

Minutes of the Presbytery of London

Guthrie Presbyterian Church, Melbourne, Tuesday, June 17, 2014, 7:00 p.m.

In Melbourne, and within Guthrie Presbyterian Church, the Presbytery of London met in Regular Session on Tuesday, the seventeenth day of June, two thousand and fourteen, at the hour of seven o'clock in the evening.

Constitution The Moderator, the Reverend Andrew Reid, welcomed everyone to the meeting and constituted the Court with prayer.

Worship The Worship Service was led by the Reverend Amanda MacMillan.

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

Attendance Charlotte Brown, Jacob Lee, Amanda MacMillan, Heather Paton, Andrew Reid, Kevin Steeper, Jon Van Den Berg, Jim Redpath, Robert Shaw, Ministers; Bob Baron, Ian Begg, William Cron, Ruth Ann Drozd, Ian Fleck, Mildred Greig, Debbie Kemp, Michael Kernahan, David Laphorne, Patrick Laurin, Jain Mahabir, Margaret McCullough, Bill McMurchy, Sheila McMurray, Nancy Newell, Barbara Nyitray, Angela Osborne, Joan Taylor, Donna Jean Van Bilsen, Peter Vanderkooy, Elders; Lu Brule, Treasurer; Carrie Thornton, Clerk; Erica MacKay, Chalmers, Terry Axford, Dorchester; Mirah Simpson, Appin.

Regrets John Bannerman, Mavis Currie, Deb Dolbear-VanBilsen, Tom Godfrey, Ed Hoekstra, William Khalil, Keith McKee, John Park, Mark Turner, Ministers; John Cameron, Janet Donkervoort, Tom, Jeffery, Trudy Van Der Hoek, Elders; John Van Eyk, Lay Missionary.

Absent Michael Stol, Minister; Matt Marshall, Nancy Springer, Elders.

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

Minutes **MOTION:** (Fleck/Mahabir) THAT the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Presbytery of London, held on May 13, 2014, 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.

CORRESPONDENCE

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

Minutes of the Presbytery of London

Guthrie Presbyterian Church, Melbourne, Tuesday, June 17, 2014, 7:00 p.m.

Number	From	Regarding
14-45	E. Bartlett, Assembly Office	changes to the Roll
14-46	S. Shaffer, Committee on Ed & Reception	objections by Presbyteries to applications
14-47	I. McDonald, Canadian Ministries	Canadian Ministries Ministry Conference

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

Number	From	Regarding	Refer To
14-40	M. Chester	resignation J. Comrie assessor elder Almanarah	admin team
14-41	S. Schaffer, Ed & Reception	application of W. Boyce not approved	students & ed
14-42	J. Vissers, Knox College	M. Schomburg progress	students & ed
14-43	J. Vissers, Knox College	D. You progress	students & ed
14-44	R. Fee, LMA	executive staff position, national office	denom work team
14-48	P. Laurin	resignation assessor Almanarah	admin team

RECOMMENDATION #3 (Baron/Drozdz) THAT the following Elders be named as Representative and Alternative Representative Elders to the Presbytery of London for the 2014-2015 year: CARRIED.

Appin / Guthrie : (R) Tom Jeffery (A) Lorna Martin
Duff / Argyle : (R) Bill McMurchy (A) Lynda Drummelsmith;
Dorchester / South Nissouri : (R) Doug Hill (A) Michael Kernahan
Bethel – Ilderton : (R) Margaret McCullough (A) Linda Riddell;
North Caradoc-St. Andrew's/Knox Komoka : (R) Angela Osborne (A) Mildred Greig
Almanarah – London : (R) Ruth Ann Drozd (A) Matthew Marshall;
Chalmers – London : (R) Debbie Kemp (A) Pat MacKay;
Elmwood – London : (R) Trudy Van Der Hoek (A) Cathy Cornhill;
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;
St. Lawrence – London : (R) David Laphorne (A) Joan Taylor
Trinity – London : (R) Sheila McMurray (A) Jenn Biltcliffe
Westmount – London : (R) Barbara Nyitray (A) Tom Telfer;
Burns – Mosa : (R) Donna Jean Van Bilsen (A) Carol Leitch;
Knox – St. Thomas : (R) Sandra Van Der Veen (A) Ian Begg

RECOMMENDATION #4 (Baron/Drozdz) THAT the Clerk write a letter of appreciation to the following Elders who have retired: CARRIED.

Doris Tutt (Chalmers, London)

RECOMMENDATION #5 (Drozdz/Baron) THAT Trinity Community Presbyterian Church receive \$1,200 from the TrinityWest Elgin youth ministry funds to offset the cost of the Kintail on the Road summer VBS program. CARRIED.

Minutes of the Presbytery of London

Guthrie Presbyterian Church, Melbourne, Tuesday, June 17, 2014, 7:00 p.m.

RECOMMENDATION #6 (Drozd/Baron) with reference to the motion passed at the May 13, 2014 meeting of the Presbytery of London relative to the disbursement of financial assistance from the account of Knollwood Park Presbyterian Church to various agencies, THAT the recipient identified at SAT-7 be replaced by Knox College as the recipient of \$2,500. CARRIED.

