

**Ministry, Personnel, Education, Settlement, Internship Committee (MPESI)**  
**Highlights of meeting held on October 12-13, 2011 at Villa Loyola, Sudbury, ON**

There have been changes to the MPESI committee:

New chair: Rev. Mary-Jo Eckert-Tracy New member: Internship Chair, Rev. Stewart Walker

Committee members: Maxine Bridges, Rev. Joan Smith (North Bay Presbytery), Ann Krikken, Rev. Micol Cottrell (Spirit Dancing Presbytery), Marguerite Hayes, Maxine McVey (Sudbury Presbytery), Joan MacGillivray (Secretary), Rev. Kathleen McCallum (Settlement Chair), Catherine Somerville (Staff)

Past work was reviewed, including the Conference Celebration of Ministry Service; the Orientation Tour for new ministry personnel, as we welcome Melanie Kirk, Jim McKean and Penny Nelson to Manitou; a education day held in May for our Designated Lay Ministers with Alan Hall from the General Council office; the Ministry Personnel Retreat held in June with Sue and Peter Short; the Vocations time at Manitou Youth Forum led by Jane Capstick and Micol Cottrell.

New business:

\*The committee was made aware of concerns over the change to AON Hewitt as our Pension/Benefits Provider. A letter sharing concerns was sent to Alan Hall at General Council.

\*The Committee offered ideas towards the new Conference Web-site. These suggestions have been sent to the Executive Secretary.

\*There are three internship sites in the Conference this year: St. James in the Valley, Sudbury Presbytery with John Fraser/ Nipissing-Restoule, North Bay Presbytery with Joyce Van Eyk/ Emmanuel and Phelps, North Bay Presbytery with Penny Nelson. Training has/is being provided to all Lay Supervision Teams by Stewart and Catherine.

\*\*DEADLINE FOR INTERNSHIP APPLICATIONS IS JANUARY 15, 2012 (send to Stewart Walker)

\*Candidacy Pathway pilot is progressing well. The Conference Board (interview team that will meet with the student throughout their training) took part in orientation to their work, and has met to prepare outlines for interviews. The Evaluation Team continues to monitor progress and is working on an awareness raising for the Calling Forth stage of the Pathway. A bulletin cover, celebrating all our ministries, will be sent to all pastoral charges for use in January, 2012. Conference President Ted Harrison has agreed to write a "Minute for Ministry" to be read during the service. We will seek input from the existing Conference Interview Board about their possible role in this new process.

\*Micol and Stewart are compiling some information for our next meeting around housing allowances for less-than-full-time ministries. A proposal is being drafted for General Council.

\*The Committee reviewed the Policy for Licensing of Sacraments as outlined in the Conference Handbook. Revisions and suggestions were offered, and forwarded to the Executive Secretary.

\*The Committee reviewed the Simplification of Processes Proposal from General Council. This proposal seeks to move Pastoral Relations work to the Conference Level. Concerns were shared and forwarded to our GC Executive members, Bill Rogers, Cindy Desilets, and incoming representative, Erin Todd.

\*We talked about the increasing trend away from full-time ministries. Concerns about time off, full time position descriptions being given for less than full time positions, wider church responsibilities, were discussed.