

Minutes of the Presbytery of London

Guthrie Presbyterian Church, Melbourne, Ontario, February 10, 2009, 7:00 p.m.

In Melbourne, and within Guthrie Presbyterian Church, the Presbytery of London met in Regular Session on Tuesday, the tenth day of February, 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.
- Worship** The Worship Service was conducted by the Reverend Amanda Birchall, and Session Members of Guthrie Presbyterian Church.
- Welcome,
Courtesies and
Announcements** The Moderator welcomed everyone to the meeting, and noted the presence of Mary Lou McKay and Catherine McMillan of the W.M.S. A number of members of Guthrie Presbyterian Church were also present and were welcomed, along with members of Trinity Presbyterian Church, West Elgin.
- Attendance** Amanda Birchall, Charlotte Brown, Mavis Currie, Deb Dolbear-Van Bilsen, Kathy Fraser, Terry Ingram, Keith McKee, Douglas Miles, Johan Olivier, Andrew Reid, Robert Shaw, Michael Stol, Joyce Elder, Andras Rameshwar, John Van Vliet, Ministers; Bob Baron, Ruth Ann Drozd, Chris Evans, Theresa Glithero, Mildred Grieg, Tom Jeffery, Patrick Laurin, Jacqueline Leitch, Matthew Marshall, Sharon Marshall, Margaret McCullough, Gail McHardy-Leitch, Bill McMurchy, Sheila McMurray, John McNeil, Nancy Newell, Barbara Nyitray, Ben Ormseth, Wilma Reath, Linda Riddell, Gerald Stocking, Donna Jean Van Bilsen, Trudy Van der Hoek, Peter VanderKooy, Elders; Carol Rayner, Treasurer; Rob Evans, Elmwood; Mary Lou McKay, New St. James (WMS); Catherine McMillan, WMS; Shirley Lunn, St. James, North Yarmouth.
- Regrets** John Bannerman, Sabrina Caldwell, Kevin Steeper, Mark Turner, Ministers; Terry Axford, Marg Chester, Joe Ruitenbeek, Don Speir, Nancy Springer, Allan Woolner, Elders;
- Absent** Lynn Nichol, Ross McKay
- Docket** **MOTION:** (Baron / Stol) THAT the Docket as circulated be adopted for the meeting, with the following changes:
- That the Call to the Reverend John Van Vliet be heard prior to the Administrative Business, as well as the WMS Annual Report. CARRIED.
- The Reverend Robert Shaw had been asked to present the Call to the Reverend John Van Vliet on behalf of the congregation of St. Andrews Presbyterian Church, New Liskeard.

Minutes of the Presbytery of London

Guthrie Presbyterian Church, Melbourne, Ontario, February 10, 2009, 7:00 p.m.

MOTION: (Shaw / Evans) THAT the call from St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, New Liskeard, Ontario to the Reverend John Van Vliet be received and considered.
CARRIED.

The Moderator called on the Reverend Robert Shaw to speak to the Call. Mr. Shaw read the Call, and then the Guarantee of Stipend as follows:

We, the congregation of St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, New Liskeard, hereby present to the Presbytery of Temiskaming, of the Presbyterian Church in Canada, that the estimated annual revenue of the said congregation for the maintenance of religious ordinance among ourselves is one hundred seven thousand, six hundred and fifty dollars (\$107,650).

We hereby agree to pay out of the said revenue, as it shall be collected, and as first charge thereon, to The Rev. John van Vliet, the annual stipend of thirty-nine thousand, and ninety-seven dollars (\$39,097), which amount is inclusive of annual car or travel allowance, and to provide manse or nine thousand dollars (\$9,000) annually for housing allowance, plus cost of utilities.

We agree to make payments of the above amounts monthly, and we undertake to review the stipend and allowances annually in consideration of any changes in the cost of living or in the needs of our minister. We further engage to use our utmost diligence to the end that The Rev. John van Vliet may regularly receive the stipend and allowance herein named.

We agree further:

- 1) To give two weeks study leave annually, and to provide at least the minimum allowance as set by the General Assembly;*
- 2) That the benefits of number 1 above shall be cumulative up to five years;*
- 3) To give five weeks holiday annually;*
- 4) To pay supply during the periods of study leave and holidays;*
- 5) In case of disability or extended illness, to continue to provide stipend, accommodation and allowances for a period not less than that set by the General Assembly, and to pay the cost of pulpit supply.*

In addition, we will pay the necessary moving expenses to settle The Rev. John van Vliet as minister in this congregation.

