

Minutes of the Presbytery of London

Westmount Presbyterian Church, London, Tuesday, March 8, 2016, 7:00 p.m.

In London, and within Westmount Presbyterian Church, the Presbytery of London met in Regular Session on Tuesday, the eighth day of March, two thousand and sixteen, 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 The Reverend Lynn Nichol.

Welcome, Courtesies and Announcements The Moderator extended a welcome to all present. Mildred Greig and Margaret McCullough represented the WMS.

Attendance Mavis Currie, Deb Dolbear-VanBilsen, Ed Hoekstra, Keith McKee, John Park, Heather Paton, Andrew Reid, Ministers; Michelle Butterfield-Kocis, Lynn Nichol, Jane Swatridge, Appendix; Bob Baron, Call Bigg, Janis Boyle, Ray Burgess, Linda Charlton, Cathy Cornhill, Richard Cote, Ruth Ann Drozd, Lynda Drummelsmith, Mildred Greig, Tom Jeffery, Patrick Laurin, Matt Marshall, John McIntyre, Sheila McMurray, Nancy Newell, Inge Stahl, Donna Jean Van Bilsen, Trudy Van Der Hoek, Elders; Lu Brule, Treasurer; Carrie Thornton, Clerk; Margaret McCullough, WMS; Mikal Schomburg, Candidate for Ordination; Megan Shin, Student.

Regrets John Bannerman, Charlotte Brown, William Khalil, Amanda MacMillan, Andrew Thompson, Heather Vanderstelt, Ministers; Janet Donkervoort, Ian Fleck, Linda McKenna, Gerald Stocking, Elders.

Absent Mark Turner, Minister

Refugee Sponsorship H. Paton introduced the family sponsored by the Presbytery of London, their interpreters and a reporter from an Arab language newspaper. A representative of the family thanked the Presbytery for everything and presented the Moderator with an engraved plaque.

Docket **MOTION:** (McKee/Reid) THAT the Docket as amended be adopted for the meeting. CARRIED.

Statement From A. Reid A. Reid stood and asked the Moderator for permission to make a personal statement. He also asked the Moderator to leave the chair. K. McKee assumed the Moderator's chair. A. Reid read his statement. K. McKee thanked A. Reid for his statement and asked for a motion.

MOTION: (Reid/Van der Hoek) THAT the personal statement of A. Reid be

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included in the minutes. CARRIED.

At the November 2015 and January 2016 meetings of the Presbytery of London, three servants of the court, Mr Robert Baron, Mr Bruce Curtis and Ms Carrie Thornton, were subjected to verbal attacks by members of the court. These attacks, implicitly or explicitly, questioned both the integrity of the individuals under attack and their competence to complete the tasks that Presbytery had assigned to them. As a concerned member of Presbytery, I wish to state publicly:

- 1. That I find these attacks unacceptable and utterly unfounded.*
- 2. I have complete confidence in Mr Baron, Mr Curtis and Ms Thornton.*
- 3. That I regret that by not speaking out at the time, I appeared to condone, and in fact have condoned, the attacks.*
- 4. That I apologize to Mr Baron, Mr Curtis and Ms Thornton for my silence.*
- 5. That it is my intention to speak out against any similar attack in the future.*

I will present a copy of this statement to Mr Baron, Mr Curtis and Ms Thornton as soon as possible, and ask that it be included with the minutes of this meeting.

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MOTION: (McKee/Van der Hoek) THAT the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Presbytery of London, held on January 20, 2016, be adopted as circulated. CARRIED.

MOTION: (McKee/Van der Hoek) THAT the Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Presbytery of London, held on January 31, 2016, be adopted as circulated. CARRIED.

MOTION: (McKee/Van der Hoek) THAT the Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Presbytery of London, held on February 7, 2016, be adopted as circulated. CARRIED.

MOTION: (McKee/Van der Hoek) THAT the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Presbytery of London, held on February 9, 2016, be adopted as circulated. CARRIED.

MOTION: (McKee/Van der Hoek) THAT the Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Presbytery of London, held on February 23, 2016, be adopted as circulated. CARRIED.

Report of the Administrative Team

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

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MOTION: (McKee/Laurin) THAT recommendations 1 through 8 be adopted by consent. CARRIED.

