

GS 29 Title: Planning for a Future Grounded in Faith and Action
Origin: General Secretary

That the Executive of the General Council:

1. Receive the report *Planning for a Future Grounded in Faith and Action*, commending the General Secretary, General Council and those who worked alongside her for placing this document before the General Council Executive.
2. Affirm the direction that the work of the General Council Office focus on identity and connection inside and outside the church and staff be asked to work in ways to live into that focus, and affirm the direction to encourage the identification and celebration of a greater range of ministry possibilities as legitimate expressions of The United Church of Canada.
3. Direct the General Secretary, General Council to initiate consultative processes with the intent to clarify and redefine the roles of the courts of the church including but not limited to
 - a. focusing the work of General Council on identity and connection;
 - b. holding General Council meetings for denominational shaping work only;
 - c. considering various options of reducing cost of General Council meetings including the option that the General Council meeting would be held every four years;
 - d. simplifying the pastoral relations processes and shifting responsibilities for some or all pastoral relations from Presbyteries to Conferences (including the possibility of identifying pilot projects to serve as models) with particular attention paid to costing, funding sources, and feasibility questions;and that all proposed changes be presented to the 41st General Council 2012 for information or approval as required and that the General Council Executive not appoint members to the Task Group on Court Structures (GCE November 2009).
4. Direct the General Secretary, General Council to initiate processes that
 - a. encourage the identification and celebration of a greater range of ministry possibilities as legitimate expressions of the United Church, while affirming the importance of congregational ministry;
 - b. create *The Network for Ministry Development*, (intended to be operational by fall 2010 or winter 2011) whose services will include training and consulting for congregational and new ministry development;
 - c. establish and launch *The New Ministries Fund* using \$1 million in seed money from the reserves for new and innovative ministry, and to which individual donors, as well as congregations and ministries that are selling church properties, will be encouraged to contribute.
 - d. implement the People in Partnership Program that will link United Church communities with global and Canadian partners for shared engagement in mission.
5. Direct the General Secretary, General Council to put in place measures that give priority to recruitment, identification, and support of ministry personnel, with a particular focus on a diverse new generation of leadership.
6. Direct the General Secretary, General Council to initiate a project to simplify our processes in order to reduce significantly the complexity and size of *The Manual* and make it more user-friendly, with an interim report for submission through the General Secretary to the

November 2010 meeting of the Executive of the General Council, and a full report for the May 2011 meeting of the Executive.

7. Direct the General Secretary, General Council to develop the triennium budget that includes reductions in budgetary expenditures of approximately \$9 million over the three years with an anticipated reduction in each year of approximately \$1.8 million from operating budget and approximately \$1.2 million in grants by:
 - a. Prioritizing and rationalizing by reducing staffing costs (15 to 20 full-time equivalent staff positions) over the course of the 2011–2013 triennium;
 - b. Initiate other cost-saving operational measures with programming budgets as deemed appropriate;
 - c. Prioritizing and rationalizing by reducing the 2011 mission support grants by approximately 10 percent from 2010 levels and seeking advice from the May 2010 Mission Support Consultation as to distribution;
 - d. Prioritizing and rationalizing by reducing 2011 grants to global partners by approximately 10 percent from 2010 levels, using the principles and strategies approved by the Permanent Committee on Programs for Mission and Ministry that are based on the Sustainability and Capacity Report for Global Partnership;
 - e. Prioritizing and rationalizing by reducing grants to theological schools by 10 percent from 2010 levels, using an approach that reduces or eliminates funding for some theological schools while increases funding for others but still achieving an overall reduction of 10 percent. The General Secretary will ask the Sub-Executive of the General Council to approve the principles and recommended funding decisions after consultation with the deans and principals;
 - f. Prioritizing and rationalizing by reducing 2011 grants to education centres by approximately 10 percent from 2010 levels, and continue to engage in discussions with them.

8. Direct the General Secretary, General Council to develop, through further consultation, the terms of reference, parameters, promotional strategies and relation to Mission and Service Fund for
 - a. A new mechanism to enable donors to contribute to The United Church by encompassing three streams (justice work in Canada, global partnerships, and emergency appeals);
 - b. A major Legacy Campaign that lifts up the new directions approved in these proposals, as well as the established and respected work in all the courts and ministries of The United Church;and direct the General Secretary, General Council to report on these matters and a comprehensive fundraising strategy to the November 2010 meeting of the General Council Executive with proposed actions.

9. Direct the General Secretary, General Council while affirming the importance of relationships to give high priority to
 - a. Using new technologies and social media to their full potential, recognizing that accommodations will be necessary because access to these technologies is not uniform in all parts of the country;
 - b. Reviewing the General Council Office's strategy around resources and communications, with a view to reducing the number of print resources and amount of communication material produced;

- c. Working with elected and representative committees to reduce the cost of doing their work, taking into account the increased emphasis on connectionality.
10. Direct the General Secretary, General Council to communicate and consult widely across the church in implementing these changes, to seek advice from the Chairs of Permanent Committees*, to report on the progress of these proposed changes, and to seek direction from the Executive or Sub-Executive of the General Council on any matters that are not covered by these proposals.

* This includes the chairs of the four permanent committees, the chair of the Aboriginal Ministries Council, and the chair of the Theology and Inter-Church Inter-Faith Committee.

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