

Minutes of the Presbytery of London

Elmwood Avenue Presbyterian Church, London, Ontario, June 23, 2009, 7:00 p.m.

In London, and within Elmwood Avenue Presbyterian Church, the Presbytery of London met 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.

- Constitution** The Moderator, the Reverend Keith McKee, constituted the Court with Prayer.
- Change of Venue** **MOTION:** (Reid / Stol) THAT the actions of the Moderator in changing the location of this meeting from Bethel, Ilderton to Elmwood, London be homologated.
CARRIED.
- Worship** The Worship Service was conducted by the Reverend Douglas Miles, with musical accompaniment provided by Mr. Bert Van der Hoek, Organist and Choir Director at Elmwood Avenue Presbyterian Church.
- Bert Van der Hoek's Retirement** Following the Worship Service, the Moderator spoke in thanks and recognition of Mr. Van der Hoek's 49 years as Organist and Choir Director at Elmwood, and noted that Sunday, June 28, 2009 would be Mr. Van der Hoek's final Sunday Service at Elmwood as he will be retiring.
- Welcome, Courtesies and Announcements** The Moderator welcomed everyone to the meeting, and recognized Mrs. Margaret McCullough as representing the WMS, and visitors, Christin Gillard, YAR and her father Doug Gillard, Gale Turnbull, one of our students at Knox College, and David Ogilvie, Clerk of Session at Westmount were all welcomed.
- Attendance** Charlotte Brown, Sabrina Caldwell, Mavis Currie, Deb Dolbear-Van Bilsen, Kathy Fraser, Tom Godfrey, Ian Johnston, Keith McKee, Douglas Miles, Lynn Nichol, Johan Olivier, Andrew Reid, Robert Shaw, Kevin Steeper, Michael Stol, Andras Rameshwar, Ministers; Bob Baron, John Cameron, Marg Chester, Ruth Ann Drozd, Chris Evans, Theresa Glithero, Mildred Greig, Tom Jeffery, Patrick Laurin, Jacqueline Leitch, Ross MacKay, Matthew Marshall, Sharon Marshall, Margaret McCullough, Gail McHardy-Leitch, Sheila McMurray, John McNeil, Nancy Newell, Barbara Nyitray, Ben Ormseth, Wilma Reath, Linda Riddell, Don Speir, Gerald Stocking, Trudy Van der Hoek, Peter VanderKooy, Elders; Carol Rayner, Treasurer; Rob Evans, Bert Van der Hoek, Elmwood; Christina Gillard, Douglas Gillard, North Caradoc-St. Andrew's; David Ogilvie, Westmount.
- Regrets** John Bannerman, Amanda Birchall, Terry Ingram, Ministers; Larry Gibbings, Bill McMurchy, Joe Ruitenbeek, Nancy Springer, Donna Jean Van Bilsen, Elders.
- Absent** Mark Turner, Minister.
- Docket** **MOTION:** (Evans / Shaw) THAT the Docket as circulated be adopted.

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CARRIED.

**Stated Hour
General
Assembly
Reports**

MOTION: (Evans / Jeffery) THAT the following Commissioner to General Assembly be given permission to address the Court: Christin Gillard. CARRIED.

MOTION: (Dolbear-Van Bilsen / Laurin) THAT all the Reports of Commissioners to the 135th General Assembly be received. CARRIED.

The Reports from the following Commissioners to General Assembly were presented.

Christin Gillard, YAR (History, Theological Education, Archives); Keith McKee, (Clerks of Assembly, Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations Committee, Assembly Council, Presbyterian Building Corporation); (NOTE - Mr. Tom Jeffery assumed the Chair while the Moderator made his report); Mavis Currie (MacLean Estate Committee, Atlantic Mission Society, Women's Missionary Society); Bob Leatham - Report on Church Doctrine and Presbyterian Record presented as read; John Cameron (Trustee Board, Fund for Ministerial Assistance, Pension and Benefits Board); Kevin Steeper (Life & Mission Agency - Justice Ministries; Planned Giving); John Bannerman - Report on Canada Ministries, International Ministries, Stewardship and *Presbyterians Sharing*, and Education for Mission, was presented as read; Flora MacKellar-Dellar - Report on Life and Mission Agency - The Vine Helpline, Communication and Resource Production and Program Support and Administration, was presented as read; Ron Sparling - Report on Life and Mission Agency, Ministry and Church Vocations and Presbyterian World Service and Development was presented as read.

