

## Minutes of the Presbytery of London

St. James Presbyterian Church, North Yarmouth, Tuesday, May 10, 2016, 7:00 p.m.

In North Yarmouth, and within St. James Avenue Presbyterian Church, the Presbytery of London met in Regular Session on Tuesday, the tenth day of May, two thousand and sixteen, at the hour of seven o'clock in the evening.

- Constitution** The Moderator, Mr. Robert Baron, constituted the Court with prayer.
- Worship** The Worship service was led by Mikal Schomburg.
- Welcome, Courtesies and** The Moderator extended a welcome to all present. Valerie Shaw, Margaret McCullough and Mildred Greig represented the WMS.
- Attendance** John Bannerman, Michelle Butterfield-Kocis, Charlotte Brown, Mavis Currie, Deb Dolbear-Van Bilsen, Andrew Fullerton, Keith McKee, John Park, Heather Paton, Andrew Reid, Andrew Thompson, Mark Turner, Ministers; Rob Shaw, Appendix; Bob Baron, Janis Boyle, Lily Carrothers, Janet Donkervoort, Ruth Ann Drozd, Lynda Drummelsmith, Ian Fleck, Mary Ellen Gagnier, Mildred Greig, Patrick Laurin, Carol Leitch, Pat MacKay, Joan Mansell, Linda McKenna, Sheila McMurray, Inge Stahl, Gerald Stocking, Donna Jean Van Bilsen, Trudy Van der Hoek, Sandra Vanderveen, Elders; Lu Brule, Treasurer; Carrie Thornton, Clerk; Mikal Schomburg, Candidate for Ordination; Marg Field, Burns Presbyterian Church; John Van Eyk, Guest.
- Regrets** Ed Hoekstra, Heather Vanderstelt, Ministers; Tom Jeffery, Nancy Newell, Elders
- Absent** William Khalil, Amanda MacMillan, Ministers; Linda Charlton, Elder.
- Docket** **MOTION:** (Reid/Van Der Hoek) THAT the Docket as circulated be adopted for the meeting. CARRIED.
- Stated Hour** The Court AGREED to move directly to the Hospital Visitor report.
- Hospital Visitor** Doug Bruce, hospital visitor, came forward to present his annual report. This report was circulated with the advance reports. He spoke about his work in the hospitals and thanked the hospital visitor team and the members of Presbytery for their support.
- The Moderator thanked D. Bruce for his report and for his work in the hospitals and invited him to stay for the remainder of the meeting but granted him permission to leave.
- Stated Hour** The President of the W. M. S. Presbyterial, Valerie Shaw, presented a verbal report on the activities of the Women's Missionary Society in the past year.
- WMS Annual Report** The 101<sup>st</sup> general meeting was held at Chalmers Presbyterian Church and the

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theme was “We Have an Anchor”. Mrs. Shaw was thanked by the Moderator for the good work that the Society does within the Presbytery and nationwide.

### Stated Hour Retirement Rev. C. Brown

The Court AGREED that Marg Field from Burns Presbyterian Church be given permission to address the Court.

Donna Jean Van Bilsen, representative elder from Burns, Carol Leitch, alternate representative elder from Burns and Marg Field addressed the Court. They spoke of Rev. Brown’s passion for preaching, her ability to relate to both the oldest and the youngest members of the congregation, and the many congregational workshops and study groups she facilitated.

D. Dolbear-Van Bilsen wished Rev. Brown God’s blessings.

K. McKee said this is a good-bye but also a celebration of a long, wonderful and diverse ministry and that the Presbytery will miss her.

The Moderator thanked Rev. Brown for her assistance during his term as Moderator and mentioned that he enjoyed worshipping with her congregation.

Rev. C. Brown addressed the Court. She loves the members of Burns and it will be hard to leave them as they are now part of her family. She has enjoyed all her ministries but feels that God saved the best for last. She has always believed that a retiring minister shouldn’t stay in the community but since she is moving to London she won’t be far away. She closed by expressing her gratitude to God for this ministry.

