

Minutes of the Presbytery of London

Knox Presbyterian Church, St. Thomas, Ontario, January 20, 2009, 7:00 p.m.

In St. Thomas, and within Knox Presbyterian Church, the Presbytery of London met in Regular Session on Tuesday, the twentieth day of January, two thousand and nine, at the hour of seven o'clock in the evening.

Constitution The Moderator, the Reverend Keith McKee constituted the Court with prayer.

Homologation **MOTION** (Evans / Bannerman) THAT the actions of the Moderator in postponing tonight's meeting from January 13, 2009 due to inclement weather conditions be homologated. **CARRIED.**

Welcome The Moderator, the Reverend Keith McKee welcomed guests to the Court. Members of Trinity, West Elgin, and Knox, St. Thomas were recognized, as well as Pauline Lindsay and Margaret McCullough representing the WMS. Mr. McKee then made special mention of the members of the London Arab Fellowship, indicating that they would be leading us in worship as well as making a presentation regarding their ministry.

Permission to **MOTION** (Shaw / Baron) THAT the Reverend Sherif Garas and Mr. William Khalil

Address the Court be given permission to address the Court. **CARRIED.**

Worship The Reverend Sherif Garas, Mr. William Khalil and members of the London Arab Fellowship led the Worship Service, with hymns sung in both Arabic and English, and an inspiring message from Mr. Khalil.

Courtesies and Announcements The Clerk, Mrs. Chris Evans, reminded everyone that there was mail in all mail slots and that it is important that everyone collect their mail as the ballots to nominate the next Moderator of General Assembly were there.

Attendance John Bannerman, Amanda Birchall, Mavis Currie, Deb Dolbear-Van Bilsen, Kathy Fraser, Keith McKee, Douglas Miles, Lynn Nichol, Johan Olivier, Andrew Reid, Robert Shaw, Kevin Steeper, Michael Stol, John Van Vliet, Joyce Elder, Andras Rameshwar, Ministers; Terry Axford, Bob Baron, Marg Chester, Ruth Ann Drozd, Chris Evans, Theresa Glithero, Mildred Greig, Tom Jeffery, Patrick Laurin, Jacqueline Leitch, Matt Marshall, Sharon Marshall, Margaret McCullough, Gail McHardy-Leitch, John McIntyre, Bill McMurchy, Nancy Newell, Barbara Nyitray, Wilma Reath, Linda Riddell, Don Speir, Nancy Springer, Gerald Stocking, Donna Jean Van Bilsen, Trudy Van der Hoek, Peter VanderKooy, Allan Woolner, Elders; Carol Rayner, Treasurer; Robert Holt, Knox, St. Thomas, C. McKenzie, Pauline Lindsay, WMS; Rob Evans, Elmwood; Elias Abuyousef, Faaiza Nissan, Feirouz Abuyousef, Ghassan Neema, Jonia Espeiro, Marlene Audisha, Mary Nashed, Nadira AbdulKarim, Samir Barkho, Sidori Nissan, Tamer Mettias, Tiodora Touma, William Khalil, Andrew Khalil (16 years old), Ashour Barkho (15 years old), Mathew Anjos (12 years old), Eric Khalil (11 years old), London Arab Fellowship.

Minutes of the Presbytery of London

Knox Presbyterian Church, St. Thomas, Ontario, January 20, 2009, 7:00 p.m.

Regrets Charlotte Brown, Sabrina Caldwell, Terry Ingram, Jim Redpath, Mark Turner, Ministers; Carlton Dindial, Ross MacKay, Sheila McMurray, John McNeil, Joe Ruitenbeek, Elders.

Docket **MOTION** (Evans / Fraser) THAT the docket as circulated be adopted for the meeting. CARRIED.

