

Minutes of the Presbytery of London

St. James Presbyterian Church, North Yarmouth, Ontario, March 10, 2009, 7:00 p.m.

In North Yarmouth, and within St. James Presbyterian Church, the Presbytery of London met in Regular Session on Tuesday, the tenth day of March, 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 John Bannerman, Interim Moderator to St. James Church. Music was provided by Kent and Andrea Buchanan.
- Welcome, Courtesies and Announcements** The Moderator welcomed everyone to the meeting, and noted the presence of Catherine McMillan and Mary Lou McKay of the W. M. S. A number of members of St. Lawrence Presbyterian Church were introduced and welcomed, as well as members from the Host congregation, St. James Presbyterian Church. The Reverend Sabrina Caldwell introduced the Reverend Douglas Cameron and the Reverend Tom Godfrey.
- Attendance** John Bannerman, Sabrina Caldwell, Kathy Fraser, Terry Ingram, Keith McKee, Douglas Miles, Lynn Nichol, Andrew Reid, Robert Shaw, Kevin Steeper, Mark Turner, Douglas Cameron, Ministers; Terry Axford, Bob Baron, Marg Chester, Ruth Ann Drozd, Chris Evans, Theresa Glithero, Mildred Greig, Tom Jeffery, Patrick Laurin, Ross MacKay, Joan Mansell, Matt Marshall, Sharon Marshall, Margaret McCullough, Gail McHardy-Leitch, Sheila McMurray, John McNeil, Nancy Newell, Barbara Nyitray, Ben Ormseth, Wilma Reath, Linda Riddell, Joe Ruitenbeek, Don Speir, Nancy Springer, Gerald Stocking, Donna Jean Van Bilsen, Trudy Van der Hoek, Peter VanderKooy, Elders; Carol Rayner, Treasurer; Joyce Verrinder, Florence Sherk, Duncan McMillan, Diane Tillotson, Jeannette McCutcheon, George Gook, Larry Morris, Virginia Wilkins, Frances Barge, Inge Stahl, St. Lawrence Presbyterian Church; Betty Ferguson, Shirley Lunn, Jean Gooding, Les Giles, George Jenken, Audrey Russell, St. James Presbyterian Church.
- Regrets** Amanda Birchall, Charlotte Brown, Mavis Currie, Deb Dolbear-Van Bilsen, Johan Olivier, Michael Stol, Ministers.
- Absent** Bill McMurchy, Elder.
- Docket** **MOTION** (Evans / Shaw) THAT the Docket as circulated be accepted for the meeting. CARRIED.
- Stated Hour** To Process the Call from St. Lawrence Presbyterian Church, London to the Reverend
7:30 p.m. Tom Godfrey.
Call to the Rev. Tom Godfrey
St. Lawrence, **MOTION** (Caldwell / Springer) THAT the Call from St. Lawrence Presbyterian Church, London, to the Reverend Tom Godfrey be received and considered.

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London CARRIED.

Narration of Steps The Reverend Sabrina Caldwell, Interim Moderator, narrated the steps leading up to the Call, and read the Guarantee of Stipend, as follows:

The Call was signed by 97% of the members of St. Lawrence; 21 Adherents signed in concurrence with the Call.

Guarantee of Stipend (2/3 time) “We, the congregation of St. Lawrence Presbyterian Church, London, hereby present to the Presbytery of London, of the Presbyterian Church in Canada, that the congregation for the maintenance of religious thousand, two hundred and thirty-eight dollars (\$70,238.00).”

We hereby agree to pay out of the said revenue, as it shall be collected, and as first charge thereon, to The Rev. Tom Godfrey, the annual stipend of twenty-six thousand, eight hundred dollars (\$26,800.00) which amount is inclusive of annual car or travel allowance, and to provide ten thousand dollars (\$10,000.00) annually for housing allowance and 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. Tom Godfrey 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. Tom Godfrey as minister in this congregation.”

MOTION (Caldwell / Evans) THAT Mr. Duncan McMillan, Convenor of the Search Committee of St. Lawrence Presbyterian Church be given permission to speak to the Court. CARRIED.

