

Minutes of the Presbytery of London
Online Meeting, Tuesday, October 13, 2020, 7:00 PM

The Presbytery of London met online in regular session on Tuesday, the thirteenth day of October, two thousand and twenty, at the hour of seven o'clock in the evening.

- Constitution** The Moderator, Reverend Deb Dolbear-Van Bilsen, constituted the Court with prayer.
- Worship** The Worship Service was led by Reverend Deb Dolbear-Van Bilsen.
- Installation of Co-Moderators** The Moderator, Reverend Deb Dolbear-Van-Bilsen installed Reverend Michelle Butterfield-Kocis and Reverend Mavis Currie as Co-moderators of the Presbytery of London.
- Welcome, Courtesies and Announcements** The Moderator, Rev. M. Currie welcomed everyone to the meeting. She thanked the outgoing moderator for her leadership during the first months of the pandemic. She also thanked Richard Cote for facilitating the online meetings.
- Attendance** John Bannerman, Michael Burns, Michelle Butterfield-Kocis, James Clark, Jeffrey Crawford, Mavis Currie, Deb Dolbear-Van Bilsen, Andrew Fullerton, Ed Hoekstra, Amanda MacMillan, Keith McKee, James Patterson, Andrew Thompson, Ministers; Lynn Nichol, Andrew Reid, Patricia Shaver, Appendix; Em Cameron, Linda Charlton, Richard Cote, Janet Donkervoort, Lynda Drummel-Smith, Bill Fletcher, Lynda Ford, Richard Foster, Theresa Glithero, Tracy Grant, Tom Jeffery, Janice Lockhart, Brian Lunn, Elizabeth MacLeod, Sheila McMurray, Inge Stahl, Donna Jean Van Bilsen, Trudy van der Hoek, Elders; Lu Brule, Treasurer; Carrie Thornton, Clerk; Charlene Beynan, Bruce Curtis, New St. James Presbyterian Church.
- Regrets** Norm Belyea, Margaret McGugan, Elders.
- Absent** Doug Hill, Elder.
- Docket** **MOTION:** (Thompson/Charlton) THAT the Docket as circulated be adopted for the meeting. CARRIED.
- Minutes** **MOTION:** (Thompson/Charlton) THAT the minutes of the Regular Meeting of September 8, 2020 adopted. CARRIED.
- Call from New St. James** The Moderator invited the interim moderator, A. Fullerton, to narrate the steps leading to the call.
- Narration of Steps** Foreseeing the retirement of Rev. Andrew Reid at the end of October 2017, the Presbytery of London appointed me Interim Moderator of New St James

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Narration of Steps Church at its meeting in June 2017.

(continued) At my first meeting with the Session of New St James Church, the Session agreed that the continuity and well-being of the Church's life and work could be well cared for during the vacancy by a suitable Interim Minister. The Rev. Dr David Thompson served in that capacity from November 2017 to November 2019. The Rev. Mark McLennan has, since January 2020, served as stated supply in the pulpit. He has also offered excellent pastoral care on a part time basis.

As Interim Moderator, I worked alongside the Search Committee and guided its deliberations. When called upon, I assisted New St James with many pastoral and administrative matters as they arose. I'm happy to report that, in my judgement, the continuity of the Ministry of Word and Sacrament has been well maintained during this long vacancy. The Congregation of New St James is in good spirits, and this is in no small measure due to its capable leadership, competent staff, and committed membership.

The Session established a Search Committee in December 2017 under the Convenorship of Bruce Curtis. They prepared an excellent and accurate Congregational Profile. A sub-committee led by Charlene Beynon also conducted an extensive Congregational Survey. They engaged a professional consultant to help them interpret the results. The Survey Report, entitled "Cherishing our Past and Embracing our Future", was praised by one candidate as "the best and most helpful example of its kind" that he had seen. Every potential candidate for this vacancy received copies of both the Profile and Survey.

The Search Committee formally met a total of 13 times over 32 months. These meetings were interspersed with many informal consultations as well. The vacancy was listed on the website of The Presbyterian Church in Canada, and advertised in the Summer 2018 and Spring 2020 editions of *The Presbyterian Connection*. There were expressions of interest and/or applications from 29 potential candidates. In addition, I approached 15 potential candidates to consider whether God might be calling them to New St James.

The Search Committee interviewed The Rev. Dr David Clark on 17 July 2020 and again on 31 July 2020. They unanimously agreed to recommend to the Session that Dr Clark be invited as the sole candidate to preach for a Call. Dr Clark agreed.