The Moderator thanked all the Commissioners for taking the time from their lives to represent the Presbytery of London at the 135th General Assembly.

**Stated Hour
Westmount**

MOTION: (Stol / Jeffery) THAT Mr. David Ogilvie, Clerk of Session at Westmount be given permission to address the Court. CARRIED.

Michael Stol, Mavis Currie and David Ogilvie, presented the report which had been circulated with the Advance Reports, and described the growth within the Westmount congregation, which has necessitated an expansion of the building facilities. It was noted that due to the global financial crisis, the original financial goal has been scaled down, and that as funds become available further expansion will take place.

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MOTION: (Stol / Currie) THAT the expansion plans of Westmount Presbyterian Church be accepted by the Presbytery and that Westmount proceed with their building. CARRIED.

Administrative Business **MOTION:** (Evans / Jeffery) THAT the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of May 12, 2009 be adopted as circulated.

AMENDMENT: (Currie / Caldwell) THAT the note regarding sending a letter to the Reverend Dr. Andrew Human be deleted from the Minutes. CARRIED.

MOTION as AMENDED CARRIED.

MOTION: (Evans / Jeffery) THAT the Minutes of the Special Meeting of May 24, 2009 be adopted as circulated. CARRIED.

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

CORRESPONDENCE

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

Number	From	Regarding
09-35	E. Bartlett, G. A. Office	Changes to the Roll
09-40	S. Kendall, G. A. Office	Acknowledgement of Change of Commissioner

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

Number	From	Regarding	Refer To
09-33	R. Shaw, IM - DaySpring	Resignation as Int. Mod. DaySpring	Moderator
09-34	W. Khalil, London Arab Pres. Fellowship	Petition to be named Almanarah	Presbytery
09-36	S. Roche, Financial Services	Re Invoicing G.A. Meals	Clerk
09-37	E. Bartlett, G.A. Office	Updating Congregational Info.	Clerk
09-38	L. Maki, Pension & Benefit Board	Congregations late with payments	Clerk/Cong.'s
09-39	Presbyterian College, Montreal	Robert Wilson	Students/Educ.
09-41	Burns, Milverton	Rural Ministry Workshop	Distributed
09-42	K. Fraser, IM - Burns-Mosa	Resignation as Int. Mod. Burns	Moderator
09-43	S. Shaffer, LMA, Min & Church Voc.	Retirement Seminar	Clerk for Dist.
09-44	B. Buchan	Petitions	Admin. Team
09-45	D. Miles	Notice of Retirement	Moderator

Further to Correspondence #09-33,

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Interim Moderator - Day-Spring

REC. #3 (Evans / Jeffery) THAT the resignation of the Reverend Robert Shaw as Interim Moderator of DaySpring Presbyterian Church, London, be accepted with the thanks of the Court, effective June 30, 2009. CARRIED.

The Moderator, Keith McKee expressed the appreciation of the Court to Mr. Shaw for his diligence and hard work over the past four years, and Mr. Don Speir, Clerk of Session at DaySpring also expressed the thanks of DaySpring for Mr. Shaw's time with them.

REC. #4 (Evans / Jeffery) THAT the Moderator be given authority to appoint an Interim Moderator for DaySpring Presbyterian Church, London, effective June 30, 2009. CARRIED.

The Moderator announced that he has named the Reverend Mavis Currie to serve as Interim Moderator to DaySpring Presbyterian Church, London, effective June 30, 2009.

Further to Correspondence #09-42

Interim Moderator - Burns, Mosa

REC. #5 (Evans / Jeffery) THAT the resignation of the Reverend Kathy Fraser as Interim Moderator of Burns Presbyterian Church, Mosa, be accepted with the thanks of the Court, effective June 1, 2009. CARRIED.