RECOMMENDATION #1: THAT the following correspondence be received for information:

Number	From	Regarding
16-16	E. Bartlett, Assembly Office	changes to the Roll
16-19	J. Czeglédi. PCC	request for information Rev Ching-Hsi (Jonah) Lin

RECOMMENDATION #2: THAT the following correspondence be referred as named:

Number	From	Regarding	Refer To
16-11	K. Horst, Moderator of G.A.	moderator pastoral letter	circ. elect.
16-12	T. Hamilton, Assembly Office	strategic planning – presbytery clerks	Clerk
16-13	T. Hamilton, Assembly Office	strategic plan	circ. elect.
16-14	L. Shaw	children & worship training	circ. elect.
16-15	H. Chappell, PCC	2015 Presbyterian Sharing	circ. elect.
16-17	J. Gilbert, clerk Grey Bruce Maitland	Call Rev M Butterfield-Kocis	Clerk
16-18	J. Gilbert, clerk Grey Bruce Maitland	certificate of transfer Rev M Butterfield-Kocis	admin team
16-20	M. Wehrmann, Synod SWO	Synod Creative Ministry Fund	circ. elect.
16-21	Rev. J. Coppieters, Cote des Neiges PC	2015 Mission Trip	youth ministry
16-22	J. Vissers, Knox College	M. Schomburg, permission to search for a call	ministry team
16-23	W. Welsh, clerk Waterloo Wellington	K. Callahan event	circ. elect.
16-24	J. Henderson, synod clerk	minutes 2015 Synod	circ. elect.

RECOMMENDATION #3: THAT the Rev. Michelle Butterfield-Kocis be added to the Appendix to the Roll of the Presbytery of London effective March 1, 2016.

RECOMMENDATION #4: THAT the following be named as Presbytery of London commissioners to the 2016 General Assembly:

Rev. Andrew Reid, Rev. Heather Paton, Em Cameron (Westmount), Steve O’Neil (Elmwood Avenue)

RECOMMENDATION #5: THAT the regular meeting of the Presbytery of London be held on Tuesday June 21, 2016 at St. John’s Presbyterian Church, Port Stanley.

RECOMMENDATION #6: THAT the response of the Presbytery of London to Remit A be “approve”.

RECOMMENDATION #7: THAT the response of the Presbytery of London to Remit B be “approve”.

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RECOMMENDATION #8: THAT the 2015 funds received from the Empey Trust Fund, in the amount of \$40.00, be donated to Almanarah Presbyterian Church.

RECOMMENDATION #9: (McKee/Laurin) THAT the following be the mission plan of the former Bethel Church, Ilderton:

7.5% be allocated to the Ailsa Craig Food Bank

7.5% be allocated to the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 531

30% to Camp Kintail for camperships for children/young people from the Presbytery of London

30% to Crieff Hills (the Maclean Estate)

25% to the Presbytery of London for youth programs

CARRIED.

RECOMMENDATION #10: (McKee/Laurin) THAT the October 14, 2015 Report of the Dissolution Committee for DaySpring Presbyterian Church – excluding the mission plan report and the recommended allocation of residual funds report – be excluded. This would include the background report, the disposition of chattels and fixtures report, the sale of property and building report and the location of records report. CARRIED.

MOTION: (McKee/Brule) THAT the personal statement of A. Reid be sent by the Clerk to Mr Bruce Curtis with thanks for his work. CARRIED.

**Records
Examination**

MOTION: (Van Bilsen/Van der Hoek) THAT the Session Records of Elmwood Avenue Presbyterian Church, London be attested as being neatly and correctly kept. CARRIED.

MOTION: (Van Bilsen/Van der Hoek) THAT the Session Records of Knox Presbyterian Church, St. Thomas, be attested as being neatly and correctly kept. CARRIED.

**Notice of
Motion**

A. Reid read the following motion:

I move that the Standing Orders of the Presbytery of London be amended in the following way:

In Section 9: Personnel Procedures, sub-section C: Review Process for Calls and appointments, the words “Administrative Team” be replaced with the words “Ministry Team”.

MOTION: (Reid/McMurray) THAT the standing orders be amended to reflect this change. CARRIED.

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Almanarah R.A. Drozd presented a verbal report.

Ministry Team E. Hoekstra presented the report circulated with the advance reports.

After a lengthy interview, and much discernment afterward, the Ministry Team recommends to the Presbytery of London that a decision regarding Doug Gillard's initial certification to ministry be postponed, and that he be re-interviewed in four months time by the Ministry Team (June 2016).