On 1 September 2020, the Session gladly assented and arranged for Dr Clark to

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**Narration of
Steps
(continued)**

preach for a Call to New St James Church on 27 September 2020. The worship service was held in the sanctuary with the Session being personally present. Because of the pandemic, all health and safety protocols were scrupulously observed. The service was “live streamed” on the internet for the entire Congregation to see and hear. A weak “FM” signal also broadcast the service to the surrounding neighbourhood. A video recording of the service was made available ‘online’ during the following week. DVD copies were distributed to parishioners who had no access to the internet. Printed copies of Dr Clark’s sermon were given to those requesting it.

Notice had duly been given, in the previous weeks, for an online Congregational Meeting on the afternoon of 27 September 2020. The meeting’s purpose was to ascertain the Congregation’s readiness to proceed with a Call, to hear the terms of the Call, including the Guarantee of Stipend, and to affirm its desire to insert Dr Clark’s name in the Call Document. I can attest that these steps were duly and properly carried out.

The Call Document has been very well subscribed. Only those who were personally present for the Preaching of the Call were able to sign the Call in their own hand. Because of the pandemic, the Elders of New St James contacted every member and adherent in their districts to solicit their decisions. These appear in the Call Document under the Elders’ signatures. The Clerks of the General Assembly gave assurance that this is a legal and acceptable method to use, especially under current conditions.

Of a total membership of 212, 176 have signed the Call or asked for their assent to be recorded by their Elder. This is 83 percent of the membership. However, because of some very recent deaths and migrations away from London, and taking into account the number of people in long term care who are not able or competent to take a decision of this kind, the number of members is reduced to 195, and the Call is supported by 90 percent of the membership. Also, while attempts were made to contact all members, a small number were not available or able to respond. Therefore, the total number of members who were in a position to subscribe to the Call is, in fact, 179. Looked at this way, I’m able to say that 98 percent of the available membership of New St James have subscribed to this Call. In addition, 46 adherents have concurred.

De Clark would bring a breadth of experience to New St James. Not only has he served capably as Minister of a Congregation, he has also served competently as a Chaplain in the Canadian Armed Forces, and as a part-time Lecturer at the University of Toronto while he was completing a splendid

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Narration of Steps (continued) dissertation for a Ph.D. degree. Those who know him recognise his pastoral gifts and his good character.

We often mire ourselves in issues of “fit” and “match” when we think of calling a Minister. But down the centuries, through prayer and experience, the Church has discerned another agent at work, one that knows more than we do. It’s the “Hand of God’s Providence”. I believe that, through our many months of waiting, and working, Providence has been at work too.

Moderator, I pray that the trust the Presbytery placed in me by appointing me Interim Moderator has not been misplaced. I trust that they will approve of my stewardship of the Congregation of New St James and the steps I have taken in moderating this Call to the point of bringing it forward tonight.

If the Court, having reviewed the Call Document, is satisfied, I am prepared, now, to read the Guarantee of Stipend, and then to move that the Call to the Rev. Dr David Clark be received and considered.

Approve the Conduct of the Interim Moderator **MOTION:** (Patterson/Donkervoort) THAT the conduct of the Interim Moderator, The Rev. Dr Andrew Fullerton, be approved. CARRIED.

The Moderator invited the Interim Moderator to present the Terms of the Call and read the Guarantee of Stipend.

Guarantee of Stipend **Call and Guarantee to Presbytery of Stipend**

We, the professing members of New St James Presbyterian Church, London, Ontario, being well satisfied with your faithfulness to the Gospel and your qualifications for the ministry of Word and Sacraments and confident that the Holy Spirit has led us to you, earnestly and solemnly call you, The Rev. Dr David A.R. Clark, to become the minister of this Congregation. In calling you we promise you all due respect, encouragement, and allegiance in the Lord as, together, we seek to use our gifts in the church and in the world to the glory of God.

In order that you, The Rev. Dr David A.R. Clark, may be free to devote yourself to ministry of Word and Sacraments among us, we the congregation of New St James Presbyterian Church hereby guarantee to the Presbytery of London, of The Presbyterian Church in Canada, that out of our estimated annual revenue of three hundred and fifty nine thousand five hundred dollars, we promise and obligate ourselves to provide you, as

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Guarantee of Stipend (continued)	<i>a first charge thereon, the following annually:</i>	
	<i>Annual Salary (inclusive of travel allowance)</i>	<i>\$62,000</i>
	<i>Housing Allowance</i>	<i><u>\$18,000</u></i>
	<i>Total</i>	<i><u>\$80,000</u></i>

We agree to make payments of the above amounts on the first day of each month, and agree to adjust the stipend and allowances annually, in view of any changes in the cost of living or the needs of our minister.

