

Minutes of the Presbytery of London

New St. James Presbyterian Church, London, Ontario, February 12, 2008, 7:00 p.m.

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

- Worship** The Reverend Andrew Reid led the Court in Worship, with a Lenten meditation based on Hymn 220, *My Song is Love Unknown*.
- Constitution** The Moderator, Mr. Tom Jeffery, constituted the Court with Prayer.
- Welcome, Courtesies, and Announcements** The Moderator, Mr. Tom Jeffery, welcomed everyone to the meeting, and a number of visitors were introduced, in particular, members of Knox, Belmont and Knox, St. Thomas. The Reverend Johan Olivier introduced and welcomed the Reverend John Van Vliet, the newly Recognized Interim Minister to New Glasgow, Rodney, Kintyre. WMS Representatives, Joan Boyce and Catherine McMillan were also acknowledged.
- Attendance** Hugh Appel, John Bannerman, Deb Dolbear-Van Bilsen, Keith McKee, Johan Olivier, Andrew Reid, Kevin Steeper, John Van Vliet, Joyce Elder, Gloria Langlois, Ministers; Terry Axford, Bob Baron, John Cameron, Carlton Dindial, Ruth Ann Drozd, Chris Evans, John Goodfellow, Tom Jeffery, Ken Keith, Matthew Marshall, Sharon Marshall, Margaret McCullough, Linda McKenna, Ben Ormseth, Linda Riddell, Gordon Sims, Gerald Stocking, Donna Jean Van Bilsen, Trudy Van der Hoek, Peter VanderKooy, Sandra Van der Veen, Elders; Ken Steinburg, Judy DeGroote, Linda White, Knox, St. Thomas; Lin Farquhar, Joanne Barker, Joan Boyce, Catherine McMillan, Verna Legg, Audrey McCann, Les Cunningham, Knox, Belmont.
- Regrets** Amanda Birchall, Charlotte Brown, Sabrina Caldwell, Mavis Currie, Kathy Fraser, Terry Ingram, Douglas Miles, Linda Moffatt, Lynn Nichol, Jim Redpath, Robert Shaw, Michael Stol, Mark Turner, Ministers; Mildred Greig, Jacqueline Leitch, Joan Mansell, Bill McMurchy, Sheila McMurray, John McNeil, Eva Roberts, Nancy Springer, Allan Woolner, Elders.
- Absent** Nancy Fletcher, Barbara Nyitray, Don Speir.
- Docket** It was **AGREED** that the Docket as circulated be adopted for the meeting.
- Stated Hour 7:30 p.m. Belmont-Knox** The Stated Hour of 7:30 pm, having arrived, the Moderator called upon Interim Moderators, The Rev. Kevin Steeper and the Rev. John Bannerman to present their report regarding Knox-Belmont and St. James-North Yarmouth.
- RECOMMENDATION #1** (Steeper / Bannerman) THAT the Presbytery of London ratify the decision made by the congregation of Knox-Belmont that the congregation of Knox-Belmont be closed as of April 28, 2008.

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AGREED that Mr. Les Cunningham, Trustee, and an Elder at Knox-Belmont, be given permission to address the Court. Mr. Cunningham spoke on behalf of the congregation of Knox, asking for the support of the Presbytery for their decision to close this congregation after 160 years of faithful ministry in the community. He explained that after many years of prayerful consideration and much effort the congregation has found their building is too much to maintain, and the energy of the congregation members has lagged.

Following Mr. Cunningham's plea for the support and prayers of the Presbytery, the motion CARRIED.

The Reverend Kevin Steeper led the Court in prayer for the congregation of Knox, Belmont.

RECOMMENDATION #2 (Steeper / Bannerman) THAT the Presbytery of London appoint a Ministry Team to lead this congregation through the process of dissolution. CARRIED.

The Moderator invited the members of Knox-Belmont to remain for the rest of the meeting if they so wished, but at the same time gave them permission to depart.

Administrative Business **MOTION** (Evans / Baron) THAT the Minutes of the regular meeting of January 8, 2008 be adopted as circulated. CARRIED.

Knox, St. Thomas The Reverend Keith McKee and the Reverend Deb Dolbear-Van Bilsen presented the Report of the Working Team and Exit Review Team to Knox Church, St. Thomas, which had been duly circulated with the Advance Reports.

RECOMMENDATION #1 (McKee / Dolbear-Van Bilsen) THAT the Reverend Joyce Elder be remunerated for her work as Interim Moderator for Knox Presbyterian Church, St. Thomas, of the Presbytery of London at the amount of four hundred dollars (\$400) per month plus expenses, and that should she exceed eight half-days of work, that she be remunerated an additional fifty dollars (\$50) per half-day plus expenses. Mrs. Elder will keep a log of her hours and expenses and will be paid monthly by the treasurer of Knox Presbyterian Church, St. Thomas. CARRIED.

