

Minutes of the Presbytery of London

DaySpring Presbyterian Church, London, Tuesday, June 23, 2015, 7:00 p.m.

In London, and within DaySpring Presbyterian Church, the Presbytery of London met in Special Session on Tuesday, the twenty-third 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.

Welcome and Announcements The Moderator extended a welcome to all present.

Attendance John Bannerman, Mavis Currie, William Khalil, Keith McKee, Andrew Reid, Jon Van Den Berg, Jan McIntyre, Lynn Nichol, Ministers; Graham Ashbourne, Bob Baron, Jenn Biltcliffe, Ruth Ann Drozd, Lynda Drummelsmith, Debbie Kemp, Patrick Laurin, Jain Mahabir, Nancy Newell, Joan Taylor, Donna Jean Van Bilsen, Trudy Van Der Hoek, Peter Vanderkooy, Sandra VanDerVeen, Elders; Lu Brule, Treasurer; Carrie Thornton, Clerk; Ian Marnoch, Mikal Schomburg, Student Ministers; Margaret McMullough, WMS; Shirley Lunn, St. James, North Yarmouth; Bruce Curtis, New St. James; Bill Fletcher, Elizabeth Moir, DaySpring.

Regrets Charlotte Brown, Ed Hoekstra, John Park, Ministers; Ian Fleck, Sheila McMurray, Barbara Nyitray, Angela Osborne, Elders.

Absent Deb Dolbear-VanBilsen, Amanda MacMillan, Michael Stol, Mark Turner, Ministers; John Cameron, Doug Hill, Tom Jeffery, Linda McKenna, Elders

Report of the Special Visitation Team The Moderator invited A. Reid, to present the report of the special visitation team. This report was circulated to the members of the Court in advance of the meeting. A. Reid informed the Court that the report was presented to the congregation of DaySpring at a meeting held Sunday, June 14, 2015 and then presented a summary of the report.

MOTION: (Bannerman/McKee) THAT the action of the Clerk in citing the congregation be homologated. CARRIED.

MOTION: (Van Den Berg/Van Bilsen) that the following people from DaySpring Presbyterian Church be given permission to address the Court: Bill Fletcher, Elizabeth Moir. CARRIED.

MOTION: (Reid/Van Bilsen) THAT the pastoral charge of DaySpring Presbyterian Church, London be dissolved on July 31, 2015.

The Moderator invited the speakers from DaySpring to address the Court.

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Bill Fletcher spoke about the history of DaySpring and his disappointment with the report presented. He believes that DaySpring is still able to be the Presbyterian presence in north-east London and asked the Presbytery to provide “out of the box” thinking and advice.

Elizabeth Moir spoke about her love for DaySpring and described a caring and compassionate community. She believes that God is not finished with DaySpring.

Several members of Presbytery spoke both for and against the motion.

AMENDMENT: (Currie/Vanderkooy) THAT the Session of DaySpring be given one month to consider the advice of the presbytery team and present a plan to the presbytery that is financially feasible, honours the many gifts of time, talent and treasure that many have contributed to DaySpring, and that honestly reflects what the people of DaySpring believe they will be able to give for the church's future. Further, that the session of DaySpring be aware that the ultimate decision regarding the feasibility of this plan rests with the Presbytery of London.

M. Currie and P. Vanderkooy withdrew the amendment.

The Moderator called for a standing vote.

The motion is **DEFEATED**.

K. McKee recorded his dissent.

MOTION: (Currie/Vanderkooy) THAT the Session of DaySpring be given one month to consider the advice of the presbytery team and present a plan to the presbytery that is financially feasible, honours the many gifts of time, talent and treasure that many have contributed to DaySpring, and that honestly reflects what the people of DaySpring believe they will be able to give for the church's future. Further, that the session of DaySpring be aware that the ultimate decision regarding the feasibility of this plan rests with the Presbytery of London.

AMENDMENT: (McKee/) THAT DaySpring be given three months to develop a plan.

McKee withdrew the proposed amendment.

The Moderator called for a standing vote. The motion is **DEFEATED**.

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MOTION: (McKee/Van Der Hoek) THAT the pastoral charge of DaySpring Presbyterian Church be dissolved on August 1, 2015. CARRIED.

MOTION: (Reid/Van Bilsen) THAT the last service of public worship at DaySpring Presbyterian Church be held on July 26, 2015. CARRIED.

MOTION: (Reid/Van Bilsen) THAT the Moderator appoint a team to offer pastoral support to the remaining members and adherents of DaySpring Presbyterian Church, encouraging them in their search for a new church home. CARRIED.

MOTION: (Reid/Van Bilsen) THAT the Rev. John Bannerman be appointed to provide pastoral care to the Rev. Jon Van Den Berg during the time of the dissolution of the pastoral tie at DaySpring Presbyterian Church. CARRIED.

MOTION: (Reid/Van Bilsen) THAT the pastoral tie between the Rev. Jon Van Den Berg and the congregation of DaySpring Presbyterian Church be dissolved as of August 1, 2015. CARRIED.

MOTION: (Reid/Van Bilsen) THAT the Administrative Team of Presbytery be authorized to draw up a transition allowance agreement of four months and present it to the Rev. Jon Van Den Berg in accordance with the recommendations in the "Dissolution of Pastoral Tie" document.

McKee suggested the transition allowance be extended to five months and the Court agreed without a motion. The motion as amended CARRIED.

MOTION: (Reid/Van Bilsen) THAT the Moderator name a Presbytery team to oversee the dissolution of DaySpring Presbyterian Church, including the preparation of a mission plan to be presented to Presbytery on or before the November 2015 meeting of Presbytery. CARRIED.

MOTION: (Reid/Van Bilsen) THAT the Presbytery of London arrange the final service of worship to be held in early September 2015. CARRIED.

MOTION: (Reid/Van Bilsen) THAT the Presbytery team, named above, working in cooperation with the Trustee Board of The Presbyterian Church in Canada, arrange for the distribution of the furnishings within the Church building and assist in the sale of the existing building and property. CARRIED.

MOTION: (Reid/McKee) THAT the visitation team to DaySpring Presbyterian Church be dismissed with the thanks of the Court. CARRIED.

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Other Business There was no other business.

Adjournment On a motion by M. Currie, the Court stood adjourned at twelve minutes after nine o'clock in the evening, to meet again 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.

Moderator

Clerk