Stated Hour The Reverend Keith McKee once again welcomed the Reverend Sherif Garas and
London Arab Mr. William Khalil of the London Arab Fellowship, and invited them to make their
Fellowship presentation regarding their history and proposed ministry within the Presbytery of London. Following this presentation which included a description of their history and a slide presentation, the Moderator invited members of the Court to ask questions. It was indicated that these people are most willing to attend churches in the Presbytery to share their dreams to begin a new Ministry here. Mr. McKee thanked the members of the London Arab Fellowship for their attendance, and called a brief recess to allow them to pack their equipment and take their leave.

Administrative **MOTION** (Evans / Baron) THAT the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of November

Business 11, 2008 be adopted as circulated. CARRIED.

Report of the **REC. #1** (Evans / Baron) THAT the following correspondence be received for
Administrative Information: CARRIED.
Team

Number	From	Regarding
08-56	S. Kendall, G. A. Office	Receipt of Minister Commissioners
08-57	S. McMurray, Trinity Comm.	Sale of Manse (information)
08-59	Elizabeth Bartlett, G. A. Office	Changes to the Roll, October
08-60	Craigwiell Gardens	Thank You for Donation (Ailsa Craig), and receipt
08-61	Everett Briard, Presby. Of Pickering	Rev. Victoria Murray
08-62	Strathroy Middlesex General Hospital	Thank You for Donation (Ailsa Craig)
08-63	S. Shaffer, Comm. On Ed. & Recept.	Rev. Andras Rameshwar
08-64, 08-70	Ailsa Craig Food Bank	Thank You for Donation (Ailsa Craig) and receipt
08-66	J. Haas, Pension & Benefits	Annual Treasurer Information Package
08-68	Elizabeth Bartlett, B. A. Office	Changes to the Roll, November

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

Number	From	Regarding	Refer To
08-58	Presbyterian Record	Request for Nominations	Denom. Wk.
08-65	Ecumenical & Interfaith Relations Comm.	Request for Nominations	Denom. Wk.
08-67	S. Shaffer	Documents from G.A. 2008	Denom. Wk.
08-69	M.L. McCrimmon, New St. James	Minister-in-Assoc. J. Elder	Admin.
08-71	J. Olivier, IM - Trinity West Elgin	Extension of J. Van Vliet's contract To January 31, 2009	Admin.

Minutes of the Presbytery of London

Knox Presbyterian Church, St. Thomas, Ontario, January 20, 2009, 7:00 p.m.

REC. #3 (Evans / Baron) THAT the Reverend Jim Redpath's name be moved to the Appendix to the Roll of the Presbytery of London effective February 1, 2009. CARRIED.

REC. #4 (Evans / Baron) THAT the Reverend Dr. Robert Robinson's name be moved to the Appendix to the Roll of the Presbytery of London, effective January 1, 2009. CARRIED.

Correspondence #08-71 - The Session of Trinity, West Elgin passed a motion that Presbytery be asked to extend Rev. Van Vliet's contract until January 31, 2009.

REC. #5 (Evans / Baron) THAT the Presbytery homologate the extension of the Reverend John Van Vliet's Contract at Trinity, West Elgin, to January 31, 2009, at the request of the Session of Trinity. CARRIED.

REC. #6 (Evans / Baron) THAT the Reverend John Van Vliet's name be moved to the Appendix to the Roll of the Presbytery of London, effective February 1, 2009. CARRIED.

The Moderator and Clerk of the Presbytery of London met on Friday, November 14, 2008 with the Moderator and Clerk of the Presbytery of Lambton-West Middlesex and the Reverend Douglas Miles, former minister of the Beechwood Pastoral Charge, to review the report concerning the Beechwood Pastoral Charge. Issues concerning communication and appropriate pastoral boundaries were openly discussed. No future action is needed at this time.

Re: Correspondence #08-61, Mr. Briard informs the Presbytery of London that the Reverend Victoria Murray will remain under the care and discipline of the Presbytery of Pickering.

Re: Correspondence #08-63, The Committee on Education and Reception will recommend to the 2009 General Assembly that the Reverend Andras Rameshwar be declared eligible for reception as a minister of the Presbyterian Church in Canada, subject to competent objections being raised by a Presbytery of this Church by January 20, 2009, and subject to the successful completion of two semesters of theological studies at one of the colleges of this church, with prescribed courses.

