

Minutes of the Presbytery of London
Online Meeting, Thursday, February 18, 2021, 7:00 PM

The Presbytery of London met online in special session on Thursday, the eighteenth day of February, two thousand and twenty-one, at the hour of seven o'clock in the evening to consider a Call to Reverend Jon Van Den Berg from Dorchester Presbyterian Church, Dorchester.

Constitution The Moderator, Reverend Mavis Currie, constituted the Court with prayer.

**Welcome and
Courtesies** The Moderator welcomed guests from Dorchester Presbyterian Church.

Attendance Michelle Butterfield-Kocis, David Clark, Mavis Currie, Deb Dolbear-Van Bilsen, Andrew Fullerton, Amanda MacMillan, Keith McKee, James Patterson, Andrew Thompson, Ministers; Jon Van Den Berg, Appendix; Norm Belyea, Em Cameron, Janet Carter, Linda Charlton, Richard Cote, Bill Fletcher, Theresa Glithero, Janice Lockhart, Margaret McGugan, Sheila McMurray, Inge Stahl, Donna Jean Van Bilsen, Elders; Lu Brule, Treasurer; Carrie Thornton, Clerk; Dorothy Atkins, David Muir, Dorchester Presbyterian Church.

Regrets John Bannerman, Michael Burns, Ministers; Lynda Drummelsmith, Elder.

Absent Julia Morden, Lynn Nichol, Ministers; Janet Donkervoort, Lynda Ford, Richard Foster, Doug Hill, Tom Jeffery, Brian Lunn, Elizabeth MacLeod, Trudy van der Hoek, Elders.

**Call to Rev.
Jon Van Den
Berg** The Moderator invited the interim moderator, D. Dolbear-Van Bilsen, to narrate the steps leading up to the call.

**Narration of
Steps** Mar. 13, 2017: Pulpit Established Vacant. The Rev. Michael Stol appointed Interim Moderator to South Nissouri and Dorchester Presbyterian Churches. Nov. 1, 2017: The Rev James Clark appointed interim moderator to South Nissouri and Dorchester Presbyterian Churches. Sept. 21, 2018: The Rev. John Park appointed Interim Moderator to South Nissouri and Dorchester Presbyterian Churches. Sept. 1- Dec. 31, 2019: The Rev Keith McKee appointed Interim Moderator to South Nissouri and Dorchester Presbyterian Churches. Mar. 2019: The request was made by DPC and SN Sessions to seek Presbytery support for a Stated Supply Lay Missionary Contract with Mr. John Van Eyk. It did not proceed through Presbytery. Apr. 2019: Through the direction of Rev. Park, Interim Moderator, a Program Staff Contract was developed for Mr. Van Eyk to provide pastoral care in the two-point charge. Along with Mr. Van Eyk in pulpit supply, Rev. Park would continue to ensure a variety of voices in the pulpit as recommended by the Presbytery. Sep. 2019: Inquiry to the Session from a Retired Minister moving into the Presbytery of

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**Narration of
Steps (cont.)**

