

**Minutes of the Presbytery of London
Trinity Community Presbyterian Church, London, Ontario, June 17, 2008**

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

Worship The Reverend Mark Turner and the musicians of Trinity led the court in worship and lively music.

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 guests were welcomed, with particular note made of members representing Argyle-Crinan / Duff-Largie, and St. John's-Rodney / Knox-Kintyre / Knox-New Glasgow pastoral charges, Catherine McMillan representing the WMS. Terry Ingram introduced Marg Chester, who is the new Representative Elder for Oakridge, and **MOVED** (Ingram / Fraser) THAT Marg Chester be officially appointed as the Representative Elder for Oakridge. CARRIED.

Attendance Hugh Appel, John Bannerman, Amanda Birchall, Mavis Currie, Deb Dolbear-Van Bilsen, Kathy Fraser, Terry Ingram, Keith McKee, Douglas Miles, Lynn Nichol, Johan Olivier, Jim Redpath, Andrew Reid, Robert Robinson, Robert Shaw, Kevin Steeper, Mark Turner, John van Vliet, Ministers; Terry Axford, Bob Baron, John Cameron, Marg Chester, Ruth Ann Drozd, Chris Evans, Nancy Fletcher, Theresa Glithero, John Goodfellow, Mildred Greig, Tom Jeffery, Jacqueline Leitch, Janice Lockhart, Joan Mansell, Matt Marshall, Sharon Marshall, Linda McKenna, Sheila McMurray, John McNeil, Barbara Nyitray, Linda Riddell, Gordon Sims, Nancy Springer, Gerald Stocking, Donna Jean Van Bilsen, Trudy Van der Hoek, Sandra VanDerVeen, Allan Woolner, Elders; Carol Rayner, Treasurer; Wilma Reath, North Caradoc-St. Andrews; John Aziz, New St. James; Catherine McMillan, WMS London Presbyterial; Rob Evans, Elmwood; V. Murray.

Regrets Charlotte Brown, Sabrina Caldwell, Linda Moffatt, Michael Stol, Andras Rameshwar, Ministers; Carlton Dindial, Margaret McCullough, Joe Ruitenbeek, Don Speir, Peter VanderKooy, Elders.

Stated Hour Crinan/Largie The Stated Hour of 7:30 pm having arrived, **MOTION** (Evans / Drozd) THAT the actions of the Clerk in citing the members of the congregations of Argyle-Crinan and Duff-Largie Presbyterian Churches to appear, be homologated. CARRIED.

MOTION (Evans / Drozd) THAT the following members of Argyle-Crinan and Duff-Largie (one from each congregation) be given permission to address the Court: Jackie Leitch and Frank McMurchy. CARRIED.

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MOTION (Evans / Drozd) THAT the letter of retirement of the Reverend Hugh Appel be accepted with the gratitude of the Presbytery for his service to Argyle, Crinan and Duff, Largie Churches, and to the Court during his tenure within the Presbytery of London. CARRIED.

MOTION (Evans / Drozd) THAT the pulpits of Argyle and Duff Presbyterian Churches be declared vacant effective July 1, 2008. CARRIED.

MOTION (Evans / Drozd) THAT due to the length of time between Presbytery Meetings, the Moderator name an Interim Moderator to the Crinan / Largie Pastoral Charge. CARRIED.

Jackie Leitch and Frank McMurchy were invited forward to express the appreciation of their two congregations for Hugh's ministry, and also that of his wife, Jane. They wished Hugh and Jane the best during their retirement

Hugh Appel was invited to speak, and he expressed his appreciation for the support of the two congregations and also the Presbytery during his time in our midst.

Amanda Birchall and Jim Redpath, as members of the Court, also expressed their thanks and appreciation to Hugh for his support and wisdom, and wished him well during this, his second retirement.

**Stated Hour
Rodney,
Kintyre,
New Glasgow
Amalgamation**

St. John's, Rodney / Knox-Kintyre / Knox-New Glasgow

The Reverend Johan Olivier presented the Report on the Proposed Amalgamation of the St. John's, Rodney / Knox-Kintyre / Knox-New Glasgow congregations.

MOTION: (Evans / Drozd) THAT the following members of St. John's, Rodney / Knox-Kintyre / Knox-New Glasgow (one from each congregation) be given permission to address the Court: Pam Demers (New Glasgow), Natalie Gillis (Kintyre) and Bill Bradshaw (Rodney).

AMENDMENT: (Miles / Axford) THAT as many people as possible from these congregations be allowed to address the Court. DEFEATED.

