

Minutes of the Presbytery of London
Online Meeting, Tuesday, September 8, 2020, 7:00 PM

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

Constitution The Moderator, The Reverend Deb Dolbear-Van Bilsen, constituted the Court with prayer.

Worship The Worship Service was led by The Reverend Mavis Currie.

Welcome, Courtesies and Announcements The Moderator welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Attendance John Bannerman, Michael Burns, Michelle Butterfield-Kocis, James Clark, Mavis Currie, Deb Dolbear-Van Bilsen, Andrew Fullerton, Ed Hoekstra, Keith McKee, James Patterson, Andrew Thompson, Ministers; Courtney Crawford, Andrew Reid, Appendix; Norm Belyea, Em Cameron, Linda Charlton, Richard Cote, Janet Donkervoort, Lynda Drummelsmith, Bill Fletcher, Lynda Ford, Richard Foster, Doug Hill, Tom Jeffery, Brian Lunn, Margaret McGugan, Sheila McMurray, Inge Stahl, Donna Jean Van Bilsen, Trudy van der Hoek, Elders; Lu Brule, Treasurer; Carrie Thornton, Clerk; Rev. John Borthwick, Rev. Hugh Donnelly, Lawrie Carter, Knox Presbyterian Church, Waterloo.

Regrets Jeffrey Crawford, Amanda Macmillan, Ministers; Jon Van Den Berg, Appendix; Cal Bigg, Mildred Greig, Elders.

Absent Elizabeth MacLeod, Elder.

Docket **MOTION:** (Bannerman/Thompson) THAT the Docket as amended for other business be adopted for the meeting. CARRIED.

Notice of Motion J. Patterson made the following notice of motion:

I will move or cause to be moved that the following conditional offer to be moderator be accepted:

The Rev. Mavis Currie and the Rev. Michelle Butterfield-Kocis, ministers in good standing and members of the Presbytery of London, do hereby offer their services as co-moderators of Presbytery during the balance of 2020 through to the September meeting 2021.

The offer is conditional upon the Presbytery being in majority agreement both with our offer and with the following conditions of our proposed year of service.

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1. That the Presbytery of London commit to meeting online for the 2020/2021 year.
2. That this year be understood as a transitional year for creative change to a new way of functioning as a presbytery.
3. That the focus of the year will be to actively seek ways to foster mutual respect, pastoral care, and a spirit of cooperation among our members, both teaching and ruling elders.
4. That the current team structure of presbytery be dissolved for the 2020/2021 year.
5. That members of presbytery and the clerk of presbytery understand that their roles and their job descriptions may change during this transition year and also following it.

Rev. Butterfield-Kocis and Rev. Currie understand that these proposals would require a leap of faith and grace on the part of the presbytery during an unprecedented time in history. If another candidate has another model forward, they will gladly continue to serve under that individual's leadership for the 2020/2021 year. It is the feeling of both that in order to accept the position of joint moderators, the above conditions would need to be met for them.

Adjournment On a motion by J. Patterson, the Court stood adjourned at thirty minutes after seven o'clock, to reconvene again at twenty-five minutes before eight o'clock.

Constitution The Court reconvened at twenty minutes before eight o'clock. The Moderator, The Reverend Deb Dolbear-Van Bilsen constituted the Court with prayer.

Stated Hour Call to Rev. Courtney Crawford **MOTION:** (Hoekstra/Thompson) THAT the Call from Knox Presbyterian Church, Waterloo to Rev. Courtney Crawford, be received and considered and that Rev. John Borthwick, interim moderator of Knox Presbyterian Church, be invited to sit and correspond. CARRIED.

E. Hoekstra confirmed that the ministry team has reviewed the guarantee of stipend and all were found to be in order.

Guarantee of Stipend Rev. J. Borthwick came forward and read the Guarantee of Stipend.

