

**Minutes of the Presbytery of London
St. Lawrence Presbyterian Church, London, Ontario (hosted by Knollwood Park
Presbyterian Church), January 8, 2008, 7:00 p.m.**

In London and within St. Lawrence Presbyterian Church, the Presbytery of London met in Regular Session on Tuesday, the eighth day of January, two thousand and eight, at the hour of seven o'clock in the evening.

- Worship** The Reverend Lynn Nichol conducted the worship service
- Welcome, Courtesies and Announcements** The Moderator, Mr. Tom Jeffery welcomed everyone to the meeting, and a number of visitors were introduced, as well as Nancy Fletcher, the new Representative Elder for the Appin-Melbourne pastoral charge. Members of Knox Presbyterian Church, St. Thomas were welcomed. Representatives from the WMS, Mildred Greig and Margaret McCullough were acknowledged.
- Attendance** John Bannerman, Amanda Birchall, Mavis Currie, Deb Dolbear-Van Bilsen, Kathy Fraser, Terry Ingram, Keith McKee, Douglas Miles, Linda Moffatt, Lynn Nichol, Johan Olivier, Jim Redpath, Andrew Reid, Robert Shaw, Kevin Steeper, Michael Stol, Mark Turner and Joyce Elder, Ministers; Terry Axford, Bob Baron, Bob Bedggood, John Cameron, Ruth Ann Drozd, Chris Evans, Nancy Fletcher, Theresa Glithero, John Goodfellow, Mildred Greig, Tom Jeffery, Ken Keith, Jacqueline Leitch, Matthew Marshall, Sharon Marshall, Margaret McCullough, Sheila McMurray, Barbara Nyitray, Hugh Orchard, Ben Ormseth, Linda Riddell, Joe Ruitenbeek, Don Speir, Nancy Springer, Gerald Stocking, Donna Jean Van Bilsen, Trudy Van der Hoek, Peter VanderKooy, Sandra VanderVeen, Allan Woolner, Elders; Carol Rayner, Treasurer; Rob Evans, Elmwood, Ken Steinburg, Leslie Carroll-Frey, Julie Campbell, Wayne Carroll, Judy De Groote, Dr. James Carlyle, Bob Hubert, Bob Walters, Jeanette Walters, Ken Kilby, Knox, St. Thomas.
- Regrets** Hugh Appel, Charlotte Brown, Sabrina Caldwell, Ministers; Carlton Dindial, Joan Mansell, John McIntyre, Linda McKenna, John McNeil, Gordon Sims, Elders.
- Constitution** The Moderator, Mr. Tom Jeffery, constituted the Court with prayer.
- Docket** The Docket for the meeting had been circulated prior to the meeting, and it was **AGREED** that it be adopted for the meeting.
- Covenant for Interim Minister** The Reverend Johan Olivier presented the Interim Moderators' Report for Rodney / Kintyre / New Glasgow.
MOTION (Olivier / Woolner) THAT the covenant for Interim Ministry between New Glasgow, Rodney and Kintyre Pastoral Charge and the Reverend John Van Vliet, for a one year period starting Wednesday, January 9, 2008 be approved.
CARRIED.

MOTION (Evans / Olivier) THAT the Reverend John Van Vliet be added to the Constituent Roll of the Presbytery of London, effective January 9, 2008 for the duration of his Interim Ministry with this Pastoral Charge.

**Minutes of the Presbytery of London
St. Lawrence Presbyterian Church, London, Ontario (hosted by Knollwood Park
Presbyterian Church), January 8, 2008, 7:00 p.m.**

Administrative Team Report Prior to the presentation of the Administrative Team business, the Moderator announced that the Reverend Joyce Elder had been appointed as Interim Moderator to Knox Presbyterian Church, St. Thomas.

REC. #1 (Evans / Baron) that the following correspondence be received for information:

Number	From	Regarding
07-60	Rev. D. Maxwell, Kootenay	Letter of Standing - Rev. Ron Benty
07-62	S. Kendall	Acknowledging Receipt of Overture
07-63	E. Bartlett	Changes to Roll

CARRIED.