ORIGINAL MOTION CARRIED.

Pam Demers was invited to address the Court, and spoke in favour of the Amalgamation, but expressed concerns regarding the voting process. Natalie Gillis was invited to address the Court, and she also spoke in favour of the Amalgamation, expressing the wish that these three congregations be able to go forward as a united congregation. Bill Bradshaw was then invited to address the Court, and he also spoke in favour of the Amalgamation, but expressed concerns about the proposed sale of the three church buildings. Allan Woolner, Representative Elder for this

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three-point charge spoke, giving an outline of the history of these three congregations, and expressing the hope that this Amalgamation will breathe new life into the ministry of the Presbyterian Church in West Elgin. All those who spoke expressed concern regarding the old buildings, but also recognized the need to work together and to respect each other and move ahead.

Following a lengthy discussion regarding the processes being followed, The Reverend Johan Olivier presented the motions as follows:

MOTION #1: (Olivier / van Vliet) THAT the Presbytery of London take the appropriate steps to approve the congregations' plan for amalgamation in a timely fashion and in accordance with the laws and accepted practice of the Presbyterian Church.

Amendment (McKee / Ingram) THAT the Presbytery of London take the appropriate steps to amalgamate the congregations of St. John's, Rodney / Knox-Kintyre / Knox-New Glasgow.
Terry Axford and John van Vliet spoke against this amendment

Amendment to the Amendment (Nichol / Birchall) THAT the Presbytery of London approve the congregations' plan for Amalgamation, with the understanding that if there are any changes, they must be brought back to this Court. CARRIED.

AMENDED MOTION #1 THAT the Presbytery of London approve the congregations' plan for Amalgamation, with the understanding that if there are any changes, they must be brought back to this Court. CARRIED.

MOTION #2 (Olivier / van Vliet) THAT this amalgamated Presbyterian congregation temporarily be named Trinity Presbyterian Church, West Elgin, until such time as its final status is settled. Following discussion regarding legalities such as the Charitable Registration, etc. the motion CARRIED.

MOTION #3 (Olivier / van Vliet) THAT a closure committee be named to plan for the orderly closure and appropriate disposal of ecclesial goods; that this committee consist of a representative from each of the three congregations along with two members of Presbytery and the Interim Minister; and that a final report be presented to the Session and Presbytery in time for the September meeting of Presbytery. CARRIED. The Moderator will name the representatives of Presbytery to serve on the Closure Committee.

MOTION #4 (Olivier / van Vliet) THAT closing services be held at all three church buildings in September 2008, as scheduling allows and that the Moderator of Presbytery decide on the sequence of the closing services. CARRIED.

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The Moderator thanked the various members of both the Argyle-Crinan / Duff-Largie, and the St. John's, Rodney / Knox-Kintyre / Knox-New Glasgow Pastoral Charges for attending this meeting, and gave them permission to leave the meeting if they so wished.

Reports from General Assembly **MOTION:** (Evans / Drozd) THAT the Commissioners to General Assembly who are not on the Constituent Roll of the Presbytery be given permission to address the Court. CARRIED.

MOTION: (Stol / Shaw) THAT the reports be accepted as printed, and the Commissioners not be asked to present their reports verbally.

Concern was voiced that these individuals had been invited to attend this meeting, and had taken time out of their personal schedules to present their reports and therefore should be heard.

The motion was DEFEATED.

The following Commissioners came forward and spoke briefly on the reports they had provided: John Aziz, David Laphorne, Terry Ingram, Robert Shaw, Mark Turner, and Ron Sparling. All expressed that they felt their attendance at the General Assembly was a valuable experience.

MOTION: (Cameron / Redpath) THAT the reports of the Commissioners to General Assembly be accepted. CARRIED.

Administrative Business **MOTION:** (Evans / Drozd) THAT the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of May 13, 2008 be adopted as circulated. CARRIED.

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

Number	From	Regarding
08-22	S. Shaffer, Committee on Ed. & Recept.	Results of Conf. Call (read at May 13 th meeting)

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

Number	From	Regarding	Refer To
08-23	Rev. Hugh Appel	Notice of Retirement	Vacancy & Visitation
08-24	J. Vissers, Presbyterian College	Robert Wilson	Students & Ed.

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**Ailsa Craig
Revised Mission
Plan** Following the motion made at the meeting of May 13, 2008, referring the Mission Plan of the former Ailsa Craig Presbyterian Church congregation back to the Administrative Team for revision, the Administrative Team has reviewed and revised the Mission Plan with the Assistance of the Chief Financial Officer's office, and felt that the revised Mission Plan will allow the Presbytery of London to honour the wishes of the former Ailsa Craig congregation as much as possible. This document was circulated as part of the Administrative Team Report.