A special meeting was held by the Presbytery of Temiskaming at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, February 2, 2009 for the purpose of moderating the Call to the Rev. John Van Vliet. The following motion was made: "Moved by Rev. John Peter Smit,

Minutes of the Presbytery of London

Guthrie Presbyterian Church, Melbourne, Ontario, February 10, 2009, 7:00 p.m.

seconded by Jack Jamieson, THAT the Call be sustained as a true Gospel Call and transmitted to the Presbytery of London. All in favour, none opposed. Motion Carried.

This call is duly signed by the Clerk of Session of St. Andrew's, New Liskeard, and by the Interim Moderator of the Presbytery of Temiskaming.

The Moderator invited members of the Court to speak, and also Mr. Shaw, who spoke on behalf of the Rev. Patricia Van Gelder, Interim Moderator, St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, New Liskeard.

MOTION (Shaw / Evans): THAT the Call to the Reverend John Van Vliet be sustained as a Regular Gospel Call. CARRIED.

The Moderator placed the Call in the hands of the Reverend John Van Vliet, who stated that he would accept this Call.

MOTION (Shaw / Evans): THAT the Reverend John Van Vliet be transferred from the Appendix to the Roll of the Presbytery of London to the Roll of the Presbytery of Temiskaming, effective March 1, 2009. CARRIED.

MOTION (Shaw / Evans): THAT the Reverend John Van Vliet be thanked for his work within the congregation Trinity - West Elgin (formerly Knox, Kintyre, Knox, New Glasgow, and St. John's Rodney) over the past year. CARRIED.

WMS Annual Report

MOTION (Fraser / Reid) THAT Mrs. Mary Lou McKay be given permission to address the Court. CARRIED.

The Moderator introduced Mrs. McKay, President of the London Presbyterial, WMS, who presented the Annual Report.

"The WMS theme for the London Presbyterial for 2008 was 'Changing Times'. The Annual meeting was held on January 17, 2008 at Knox, St. Thomas. The financial objective of \$30,000 was approved for 2009. The Rev. Anne Yee-Hibbs led the Bible Study. Guest Speaker, Rae Williamson spoke and showed slides of Strang Church in Peace River Presbytery, where she served as a Deaconess.

"Nine delegates attended the Northwestern Ontario Synodical of WMS in Owen Sound in April, 2008. In May the London Presbyterian retreat took place at the Backus-Page House. Mission Day in September was held at Knox, Fingal. The Rev. Marion Barclay MacKay and her husband Rev. Donald MacKay attended as part of their deputation. They shared their experiences of the past two years serving in Ghana, at the Nsaba Lay Training Centre.

"Pauline Lindsay took donated knitted goods, children's clothing and baby

**Minutes of the Presbytery of London
Guthrie Presbyterian Church, Melbourne, Ontario, February 10, 2009, 7:00 p.m.**

blankets to Jobat, India, on her mission trip. In November a number of members attended a Synodical lunch in Woodstock where Wilma Welch and Pauline Brown explained the situation of Rev. Emmanuel Ariel, the Bhil minister who had been wrongfully incarcerated for two years in India, and also described two projects: buying bricks to build a children's hostel in Jobat and providing school supplies for children in impoverished Romania."

Mrs. McKay then expressed the appreciation of the London Presbyterial WMS to Winn Files who has served as President for the past three years.

The Moderator thanked Mrs. McKay for her report and commended the work of the London Presbyterial WMS.

**Administrative
Business**

MOTION: (Evans / Drozd) THAT the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of January 20, 2009 be adopted as circulated. CARRIED.

The Clerk, Mrs. Chris Evans presented the Report of the Administrative Team.

REC. #1 (Evans / Drozd) THAT the following correspondence be referred as named:

Number	From	Regarding	Refer To
09-01	D. Schomer, Eastminster Pres. (PC-USA)	S. Hasting	Clerk
09-02	B. Nawratil, 50 Wynford Dr.	Liability Insurance Invoice	Treasurer
09-03	D. Miles	Complaint	Returned

Re: Correspondence #09-01 - The Reverend Sheldon Hastings is being re-instated as a Minister within the Presbyterian Church, USA. The Clerk has provided necessary information to the General Presbytery of the Presbytery of Eastminster, Mineral Springs, Ohio.

Re: Correspondence #09-03 - A complaint was received by the Clerk, on February 2, 2009, against the action of the Presbytery in passing the motion to dissolve Trinity Presbyterian Church, West Elgin effective February 28, 2009. This complaint was not received within the prescribed ten days following the decision, (Section 384 of the Book of Forms) and therefore, after consultation with the Administrative Team, the Clerk has returned the complaint to the complainant.