RECOMMENDATION #7 (Baron/McMurray) THAT the resignations of John Comrie and Patrick Laurin as assessor elders at Almanarah Presbyterian Church be accepted with the thanks of the Court. CARRIED.

Records Examination

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

MOTION: (Van Bilsen/Drozd) THAT the Session Records of Guthrie Presbyterian Church, Melbourne be attested as being neatly and correctly kept. CARRIED.

MOTION: (Van Bilsen/Drozd) THAT the Session Records of St. James Presbyterian Church, North Yarmouth be attested as being neatly and correctly kept. CARRIED.

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

MOTION: (Drozd/Baron) THAT the following Commissioners to General Assembly be given permission to address the Court: Erica MacKay and Terry Axford. CARRIED.

Heather Paton, Erica MacKay, Terry Axford and Ruth Ann Drozd presented their reports from General Assembly. John Bannerman and Ed Hoekstra were unable to be present to give their reports but provided written reports. All written reports were circulated just prior to the meeting.

The Moderator thanked all the Commissioners for their reports and their work on behalf of the court and invited them to stay for the remainder of the meeting but also gave them permission to leave should they wish.

**Continuing the
Conversation**

K. Steeper thanked the congregations that have submitted their reports. The committee will be meeting to begin reviewing the reports.

Treasurer

L. Brule advised the Court that the T3010 Charity Information Return has been submitted to the Charities Directorate. He reminded the congregations that the annual return must be submitted on time.

Almanarah

R.A. Drozd presented a verbal report on behalf of W. Khalil. She highlighted a

Minutes of the Presbytery of London

Guthrie Presbyterian Church, Melbourne, Tuesday, June 17, 2014, 7:00 p.m.

number of successful ministries and outreach events, the annual grant application will be presented for approval at the September Presbytery meeting; the annual request review and request for funding from the Presbytery will also be presented at the September meeting.

Students and Education Team A. MacMillan presented a verbal report. The Court agreed to accept the report without seeing it in advance.

MOTION: (MacMillan/Van Den Berg) THAT Mikal Schomburg be re-certified as a student in ministry under the care of the Presbytery of London. CARRIED.

MOTION: (MacMillan/Mahabir) THAT the Rev. D. Dolbear-Van Bilsen be granted approval to attend the workshop “Becoming a Missional Church/Becoming a Missional Leader”. CARRIED.

Denominational Work Team K. Steeper reminded the Court that the deadline for nominations for the Associate Secretary Communications are due September 30, 2014.

Vacancy and Visitation Team R.A. Drozd advised the Court that the team is working to complete the annual visitations according to the rotation.

J. Van Den Berg presented the report of the visit to Almanarah Presbyterian Church.

MOTION: (Van Den Berg/Mahabir) THAT the Reverend W. Khalil, the Session and Congregation be commended for their tireless work in spreading the Gospel among the Arab Canadian community in London. CARRIED.

MOTION: (Van Den Berg/Mahabir) THAT Almanarah be commended for overcoming the many obstacles they have faced and overcoming those adversities to grow in faith and love for the Lord. CARRIED.

MOTION: (Van Den Berg/Mahabir) THAT the Assessor Elders be commended for their continued love, support, and hard work among the leadership and congregation of Almanarah Presbyterian Church. CARRIED.

MOTION: (Van Den Berg/Mahabir) THAT the London Presbytery be commended for their continuing encouragement and support of Almanarah’s innovative mission work. CARRIED.

MOTION: (Van Den Berg/Mahabir) THAT the visitation team be dismissed with the thanks of the Court. CARRIED.

Minutes of the Presbytery of London

Guthrie Presbyterian Church, Melbourne, Tuesday, June 17, 2014, 7:00 p.m.

**Leading with
Care Team** No report.

**Mission and
Evangelism Team.** No report.

**Hospital Visitor
Team** No report.

**Youth and
Campus
Ministries** H. Paton presented a written report. A planning meeting is planned for early July to schedule activities for the upcoming year.

**Website and
Communications
Team** No report.

**Small Church
Ministries Team** No report.

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

Moderators St. James, North Yarmouth – No report.

St. John's, Port Stanley – C. Brown presented a verbal report. The Session is still working on a mission statement; VBS is scheduled for July, 160th anniversary celebration in September.

Knox, Komoka/North Caradoc-St. Andrew's – K. Steeper provided a verbal report on behalf of the interim moderator. The pulpit is being supplied and the sacraments are being celebrated.

Argyle, Crinan/Duff, Largie – R. Shaw presented a verbal report. The sacraments are being celebrated, the pulpit is being supplied, the Sessions and boards are meeting.

Knox St. Andrew's, Dutton – H. Paton reported diligence. The session and search committee are meeting.

Other Business K. Steeper noted that the Reverend Dr. Dale Woods has been appointed Principal of Presbyterian College.

MOTION: (Steeper/MacMillan) THAT a letter be sent to the Rev. Dr. Dale Woods congratulating him on his appointment. CARRIED.

Minutes of the Presbytery of London

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Adjournment On a motion by P. Laurin, the Court stood adjourned at twenty minutes after eight o'clock in the evening, to meet again in Regular Session on Tuesday, the ninth day of September, two thousand and fourteen, at seven o'clock in the evening, in Dorchester, and within Dorchester Presbyterian Church.

The Moderator closed the meeting with prayer.

Moderator

Clerk