MOTION: (Evans / Drozd) THAT the Mission Plan of the former Ailsa Craig congregation be as revised by the Administrative Team be approved. CARRIED.

ROLL **MOTION:** (Evans / Drozd) THAT the following Commissions for Elders (Representative / Alternate Representative Elder) be recognized and their names be added to the Roll of the Presbytery of London for September 2008 to August 2009: **Appin/Melbourne:** Tom Jeffery/Lorna Martin; **North Yarmouth:** Nancy Newell/Joan Mansell; **Crinan/Largie:** Bill McMurchy/ Jacqueline Leitch; **Dorchester/South Nissouri:** Terry Axford/Larry Gibbings; **Dutton:** John McNeil/ John McIntyre; **Fingal:** Peter VanderKooy/Janice Lockhart; **Glencoe/Wardsville:** Gerald Stocking/ Blake Wilcox; **Ilderton:** Margaret McCullough/Linda Riddell; **Trinity West Elgin (temp name):** Allan Woolner/Janet Quinton; **North Caradoc-St. Andrews/Komoka:** Mildred Greig/Wilma Reath; **Chalmers London:** Gail McHardy-Leitch/Doris Tutt; **DaySpring London:** Don Speir/Ruth Carey; **Elmwood Ave. London:** Chris Evans/Trudy Van der Hoek; **Knollwood London:** Ross MacKay/Carlton Dindial; **New St. James London:** Bob Baron/Neil Dickieson; **Oakridge London:** Marg Chester / Bob Leatham; **St. George's London:** Patrick Laurin/Ronald Sparling; **St. Lawrence London:** Nancy Springer/ Ben Ormseth; **Trinity London:** Sheila McMurray/no alternate; **Westmount London:** Barbara Nyitray/Tom Telfer; **Mosa:** Donna Jean Van Bilsen/ Margaret Field; **Port Stanley:** Sharon Marshall/Linda McKenna; **St. Thomas:** Matthew Marshall (Rep)/ Ian Begg & Sandra Van der Veen (Alternates); **Equalizing Elders:** Ruth Ann Drozd, Theresa Glithero, one to be named. CARRIED.

MOTION: (Evans / Drozd) THAT the following Presbyters who will complete their terms on August 31, 2008 be thanked for their service by a letter from the Clerk: Nancy Fletcher, Judith Chamberlain, Eva Roberts, John Cameron, John Goodfellow, Norma Stevenson, Joe Ruitenbeek, Ken Keith, Olive Bell, Gordon Sims, Bob Bedgood, Hugh Orchard. CARRIED.

**Restructuring
Proposal** **Presbytery Restructuring Proposal**

In response to the report and motion made by the Strategic Visioning Committee, and carried: *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*, the Administrative Team has reviewed and discussed the proposal of the Strategic Visioning Committee, and felt that clarification of the proposal is needed before such drastic changes can be made.

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RECOMMENDATION #1 (Evans / Drozd) THAT the Administrative Team and the Strategic Visioning Committee meet together before the end of June, 2008 to discuss and draft the proposed changes to the Standing Orders, with a view to presenting a Notice of Motion at the September Presbytery meeting, with the proposed changes to the Standing Orders to be considered at the October meeting of Presbytery.” CARRIED.

In light of this recommendation,

RECOMMENDATION #2 (Evans / Drozd) THAT any other proposed changes to the Standing Orders be dealt with based on the same time line, since the restructuring changes may have implications on the rest of the Standing Orders document. CARRIED.

Records Examination Due to a misunderstanding, the Records of St. James Presbyterian Church, North will be presented at the September meeting of the Presbytery.

Students and Education Team Terry Ingram presented the Report of the Students and Education Team

RECOMMENDATION #1 (Ingram / Fraser) THAT Gale Turnbull be re-certified as a candidate for ministry within the Presbyterian Church in Canada. CARRIED.

RECOMMENDATION #2 (Ingram / Fraser) THAT Robert Wilson be re-certified as a candidate for ministry within the Presbyterian Church in Canada. CARRIED.

Denominational Work Team No Report

Vacancy and Visitation Team Two reports from Visitations had been circulated with the Advance Reports:
Visitation Team to Trinity Community Presbyterian Church:

Trinity Visitation Mavis Currie presented the report of the Visitation Team to Trinity Community Presbyterian Church, and made the following recommendations:

RECOMMENDATION #1 (Currie / Reid) THAT the Minister, Session and Congregation of Trinity Community Presbyterian Church be commended for their faithful witness to Christ within northwest London and for their particular ministry to youth and young adults. CARRIED.