Re: Correspondence #08-69, Agreement between New St. James and the Rev. Joyce Elder as Minister-in-Association at New St. James.

REC. #7 (Evans / Baron) THAT the Reverend Joyce Elder be received as Minister-in-Association at New St. James Presbyterian Church, London. CARRIED.

Further to the following motion passed at the Regular Meeting of the Presbytery of

Minutes of the Presbytery of London

Knox Presbyterian Church, St. Thomas, Ontario, January 20, 2009, 7:00 p.m.

London on November 11, 2008: **“RECOMMENDATION #4** (Evans / Drozd) **THAT the Administrative Team establish guidelines for the disbursement of the Ailsa Craig moneys, inclusive of both one-time and annual amounts. CARRIED.** (The Administrative Team may consult with other members of the Presbytery and also former members of the Ailsa Craig Congregation. The guidelines will comply with the guidelines of the Mission Plan as approved by the National Committee on Finance of the Presbyterian Church in Canada.)

REC. #8 (Evans /Baron) **THAT the guidelines for the distribution of the Ailsa Craig moneys be as follows:**

The balance of the moneys received from the sale of the assets of the former Ailsa Craig Presbyterian Church be distributed over a five-year period, at a rate of \$10,000 per year, to be allocated twice yearly. Applications for funds must be received by the Clerk by February 28 each year starting in 2009, for consideration at the April meeting of Presbytery, and by September 30 each year for consideration at the November meeting of Presbytery. \$5,000 will be distributed each half-year in accordance with the six (6) criteria approved at the September, 2008 meeting. Any funds not allocated in a time period will be rolled over into the next period, thus increasing the amount to be allocated. Any moneys remaining at the end of the five-year period will be distributed in one additional six-month period, such funds would consist of interest earned as well as undistributed funds.

The Motion **CARRIED.**

**Records
Examination**

The Session Records of Knox Presbyterian Church, Fingal, were examined by Mr. Rob Evans.

MOTION (Currie / Evans) **THAT the Session Records of Knox Presbyterian Church, Fingal, be attested as being neatly and correctly kept with notes. CARRIED.**

The Moderator noted that the Session Records for Trinity Community Presbyterian Church, London will be presented at the February meeting of Presbytery for examination.

**Students and
Education Team**

MOTION (Fraser / Stol) **THAT the Reverend Mavis Currie be granted Study leave to attend the CanLead Forum in London, January 26 - 29, 2009. CARRIED.**

**Denominational
Work Team**

No Report, but it was reported that this Team will be meeting this weekend.

Vacancy and

Tom Jeffery reported on the report of the Vacancy and Visitation Team.

Minutes of the Presbytery of London

Knox Presbyterian Church, St. Thomas, Ontario, January 20, 2009, 7:00 p.m.

Visitation Team MOTION (Van Bilsen / Stocking) THAT the Reverend Lynn Nichol and an Elder from Knollwood Park Presbyterian Church, and the Reverend Kathy Fraser and an Elder from North Caradoc-St. Andrews / Knox-Komoka serve as the Exit Review Team to Knox, Fingal. CARRIED.

MOTION (Van Bilsen / Stocking) THAT the Reverend John Van Vliet replace the Reverend Keith McKee on the Visitation Team to Oakridge Presbyterian Church. CARRIED.

Mr. Jeffery also indicated that the Rev. Rob Shaw will replace the Rev. Linda Moffatt on the Visitation Team to Glencoe / St. John's, Wardsville, along with an Elder from Burns, Mosa.

Westmount Visitation Mr. Jeffery reported that the visitation to Westmount Presbyterian Church, London had been completed.

MOTION (Shaw / Stol) THAT the report on the Visitation to Westmount Presbyterian Church be adopted as circulated. CARRIED.

MOTION (Shaw / Stol) THAT the Visitation Team to Westmount Presbyterian Church be dismissed with the thanks of the Court. CARRIED.

