

Minutes of the Presbytery of London

Westmount Presbyterian Church, Tuesday, October 11, 2022, 7:00 PM

In London, and within Westmount Presbyterian Church, the Presbytery of London met in regular session on Tuesday, the eleventh day of October, two thousand and twenty-two, at the hour of seven o'clock in the evening.

Constitution The Moderator, Mr. Richard Cote, constituted the Court with prayer.

Worship Reverend Michelle Butterfield-Kocis and Reverend Lynn Nichol led the worship service.

Welcome, Courtesies and Announcements The Moderator welcomed everyone to the meeting and reminded everyone how to address the Court, who was able to address the Court and who was eligible to vote on motions. Margaret McGugan represented the WMS.

Attendance Tim Archibald, Gordon Brown, Michael Burns, Michelle Butterfield-Kocis, David Clark, Mavis Currie, Deb Dolbear-Van Bilsen. Andrew Fullerton, Keith McKee, James Patterson, Andrew Thompson, Ministers; Hugh Appel, Herbert Hilder, Katharine Michie, Lynn Nichol, Tim Raeburn-Gibson, Michael Stol, Appendix; Norm Belyea, Em Cameron, Cathy Cornhill, Richard Cote, Janet Donkervoort, Lynda Ford, Carol Freer, Elizabeth Leitch, Janice Lockhart, Brian Lunn, Elizabeth MacLeod, Margaret McGugan, Sheila McMurray, Inge Stahl, Donna Jean Van Bilsen, Elders; Carrie Thornton, Clerk; Anita Evans, Certified for Ordination; Kimberly Raeburn-Gibson, Glenda Shilleto, Marg Stoute, Marge Grover, Jen Young, Carolyn Purser, Geraldine Stol, Tom Telfer, Patricia Telfer, Linda Ramey, Jill Barker, Wayne Barker, Lela Burt, Kip Husted, Leroy Innanen, Shirley McEwen, Linda Feke, Linda Field, Heather Palmer, Susan Dinsmore, Rick Dinsmore, Robert Simpson, Joan Lang, Ina Patience, Jim Purser, Trudy Ball, Richard Scott, Westmount Presbyterian Church.

Regrets Amanda MacMillan, Jon Van Den Berg, Ministers; Janet Carter, William Cron, Lynda Drummel-Smith, Gerald Stocking, Elders; Lu Brule, Treasurer.

Absent Doug Hill, Elder.

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

FRIENDLY AMENDMENT to change the stated hour to 7:40 pm. AGREED.

Business Team **MOTION:** (Thompson/Dolbear-Van Bilsen) THAT the minutes of the Regular Meeting of September 13, 2022 and the Special Meeting of September 22, 2022 be adopted. CARRIED

Minutes of the Presbytery of London

Westmount Presbyterian Church, Tuesday, October 11, 2022, 7:00 PM

Treasurer's Report 2023 budget requests are due to the treasurer by October 28, 2022.

Clerk's Report The 2023 General Assembly rotation has been circulated.

Call to Rev. Tim Raeburn-Gibson The Moderator invited the interim moderators, S. Butterfield-Kocis and L. Nichol to narrate the steps leading to the Call.

L. Nichol came forward to read the narration of steps.

Narration of Steps The Search Team first met on January 18, 2022. At that meeting, the team discussed questions for the congregational survey, which was prepared and sent out following the meeting. There was excellent participation from the congregation in replying to the survey, with many insightful comments. The results were collated and discussed at the meeting on February 22, 2022, particularly in terms of how the insights would inform the writing of the Congregational Profile. Smaller groups then took on the drafting of parts of the congregational profile over the next month. There was a great deal of collaboration and editing over the phone and email until the final draft was decided. This profile was approved by the session on April 5, 2022 and the presbytery on April 12, 2022. Throughout the process, the search team and session were dedicated to absolute transparency, wanting the profile to give as accurate a picture of Westmount as we could manage. Once the profile was approved, we began advertising on the PCC website, and asked Ministry and Church Vocations to circulate Westmount's profile and send profiles of potential candidates. The Search Team considered 16 personal profiles of candidates who were eligible to apply. We appreciated the wide variety of candidates who were interested. A number of candidates appeared to have the necessary gifts and skills, and the Search Team watched video preaching online for all of them. Two candidates were invited to be interviewed in July. The Search Team was thoughtful and thorough in formulating the questions to be asked at the interviews, and also appreciated the insightful questions from the candidates. Throughout this entire process, I was impressed by the dedication of the Search Team to listen for the Spirit's guidance. Also throughout this process, the Rev. Tim Raeburn-Gibson remained consistently at the top of the Search Team's list. As interim moderator I contacted Ministry and Church Vocations to verify that Rev. Tim's file was in good standing – which it was – and I contacted his references. Without exception the references were excellent. On August 2, 2022, the search team recommended unanimously to the Session that Rev. Tim Raeburn-Gibson be invited to preach for the call. This was

Minutes of the Presbytery of London

Westmount Presbyterian Church, Tuesday, October 11, 2022, 7:00 PM

Narration of Steps (cont.)

unanimously passed by the Session. Subsequently Rev. Tim was invited to preach for the call on September 11, 2022 and he accepted.

