

## Minutes of the Presbytery of London

Elmwood Avenue Presbyterian Church, London, Tuesday, June 16, 2015, 7:00 p.m.

In London, and within Elmwood Avenue Presbyterian Church, the Presbytery of London met in Regular Session on Tuesday, the sixteenth day of June, two thousand and fifteen, at the hour of seven o'clock in the evening.

**Constitution** The Moderator, Mr. Robert Baron, welcomed everyone to the meeting and constituted the Court with prayer.

**Worship** The Worship Service was led by Mr. Ian Marnoch.

**Welcome, Courtesies and Announcements** The Moderator extended a welcome to all present. Mildred Greig and Margaret McCullough represented the WMS. A. MacMillan introduced Heather Vanderstelt.

The Court AGREED that Ms. Vanderstelt be granted permission to address the Court during the Students and Education Team report.

H. Paton introduced the Rev. Andrew Thompson and members from Knox St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Dutton.

**Attendance** John Bannerman, Charlotte Brown, Ed Hoekstra, William Khalil, Amanda MacMillan, Keith McKee, John Park, Heather Paton, Andrew Reid, Michael Stol, Jon Van Den Berg, Jan McIntyre, Ministers; Bob Baron, Cathy Cornhill, Janet Donkervoort, Ruth Ann Drozd, Lynda Drummelsmith, Ian Fleck, Mildred Greig, Doug Hill, Debbie Kemp, David Laphorne, Patrick Laurin, Jain Mahabir, Joan Mansell, Sheila McMurray, Nancy Newell, Angela Osborne, Donna Jean Van Bilsen, Trudy Van Der Hoek, Peter Vanderkooy, Elders; Lu Brule, Treasurer; Carrie Thornton, Clerk; Ian Marnoch, Student Minister; Margaret McMullough, WMS; Lizz Thibodeau, Chalmers; Jean Louise Ford, Knox St. Andrew's, Dutton; Harrison Greig, Knox, Komoka.

**Regrets** Mavis Currie, Deb Dolbear-VanBilsen, Mark Turner, Ministers; Tom Jeffery, Linda McKenna, Barbara Nyitray, Elders; John Van Eyk.

**Absent** John Cameron, Sandra VanDerVeen, Elders

**Docket** **MOTION:** (Mahabir/Van Den Berg) THAT the Docket as circulated be adopted for the meeting. CARRIED.

**Minutes** **MOTION:** (Mahabir/Reid) THAT the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Presbytery of London, held on May 12, 2015, be adopted as circulated. CARRIED.

**Report of the** The Moderator invited the Clerk, C. Thornton, to present the Report

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**Administrative Team** of the Administrative Team.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

**RECOMMENDATION #1** (Reid/Drozdz) THAT the following correspondence be referred as named: CARRIED.

<b>Number</b>	<b>From</b>	<b>Regarding</b>	<b>Refer To</b>
15-70	S. Shaffer, Ed & Reception	info for ed & reception GA report	Clerk
15-71	T. Hamilton, Assembly Office	changes affecting prof church workers	Clerk
15-72	T. Hamilton, Assembly Office	academic degrees of ministers	Clerk
15-73	M. Stol, Westmount PC	notice of retirement, Dec 31/15	admin team
15-74	J. Vissers, Knox College	M. Schomburg progress	students & ed
15-75	B. Nawratil, Finance office PCC	insurance premium/policy	treasurer

**RECOMMENDATION #2** (Reid/Drozdz) THAT the following Elders be named as Representative and Alternative Representative Elders to the Presbytery of London for the 2015-2016 year: CARRIED

Knox St. Andrew's, Dutton : (R) Ian Fleck (A) John McIntyre  
Knox - Fingal : (R) Ray Burgess (A) Mary Ellen Gagnier  
Glencoe / St. John's - Wardsville : (R) Gerald Stocking (A) Lu Brule (A) Donna Campbell;  
New St. James – London : (R) Robert Baron (A) John Stewart;  
Oakridge – London : (R) Janet Donkervoort (A) Graham Ashbourne;  
St. George's- London : (R) Patrick Laurin (A) Terry Morton;  
Westmount – London : (R) Janis Boyle (A) Barbara Nyitray  
St. John's – Port Stanley : (R) William Cron (A) Linda McKenna  
Knox – St. Thomas : (R) Sandra Van Der Veen (A) Ian Begg  
Almanarah – London : (R) Ruth Ann Drozd (A) Matt Marshall  
Trinity Community – London : (R) Sheila McMurray (A) Jenn Biltcliffe

