

Minutes of the Presbytery of London

St. John's Presbyterian Church, Wardsville, Tuesday, February 10, 2015, 7:00 p.m.

In Wardsville, and within St. John's Presbyterian Church, the Presbytery of London met in Regular Session on Tuesday, the tenth day of February, 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 the Reverend Deb Dolbear-VanBilsen.

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

Attendance Deb Dolbear-VanBilsen, Ed Hoekstra, Amanda MacMillan, Keith McKee, Heather Paton, Andrew Reid, Robert Shaw, Jon Van Den Berg, Ministers; Bob Baron, John Cameron, Janet Donkervoort, Lynda Drummelsmith, Ian Fleck, Mildred Greig, Tom Jeffery, Patrick Laurin, Pat MacKay, Jain Mahabir, John McIntyre, Linda McKenna, Bill McMurchy, Sheila McMurray, Nancy Newell, Barb Nyitray, Angela Osborne, Gerald Stocking, Donna Jean Van Bilsen, Trudy Van Der Hoek, Peter Vanderkooy, Elders; Lu Brule, Treasurer, Carrie Thornton, Clerk; Margaret McCullough, WMS, John Van Eyk.

Regrets John Bannerman, Charlotte Brown, Mavis Currie, Kevin Steeper, Michael Stol, Mark Turner, Ministers; Ruth Ann Drozd, Doug Hill, Debbie Kemp, David Laphorne, Elders.

On Leave John Park, Minister.

Absent William Khalil, Minister; Sandra VanDerVeen, Elder.

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

Minutes **MOTION:** (McKee/Reid) THAT the Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Presbytery of London, held on January 11, 2015, be adopted as circulated. CARRIED.

MOTION: (McKee/Reid) THAT the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Presbytery of London, held on January 13, 2015, be adopted as circulated. CARRIED.

MOTION: (McKee/Reid) THAT the Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Presbytery of London, held on January 25, 2015, be adopted as circulated. CARRIED.

Minutes of the Presbytery of London

St. John's Presbyterian Church, Wardsville, Tuesday, February 10, 2015, 7:00 p.m.

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

CORRESPONDENCE

RECOMMENDATION #1 (Mahabir/McKee) THAT the following correspondence be received for information: CARRIED.

Number	From	Regarding
15-34	E. Bartlett, Assembly Office	changes to the Roll

RECOMMENDATION #2 (Mahabir/McKee) THAT the following correspondence be referred as named: CARRIED.

Number	From	Regarding	Refer To
15-33	L. Shaw	Children & Worship brochure	circ. elect.
15-35	H. Chappell, Stewardship	final 2014 Presbyterians Sharing	circ. elect.
15-36	Ministry & Church Vocations	increase in cost psychological testing	students & ed; treasurer
15-37	C. Brown	resignation as interim moderator	admin team
15-38	R. Oudyk, Oakridge PC	Syrian refugees	mission & evang.

RECOMMENDATION #3 (Mahabir/MacMillan) THAT the following be named as Presbytery of London commissioners to the 2015 General Assembly: CARRIED.

Reverend Keith McKee
Reverend Charlotte Brown
Jean Louise Ford (Knox St. Andrew's, Dutton)
Lizz Thibodeau (Chalmers, London)

RECOMMENDATION #4 (McKee/MacMillan) THAT the moneys received from New St. James' Christine Empey Fund, in the amount of \$50.34, be donated to DaySpring Presbyterian Church. CARRIED.

RECOMMENDATION #5 (MacMillan/McKee) THAT the resignation of the Reverend Charlotte Brown as interim moderator at St. John's Presbyterian Church, Port Stanley be accepted with the thanks of the Court. CARRIED.

RECOMMENDATION #6 (McMillan/MacKay) THAT Abbey Poser from Chalmers Presbyterian Church be named as the Young Adult Representative from the Presbytery of London to the 2015 General Assembly. CARRIED.

Records Examination **MOTION:** (Van Der Hoek/Van Bilsen) THAT the Session Records of Burns Presbyterian Church, Mosa be attested as being neatly and

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St. John's Presbyterian Church, Wardsville, Tuesday, February 10, 2015, 7:00 p.m.

correctly kept. CARRIED.

Presbyterians Sharing Past Moderator A. Reid assumed the Moderator's chair.

B. Baron presented the Presbyterians Sharing report.

B. Baron resumed the Moderator's chair.

"Conversations" Team Report No report. The team hopes to have the final report ready for the March Presbytery meeting.

Almanarah No report.

Bethel Dissolution Team K. McKee presented the report which was circulated with the advance reports.

A legacy of four thousand dollars was left from the estate of the late Mrs. Mary Carmichael, a devoted elder and a devout Presbyterian, with the stipulation that should Bethel Church, Ilderton cease to exist as a congregation, would be transferred to the Presbytery of London. As Mary Carmichael was also deeply interested in the work of Crieff Hills it is the recommendation of the Dissolution Committee:

MOTION: (McKee/Laurin) THAT the legacy of four thousand dollars, upon its maturity, be directed by the Presbytery of London to the Maclean Estate Committee for the ministry of Crieff Hills. CARRIED.

The Dissolution Committee makes the following recommendation to Presbytery and asks that it be transmitted to the Trustees Board for consideration:

MOTION: (McKee/Fleck) THAT the following be the Mission Plan of the Dissolved Congregation of Bethel Church, Ilderton: CARRIED.

