GENERAL COUNCIL EXECUTIVE (GCE)

This past year has seen the end of the Centennial celebrations, the 45th General Council meeting in Calgary, changes to the roles of the Moderator and General Secretary approved by the 45th General Council, the withdrawal of the Anglican church of Canada from the 300 Bloor Street project, and the retirements of key members of the senior leadership of the United Church.

PRIORITIES

Toward 2035 – A crucial priority for the Executive in this triennium is the church-wide initiative Toward 2035. The Executive has directed to General Secretary to implement the approved plans and to submit annual plans. The Executive is committed to monitoring and ensuring that the outcomes are met. To support the initiative, the Executive approved the Direction and Objectives, and the Goals.

General Secretary Search – In February the current General Secretary, Rev. Michael Blair, indicated his intention to retire no later than the end of March 2027. With the assistance of the Nominations committee, the Executive appointed a Selection Committee made up of representatives from the Executive, the Indigenous church and members-at-large. Rev. Eric Hebert-Daly has been appointed the next General Secretary commencing January 1, 2027.

Indigenous Church - The relationship with the Indigenous Church is a priority for the Executive, which seek to ensure that indigenous voices are represented in discussion and decision. We look forward to working with the new National Indigenous Council which was elected at the recently held National Indigenous Spiritual Gathering in Ottawa. There is a joint session planned for November when both groups will be meeting in Winnipeg.

Pension Plan – As the legal administrator of the pension plan, the General Council Executive have engaged a comprehensive third-party review of the Pension Plan governance structure, to ensure the plan still aligns with applicable law and industry best practice. These reviews are carried out usually every seven years, with the most recent one in 2018. Among other things, the review includes the basic governance structure, membership criteria for board and committee members, and the quality of reporting to the Executive and its delegates from their respective delegates.

Accountability – The Moderator and General Secretary, along with members of the Executive, participate in the quarterly Cross-Canada Check-In as a way of hearing from the church, but also sharing the work of the Executive. You can follow the work of the Executive at: www.generalcouncil.ca