We agree further:

- 1. To provide two weeks for continuing education annually and at least the minimum allowance as set by the General Assembly.*
- 2. That the benefits of number 1 above shall be cumulative up to five years.*
- 3. To provide five weeks of vacation annually, which shall be used in the year they are given.*
- 4. To pay supply during the periods of continuing education and holidays.*
- 5. In case of disability or extended illness, to continue to provide stipend, accommodation and allowances for a period not less than that set by the General Assembly, and to pay the cost of pulpit supply.*
- 6. To pay for Medical and Dental Insurance as provided through the Pension and Benefits Board of the General Assembly and to make contributions to the Pension Plan in compliance with the terms of the plan.*
- 7. To pay necessary moving expenses.*
- 8. To provide an annual book allowance of \$750.00.*

Receive and Consider **MOTION:** (Fullerton/Donkervoort) THAT the Call to The Rev. Dr David Clark from the congregation of New St James Presbyterian Church, be received and considered and that Mr. Bruce Curtis, the representative of the congregation, be heard. **CARRIED.**

The review team confirmed that the Terms of the Call and the Guarantee of Stipend are acceptable.

Call Sustained **MOTION:** (Patterson/Donkervoort) THAT the Guarantee of Stipend be deemed acceptable and that the Call to The Rev. Dr David Clark be sustained as a regular gospel call and transmitted to the Presbytery of Brampton. **CARRIED.**

MOTION: (Patterson/Donkervoort) THAT the interim moderator, The Rev Dr Andrew Fullerton, represent the Presbytery of London and Mr. Bruce Curtis

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represent the congregation of New St James when the Call is considered by the Presbytery of Brampton. CARRIED.

Induction Service **MOTION:** (Patterson/Donkervoort) THAT if the Call is sustained by the Presbytery of Brampton and accepted by The Rev. Dr David Clark, the arrangements for the induction service be left in the hands of the Moderator, Clerk and Interim Moderator. CARRIED.

The Moderator invited the representatives of New St James Presbyterian Church to stay for the remainder of the service but gave them permission to leave if they wished.

Correspondence And Motions The Moderator invited the Clerk, C. Thornton, to present the correspondence and motions report.

MOTION: (Butterfield-Kocis/MacLeod) that recommendations 1 through 7 be adopted by consent. CARRIED.

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

Number	From	Regarding
20-54	S. Kendall, clerk of assembly	overtures/petitions intended for 2020 General Assembly
20-56	S. Kendall, clerk of assembly	overtures/petitions 2021 General Assembly
20-59	D. McIlveen, Clerk Seaway-Glengarry	Guy Laberge not re-certified
20-60	J. Astop, grant coordinator LMA	Dorchester grant approved for New Beginnings program
20-61	J. Astop, grant coordinator LMA	St. James, North Yarmouth grant approved for New Beginnings Program
20-64	Office of Registrar General	solemnize marriages expanded to members of First Nation, Metis, Inuit communities/organizations/bands

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

Number	From	Regarding	Refer To
20-55	S. Kendall, clerk of assembly	nominations for moderator 2021 GA	announced at Presbytery meeting
20-57	J. Astop, grant program coordinator	application deadlines	circ. elect.
20-58	M. Leung, Stewardship & Planned Giving	Presbyterians Sharing August 2020	circ. elect.
20-62	Assembly Council	request for feedback re 2021 GA	circ. elect.
20-63	J. Crawford, minister Westmount	resignation	moderators
20-65	R. Simpson, Presbytery lending fund	resignation as treasurer	moderators
20-66	D. Stewart, IM St. John's, Port Stanley	resignation as interim moderator	moderators

RECOMMENDATION #3: THAT the following elders be named as Representative and Alternate Representative Elders to the Presbytery of London for the 2020-2021 year:

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Caradoc ; Theresa Glithero (R);
Westmount, London : Em Cameron (R);
Elmwood Avenue, London : Trudy van der Hoek (R) Cathy Cornhill (A).

RECOMMENDATION #4: THAT the Clerk write a letter of appreciation to the following representative elders who have retired:

Sandra Hamilton (St. George's), Charmaine Fletcher (Knox, Fingal), Mildred Greig, (Caradoc), Kris Kuhlmann-Bigg (Westmount), Cal Bigg (Westmount).

