

**Minutes of the Presbytery of London
Oakridge Presbyterian Church, London, Ontario, March 11, 2008, 7:00 p.m.**

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

- 6:00 pm Dinner** The Presbytery was treated to a delicious “light buffet”, prepared and served by the ladies of the Oakridge Presbyterian Church Korean community.
- Worship** The Reverend Sabrina Caldwell led the Court in Worship, assisted by a group of Young People of the Oakridge Korean community.
- Welcome
Courtesies and
Announcements** The Moderator, Mr. Tom Jeffery, welcomed everyone to the meeting, particularly extending a welcome to various guests in attendance.
- Attendance** Amanda Birchall, Sabrina Caldwell, Mavis Currie, Kathy Fraser, Terry Ingram, Keith McKee, Linda Moffatt, Lynn Nichol, Johan Olivier, Jim Redpath, Andrew Reid, Robert Shaw, Kevin Steeper, Michael Stol, Mark Turner, Joan Ashley, Andras Rameshwar, Ministers; Terry Axford, Bob Baron, John Cameron, Carlton Dindial, Chris Evans, Margaret Field, Nancy Fletcher, John Goodfellow, Mildred Greig, Tom Jeffery, Ken Keith, Jacqueline Leitch, Sharon Marshall, John McIntyre, Linda McKenna, Sheila McMurray, Barbara Nyitray, Ben Ormseth, Linda Riddell, Joe Ruitenbeek, Gordon Sims, Don Speir, Gerald Stocking, Donna Jean Van Bilsen, Trudy Van der Hoek, Peter VanderKooy, Sandra Van Der Veen, Allan Woolner, Elders; Carol Rayner, Treasurser, Rob Evans, Elmwood.
- Regrets** Hugh Appel, John Bannerman, Charlotte Brown, Deb. Dolbear-Van Bilsen, Douglas Miles, Robert Robinson, John Van Vliet, Joyce Elder, Ministers; Ruth Ann Drozd, Theresa Glithero, Joan Mansell, Matt Marshall, Margaret McCullough, John McNeil, Nancy Springer, Elders.
- Constitution** The Moderator, Mr. Tom Jeffery, constituted the Court with Prayer.
- Docket** It was **AGREED** that the Docket as circulated would be accepted for the meeting, with the following change: That the Report of the Interim Moderator for DaySpring be moved up to the place immediately following the Stated Hour.
- Stated Hour
7:30 p.m.** The Reverend Terry Ingram circulated and presented a report entitled “Realizing the Vision”, which details a proposed building project for Oakridge. Mr. Barry Elliott, convenor of the building team and Mr. David Elliot, convenor of the fundraising team, both gave information related to their respective areas of this project. Mr. Ingram indicated that this plan will come before the National Church Architecture people on March 25, 2008, and upon their approval, this proposal will come before the Presbytery for our approval.

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DaySpring The Reverend Robert Shaw reported on the status at DaySpring, outlining the numerous events and positive steps that have been taking place within this congregation under the leadership of the Reverend Andras Rameshwar. He also indicated that DaySpring is healthy financially, and has surpassed their budget for 2007. DaySpring has sent \$4,000 to PSW&D, and has met their Presbyterians Sharing Commitment. He then presented the terms of the proposed renewal of Andras Rameshwar’s contract for a second year.

MOTION (Shaw / Speir) THAT the Presbytery of London approve the terms of the contract between DaySpring and the Rev. Andras Rameshwar, as presented. CARRIED.

MOTION (Shaw / Speir) THAT the Presbytery of London appoint the Reverend Andras Rameshwar under the terms of the approved contract. Questions were raised in relation to the response from the Education and Reception Committee which indicated that Mr. Rameshwar could not be admitted as a Minister in the Presbyterian Church in Canada. Discussion followed as to how this decision could be appealed. The Presbytery Committee on Students and Education has committed to offer Pastoral Support to Andras, and learn how to conduct any follow-up actions in this matter. The motion then CARRIED.

Administrative Business **MOTION** (Evans / McKee) THAT the Minutes of the regular meeting of February 12, 2008 be adopted as circulated. CARRIED.

