

Report of the Nominations Committee: Boundaries Commission**Origin: The Nominations Committee of the Executive of the General Council**

The Sub-Executive of the General Council requested that the Nominations Committee bring forward to the 42nd General Council the names of seven to nine members of The United Church of Canada to serve as the Boundaries Commission.

Recruitment and Discernment Summary

With the assistance of leadership throughout the church, 50 members were nominated and expressed their willingness to serve as members of this Commission.

The Nominations Committee prayerfully considered each of the 50 members named. We conducted our discernment through multiple stages, including two video conference calls, during the first two weeks of September. We sought out and considered feedback from leaders who have worked with the nominees or who would work with the Commission.

Overall, the Nominations Committee looked for those members who would be able to quickly, faithfully, and effectively take on this work for the whole of the church, and with the whole of the church in mind. The number of qualified, faithful nominees far outnumbered the needed size for the Commission. The Nominations Committee refined its discernment with consideration for the various areas of expertise named in the proposed terms of reference, and a range and variety of lived experiences within the church. Throughout it all, the Nominations Committee kept itself open to the promptings of the Holy Spirit and paused many times for prayer in the midst of discernment.

Recommendations for Appointment

The Commission, as recommended, includes all areas of expertise named in the proposed terms of reference. In addition, the membership includes a range of localities, urban and rural experience, ministry types, gender identifications, and ages ranging from their 20s through their 70s—those who have a long history in the church, and those with a long future in it. The recommended members bring experience in all levels and courts of the church. As requested, the membership includes a former Moderator as well as younger leaders in the church.

Andrew Richardson, Chair (provisional). Andrew is an ordained minister living in Summerside, Prince Edward Island, a part of Maritime Conference. He has broad experience at all levels of the church. He is known for his abilities to lead groups to consensus and to consider the theological questions of any issue. “I am optimistic and passionate about our future and our shared ministry. I have committed my life to serving communities of faith and strongly believe that our institutional structures should support them.”

Lorraine Stewart. An educator, a retired executive director, and a psychologist, Lorraine brings expertise in listening, communicating, and establishing effective guidelines and policies. Lorraine is a lay member of Stony Plain United Church in Alberta and Northwest Conference. “I am a lifelong learner who appreciates the challenges and celebrations of working as part of a team on a relevant and worthwhile project. I am

excited about the opportunity to demonstrate that the church listens to its members and reflects upon that information to make the best decisions possible.”

Mark Laird. In addition to being a diaconal minister, Mark previously studied human geography, exploring the sociological aspect of geography. Mark has lived in four provinces and in both rural and urban areas. He currently serves Drayton United Church in Hamilton Conference. He is a third-generation United Church minister. Mark notes that his training for diaconal ministry helps him think about who isn't being represented in different situations.

Janet Sigurdson. Janet is an Ordained Minister with All Native Circle Conference, and member of the Peepeekisis First Nation in Saskatchewan. She is a current member of the Aboriginal Ministries Council, the Executive of the General Council, and the Caretakers of our Indigenous Circle. “I am a proud First Nation woman who wants to help pave the way for my grandchildren and others.”

Ryan McNally. Ryan served as the chair of the Presbytery Boundaries Review Commission for the Bay of Quinte Conference. He will bring to this Commission the learnings from both the successes and challenges encountered in that process. Ryan grew up near Thunder Bay, Ontario, and was a candidate for ordained ministry from Cambridge Presbytery. He now serves at St. Mark's United Church in Bay of Quinte Conference. Before becoming a minister, Ryan completed degrees in planning and civil engineering.

Nicole Beaudry. Nicole is a well-respected lay leader in her Conference and in the francophone and anglophone church. She currently co-chairs the regional Table de concertation for Ministries in French in Synode Montréal & Ottawa Conference. One of her deep passions is to find ways to bridge the cultural divide between anglophones and francophones to allow all to fully be a part of church life. Nicole is known for finding innovative solutions. She was a member of the Sessional Committee that worked with the report of the Comprehensive Review Task Group at the 42nd General Council.

Gord Waldie. Gord has served on the Executives of two Conferences: Manitoba and Northwestern Ontario and Alberta and Northwest. At present, he is on the Transition Team managing innovative ways to share Executive Secretary services across the three prairie provinces. Gord is an ordained minister living in Grand Prairie, Alberta, within the geographically large and sparsely populated presbytery of Northern Lights.

Sarah Jane Wetelainen. Sarah Jane is an active lay member in Burton Avenue United Church in Barrie, Ontario, and in Toronto Conference. She is known for her hard work and time-management abilities in her many local, national, and international commitments. Sarah Jane, who identifies as Métis, led the children's program as a GO Project leader at the recent National Aboriginal Spiritual Gathering. She was also a youth delegate at the 42nd General Council. “I am a passionate, hard-working student who loves reading and the outdoors. I like displaying radical kindness, Jesus-style, in my everyday life.”

Marion Pardy, former Moderator. Marion Pardy, 37th Moderator of the United Church, rounds out the proposed Commission with her years of knowledge, experience, and commitment to the church. Rooted in the province of Newfoundland and Labrador, she has experience in all Conferences, having lived in eight of them and visited them all. She is committed to effective ministry of administration and leadership through the theology and values of the church.

Other Comments

The Nominations Committee noted with gratitude the great outpouring of willingness to serve this important and high-commitment work. A great many people who are not named above would also have served well on this Commission. Some had limits to their availability that would have made it difficult for the Commission to meet its tight timelines. Others brought great gifts that will hopefully be made use of during the consultation. The Nominations Committee will commend the names of these members to the consideration of the Commission for consultation and communication, and possibly as additional resources as needed.

Faithfully submitted by

Graham Brownmiller, on behalf of the Nominations Committee:

Marlene Lightning (All Native Circle), Paula Gale (Newfoundland & Labrador), Sean Hancock (Maritime), Cathy Hamilton (Montreal & Ottawa), Judith Evenden (Bay of Quinte), Jim McKibbin (Toronto), Tim Reaburn (Hamilton), Doug Wright (London), Erin Todd (Manitou), Anna Stewart (Manitoba and Northwestern Ontario), Brenda Curtis (Saskatchewan), Donalee Williams (Alberta and Northwest), Graham Brownmiller (British Columbia); Diane Bosman and Shirley Welch (General Council staff)