Sandra Van der Veen, Representative Elder for Knox Presbyterian Church, St. Thomas, confirmed that the Session of Knox was aware of all these arrangements, had read the report, and was in agreement. She also thanked the members of the Working Team and Exit Review Team for their assistance.

It was agreed by the Presbytery of London at its January meeting that an Interim Minister for Knox, St. Thomas, be appointed for a minimum of one year, with the option to renew, in accordance with the Book of Forms, sections 201.1 and 213.3.

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RECOMMENDATION #2 (McKee / Dolbear-Van Bilsen) THAT the Reverend Dr. Robert Robinson be appointed as Interim Minister of Knox Presbyterian Church, St. Thomas, for a period of one year, and that the commencement of this Interim Ministry be negotiated between the Moderator of Presbytery, the Interim Moderator and the Reverend Dr. Robert Robinson. CARRIED.

RECOMMENDATION #3 (McKee / Dolbear-Van Bilsen) THAT the Reverend Dr. Robert Robinson be remunerated at 90% of the previous minister's stipend and allowances (2007) for a period of one year. CARRIED.

(It was explained that the Interim Minister would not be Moderating Session meetings or conducting Elder Education.)

RECOMMENDATION #4 (McKee / Dolbear-Van Bilsen) THAT the Administration Committee of Presbytery be charged with the responsibility of preparing a covenant for interim ministry at Knox Church, St. Thomas, to be signed by the Presbytery, the Interim Minister, the Interim Moderator, and the Clerk of Session of Knox Church, St. Thomas. CARRIED.

RECOMMENDATION #5 (McKee / Dolbear-Van Bilsen) THAT upon the commencement of his Interim Ministry at Knox Church, St. Thomas, the name of the Reverend Dr. Robert Robinson be added to the constituent roll of the Presbytery of London. CARRIED.

RECOMMENDATION #6 (Dolbear-Van Bilsen / Drozd) THAT an Advisory Committee to the Interim Moderator be appointed by the Moderator of Presbytery. CARRIED.

RECOMMENDATION #7 (Dolbear-Van Bilsen / Drozd) THAT the Interim Moderator meet on a regular basis with the Advisory Committee, in consultation with the Interim Minister, and provide quarterly reports (with or without recommendations) to the Presbytery. CARRIED.

RECOMMENDATION #8 (McKee / Dolbear-Van Bilsen) THAT the search for a new Minister for Knox Presbyterian Church, St. Thomas, not commence until a recommendation to do so is presented by the Interim Moderator and the Advisory Committee to the Presbytery of London for consideration. Sandra Van der Veen questioned the need for a delay in starting the search process, and it was explained that differences of opinion within the session, staff and congregation must be resolved before a search can begin. The Recommendation CARRIED - by a majority.

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RECOMMENDATION #9 (Dolbear-Van Bilsen / Drozd) THAT the Session of Knox Presbyterian Church, St. Thomas research the possibility of adopting Term Eldership. CARRIED.

RECOMMENDATION #10 (Dolbear-Van Bilsen / Drozd) THAT the Session, the Board of Managers, the Interim Minister and the Interim Moderator of Knox Presbyterian Church, St. Thomas examine the church structure of Knox Presbyterian Church within the Presbyterian Church in Canada to discover how Knox can further enhance their ministry (i.e. the way they do things ... and also examine the spiritual gifts, the roles and responsibilities from the direction give to the people who share their time and talents to make it happen). We encourage utilizing and incorporating the resources (teaching aids and people) within the Presbytery of London and available at Church Offices to compliment this process. CARRIED.

RECOMMENDATION #11 (Dolbear-Van Bilsen / Drozd) THAT the Exit Team to Knox Presbyterian Church, St. Thomas, be dismissed with the thanks of the Court. CARRIED.

RECOMMENDATION #12 (McKee / Dolbear-Van Bilsen) THAT the Working Committee to Knox Presbyterian Church, St. Thomas, be dismissed with the thanks of the Court. CARRIED.

The Moderator invited the members of Knox-St. Thomas to remain for the rest of the meeting if they so wished, but at the same time gave them permission to depart.

Administrative Team Report

RECOMMENDATION #1 (Evans / Drozd) that the following correspondence be received for information: CARRIED.

Number	From	Regarding
08-02	WMS	Mission Awareness Sunday Material

RECOMMENDATION #2 (Evans / Drozd) that the following correspondence be referred as named: CARRIED.

Number	From	Regarding	Refer To
08-01	The Rev. Sheldon Hastings	Request to rejoin Presbytery	Admin. Team
08-03	Reuben St. Louis	Canada Youth 2009	Circulated

RECOMMENDATION #3 (Evans / Drozd) THAT the actions of the Clerk in citing the Session and Congregation of Knox Presbyterian Church, Belmont, to appear at this meeting, be homologated. CARRIED.

