

**Minutes of the Presbytery of London**  
**Online Meeting, Tuesday, January 12, 2021, 7:00 PM**

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

- Constitution** The Moderator, Reverend Mavis Currie, constituted the Court with prayer.
- Worship** The Worship Service was led by Reverend Theresa McDonald-Lee, executive director of Camp Kintail.
- Welcome, Courtesies and Announcements** The Moderator welcomed everyone to the meeting. Margaret McGugan represented the WMS.
- Sit and Correspond** **MOTION:** (Patterson/Buchanan) THAT guests from St. James be invited to sit and correspond. CARRIED.
- Attendance** John Bannerman, Michael Burns, Michelle Butterfield-Kocis, David Clark, Mavis Currie, Deb Dolbear-Van Bilsen, Andrew Fullerton, Keith McKee, James Patterson, Andrew Thompson, Ministers; Julia Morden, Lynn Nichol, Andrew Reid, Patricia Shaver, Jon Van Den Berg, Appendix; Norm Belyea, Kent Buchanan, Linda Charlton, Richard Cote, Janet Donkervoort, Lynda Drummelsmith, Bill Fletcher, Lynda Ford, Richard Foster, Theresa Glithero, Tom Jeffery, Janice Lockhart, Brian Lunn, Elizabeth MacLeod, Jean Macpherson, Margaret McGugan, Sheila McMurray, Inge Stahl, Donna Jean Van Bilsen, Elders; Lu Brule, Treasurer; Carrie Thornton, Clerk; Rev. Theresa McDonald-Lee, Camp Kintail; Gordon Brown, Presbytery of Pickering; Jay Burtwistle, Carl Taylor, Mariann Lunn, Sharon Buchanan, St. James Presbyterian Church, North Yarmouth.
- Regrets** Em Cameron, Elder.
- Absent** Amanda MacMillan, Minister; Doug Hill, Trudy van der Hoek, Elders.
- Docket** **MOTION:** (Bannerman/Dolbear-Van Bilsen) THAT the Docket as circulated be adopted for the meeting. CARRIED.
- Minutes** **MOTION:** (Bannerman/Dolbear-Van Bilsen) THAT the minutes of the Regular Meeting of November 10, 2020 and the Special Meetings of November 15, 2020 and November 17, 2020 be adopted. CARRIED.
- Correspondence and Motions** The Moderator invited the Clerk, C. Thornton, to present the correspondence and motions report.

**Minutes of the Presbytery of London**  
**Online Meeting, Tuesday, January 12, 2021, 7:00 PM**

**Corr. and Motions (cont.)**      **MOTION:** (Dolbear-Van Bilsen/Macpherson) that recommendations 1 through 9 be adopted by consent. **CARRIED.**

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

| <b>Number</b> | <b>From</b>  | <b>Regarding</b>   |
|---------------|--|--|
| 21-02         | A. Thompson, Knox St. Andrew's PC                        | acceptance into MPS program                                    |
| 21-03         | J. Hewlin, Chair Bd of Governors<br>Presbyterian College | thank you for submitting nomination – principal                |
| 21-04         | T. Purvis, Ed & Reception                                | competent objections   |
| 21-05         | R. Lockhart, St. Andrew's Hall                           | end of year letter   |
| 21-07         | D. Muir, Deputy Clerk                                    | S. McDonald, Clerk Presbytery Halifax & Lunenburg for 50 years |
| 21-08         | T. Hamilton, Assembly Office                             | 2021 General Assembly online                                   |
| 21-10         | T. Hamilton, Assembly Office                             | summary of comments from presbyteries re 2021 GA               |
| 21-11         | K. Muir, Assembly Office                                 | changes to the roll Dec 2020                                   |
| 21-12         | K. Muir, Assembly Office                                 | clerks of synods and presbyteries                              |
| 21-15         | S. Kendall, Principal Clerk                              | call for commissioners to 2021 GA                              |