The following Interim Moderators have been appointed by the Moderator:

Knox Presbyterian Church, St. Thomas, effective March 1, 2009: The Rev. Andrew Reid

St. Lawrence Presbyterian Church, London, effective February 1, 2009: The Rev. Sabrina Caldwell

Knox Presbyterian Church, Fingal, effective February 1, 2009: The Rev. Kevin Steeper

**Minutes of the Presbytery of London
Guthrie Presbyterian Church, Melbourne, Ontario, February 10, 2009, 7:00 p.m.**

Church.

The following have agreed to serve as Assessor Elders to Knox Presbyterian St. Thomas:

Tom Jeffery (Guthrie - Melbourne)
Donna Jean Van Bilsen (Burns - Mosa)
Ruth Ann Drozd (Elmwood - London)
Ken Keith (Oakridge - London).

The following have agreed to form the Christian Education Team to Knox, St. Thomas:

Mavis Currie (Westmount)
Nina Dupuis Zwart (New St. James)
Elizabeth Leitch (St. George's)
Heather Schmidt (New St. James)

RECOMMENDATION #2: (Drozd / Baron) THAT the Reverend Ian Johnston be appointed as Interim Minister to Knox Presbyterian Church, St. Thomas, effective April 1, 2009, as per the terms stated below: CARRIED.

An initial appointment will be for one (1) year, renewable for an additional period of time by mutual agreement of the Presbytery, the Interim Moderator and the Interim Minister. The interim minister will not be eligible for consideration as a candidate for a Call to this congregation.

The period of interim ministry will be reviewed by all parties to this agreement every six (6) months.

Should it be deemed injudicious for the ministry to continue, a sixty (60) day written notice by either the interim minister or the Session in consultation with the Presbytery may terminate this agreement

The term of ministry will commence, April 1, 2009

RECOMMENDATION #3: (Drozd / Baron) THAT the contract be approved with the following remuneration: CARRIED.

Annual Stipend: \$50,000

Manse Allowance: \$16,000 (inclusive of utilities)

Continuing Education Allowance: \$1000 per year

Additional Life Insurance (approximately \$15.00 per month) – a taxable benefit

Book Allowance of \$500.00, annually

Professional membership fees, approximately \$200.00 annually

Provision of a cell phone (approximately fifty dollars per month)

The Congregation will further pay the full cost of relocating Rev. Johnston and his wife from Listowel, Ontario to St. Thomas, Ontario, using a recognised national van

**Minutes of the Presbytery of London
Guthrie Presbyterian Church, Melbourne, Ontario, February 10, 2009, 7:00 p.m.**

line, including packing as required.

The congregation will contribute to the Pension Plan of the Presbyterian Church in Canada and will provide the continuing health and dental plan of the Presbyterian Church in Canada.

In the event of a disability or extended illness, to continue to provide stipend and allowances for a period of not less than that set by the General Assembly and to pay the cost of supply.

Vacation Time: Five weeks per year and the congregation will pay the cost of pulpit supply.

Study Leave: Two weeks per year, recognising that a week of study leave has been previously planned for May 2009.

RECOMMENDATION #4: (Drozd / Baron) THAT the Service of Recognition for the Reverend Ian Johnston be held on Sunday, April 5, 2009 at the hour of 3:00 p.m. at Knox Presbyterian Church, St. Thomas. CARRIED.

Presbyterians Sharing

RECOMMENDATION #5: (Baron / Drozd) THAT the following congregations be commended for meeting or exceeding their Presbyterians Sharing Commitment: CARRIED.

Appin: 100%	St. John's - Port Stanley: 100%
Guthrie - Melbourne: 113.2%	Glencoe: 136.6%
Burns - Mosa: 107.1%	St. John's - Wardsville: 119.9%
St. James - N. Yarmouth: 132.1%	Knox - Kintyre: 100%
Bethel - Ilderton: 100%	St. John's - Rodney: 100%
Duff - Largie: 131.1%	Knox - Komoka: 100.5%
Dorchester: 100%	North Caradoc - St. Andrew's: 108.5%
South Nissouri: 100%	Chalmers - London: 100%
Knox-St. Andrew's - Dutton: 100%	Knollwood Park - London: 100%
Knox - Fingal: 100%	St. Lawrence - London: 103.9%
New St. James - London: 100%	Knox - St. Thomas: 100%
St. George's - London: 100%	DaySpring - London: 100%
Westmount - London: 100%	

RECOMMENDATION #6: (Evans / Drozd) THAT the Empey bequest cheque in the amount of \$78.16 be donated to the London Arab Fellowship. CARRIED.