Mr. McMillan spoke of the congregation’s enthusiasm as they look forward to the start of this new ministry at St. Lawrence Presbyterian Church.

Mrs. Nancy Springer, Representative Elder for St. Lawrence Church also spoke favourably regarding this Call.

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MOTION (Evans / Baron) THAT the conduct of the Interim Moderator, The Reverend Sabrina Caldwell be approved. CARRIED.

MOTION (Caldwell / Springer) THAT the Call to the Reverend Tom Godfrey from St. Lawrence Presbyterian Church, London, Ontario, be sustained as a regular Gospel Call. CARRIED.

MOTION (Evans / Baron) THAT the Ministry of the Reverend Tom Godfrey at St. Lawrence Presbyterian Church begin on April 1, 2009, pending the receipt of his Certificate from the Presbytery of Essex-Kent. CARRIED.

MOTION (Evans / Baron) THAT the Reverend Sabrina Caldwell attend the meeting of the Presbytery of Essex-Kent on March 24, 2009 to prosecute the Call. CARRIED.

MOTION (Evans / Baron) THAT the planning of the Induction Service be left in the hands of the Moderator, the Clerk and the Interim Moderator. CARRIED.

MOTION (Evans / Baron) THAT the name of the Reverend Tom Godfrey be added to the Appendix to the Roll of the Presbytery of London effective April 1, 2009, pending the receipt of his Certificate. CARRIED.

MOTION (Evans / Baron) THAT the Reverend Lynn Nichol be commended for her work as Interim Moderator with St. Lawrence Presbyterian Church. CARRIED.

Permission to Leave

The Moderator welcomed those members of St. Lawrence Presbyterian Church in attendance to remain for the balance of the meeting, but also gave them permission to leave should they so desire.

Stated Hour Presbytery Boundaries

Discussion of questions from the Synod Committee to Define the Boundaries of Presbyteries within the bounds of the Synod - Committee of the Whole.

MOTION: (Evans / Baron) THAT the meeting move to a Committee of the Whole for this discussion. CARRIED.

The comments arising from the discussion of the Committee of the Whole are printed as Appendix "A" at the end of these minutes.

MOTION: (Baron / Jeffery) THAT the Clerk be instructed to transmit the responses of the Committee of the Whole to the Convenor of the Synod Committee to Define the Boundaries of Presbyteries. CARRIED.

MOTION: (Evans / Baron) THAT the Court rise from the Committee of the Whole. CARRIED.

Administrative

MOTION: (Evans / Baron) THAT the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of February

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Business 10, 2009 be adopted as circulated. CARRIED.

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

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

Number	From	Regarding
09-04	General Assembly Office	Changes to the Roll
09-06	S. Kendall, Assembly Office	Acknowledgement of List of Commissioners and YAR

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

Number	From	Regarding	Refer To
09-05	Dale Woods, Presbyterian College	Student Ministers	Circulation
09-07	T. Hamilton, Assembly Office	List of Clerks & Convenors	Clerk
09-08	T. Hamilton, Assembly Office	Request for Memorial Records	Clerk
09-09	T. Hamilton, Assembly Office	Request for Academic Degrees	Clerk
09-10	K. Ballagh-Steeper, Southdale Comm.	Request for Funding	Admin. Team
09-11	D. Miles	Appeal re non-receipt of complaint	Admin. Team (Attached)
09-12	S. McMurray, Trinity-London	Loan and Sale of Manse	Admin. Team

RECOMMENDATION #3 (Evans / Baron) THAT the appeal received from D. Miles be forwarded to the Clerks of Assembly with substantiating documentation.

AMENDMENT: (Reid / Drozd) THAT the motion be amended by adding the following words: “but without the support of Presbytery, on the grounds that the phrase “filed with the clerk” is not open to the interpretation as suggested, and that the precedent within Presbytery for accepting mailing within 10 days as having been filed and received was acknowledged at the time as having been an error in interpretation.”

Following discussion,

AMENDMENT to the AMENDMENT: (Jeffery / Axford) THAT the appeal received from D. Miles be considered “frivolous and vexatious” and not be forwarded to the Clerks of Assembly. CARRIED.