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

| <b>Number</b> | <b>From</b>                            | <b>Regarding</b>                       | <b>Refer To</b> |
|---------------|--|--|-----------------|
| 21-01         | M. Leung, Stewardship                  | 2021 recommended allocation            | circ. elect.    |
| 21-06         | J. Barker, clerk of session, Westmount | request for exit visitation            | co-mods         |
| 21-09         | D. Muir, Deputy Clerk                  | clerks' consultation postponed to 2022 | clerk           |
| 21-13         | B. Kappes, student                     | application to Stalker Fund            | co-mods         |
| 21-14         | M. Leung, Stewardship                  | Presbyterians Sharing update Nov 2020  | circ. elect.    |
| 21-16         | S. Buchanan, clerk St James            | Ministry agreement – Gord Brown        | co-mods         |

**RECOMMENDATION #3:** THAT the resignation of The Reverend Michael Burns as interim moderator of Duff Presbyterian Church and Argyle Presbyterian Church effective December 31, 2020, be accepted with the thanks of the Court.

**RECOMMENDATION #4:** THAT The Reverend Michael Burns be appointed interim moderator of Oakridge Presbyterian Church effective January 1, 2021.

**RECOMMENDATION #5:** THAT The Reverend John Bannerman be appointed interim moderator of Duff Presbyterian Church and Argyle Presbyterian Church effective January 1, 2021.

**RECOMMENDATION #6:** THAT the action of the co-moderators in appointing The Reverend Jon Van Den Berg interim moderator of Trinity Community Presbyterian Church effective December 7, 2020 be homologated.

**RECOMMENDATION #7:** THAT the action of the co-moderators in

**Minutes of the Presbytery of London**  
**Online Meeting, Tuesday, January 12, 2021, 7:00 PM**

**Correspondence and Motions (cont.)** appointing The Reverend Julia Morden interim moderator of St. Lawrence Presbyterian Church effective December 7, 2020 be homologated.

**RECOMMENDATION #8:** THAT The Reverend Andrew Thompson and The Reverend Lynn Nichol be appointed co-interim moderators of Westmount Presbyterian Church effective January 31, 2021.

**RECOMMENDATION #9:** THAT Elizabeth Leitch be appointed alternate representative elder for Caradoc Presbyterian Church for the remainder of the 2020-2021 year.

**Ministry Agreement St. James**

J. Patterson to read the narration of the steps to the Court and advised the Court that Mr. Gordon Brown has been certified for ordination by the Presbytery of Pickering.

**MOTION:** (Patterson/Lunn) THAT the Petition be received and considered, and that the observations of Rev. Bannerman and Tom Jeffery be accepted as friendly amendments, although the difference between a student who has not completed his MDiv and therefore has not been certified for ordination as Gord has been is significant. He ought, as a potential ordinand, be responsible to the Presbytery. CARRIED.

J. Patterson read the petition and contract. A copy of these are found on page 6046 of these minutes.

**FRIENDLY AMENDMENTS:**

#1 The proposed agreement mentions a three year term with an annual renewal. Other agreements or contracts with student ministers within the Presbytery have been for one year with an option for renewal.

#2 There is no mention in the agreement of the student minister being responsible to the session and interim moderator.

#3 The text of this agreement does not include a termination clause that allows for the student minister or the congregation to end the arrangement with either 30 or 60 days notice.

**MOTION:** (Patterson/Lunn) THAT Mr Gordon Brown be appointed by the Presbytery of London as a student minister at St. James Presbyterian Church on a part-time basis (4/9 time) for a period of one year beginning January 1, 2021, according to the terms of the student ministry agreement. The agreement will be reviewed annually and is renewable. CARRIED.

**Minutes of the Presbytery of London**  
**Online Meeting, Tuesday, January 12, 2021, 7:00 PM**

**MOTION:** (Patterson/Lunn) THAT the following members of St. James Presbyterian Church be granted permission to address the Court: Jay Burtwistle and Carl Taylor. CARRIED.

C. Taylor and J. Burtwistle spoke briefly about this appointment.

The Moderator advised the Court that J. Patterson will continue as interim moderator of St. James Presbyterian Church.

The Moderator invited the guests from St. James to remain for the rest of the meeting but gave them permission to leave if they wished.

**Treasurer's Report**

L. Brule provided year-end bank account balances and reminded the Court of the various funds available.

**MOTION:** (Jeffery/Brule) THAT Byron Kappes, ministry student, receive \$2,500 from the Stalker Fund and \$500 from the DaySpring Fund. CARRIED.

