

## Minutes of the Presbytery of London

St. John's Presbyterian Church, Wardsville, Ontario, May 12, 2009, 7:00 p.m.

In Wardsville, and within St. John's Presbyterian Church, the Presbytery of London met in Regular Session on Tuesday, the twelfth day of May, 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 Deb Dolbear-Van Bilsen.

**Welcome, Courtesies and Announcements** The Moderator welcomed everyone to the meeting, noting that Mr. Larry Gibbings is serving as the representative Elder for the Dorchester / South Nissouri Pastoral Charge, since Terry Axford has had to step down due to health concerns. The WMS is represented by Margaret McCullough.

Mr. McKee welcomed the Reverend Bob Geddes, Deputy Chair for the Building Campaign at Crieff Hills, who was present at this evening's meeting to make a presentation on behalf of the Building Campaign at Crieff Hills during the Stated Hour.

**MOTION** (Fraser / Shaw) THAT the Reverend Bob Geddes be given permission to address the Court. CARRIED.

**Attendance** John Bannerman, Mavis Currie, Deb Dolbear-VanBilsen, Kathy Fraser, Tom Godfrey, Ian Johnston, Keith McKee, Andrew Reid, Robert Shaw, Kevin Steeper, Michael Stol, Mark Turner, Hugh Appel, Ministers; 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, Bill McMurchy, Sheila McMurray, John McNeil, Nancy Newell, Barbara Nyitray, Ben Ormseth, Wilma Reath, Linda Riddell, Don Speir, Gerald Stocking, Donna Jean Van Bilsen, Trudy Van Der Hoek, Peter VanderKooy, Elders; Carol Rayner, Treasurer; Rob Evans, Elmwood, London; Ian McFarlane, Knox-St. Andrews, Dutton.

**Regrets** Amanda Birchall, Sabrina Caldwell, Terry Ingram, Doug Miles, Lynn Nichol, Johan Olivier, Ministers; Ian Begg, Larry Gibbings, Ross MacKay, Linda McKenna, Nancy Springer, Sandra Van der Veen, Elders.

**Absent** Charlotte Brown, Minister; Joe Ruitenbeek, Elder

The Moderator reported that the Reverend Doug Miles is absent this evening as he is attending the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his graduation from Knox College, and will shortly be celebrating the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his Ordination.

## Minutes of the Presbytery of London

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- Docket**                    **MOTION** (Evans / Stol) THAT the Docket as circulated be adopted for the meeting.  
**AMENDMENT** (Fraser / Jeffery) THAT the report of the Leading with Care Committee be moved to the last item before Adjournment. CARRIED.  
**AMENDED MOTION** THAT the Docket as circulated be adopted as amended. CARRIED.
- Stated Hour**            The Moderator introduced the Reverend Bob Geddes who made a presentation on  
**7:30 p.m.**                    behalf of the Crieff Hills Building Campaign. He requested that a person  
**Crieff Hills**                from the Presbytery of London be named as contact person to Crieff. The Clerk will  
                                  be circulating a request for such a person. Mr. Geddes also left a supply of  
                                  information pamphlets.
- The Moderator thanked the Reverend Geddes for his presentation, and invited him to  
                                  remain for the rest of the meeting, but gave him permission to depart if he wished.
- Administrative**        **MOTION** (Evans / Drozd) THAT the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of April 14,  
**Business**                2009 be adopted as circulated. CARRIED.
- MOTION** (Evans / Drozd) THAT the Minutes of the Special Meeting of April 19,  
                                  2009 be adopted as circulated. CARRIED.
- The Clerk, Mrs. Chris Evans, presented the Report of the Administrative Team.

## CORRESPONDENCE

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

Number	From	Regarding
09-29	S. Kendall, G. A. Office	Receipt of Remit A
09-30	T. Hamilton, G. A. Office	Copy of Corresp. To Clerks of Session re A&P orders
09-32	M. Repchuck, Crieff	Confirmation of Attendance for Stated Hour May 12/09

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

Number	From	Regarding	Refer To
09-31	T. Hamilton	Niigaanibatowaad: FrontRunners DVD	Available to Borrow

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St. John's Presbyterian Church, Wardsville, Ontario, May 12, 2009, 7:00 p.m.