The Clerk, Mrs. Chris Evans, presented the Report of the Administrative Team, which had been circulated with the Advance Reports.

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

Number	From	Regarding
08-04	Assembly Office	Changes to the Roll, Jan. 2008

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

Number	From	Regarding	Refer To
08-05	Presbytery of Paris	Certificate of Transfer - J. Van Vliet	Clerk
08-06	Pension & Benefits Board	Trinity - Employer Pension	Admin. Team

The Clerk addressed both of these pieces of correspondence, noting in particular that the Employer Pension payment for Trinity has now been received by the Pension & Benefits Board.

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Further to Correspondence #08-01, listed in the February correspondence, the Clerk has been informed by the Rev. Susan Shaffer, of the Committee on Education and Reception, that in order for the Reverend Sheldon Hastings to be re-admitted to the Presbyterian Church in Canada, on the appendix to our Roll, he must be considered by the Committee on Education and Reception, since he had received his Letter of Standing in 2000, which in effect removed him as a minister in the Presbyterian Church in Canada.

RECOMMENDATION #3 (Evans / McKee) THAT the request from the Reverend Sheldon Hastings to rejoin the Presbyterian Church in Canada be forwarded to the Committee on Education and Reception with the endorsement of the Presbytery of London, along with an explanation as to the reasons for Mr. Hastings' requesting his Letter of Standing, and for wishing to return to the Presbyterian Church. CARRIED.

RECOMMENDATION #4 (Evans / McKee) THAT in addition to the Commissioners to General Assembly appointed at the February meeting of Presbytery, Mr. Duncan McMillan of St. Lawrence Presbyterian Church be appointed as our fourth Elder Commissioner to the 2008 General Assembly. CARRIED.

REC. #5 (Evans / McKee) THAT the Vacancy and Visitation Team be comprised of the following members: Tom Jeffery (Convenor), John Goodfellow, Margaret McCullough, Robert Shaw, Bill Townley, and Doris Tutt. CARRIED.

REC. #6 (Evans / McKee) THAT Kathy Fraser replace Michael Stol as the Convenor of the Leading with Care Committee. CARRIED.

REC. #7 (Evans / McKee) THAT the following schedule for records examination be adopted to comply with the Standing Orders, and that the Clerk notify congregations prior to the meeting of the request for records to be examined at that meeting: CARRIED.

Year #1

September: Crinan, Largie & Port Stanley
October: Dorchester & South Nissouri
November: Dutton, Glencoe & Wardsville
January: Fingal, Trinity
February: Bethel, Ilderton & Burns, Mosa
March: New Glasgow, Kintyre, Rodney
April: N. Caradoc-St. Andrews, Knox-Komoka
May: St. Lawrence
June: Chalmers

Year #2

September: Knollwood Park
October: New St. James
November: Oakridge, St. George's
January: Westmount
February: Knox, St. Thomas
March: DaySpring
April: Elmwood
May: Appin & Melbourne
June: St. James, North Yarmouth

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The Moderator made the following announcements:

a) As requested at the February meeting of Presbytery, the Moderator has appointed the following to serve as the Advisory Committee to the Interim Moderator to Knox Presbyterian Church, St. Thomas: Keith McKee, Andrew Reid, Ruth Ann Drozd, Rob Evans.

b) The Moderator has appointed the Dissolution Team to Knox Presbyterian Church, Belmont as follows: John Bannerman, Kevin Steeper, Amanda Birchall and John Goodfellow.

**Financial
Reports 2007**

2007 Financial Reports had been circulated, with the Statement of Review by the Reverend Deane Cassidy.

MOTION (McKee / Fraser) THAT the 2007 Financial Reports for the Presbytery of London as Reviewed by the Reverend Deane Cassidy be accepted. CARRIED.

**Records
Examination**

The Session Records of DaySpring Presbyterian Church had been examined by Mavis Currie and Rob Evans prior to the commencement of the meeting.

MOTION (Currie / Evans) THAT the Session Records of DaySpring Presbyterian Church, London, be attested as being neatly and correctly kept, with the following notes: S. 27.1, 27.2, 27.3*, 27.5*, 27.9 (* = most recent minutes). CARRIED.