**Clerk's Report**

The Clerk presented a verbal report and, among other items, advised the Court that an ad hoc committee of K. McKee and L. DrummelSmith has been formed to prepare a job description for a general presbyter and to consult with the sessions of congregations most affected by vacancies. This committee will report at an upcoming meeting of the Presbytery

**Break Out Groups Report**

This report has been circulated and all members are asked to read it.

**Students and Education**

**MOTION:** (Fullerton/Butterfield-Kocis) THAT Sonia Brule be taken under the care of this Presbytery as a student certified for the Ministry of Word and Sacrament. CARRIED.

**Exit Review Report Oakridge**

**MOTION:** (McKee/Stahl) THAT the recommendations be moved by consent with the removal of recommendation #8 regarding the appointment of an interim moderator.

**RECOMMENDATION #1:** THAT The Reverend Dr Ed Hoekstra be commended for his ministry at Oakridge Presbyterian Church.

**RECOMMENDATION #2:** THAT the session, staff and congregation of Oakridge Presbyterian Church be commended for their strong and faithful witness to Jesus Christ and outreach into the Oakridge community.

**Minutes of the Presbytery of London  
Online Meeting, Tuesday, January 12, 2021, 7:00 PM**

**Exit Review**      **RECOMMENDATION #3:** THAT the session and congregation of Oakridge  
**Oakridge (cont.)** Presbyterian Church be commended for their financial commitment to the  
congregation and Presbyterians Sharing during these difficult days of COVID-  
19.

**RECOMMENDATION #4:** THAT the session and congregation of Oakridge  
Presbyterian Church be commended for their careful stewardship of the  
congregation's building, making it readily available to the community.

**RECOMMENDATION #5:** THAT the session and staff continue its work at  
fully integrating the Korean members of the congregation in all ministries at  
Oakridge Church and within the upcoming search process.

**RECOMMENDATION #6:** THAT the session and staff intentionally strive  
to improve their working relationship and engage in better communications.

**RECOMMENDATION #7:** THAT Oakridge Presbyterian Church be  
permitted to begin the search for a new minister.

**RECOMMENDATION #8:** THAT the co-Moderators of Presbytery appoint  
an interim moderator for Oakridge Presbyterian Church. (recommendation  
removed)

**RECOMMENDATION #9:** THAT the session and congregation of Oakridge  
Presbyterian Church be encouraged to employ an interim minister during the  
pulpit vacancy.

**RECOMMENDATION #10:** THAT the exit review team be dismissed.

M. Burns asked to have recommendation #9 removed from the consent agenda.

**RECOMMENDATIONS #1 through #7 and #10 CARRIED.**

**FRIENDLY AMENDMENT #9:** THAT the session and congregation of  
Oakridge Presbyterian Church be encouraged to employ an interim pastor  
during the pulpit vacancy.

**MOTION:** (McKee/Stahl) THAT recommendation #9 as amended be  
approved. CARRIED.

**Exit Review**  
**Report**  
**St. Lawrence**

**MOTION:** (Patterson/McLeod) THAT a suitable interim minister be sought  
to serve during the vacancy to help with the healing process and to assist the

**Minutes of the Presbytery of London**  
**Online Meeting, Tuesday, January 12, 2021, 7:00 PM**

**Exit Review** congregation in determining a new vision for their future. CARRIED.

**St. Lawrence**  
**(cont.)**

**MOTION:** (Patterson/Lunn) THAT a minister feeling called to leave a congregation involve at least the session in discerning whether that call is indeed valid. MOTION DEFEATED.

**MOTION:** (Dolbear-Van Bilsen/McKee) THAT The Rev. James Clark be commended for his ministry at St. Lawrence Presbyterian Church. CARRIED.

**MOTION:** (Dolbear-Van Bilsen/McKee) THAT the session and congregation of St. Lawrence Presbyterian Church be commended for their work during Rev. Clark's ministry. CARRIED.

**MOTION:** (Jeffery/Dolbear-Van Bilsen) THT the exit review team for St. Lawrence Presbyterian Church be dismissed with the thanks of the Court. CARRIED.