**RECOMMENDATION #3** (Reid/Drozdz) THAT the Clerk write a letter of appreciation to the following Elders who have retired: CARRIED

Peter Vanderkooy (Knox, Fingal)  
John Cameron (Glencoe and St. John's, Wardsville)  
Tom Telfer (Westmount, London)

**RECOMMENDATION #4** (Reid/Drozdz) THAT the Bethel Dissolution Committee be dismissed with the thanks of the Court. The members of the committee are Carl Crossett, Linda Riddell, George Kennedy, Lloyd McNaughton, Tom Needham, Margaret McCullough, Rev. John Bannerman, David Lapthorne, Rev. Keith McKee. CARRIED

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**RECOMMENDATION #5** (Reid/Droz) THAT Carl Taylor and Jain Mahabir be appointed as the Presbytery representatives to the Extension and Building Fund Committee. CARRIED

**RECOMMENDATION #6** (Reid/Droz) THAT the Rev Donald McInnis be transferred to the Presbytery of Waterloo Wellington and the Rev. Dr. Gordon MacWillie be transferred to the Presbytery of Montreal effective June 16, 2015. CARRIED

**RECOMMENDATION #7** (Van Den Berg/Mahabir) THAT an historical certificate be issued to the Rev Ryan Kim effective June 16, 2015.

K. McKee asked that the motion be tabled and that the Clerk of Presbytery write the Clerk of the Presbytery of Eastern Han Ca asking that their Court rescind its inappropriate actions in transmitting a letter of standing for the Rev. Ryan Kim to the United Church of Canada.

**MOTION:** (McKee/Bannerman) THAT the motion be tabled. CARRIED.

The Court AGREED that the letter request a reply by September 30, 2015.

**Stated Hour**  
**7:30 pm**  
**General**  
**Assembly Reports**

**MOTION:** (Van Den Berg/Mahabir) THAT Jean Louise Ford, Lizz Thibodeau and Abbey Poser be given permission to address the Court. CARRIED.

The reports of the General Assembly commissioners were circulated with the advance reports.

C. Brown, J.L. Ford, L. Thibodeau, K. McKee and L. Drummelsmith each spoke briefly about their experiences at General Assembly and thanked the Presbytery for the opportunity to attend.

The Moderator thanked the commissioners for their work on behalf of the Presbytery and invited them to stay for the balance of the meeting but gave them permission to leave if they wished.

**Records**  
**Examination**

**MOTION:** (T. Van Der Hoek/D.J. Van Bilsen) THAT the Session Records of Chalmers Presbyterian Church, London be attested as being neatly and correctly kept. CARRIED.

**Stated Hour**  
**8:00 pm Call**  
**To Rev. Andrew**  
**Thompson**

**MOTION:** (Reid/Fleck) THAT the Call from Knox St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church to the Reverend Andrew Thompson be received and considered. CARRIED.

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**Narration of Steps**      The Moderator invited the Interim Moderator, the Reverend Heather Paton, to narrate the steps leading up to the Call and read the Guarantee of Stipend:

### *Call and Guarantee to Presbytery of Stipend*

*We, the professing members of Knox St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Dutton Ontario being well satisfied with your faithfulness to the Gospel and your qualifications for the ministry of Word and Sacraments and confident that the Holy Spirit has led us to you, earnestly and solemnly call you Rev. Andrew Thompson to become the minister of this congregation. In calling you we promise you all due respect, encouragement, and allegiance in the Lord as, together, we seek to use our gifts in the church and in the world to the glory of God.*

*In order that you, Rev. Andrew Thompson, may be free to devote yourself to ministry of Word and Sacraments among us, we the congregation of Knox St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Dutton Ontario hereby guarantee to the Presbytery of London, of The Presbyterian Church in Canada, that out of our estimated annual revenue of ninety thousand and eight hundred dollars (\$90,800.00) we promise and obligate ourselves to provide you, as a first charge thereon, the following annually:*

*Annual Stipend: \$40513.00 (inclusive of travel allowance)*

*Housing allowance: \$12000.00*

*Utilities: \$3000.00*

*We agree to make payments of the above amounts on the first day of each month and agree to review the stipend and allowances annually in view of any changes in the cost of living or the needs of our minister.*

*We agree further:*

- 1. To provide two weeks for continuing education annually and \$600.00 reimbursable expenses.*
- 2. That the benefits of number 1 above shall be cumulative up to five years.*
- 3. To provide five weeks holiday annually.*
- 4. To pay supply during the periods of continuing education and holidays.*
- 5. In case of disability or extended illness, to continue to provide stipend, accommodation and allowances for a period not less than that set by the General Assembly, and to pay the cost of pulpit supply.*
- 6. To pay for Medical and Dental Insurance as provided through the Pension and Benefits Board of the General Assembly and to make contributions to the Pension Plan in compliance with the terms of the plan.*
- 7. To pay necessary moving expenses.*
- 8. To cover costs of transition rental accommodation if required prior to a close of purchase – with choice of purchase. (Maximum time)*

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**Permission to Address the Court** The Court AGREED that the following representatives from Knox St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church be given permission to address the Court:  
Jean Louise Ford and Tracy Grant.