London and seeking opportunities to share ministry gifts of preaching and music. Nov. 2019: Dorchester Presbyterian notified South Nissouri and Mr. Van Eyk that their part of the Program Staff Contract with Mr. Van Eyk would end December 31, 2019. Jan. 2020: No further action on pulpit supply from the inquiring Retired Minister, as he stepped back to allow the congregations time to work through their direction together. Jan. 1, 2020: Acting Moderator of Presbytery searching for an Interim Moderator. Various Clergy and Retired Clergy volunteered to assist two-point charge to explore and consider their future together, their options and the possibility to seek a separation into two independent one-point charges. Pulpit Supply continued to be arranged for DPC by Acting Moderator of Presbytery and the Clerk of Session. Feb. 2020: At the Meeting of Presbytery, the request was presented to dissolve the pastoral tie. Carried. Feb. 9, 2020: Letter to Congregation from Congregational Life, Rev. Mavis. Currie. The announcement of intent to dissolve tie between South Nissouri and Dorchester churches. Feb. 23 and Mar. 1, 2020: Announcement of special meeting by London Presbytery to dissolve the charge and the Citation from Presbytery of London is read. Mar. 7, 2020: Online Session meeting moderated by the Rev. Andrew Thompson. Motion Carried that DPC apply before April Deadline to PCC for the New Beginnings Project. Investment of \$500. On March 22, Sunday worship service time will change to 10:00am. Mar. 8, 2020: Announcement is made to the congregation that London Presbytery has approved the dissolution of the two point charge of South Nissouri and Dorchester Presbyterian churches. Mar. 2020: COVID-19 hit and all in-person church services were suspended indefinitely. The Moderator of Presbytery worked alongside Dorchester Presbyterian acting as Moderator pro tem. April 12 - June 21, 2020: The Rev. Michael Stol provided Pulpit Supply. Session and Rev. Stol transitioned Dorchester PC from in-person worship services to an online presence. Newsletters, emails and telephone calls by Elders invite membership to attend. May 24, 2020: No further action followed upon learning that the Retired Minister agreed to commit to a music position elsewhere. July 12 - Sept. 2020: Pulpit Supply provided through the use of technology. Online video worship recordings began with the Rev. Jon Van Den Berg. Once in-person restrictions were relaxed and ten or fewer people could 'gather', members of the congregation and the music director participated in leading online services with Rev. Van Den Berg's leadership and assistance. Oct. 1, 2020: The Rev. Deb Dolbear-Van Bilsen appointed Interim Moderator by the Co-Moderators of Presbytery. Mid-Oct. – Dec 24, 2020: Rev. Van Den Berg agreed to lead online Pulpit Supply when available. This agreement was revisited by the Interim Moderator by request of Session at the November Session Meeting. (see below). Oct. 29, 2020: The Session and several representatives from the Board met to review the financial state of the church and invited the Treasurer of Presbytery to

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Narration of Steps (cont.) confirm the numbers in order to determine the process of bringing ordained ministry to this church. Financial documents submitted by DPC Treasurer for the elders and Presbytery Treasurer, to review included: a) DPC Receipts/Source of Income and General Expenditures 2017 to Oct. 22, 2020 Actual and 2021 Budget including supply worship leadership; b) Treasurer's Financial Report 2019 as at Oct. 22, 2020; and c) Accounts Summary. Discussion regarding the options and differences between Stated Supply and Half-time ministry, Interim Ministry, Shared Ministry in new and innovative ways in light of moving forward with the congregation's participation in the PCC's New Beginnings Project. The Session concluded that DPC can financially support a paid part-time position for an Ordained Minister of Word and Sacraments. Nov. 15, 2020: The Clerk of Session emailed the Interim Moderator the names of people who agreed to serve on the Search Committee and confirmed that the members of the Search Committee have received a copy of the document from the PCC, "Calling a Minister". Nov. 25, 2020: Email from Interim Moderator to the members of the Search Committee proposing a time line and action steps. The group agreed to meeting weekly on Wednesday evenings on Zoom. Search Committee began working on DPC's Congregational Profile. Dec. 2, 2020: Search Committee met on Zoom to fill in blanks from week one, and complete the "Position Description". "Narrative Steps" almost completed. Financial numbers clarified from Session and Board. Members are confirming information at the Municipal Office, with the Clerk of Session for information gathered from New Beginnings information, and any blanks will be answered next week. Dec. 9, 2020: Search Committee met on Zoom; reviewed Calling a Minister Document and specifically reviewed the Pastoral Skills and Interest Inventory in order to complete and submit the congregational profile by the end of the next week to the Life and Mission Office. Dec. 16, 2020: Interim Moderator and Convenor of the Search Committee met on Zoom to confirm all parts of the Congregational Profile document and submit it on Dec. 18. Interim Moderator prepared an update for Presbytery to the Clerk for the Meeting on January 12, 2021. Jan. 6, 2021: Search Committee met. Nearly a dozen Personal Profiles were received and reviewed from the Life and Mission Office, and directly from several candidates. The Search Committee, after much discussion concluded that they wanted to invite one candidate to be interviewed. The Search Committee requested that the Interim Moderator contact the sole candidate to an interview the following week, on Wednesday or Thursday. Jan. 20, 2021: The Search Committee met to confirm the questions that they would ask as prepared at the last meeting. They with the Reverend Jon Van Den Berg on Zoom for an Interview. (Originally this meeting was planned for January 13, however the Interim Moderator was ill.) The Search Committee unanimously agreed to recommend the Rev. Jon Van Den Berg to the Session as the sole candidate's name to Call to the position of Part-Time minister for Dorchester