REC. #2 (Evans / Baron) that the following correspondence be referred as named:

Number	From	Regarding	Refer To
07-59	S. Kendall, G.A. Office	Remits etc. (re-sent as Aug. Mailing lost in mail)	Den. Work
07-61	Rev. S. Shaffer, Educ. & Reception	A. Rameshwar not eligible for reception	Student/Ed.
07-64	S. Kendall, G.A. Office	Ballots re Moderator of 2008 G.A.	Distribute
07-65	S. Kendall, G. A. Office	Biennial General Assemblies	Den. Work
07-66	T. Hamilton, Committee to Nominate	Nominations	Den. Work

Following questions and discussion regarding the letter from Susan Shaffer indicating that Andras Rameshwar is not eligible for reception, the motion CARRIED.

Hymnfest Team To date no Minister or congregation has come forward to participate on the Presbytery Hymnfest Team for 2008. Therefore,

REC. #3 (Evans / Baron) That the Presbytery Hymnfest event be discontinued until such time as Presbytery is willing to support and promote it in future. CARRIED.

Ballots to Nominate Moderator The Clerk reminded everybody that the ballots to Nominate the Moderator of the 2008 General Assembly are in their mail slots and that they should pick them up.

Report of Exit Review Team Knox-St. Thomas The Reverend Deb Dolbear-Van Bilsen presented the report of the Exit Review Team to Knox Presbyterian Church, St. Thomas. Due to the sensitive nature of portions of this report, it had not been circulated prior to the meeting.

**Minutes of the Presbytery of London
St. Lawrence Presbyterian Church, London, Ontario (hosted by Knollwood Park
Presbyterian Church), January 8, 2008, 7:00 p.m.**

The Report follows:

EXIT REVIEW TEAM FOR KNOX PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, ST. THOMAS
JANUARY MEETING OF PRESBYTERY - 2008

The exit review team consists of Deb Dolbear-Van Bilsen, Mrs. Ruth Ann Drozd, and Robert Shaw. First we would like to thank the people of Knox Presbyterian Church, St. Thomas, for welcoming us to meet with them as a congregation, the Board of Managers and the Session on November 23, 2007. We are excited for Knox Presbyterian Church, St. Thomas, as they look to the future and encourage healthy growth. We hope that this time provides a good opportunity for the congregation to become acquainted with the Interim Moderator and Interim Minister (should this be the decision of Presbytery) before beginning the Search process. It is apparent to the Exit Review Committee from the number of people who were present at the Exit Review Meeting "on a Friday night" - being 160 people - that the congregation has a strong love for their church, for their church family and for each other. There are several steps that we, as a committee appointed by Presbytery, would like to recommend, in order that Knox Presbyterian Church may use this vacancy as a time of spiritual growth, education and leadership development within the Presbyterian Church in Canada.

The Reverend Joyce Elder was asked to present her report as Interim Moderator at this time, and the report follows:

REPORT OF THE INTERIM MODERATOR TO THE PRESBYTERY OF
LONDON - KNOX PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH - ST. THOMAS, ONTARIO

On the whole there are many good things one could report on the congregation and Session at Knox, St. Thomas. They are a warm, caring and friendly group of Christians with much to commend themselves as they faithfully seek to witness to our Lord in both ministry and mission.

