrate the generosity that allows us to do ministry and mission work within Hamilton Conference.

Thanks to the past generosity of closed churches, we continue to receive funding requests for new ministry or mission projects from the Investment in Mission and Ministry Fund with three application deadlines per year.

With the 2016 mission support block grant to Hamilton Conference, we were able to disperse \$235,910.00 to seven ministries within our bounds. This is good news! We were requested by General Council to maintain, as far as possible, our historic funding to indigenous ministries (three pastoral charges, one outreach ministry). This year we actually expanded our commitments to indigenous ministries within the context of reconciliation and right relations. This is good news!

There are, however, challenges moving forward. The 2016 Mission and Service mission support allocation to Hamilton Conference was \$36,090.00 less than 2015. Even though substantial warning had been given that reductions were to be expected, the requests exceeded the allocation by \$12,170.00. Our Committee prayerfully considered and thoughtfully discussed all the applications that were made for the block grant funding. To balance the grant amount given with funding requests, we had to reduce funding allocations expeditiously from some aspects of indigenous ministries. While recognizing the importance and value of indigenous ministries, the Committee felt we still needed to maintain a funding voice to youth within the university setting. In addition to four indigenous ministries, we allocated grants to two ecumenical university chaplaincies (\$9,000.00). Wesley Urban Ministry experienced the biggest reduction in their grant – from \$108,232.00 in 2015 to \$60,000.00 in 2016.

We do not know where the funding levels will be in coming years. There is much in flux at the moment in terms of structure and funding. While much change looms on the horizon it may still be three to five years away at best and we must expect continued cuts in future years. If the grant funding drops the same amount in the next two years we will effectively have only enough remaining to fund indigenous ministries. That may well be what we wish but there should be some philosophical discussion around this moving forward at the level of the Executive rather than the Mission, Strategy and Support Committee. We seek to implement the policy of Conference rather than develop policy on our own.

Even more significantly, if funding drops faster we will find ourselves in the position of being asked to adjudicate between the competing grant requests of indigenous ministries. Our Committee believes them each to be valuable expressions of the Spirit and given the turn to reconciliation and right relations, this will be a difficult thing. Two action items would help in this regard – discussion at Conference Executive in terms of our policy and priority and representation from indigenous communities themselves. The active voices of the indigenous ministries communities of Hamilton Conference would certainly help us discern together the paths we might walk.

Tim Reaburn
Chair – Mission, Strategy and Support Committee.

January 12, 2016

To: Hamilton Conference Executive
From: Hamilton Conference Interview Board
Re: Rev. James Philip Brown

The Reverend James Brown has applied to have his ordination recognized by the United Church of Canada. Presently he is an ordained minister serving in the Mennonite Church. Rev. Brown has had his credentials checked by General Council and his ordination is in good standing. We interviewed him on January 9, 2016 at the Hamilton Conference Office.

Rev. Brown brings with him a wide range of experience. He's been a faculty instructor at Lithuanian Christian University College, served at Welcome Inn Church and Community Centre in Hamilton, been a community services Coordinator in Scarborough, worked as a Stewardship Consultant with the Mennonite Foundation, ministered as a pastoral assistant in native ministries for two summers and served the needs of several Mennonite congregations. He has a current interest in Interim Ministry and has started the training with the Interim Ministry Network.

Throughout the interview time the team saw the same qualities that his references referred to. Rev. Brown is a clear, strong communicator with a deep and solid faith. He is aware of the gifts that he has to offer but shares them with humility, giving him the ability to offer strong leadership. His "down to earth" personality and good sense of humour allowed for a relaxed interview time and allows him to put people at ease very quickly. He has an empathetic respect for diversity and while holding his own opinions and positions works hard to listen to and understand those whose ideas may differ from his. An important part of his ministry, as his references say, is to always "build people up". They note he is a "consistent model of integrity".

Rev. Brown is not yet sure whether he wants to have full admission into the United Church of Canada or serve the church through appointments. As a life-long learner he is aware of the educational requirements for whichever path he chooses.

The Hamilton Conference Interview Board recommends to the executive of Hamilton Conference that the Reverend James Brown be considered fit for appointment in the United Church of Canada,

Sincerely,

Rev. Claudia Adams, Chair, Conference Interview Board

General Council Update:

It has been a busy few months since the end of General Council 42 and everyone's return from Corner Brook, NF. While many things are in process there is still only a limited amount to report at this time. Sybil Wilson was appointed Chair of the General Secretary's Supervision Committee and Tim Reaburn is sitting on both the Governance & Agenda Committee and the Nominations Committee. Each of these committees has met at least once since the last General Council Executive.

General Council Executive met in November with one of the primary tasks being to work toward finalizing the texts for the remits to come before the church. The general shape of each of the remits came into being with the exception of the number of Regional Councils. On this question more input was desired for a decision to be reached. Conferences were asked to forward opinions if they had not already done so. Hamilton Conference was in the comfortable position of having already discussed this at our last Executive Meeting. General Council Staff is working diligently to ensure the final texts for the remits will be released in as timely a fashion as possible. It will be an ever consistent theme over the next while but the remits are the present of the church. Many of the remits will need to be discussed and voted on by every local church council and Hamilton Conference Executive will play a valuable role in ensuring our local church courts meet the deadlines for voting. In this we will also rely on the wisdom and memory of our Conference Commissioners. Moving forward Sybil and Tim are available to speak to interested parties—ideally at a Presbytery or Cluster level.

At the conclusion of General Council there was an opportunity to meet with a group from the United Church of Christ in Niagara Falls and formally sign and celebrate the full communion document that was passed at General Council. I am pleased to say that there was excellent representation from Hamilton Conference and it was a pleasure to start walking together with the United Church of Christ.

Plans are currently being developed to move forward with the Spring General Council Meeting (April 30 - May 2) in an electronic format. Not only is this consistent with a recognition of the limited resources of the church but it is also the way world is moving. As we move forward with this process and format Hamilton Conference Executive may want to consider how it might meet in the future.

Sybil Wilson
Tim Reaburn
Hamilton Conference Reps to General Council Executive
February 18, 2016