The Moderator thanked Mrs. Fraser for her months of hard work with Burns Church.

REC. #6 (Evans / Jeffery) THAT the actions of the Moderator in appointing the Reverend Michael Stol as Interim Moderator of Burns Presbyterian Church, Mosa, effective June 1, 2009, be homologated. CARRIED.

Almanarah

The Moderator reported that the Administrative Team had complied with the motion giving them authority to apply for a Canada Ministries Grant for Almanarah Presbyterian Church. This grant has been approved.

Notice of Retirement -

Further to the correspondence #09-45, the congregation of Bethel, Ilderton will be cited to appear at the regular meeting of the Presbytery on September 8, 2009 and the

D. Miles, Bethel, Ilderton

necessary actions regarding Mr. Miles' notice of intention to retire will be taken at that time.

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Roll of Presbytery The Clerk reported that she had only just received the final names for the new Roll of Presbytery this day, and therefore had been unable to circulate the Roll for approval.

MOTION: (Evans / Jeffery) THAT the Roll of Presbytery, for the 2009-2010 year be approved and circulated with the Minutes of this meeting. CARRIED.

Session Records Mr. Rob Evans and Mr. Tom Jeffery had examined the Session Records of Chalmers Presbyterian Church, London.

MOTION: (Jeffery / Currie) THAT the Session Records of Chalmers Presbyterian Church, London, be attested as being neatly and correctly kept, with the following notes: 27.2; 27.3; 27.5; 27.12. CARRIED.

Students and Education Team Sabrina Caldwell presented the report of the Students and Education Team.

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

REC. #2 (Caldwell / Fraser) THAT John Park be re-certified as a student for ministry within the Presbyterian Church in Canada. CARRIED.

Ms. Caldwell also reported that the Rev. Andras Rameshwar was declared eligible for reception as a minister of the Presbyterian Church in Canada, subject to completion of 2 semesters of theological studies at one of the colleges of this Church, with courses to include Canadian Presbyterian Church History and Government, Sacramental Studies, Creeds and Confessions and Field Education. Andras is hoping to begin his studies this fall, but as he is already ordained he comes under the jurisdiction of the Committee on Education and Reception.

Denominational Work Team No Report

Vacancy and Visitation Team Visitation Report - St. George's: Former Moderator, Tom Jeffery assumed the Chair for this report. Mavis Currie presented the report and the Rev. Keith McKee and the congregation, Session and Board were commended for their support, patience and maturity during the time of sharing their facilities with the new Almanarah Church.

REC. #1: (Evans / Chester) THAT the Visitation Team to St. George's Presbyterian Church be dismissed with the thanks of the Court. CARRIED.

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The Moderator, the Rev. Keith McKee resumed the Chair.

Visitation Report - DaySpring: Sabrina Caldwell reported that a team from Presbytery had visited with members of the DaySpring congregation and Session as well as the Interim Moderator, Robert Shaw, and the Lay Missionary, Andras Rameshwar. Since follow-up visits are required, the committee is not prepared to submit a report at this time. Andrew Reid will serve as Convenor of this Visitation Team.

Leading with Care

No Report

Hospital Visitor Team

Marg Chester presented the report of the Hospital Visitor Team.

REC. #1: (Chester / McHardy-Leitch) THAT the Presbytery of London provide funding of \$1,050.00 from the Discretionary Fund for the Hospital Visitor to attend the CAPPE Course. CARRIED.

Youth and Campus Ministries

Mavis Currie reported that the Presbytery of London has between 50 - 60 youth attending the CY-09 this year, which is the highest number of any of the Presbyteries.

Website and Communications Committee

Mavis Currie presented the report of the Website and Communications Committee which had been circulated with the Advance Reports. She drew the Court's attention

to the bulletin inserts which are available through the Presbytery's website: www.presbylondon.ca.