RECOMMENDATION #5: THAT Rev. Deb Dolbear-Van Bilsen, Rev., Mavis Currie, Rev. Ed Hoekstra, Margaret McGugan (New St James) and Richard Cote (Chalmers) be appointed commissioners to the 2020 meeting of the Synod of Southwestern Ontario.

RECOMMENDATION #6: THAT the action of the clerk in forwarding the names of the Synod commissioners to the Clerk of Synod be homologated.

RECOMMENDATION #7: THAT Rev. Courtney Crawford be transferred to the Presbytery of Waterloo-Wellington effective November 1, 2020.

RECOMMENDATION #8: (McKee/Patterson) THAT the resignation of Rev. David Stewart as interim moderator of St. John's Presbyterian Church, Port Stanley, effective September 30, 2020, be accepted with the thanks of the Court. CARRIED.

RECOMMENDATION #9: (Clark/Bannerman) THAT Rev. Deb Dolbear-Van Bilsen be appointed interim moderator of St. John's Presbyterian Church, Port Stanley, effective October 1, 2020. CARRIED.

RECOMMENDATION #10: (Hoekstra/Thompson) THAT the resignation of Mr. Robert Simpson as treasurer of the Presbytery of London Lending Fund, effective December 31, 2020, be accepted with the thanks of the Court for his 50 years of service. CARRIED.

Treasurer's Report This report was circulated in advance. L. Brule explained the different accounts and the purpose of the discretionary fund.

Clerk's Report The Clerk presented a verbal report and, among other items, reminded the members of the Court to join the virtual meeting before the designated start time and to remember proper virtual meeting etiquette.

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Co-Moderators' MOTION: (McKee/Cote) THAT this report not be received because it is not the work of the Moderator to introduce business to the COURT. DEFEATED.

MOTION: (Charlton/Thompson) THAT the Presbytery adopt a strategy of employing task teams to address emergent business for the year 2020-2021 in order to ensure the essential work of the court continues (example reviewing calls etc). These teams would be appointed by the co-moderators. CARRIED.

MOTION: (Charlton/MacLeod) THAT a planning circle composed of the co-moderators, the past moderator, one additional minister and three elders meet prior to each presbytery meeting to review the agenda and to contribute toward the structure of presbytery discussion re. future structure. The membership of the planning circle will always include the co-moderators and the past moderator. The other members will change each month.

AMENDMENT: (Bannerman/Patterson) THAT the Clerk be added to the composition of the planning circle. AMENDMENT CARRIED.

AMENDED MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION: (MacLeod/Thompson) THAT Rev. John Bannerman and Rev. Deb Dolbear-Van Bilsen serve as chaplains to the moderators to provide regular support to the co-moderators and to encourage a culture of prayer within our presbytery. CARRIED.

MOTION: (Thompson/Charlton) THAT John Bannerman and Inge Stahl be named co-convenors of a design team for a mission event within the next 18 months. CARRIED.

MOTION: (Thompson/Charlton) THAT for the year 2020-2021, a standing committee comprised of the following individuals: Rev. Andrew Reid (convenor), Rev. Dr Andrew Fullerton, Rev. Amanda MacMillan, Laurie McGill and Susan McNair (affirmation pending) be appointed as the Sexual Abuse and Harassment/LWC Committee for the presbytery to address any urgent matters related to the Leading With Care policy or complaints of sexual abuse and harassment. CARRIED.

MOTION: (MacLeod/Charlton) THAT the structure of our discussions this year regarding the future work of the presbytery centre around the three duties/responsibilities as outlined in the Book of Forms: The Presbytery in relation to the congregations. The Presbytery in relation to the ministry. The Presbytery in relation to other church courts. CARRIED.

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MOTION: (Thompson/Charlton) THAT discussions regarding reflection and revisioning happen in small groups and these groups report back to the following presbytery meeting.

AMENDMENT: (McKee/Brule) THAT the small groups report back to the January meeting. AMENDMENT CARRIED.

AMENDED MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION: (Thompson/Charlton) THT the small groups for the October discussions be in the following groups. The first name mentioned is the convenor. The responsibility of the convenor is to find a suitable platform for members to meet and discuss according to the deadlines provided, to facilitate the discussion and record the thoughts expressed. The work done in small groups will then be reviewed by the next month's planning circle and presented to the presbytery in written form.

