

## Minutes of the Presbytery of London

Bethel Presbyterian Church, Ilderton, Wednesday, December 3, 2014, 7:00 p.m.

In Ilderton, and within Bethel Presbyterian Church, the Presbytery of London met in Special Session on Wednesday, the third day of December, two thousand and fourteen, at the hour of seven o'clock in the evening.

- Welcome** Before the start of the meeting, Rev. Jacob Lee welcomed the members of Presbytery to Bethel and thanked the members of Bethel for the refreshments.
- Constitution** The Moderator, Mr. Robert Baron, welcomed everyone to the meeting and constituted the Court with prayer.
- Welcome, Courtesies and Announcements** The Moderator extended a welcome to all present and also thanked the members of Bethel for the refreshments provided before the meeting.  
The Moderator briefly explained the rules of Presbytery for a special meeting and the rules about who may address the Court.
- Attendance** Ed Hoekstra, Jacob Lee, Keith McKee, Andrew Reid, Jon Van Den Berg, Ministers; Bob Baron, Ruth Ann Drozd, Tom Jeffery, David Laphorne, Patrick Laurin, Linda McKenna, Barb Nyitray, Trudy Van Der Hoek, Peter Vanderkooy, Elders; Carrie Thornton, Clerk.; Carl Crossett, Rob Fraser, John Gill, Bethel Presbyterian Church.
- Regrets** John Bannerman, Charlotte Brown, Deb Dolbear-VanBilsen, Ministers; Ian Fleck, Debbie Kemp, Donna Jean Van Bilsen, Elders; Lu Brule, Treasurer.
- Absent** Mavis Currie, William Khalil, Amanda MacMillan, John Park, Heather Paton, Kevin Steeper, Michael Stol, Mark Turner, Ministers; John Cameron, Janet Donkervoort, Doug Hill, Jain Mahabir, Margaret McCullough, Bill McMurchy, Sheila McMurray, Nancy Newell, Angela Osborne, Sandra VanDerVeen, Elders.
- Correspondence From Bethel** The Clerk read the correspondence received from Carl Crossett, Clerk of Session at Bethel.
- Report of Presbytery Advisor to Bethel** K. McKee summarized the report which was previously circulated. He highlighted two important issues: the payment of a transitional allowance to Rev. Jacob Lee and the request from the congregation of Bethel to close. K. McKee advised the members of Bethel that the report had been presented to the Presbytery at the November regular meeting.
- MOTION:** (McKee/Jeffery) THAT the action of the Clerk in citing the congregation be homologated. CARRIED.

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**MOTION:** (McKee/Reid) THAT Rob Fraser, John Gill and Carl Crossett be given permission to address the Court. CARRIED.

**MOTION:** (McKee/Lapthorne) THAT the congregation of Bethel Presbyterian Church be dissolved effective January 31, 2015.

Rob Fraser, John Gill and Carl Crossett, members of Bethel, addressed the Court. They shared memories of the Sunday School and the choir, they spoke about the slow decline of the congregation, they spoke of trying to find ways to save the congregation, they spoke of their anger and disappointment that the congregation is facing this decision.

The Court AGREED to allow other members of Bethel to address the Court and to ask questions.

**MOTION:** (Reid/Nyitray) THAT the motion to close Bethel be tabled to the end of the meeting. CARRIED.

**MOTION:** (Reid/Jeffery) THAT Rev. Keith McKee be appointed to provide pastoral care to Rev. Jacob Lee during the period of the dissolution of the pastoral tie at Bethel Presbyterian Church. CARRIED.

**MOTION:** (McKee/Jeffery) THAT the pastoral tie between the Reverend Jacob Lee and the congregation of Bethel Presbyterian Church be dissolved as of January 31, 2015. CARRIED.

**MOTION:** (McKee/Laurin) THAT a transition allowance agreement of five months be drafted by the Presbytery team and presented to the Rev. Jacob Lee in accordance with the recommendations in the "Dissolution of Pastoral Tie" document and presented to the Presbytery of London at the January 2015 regular meeting. CARRIED.

**MOTION:** (McKee/Jeffery) THAT should the congregation of Bethel not be dissolved, that the Presbytery of London will be responsible for the fifth month of the transitional allowance. CARRIED.

**MOTION:** (McKee/Reid) THAT the motion be lifted from the table. CARRIED.

**ORIGINAL MOTION:** (McKee/Lapthorne) THAT the congregation of Bethel Presbyterian Church be dissolved effective January 31, 2015. CARRIED.

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**MOTION:** (McKee/Laurin) THAT Rev. Keith McKee, Rev. John Bannerman, David Laphorne, Tom Needham, George Kennedy, Lloyd McNaughton be appointed to the Presbytery team overseeing the dissolution of Bethel Presbyterian Church, including the preparation of a mission plan to be presented to Presbytery in January 2015 or February 2015. CARRIED

**MOTION:** (McKee/Vanderkooy) THAT the Presbytery of London arrange the final service of worship to be held on Sunday January 25, 2015. CARRIED.

The Moderator addressed the members of Bethel and assured them that this is not the end for the people of Bethel but is a beginning for them.

**Other Business** None.

**Adjournment** On a motion by A. Reid, the Court stood adjourned at twelve minutes after eight o'clock in the evening, to meet again in Regular Session on Tuesday, the thirteenth day of January, two thousand and fifteen, at seven o'clock in the evening, in Fingal, and within Knox Presbyterian Church.

The Moderator closed the meeting with prayer.

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Moderator

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Clerk