**Memorial**  
**Minute**

A. Reid read the memorial minute.

**Robert Baron**

Robert Louis Baron died on Christmas Day, 2020, at the age of 73. Born, raised and educated in London, Bob worked for London Life and the University of Western Ontario.

Bob's church roots were deep in New St. James, where he was proud to be the fourth-generation member of his family to be baptized – two further generations have since followed! He exercised his personal gifts by singing in the choir and enjoyed leading a pre-worship carol-sing in Advent. He brought his professional skills to bear through the Stewardship committee and by heading up two major financial campaigns. He served on the Board of Managers, using his skill with his hands to effect necessary repairs and improvements. As an elder, he gave leadership to the Worship and Music committee and latterly chaired the Board of Trustees.

From 2008–2020, Bob was New St. James' representative elder to the Presbytery of London, serving on the Administrative Team and as the Presbyterians Sharing contact person. In 2014, he was elected Moderator of Presbytery. During his term, he set himself – and achieved – the goal of worshipping at least once with every congregation within the bounds of Presbytery, bringing greetings and helping to build relationships between Presbytery and its congregations.

Bob is survived by his wife, Karen, and their children and grandchildren. He faced his diagnosis of cancer with courage, determination and unshakeable

**Minutes of the Presbytery of London**  
**Online Meeting, Tuesday, January 12, 2021, 7:00 PM**

**Memorial Minute Robert Baron (cont.)** faith. Typical of the man, he set himself goals during his treatment, the last of which was to see snow on Christmas morning. Having done so, he passed quietly into the presence of his Lord and Saviour.

We give thanks to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ for all that Bob was and did.

The Moderator thanked A. Reid .

**Reports of Interim Moderators**

St. James, North Yarmouth – nothing further.

St. John’s, Port Stanley – report circulated in advance; no questions.

Argyle, Crinan/Duff, Largie – no report.

Westmount, London – no report.

Knox, Fingal – no report.

Dorchester – report circulated in advance; no questions.

South Nissouri – no report.

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

St. Lawrence, London – no report.

Oakridge, London – report circulated in advance.

**Other Business** No other business.

**Adjournment** On a motion by D. Dolbear-Van Bilsen, the Court stood adjourned at fifty-one minutes after eight o’clock, to meet againonline in regular session on Tuesday, the ninth day of February, two thousand and twenty-one, at seven o’clock in the evening.

The Moderator closed the meeting with prayer.

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Moderator

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Clerk

**Minutes of the Presbytery of London**  
**Online Meeting, Tuesday, January 12, 2021, 7:00 PM**

PETITION

We, the Kirk Session of St. James Presbyterian Church, North Yarmouth, do humbly petition the Reverend the Presbytery of London in the following terms:

Whereas: St. James is in the process of trying to renew its ministry in Central Elgin, and

Whereas: The current stated supply minister is overdue for retirement, and

Whereas: After revisiting our congregation and community profile with a view to a renewed emphasis on outreach to all ages, and

Whereas: Having searched diligently for a candidate suitable to our needs,

Therefore: We, the Kirk Session as well as the members and adherents who have signed in concurrence, request that the Presbytery of London appoint Mr. Gordon Brown, BA, MDiv (Knox), currently working on a PhD in constructive ecclesiology, effective January 1, 2021 as student minister at four ninths time for a three year term to be reviewed annually by Mr. Brown, the Kirk Session of St. James, and the Presbytery of London. Mr. Brown's work will be leading worship, empowering Christian Education for all ages, pastoral care, and outreach coordination.

The following terms of remuneration shall be provided by St. James on the first day of every month to Mr. Brown based upon these annual amounts:

|                                |          |
|--------------------------------|----------|
| Annual Stipend:                | \$17,580 |
| Continuing Education Allowance | \$ 300   |
| Annual Housing/Utilities       | \$ 6,000 |
| In lieu of benefits            | \$ 2,197 |

5 weeks paid vacation annually

1 week study leave annually

(The cost of supply for vacation and study leave to be borne by St. James)

Concurrently, we request that The Rev. James Patterson be continued as Interim Moderator for 2021.