Breakout group one: Amanda MacMillan, Deb Dolbear-Van Bilsen, James Clark, Jim Patterson, Knox St. Thomas, Oakridge, Chalmers, Argyle/Duff, South Nissouri.

Breakout group two: Michelle Butterfield-Kocis, Mike Burns, Ed Hoekstra, Westmount, New St. James, Elmwood, Dutton, St. James, North Yarmouth.

Breakout group three: John Bannerman, Mavis Currie, Keith McKee, Trinity, St. Lawrence, Glencoe/Wardsville, Burns, Fingal.

Breakout group four: Andrew Thompson, Andrew Fullerton, Jeffrey Crawford, St. George's, St. John's, Port Stanley, Dorchester, Appin/Melbourne, Caradoc.

CARRIED.

MOTION: (MacLeod/Charlton) THAT for the 2020-2021 year, all reports, including interim moderator reports be given in writing only, to facilitate meetings that finish in a timely fashion. A time for questions of all written reports will always be provided. CARRIED.

MOTION: (McKee/Dolbear-Van Bilsen) THAT the actions of the co-moderators in forming a planning group/circle be homologated. The members of this group are A. Thompson, E. Cameron, E. MacLeod, L. Charlton, D. Dolbear-Van Bilsen, M. Currie, M. Butterfield-Kocis. CARRIED.

**Reports of
Interim
Moderators**

St. James, North Yarmouth – report circulated in advance; no questions.

St. John's, Port Stanley – **MOTION:** (Dolbear-Van Bilsen/MacLeod) THAT the Presbytery of London approve the renewal of the Lay Missionary Stated Agreement with Tom Jeffery retroactive to October 1, 2020 and through to

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October 1, 2021. CARRIED.

A copy of this agreement is found on page 6029 of these minutes.

Argyle, Crinan/Duff, Largie – no report.

New St. James, London – nothing further.

Knox, Fingal – report circulated in advance; no questions.

Dorchester – report circulated in advance; no questions.

South Nissouri – report circulated in advance. The congregation was reminded that correspondence to and questions for the Court are from the session clerk to the Presbytery Clerk.

Trinity Community, London – report circulated in advance; no questions.

Other Business No other business.

Adjournment On a motion by L. Charlton, the Court stood adjourned at twenty-seven minutes before ten o'clock, to meet again in special session on Monday, the nineteenth day of October, two thousand and twenty, at seven o'clock in the evening and in regular session on Tuesday, the tenth day of November, two thousand and twenty, at seven o'clock in the evening. These meetings will be held online.

The Moderator closed the meeting with prayer.

Moderator

Clerk

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C. Thornton, Clerk

St. John's Presbyterian Church, Port Stanley, Ontario
Lay Missionary Agreement Between
Tom Jeffery and St. John's Presbyterian Church, Port Stanley

The contract of employment with Mr. Jeffery is for a period of October 1, 2020 – September 30, 2021.

The contract must be renewed in writing yearly. Either party may terminate the contract by providing thirty (30) days written notice. The contract consists of sixteen (16) hours of paid employment weekly, with the expectation that eight (8) hours will be spent in preparation and deliverance of preaching and worship, with eight (8) hours committed to performing pastoral care, attending meetings, and programs (as outlined by Session). Mr. Jeffery will receive a yearly stipend of \$24,850, which is inclusive of housing, utilities and study leave. In addition, Mr. Jeffery is to receive five (5) weeks of paid holidays annually.

Mr. Jeffery will be responsible to the Session of St. John's Presbyterian Church, Port Stanley, and its Interim-Moderator. Regular reports will be made to Session.

Roles and Responsibilities of Mr. Jeffery will include, but are not limited to the following:

- **Worship and Preaching each Sunday:**
 - Order and share conduct of worship (ie order of service, choice of scripture readings, hymns);
 - Prepare and preach sermons on all Sundays except on Communion Sundays, and occasional absences such as illness, or with prior permission of the Session and Interim-Moderator;
 - To arrange for pulpit supply on those Sundays when absent from the pulpit, in consultation with Session and the Interim-Moderator;
 - Conduct funerals and other appropriate services as requested;
 - Conduct nursing-home services as requested, and with the permission of Session.

- **Pastoral Care**
 - Oversee the general pastoral care of the congregation, working in close association with the Session and Interim Moderator.
 - Visit new families who have come into the church;
 - Do hospital and institutional visits.

- **Nurture and Christian Development**
 - Support and nurture Christian Development through Bible Study and other Activities designed for adults and children and as requested by Session.

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C. Thornton, Clerk