

Minutes of the Presbytery of London

Almanarah Presbyterian Church, London, Tuesday, March 10, 2015, 7:00 p.m.

In London, and within Almanarah Presbyterian Church, the Presbytery of London met in Regular Session on Tuesday, the tenth day of March, 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 William Khalil.

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

Attendance John Bannerman, Mavis Currie, Ed Hoekstra, William Khalil, Keith McKee, John Park, Heather Paton, Andrew Reid, Robert Shaw, Michael Stol, Mark Turner, Jon Van Den Berg, Ministers; Bob Baron, John Cameron, Janet Donkervoort, Ruth Ann Drozd, Ian Fleck, Mildred Greig, Tom Jeffery, Dave Laphorne, Patrick Laurin, Pat MacKay, Jain Mahabir, Linda McKenna, Bill McMurchy, Sheila McMurray, Nancy Newell, Barb Nyitray, Angela Osborne, Donna Jean Van Bilsen, Trudy Van Der Hoek, Peter Vanderkooy, Elders; Lu Brule, Treasurer, Carrie Thornton, Clerk; Margaret McCullough, WMS, John Van Eyk; Andras Rameshwar, Guest.

Regrets Charlotte Brown, Deb Dolbear-VanBilsen, Amanda MacMillan, Ministers.

Absent Sandra VanDerVeen, Elder.

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

Minutes **MOTION:** (McKee/Jeffery) THAT the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Presbytery of London, held on February 10, 2015, 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 (Reid/Drozd) THAT the following correspondence be received for information: CARRIED.

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Number	From	Regarding
15-40	E. Bartlett, Assembly Office	changes to the Roll
15-42	A. Sutherland, Presbyterian Museum	copy of letter - than you for Knollwood donation
15-43	D. Woods, Presbyterian College	applications for director of pastoral studies

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

Number	From	Regarding	Refer To
15-39	C. Small, Middlesex County Archives	copying Bethel records	admin team
15-41	J. Leitch, Clerk of Session, Duff	new Clerk of Session	clerk
15-44	K Arnold, PCC archives	receipt of first box of Bethel session records	clerk
15-45	T. McDonald-Lee, Camp Kintail	bulletin announcements	circ. elect.
15-46	T. McDonald-Lee, Camp Kintail	Kintail on the Road	circ. elect.
15-47	T. Hamilton, Assembly office	receipt of list of commissioners/YAR	clerk

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

Reverend Deb Dolbear-VanBilsen
Lynda Drummelsmith (Duff)

RECOMMENDATION #4 (Jeffery/Stol) THAT The Reverend David Stewart be appointed interim moderator at St. John's Presbyterian Church, Port Stanley effective April 1, 2015. CARRIED.

RECOMMENDATION #5 (Stol/Bannerman) THAT the Reverend Jacob Lee be transferred to the Presbytery of East Toronto effective March 10, 2015. CARRIED.

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

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

Youth and Campus Ministries H. Paton presented a verbal report. She thanked everyone who helped with the One Day Wonder and reminded Presbytery about the mission trip to Montreal.

M. Currie thanked H. Paton for her work with One Day Wonder.

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“Conversations” M. Currie presented the report which had been circulated with the advance reports. She reminded the Court that several motions had been tabled at the February meeting
Team Report

MOTION: (Currie/Stol) THAT recommendations #4, #5, #6 be lifted from the table and withdrawn. CARRIED.

MOTION: (Currie/Reid) THAT Presbytery teams be reduced in number to four core teams: Administrative, Congregational Life, Ministry, Mission, and one special team: Sexual Abuse Response and that the purpose and terms of each team be as stated below: CARRIED.

