

Hi Bill

May 30th

Right now it's Saturday Morning and I am sitting in the Whistler Conference center. It's the fourth day of Youth at Conference. Wednesday I took the 11 o'clock ferry and then got on a bus. We stayed at HI-Whistler. It's such a nice facility! And the view is beautiful as well! I left during dinner to do my job interview and it went well. Then we had more circle time. Kofi Hope came and talked to us about poverty and his life. That went late. Then we had snack and bed time.

Thursday we had Youth At Conference stuff like learning about the conference and stuff relating to it. We had lunch in the village with our small groups. The president of BC conference came to talk to us as well. After lunch was free time in the village. I did end up getting my magnet. We had work shops and I chose the one to plan a worship. So I came up with the story Matthew 14, verse 22-33 and we worked around that. We came up with a few songs, a body prayer and I wrote a mini sermon. Here's a bit of background.

First. The United Church is changing. They have been talking about getting rid of presbytery, conference and general council and replace it with a three court system. They want to change it to congregations → communities of faith
presbytery + conference → regional council
general council → denominational council

So instead of ~~have~~ having 13 conferences

throughout Canada, they might have 5 regions throughout Canada. Many people are worried about this change. So my mini sermon was kind of around that.

People are always saying that change is upon us. For me and my fellow graduates our change is coming through our new journey in life, be that university or college, work, exchange programs or whatever else we might choose. This big change in life scares most of us.

The comprehensive review has been gratefully discussed and there are many opinions. The church is in the midst of change and many feelings are making themselves present. Confusion as to how it will all work and how we will get from here to there. And worry if it will work at all. This change is also scary. But we need to trust in our peers, in the church and in God.

That was my mini sermon I said during our worship. After that, later ~~then~~ then expected we made it back to the Hostel. Today, Saturday, we Skyped with ^{the} conferences ~~in~~ Hamilton and Maritimes. They are also having their general meetings, so we sang a couple songs with them. We returned to the court as they call it. We talked more about the comprehensive Review. Yesterday when we talked about it, each table gave some feed back, the listening group looked at them and put it on a slide show for today.

to explain it all a little bit better for us which really helped. And we talked about it a bit more as well. Then we had more Pecha Kucha and it was one for Youth ministries, and I was in some of the pictures. Then it was lunch, and I went out for another walk. I ended up calling Alex while sitting in the olympic pavillion. Now we are back in court, and people are getting ordained. Will write more tomorrow.

It is later in the afternoon now, so I can report again. It's not tomorrow by the way.

We returned after break, like I said, and after the ordinations we voted for the lay representatives for the General Council. Then came the proposals. ~~They were~~ We were voting to send the proposals to the GCE. Some we were even editing. During that we, the YAC, went into our room downstairs and blessed the new ordained ministers. We were allowed free time but I returned and drew in my notebook, because honestly, it can get boring. Then we learned about which lay reps were going to GCE.

Dinner came, which always ~~is~~ is delicious ~~for~~ which is a blessing. I had some time so again I went to the olympic pavillion. It is actually so beautiful and such a nice place to sit. Now I am back, and it's closing business and closing worship.

It's Sunday Afternoon, well evening I guess, now.

This morning we as YAC, we held a closing circle. We threw around a ball of yarn and when it got to us we say something about

our time there. Then we all ~~got~~ traded our rock hearts for the last time. We get to keep them now. The theme was leading from the heart. I went to starbucks quickly before the real worship/closing started. It was 2 hours long, two people got ordained, 2 more got re-ordained. There were also some stories and of course signing and communion. After we, the YAC, got Subway and the ones who were taking the big bus waited until 1. ~~1:00~~ When it arrived we got on and started on our journey home and now it's 6:00 and I'm ~~sitting~~ sitting on the ferry arriving in a 1/2 hour.

Honestly, it was a wonderful experience learning about how meeting like that go down. And learning that the UCC had more structure to it than I thought. Maybe I'll go to the next one!

Love

Samantha ☺

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