RECOMMENDATION #7: (Evans / Drozd) THAT anyone wishing to make donations to the London Arab Fellowship may make them through the Presbytery of

Minutes of the Presbytery of London

Guthrie Presbyterian Church, Melbourne, Ontario, February 10, 2009, 7:00 p.m.

London with the notation for the London Arab Fellowship, and funds will then be forwarded to the London Arab Fellowship by the Treasurer until such time as they are established as a congregation within the Presbyterian Church in Canada and obtain a Registered Charity Number. CARRIED.

The Clerk reported that the Administrative Team had held a favourable interview with an applicant for Young Adult Representative to General Assembly, and made the following motion:

RECOMMENDATION #8: (Evans / Fraser) THAT the name of Christin Gillard be forwarded to the General Assembly Office as our YAR for the 135th General Assembly, to be held in Hamilton, Ontario, June 7 - 12, 2009. CARRIED.

Session Records The Session Records of Trinity Community Presbyterian Church, London, Burns Presbyterian Church, Mosa and Bethel Presbyterian Church, Ilderton have been examined by Mr. Rob Evans.

MOTION: (Currie / Evans) THAT the Session Records of Trinity Community Presbyterian Church, London, be attested as neatly and correctly kept, with notes. CARRIED.

MOTION: (Currie / Evans) THAT the Session Records of Burns Presbyterian Church, Mosa, be attested as neatly and correctly kept, with notes. CARRIED.

MOTION: (Currie / Evans) THAT the Session Records of Bethel Presbyterian Church, Ilderton, be attested as neatly and correctly kept. CARRIED.

Students and Education Team No Report

Denominational Work Team The Reverend Terry Ingram presented the report of the Denominational Work Team.

RECOMMENDATION #1: (Ingram / S. Marshall) THAT the Presbytery of London approve Remit A under the Barrier Act. CARRIED.

Mr. Ingram noted the following comments regarding the section entitled “**Actions of the General Assembly requiring attention of Presbyteries**”

a) Section 4.4 of the Book of Forms. It is suggested that this section be reworded to read: “However, it is competent for a court to remit, from time to time, particular business to a “delegated court”, or commission, with power to issue. Except in the case of the General Assembly or synods functioning by commission, all members of the commission shall be members of the appointing court.” This is to be studied by Presbyteries and any comments reported to Clerks of Assembly.

Minutes of the Presbytery of London

Guthrie Presbyterian Church, Melbourne, Ontario, February 10, 2009, 7:00 p.m.

The recommended change seems to make sense for synods that are functioning by commission as it allows them to call on other ministers or elders within the synod to do the necessary work of that synod. We would concur with this change.

b) Process of electing ruling elders - section 132 of the Book of Forms. This section is being reworded. Please see the proposed revision on pages 256-8 of the Acts and Proceedings of the 2008 General Assembly.

We note the following:

> 132.8 - This section indicates that selection is based on the strength of congregational support demonstrated by the number of votes that each candidate receives. This practice may leave little or no room for Session's discernment for reasons other than popular vote which is provided in 132.2.1.c. We are of the opinion that such discernment is an important part of the selection of elders and that 132.8 should make such provisions.

> 132.2 - 132.6 - We suggest there be provision made for ballots to be distributed and returned at a congregational meeting. The legislation to have ballots to all members is more difficult for larger congregations.

RECOMMENDATION #2: (Ingram /S. Marshall) THAT the comments listed herein be transmitted to the Clerks of Assembly. CARRIED.

Vacancy and Visitation Team

Mr. Tom Jeffery presented the report of the Vacancy and Visitation Team.

RECOMMENDATION #1 (McCullough / Drozd) THAT outstanding visits from 2008 be completed by the June meeting of the Presbytery of London. CARRIED.

RECOMMENDATION #2 (McCullough / Drozd) THAT the following congregations be visited and reports be presented at or before the June meeting of the Presbytery:

a) Elmwood - London: by team of Michael Stol + a elder from Westmount Church, and John Bannerman + an elder from Chalmers Church, first meeting to be called by Tom Jeffery;

b) St. George's - London: by team of Terry Ingram + an elder from Oakridge Church and Mavis Currie + an elder from Westmount Church, first meeting to be called by Ruth Ann Drozd.

CARRIED.

RECOMMENDATION #3 (McCullough / Drozd) THAT the following congregations be visited and reports be presented at or before the November meeting of the Presbytery:

Minutes of the Presbytery of London

Guthrie Presbyterian Church, Melbourne, Ontario, February 10, 2009, 7:00 p.m.