Call and Guarantee to Presbytery of Stipend

We, the professing members of Knox Presbyterian Church, Waterloo, 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. Courtney Crawford, to become the minister of this congregation. In calling

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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. Courtney Crawford, may be free to devote yourself to ministry of Word and Sacraments among us, we the congregation of Knox Presbyterian Church hereby guarantee to the Presbytery of Waterloo-Wellington, of The Presbyterian Church in Canada, that out of our estimated annual revenue of nine hundred and thirteen thousand six hundred and forty-eight dollars, we promise and obligate ourselves to provide you, as a first charge thereon, the following annually:

Annual Salary inclusive of housing allowance and utilities and travel \$80,164.00

We agree to make payments of the above annual salary bi-monthly, and agree to adjust the compensation 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 \$1,600 per year for continuing education expenses.*
- 2. That the benefits of number 1 above shall be cumulative up to five years.*
- 3. To provide six (6) weeks 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 pay the costs related to providing our minister a mobile phone.*
- 9. All Professional church workers are encouraged that after five (5) years of service in the denomination, to take an inter-mission (as detailed in the A&P 1992, p. 383-384) and to expect the same after every five (5) years of service are completed. All inter-mission proposals are to approved by the Presbytery.*

L. Carter spoke on behalf of the congregation of Knox Presbyterian Church, Waterloo.

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Call Sustained **MOTION:** (Hoekstra/Thompson) THAT the Call to The Rev. Courtney Crawford be sustained as a true gospel call. **CARRIED.**

The Moderator advised Rev. Crawford that she has ten days to consider whether she will accept the Call.

C. Crawford told the Court that she will accept the Call. .

The Moderator invited the representatives of the Presbytery of Waterloo-Wellington and Knox Presbyterian Church to stay for the remainder of the service but gave them permission to leave if they wished.

Minutes **MOTION:** (Brule/Bannerman) THAT the minutes of the Regular Meeting of June 2, 2020 adopted. **CARRIED.**

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

MOTION: (McKee/Brule) that recommendations 1 through 3 be adopted by consent. **CARRIED.**

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

Number	From	Regarding
20-48	P. Wu, convener search committee	nomination B. Bertrand principal Presbyterian College
20-52	K. Muir, general assembly office	changes to the roll

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

Number	From	Regarding	Refer To
20-49	O. Nawar, finance office	liability insurance invoice	treasurer
20-50	M. Leung, Stewardship & Planned Giving	Presbyterians Sharing June 2020	circ. elect.
20-51	Office Registrar General	marriage licences – 3 month validity period	circ. elect.
20-53	T. Gliithero, clerk Caradoc PC	sale of Knox, Komoka	admin team

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

Knox, St. Thomas ; Jean MacPherson (R) Elizabeth MacLeod (A);
St. James, North Yarmouth : Brian Lunn (R) Kent Buchanan (A);
St. John's, Port Stanley : Richard Foster (R) William Cron (A);

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Chalmers, London : Richard Cote (R) Lizz Thibodeau (A);
Dorchester : Linda Charlton (R) Janet Carter (A);
Caradoc : Mildred Greig (R) Theresa Glithero (A);
Oakridge, London : Janet Donkervoort (R) Graham Ashbourne (A);
St. Lawrence, London : Inge Stahl (R) Alison Williams (A) Ben Ormseth (A);
Burns, Mosa : Donna Jean Van Bilsen (R) Jim McKellar (A);
New St. James, London : Margaret McGugan (R) Robert Baron (A);
Trinity Community, London : Sheila McMurray (R) Jenn Biltcliffe (A);
Westmount, London : Cal Bigg (R) Em Cameron (A);
Knox, Fingal : Janice Lockhart (R) Bill Fletcher (A);
Appin : Tom Jeffery (R) Lorna Martin (A).

RECOMMENDATION #4: (McKee/Brule) THAT Caradoc Presbyterian Church be granted permission to sell the Knox Presbyterian Church property. CARRIED.