Following the adoption of the Amendment to the Amendment, the Amendment to the Motion CARRIED.

The Motion as Amended CARRIED.

RECOMMENDATION #4 (Evans / Baron) THAT Trinity Community Church Presbyterian be given permission to apply to the Presbytery of London Building and Extension Fund for a loan to make repairs to the Manse to prepare it for sale. Following discussion, the motion CARRIED.

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RECOMMENDATION #5: (Evans / Baron) THAT Trinity Community Church Presbyterian be given permission to sell their manse. CARRIED.

RECOMMENDATION #6: (Evans / Baron) THAT the following names be forwarded to the General Assembly Office as our Elder Commissioners to the 2009 General Assembly: Mr. Bob Leatham, Mr. Tom Jeffery, Ms. Flora MacKellar Deller. CARRIED.

RECOMMENDATION #7: (Evans / Baron) THAT the Clerk and the Administrative Team be given power to issue as soon as a fourth Elder Commissioner is named, and report back to the next regular Presbytery Meeting. CARRIED.

The Orientation Session for the Commissioners to General Assembly will be held on Sunday, May 31, 2009, at 3:00 p.m. at Elmwood Avenue Presbyterian Church.

SERVICE OF RECOGNITION: The Service of Recognition for the Reverend Ian Johnston as Interim Minister at Knox Presbyterian Church, St. Thomas, will be held on Sunday, April 5, 2009 at 3:00 p.m. All members of Presbytery are encouraged to attend and support the ongoing ministry at Knox.

NOTICE OF MOTION: I, Bob Baron, will move or cause to be moved at a future sederunt that the June, 2009 meeting of the Presbytery of London be changed from June 16th to June 23rd, in order to facilitate the reporting of the General Assembly Commissioners.

Session Records Examination

Nil

Students and Education Team

No Report

Vacancy and Visitation Team

Tom Jeffery reported that the Report of the Exit Review Team to Knox, Fingal had been circulated.

RECOMMENDATION #1 (Fraser / Nichol) THAT Knox Church, Fingal, be given permission to begin searching for a half-time minister. CARRIED.

RECOMMENDATION #2 (Fraser / Nichol) THAT the Review Team be dismissed with the thanks of the Court. CARRIED.

Leading with Care

No Report

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Hospital Visitor Team	No Report, but Marg Chester asked for assistance in locating the Memorandum of Agreement for the Hospital Visitor, which was being worked on by the previous members of this team.
Youth and Campus Ministries Team	The Report of the Youth and Campus Ministries Team had been circulated with the Advance Reports - no recommendations.
Website Team	No Report
Small Church Ministries Fund	No Report
Evangelism Team	John Bannerman reported verbally that the Evangelism Team is still working on arrangements for a speaker, and hopes to hold a workshop in October, 2009.
Strategic Visioning	No Report
G.A. 2011 L.A.C.	No Report - this team will be meeting on March 18 th .
Knox St. Thomas I.M. Support Team	No Report
Trinity-West Elgin Dissolution Team	The report of the Trinity-West Elgin Dissolution Team had been distributed, and Lynn Nichol reported on behalf of Johan Olivier, indicating that there will be an opportunity for congregations to obtain items from the three amalgamated congregations on March 28 th from 10:00 a.m. until noon. Contact for information: Lynn Nichol. An inventory list has been placed in each congregation's mail slot.
Reports of Interim Moderators	<u>DaySpring - London</u> - R. Shaw, Interim Moderator, presented the contract between DaySpring and the Rev. Andras Rameshwar, for renewal, explaining that due to financial constraints this contract would be for 80% time ministry.

RECOMMENDATION #1: (Shaw / Speir) THAT DaySpring Presbyterian Church be given permission to move to the status of a part-time ministry.
AMENDMENT: (Caldwell / Nichol) THAT the words "part-time" be replaced by "80%". CARRIED.
MOTION as AMENDED CARRIED.

