

**BLUEBERRY COMMISSION REPORT****Origin: Blueberry Commission**

<b>Court</b>	<b>Proposal #</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Page Ref</b>	<b>Disposition</b>
Blueberry	Blueberry 1 Composite	Missing & Murdered Aboriginal Women	Blueberry-1	Adopted
Blueberry	SK 1	Support and Continuing Support for a National Public Inquiry into Missing & Murdered Indigenous Women & Girls	Blueberry-2	No Action
Blueberry	TOR 9	Public Inquiry for Missing & Murdered Indigenous Women and Girl	Blueberry-4	No Action
Blueberry	Blueberry 2 Composite	Israel-Palestine Two-State Solution	Blueberry-6	Adopted with Changes
Blueberry	BC 2	Israel-Palestine Two-State Solution	Blueberry-7	Referred to Executive
Blueberry	LON 22	Israel-Palestine Two-State Solution	Blueberry-8	Referred to Executive
Blueberry	BC 3	Toward a Just Peace in Israel/Palestine	Blueberry-9	Adopted with Changes
Blueberry	TOR 1	Toward a Just Peace in Israel/Palestine	Blueberry-11	No Action
Blueberry	MAR 4	Extending Support for a Just Peace in Israel-Palestine	Blueberry-13	No Action
Blueberry	LON 23	Divestment for a Just Peace in Israel/Palestine	Blueberry-20	No Action
Blueberry	TOR 2	Relationship-Building Towards Peace Between Palestinians and Israelis	Blueberry-24	Adopted with Changes
Blueberry	GCE 10	Living Apology to Members of LGBTIQ Communities	Blueberry-26	Adopted with Changes
Blueberry	SK 8	Solidarity and Support for Progressive Evangelicals within the Emergent Church Movement	Blueberry-30	Adopted with Changes
Blueberry	BC 7	Support for a Proportionally Representative Parliament	Blueberry-32	Adopted with Changes
Blueberry	ANW 1	Nuclear Weapons-Free World: A Call for the Negotiation of a Nuclear Weapons Convention	Blueberry-34	Referred to GCE
Blueberry	TOR 8	Urging Israel, Pakistan, India and North Korea to Sign Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT)	Blueberry-36	Referred to GCE
Blueberry	TOR 7	Arms Trade Treaty	Blueberry-39	Referred to GCE
Blueberry	ANW 2	One Death Per Minute: Call for Canadian Implementation of the Arms Trade Treaty	Blueberry-41	Referred to GCE
Blueberry	HAM 1	Setting the Date for a Congregation or Pastoral Charge Meeting	Blueberry-43	Referred to GCE
Blueberry	HAM 3	Changing Structures of a Governing	Blueberry-46	Referred to GCE

		Body		
Blueberry	Blueberry 3 Composite	Quorum	Blueberry-48	Referred to GCE
Blueberry	HAM 2	Quorum for a Meeting of the Governing Body of a Congregation or Pastoral Charge	Blueberry-49	Referred to GCE
Blueberry	LON 19	Achieving a Quorum for a Congregational Meeting in the Age of Shrinking Membership Participation	Blueberry-51	Referred to GCE
Blueberry	LON 20	Quorum Requirements for Congregational Meetings	Blueberry-53	Referred to GCE
Blueberry	LON 21	Continuation of Unsettling Goods Campaign	Blueberry-54	Referred to GCE
Blueberry	MAR 1	Continuation of Unsettling Goods Campaign	Blueberry-56	Referred to GCE
Blueberry	MAR 3	Continuation of Unsettling Goods Campaign	Blueberry-58	Referred to GCE
Blueberry	MAR 6	Continuation of Unsettling Goods Campaign	Blueberry-60	Referred to GCE
Blueberry	LON 24	Role of Christian Theology in Legitimizing Israeli Palestinian Territories	Blueberry-55	Referred to GCE

### **Final Motions Adopted**

#### **BLUE 2 COMPOSITE: ISRAEL-PALESTINE TWO-STATE SOLUTION**

That the 42<sup>nd</sup> General Council (2015) direct the Executive of the General Council to review the policy on Palestine/Israel in consultation with partners in the region by:

1. affirming the right of self-determination for Palestinians and Israelis so that any choice regarding statehood be made by the people living in Palestine/Israel; and
2. re-affirming the right of Israelis and Palestinians to live peacefully within internationally recognized borders.

