

**Minutes of the Presbytery of London
St. George's Presbyterian Church, London, Ontario, April 8, 2008, 7:00 p.m.**

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

- Worship** The Reverend Keith McKee led the Court in Worship.
- 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, particularly extending a welcome to various guests in attendance.
- Attendance** John Bannerman, Amanda Birchall, Sabrina Caldwell, Deb Dolbear-Van Bilsen, Terry Ingram, Keith McKee, Douglas Miles, Linda Moffatt, Lynn Nichol, Johan Olivier, Jim Redpath, Andrew Reid, Robert Shaw, Kevin Steeper, John Van Vliet, Andras Rameshwar, Ministers; Bob Baron, Bob Bedggood, John Cameron, Carlton Dindial, Chris Evans, Theresa Glithero, Tom Jeffery, Jacqueline Leitch, Sharon Marshall, Margaret McCullough, Linda McKenna, Sheila McMurray, John McNeil, Barbara Nyitray, Linda Riddell, Don Speir, Nancy Springer, Norma Stevenson, Donna Jean Van Bilsen, Trudy Van Der Hoek, Peter VanderKooy, Sandra VanDerVeen, Allan Woolner, Elders; Rob Evans, Elmwood.
- Regrets** Hugh Appel, Charlotte Brown, Mavis Currie, Kathy Fraser, Robert Robinson, Michael Stol, Mark Turner, Ministers; Terry Axford, Judith Chamberlain, Ruth Ann Drozd, Nancy Fletcher, John Goodfellow, Mildred Greig, Matthew Marshall, Gordon Sims, Gerald Stocking, Elders; Carol Rayner, Treasurer.
- Absent** Rep. Elder from Oakridge, Joan Mansell, Elder
- Docket** It was **AGREED** that the Docket as circulated would be accepted for the meeting,
- Administrative
Business** **MOTION** (Evans / Baron) THAT the Minutes of the regular meeting of March 11, 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.
- REC. #1** (Evans / Baron) THAT the following correspondence be received for information: **CARRIED.**

Number	From	Regarding
08-08	Life & Mission Agency	Fund for Ministerial Assistance (Clerk has Apps.)
08-12	Committee on Architecture	Oakridge (copy of letter to Oakridge)
08-13	S. Shaffer, Comm. On Ed. & Rec.	Copy of letter to Rev. S. Hastings

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

Number	From	Regarding	Refer To
08-09	Rev. W. Adams	Authorization under Marriage Act	Clerk
08-10	T. Hamilton, G.A. Office	Changes Affecting Professional Church Workers	Clerk
08-11	Rev. L. Files	Resignation as Co-Interim Moderator Rodney, Kintyre, New Glasgow	Clerk

REC. #3 (Evans / Baron) THAT the resignation of the Reverend Leslie Files as Co-Interim Moderator for the Pastoral Charge of Rodney, Kintyre, New Glasgow, be accepted with the thanks of the Court. CARRIED.

REC. #4 (Evans / Baron) THAT the Reverend Keith McKee be named as Moderator of the Presbytery of London for the 2008 - 2010 Term, commencing on September 9, 2008, with his Installation by the outgoing Moderator, Mr. Tom Jeffery. CARRIED.

**Records
Examination**

The Session Records of Elmwood Avenue Presbyterian Church, London, had been examined earlier by Mavis Currie.

MOTION (Moffatt / Van Bilsen) THAT the Session Records of Elmwood Avenue Presbyterian Church, London, be attested as being neatly and correctly kept, with the following notes: 27.3, 27.5. CARRIED.

**Students and
Education Team**

Sabrina Caldwell reported that she had looked into the process for appealing the decision of the Committee on Education and Reception regarding Andras Rameshwar's application for reception into the Presbyterian Church in Canada. She had been advised that a conference call should be arranged between the Committee on Education and Reception and three representatives of the Presbytery of London, but not including Mr. Rameshwar.

MOTION: (Shaw / Speir) THAT the Presbytery write a letter of appeal to the Ministry and Church Vocations Office, requesting that a conference call be arranged to discuss the decision of the Committee on Education and Reception regarding the application of the Reverend Andras Rameshwar for reception into the Presbyterian Church in Canada. CARRIED. Sabrina Caldwell will be the contact person.

MOTION: (Baron / Reid) THAT the team representing the Presbytery of London consist of: Sabrina Caldwell (Convenor of the Presbytery Students and Education Team), Robert Shaw (Interim Moderator for DaySpring), and one other member of the Students and Education Team. CARRIED.

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Denominational Work Team Terry Ingram presented the report of the Denominational Work Team (Pro Tem) which had been circulated.

MOTION (Ingram / Evans) THAT in response to the remit re. Petition No. 1, 2006, which is a change to S.131.1 of the Book of Forms, that the Presbytery of London indicate its approval. CARRIED.

MOTION (Ingram / Evans) THAT Life and Mission Agency Recommendation No.15 (p. 340) "That the requirements for compliance with the Leading with Care Policy for candidates for ministry be as outlined above", be referred to the Student and Education Team for distribution to students. CARRIED.

NOTE: At the March 2007 meeting of the Presbytery of London, Mrs. Carrie Thornton was nominated for a second three-year term to the Presbyterian Church in Canada Pension and Benefits Board. Therefore no action is required at this time.

Vacancy and Visitation Team Tom Jeffery reminded the Court that reports for 2007 visits are due by the June meeting of Presbytery.