**Students and
Education Team**

MOTION (Fraser / Caldwell) THAT the Reverend Johan Olivier be granted permission to take study leave to attend a Collaborative Conflict Resolution workshop from March 25-30, 2008 at UWO . CARRIED.

**Denominational
Work Team**

Report will be presented in the near future.

**Vacancy and
Visitation Team**

The Moderator, Mr. Tom Jeffery, requested Past Moderator, the Reverend Kathy Fraser to assume the Chair while he presented the Report of the Vacancy and Visitation Team, which had been circulated with the Advance Reports.

RECOMMENDATION #1 (Goodfellow / Shaw) THAT Deb. Dolbear-Van Bilsen + an elder from Glencoe / St. John's-Wardsville be appointed to the visitation team to Bethel-Ilderton to replace Kate Ballagh-Steeper, who is no longer on the Constituent Roll. CARRIED.

RECOMMENDATION #2 (Goodfellow / Shaw) THAT Andrew Reid + an elder from New St. James-London be appointed to the visitation team to Trinity-London to replace Gloria Langlois, who is no longer on the Constituent Roll. CARRIED.

RECOMMENDATION #3 (Goodfellow / Shaw) THAT the visitation team to Argyle-Crinan / Duff-Largie, be named as the Exit Review Team, due to the retirement of the Reverend Hugh Appel in June, 2008. CARRIED.

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RECOMMENDATION #4 (Goodfellow / Shaw) THAT outstanding visits from 2007 be completed by the June, 2008 meeting of the Presbytery of London.
CARRIED.

Initial meetings of visitation teams will be called by a member of the Presbytery Vacancy and Visitation Team, who will also serve on that team.

RECOMMENDATION #5 (Goodfellow / Shaw) THAT the following congregations be visited and reports be presented at or before the June meeting of the Presbytery:

- a) New St. James-London - by team of Keith McKee + an elder from St. George's-London and Michael Stol + an elder from Westmount-London, the first meeting to be called by Tom Jeffery;
- b) Oakridge-London - by team of Lynn Nichol + an elder from Knollwood Park-London and Kevin Steeper + an elder from Elmwood Ave.-London, the first meeting to be called by Margaret McCullough.

AMENDMENT to Recommendation #5 (Caldwell / Steeper) THAT on the visitation team to New St. James, John Bannerman + an elder from Chalmers-London replace Keith McKee + an elder from St. George's; THAT on the visitation team to Oakridge, Keith McKee + an elder from St. George's replace Lynn Nichol + an elder from Knollwood Park, and THAT on the visitation team to Burns-Mosa (referred to in Recommendation #6), Lynn Nichol + an elder from Knollwood Park replace John Bannerman + an elder from Chalmers. CARRIED.

RECOMMENDATION AS AMENDED

RECOMMENDATION #5 (Goodfellow / Shaw) THAT the following congregations be visited and reports be presented at or before the June meeting of the Presbytery:

- a) New St. James-London - by team of John Bannerman + an elder from Chalmers-London and Michael Stol + an elder from Westmount-London, the first meeting to be called by Tom Jeffery;
- b) Oakridge-London - by team of Keith McKee + an elder from St. Georges-London and Kevin Steeper + an elder from Elmwood Ave.-London, the first meeting to be called by Margaret McCullough. CARRIED.

RECOMMENDATION #6 as AMENDED (Goodfellow / Shaw) THAT the following congregations be visited and reports be presented at or before the November meeting of the Presbytery:

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a) Westmount-London - by team of Sabrina Caldwell + an elder from Oakridge-London and Mark Turner + an elder from Trinity Community-London, the first meeting to be called by Doris Tutt;

b) Burns-Mosa - by team of Lynn Nichol + an elder from Knollwood Park-London and John Van Vliet + an elder from the Rodney/Kintyre/New Glasgow pastoral charge, the first meeting to be called by John Goodfellow;

c) Glencoe / St. John's-Wardsville - by team of Linda Moffatt + an elder from Burns-Mosa and Douglas Miles + an elder from Bethel-Ilderton, the first meeting to be called by Bill Townley.
CARRIED.