The Court gave the Reverend Charlotte Brown a standing ovation.

**MOTION:** (Dolbear-Van Bilsen/Paton) THAT the action of the Clerk in citing the congregation of Burns Presbyterian Church be homologated. CARRIED.

The Clerk read the retirement letter to the Court.

**MOTION:** ((Fleck/Thompson) THAT the application of the Rev. Charlotte Brown to retire from ministry in the Presbyterian Church in Canada as of September 1, 2016 be granted. CARRIED.

**MOTION:** (Dolbear-Van Bilsen/McKee) THAT the Moderator be given permission to appoint the interim moderator of Burns Presbyterian Church effective September 1, 2016. CARRIED.

The Moderator thanked the guests from Burns Presbyterian Church for

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attending and invited them to stay for the remainder of the meeting but gave them permission to leave if they wished.

**Minutes**

**MOTION:** (McKee/Reid) THAT the following be adopted by consent. CARRIED.

Adoption of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of March 8, 2016.  
Adoption of the Minutes of the Special Meeting of March 20, 2016.  
Adoption of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of April 12, 2016.  
Adoption of the Minutes of the Special Meeting of April 17, 2016.

**Report of the Administrative Team**

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

**MOTION:** (Van der Hoek/McKee) THAT recommendations 1 through 5 be adopted by consent. CARRIED.

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

Number	From	Regarding
16-27	Office of Registrar General	update re prepaid vital events envelopes
16-28	P. Bush / C. O'Reilly	copy of letter sent to small congregations
16-29	W. McKnight, Knox College	apology re letter mix-up
16-30	E. Bartlett, Assembly Office	changes to the roll
16-31	D. Tait-Katerberg, clerk Presbytery of Westminster	letter of standing Rev Jonathan Manlove

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

Number	From	Regarding	Refer To
16-32	J. Henderson, Knox College	YouTube broadcast re Cuba	circ. elect.
16-33	S. Shaffer, Ministry & Church Vocations	Ed & reception report	Clerk
16-34	K. Arnold, PCC Archives	DaySpring records received	Clerk
16-35	B. Nawratil, Finance Office	Bethel mission approved	Admin team
16-36	J. de Combe, Cdn Ministries	change in Ontario legislation	circ. elect.

**RECOMMENDATION #3:** THAT the schedule for examination of session records be as follows:

**Year #1**

September: St. John's, Port Stanley; Knox-St. Andrew's, Dutton; Dorchester; South Nissouri

November: Glencoe; St. John's, Wardsville

January: Fingal; Trinity; Almanarah; Burns, Mosa

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March: Argyle, Crinan; Duff, Largie; North Caradoc-St. Andrew's;  
Knox-Komoka  
May: St. Lawrence  
June: Chalmers

**Year #2**

September: Oakridge  
November: St. George's; New St. James  
January: Westmount  
March: Knox; St. Thomas; Elmwood  
May: Appin; Guthrie, Melbourne  
June: St. James, North Yarmouth

**RECOMMENDATION #4:** THAT \$7,500.00 be transferred from the general fund to the discretionary fund.

**RECOMMENDATION #5** THAT the action of the Moderator in writing a letter of concern to the London Health Sciences Centre regarding changes in the parking policy, be homologated.

**Records  
Examination**

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

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

**Financial  
Statements**

The 2015 financial statements of the Presbytery were circulated prior to tonight's meeting. L. Brule, Presbytery Treasurer, presented the financial statements and answered questions. These records will be attached as an appendix to the minutes of this meeting.

**MOTION:** (Reid/Fleck) THAT the financial records of the Presbytery be approved. CARRIED.

**DaySpring  
Financial  
Records**

L. Brule, Presbytery Treasurer, presented a brief report regarding his review of the available financial records of DaySpring Presbyterian Church.

**MOTION:** (McKee/Van der Hoek) THAT the Treasurer's report regarding the DaySpring financial records be received. CARRIED.