1. That \$7000 from the Doris Scott Legacy of \$10,000 be directed to the St. Joseph's, Hospice;
2. That 15% of the funds be directed to the Optimist Club of Bryanston-Birr;
3. That 15% be directed to the Ilderton Lions Club
4. That 15% of the funds be directed to the Optimist Club of Ilderton;
5. That 20% of the funds be directed to the Ailsa Craig Food Bank;
6. That 5% be directed to the Bryanston-Birr Girl Guides;
7. That 5% be directed to the Scouts Club of Ilderton;
8. That 10% be directed to the Sari Riding Academy
9. That 15% be directed to the Royal Canadian Legion, Ilderton.

Minutes of the Presbytery of London

St. John's Presbyterian Church, Wardsville, Tuesday, February 10, 2015, 7:00 p.m.

2015 Synod K. McKee provided a verbal report about the 2015 Synod. Further information is available on the Synod website: www.synodswo.org

Students and Education Team No report.

Denominational Work Team No report.

Vacancy and Visitation Team No report.

Leading with Care Team T. Jeffery advised that a report will be presented at the March meeting.

Mission and Evangelism Team No report.

Hospital Visitor Team No report.

Youth and Campus Ministries H. Paton presented the report that was circulated with the advance reports.

MOTION: (Paton/Reid) THAT the Presbytery of London endorse the Presbytery Youth Ministry Team's application and supporting documents for a grant from the Creative Ministry with Children and Youth Fund in the amount of \$3,500 for the "Church on the Move" Young Adult Worship project. CARRIED.

MOTION: (Paton/Reid) THAT the Presbytery of London endorse the Presbytery Youth Ministry Team's application for a grant from the Synod of Southwestern Ontario's Creative ministry Fund in the amount of \$2,000 for the "Church on the Move" Young Adult Worship project. CARRIED.

Website and Communications Team J. Mahabir reported that the new Presbytery website is ready and the transition should be seamless for visitors to the site. The new site should be live in the next two or three weeks.

Small Church Ministries Team No report.

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

Minutes of the Presbytery of London

St. John's Presbyterian Church, Wardsville, Tuesday, February 10, 2015, 7:00 p.m.

MOTION: (Hoekstra/Vanderkooy) THAT Knox Presbyterian Church, Fingal be encouraged and given consent by the Presbytery of London, to begin the search for a half-time ordained minister.

K. McKee spoke in favour of the motion and reminded the Court that if the Presbytery votes in favour of this motion, the Presbytery cannot then debate the half-time terms of any Call that comes forward from Knox Presbyterian Church, Fingal.

MOTION: (Reid) THAT this motion be tabled until the March meeting when more financial information will be presented.

MOTION TO TABLE DEFEATED

ORIGINAL MOTION CARRIED.

A Reid requested that his dissent and the reasons be recorded:

I voted against the motion at the February 10, 2015, meeting of the Presbytery of London, to allow Knox Church, Fingal, to proceed with a search for a minister of Word and Sacraments on a half-time basis. I did so, not because I was opposed to the motion, but because I could not vote for it with an easy mind. I recorded my dissent, and submit my reasons.

1. Presbytery was not given notice that such a motion would be presented. The Standing Orders of the Presbytery of London require all reports with recommendations to be submitted to the Clerk ten days before the meeting at which they are to be considered, and circulated to members of Presbytery. I believe that this is particularly important when, as in this case, matters are being decided that will have significant impact on the life and ministry of a congregation within the bounds.

2. Presbytery was not given any financial or statistical information - communicant membership, worship attendance, operating budget, etc - on which to make a fully informed decision. Even a brief reading of statistical returns in the Acts and Proceedings of the General Assembly suggests that the congregation will have to raise significantly more revenue than it has done in recent years in order to sustain half-time ordained ministry. The congregation may well be aware of the additional cost involved in moving from lay missionary ministry to ordained ministry, but Presbytery was not provided with any evidence that they are.

3. While the guarantee of stipend must be approved when a call is presented,

Minutes of the Presbytery of London

St. John's Presbyterian Church, Wardsville, Tuesday, February 10, 2015, 7:00 p.m.

and could be the basis for Presbytery refusing to sustain a call as a regular Gospel call, it can be devastating to a congregation if Presbytery brings things to a stop at that point. But by adopting the motion it did, Presbytery does not have that option in this case.

4. Recent Presbytery experience with congregations with less than full-time ministry has required significant commitment of time and financial support from Presbytery and its members. While we stand together to support one another in ministry, there is no question that the life and ministry of every congregation has been affected. I submit that for the health of Presbytery as a whole, and to reduce the likelihood of future difficulties, Presbytery needs to have more information than was made available before making such a decision.

St. James, North Yarmouth – No report.

St. John's, Port Stanley – A written report was circulated with the advance reports.

Knox, Komoka/North Caradoc-St. Andrew's – R. Shaw presented a verbal report.

Argyle, Crinan/Duff, Largie – R. Shaw presented a verbal report.

Knox St. Andrew's, Dutton – H. Paton reports that ministry continues and the search committee is meeting.

St. Lawrence, London – J. Van Den Berg has met with the session, the anniversary celebration has been arranged.

Elmwood Avenue, London – K. McKee reported that pulpit supply and pastoral care has been arranged.

Other Business None.

Adjournment On a motion by P. Laurin, the Court stood adjourned at fifty-three minutes after eight o'clock in the evening, to meet again in Regular Session on Tuesday, the tenth day of March, two thousand and fifteen, at seven o'clock in the evening, in London, and within Almanarah Presbyterian Church.

The Moderator closed the meeting with prayer.

Moderator

Clerk