**Presbyterians Sharing ...** Bob Baron presented the report on Presbyterians Sharing. He noted that our Presbytery has committed to 93% of the target amount, and commended the congregations for their willingness to support Presbyterians Sharing so generously in spite of the economic times.

**Commissioners to General Assembly** Mr. Tom Jeffery has had to withdraw his availability as Commissioner to General Assembly. The Clerk had approached Chalmers Presbyterian Church, and had just been informed that Chalmers is unable to appoint an Elder. The Clerk had been contacted by St. George's Presbyterian Church previously indicating that if we were unable to find another Elder Commissioner, that Mr. Ron Sparling of St. George's would be willing to attend. Keith McKee has spoken with Mr. Sparling prior to this evening's meeting and confirmed his attendance.

**MOTION** (Evans / Bannerman) THAT Mr. Ron Sparling be named as an Elder Commissioner to the 135<sup>th</sup> General Assembly, and that Mr. Sparling's attendance at General Assembly should not affect St. George's placement in the rotation for attendance at General Assembly. CARRIED.

**London Arab Presbyterian Fellowship** A petition was received from the London Arab Presbyterian Fellowship requesting that, after consultation with the charter members of the congregation and before the congregation is constituted, that the name of the congregation become "Almanarah Presbyterian Church. Over forty individuals signed this petition.

**REC. #3** (Evans / Drozd) THAT at the request of the London Arab Presbyterian Fellowship, the name of this congregation be **Almanarah Presbyterian Church**. CARRIED.

**REC. #4** (Evans / Drozd) THAT the offering taken at the Service of Constitution of Almanarah Presbyterian Church be directed to this new congregation. Tax receipts from the Presbytery of London will be issued for donations of \$10 or more, and appropriate envelopes will be provided. CARRIED.

**Knox, St. Thomas** The Assessor Elders to Knox, St. Thomas, will give a progress report at the June meeting of Presbytery.

**Ailsa Craig Money** The next allocation of the Ailsa Craig Fund will be at the November meeting of the Presbytery, with the deadline for applications September 30, 2009.

## **Minutes of the Presbytery of London**

**St. John's Presbyterian Church, Wardsville, Ontario, May 12, 2009, 7:00 p.m.**

- Session Records** Mr. Rob Evans had examined the Session Records of St. Lawrence Presbyterian Church.
- MOTION** (Currie / Evans) THAT the Session Records of St. Lawrence Presbyterian Church, London, be attested as being neatly and correctly kept, with notes. CARRIED.
- Students and Education Team** No report, but a reminder that the examination for Certification for Ordination for Mr. Bob Wilson will be held on June 23, 2009 at 3:00 p.m. at Oakridge.
- Denominational Work Team** No Report
- Vacancy and Visitation Report** The Report on the Visitation to Glencoe / St. John's Wardsville had been circulated with the Advance Reports. In Doug Miles' absence, Margaret McCullough spoke to the report.
- MOTION** (McCullough / Shaw) THAT the Presbytery commend the Wardsville / Glencoe Charge and the Reverend Deb Dolbear-Van Bilsen for their high vision of ministry and their deep commitment to transfigure faith into action. CARRIED.
- MOTION** (McCullough / Shaw) THAT the Visitation Team to Glencoe / Wardsville be dismissed with the thanks of the Court. CARRIED.
- Hospital Visitor Team** No Report
- Youth and Campus Ministries Team** Mavis Currie spoke to the report of the Youth and Campus Ministries Team, which had been circulated with the Advance Reports. She also indicated that she has a number of pamphlets and encouraged each congregation to take some of them.
- Website and Communications Team** No Report
- Small Church Ministries Fund** No Report
- Evangelism Team** No Report
- Strategic** Kevin Steeper reported that the Strategic Visioning Team was established about one

## Minutes of the Presbytery of London

St. John's Presbyterian Church, Wardsville, Ontario, May 12, 2009, 7:00 p.m.

**Visioning Team** year ago. Despite their efforts (setting up a workshop, and a letter campaign), the Committee has been discouraged by the lack of participation by congregations within the Presbytery.

