

## Minutes of the Presbytery of London

St. Lawrence Presbyterian Church, London, Ontario, May 13, 2008. 7:00 p.m.

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

**Worship** Inge Stahl, who has been providing pulpit supply for St. Lawrence, led the Court in Worship, with musical assistance by Claire Kim, Organist, and a presentation of "An Ordinary Miracle", sung by Jaeleah, Lindsay and Ellen, of St. Lawrence Church.

**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 extended a warm welcome to various guests who were in attendance, making specific mention of Marg Field and Ruth Ann McVicar from Burns, Mosa.

**Attendance** Hugh Appel, Amanda Birchall, Charlotte Brown, Sabrina Caldwell, Mavis Currie, Kathy Fraser, Terry Ingram, Douglas Miles, Linda Moffatt, Lynn Nichol, Johan Olivier, Jim Redpath, Andrew Reid, Robert Robinson, Robert Shaw, Kevin Steeper, Michael Stol, John van Vliet, Joyce Elder, Andras Rameshwar, Ministers; Terry Axford, Bob Baron, John Cameron, Carlton Dindial, Ruth Ann Drozd, Chris Evans, Margaret Field, Nancy Fletcher, Theresa Glithero, Mildred Greig, Tom Jeffery, Jacqueline Leitch, Sharon Marshall, Margaret McCullough, Linda McKenna, John McNeil, Barbara Nyitray, Linda Riddell, Gordon Sims, Don Speir, Nancy Springer, Norma Stevenson, Gerald Stocking, Donna Jean van Bilsen, Trudy van der Hoek, Peter VanderKooy, Allan Woolner, Elders; Carol Rayner, Treasurer; Rob Evans - Elmwood, Marg Chester - Oakridge, Ross MacKay - Knollwood, Wilma Reath - North Caradoc-St. Andrews, Virginia McLean, Ruth Ann McVicar, Carol Leitch - Burns Mosa, Inge Stahl - St. Lawrence.

**Regrets** John Bannerman, Deb Dolbear-van Bilsen, Keith McKee, Mark Turner, Ministers; Joan Mansell, Matthew Marshall, Sheila McMurray, Sandra VanDerVeen, Elders.

**Absent** John Goodfellow, Ken Keith, Elders.

**Docket** It was **AGREED** that the Docket as circulated would be accepted for the meeting.

**Stated Hour** The Stated Hour of 7:30, having arrived, it was **MOVED** (Evans / Fraser) THAT  
**W.M.S. Annual Report** Mrs. Winn Files, representing the WMS, be given permission to address the Court.  
**CARRIED.**

The Moderator welcomed Mrs. Winn Files to the meeting and invited her to present the 2007 Annual Report of the Women's Missionary Society, London Presbyterial as follows:

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*In January, the 93<sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting was held at Duff's Church, Largie. Our theme was "Friendship, Who is my Neighbour?" After a provocative Bible study on this theme, Lori Ransom, from the PC office spoke on Healing and Reconciliation with the First Nations people. Lori, herself, is Aboriginal, and she stressed our need to develop new understanding between our cultures which is based on mutual respect and loving our neighbour. Her message was very timely, and we would recommend Lori as a motivational speaker.*

*The 60<sup>th</sup> Annual meeting of Synodical was held at Knox, Listowel, in April. Nine delegates from the London Presbyterial attended. We were very proud to have our own Pauline Lindsay preside over this special anniversary. Wilma Welsh, Moderator of the 132<sup>nd</sup> General Assembly inspired us with the message, Honouring the Past. Director of PWS&D, Ken Kim, gave us reason to Celebrate our Present, and Rev. C. Wood, Chaplain of McMaster University encouraged us to Challenge the Future.*

*A new location was found for our May Retreat. Forty three women gathered at the Backus Page House Museum. This house is one of the few remaining historical landmarks along the shores of Lake Erie, in the heart of the Talbot Settlement. The facility also provides picnic tables and three nature walks along the Trans Canada Trail. This proved to be a lovely setting for the various WMS groups who took part in presenting diverse work of the PC in Native Ministry across Canada. Later, Margaret Douglas, Parish nurse in Knox, Woodstock, presented a talk and showed slides of her recent Mission Tour of India. We learned of our work in the slums, rebuilding after the tsunami, HIV treatment and work in our own Bhil field.*

*On Mission Day in October at North Caradoc-St. Andrews, Komoka, we honoured and gave certificates to 16 WMS groups that have disbanded since 1994. With our theme, Transitions, we gave thanks for the witness, service and stewardship of these groups, some of whom have endured for over a century. Rev. Ann Yee-Hibbs conducted a special service and gave plaques commemorating these faithful women. Later, Rev. Ann Yee-Hibbs introduced the study material on Guatemala. Mary Lou McKay, of London, has been on a mission trip to Guatemala and is a good resource person on this topic.*