The congregation was invited to meet Rev. Tim on the afternoon of Saturday, September 10, 2022 at the church, and the session and some other key leaders met at the home of two of the elders later that day. On Sunday morning, there was more than double the usual attendance at worship, and more than triple online.

Due notice having been given, the congregation met following the Sunday service of September 11, 2022. The congregation indicated their readiness to proceed with the call. The terms of the call were read and approved, and the name of the Rev. Tim Raeburn-Gibson was inserted into the call. All motions were approved unanimously.

Signatures of members and adherents were gathered by the elders. A total of 91 members out of 100 either signed the call or asked elders to sign for them. In addition, 31 adherents signed their concurrence or asked elders to sign for them.

MOTION: (Butterfield-Kocis/Cameron) THAT the conduct of the interim moderators, Rev. Lynn Nichol and Rev. Michelle Butterfield-Kocis be approved. CARRIED.

Guarantee of Stipend

The Moderator invited the interim moderator, L, Nichol, to read the terms of the call and the guarantee of stipend.

Guarantee to Presbytery for Minister's Stipend

We, the professing members of Westmount Presbyterian Church, London, 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. Tim Raeburn-Gibson, 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 the you, The Rev. Tim Raeburn-Gibson, may be free to devote yourself to the ministry of Word and Sacraments among us, we the congregation of Westmount Presbyterian Church hereby guarantee to the Presbytery of London, of the Presbyterian Church in Canada, that out of our estimated annual revenue of one hundred ninety-seven thousand dollars, we promise and obligate ourselves to provide you, as a first charge thereon, the following annually:

Minutes of the Presbytery of London

Westmount Presbyterian Church, Tuesday, October 11, 2022, 7:00 PM

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|------------------------|---|------------------------|
| Guarantee of | <i>Annual Stipend (inclusive of travel allowance)</i> | <i>\$62,000</i> |
| Stipend (cont.) | <i>Housing Allowance (inclusive of utilities)</i> | <i><u>\$25,000</u></i> |
| | <i>Total</i> | <i>\$87,000</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 an allowance of \$1000 annually.*
- 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, and to pay the cost of pulpit supply.*
- 6. To pay for Medical and Dental Insurance as provided through the Pensions 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 a resource/book allowance of \$500 annually.*

Receive and Consider

MOTION: (Butterfield-Kocis/Cameron) THAT the call to Rev. Tim Raeburn-Gibson from the congregation of Westmount Presbyterian Church, be received and considered and that Trudy Ball, Call Bigg and Leroy Innanen, the representatives of the congregation, be heard. **CARRIED.**

C. Bigg spoke about the history of the congregation, T. Ball addressed the difficulties the congregation has faced, L. Innanen talked about the finances of the congregation.

The Moderator thanked the speakers and thanked the members from Westmount for attending the meeting.

The Moderator asked the Ministry Team if they wished to address the Court.

A. Fullerton rose to speak on behalf of the Ministry Team. The Team has concerns about the congregational finances and the team believes their numbers as circulated to the Court prior to the September 13, 2022 meeting are realistic and reasonable.

Minutes of the Presbytery of London

Westmount Presbyterian Church, Tuesday, October 11, 2022, 7:00 PM

Receive and Consider (cont.) K. McKee spoke to the Ministry Team report. In the past at least two congregations have issued a call that they could not afford. The decrease in congregational membership is a factor.

M. Currie and D. Clark spoke to the motions and concerns about the process. A. Fullerton reminded the Court that the Ministry Team followed the required process.

MOTION: (Clark/Burns) THAT the Court resolve into committee of the whole with the Moderator as chair and only constituent members can stay for this particular meeting.

FRIENDLY AMENDMENT that L. Nichol, a member on the appendix, be granted membership on the committee of the whole. AGREED.

MOTION DEFEATED.

Call Sustained **MOTION:** (Patterson/Dolbear-Van Bilsen) THAT the call be sustained as a regular gospel call notwithstanding the excellent report of the ministry team.

K. McKee asked for voting by secret ballot.

MOTION: (McLeod/Burns) THAT a committee be appointed to collect and count the ballots and report the results to the Court. CARRIED.

The Moderator appointed D. Dolbear-Van Bilsen and S. McMurray to be the committee.

The members on the constituent roll were given time to mark their ballots, after which the ballots were collected and counted.

S. McMurray read the results to the Court:

24 ballots were cast. 20 were in favour of the motion, 3 were opposed, 1 abstained.