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**Notice of Motion**

The administrative team has noticed that a number of teaching elders have consistently refused their commission to attend General Assembly as is mandated in their ordination vows. At a future regular session of the Presbytery of London a member of the administrative team will move the following change to section 9, part B, subsection C of the standing orders of the Presbytery of London: “Whereas a minister, who would normally be appointed a commissioner because of his/her position in the rotation, declines to accept his/her commission, he/she must give reasons on the floor of Presbytery and the Presbytery must sustain those reasons for declining the commission. These reasons must be provided in writing. His/her name shall be placed at the end of the rotation and the alternate will be nominated.

**Almanarah**

No report.

**DaySpring Mission Plan**

J. Bannerman presented the report of the DaySpring Mission Plan Team.

Almanarah Presbyterian Church, London 10%  
Almanarah Presbyterian Church is a new church development congregation within The Presbytery of London that ministers primarily to Arabic-speaking Christians who live in London and the surrounding area. Almanarah Church is currently receiving an annual grant from Canadian Ministries and from The Presbytery of London. The proposed allocation would be directed to the refurbishment of the church kitchen in support of outreach events. The Rev. William Khalil, the Minister of Almanarah, stated, “Any money spent in fixing the kitchen should be considered as helping and supporting the church outreach programs.”

Evangel Hall Mission, Toronto 10%  
Since 1913, the Presbyterian community has offered aid and support to homeless, impoverished and marginalized people through Evangel Hall Mission in downtown Toronto. Evangel Hall Mission is an inner-city mission that serves to build community with poor, homeless, and socially isolated people in Toronto, through support, housing, services, and advocacy. The former DaySpring Church supported the Evangel Hall Mission. The proposed allocation to the Evangel Hall Mission would be directed to the Adult Drop-In ministry where fellowship and support is provided for up to 150 homeless and socially-isolated adults on a daily basis and the free dental clinic that provides pain relief and essential dental care for people in Toronto and also people referred from outside the greater Toronto area.

Refugee Sponsorship 10%  
Congregations within The Presbytery of London have worked together to

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sponsor a refugee family from Syria. The Al Mutaleb family has settled in the London area earlier this year. Funds have been raised for the sponsorship of a second refugee family from Syria. The proposed allocation would ensure that total funding for the sponsorship of the second refugee family is in place and would also provide the majority of the funding for the sponsorship of a third family if that is the decision of the Refugees to Canada Team. If there were funds remaining following the conclusion of these refugee sponsorship efforts these funds would be forwarded to Presbyterian World Service & Development in support of other refugee sponsorship programs.

### Mission and Ministry in Malawi

10%

The former DaySpring Presbyterian Church supported various mission projects and partners within Malawi as part of its mission work. The team has corresponded with The Rev. Glynis Williams, Associate Secretary, International Ministries (IM), who consulted with Guy Smagghe, the Director of Presbyterian World Service & Development (PWS&D). The team feels that it is important to include health care as a component of the mission plan. The following mission projects, as suggested by Glynis and Guy, would receive funding from the proposed allocation: a) The Grace Fund of Ekwendeni Hospital, waiving hospital debts of needy patients who cannot afford to pay their hospital bills. The hospital administration views this as a witness to God's grace to patients. (IM) b) Maternal, neonatal and the Child Health Project at Embangweni Hospital (PWS&D)

### Knox College, Toronto

10%

Knox College recently received permission from the Association of Theological Schools to launch a new two-year professional Master of Pastoral Studies (MPS) degree program. Knox College is currently operating a capital fundraising campaign that includes the area of leadership development for congregational ministry, social ministry, spiritual care and international mission. The proposed allocation to Knox College would be directed to "The Missional Leadership for Congregational Renewal" track of the new MPS.

### St. Andrew's Hall, Vancouver

10%

"The Centre for Missional Leadership (CML) at St. Andrew's Hall equips leaders for witnessing communities whose missionary disciples bless and mend God's world." The CML was established in 2015, incorporating the former Elders' Institute. The proposed allocation would be directed to the course on evangelism and the program for teaching and ruling elders to work with a scholar in the area of congregational renewal within the CML. The team was assured that the funds to be allocated to the CML will be used for mission programming, not bricks and mortar.