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Narration of Steps (cont.) PC. Jan. 27, 2021: The Search Committee and the Interim Moderator met on Zoom to prepare a letter of recommendation to the Session. The Convenor of the Search Committee and the Interim Moderator sent the letter of recommendation to the Clerk of Session and the elders of Session. Jan. 28, 2021: The Interim Moderator met with the Session of DPC and they unanimously support the Search Committee's recommendation to recommend the Rev. Jon Van Den Berg to the congregational members and adherents (supporters). Feb. 7, 2021: Two elders counted votes at the church adhering to Government and the Ministry of Health guidelines while in lock-down. Feb. 8, 2021: Session met online over Zoom to review the results of the voting for the Call as the two counting elders reported. Session then reviewed and confirmed the terms of the Call as laid out in the Call Document. In lieu of pre-Covid PCC process, the Elders of DPC Session, after due diligence in gathering and reviewing the congregation's votes, the recommendation of the Search Committee, the Session determines to process the Call to the Rev. Jon Van Den Berg. Feb. 9, 2021: A Final Copy of the Voter's List Results were forwarded from the Clerk of Session to the Interim Moderator in a digital copy. This copy will be forwarded to the Presbytery Clerk, Co-Moderators and two representatives for review before the Special Meeting of Presbytery to Consider the Call to the Rev. Van Den Berg. (The forms including signatures are in Dorchester until the current Covid19 restrictions are lifted.)

Conduct Approved **MOTION:** (Brule/Charlton) THAT the conduct of the interim moderator, The Rev. Deb Dolbear- Van Bilsen, be approved. CARRIED.

Guarantee of Stipend The Moderator invited Rev. D. Dolbear-Van Bilsen to read the terms of the Call and the guarantee of stipend.

Call and Guarantee to Presbytery of Stipend

We, the professing members of Dorchester Presbyterian Church, 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 Reverend Jon Van Den Berg, to become the part-time minister of this congregation at 50% time. 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 Reverend Jon Van Den Berg, may be free to devote yourself to ministry of Word and Sacraments among us, we the congregation of Dorchester Presbyterian Church, hereby guarantee to the Presbytery of London, of the Presbyterian Church in Canada, that out of our estimated annual revenue of eighty thousand dollars, we promise

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Guarantee of Stipend (cont.) *and obligate ourselves to provide you, as a first charge thereon, the following annually:*

<i>Annual Stipend (exclusive of travel)</i>	<i>\$23,393</i>
<i>Travel Allowance</i>	<i>\$ 2,000</i>
<i>Housing Allowance and Utilities</i>	<i><u>\$10,000</u></i>
<i>Total</i>	<i>\$35,393</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 one week 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 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 for a 50% half-time position, and to pay the cost of pulpit supply. (In consultation with staff in Pension & Benefits, PCC).*
- 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 provide telephone and high-speed internet in the minister's office at the church.*

Receive and Consider

MOTION: (Dolbear-Van Bilsen/Clark) THAT the Call to The Rev. Jon Van Den Berg from the congregation of Dorchester Presbyterian Church, be received and considered and that representatives of the congregation be heard. CARRIED.

J. Carter and L. Charlton spoke of the excitement of the congregation to expand mission and stewardship in the Dorchester community; they are looking forward to the future.

D. Clark and A. Fullerton reviewed the call. They indicated that they had questions about some specific wording but that it had been resolved to their satisfaction.

MOTION: (Fullerton/Clark) THAT the guarantee of stipend be deemed acceptable. CARRIED.

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Call Sustained **MOTION:** (Dolbear-Van Bilsen/Charlton) THAT the Call to Rev. Jon Van Den Berg be sustained as a gospel call and placed in the hands of Rev. Jon Van Den Berg. CARRIED.

The Moderator welcomed Re. Van Den Berg back to the Presbytery of London and advised him that he has seven days to declare whether he will accept the Call.

J. Van Den Berg noted that although he has not seen the final version of the call, he will accept it.

MOTION: (Charlton/Brule) THAT the arrangements for the induction service be left in the hands of the Moderator, Clerk and Interim Moderator. CARRIED.

Other Business No other business.

Adjournment On a motion by E. Cameron, the Court stood adjourned at sixteen minutes before eight o'clock, to meet again in regular session on Tuesday, the ninth day of March, two thousand and twenty-one, at seven o'clock in the evening. The meeting will be held online.

The Moderator closed the meeting with prayer.

Moderator

Clerk