ADMINISTRATIVE

The Administrative Team shall be composed of the Moderator, immediate Past-Moderator, Clerk, Treasurer and other members of the Court at large. The responsibilities of the Administrative Team shall be:

- (a) directing of correspondence to the appropriate teams for action and information.
- (b) setting a tentative agenda for the Court's next meeting.
- (c) acting provisionally on behalf of the Court, when necessary, for routine emergent business. Such acts are to be homologated at the next regular sederunt of Presbytery.
- (d) ensuring the finances of the presbytery are in order (including budgeting).
- (e) making recommendations to the Presbytery of London concerning the Discretionary Fund.
- (f) ensuring the annual review and update of standing orders for presentation to all presbyters at the September meeting.
- (g) maintaining the roll of Presbytery.
- (h) keeping the values of the Presbytery before the Court.
- (i) ensuring that a Moderator Search Team is formed at the January meeting of Presbytery by calling for volunteers.
- (j) ensuring yearly review and appointment of the Presbytery Treasurer, yearly review of the Presbytery Clerk and appointment of the Clerk every third year.
- (k) in the event of a vacancy in the position of Clerk or Treasurer, ensuring that search teams are appointed.
- (l) ensuring that remits, referrals, study papers and other items from the General Assembly and its Committees and Agencies which require a response are dealt with by the presbytery.
- (m) ensuring that national and synod level nominations are dealt with by the presbytery.
- (n) ensuring that the sexual abuse response team is in place immediately
- (o) recruiting focus teams as needed to address any of the team's responsibilities.

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(p) communicating with each core team once/year to ensure that all terms for core teams are reviewed on an annual basis.

(q) reviewing the terms of reference for this team on an annual basis.

MINISTRY

The responsibilities of the Ministry Team shall be:

(a) overseeing students for the ministry.

(b) examining candidates for certification, and making recommendations to the Presbytery.

(c) examining candidates for certification for ordination, and making recommendations to the Presbytery.

(d) receiving applications and making recommendations concerning the Stalker Fund.

(e) encouraging applications for study leave, receiving applications for study leave and making recommendations to the court regarding study leave for clergy and lay missionaries, in accordance with General Assembly guidelines.

(f) requesting annual report on self-directed study and courses taken by clergy and lay missionaries.

(g) conducting annual review of lay missionaries.

(h) maintaining and communicating a list of pulpit supply preachers to congregations within the presbytery

(i) providing additional support to the Congregational Life team in terms of visits to congregations which are newly vacant, as requested by Congregational Life.

(j) reviewing the terms of reference for this team on an annual basis.

(k) providing ongoing support and encouragement to the hospital visitor

(l) ensuring a yearly review of the hospital visitor position is carried out

(m) reviewing Call documents before such documents are presented to the Court.

(n) recruiting focus teams as needed to address any of the Team's responsibilities.

(o) ensuring that the work of the small church ministries fund is managed according to the following terms of reference:

The Small church ministries fund:

1. The fund will be open for application by any congregation whose dollar base is less than \$100,000.00
2. The fund will be available for ministry projects only. This excludes normal ongoing operating expenses or capital expenditures projects.
3. Qualifying congregations will receive a maximum of \$2000.00 per calendar year.
4. A total maximum amount of \$10,000.00 will be available per year.

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5. When making applications, congregations should include a description of the project they wish to undertake, and an estimate of the total cost of the project. All projects must first be approved by the session making the application fund.
6. Congregations are encouraged to consider repaying part or all of the amount granted by the fund should this be feasible. Donations to the fund will be accepted by the Presbytery.

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

The responsibilities of the congregational life team shall be:

- (a) appointing visitation teams consisting of at least one clergy and one ruling to congregations and setting the rotation schedule for congregational visits.
- (b) ensuring that review teams consisting of at least one clergy and one ruling elder are appointed when there is an upcoming vacancy.
- (c) ensuring that manse inspections take place at the time of vacancy.
- d) overseeing and continuing implementation of both the Leading with Care Policy and the Sexual Abuse and Harassment Policy of the Presbyterian Church in Canada;
- (e) providing ongoing support and resources to congregations within the bounds of the Presbytery to ensure compliance with these policies, particularly at the time of the approval of a call or appointment;
- (f) overseeing the implementation of the Leading with Care Policy for Presbytery events (e.g. Youth Events);
- (g) overseeing the implementation of the Leading with Care Policy for any Presbytery staff (e.g. Hospital Worker);
- (h) conducting annual training events for congregations and for the presbytery regarding the “Leading with Care” policy.
- (i) recruiting focus teams as needed to address any of the Team's responsibilities.
- (j) reviewing the terms of reference for this team on an annual basis.