Among certain members of the leadership, probably in zealous care and genuine commitment to the congregation, there are many instances where the realization of the goal or the end, is pursued without the understanding of the established process and practice of the Presbyterian Church in Canada. There are too many undertakings, both by individuals and groups, that vividly demonstrate adequate teaching and guidance from the Teaching Elder (Minister) has not taken place. There still remain significant issues of conflict regarding staffing and leadership. The dominant leadership groups, i.e. Session and the Board of Managers, but particularly the Elders, are tossed to and fro in tensions that need not exist if positive leadership could be exercised and demonstrated wherever the Elders find themselves, both within the Session and throughout the other groups in the Church. The majority of Elders neither recognize their responsibility when they are convened

**Minutes of the Presbytery of London
St. Lawrence Presbyterian Church, London, Ontario (hosted by Knollwood Park
Presbyterian Church), January 8, 2008, 7:00 p.m.**

to do the work of Session, nor do they adhere to the confidentiality of “closed Court” in dealing with the spiritual concerns that every Session is mandated to deal with. Many Elders know from past experience that confidential discussions of Session have been breached; therefore, Elders will not speak freely on important matters and concerns in Session. There is not a clear understanding of the government of the Presbyterian Church in Canada. The Board of Managers also struggles from time to time with tasks within their area of responsibility and how they should conduct the corporate financial work of the congregation. I would respectfully suggest several measures could be undertaken to enhance the well-being and administration of both the congregation and its leadership:-

- In-depth education within the Session and Board where the Teaching Elder should be willing and able to conduct positive training sessions;
- The immediate formation of a Worship Committee of Session so that all Services of Worship and plans for Congregational Worship could be planned well in advance. This Committee to be comprised of the Teaching Elder, Organist, (and later to be added to this Committee, the Christian Education Leader) and at least three Elders. This Committee would report to Session at their scheduled meetings;
- For the protection and understanding of all persons employed by Knox, St. Thomas, there should be clear parameters of tasks and accountability of work to Session for each position in the congregation.

It is my belief that implementation of these basic measures would go a long way to begin correcting some of the tension issues at Knox and build the self-esteem of Elders as they discern their respective roles in leading their people. If people do not know what their tasks are or the way to accomplish their goals, it follows as night follows day, there will not be successful leadership and the tasks will be taken over by anyone who sees the need, but not necessarily the correct process.

Respectfully submitted

The Reverend Joyce E. Elder
Interim Moderator, Knox Presbyterian Church, St. Thomas
January 7, 2008

Recommendations to the Presbytery of London

(Dolbear-Van Bilsen / Drozd) THAT an Interim Minister be appointed to Knox Presbyterian Church, St. Thomas, in accordance with the Book of Forms, Sections 201.1 and 213.3 for a minimum of one year with the option to renew. CARRIED.

**Minutes of the Presbytery of London
St. Lawrence Presbyterian Church, London, Ontario (hosted by Knollwood Park
Presbyterian Church), January 8, 2008, 7:00 p.m.**

MOTION (Evans / Baron) THAT the Presbytery appoint the Reverend Joyce Elder as Interim Minister to Knox Presbyterian Church on an 80% time basis, effective immediately. Following much discussion and many questions, it was Moved (McKee / Bannerman) that this motion and the balance of this report be TABLED. CARRIED.

The Exit Review Team, in consultation with the Administrative Team, will ensure that these matters will be discussed with the Session.

Members of Knox Presbyterian Church who were in attendance were given permission to leave if they so wished.

Minutes **MOTION** (Evans / Baron) THAT the Minutes of the Regular meeting of November 13, 2007 be adopted as circulated. CARRIED.

Records Examination The Session Records of Knollwood Park Presbyterian Church, London, and of Westmount Presbyterian Church, London were reviewed by Rob Evans.

MOTION (Currie / Evans) THAT the Session Records of Knollwood Park Presbyterian Church, London, Ontario, be attested as being neatly and correctly kept, with the following notes: S.27.3. CARRIED.

MOTION (Bannerman / Evans) THAT the Session Records of Westmount Presbyterian Church, London, Ontario be attested as being neatly and correctly kept, with the following notes: S.27.3, 27.9. CARRIED.

Induction Services (Reconsider Motion) Following Notice of Motion made at the November 13, 2007 meeting of the Presbytery of London,
MOTION (Drozd / Fraser) THAT the Presbytery of London reconsider the motion made at Chalmers Presbyterian Church on September 11, 2007: *(Stol / Shaw) "That inductions of ministers into charges be held in a regular Sunday worship service with attendance by the Moderator, Clerk and Interim Moderator"*. Following discussion, the motion CARRIED by a majority.