Leading With Care Team No Report

Hospital Visitor Team No Report

Youth and Campus Ministries Team John Bannerman reported that the plans for the Youth Mission Trip to Cape Breton are well under way, with 20 young people and 9 adult leaders signed up. Each youth will be required to raise \$500 towards this trip, but efforts are being made to cover the costs for the adults to accompany the young people on this trip.
MOTION: (Bannerman / Shaw) THAT permission be granted to the organizers of this Mission Trip to contact congregations throughout the Presbytery for financial support for this trip. CARRIED.

Website & Communications Team Chris Evans noted that there had been a few responses to the request for information as to what contact information would be published on the Presbytery's website. This information will be communicated to Ben Stephenson, our Webmaster, after the committee has met.

Small Church Ministries Fund Lynn Nichol indicated that letters had been placed in the mail folders of all congregations whose dollar base is under \$100,000.

Evangelism Team John Bannerman reported that plans are going forward for the Evangelism Event on April 26th. People are encouraged to register as soon as possible.

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Strategic Visioning Team Kevin Steeper presented the report of the Strategic Visioning Committee. He made the following Notice of Motion:

"I hereby give notice that at the regular meeting of the Presbytery of London in May, 2008, the Strategic Visioning Team will bring forth recommendations concerning the restructuring of the Presbytery of London so that the business of the court may be completed through a better use of the various gifts that currently exist within the court."

MOTION: (Steeper / Reid) THAT a Presbytery Study Day take place on May 21, 2008, so that dialogue concerning the strategic vision for the churches and pastoral charges within the Presbytery may take place.

A concern was raised that the date, being a week-day, could exclude those members who work during the day. Mr. Steeper responded that this workshop would most likely begin at 2:00 or 3:00 p.m. and run until the supper break, and continue into the evening, thus making it possible for all to attend at least a portion of the event.

The motion CARRIED.

G.A.2011 Local Arrangements Committee Keith McKee presented the report of the General Assembly 2011 Local Arrangements Committee, which had been circulated with the Advance Reports, indicating that plans are well under way.

Knox, St. Thomas, I.M. Advisory Team The Report of the Advisory Committee to the Interim Moderator, Knox Presbyterian Church, St. Thomas had been circulated and Andrew Reid spoke to the report.

Reports of Interim Moderators DaySpring - No Report

St. John's, Port Stanley - No Report

Rodney / Kintyre / New Glasgow - Johan Olivier, Interim Moderator, presented the report, which had been circulated with the Advance Reports. Following discussion it was felt that permission is not required for this pastoral charge to initiate and / or continue discussions with other congregations regarding amalgamation in West Elgin. Therefore the proposed motion was withdrawn.

St. Lawrence, London - Lynn Nichol had distributed a report at the beginning of the meeting regarding a request from the congregation of St. Lawrence to seek Presbytery's permission to seek a minister, from a minimum of one-third time up to a maximum of two-thirds time, in order to allow flexibility in discussion with potential candidates.

MOTION: (Nichol / Springer) THAT St. Lawrence Presbyterian Church be given permission to seek a minister for a minimum of one-third time up to a maximum of two-thirds time. CARRIED.

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Belmont / North Yarmouth - John Bannerman and Kevin Steeper reported that they are working with the Belmont congregation, and that an Inventory of Assets is taking place. They indicated that they are receiving assistance from Barb Nawratil and others at Church Offices in working on the Mission Plan. Work is also being done on the closing services on April 27th. The pulpits are being supplied, sacraments are being celebrated, and the life of the congregations is continuing. The Interim Moderators are also working with the St. James congregation to identify the implications of being a single-point charge, and the possibility of half-time ministry, or other possibilities for their future.

Knox, St. Thomas - The Interim Moderator for Knox will be reporting at the May meeting of Presbytery.

Other Business

Terry Ingram updated the Court on the progress of Oakridge's application to the Committee on Architecture, which was to be heard on March 25, 2008. In a letter dated March 27, 2008 from Gordon Haynes, of the Life and Mission Agency, Committee on Church Architecture, it was announced that the Committee agreed to approve the plans, with a few constructive suggestions.

MOTION: (Ingram / Caldwell) THAT Oakridge Presbyterian Church be given permission to proceed with their building project at an estimated cost of \$4.7 million, based on architectural diagrams presented to the Presbytery of London on March 11, 2008, and approved by the National Committee on Church Architecture (letter dated March 27, 2008) and that the congregation not engage in actual construction until the congregation secures a minimum \$1 million down payment and \$2.2 million in pledges over six years. CARRIED.

Announcements Bob Baron announced that New St. James is celebrating their 175th Anniversary this year, and there will be a number of special events through the year. These events will be announced and circulated through the Clerk, and all are invited to participate in these events.

Adjournment On a motion by Keith McKee, the Court Stood adjourned at eight thirty o'clock in the evening (8:30 p.m.), to meet again in Special Session on Sunday, the twenty-seventh day of April, two thousand and eight, at two thirty o'clock in the afternoon in Belmont, and within Knox Presbyterian Church for the closing service, at three o'clock in the afternoon and to celebrate the many years of Christian witness in the community of Belmont, and in Regular Session on Tuesday, the thirteenth day of May, two thousand and eight, at seven o'clock in the evening, in London, and within St. Lawrence Presbyterian Church. The Moderator closed the meeting with Prayer.

Moderator

Clerk