Leading with Care Team No Report

Hospital Visitor Team Gail McHardy-Leitch presented the report of the Hospital Visitor Team, and brought various points to the attention of the Court. Of particular note is the request of our Hospital Visitor, Doug Bruce for any clergy who would be willing to be available to offer Communion, and possibly conduct funerals to contact Doug, and also to let him know if there are members of their congregations requiring visits. Doug's contact information is: Phone: 519-685-8300, Pager # 13983, or 519-685-8300, ext 55230, or by secured e-mail: Douglas.Bruce@lhsc.on.ca.

Youth and Campus Ministries Team Mavis Currie addressed the report of the Youth and Campus Ministries Team, highlighting the work done to compile and deliver 90 care packages to students at Western and Fanshawe. She also spoke about the upcoming youth event, One Day Wonder.

Website Team No Report

Small Church Ministries Fund No Report

Minutes of the Presbytery of London

Knox Presbyterian Church, St. Thomas, Ontario, January 20, 2009, 7:00 p.m.

Evangelism Team John Bannerman indicated that this team will be meeting in the near future.

Strategic Visioning Team Kevin Steeper asked that Sessions be encouraged to respond to the letter which was sent out recently from the Strategic Visioning Team.

GA 2011 LAC No Report

Knox, St. Thomas Moderator Advisory Team Andrew Reid spoke to the report of the Interim

Interim Moderator Advisory Team which also served as the Exit Review Team to the Interim Moderator and Interim Minister to Knox Presbyterian Church, St. Thomas. He reported that both Dr. Robinson and Rev. Elder had been interviewed separately, and the Team's findings are documented within the report, which was circulated prior to this evening's meeting.

REC. #1 (Reid / Drozd) THAT the Moderator, with the assistance of the Advisory Team appoint at least four Assessor Elders to assist the Session of Knox Presbyterian Church in reaching a new understanding of Presbyterian polity and practice for a period of no less than one year. Following the question of whether four Assessor Elders was sufficient, Mr. Reid indicated that their purpose is to offer their guidance and experience. The Motion CARRIED.

REC. #2 (Reid / Drozd) THAT the Assessor Elders report progress to regular meetings of Presbytery along with the Interim Moderator. The question was asked "Who is the Interim Moderator"?, and the Moderator reported that the Rev. Joyce Elder will remain as Interim Moderator until March 1, 2009, and at that time, the Rev. Andrew Reid will be the new Interim Moderator. Mr. Reid also informed the Court that the purpose of having reports from both the Assessor Elders and the Interim Moderator is to present possible different angles and opinions about the progress. The Motion CARRIED.

REC. #3 (Reid / Drozd) THAT the Moderator of Presbytery, with the assistance of the Advisory Team be given permission to search for another Interim Minister, and make a recommendation to Presbytery. CARRIED.

REC. #4 (Reid / Drozd) THAT training in Christian conflict management be required of all Elders. CARRIED.

REC. #5 (Reid / Drozd) THAT the Moderator, with the assistance of the Advisory Team appoint a team to work with the Session of Knox Presbyterian Church to

Minutes of the Presbytery of London

Knox Presbyterian Church, St. Thomas, Ontario, January 20, 2009, 7:00 p.m.

undertake a thorough review of its current Christian Education Programme and the performance of its Christian Education Director. CARRIED.

REC. #6 (Reid / Drozd) THAT pursuant to the Book of Forms, Section 125.4, the roll of Knox Presbyterian Church be reviewed and revised before a call is processed. CARRIED.

REC. #7 (Reid / Drozd) THAT the resignation of the Reverend Keith McKee from the Advisory Team be accepted with the thanks of the Court, and that the Moderator appoint a replacement. CARRIED.

REC. #8 (Jeffery / Baron) THAT the resignation of the Reverend Andrew Reid from the Advisory Team, due to his appointment as Interim Moderator to Knox Presbyterian Church, effective March 1, 2009, be accepted with the thanks of the Court, and that the Moderator appoint a replacement. CARRIED.