RECOMMENDATION #2 (Currie / Reid) THAT the Congregation of Trinity Community Presbyterian Church be encouraged to include Presbyterians Sharing in their annual budget for 2009. CARRIED.

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RECOMMENDATION #3 (Currie / Reid) THAT the Minister and Session of Trinity Community Presbyterian Church explore funding possibilities for special outreach projects with Synod and the wider church. CARRIED.

RECOMMENDATION #4 (Currie / Reid) THAT the Evangelism Team of Presbytery consider an educational event re. Contemporary Worship. CARRIED.

RECOMMENDATION #5 (Currie / Reid) THAT the Leading with Care Team of Presbytery consider holding a Town Hall meeting or creating some other forum to address ongoing questions regarding Leading with Care implementation and that representatives from Trinity be encouraged to attend.

FRIENDLY AMENDMENT (Ingram / Shaw) THAT the Leading with Care Team of Presbytery hold a Town Hall meeting or create some other forum to address ongoing questions regarding Leading with Care implementation and that a representative from every congregation with youth, children or vulnerable adults be requested to attend. CARRIED.

RECOMMENDATION #6 (Currie / Reid) THAT the Session of Trinity be encouraged to explore the possibility of joint ventures with other congregations within the Presbytery for ministry to youth and/or children. CARRIED.

RECOMMENDATION #7 (Currie / Reid) THAT the Presbytery of London explore the possibility of a “prayer day” (all of the prayer groups within the Presbytery would be invited to meet together for a joint prayer meeting) and consider asking a member of Trinity to be a part of organizing this day. CARRIED.

RECOMMENDATION #8 (Currie / Reid) THAT the Visitation Team to Trinity Community Presbyterian Church be dismissed with the thanks of the Court. CARRIED.

**Crinan/Largie
Exit Visitation**

Exit Visitation Team to Argyle-Crinan and Duff-Largie

Jim Redpath presented the report of the Exit Visitation Team to Argyle-Crinan and Duff-Largie Presbyterian Churches.

RECOMMENDATION #1 (Redpath / Dolbear-Van Bilsen) THAT the Reverend Hugh Appel be commended for his dedication to his role as Minister of Word and Sacrament at the dual charge of Argyle-Crinan and Duff-Largie, as we wish him and his wife, Jane, a long, happy and healthy retirement. CARRIED.

RECOMMENDATION #2 (Redpath / Cameron) THAT the congregations of Crinan / Largie be commended for their support of their Minister and for their efforts to spread the Gospel to their community. CARRIED.

RECOMMENDATION #3 (Redpath / Cameron) THAT should the manse be considered as the residence for a potential candidate to fill this vacancy, London

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Presbytery shall first have the manse inspected for suitability prior to approving any call to this charge. CARRIED.

RECOMMENDATION #4 (Redpath / Cameron) THAT the Interim Moderator of Crinan / Largie undertake to assist each Session to implement a district for each Elder who will be responsible for periodic contact with those members within their respective district to ensure they are aware of each upcoming Communion Service and other special event(s) that may, from time to time, take place. In addition, each Elder will be responsible to identify any need a member of their district may have, including the need for pastoral care, and make the appropriate referral to the Interim Moderator. CARRIED.

RECOMMENDATION #5 (Redpath / Cameron) THAT with the assistance of the Interim Moderator, the financial situation at the Argyle-Crinan / Duff-Largie charge be examined thoroughly before proceeding to actively engage in the call process. CARRIED.

RECOMMENDATION #6 (Redpath / Dolbear-van Bilsen) THAT the Crinan / Largie Exit Interview Team be dismissed with the thanks of the Court. CARRIED.

**Additional
Reports to be
Received and
Considered**

MOVED (Nichol / Springer) THAT the reports of the Visitation Teams to Burns-Mosa and Appin/Guthrie-Melbourne which had been distributed at the beginning of this meeting be received and considered. CARRIED.

**Burns-Mosa
Exit Review**

Exit Review Team to Burns-Mosa

Lynn Nichol presented the report of the Review Team to Burns Presbyterian Church, Mosa, which was conducted following the resignation of the Reverend Linda Moffatt.

RECOMMENDATION #1 (Nichol / van Vliet) THAT the Reverend Kathy Fraser be appointed Interim Moderator of Burns, Mosa, effective August 1, 2008. CARRIED.