MISSION

The responsibilities of the Mission Team shall be:

- a) organizing and supporting local, national and international mission projects, i.e. Canada Foodgrains, PWS&D, Presbyterians Sharing
- b) considering and making recommendations to Presbytery regarding Canada Ministries Applications
- c) encouraging and providing guidance and oversight regarding new Church Development
- d) providing representation on the Synod Creative Ministries Committee (approximately 4 meetings per year)

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(e) receiving reports from, encouraging and supporting the work of the Presbytery Youth Ministry Team (see mandate of this sub team below)

The Presbytery Youth ministry team exists to create a youth ministry network within the presbytery of London. This network will:

- foster opportunities for young people to engage in meaningful worship, mission, recreation and faith development activities that individual congregations are not able to provide on their own (due to resources or number of participants).
- create opportunities for leadership development for adults involved in youth ministry.
- aid in communicating wider church youth activities to individual youth leaders

(f) reviewing the presbytery website, making recommendations regarding changes to the website and ensuring approved changes are implemented to the website

(g) planning annual events for the presbytery related to mission/evangelism.

(h) recruiting focus teams as needed to address any of the Team's responsibilities.

(i) overseeing the Models of Ministry team created at the January 2015 meeting of Presbytery

(j) reviewing the terms of reference for this team on an annual basis.

SEXUAL ABUSE RESPONSE TEAM

The sexual abuse response team will be appointed by the Administrative Team and approved by the Presbytery. This team will include a balance of ages, gender, and elder/clergy.

The responsibilities of the sexual abuse response team include:

- (a) being knowledgeable of the Sexual Abuse and Harassment Policy
- (b) handling any complaints or allegations according to the Policy

MOTION: (Jeffrey/Reid) THAT core teams be given permission to establish Sub-groups to deal with specific areas of their responsibilities. CARRIED.

MOTION: (Reid/Currie) THAT each Presbytery core team has a membership Of at least six, including at least three ruling elders and at least three teaching elders from the active Presbytery roll. CARRIED.

MOTION: (Reid/Jeffrey) THAT the “Conversation” team be dismissed with the thanks of the Court. CARRIED.

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Amanarah W. Khalil circulated a written report and a financial statement to February 28, 2015.

Memorial Minute The Rev. Gale Kay The Reverend Gale Ann Kay peacefully passed into the arms of her Lord on Friday, February 13, 2015 at Parkwood Hospital, London, Ontario in her seventy-sixth year. Gale was the daughter of the late Bella McLean and James Kay of Guelph, Ontario. In her youth Gale attended Knox Presbyterian Church, Guelph. She became an elementary school teacher before entering Ewart College. She served as a deaconess in Knox Presbyterian Church, Waterloo and Knox Presbyterian Church, Listowel. Gale returned to Knox College and graduated with a Masters of Divinity degree. She was ordained by the Presbytery of London and served in the Knox Belmont-St. James, North Yarmouth pastoral charge. Sensing a call away from parish ministry, Gale continued her studies and became a chaplain at Parkwood Hospital, working primarily with veterans and those with Alzheimer's Disease. Gale was at Parkwood Hospital for seventeen years. In her ministry, Gale comforted many with the Gospel of Christ. Gale is remembered for her strong faith in her Lord, her serene and calming presence, the rich friendships she developed over the years, and her devotion to her family. Gale is survived by her brothers the Reverend J. Beverley Kay (Isobel) of Armstrong, BC and Kenneth Kay (Leanne) of Guelph. She was a beloved aunt, great aunt, and great-great aunt. A funeral service was conducted at Elmwood Avenue Presbyterian Church on Thursday, February 19, 2015. Gale was interred at Woodlawn Memorial Park Cemetery the following Day.