RECOMMENDATION #7 (Goodfellow / Shaw) THAT the Moderator Search Team be: Tom Jeffery, Chris Evans and Kathy Fraser, to seek and bring forth nominations for Presbytery Moderator for the following two-year term (having confirmed the willingness of the candidate(s) to serve) at the next regular meeting of the Presbytery. CARRIED.

RECOMMENDATION #8 (Goodfellow / Shaw) THAT the yearly review of the Clerk be completed, and since her term of three years will be completed in May, 2008, a team be appointed by the Moderator to complete the review and ascertain her willingness to serve for a second term and review compensation and report at or before the May meeting of Presbytery. CARRIED.

RECOMMENDATION #9 (Goodfellow / Shaw) THAT the Moderator, Clerk and John Goodfellow meet with the Treasurer to ascertain her willingness to stand for another year and report at the April meeting of Presbytery. CARRIED.

Keith McKee asked the Vacancy and Visitation to re-assess the usefulness of the visits to congregations.

**Leading with
Care Team**

The report was circulated with the Advance Reports, and the new convenor of this Team, Kathy Fraser indicated that since she was unable to attend the recent meeting, there would be another report presented at a future meeting of the Presbytery.

**Hospital
Visitor Team**

No report from this team, but the Clerk indicated that due to the resignation of Gale Kay and Charlotte Brown there is an urgent need for new people to serve on this Ministry Team, and members of the court were strongly encouraged to consider serving on the Hospital Visitor Support Team.

**Youth and
Campus Ministry
Team**

Mavis Currie reported on various Youth events, and indicated that the One Day Wonder was a huge success and it will become an annual event. Mavis had handed out a notice of an upcoming Youth Leaders Workshop on April 12th at Westmount.

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**Website and
Communications** No Report

**Small Church
Ministries Team** No Report

**Evangelism
Team** A report had been circulated with the Advance Reports, and Michael Stol reminded everyone of the upcoming Evangelism Event on April 26th, at Chalmers.

**Strategic
Visioning Team** Kevin Steeper circulated a detailed report from the Strategic Visioning Team and underlined many areas of concern and encouraged members of the Presbytery to study this report and to start considering what we as a Presbytery can do in relation to the future of the Presbyterian Church within our area.

**G.A. 2011 Local
Arrangements
Committee** Keith McKee indicated that the Local Arrangements Committee will be meeting on March 12th and will be reporting to the next meeting of Presbytery.

**Reports of
Interim** DaySpring - reported earlier in the meeting.

Moderators St. John's-Port Stanley - Terry Ingram reported that the Annual Meeting has been held and that things are going well.

Rodney / Kintyre / New Glasgow - Johan Olivier gave a verbal report, indicating that weekly meetings of the steering committee are being held.

St. Lawrence - London - Lynn Nichol reported "Diligence". There is still no minister being called to St. Lawrence.

Belmont / North Yarmouth - Kevin Steeper reported that he and John Bannerman are moderating the Session meetings for these congregations, that the pulpits are being supplied, and Sacraments are being celebrated. Mr. Steeper also reported that the process of dissolution of the congregation of Knox-Belmont has begun.

MOTION (Steeper / Birchall) THAT the closing service for Knox-Belmont be held on Sunday, April 27, 2008 at 3:00 p.m. CARRIED.

Knox-St. Thomas - The Moderator reported that the Service of Recognition of the Reverend Dr. Robert Robinson as Interim Minister to Knox was held on Sunday, March 9, 2008 at 2:00 p.m.

Other Business Terry Ingram reported that this meeting is Ken Keith's last as Representative Elder as he will stepping down from Session at the end of March. Appreciation was expressed for Ken's years of service to the Church and the Presbytery.

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Adjournment On a motion by Robert Shaw, the Court stood adjourned at nine-fifteen o'clock in the evening, (9:15 p.m.), to meet again in Regular Session on Tuesday, the eighth day of April, two thousand and eight, at seven o'clock in the evening, in London, and within St. George's Presbyterian Church, and in Special Session on Sunday, the twenty-seventh day of April, at three o'clock in the afternoon, in Belmont, and within Knox Presbyterian Church for the closing service, and to celebrate the many years of Christian witness in the community of Belmont. The Moderator closed the meeting with prayer.

Moderator

Clerk