In the meantime, we would like to place the following conditions on Doug Gillard in preparation for his June 2016 interview with the Ministry Team:

- 1) that Doug Gillard be re-interviewed in May 2016 by his own session, and their October 2015 recommendation of his candidacy be reviewed and sent to the Ministry Team.
- 2) that Doug Gillard supply the Ministry Team with a transcript of his marks after completing his current course "Religious Diversity" at Huron College.
- 3) that Doug Gillard give a written statement as to what was significant to him about what he learned in the Huron College course "Religious Diversity", and how that might apply to his goal to future studies toward his Master of Divinity degree.
- 4) that Doug Gillard supply the Ministry Team with a copy of the results of his Literacy Test
- 5) that Doug Gillard give a more detailed written account of his call to ministry, and the subsequent questions he was asked to supply to the Ministry Team before our meeting with him on February 22, 2016.

MOTION: (Hoekstra/Dolbear-VanBilsen) THAT the action of the Ministry Team be sustained in following the conditions for Mr. Gillard. CARRIED.

Mission Team H. Paton presented a verbal report and reminded the Court about CY16 and asked for volunteers for the refugee committee babysitting team.

Congregational Life Team J. Park presented the report of the Westmount exit review team.

MOTION: (Park/Drozd) THAT the recommendations of the Westmount exit review team be adopted by consent. CARRIED.

RECOMMENDATION # 1: THAT The Reverend Michael Stol be commended for his ministry to this congregation over the past fifteen years, with best wishes on his retirement.

RECOMMENDATION #2: THAT the Session, committees and congregation of Westmount Presbyterian Church be commended for their faithful ministry.

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RECOMMENDATION #3: THAT the congregation of Westmount Presbyterian Church be permitted to proceed with a search for a Minister of Word and Sacraments, under the direction of their recently appointed interim moderators.

RECOMMENDATION #4: THAT the exit review team to Westmount Presbyterian Church be dismissed.

R.A. Drozd presented the report of the Congregational Life team.

The Moderator ruled that the proposed changes to the Standing Orders are covered by A. Reid's Notice of Motion. The Court AGREED.

MOTION: (Drozd/Currie) THAT the recommendations of the Congregational Life team be adopted by consent. CARRIED.

RECOMMENDATION #1: THAT the word "elder" be added into the standing order on page 4 section (a) under Congregational Life responsibilities after the word "ruling".

RECOMMENDATION #2: THAT in section (b) on page 4 of the Standing Orders, the phrase, "and whenever possible these teams suggest names for interim moderators" be added at the end of the section.

RECOMMENDATION #3: THAT the following be added to the Standing Orders under Congregational Life responsibilities:
"to appoint "Support and Nurture teams to congregations who are experiencing transition as required.

RECOMMENDATION #4: THAT the following be added to the Standing Orders under Congregational Life:
"to appoint visitation teams for specific needs as required by congregations and directed by the Moderator, specifically those congregations experiencing struggle or difficulty".

RECOMMENDATION #5: THAT under section "c" on page 4 of the Standing Orders, the following words be added after the word "vacancy": "and at the time of regular visitations".

**Reports of
Interim
Moderators**

Knox, Fingal – E. Hoekstra reported that J. Van den Berg is providing pulpit supply; discussions are underway with St. James concerning a ministry partnership.

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St. James, North Yarmouth – J. Bannerman provided a written report.

St. John's, Port Stanley – No report.

Knox, Komoka/North Caradoc-St. Andrew's – J. Swatridge presented a verbal report. The annual meetings have been held. The congregations are preparing for the induction of their new minister.

Argyle, Crinan/Duff, Largie – No report.

St. Lawrence, London – J. Park reported that the pulpit is supplied, the sacraments are being celebrated and the search process is continuing.

Elmwood Avenue, London – K. McKee provided a verbal report.

MOTION: (McKee/Laurin) THAT the Rev. Dr. Andrew Fullerton be inducted into ministry at Elmwood Avenue on Sunday April 17, 2016 at 3pm with the Presbytery to meet at 2:30pm. CARRIED.

Westmount, London – H. Paton reported diligence; the profile is being prepared.

Other Business The Moderator announced the membership of the moderator search team: A. Reid (convenor), I. Fleck, P. Laurin, S. McMurray.

MOTION: (McKee/Paton) that the action of the Moderator, on behalf of the administrative team, in appointing the Moderator search team be homologated. CARRIED.

Adjournment On a motion by J. Park, the Court stood adjourned at twenty nine minutes after eight o'clock in the evening, to meet again in Special Session on Sunday, the twentieth day of March, two thousand and sixteen, at two thirty o'clock in the afternoon, within North Caradoc-St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church and for worship and team meetings on Tuesday, the twelfth day of April, two thousand and sixteen, at seven o'clock in the evening, in Mosa, and within Burns Presbyterian Church.

The Moderator closed the meeting with prayer.

Moderator

Clerk