MOTION: (McKee/Van Der Hoek) THAT this memorial minute be recorded in the minutes of the Presbytery of London and transmitted to the Clerks of Assembly. CARRIED.

Strategic Planning Discussion K. McKee led the Court in considering three Strategic Planning questions requested by Assembly Council.

R. Shaw thanked K. McKee for his leadership in this exercise.

Students and Education Team No report.

Denominational Work Team A. Reid presented the reported that was circulated with the advance reports.

MOTION: (Reid/Van Der Hoek) THAT the response of the Presbytery of London to Remit A be approve. CARRIED.

MOTION: (Reid/Van Der Hoek) THAT the response of the Presbytery of

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London to Remit B be approve. CARRIED.

MOTION: (Reid/Jeffrey) THAT the response of the Presbytery of London to Remit C be approve. CARRIED.

Vacancy and Visitation Team R. Drozd presented a verbal. The team hopes to schedule three regular visitations before the end of April.

J. Bannerman presented the report of the Elmwood Avenue exit review team.

MOTION: (Bannerman/Van Bilsen) THAT the Rev. Kevin Steeper, the members of the Session and the Board of Managers, and the members and adherents of Elmwood Ave. Presbyterian Church be commended for their faithful ministry. CARRIED.

MOTION: (Bannerman/Van Bilsen) THAT Elmwood Ave. Presbyterian Church be permitted to proceed with a search for a Minister of Word and Sacraments. CARRIED.

MOTION: (Drozd/Stol) THAT the exit review team to Elmwood Ave. Presbyterian Church be dismissed with the thanks of the Court. CARRIED.

Leading with Care Team T. Jeffery presented the report circulated with the advance reports.

MOTION: (Currie/Stol) THAT a letter be sent to all congregations explaining the requirements of the policy and that each submit a copy of their policy for review by the committee no later than September 15, 2016. CARRIED.

MOTION: (Currie/Stol) THAT workshops be held within the Presbytery offering help and review of the policy and procedure with all congregations and details to be worked out by the committee and then circulated to all members of Presbytery and Clerks of Session. CARRIED.

Mission and Evangelism Team J. Van Den Berg presented a verbal report. A meeting was held at Oakridge Presbyterian Church to discuss and learn about refugee status. Another meeting will be held to learn about the expectations of refugee sponsors.

Hospital Visitor Team No report.

Website and Communications Team J. Mahabir informed the Court that the new Presbytery website is now live.

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Small Church Ministries Team No report.

Reports of Moderators Knox, Fingal – No report.

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

St. John's, Port Stanley – No report.

Knox, Komoka/North Caradoc-St. Andrew's – R. Shaw reported that a candidate is preaching for the call this month.

Argyle, Crinan/Duff, Largie – R. Shaw reported that the annual meetings have been held.

Knox St. Andrew's, Dutton – M. Stol reported that the pulpit is supplied until the end of the summer. Candidates are being interviewed.

St. Lawrence, London – J. Park reported that the pulpit is supplied, the annual meeting has been held and the vision statement is being finalized.

Elmwood Avenue, London – K. McKee reported that pulpit is supplied to the end of the summer. A transitional committee has been created to deal with transitional issues and to survey the congregation. This is not a search committee.

Other Business None.

Adjournment On a motion by T. Jeffrey, the Court stood adjourned at eight minutes after nine o'clock in the evening, to meet again in Regular Session on Tuesday, the fourteenth day of April, two thousand and fifteen, at seven o'clock in the evening, in London, and within Chalmers Presbyterian Church.

The Moderator closed the meeting with prayer.

Moderator

Clerk