*In October, a questionnaire was sent from the National WMS to all groups. This was an exercise in envisioning the future of the WMS. The answers are being evaluated. Our WMS membership is diminishing and getting older, yet remarkably, as in the past century, the friendships, the fellowship and the desire to learn more about missions continues. It is hoped when local WMS groups disband, that a new mission committee will be established in that congregation to keep the needs of our Canadian and overseas partners before the congregation. This is already being done by those who read 'Minutes for Mission' during the service, who arrange for 'Mission Awareness' Sundays, use 'Mission Capsules' in church bulletins and report Mission News in their congregational Newsletters.*

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*In the City of London, unfortunately, there is only one functioning WMS. However, former WMS members are meeting with the New St. James group and are finding a place to continue their involvement, and it is wonderful to hear that the WMS women from the recently closed Knox, Belmont Church are going to meet in homes and will also continue this work that they feel is so important.*

*Apart from funds donated for our own PC mission work, very generous support continues for local congregational and community needs: Children’s ministry, Mission Services, Teen Challenge, Rehobeth Home and Samaritan’s Purse to name a few. Wonderful speakers have inspired us and world travellers have educated us.*

*I am reminded that “great occasions for serving God come seldom, but little ones surround us daily.” And WMS members take on this task.*

*Respectfully submitted,  
Winn Files, President of London Presbyterial*

The Moderator thanked Mrs. Files for her report.

**Administrative Business**

**MOTION** (Evans / Fraser) THAT the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of April 8, 2008, be adopted as circulated. CARRIED.

**MOTION** (Evans / Fraser) THAT the Minutes of the Special Meeting of April 27, 2008, be adopted as circulated. CARRIED.

**MOTION** (Evans / Fraser) THAT the following correspondence be received for information: CARRIED.

Number	From	Regarding
08-14	Elizabeth Bartlett, G.A. Office	Changes to the Roll
08-16	T. Hamilton, G. A. Office	Cong. Orders for 2008 A&P, etc.
08-17	T. Hamilton, G. A. Office	Copy of Memo to Sessions re 2008 A&P, etc.
08-18	S. Kendall, G. A. Office	Acknowledgment of Receipt: Commissioners & Ballots
08-19	S. Kendall, G. A. Office	Acknowledgment of Receipt: Remit A
08-21	S. Shaffer, Committee on Ed. & Recept.	Conference Call re A. Rameshwar - May 8, 2008

**MOTION** (Evans / Fraser ) THAT the following correspondence be referred as named: CARRIED.

Number	From	Regarding	Refer To
08-15	Rev. Dr. Fred Rennie, Experimental Fund	Availability of Grants	Clerk to provide Copies as needed
08-20	Rev. Linda Moffatt	Resignation	Clerk, Moderator

Regarding Correspondence #08-20, the Clerk read the letter of resignation from the Reverend Linda Moffatt which explained that the reasons for her resignation are related to her personal health, and the need to move closer to her parents who are needing her care.

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Further to the Mission Plan of Ailsa Craig Presbyterian Church being returned to the Presbytery of London with the request that it be brought into compliance with the National Church Policy in regards to designation of funds,

**MOTION** (Evans / Fraser) THAT the Mission Plan of the former Ailsa Craig congregation be referred back to the Administrative Team, who will report at a subsequent meeting of the Presbytery. CARRIED.

**Strategic Visioning Workshop**

**MOTION** (Evans / Fraser) THAT the action of the Administrative Team in securing the meeting facilities at the Best Western, Stoneridge Inn for the Strategic Planning Workshop on May 21, 2008 be homologated. CARRIED.

**MOTION** (Evans / Fraser) THAT approximately \$1,200 be made available from the Discretionary Fund for the Strategic Planning Workshop on May 21<sup>st</sup>. CARRIED.

**Budget for 2009**

**MOTION** (Evans / Fraser) THAT all committees be reminded that they must have their Budget requests in to the Treasurer prior to the October meeting of Presbytery. CARRIED.

**Records Examination**

**MOTION** (Currie / Evans) THAT the Session Records of Appin Presbyterian Church, Appin, be attested as neatly and correctly kept, with the following notes: Sections 27.2, 27.5. CARRIED.

**MOTION** (Currie / Evans) THAT the Session Records of Guthrie Presbyterian Church, Melbourne, be attested as neatly and correctly kept. CARRIED.