The Moderator declared that the MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION: (Cameron/Thompson) THAT the ballots be destroyed and the committee disbanded with the thanks of the Court. CARRIED.

The Moderator gave the call to T. Raeburn-Gibson and indicated he has seven says to accept.

Minutes of the Presbytery of London

Westmount Presbyterian Church, Tuesday, October 11, 2022, 7:00 PM

Call Accepted T. Raeburn-Gibson accepted the call and is looking forward to working with the people of Westmount.

Induction **MOTION:** (Butterfield-Kocis/Cameron) THAT the arrangements for the induction service be left in the hands of the Moderator, Clerk and Interim Moderators. **CARRIED.**

The Moderator invited the guests from Westmount to remain for the rest of the meeting and granted them permission to leave if they wished.

Business Team **MOTION:** (Thompson/McGugan) THAT recommendations 1 through 6 be adopted by consent. **CARRIED.**

RECOMMENDATION #1: THAT the following correspondence be referred as named:

| Number | From | Regarding | Refer To |
|---------------|-------------------------------------|--|-----------------|
| 22-70 | V. Kim, Principal Clerk | actions of 2022 GA for presbyteries | business team |
| 22-71 | M. Leung, Presbyterians Sharing | August 2022 Presbyterians Sharing | circ. elect. |
| 22-72 | L. Nichol/M. Butterfield-Kocis IM's | remove Westmount from special mtg docket | moderator |
| 22-73 | D. Muir, Deputy Clerk | voluntary withdrawal procedures | clerk |
| 22-74 | W. Gregory, clerk Caradoc | New Beginnings program application | business team |
| 22-75 | K. Muir, Assembly Office | changes to the roll September 2022 | circ. elect |
| 22-76 | Rev. W. Lampman | request for transfer | clerk |

RECOMMENDATION #2: THAT Reverend Mike Burns and Reverend Jim Patterson be appointed commissioners to the 2022 meeting of the Synod of Southwestern Ontario.

RECOMMENDATION #3: THAT Reverend John Bannerman be transferred from the appendix of the Presbytery of London to the Presbytery of Huron-Perth effective October 11, 2022.

RECOMMENDATION #4: THAT Reverend Wendy Lampman be transferred from the appendix of the Presbytery of London to the Presbytery of Niagara effective October 11, 2022.

RECOMMENDATION #5: THAT the Presbytery of London endorse the application of Caradoc Presbyterian Church to the New Beginnings program and the request for a grant of \$4,500 from the program.

RECOMMENDATION #6: THAT the Rev. Deb Dolbear-Van Bilsen continue as a cheque signing officer for the Presbytery of London bank accounts for the period September 1, 2022 to August 31, 2023.

Minutes of the Presbytery of London

Westmount Presbyterian Church, Tuesday, October 11, 2022, 7:00 PM

Ministry Team The pulpit supply list has been circulated. Please advise A. Fullerton of any changes.

Congregation Team No report.

General Presbyter The report was circulated in advance. Nothing further.

Refugee Team **MOTION:** (Patterson/Dolbear-Van Bilsen) THAT the Presbytery of London agree to co-sponsor Berhane Solomon Mogos and his son Heaven Mogos, Eriteans now in a refugee camp in Uganda. The funding for this sponsorship is being provided by Berhane's cousin, Kahsay Bahta, a member of the committee. CARRIED.

MOTION: THAT the house located at 77 Cecilia Avenue (Cheapside and Highbury area) in the City of London, be rented for the sum of \$2,500 per month plus utilities, from Mr. Aman Viridy, to accommodate the Syrian family of four due to arrive shortly, as well as one family of either 3 or 4 from among the Ukrainian refugees. CARRIED.

Reports of Interim Moderators Westmount, London: Nothing further.

Trinity Community, London: Report circulate in advance. S. McMurray reminded the Court that a volunteer is needed for the Trinity Housing Corp. board.

St. Lawrence, London: Report circulated in advance. Nothing further..

Chalmers, London: The report was circulated in advance. Nothing further.

Other Business M. Currie asked how the Court can avoid the type of meeting and issues that occurred earlier in the evening. A brief discussion ensued with comments about the role of the Ministry Team and interim moderators, comments about the determination of housing allowances.

The Moderator advised the Court that he will address as he sees fit.

Adjournment On a motion by E. Cameron, the Court stood adjourned at twelve minutes before ten o'clock, to meet again in regular session on Tuesday, the eighth day of November two thousand and twenty-two, at seven o'clock in the evening. The location is still to be determined.

Minutes of the Presbytery of London

Westmount Presbyterian Church, Tuesday, October 11, 2022, 7:00 PM

The Moderator closed the meeting with prayer.

Moderator

Clerk

Minutes of the Presbytery of London
Westmount Presbyterian Church, Tuesday, October 11, 2022, 7:00 PM