The Moderator, the Reverend Keith McKee asked for the prayers of the Court for himself and the Administrative Team as they undertake the tasks assigned to them in these eight Recommendations.

The Reverend Andrew Reid thanked the Reverend Keith McKee for his service and work on the Advisory Team.

Interim Moderators' Reports

DaySpring, London: Robert Shaw, Interim Moderator, reported that the Reverend Andras Rameshwar has been notified that the Committee on Education and Reception will be recommending to the General Assembly that he be declared eligible for reception as a Minister in the Presbyterian Church in Canada subject to the successful completion of two semesters of theological studies at one of the colleges of this church, with prescribed courses.

St. John's - Port Stanley: No Report

Trinity - West Elgin: Johan Olivier, Interim Moderator, presented the two reports regarding this pastoral charge, outlining the history of the process from the time of his appointment as Interim Moderator. He gave one update to the report dated January 13, 2009, indicating that he has now received seven letters of resignation from Elders in the congregation, leaving the congregation with four serving elders, all from the former Kintyre congregation. Discussion followed regarding the wording and the order of the two recommendations.

MOTION (Reid / Stol) THAT the order of the recommendations be reversed, thus wording them as follows: "Rec. #1 (Olivier / Birchall) THAT Presbytery dissolve the congregation of Trinity West Elgin; and Rec. #2 (Olivier / Birchall) THAT Presbytery appoint a new Interim Moderators' Team to continue to pursue an

**Minutes of the Presbytery of London
Knox Presbyterian Church, St. Thomas, Ontario, January 20, 2009, 7:00 p.m.**

alternative plan for the amalgamation process.
The Motion CARRIED.

MOTION (Olivier / Birchall) THAT the Presbytery dissolve the congregation of Trinity West Elgin.

MOTION TO DEFER (Bannerman / Currie), indicating a need for more time to consider this decision.

The **MOTION TO DEFER** was DEFEATED.

AMENDMENT (Nichol / Axford) THAT a Ministry Team (to be named by the Moderator) bring recommendations to the Presbytery to accomplish the process of dissolving the congregation of Trinity, West Elgin.

AMENDMENT to the AMENDMENT (Stol / Reid) THAT Presbytery dissolve the congregation of Trinity, West Elgin effective February 28, 2009, and that a Ministry Team (to be named by the Moderator) bring recommendations to the Presbytery to accomplish the process of dissolving the congregation of Trinity, West Elgin. CARRIED.

The **AMENDMENT TO THE MOTION** CARRIED.

The **MOTION as AMENDED**, CARRIED.

Johan Olivier asked about worship services from the conclusion of John Van Vliet's ministry in the charge until the date of dissolution, and was told that the Session will need to make that decision.

St. Lawrence - London: Lynn Nichol, Interim Moderator reported that if all goes well, Sabrina Caldwell's term as Interim Moderator to St. Lawrence, which begins on February 1, 2009, should be short.

St. James - North Yarmouth: John Bannerman, Interim Moderator, reported diligence.

Knox - St. Thomas: No Report

Burns - Mosa: Kathy Fraser, Interim Moderator, reported that the congregational profile is complete, the pulpit is being supplied, and the process of reviewing and revising the Roll is under way.

Argyle - Crinan / Duff - Largie - Interim Moderators, Deb Dolbear-Van Bilsen and Amanda Birchall reported diligence, that they have been meeting with the Sessions, and that "all is well."

Minutes of the Presbytery of London

Knox Presbyterian Church, St. Thomas, Ontario, January 20, 2009, 7:00 p.m.

Other Business The Moderator reported that effective February 1, 2009, Kevin Steeper will be serving as Interim Moderator to Knox, Fingal.

Adjournment On a motion by Kathy Fraser, the Court stood adjourned at nine-thirty-five in the evening (9:35 p.m.) to meet again in Regular Session on Tuesday, the tenth day of February, two thousand and nine, at the hour of seven o'clock in the evening, in Melbourne, and within Guthrie Presbyterian Church.

The Moderator thanked everyone for their participation and closed the meeting with Prayer.

Moderator

Clerk