- a) St. James, North Yarmouth: by team of Johan Olivier + an elder from Dorchester / South Nissouri Churches and Kathy Fraser + an elder from North Caradoc St. Andrews / Komoka Churches, first meeting to be called by Gerald Stocking;
 - b) DaySpring - London: by team of Andrew Reid + an elder from New St. James Church and Sabrina Caldwell + an elder from Oakridge Church, first meeting to be called by Tom Jeffery;
 - c) St. John's, Port Stanley: by team of Amanda Birchall + an elder from Appin / Melbourne Churches and Deb Dolbear-Van Bilsen + an elder from Glencoe / Wardsville Churches, first meeting to be called by Donna Jean Van Bilsen.
- CARRIED.

RECOMMENDATION #4 (McCullough / Drozd) THAT the yearly review of the Clerk be completed by a team consisting of Ruth Ann Drozd, Gerald Stocking and Tom Jeffery, and report at or before the May meeting of Presbytery. CARRIED.

RECOMMENDATION #5 (McCullough / Drozd) THAT Donna Jean Van Bilsen, Margaret McCullough and Tom Jeffery meet with the Treasurer to review her position and to ascertain her willingness to stand for another year, and report at the April meeting of Presbytery. CARRIED.

Leading with Care Team No Report

Hospital Visitor Team No Report

Youth and Campus Ministries Team Mavis Currie presented the report of the Youth and Campus Ministries Team.

RECOMMENDATION: (Currie / Reid) THAT as the Presbytery of London Youth Mission Trip to Camp Breton received funding of \$6,440.00 from the Synod Mission Fund, and as there was \$907.46 remaining after the trip was over and all expenses paid, the amount of \$907.46 be returned to the Synod Mission Fund with the thanks of the Court for enabling this important ministry to children and youth.

CARRIED.

Mavis then reminded everyone of the upcoming One Day Wonder, which will be held at Elmwood Avenue Presbyterian Church on February 28th, and also the Volleyball Tournament, and the CY-09 events.

Website and Communications Team No Report

**Minutes of the Presbytery of London
Guthrie Presbyterian Church, Melbourne, Ontario, February 10, 2009, 7:00 p.m.**

**Small Church
Ministries Fund** No Report

**Evangelism
Team** No Report

**Strategic
Visioning
Team** Tom Jeffery reminded everyone of the upcoming deadline for response to the letter sent to each Session from the Strategic Visioning Committee

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

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

**Reports of
Interim** DaySpring - London - Robert Shaw reported "Diligence".

Moderators St. John's - Port Stanley - Terry Ingram reported that things are going well in Port Stanley, and that Tom Jeffery is capably ministering within this congregation.

Trinity - West Elgin - The Reverend Johan Olivier presented the report which had been circulated with the Advance Reports.
The Moderator noted that the Administrative Team Report had not included the list of individuals who have indicated their willingness to serve on the Dissolution Team to Trinity - West Elgin. These people are: Johan Olivier, Lynn Nichol, Bob Baron,(of Presbytery), Betty King, Brian Downie, June Ford, and Margaret Fredric.

St. Lawrence - London - Ben Ormseth, Alternate Representative Elder and Clerk of Session at St. Lawrence, reported that a candidate will be preaching for the Call at St. Lawrence on February 22nd.

St. James - North Yarmouth - No Report

Knox - St. Thomas - Joyce Elder reported that the Pulpit Supply is in place until April 5th, and that on March 1st, she will turn over her files as Interim Moderator to the Reverend Andrew Reid.

The Moderator, the Reverend Keith McKee rose to thank the Reverend Joyce Elder

**Minutes of the Presbytery of London
Guthrie Presbyterian Church, Melbourne, Ontario, February 10, 2009, 7:00 p.m.**

for her diligence and hard work at Knox, St. Thomas over the past seventeen months.

Burns - Mosa - Kathy Fraser reported that things are going well at Burns Church, and that profiles are being received.

Argyle - Crinan / Duff - Largie - Deb Dolbear-Van Bilsen reported "Diligence"

Knox - Fingal - The Clerk read a report from the Interim Moderator, Kevin Steeper which indicated that pulpit supply has been arranged until the end of April, 2009. The annual meeting has been scheduled for Sunday, February 15, 2009, and he will be meeting with the Session on February 17, 2009.

Other Business None

Adjournment On a motion by Bob Baron, the Court stood adjourned at eight-ten o'clock in the evening (8:10 p.m.), to meet again in regular session on Tuesday, the tenth day of March, two thousand and nine, at the hour of seven o'clock in the evening, in North Yarmouth, and within St. James Presbyterian Church.

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

Moderator

Clerk