#### **BC 3 TOWARD A JUST PEACE IN ISRAEL/PALESTINE**

That the 42<sup>nd</sup> General Council (2015) direct the General Secretary, General Council to: Focus the current strategies and actions approved at the 41<sup>st</sup> General Council to address the illegal occupation of Palestinian territories by the state of Israel by also:

1. initiating and developing a program of education and advocacy, in cooperation with our partners, related to divestment from and economic sanctions against all corporations and institutions complicit in or benefitting from the illegal occupation. This would include education about tourism which bolsters the oppression of Palestinians;
2. developing and implementing an ethical divestment strategy from companies that derive substantial financial benefit or that contribute significantly to furthering the illegal Israeli occupation of Palestinian territory and recommends to the United Church of Canada, its Pension Fund and Foundation and other related bodies including congregations to divest

from companies that derive substantial financial benefit from the illegal Israeli occupation; and

3. encouraging all courts, bodies and members of The United Church of Canada to apply such divestment strategies and sanctions, until such time as the occupation of the Palestinian territories ends.

## **TOR 2 RELATIONSHIP-BUILDING TOWARDS PEACE BETWEEN PALESTINIANS AND ISRAELIS**

That the 42<sup>nd</sup> General Council (2015) direct the General Secretary of the General Council to work on developing a resource listing organizations both in Canada and in Israel/Palestine that foster the building of relationships of trust between:

- The United Church of Canada and the Canadian Jewish community,
- The United Church of Canada and Canadian Palestinian groups,
- between Palestinian and Jewish groups in Canada, and
- between Palestinians and Israelis in Israel/Palestine (Identify groups within Israel and Palestine doing this kind of trust-building work, to facilitate possible partnerships between these groups and United Church bodies such as congregations, special interest groups or presbyteries.)

It further proposes that these resources be communicated to congregations, groups of interested United Church people, presbyteries and Conferences with encouragement for them to undertake this work.

## **GCE 10 LIVING APOLOGY TO MEMBERS OF LGBTTQ COMMUNITIES**

That the 42<sup>nd</sup> General Council (2015):

1. Adopt the Process of a Living Apology as a vehicle for dialogue, story-telling, education and reconciliation with persons who identify as sexual or gender diverse including but not limited to Lesbian, Gay, Bi-sexual, Transsexual, Transgender, Two-Spirited, Queer (LGBTT2Q) persons;
2. Direct the General Secretary to partner with Affirm United/S' affirmer Ensemble on a Living Apology art installation project, an example of which is found in appendix A; and
3. Invite The United Church of Canada into a 3-year journey of dialogue and reconciliation with LGBTT2Q persons, that would involve:
  - creative opportunities for conversation, worship and education;
  - opportunities to explore concepts such as lament, reconciliation and justice, to be reported and celebrated at the 43<sup>rd</sup> General Council (2018) in acknowledgement of the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the 1988 decision of the full participation of LGBTT2Q peoples in the church.

## **SK 8 SOLIDARITY AND SUPPORT FOR PROGRESSIVE EVANGELICALS WITHIN THE EMERGING CHURCH MOVEMENT**

That the 42<sup>nd</sup> General Council (2015) direct the General Secretary, General Council to:

1. send letters of support and solidarity to the Progressive Evangelical congregations in Canada and the United States who have made supportive statements of inclusion and welcome to lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people;

2. encourage and/or invite for congregations who have made such statements and find themselves without a church building due to the denominational body withdrawing their support and property from the congregation, to enter into negotiations with any congregations that are open to sharing their space. These negotiations, along with presbytery, could provide these progressive congregations with a building and explore ways for them to become a part of The United Church of Canada; and
3. explore the implications and possibilities of welcoming Progressive Evangelicals (including pastors who wish to be admitted) into The United Church of Canada as we move through this time of emergence in the church.

#### **BC 7 SUPPORT FOR A PROPORTIONALLY REPRESENTATIVE PARLIAMENT**

That the 42<sup>nd</sup> General Council (2015):

1. Direct the Executive of the General Council to promote existing resources for congregations and other ministries to understand alternatives to the “first past the post” electoral system in Canada.