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RECOMMENDATION #2: (Shaw / Speir) THAT the Reverend Andras Rameshwar be contracted to DaySpring on the basis of last year's contract, with the following changes:

1) Stipend: Eighty percent (80%) of Thirty-Four Thousand Dollars (\$34,000) per year inclusive of travel allowance. This is equivalent to Twenty-Seven Thousand, Two hundred dollars (\$27,200.00).

2) Housing Allowance: Eighty percent (80%) of Sixteen Thousand Dollars (\$16,000.00) per year inclusive of utilities. This is equivalent to Twelve Thousand eight hundred dollars (\$12,800).

The Agreement would be for one year effective April 16, 2009.

CARRIED.

St. John's, Port Stanley - Terry Ingram reported that things are going well, and that St. John's is seeking to appoint two new elders.

St. Lawrence, London - No further report.

St. James, North Yarmouth - John Bannerman reported that in February the Sacrament of Baptism was celebrated, as well as the Lord's Supper. The congregational meeting has been held. Items from Knox, Belmont and Tempo churches were dedicated. Pulpit is being supplied.

Knox, St. Thomas - Andrew Reid reported that the pulpit is being supplied, and he looks forward to the arrival and commencement of ministry by the incoming Interim Minister, the Reverend Ian Johnston.

Burns, Mosa - Kathy Fraser reported that the pulpit is being supplied, sacraments are being celebrated, and profiles are being received.

Argyle, Crinan / Duff, Largie - The Clerk had received a report from the Interim Moderators that things are going well in this pastoral charge.

Knox, Fingal - Kevin Steeper reported that the congregational meeting has been held, the pulpit is supplied, sacraments are being celebrated, and that he has met with the Session.

Other Business Nil

Adjournment On a motion by Tom Jeffery, the Court stood adjourned at nine twelve o'clock in the evening (9:12 p.m.), to meet again in regular session on Tuesday, the fourteenth day of April, two thousand and nine, at the hour of seven o'clock in the evening, in Crinan, and within Argyle Presbyterian Church.

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

Moderator

Clerk

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Appendix "A"

COMMENTS FROM STATED HOUR REGARDING PRESBYTERY BOUNDARIES

The Moderator explained how a Committee of the Whole differs from a regular meeting of the Presbytery.

Question 1: "Is your Presbytery the right size?"

Comments: "Yes - it is a reasonable distance to travel from one end to the other for meetings"

"Our Presbytery is one of the larger-sized Presbyteries"

"Is it difficult to find Interim Moderators?" The Moderator commented that there are less ministers available and also that there are an increasing number of ministers on the Appendix.

General consensus - even if we were a larger Presbytery, there would probably be the same percentage of vacancies.

Question 2: "Are there congregations within your Presbytery that identify more closely with congregations in other Presbyteries?"

Comments: "Trinity-West Elgin, prior to dissolution had been involved in dialogue with Duart, which is in the Presbytery of Essex-Kent"

"Burns, Mosa" tends to share in activities with Guthrie Church, Alvinston which is in the Presbytery of Lambton West Middlesex."

"This is not always a geographic issue, but interests"

"North Caradoc-St. Andrews is very close to Strathroy, which is in Sarnia-West Middlesex, but tends to gravitate towards London and not Strathroy."

Question was asked - do many congregations have members resident outside this Presbytery...Burns, North Caradoc-St. Andrews, St. John's, Port Stanley, Oakridge.

Question 3: "How does the composition of urban and rural ministries within your bounds affect the quality of your life together as a Presbytery?"

Comments: "Makes us richer"

"Easy to share materials and events via electronic communication"

"Since each meeting is at a different church, it would be interesting and informative to have a 5-minute information sharing time from each host church"

"Example given of 'One Day Wonder' - a mix of both rural and urban young people, held in some of the larger urban facilities who have the space to host such events."

"When in rural ministry I felt there was some animosity between rural and urban congregations, but now that I am in a small urban congregation, perhaps the difference is size rather than geography"

"Sometimes use of electronic communication can be a problem where internet is not easily accessible, or not used by some individuals"

"Has any congregation felt overlooked, discouraged, or strengthened by the mix of rural and urban?" "Both"

"I have served in some of the smallest and also the largest congregations - experienced wonderful Christians, regardless of size."

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