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The Presbyterian College, Montreal

10%

“Canadian Presbyterians are not particularly strong in developing new churches. We close far more congregations than we open. What will it take for us to become excellent at new church development in the next five years? The Presbyterian College is redesigning its Master of Divinity program with a focus on new church development” (from Presbyterian College pamphlet).

This program will include a practical apprenticeship that will “provide coaching and hands-on experience in new church development.” The proposed allocation would be directed to the New Church Development program of The Presbyterian College.

The DaySpring Fund

30%

The DaySpring Fund for New and Renewing Worshiping Communities will be used to support the establishment of new congregations and the renewal of existing congregations within The Presbytery of London.

- The DaySpring Fund will provide financial support for the process of planning, consulting and implementing new worshiping communities within London Presbytery in partnership with Canadian Ministries.
- The DaySpring Fund will be used to support congregations and congregational leaders from The Presbytery of London as they focus on processes of congregational renewal for faithful and effective ministry in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.
- This fund will support an annual event for teaching clergy, elders and other church leaders about various aspects of new church development and congregational renewal. This educational and inspirational event will be organized by The Presbytery of London by a designated presbytery team.
- This fund will also be used to provide financial support for continuing education programs for clergy, elders and other church leaders on new church development and congregational renewal.
- The intention and the expectation is that The DaySpring Fund be made available for the above purposes on an immediate and ongoing basis until the funds have been depleted.
- This fund will be administered by The Presbytery of London through a designated presbytery team. This presbytery team will also be responsible for raising awareness of the existence and purpose of the fund among the congregations within the presbytery.
- Application for grants from this fund will be made in writing to the

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designated team of The Presbytery of London and may be submitted on a quarterly basis. Grants from The DaySpring Fund will be made from the principal and interest of the fund. Grants from the fund in excess of \$5,000 will require the approval of The Presbytery of London.

**MOTION:** (Bannerman/Thompson) THAT the proposed mission plan of the former DaySpring Presbyterian Church be approved and forwarded to the Commission on Assets of the Presbyterian Church in Canada. CARRIED.

**Ministry Team** No report. A. Thompson advised that a report will be presented in June.

**Mission Team** H. Paton presented the report circulated in advance.

**MOTION:** (Paton/Van Bilsen) THAT the following names from the Presbytery of London be approved as Adult Advisors for Canada Youth 2016: Richard Cote from Chalmers, Kathy Ruggi from New St. James, Doug Gillard from North Caradoc-St. Andrew's. CARRIED.

**Presbyterians Sharing** The Moderator invited Rev. J. Bannerman to assume the chair as he presented the Presbyterians Sharing report.

B. Baron presented the 2016 report and accepted allocations. The report is for information only and there are no recommendations.

The Moderator resumed the chair.

**Congregational Life Team** M. Currie presented the report circulated in advance and withdrew the section on Standing Orders.

**Reports of Interim Moderators** Knox, Fingal – No report.

St. James, North Yarmouth – J. Bannerman provided a written report. He advised the Court that St. James is no longer discussing a possible ministry partnership with Knox, Fingal.

St. John's, Port Stanley – No report.

Argyle, Crinan/Duff, Largie – R. Shaw reported diligence.

St. Lawrence, London – J. Park presented the report circulated in advance.

Westmount, London – H. Paton reported diligence; the search process is continuing.

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**Other Business** None.

**Adjournment** On a motion by P. Laurin, the Court stood adjourned at twenty-one minutes after nine o'clock in the evening , to meet again in Regular Session on Tuesday, the twenty-first day of June , two thousand and sixteen, at seven o'clock in the evening, in Port Stanley, and within St. John's Presbyterian Church.

The Moderator closed the meeting with prayer.

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Moderator

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Clerk