**MOTION** (Steeper / Reid) THAT the Strategic Visioning Team be dissolved.  
CARRIED.

The Moderator commended the members of the Strategic Visioning Team for their diligence, and also noted that the congregations who did respond to their efforts should be thanked. Mr. Steeper indicated that he would be sending letters to those congregations who responded to the Workshop and to the letter.

**G.A. 2011**  
**Local Arrangements Team** No Report, other than Keith McKee will be attending General Assembly this year in Hamilton, and will be making notes for consideration regarding the 2011 General Assembly.

**Knox St. Thomas**  
**IM Advisory Team** No Report, as this Team has been unable to meet as yet.

**Trinity-West**  
**Elgin Dissolution Team** No Report

**Reports of**  
**Interim**  
**Moderators** DaySpring, London - Robert Shaw, Interim Moderator, gave a detailed update on how the ministry is going at DaySpring. There are many good things happening in this congregation, but Mr. Shaw also noted that there are concerns regarding financial viability. He also reported that the Reverend Andras Rameshwar is experiencing some health problems, and will be taking the next two weeks off. Pulpit supply has been arranged.

St. John's, Port Stanley - No Report

St. James, North Yarmouth - John Bannerman, Interim Moderator, reported that talks have begun with a possible candidate. The Pulpit is being supplied, and St. James will be celebrating their Anniversary on June 28<sup>th</sup>, with the Rev. Mavis Currie preaching.

Knox, St. Thomas - Andrew Reid, the Interim Moderator, had no report, but Ian Johnston, the Intentional Interim Minister, presented a report his progress over the past month.

## Minutes of the Presbytery of London

St. John's Presbyterian Church, Wardsville, Ontario, May 12, 2009, 7:00 p.m.

Hugh Appel asked if the Presbytery could send a letter to the Rev. Dr. and Mrs. Andrew Human, indicating the Presbytery's understanding and compassion in relation to their feeling of discouragement when Dr. Human left Knox. This matter will be discussed by the Interim Moderator's Advisory Team.

Burns, Mosa - Kathy Fraser, Interim Moderator, reported that Burns had recently celebrated their Anniversary, and that there is very strong leadership within this congregation. Profiles continue to be received to fill this vacancy.

Argyle, Crinan / Duff, Largie - Deb Dolbear-Van Bilsen, Interim Moderator, reported that things are moving along well, and two profiles have already been received. Crinan will be celebrating their Anniversary on June 14<sup>th</sup>, and Deb has been invited to preach.

Knox, Fingal - Kevin Steeper, Interim Moderator, reported diligence.

Almanarah, London - Keith McKee, Interim Moderator indicated that since this congregation has not as yet been constituted, there is no report.

As Moderator, Mr. McKee reported that he has appointed four out of the six Assessor Elders to Almanarah, namely, John Comrie, Ruth Ann Drozd, Rob Evans and Patrick Laurin. Two more elders need to be appointed.

### Leading with Care Committee

**MOTION** (Fraser / Jeffery) THAT the Presbytery of London meet in camera.  
**CARRIED.**

It was agreed during the meeting in camera that the following motion be printed in the regular minutes of this meeting and circulated:

THAT the Presbytery of London meet In Camera on Tuesday, the sixteenth day of June, at the hour of seven o'clock in the evening, at Knox Presbyterian Church, Komoka, to consider a report of the Leading with Care Committee.

### Other Business

Nil

### Adjournment

On a motion by Ian Johnston, the Court stood adjourned at eight fifty five o'clock in the evening, to meet again in Special Session on **Sunday, the twenty-fourth day of May, at the hour of three-thirty o'clock in the afternoon**, in London, and within St. George's Presbyterian Church, in preparation for the Constitution Service of Almanarah Presbyterian Church, which will begin at four o'clock in the afternoon;

In Camera on Tuesday, the sixteenth day of June, two thousand and nine, at the hour of seven o'clock in the evening, in Komoka, and within Knox Presbyterian Church, to

**Minutes of the Presbytery of London**

**St. John's Presbyterian Church, Wardsville, Ontario, May 12, 2009, 7:00 p.m.**

consider the report of the Leading with Care Committee;

and in Regular Session on Tuesday, the twenty-third day of June, two thousand and nine, at the hour of seven o'clock in the evening, in Ilderton, and within Bethel Presbyterian Church.

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

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Moderator

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Clerk