**Call Sustained** **MOTION:** (Paton/Stol) THAT the Call to the Reverend Andrew Thompson from Knox St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church be sustained as a regular Gospel Call. CARRIED.

**MOTION:** (Fleck/McKee) THAT the conduct of the Interim Moderators, the Rev. Michael Stol and the Rev. Heather Paton, be approved. CARRIED.

**MOTION:** (Paton/Stol) THAT the Ministry of the Rev. Andrew Thompson at Knox St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church begin on September 1, 2015 pending receipt of his certificate from the Presbytery of Huron-Perth. CARRIED.

**MOTION:** (Bannerman/Van Den Berg) THAT the Call be transmitted to the Presbytery of Huron-Perth and that the Rev. Heather Paton attend the meeting of the Presbytery of Huron-Perth on June 24, 2015 to prosecute the Call. CARRIED.

**MOTION:** (Paton/Stol) THAT arrangements for the induction Service be left in the hands of the Moderator, the Interim Moderators and the Clerk. CARRIED.

The Moderator congratulated the members of Knox St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church. He invited the guests to stay for the remainder of the meeting but gave them permission to leave if they wished.

**Almanarah** W. Khalil provided a brief verbal report including the financial results to May 31, 2015.

**Students and Education Team** **MOTION:** (MacMillan/Stol) THAT Mikal Schomburg be re-certified as a student in ministry under the care of the Presbytery of London. CARRIED.

**MOTION:** (MacMillan/Stol) THAT Mikal Schomburg receive \$1,000.00 from the Stalker Fund to help with his studies. CARRIED.

**MOTION:** (MacMillan/McKee) THAT the Presbytery of London appoint a Ministry mentor for any Ministers of Word and Sacrament, who upon graduating from one of the Theological Colleges, enters a first time pastoral charge within our Presbytery. CARRIED.

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**MOTION:** (MacMillan/Reid) that the Presbytery of London endorse Heather Vanderstelt's request to be ordained to the Ministry of Word and Sacrament while serving as an Institutional Chaplain, and so be referred to the National Committee on Education and Reception who must make the final decision concerning her ordination. CARRIED.

H. Vanderstelt came forward and spoke briefly about her work at Parkwood Hospital.

**MOTION:** (MacMillan/Paton) THAT the Rev. Charlotte Brown be granted permission for a week of study leave August 1 – 9, 2015, to attend a directed silent retreat at Loyola Retreat Centre in Guelph, Ontario. CARRIED.

**MOTION:** (MacMillan/Paton) THAT the Rev. John Park be granted permission for a week of study leave June 22 – 25, 2015 to attend the National Worship Leader Conference in Kansas City. CARRIED.

**Denominational Work Team** No report.

**Vacancy and Visitation Team** H. Paton presented the report of the visitation team to Almanarah Presbyterian Church, London.

**CONSENT AGENDA MOTION:** (Paton/Drozdz) THAT recommendations 1,2,4,5,6 be carried as a whole. CARRIED.

**Recommendation #1:** THAT Rev. William Khalil, the session and the congregation of Almanarah be commended for their faithful commitment to the work of the Gospel in the Arabic-speaking community of London.

**Recommendation #2:** THAT Rev. William Khalil, the session and the congregation of Almanarah be commended for their fundraising and stewardship education efforts over the past year and be encouraged to continue with them.

**Recommendation #4:** THAT the Presbytery, through the Mission committee, reach out to its members to find English conversation partners or English tutors to help newcomers to Almanarah.

**Recommendation #5:** THAT the Presbytery, in consultation with Canadian Ministries, work on defining what it means to be a "mission church" in order to better support and sustain Almanarah's valuable ministry.

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**Recommendation #6:** THAT the visitation team be dismissed with the thanks of the Court.

**Recommendation #3:** (Paton/Drozdz) THAT Rev. William Khalil should be mandated to engage in conversations and conferences with experienced church planters and missionaries to assist in his feelings of isolation in his unique ministry. CARRIED.