RECOMMENDATION #4 (Evans / Drozd) THAT the Clerk send to each Clerk of Session and Minister in the Presbytery, the document that was circulated to the Representative, Alternate and Equalizing Elders in November, 2007, which

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described the workings of Presbytery, to help them educate their Sessions and congregations about the functions and duties of the Presbytery of London. CARRIED.

RECOMMENDATION #5 (Evans / Drozd) THAT the Administrative Team explore the possibilities of inviting, on the recommendation of their Clerks of Session and Ministers, elders and other congregational members to assist with the workload of our Core and Focus Ministry Teams. CARRIED.

RECOMMENDATION #6 (Evans / Drozd) THAT the following Commissioners to the 2008 General Assembly be appointed: CARRIED.

<u>Ministers</u>	<u>Elders</u>
The Rev. Michael Stol	Mr. Bob Baron (New St. James)
The Rev. Mark Turner	Mr. Ron Sparling (St. George's)
The Rev. Robert Shaw	Mr. David Laphorne (Knollwood Park)
The Rev. Dr. Terry Ingram	Elder to be Named (St. Lawrence)

<u>Backup</u>	<u>Backup</u>
The Rev. Amanda Birchall	Elder to be Named (St. James, N. Yarmouth)

The Clerk reminded the members of the Court that their Ballots to Nominate the Moderator of the 2008 General Assembly should be forwarded to the Clerk as soon as possible. The Clerk will be ensuring that our ballots will be received at the General Assembly Office prior to their deadline date so that they will be counted.

Records Examination

The Session Records of Knox Presbyterian Church, St. Thomas, were examined prior to the commencement of the meeting.
RECOMMENDATION (Reid / Evans) THAT the Session records of Knox Presbyterian Church, St. Thomas, be attested as being neatly and correctly kept (with the following notes: Section 27.8). CARRIED.

Students and Education Team

No Report

Denominational Work Team

No Report

Vacancy and Visitation Team

No Report

Leading with Care Team

No Report

Hospital Visitor Team

No Report

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Youth and Campus Ministry Team Chris Evans had received a verbal report from Mavis Currie, reminding everyone of the deadline for registering for the One Day Wonder.

Website & Communications Team Chris Evans had received a verbal report from Mavis Currie, indicating that further to a request to list the telephone numbers of all churches on the Website, we must be aware that since some of the church telephone numbers are actually the telephone numbers of individual ministers, there is a privacy issue to be dealt with. The Clerk will be writing to each congregation through their Ministers to obtain permission to have telephone numbers published on the website.

Small Church Ministries Fund No Report

Evangelism Team A written report was circulated with the reports. John Bannerman spoke to this report, highlighting the upcoming Evangelism event on April 26th, with the Rev. Chuck Congram. He had circulated flyers regarding this event.

Strategic Visioning Team Kevin Steeper gave a verbal report regarding the deliberations of the Strategic Visioning Team, and highlighting some of the issues being discussed related to some of the smaller and struggling congregations within the Presbytery.

G.A. 2011 Local Arrangements Committee Keith McKee reported that the Local Arrangements Committee for the 2011 General Assembly would be meeting in early March, and he also indicated that plans for the Worship Service will need to start in the near future.

Reports of Interim Moderators DaySpring - no report
St. John's, Port Stanley - no report

Rodney / Kintyre / New Glasgow - The report had been circulated, and Johan Olivier simply drew the court's attention to the fact that the recognition service had been held for the Interim Minister, the Rev. John Van Vliet.

St. Lawrence - no report

Belmont / North Yarmouth - Kevin Steeper reported that the pulpit is being supplied, sacraments are being celebrated, and Session meetings are being moderated by himself and John Bannerman.

Knox - St. Thomas - no report

Other Business Hugh Appel read a report regarding the Small and Rural Church group which has held some "get-togethers" to discuss the future of small and rural churches.

It was suggested that this group and the Strategic Visioning Team should consider getting together to share their ideas as it appears their "mandates" are similar. It was

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also stressed that this is an issue that should concern all of us, and that a lot of time, work and prayer is needed.

Ken Keith announced that Oakridge Presbyterian Church Choir will be performing Faure's Requiem on Sunday, February 17th at 2:00 p.m. (NOTE: this time was later corrected to 3:30 p.m.).

Adjournment On a motion by Hugh Appel, the Court stood adjourned at eight-thirty o'clock in the evening (8:30 p.m.), to meet again in regular session on Tuesday, the eleventh day of March, two thousand and eight, at the hour of seven o'clock in the evening, in London, and within Oakridge Presbyterian Church. The Moderator closed the meeting with prayer.

Moderator

Clerk