Ministry Team **MOTION:** (Hoekstra/Thompson) THAT the Presbytery of London re-certify Byron Kappes as a candidate for the ministry of Word and Sacrament within the Presbyterian Church of Canada. CARRIED.

MOTION: (Hoekstra/Thompson) THAT the Presbytery homologate the study leave of J. Patterson. CARRIED.

Mission Team The report was circulated in advance. J. Bannerman and I. Stahl highlighted several items.

Congregational Life Team M. Currie provided a verbal report. The police record checks are up to date and most churches have submitted Leading With Care policies.

Reports of St. James, North Yarmouth – J. Patterson reported that profiles have been received.

St. John's, Port Stanley – No report.

Argyle, Crinan/Duff, Largie – report circulated in advance, nothing further.

New St. James, London – A. Fullerton reports diligence.

Knox, Fingal – No report.

Dorchester – D. Dolbear-Van Bilsen will be discussing next steps with the clerk of session.

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South Nissouri – No report.

Trinity Community, London – J. Clark reported that session has been discussing reopening plans.

**DaySpring
Fund Report**

MOTION: (Patterson/Brule) THAT there be specific people responsible for the DaySpring Fund (suggest 2 ministers from the appendix, presbytery treasurer, I ruling elder). CARRIED.

MOTION: (Patterson/Clark) THAT the Clerk of Presbytery be charged with transmitting the DaySpring Fund document to each session clerk in the bounds, indicating that until a team is named by Presbytery, applications for use from the fund should be directed to the Presbytery Treasurer. CARRIED.

MOTION: (Patterson/Clark) THAT the report as a whole be accepted. CARRIED.

The Moderator will name the team responsible for the DaySpring Fund.

**Notice of
Motion**

MOTION: (Patterson/Brule) Move and second the motion as written on Page 6012 and Page 6013 of these minutes.

K. McKee made the following AMENDMENT to Item #4 of the motion:

That the current teams meet as needed, in person or online, at the call of the chairs, for the 2020-2021 year.

Moderator asked K. McKee to put his amendment on hold to allow for discussion about the entire motion.

After much discussion by the Court, K. McKee withdrew his amendment.

MOTION CARRIED.

Dissent

K. McKee asked that his dissent be recorded in the minutes:

I record my dissent to the motion electing the Reverend Mavis Currie and the Rev. Michele Butterfield-Kocis as co-moderators. The role of the Moderator is to assure that the court is constituted and competent to deal with the business that comes before it. He or she moves the business forward, encourages fair debate, and takes the vote. The Moderator is accountable to the court, but, unless he or she leaves the chair, voices no opinion on any of the business

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brought before the court (the exception is made for the Moderator of a Kirk Session). Nor does the Moderator introduce business on her or his own (again, the exception is made for the Kirk Session). Rather Moderators receive business from committees and from the floor. Moderators are freely elected from among the constituent members of the court (except in the case of the Kirk Session). In short, Moderators are generally voiceless and must appear always to be unbiased. This election of co-moderators has set an unusual precedence. The election has come with certain conditions that now bind the court. Furthermore, with the dissolution of the standing teams, the moderators and the clerk of Presbytery will inevitably be the ones to appoint members to deal with specific tasks. This places them in a position of influence that contradicts the basic principles of being a moderator of a Presbytery, Synod, or General Assembly. While I have no doubt that the moderators elect are competent to deal with their duties, I record my dissent to the manner in which they were elected and what I perceive will be its results. I will, however, support the moderators in any way that I can.

Moderators Elect AGREED that the Moderators-elect can begin work prior to their installation.

Adjournment On a motion by J. Clark, the Court stood adjourned at nine minutes after ten o'clock, to meet again in regular session on Tuesday, the thirteenth day of October two thousand and twenty, at seven o'clock in the evening. This meeting will be held online.

The Moderator closed the meeting with prayer.

Moderator

Clerk