**Stated Hour Burns, Mosa**

The Stated Hour of 7:45 p.m. having arrived,

**MOTION** (Evans / Fraser) THAT the actions of the Clerk in citing the members of the congregation of Burns Presbyterian Church, Mosa to appear be homologated. CARRIED.

**MOTION** (Evans / Fraser) THAT the following members of Burns, Mosa be given permission to address the Court: Margaret Field, Ruth Ann McVicar, Donna Jean van Bilsen. CARRIED.

The Moderator invited the above-named members of Burns, Mosa, to speak to the Court to express their appreciation for the Ministry of the Reverend Linda Moffatt.

The Moderator invited the members of the Court to speak, and appreciation was expressed by Jim Redpath and Tom Jeffery.

Linda Moffatt addressed the Court, expressing her appreciation for the time she has spent ministering within the Burns congregation, and wishing them God's blessing for the future. She also expressed thanks to the members of the Presbytery for their prayers and support, past, present and in the future.

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**MOTION** (Evans / Fraser) THAT the resignation of the Reverend Linda Moffatt be accepted with the gratitude of the Presbytery for her service to Burns Church, and the Court during her tenure within the Presbytery of London. CARRIED.

**MOTION** (Evans / Fraser) THAT the Reverend Linda Moffatt's name be placed on the Appendix to the Roll as of August 1, 2008. CARRIED.

**MOTION** (Evans / Fraser) THAT the Review Team of John Goodfellow, Lynn Nichol, John van Vliet, and their Elders now serve as the Exit Visitation Team to Burns, Mosa. CARRIED.

**MOTION** (Evans / Fraser) THAT the Moderator appoint an Interim Moderator to Burns Presbyterian Church, Mosa. *This Motion was withdrawn by the mover and seconder when it was pointed out that the Exit Visitation Team will make recommendations regarding the naming of an Interim Moderator.*

The Moderator asked the Former Moderator, the Reverend Kathy Fraser to assume the Chair while he presented the Reports of the Clerk and Treasurer Review Teams.

**Clerk Review Team**

The report of the Clerk Review Team had been circulated with the Advance Reports, and the convenor, Mr. Tom Jeffery presented the report.

**MOTION:** (Jeffery / Drozd) THAT the Clerk, Chris Evans, be appointed for a second term of three years. CARRIED.

**MOTION:** (Jeffery / Drozd) THAT the Clerk's, Treasurer's and Hospital Visitor's remuneration be reviewed at the time of budget preparation. CARRIED.

**Treasurer Review Team**

Mr. Tom Jeffery gave a verbal report of the Review of the Treasurer, Mrs. Carol Rayner, which had been conducted prior to this meeting by Mr. Jeffery, the Clerk, and the Reverend Mavis Currie.

**MOTION:** (Jeffery / Currie) THAT the Treasurer, Mrs. Carol Rayner, be commended for the excellent job she is doing and for her commitment to successfully executing her duties for the Presbytery. CARRIED.

**MOTION:** (Jeffery / Currie) THAT Mrs. Carol Rayner's contract as Treasurer be extended for another year. CARRIED.

**Students and Education Team**

**MOTION:** (Shaw / Stol) THAT since the report of the Students and Education had not been circulated prior to the meeting, this report be received and considered by the Court. CARRIED.

The Reverend Sabrina Caldwell presented the report of the Student and Education Team, and reviewed the process the team has undergone with regards to appealing the decision of the Committee on Education and Reception of the General Assembly

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on the application of the Reverend Andras Rameshwar for admission into the Presbyterian Church in Canada. Following this information and the Clerk's reading of a letter received on the day of this meeting from the Committee on Education and Reception which indicated that in light of new information received, a recommendation for non-reception will NOT be made this year, and encouraged Andras to submit further documentation and come to a second interview at its next regular meeting in November, 2008, the following recommendations were made:

**RECOMMENDATION 1** (Caldwell / Shaw) THAT the Presbytery of London write a letter to the Committee on Education and Reception reiterating our interview process and stating our reasons for supporting Andras' reception as a minister within the PCC. CARRIED.

**RECOMMENDATION 2** (Caldwell / Shaw) THAT Andras Rameshwar provide 5 (five) letters of reference to the Committee on Education and Reception with copies to the Presbytery's Student and Education Committee, which represent support from the following categories of Clergy: one from his minister before he entered theological studies, one from a Professor during his time at McMaster Theological Seminary, one from his Student Field Education Supervisor, one from a Minister who was involved in his ministry during the time that the Goshen Pastoral Charge divided, and one from the Reverend Robert Shaw as the Interim Moderator of DaySpring Presbyterian Church, London. CARRIED.