RECOMMENDATION #2 (Nichol / van Vliet) THAT Burns, Mosa be given permission to seek a new Minister. CARRIED.

RECOMMENDATION #3 (Nichol / van Vliet) THAT the Review Team to Burns Presbyterian Church, Mosa, be dismissed with the thanks of the Court. CARRIED.

**Appin / Guthrie
Melbourne
Visitation**

Visitation Report for the Pastoral Charge of Appin and Melbourne

Robert Shaw presented the report of the Visitation Team to Appin and Guthrie, Melbourne Presbyterian Churches.

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RECOMMENDATION #1 (Shaw / S. Marshall) THAT the Congregations of Appin and Melbourne be commended for their efforts to make a faithful witness to Christ and His Gospel and be encouraged to press forward in their efforts. CARRIED.

RECOMMENDATION #2 (Shaw / S. Marshall) THAT the Reverend Amanda Birchall be commended for her commitment to Christ and His Body and that members of Presbytery support Amanda in Prayer and in Presence. CARRIED.

RECOMMENDATION #3 (Shaw / S. Marshall) THAT the Visitation Team to Appin and Melbourne be dismissed with the thanks of the Court. CARRIED.

**Leading with
Care Team** No Report

**Hospital
Visitor Team** No Report

**Youth and
Campus
Ministries** Mavis Currie reported that there is much activity in the Youth and Campus Ministries area, but there is no report this month.

**Website &
Communications
Team** Mavis Currie drew the Court's attention to the report of the Website and Communications Team, but there are no recommendations.

**Small Church
Ministries Fund** **MOTION** (Nichol / Springer) THAT the report of the Small Church Ministries which was circulated at the beginning of the meeting be received and considered due to the time-sensitivity of the recommendation. It was drawn to the Court's attention that according to the Standing Orders of the Presbytery, such reports must be in the hands of the Clerk ten days before each meeting so that they may be circulated one week in advance of the meeting. The Moderator asked the will of the Court, and it was agreed that the vote would be taken. The Motion CARRIED.

RECOMMENDATION #1 THAT Knox, Komoka be granted \$2,000 from the Small Church Ministries Fund for their summer youth project. CARRIED.

**Evangelism
Team Report** The Clerk apologized to the Court for attaching the wrong Evangelism Report to the electronic transmission of the advance reports. The paper copies sent out were the correct report. John Bannerman presented the report of the Evangelism Team for information, and indicated that the recommendation that had been intended was budget related and would be presented at the September meeting.

**Strategic
Visioning** No Report

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General Assembly 2011 No Report

Knox St. Thomas Int. Mod. Advisory Team No Report

Reports of Interim Moderators DaySpring, London - No Report

St. John's, Port Stanley - No Report

Rodney / Kintyre / New Glasgow - presented earlier in the meeting

St. Lawrence, London - "Diligence"

Belmont / North Yarmouth - Kevin Steeper reported that at St. James, the pulpit is being supplied, and the two Interim Moderators are meeting with the Session to continue determining their future.

The Proposed Mission Plan had been circulated electronically prior to the meeting. **MOTION:** (Bannerman / Steeper) THAT the Knox, Belmont Mission plan be approved by the Presbytery of London. CARRIED.

John Bannerman also announced that on Saturday, June 21st from 10:00 am - 2:00 pm, the Knox church building would be open for people to view and purchase various items from the church.

Robert Shaw The Moderator read a letter from the Reverend Robert Shaw, requesting the support and endorsement of the Presbytery of London for him to apply to the Canadian Forces to serve as a Chaplain in the Reserve component. **MOTION:** (Birchall / Appel) THAT the Presbytery of London of the Presbyterian Church in Canada support (a) the application of the Reverend Robert M. Shaw to serve as a Chaplain in the Reserves of the Canadian Forces, and (b) if he is selected, his subsequent work with the Canadian Forces Reserve. CARRIED.

Camp Kintail John Cameron announced that Camp Kintail had suffered three break-ins during the past winter, and they are collecting Canadian Tire money to purchase replacement tools and other equipment. For further information please contact Lin Farquhar at (519) 644-1407.

Adjournment On a motion by Hugh Appel, the Court stood adjourned at nine forty o'clock in the evening (9:40 pm), to meet again in Regular Session on Tuesday, the ninth day of September, two thousand and eight at the hour of seven o'clock in the evening, in London, and within Westmount Presbyterian Church. The Moderator closed the meeting with Prayer.