

Bay of Quinte Conference Structures & Boundaries Committee

Presentation to the Presbyteries
Of
“A Draft Proposal”

We want to affirm:

- That the committee listened to and took seriously the input from presbyters
- That the committee consulted with all of the staff, seeking their wisdom and experience
- That the committee looked at the experiences of other conferences that have restructured and examined historic documents to undergird our work
- That the committee used as a foundation the Vision Statement of the Bay of Quinte Conference

Vision Statement

The Bay of Quinte Conference



The
United Church
of Canada

**As the Bay of Quinte Conference,
we live in the light of the
Gospel of Jesus Christ.**

We value:

- the spiritual gifts of individuals
- the practices of our tradition
- the governing principles,
policies and beliefs of our denomination.

Our Mission: We are called to **SUPPORT** Presbyteries, Congregations and other ministries in their mission

- To become worshipping, caring communities
- To become well-informed prophetic voices
- To speak loudly for justice and compassion
in a divided, hurting world
- To discern God's Spirit communicating
and moving among us

Our Goals:

In carrying out our mission we will:

- encourage the expression and celebration of our faith
- practice faithful stewardship of our time, talent and treasures
- nurture and revitalize our leadership
- promote constructive dialogue and understanding of our faith in congregations, presbyteries and the larger church, as well as with our partners in the ecumenical and multi-faith communities.

**Our Touchstone:
We Applied the Conference's Values, Mission
and Goals with the following in mind -**

- Encouraging faith and nurturing leadership
- Practicing stewardship
- Promoting understanding and ecumenism
- Promoting mission strategy for youth
- Promoting mission strategy for transparency
- Promoting mission strategy for religious practices

Having received over 300 responses from Presbyteries We Kept Ourselves Grounded with the Following:

- Always keep in mind the need to “equip the saints” in the pews as our most important principle
- Equip the saints by designing our model to support:
 - Worship
 - Pastoral Care
 - Stewardship
 - Faith Formation
 - Outreach/Social Justice

Aim for Cost Effectiveness:

- People
- Time
- Resources

Operative Principles Derived From Presbytery Visits

1. Minimize travel distance and time
2. Least possible duplication of work between conference & presbytery
3. Make Full Use of the Electronic World
4. Strengthen Presbyteries
5. Celebrate how we support each other
6. Conference Annual Meeting
7. Working within our polity, governing to get the best
8. Best Use of Staff Resources

1. Minimize travel distance and time,



- More/smaller presbyteries in order to accomplish this
- Suggest boundaries that provide sufficient members to meet task needs, and that balances # of pastoral charges

2. Least Possible Duplication of Conference and Presbytery

- Support, equip and resource Presbyteries to do their work
- Reduce the overlapping of work by Conference and Presbytery Committees
- Make the flow of regular information accessible on demand;

3. Make Full Use of the Electronic World

- Conference calls and web meetings
- Make our website more accessible, and work harder for us
- Share Conference electronic resources with Presbyteries
- Fund high-speed internet in remote areas
- Regular updates on what's new and available

4. Strengthen Presbyteries

- Presbytery is the focal point for getting the most work done
- The role of conference would be to support the work of presbyteries, especially resources for visioning, development and re-development of congregations and other ministries
- Strong participation at Presbytery is necessary
- Consider the best balance and size of Presbytery to create community and resource the Work
- Promote full accessibility to Presbytery meetings (building, meeting time, length of meeting)

5. Lift Up and Share How We Support Each Other

- Explain our gifts and accomplishments to each other
- Let the world know we are alive, well and contributing

6. Conference Annual Meeting:

- does it meet every year, and for how long each year?
- there was a strong argument for sharing of fellowship, resources, networking, etc.
- Annual Meeting focus changes over the triennium but there is always about the same amount of business each year
- We don't save much to go from 3 to 1 or 2 days – 1st day is about 2/3's of cost

Recommendation: That Conference Annual Meeting be an annual event keeping in mind an efficiency of costs.

7. Working Within Our Polity: Governing to Get the Best

Governance – Proposed Committee Structure for the Conference

- **Conference Annual Meeting Planning Committee** -
Combine CAM actions in one committee including Agenda
& Business, Proposals
- **Candidacy**– which includes Settlement, Interview
Board, Education & Students, Internship, Education
Supervision, Bursary, Queen’s Theological College
- **Coordinating Committee for the Sexual Abuse Policy**
- **Archives & History**
- **Nominations**
- **Finance**

Governance – Proposed Committee Structure for the Conference (*cont'd*)

- **Mission, Outreach & Advocacy**
- **Children, Youth & Young Adults Events**
- **Stewardship**
- **Rural Life/Small Church Ministries**
- **Extra Appeals Committee**
- **Alternate Dispute Resolution Committee**
- **Camping & Retreat Centres Committee**
- **Support in Ministry**
- **Interim Ministry**

Committees That Will No Longer Exist at the Conference Level

- Staff Committee,
- MP & E
- Pensions
- Leadership and Faith Formation
- Initial Years.

Conference Executive

Executive Secretary

President Conference

Past President of Conference

President Elect of Conference

Chair of Each Presbytery

Chair of Candidacy

Chair of Finance

2 GC Reps – OM & Lay

Chair of Nominations

CAM/Business rep

Corresponding Members:

Program Staff – to attend as required

Theological Reflector

8. Best Use of Staff Resources: Resourced by A Staff Model

Background

Grant from General Council Office provides funding for an Executive Secretary, 2 Conference Ministers, 1.5 Admin. Staff

**Our polity requires Conference to have
An Executive Secretary**

The Input from the Presbyteries Confirmed the Strong Need For:

Conference Personnel Minister

Support for the 2 positions would be:

1 - full time Administrative Assistant

1 - ½ time Bookkeeper

In addition the input from presbyteries affirms that we need to support our presbyteries and congregations with Conference ministers in key areas:

1 Conference Minister - Congregational Health, Wholeness, Program, Pastoral Relations,

1 Conference Minister - Youth, Stewardship, MOA, Rural Life

This Work Would be supported by:

- 2nd support staff
- Contract work as needed

So the full staff complement would look like:

Executive Secretary:

1 Conference Minister: Personnel

1 Conference Minister: Congregational Health, Wholeness and Pastoral Relations

1 Conference Minister: Programming: Youth, Stewardship, MOA, Rural Life

2.5 Administrative Staff

Contract work as needed – (total work of contracts is not to exceed the equivalent salary of a half time position)

You can help:

Your feedback and your prayers!!

"LORD, IT'S PRAYER TIME. IF YOU HAVE ANYTHING TO SAY TO ME, MAKE IT QUICK BECAUSE IT'S ALSO BED TIME."