Ms. Currie also stressed that individual churches are responsible to keep the webmaster, Mr. Ben Stephenson, informed of any new information such as changes to worship time, church closures, changes to contact information, name of the Minister, or that there is a vacancy. Contact: ben.stephenson@ucalgary.ca.

The Clerk's and Mavis Currie's e-mails will also be published on the website.

Small Church Ministries Fund

Lynn Nichol reported that Knox Presbyterian Church, Komoka is requesting funding for the second year of their summer youth ministry outreach project.

REC. #1: (Nichol / Dolbear-Van Bilsen) THAT Knox, Komoka be granted \$2,000 from the Small Church Ministries Fund for their Summer Youth Outreach Programme. CARRIED.

G.A. 2011 Local Arr.

No Report

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Committee

**Knox, St. Thomas
I.M. Advisory
Team**

No Report

**Trinity-West
Elgin Dissolution
Team**

Johan Olivier reported verbally that this team is still trying to locate an auctioneer to sell the balance of the materials belonging to this amalgamated charge, and also awaiting information regarding the sale of the Rodney and Kintyre Churches.

**Reports of
Interim Mod-
erators**

Almanarah - London - The Moderator, Keith McKee turned the Chair over to past-Moderator, Mr. Tom Jeffery so that he could present this report. Mr. McKee presented the report which had been circulated with the Advance Reports. He indicated that the Assessor Session has been appointed, and their first meeting will be June 24, 2009. He confirmed that the application for funding from Canada Ministries has been approved effective June 1, 2009.

REC. #1: (Fraser / Stol) THAT the resignation of the Reverend Keith McKee as Interim Moderator of Almanarah Church be received effective October 1, 2009. CARRIED.

REC. #2: (McKee / Laurin) THAT the Reverend Johan Olivier be appointed Interim Moderator of Almanarah Church, effective October 1, 2009, with the thanks of the Court. CARRIED.

Patrick Laurin, Representative Elder for St. George's Presbyterian Church rose to express thanks to Keith McKee for his diligence and hard work in getting this new congregation started. Moderator pro-tem, Tom Jeffery also thanked Mr. McKee on behalf of the Court.

Burns - Mosa - Michael Stol reported that he has just begun his duties as Interim Moderator at Burns, but that he preached there on June 5, 2009. He also reported that Pulpit Supply is in place until September.

Crinan / Largie - Deb Dolbear-Van Bilsen reported diligence.

DaySpring - Robert Shaw reported that he moderated his last Session meeting at DaySpring, and expressed his appreciation for the support of the Elders. He also reported that DaySpring is in need of music leadership / ministry.

Knox - Fingal - Kevin Steeper reported that Sacraments are being celebrated, that pulpit supply is in place, and that he has been meeting with the Session and the Search Committee.

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Knox - St. Thomas - Andrew Reid reported diligence on the part of the Interim Minister, Assessor Elders, and expressed appreciation of the work of Presbytery's Christian Education Committee Team. The reports of the Assessor Elders were circulated with the Advance Reports.

The report of the Interim Minister, the Reverend Ian Johnston had been circulated. Mr. Johnston expressed his appreciation for the diligence of the C.E. Team, which will be meeting with the Session in the near future.

It was also noted that the Advisory Team will be meeting with members of the Session of Knox in the near future.

St. James, North Yarmouth - No Report

St. John's, Port Stanley - No Report

The Moderator, the Reverend Keith McKee noted that there are a number of vacancies within our Presbytery, and that he will be calling upon Ministers to serve as Interim Moderators.

Other Business Nil

Adjournment On a motion by Patrick Laurin, the Court stood adjourned at nine o'clock in the evening, to meet again in regular session on Tuesday, the eighth day of September, two thousand and nine, at the hour of seven o'clock in the evening, in North Caradoc, and within North Caradoc-St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church.

The Moderator thanked those Representative Elders who will be retiring as of the September meeting of the Presbytery. The Moderator thanked everyone for their participation, wished everyone a safe and restful summer, and then closed the meeting with Prayer.

Moderator

Clerk