Original Motion **MOTION** (Stol / Shaw) THAT inductions of ministers into charges be held in a regular Sunday worship service with attendance by the Moderator, Clerk and Interim Moderator. Following discussion, the motion was DEFEATED by a majority. Dissent was noted from Mavis Currie.

Students and Education Team No Report

Denominational Work Team No Report

**Minutes of the Presbytery of London
St. Lawrence Presbyterian Church, London, Ontario (hosted by Knollwood Park
Presbyterian Church), January 8, 2008, 7:00 p.m.**

**Vacancy and
Visitation Team** No Report

**Visitation Team
Chalmers PC** Terry Ingram presented the report of the Visitation Team to Chalmers Presbyterian Church, highlighting the many positive aspects of the ministry happening at Chalmers.
MOTION (Ingram / Keith) THAT the Visitation Team to Chalmers Presbyterian Church be dismissed with the thanks of the Court. CARRIED.

**Leading with
Care Team** No Report

**Hospital
Visitor Team** No Report

**Youth and
Campus Min-
istries Team** Mavis Currie gave a report on the upcoming events surrounding the Youth and Campus Ministries Team, noting that the One-Day Wonder event will be held on Saturday, February 23rd at Westmount Church; the Mission trip to Cape Breton looks like it is going to happen - details are being worked out; ninety (90) care packages were distributed to students at Western and Fanshawe for Christmas; the Youth Ministries Training Event will probably take place in May.

**Website and
Communications
Team** Mavis Currie reported that the Website and Communications team met on December 21st. Since removing the Current Events page, the use of the site has not changed. In the first twenty (20) days of December there were at least 160 distinct 'hits' on the site, with the Welcome Page, Churches Page and Presbytery Meetings and Minutes receiving the most attention. Presbyters were reminded to make use of this Website by contacting Ben Stephenson, the webmaster, at ben.stephenson@ucalgary.ca.

**Small Church
Ministries Fund** No Report

**Evangelism
Team** A full report had been circulated prior to the meeting, and Michael Stol spoke to the report and encouraged everyone to pick up the two notices which had been placed by the mail box, one noting the upcoming Evangelism event with Chuck Congram as speaker on April 26th, and also the informal get together on January 26th at Crabby Joe's.

**Strategic
Visioning Team** No Report

**G.A. 2011Local
Arrangements** No Report

**Minutes of the Presbytery of London
St. Lawrence Presbyterian Church, London, Ontario (hosted by Knollwood Park
Presbyterian Church), January 8, 2008, 7:00 p.m.**

Committee

Reports of Interim Moderators DaySpring, London - Rob Shaw reported that ministry is continuing, and also noted that Andras Rameshwar is moving to London this week.

St. John's, Port Stanley - Terry Ingram reported that all is well at St. John's, finances are good, and there are no plans to enter a search process at the present time.

St. Lawrence, London - Lynn Nichol reported that things are going well at St. Lawrence. Inge Stahl has been contracted to provide 4 (four) hours per week of Pastoral Care, and some preaching. There are still no names for consideration for a call to this charge.

Knox, Belmont / St. James, North Yarmouth - Kevin Steeper reported that the pulpits are supplied, the Sessions are working, Pastoral care is being provided. He also reported that the Congregational Meeting scheduled for Belmont on December 16th had to be cancelled due to the weather, and has been re-scheduled for January 13th and the congregation will be voting on closing this church.

Other Business Terry Ingram announced that Oakridge is looking for a Church Business Administrator for approximately 8 - 12 hours per week.

Adjournment On a motion by R. Shaw, the Court stood adjourned at nine o'clock in the evening (9:00 p.m.), to meet again in regular session on Tuesday, the twelfth day of February, two thousand and eight at the hour of seven o'clock in the evening in London, and within New St. James Presbyterian Church. The Moderator closed the meeting with prayer.

Moderator

Clerk