**RECOMMENDATION 3** (Caldwell / Shaw) THAT Andras provide the Committee on Education and Reception, with copies to the Student and Education Committee of the Presbytery of London, a written statement expressing his sense of call to ministry, and particularly to ministry within the Presbyterian Church in Canada. CARRIED.

**Denominational Work Team** No Report.

**Vacancy and Visitation Team** The Moderator indicated that reports will be presented at the June meeting.

**Leading with Care Team** No Report.

**Hospital Visitor Team** No Report.

**Youth and Campus Ministries Team** Mavis Currie reported that Chalmers had won the Youth Volleyball Tournament this year. She also reported that funding is starting to come in from congregations within the Presbytery in support of the Mission Trip to Cape Breton.

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**Website and Communications Team** Mavis Currie indicated that a report would be presented at the June meeting.

**Small Church Ministries Fund** No Report

**Evangelism Team** Michael Stol indicated that the workshop with Chuck Congram was successful, and that it is likely events such as this will occur again.

**Strategic Visioning Team** Kevin Steeper gave a report on the planning for the Study Day on May 21<sup>st</sup>, and reminded everyone that he needs to know the number of people who will be attending. He asked the members of the Court to let him know by this coming Friday if they will be attending.

Kevin referred to the Report of the Strategic Visioning Committee entitled “Presbytery of London Restructuring Plan”, and presented the following:  
**MOTION** (Steeper / Reid) THAT this Restructuring Plan for the Presbytery of London be accepted by the Court, to take effect at the September 2008 meeting of the Presbytery. Following some discussion the motion CARRIED by a majority.

**MOTION** (Steeper / Reid) THAT the Administration Team be given the power to make the necessary changes concerning the Standing Orders to reflect the restructuring of the Presbytery of London.

**MOVED in AMENDMENT** (Nichol / Shaw) THAT the Administration Team be charged with bringing recommendations concerning necessary changes to the Standing Orders to reflect the restructuring of the Presbytery of London. CARRIED.

**AMENDED MOTION CARRIED.**

**G.A. 2011 L.A.C.** No Report

**Knox St. Thomas I.M. Advisory Team** No Report

**Reports of Interim Moderators** DaySpring - No Report

St. John’s, Port Stanley - No Report

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Rodney / Kintyre / New Glasgow - Johan Olivier reported that the Joint Session of Kintyre, Rodney and New Glasgow met on Monday, May 5<sup>th</sup> for the purpose of counting the votes and discerning a way forward. The result was a strong

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affirmation for amalgamation, with the following numbers:

Kintyre - 47 votes: 35 in favour, 12 against (74% in favour)

Rodney - 41 votes: 41 in favour, 0 against (100% in favour)

New Glasgow - 19 votes: 15 in favour, 4 against (79% in favour).

Grand Totals: 107 votes: 91 in favour, 16 against (85% in favour).

Combined services will begin at St. John's, Rodney on May 18<sup>th</sup>, and also on May 25<sup>th</sup>. June worship will be held at Knox, Kintyre; July and August at Knox, New Glasgow. Service time will be 11:00 a.m.

The combined session will meet again on June 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2008 and name a second steering committee to begin and continue the process of exploring a possible wider amalgamation.

**MOVED** (Olivier / van Vliet) THAT Presbytery uphold the congregations' decision on amalgamation and request the Clerk of Presbytery to cite the congregations to appear at the June 17, 2008 meeting of the Presbytery. CARRIED.

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St. Lawrence, London - Lynn Nichol reported no change in the search process, and indicated that Inge Stahl's contract to provide Pulpit Supply had been extended to the end of the year.

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Knox, Belmont & St. James, North Yarmouth - Kevin Steeper reported that the people of Knox, Belmont are working on their Mission Plan and hope to present it at the June meeting of Presbytery. He also reported that the St. James congregation will be exploring possibilities for their future, and that the pulpit is being supplied.

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Knox, St. Thomas - The Report of the Reverend Joyce Elder, Interim Moderator, had been circulated with the Advance Reports, and Joyce Elder highlighted some of the statements made within the report.

**Other Business** Andrew Reid drew the attention of the Court to a Workshop and indicated that a notice of the workshop is available on the table at the rear of the Sanctuary.

**Adjournment** On a motion by Hugh Appel, the Court stood adjourned at eight thirty five o'clock in the evening (8:30 p.m), to meet again in Regular Session on Tuesday, the seventeenth day of June, two thousand and eight at the hour of seven o'clock in the evening in London, and within Trinity Community Presbyterian Church. The Moderator closed the meeting with Prayer.

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Moderator

Clerk