**MOTION:** (Hoekstra/Stol) THAT Almanarah Presbyterian Church move towards integrating more elders from within the congregation into the session. CARRIED.

**MOTION:** (McKee/Paton) THAT the current mentoring team of Rev. K. McKee, Rev. M. Stol and Rev. J. Park be dismissed with the thanks of the Court and that the Moderator appoint a new mentoring team. CARRIED.

K. McKee presented the report of the visitation team to Knox Presbyterian Church, St. Thomas.

**MOTION:** (McKee/Laurin) THAT the congregation of Knox Presbyterian Church, St. Thomas be commended for its ongoing ministry, especially for its community outreach to the diverse population that make up its city and neighbourhood. CARRIED.

**MOTION:** (McKee/Laurin) THAT the Rev. Mavis Currie be commended for her compassionate witness to Christ through her enthusiastic ministry to the people of Knox Presbyterian Church, St. Thomas and within the city of St. Thomas. CARRIED.

**MOTION:** (McKee/Laurin) THAT the congregation of Knox Presbyterian Church, St. Thomas be commended for the upkeep of its building and property and for its ongoing attempts to make the building accessible to all. CARRIED.

**MOTION:** (McKee/Laurin) THAT the Presbytery acknowledge with thanksgiving the forty year anniversary of Knox Presbyterian Church's Music Director, Dr. Wayne Carroll, and that congregations within the bounds of the Presbytery be encouraged to participate in the proposed hymn sing at Knox Church, St. Thomas. CARRIED.

**MOTION:** (McKee/Laurin) THAT the Presbytery explore with the Session of Knox Presbyterian Church, St. Thomas, the possibility of bringing John Bell from Iona Community, Scotland to the Presbytery of London for a workshop. CARRIED.

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**MOTION:** (McKee/Laurin) THAT the visitation team be dismissed with the thanks of the Court. CARRIED.

R.A. Drozd presented a brief verbal report about St. Lawrence Presbyterian Church and provided the history of the monitoring team.

**MOTION:** (Drozd/Park) THAT the Vacancy and Visitation Team provide a team to serve St. Lawrence Presbyterian Church to offer support, and nurture this newly formed congregation during their current vacancy and beyond, up to two years, visiting at least twice a year with reports provided to Presbytery. This team replaces the team recommended for follow up on the work load of Rev. Tom Godfrey, as stipulated in the final amalgamation report of Knollwood and St. Lawrence early 2014. CARRIED.

**Leading with Care Team** No report.

**Mission and Evangelism Team** J. Van Den Berg presented the report circulated with the advance reports.

**Hospital Visitor Team** No report.

**Youth & Campus Ministry Team** A written report was circulated with the advance reports.

**Ministry Team** J. Park presented the annual UWO chaplaincy report.

**MOTION:** (Paton/Laurin) THAT the Rev. John Park continue his work as Presbyterian Chaplain at Western University for the 2015/2016 season. CARRIED.

The Court AGREED that J. Park circulate, via the Clerk, a letter introducing himself and the chaplaincy at Western.

**Website and Communications Team** J. Mahabir presented a verbal report. The 2014-15 minutes have been posted on the website and links to congregational websites are being set up.

**Small Church Ministries Team** S. McMurray reported that no funding requests have come to the team.

**Reports of Interim Moderators** Knox, Fingal – E. Hoekstra reported diligence. The pulpit is being supplied and the sacraments are being celebrated.



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St. James, North Yarmouth – J. Bannerman circulated a written report and drew the attention of the Court to the 177<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration service on June 28, 2015 at 2pm.

St. John's, Port Stanley – No report.

Knox, Komoka/North Caradoc-St. Andrew's – No report.

Argyle, Crinan/Duff, Largie – No report.

Knox St. Andrew's, Dutton – No additional report.

St. Lawrence, London – A written report was circulated with the advance reports; J. Park advised that the recent visit by the visitation team was a positive experience.

Elmwood Avenue, London – A written report was circulated with the advance reports.

**Other Business** S. McMurray suggested that the alternate representative elders be invited to the September regular meeting so they can be introduced to the new committee structure.

**Adjournment** On a motion by P. Laurin, the Court stood adjourned at twelve minutes after nine o'clock in the evening, to meet again in Special Session on Tuesday, the twenty-third day of June, two thousand and fifteen, at seven o'clock in the evening, in London and within DaySpring Presbyterian Church and in Regular Session on Tuesday, the eighth day of September, two thousand and fifteen, at seven o'clock in the evening, in London, and within New St. James Presbyterian Church.

The Moderator closed the meeting with prayer.

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Moderator

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Clerk