

## Minutes of the Presbytery of London

Dorchester Presbyterian Church, Dorchester, Ontario, July 26, 2009, 7:30 p.m.

In Dorchester, and within Dorchester Presbyterian Church, the Presbytery of London met in Special Session on Sunday, the twenty-sixth day of July, two thousand and nine, at the hour of seven-thirty in the evening.

- Constitution**            The Moderator, the Reverend Keith McKee constituted the Court with Prayer.
- Welcome and  
Courtesies**            The Moderator welcomed everyone to this meeting, making particular mention of those individuals who had travelled from Peterborough and Guelph, as well as members of Oakridge, Dorchester and South Nissouri Presbyterian Churches to attend this meeting.
- Attendance**            Sabrina Caldwell, Deb Dolbear-Van Bilsen, Kathy Fraser, Terry Ingram, Keith McKee, Douglas Miles, Lynn Nichol, Johan Olivier, Andrew Reid, Gale Kay, Jim Redpath, Ministers; Ruth Ann Drozd, Chris Evans, Tom Jeffery, Gail McHardy-Leitch, Joe Ruitenbeek, Nancy Springer, Gerald Stocking, Doris Tutt, Donna Jean Van Bilsen, Peter VanderKooy, Elders; Rob Evans, Elmwood; Janet Bruce, Douglas Bruce, David Elliott, Shirley Redpath, Mary Leatham, Joe Leatham, Peggy Vandervoort Oakridge; Les Harvey, Ellen Channon, Judy Harvey, St. Stephens, Peterborough; Andy Fraser, North Caradoc, St. Andrews; Michael Kernahan, Rachelle Kernahan, Terry Axford, Margaret Axford, Ron Johnston, Louisa Johnston, Sam Gallagher, Agnes Gallagher, Wally Lisowyk, Beverley Dale, Helen Jeffery, Barb Muir, John Muir, Janet Carter, Frietzen TenBruggencate, Dorchester; Lois Sweeney, James Hill, Doug Hill, Yvonne Hill, South Nissouri; Angus Sutherland, Thomas Stinson, Jessie Bush, Ann Wilson, Knox, Guelph.
- Regrets**                John Bannerman, Amanda Birchall, Charlotte Brown, Mavis Currie, Tom Godfrey, Ian Johnston, Robert Shaw, Kevin Steeper, Michael Stol, Ministers; Bob Baron, Marg Chester, Theresa Glithero, Mildred Greig, Ross MacKay, Matthew Marshall, Sharon Marshall, Margaret McCullough, Barbara Nyitray, Wilma Reath, Elders.
- Absent**                 Mark Turner, Minister; Larry Gibbings, Patrick Laurin, Bill McMurchy, Sheila McMurray, John McNeil, Nancy Newell, Don Speir, Elders.
- Homologation**        **REC. #1** (Evans / Ingram) THAT the actions of the Moderator in calling this meeting be homologated. CARRIED.
- Call to the Rev.  
Sabrina Caldwell**    **REC. #2** (Evans / Fraser) THAT the actions of the Clerk in citing the congregation of Oakridge Presbyterian Church, London be homologated. CARRIED.
- REC. #3** (Evans / Springer) THAT the call from St. Stephen's Presbyterian Church, Peterborough, Ontario to the Reverend Sabrina Caldwell be received and considered.

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CARRIED.

**REC. #4** (Dolbear-Van Bilsen / Jeffery) THAT Mr. Les Harvey, an Elder at St. Stephen's Presbyterian Church, in the Presbytery of Lindsay-Peterborough, be given permission to speak. CARRIED.

The Clerk, at the request of the Moderator, read the Narration of Steps leading up to the Call, and the Guarantee of Stipend as follows:

*"We, the congregation of **St. Stephen's Presbyterian Church, Peterborough**, hereby present to the **Presbytery of Lindsay-Peterborough** of the Presbyterian Church in Canada, that the estimated annual revenue of the said congregation for the maintenance of religious ordinance among ourselves is **\$118,000**.*

*"We hereby agree to pay out of the said revenue, as it shall be collected, and as first charge thereon, to the **Rev. Sabrina Caldwell** the annual stipend of **forty-two thousand** dollars (**\$42,000**), which amount is inclusive of annual car or travel allowance, and to provide **\$15,000 annually for housing allowance** which amount is inclusive 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. Sabrina Caldwell** 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.*
- 6) To provide a 3-month paid sabbatical after 5 years of service.*
- 7) To provide the usage of a laptop computer.*

*"In addition, we will pay the necessary moving expenses to settle the **Rev. Sabrina Caldwell** as minister in this congregation."*

The Moderator called on Mr. Les Harvey to speak to the Call. Mr. Harvey

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described the events at St. Stephen's since the congregation became vacant, their progress with an Interim Minister, receiving permission from their Presbytery to begin their search process, and the decision to call the Reverend Sabrina Caldwell being unanimous within the Search Committee and the Session, and close to unanimous in the congregation. The Moderator thanked Mr. Harvey for his input.

**REC. #5** (Caldwell / Evans) THAT the following members of the Oakridge Presbyterian Church, London, congregation be given permission to address the Court: Peggy Vandervoort, Douglas and Janet Bruce, David Elliott. CARRIED.

The Moderator invited these individuals to come forward and all spoke of the positive ministry of the Reverend Sabrina Caldwell during her time at Oakridge, and wished her God's blessings in her new ministry in Peterborough.

The Moderator invited members of the Court to speak to this call, and the Reverend Kathy Fraser and the Reverend Terry Ingram echoed the comments of the congregation members.

**REC. #6** (Evans / Fraser) THAT the Call to the Reverend Sabrina Caldwell to St. Stephen's Presbyterian Church, Peterborough, Ontario be sustained as a regular Gospel Call. CARRIED.

The Moderator, the Reverend Keith McKee then placed the Call in the hands of the Reverend Sabrina Caldwell, and also gave thanks to Sabrina for her work at Oakridge, and the other charges within the Presbytery of London, as well as for the Presbytery of London. He indicated that she had seven days in which to declare her acceptance of this call. The Reverend Sabrina Caldwell responded that she accepts this Call. She then took the opportunity to thank the congregation of Oakridge for their support, as well as the Presbytery.

**REC. #7** (Evans / Reid) THAT the Moderator appoint an Interim Moderator for Oakridge Presbyterian Church, London, as soon as possible. CARRIED.

The Moderator reported that the Reverend Terry Ingram has agreed to serve as Interim Moderator, since he is already Moderator at Oakridge, and is therefore best suited to lead the search for a new Associate Minister.

**REC. #8** (Evans / Jeffery) THAT the regular visitation team to Oakridge which is in process, incorporate the Exit Review interviews with the Rev. Caldwell, the Session and Congregation of Oakridge, into their visit. CARRIED.

**REC. #9** (Evans / McHardy-Leitch) THAT the Reverend Sabrina Caldwell's last Sunday with the congregation of Oakridge, London be Sunday, September 27, 2009. CARRIED.

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**REC. #10** (Evans / Dolbear-Van Bilsen) THAT the Reverend Sabrina Caldwell be transferred from the Roll of the Presbytery of London to the Roll of the Presbytery of Lindsay-Peterborough, effective October 1, 2009. CARRIED.

**REC. #11** (Evans / Dolbear-Van Bilsen) THAT the thanks of the Court to the Reverend Sabrina Caldwell for her service to the Presbytery of London and the Congregation of Oakridge, London, be noted in these minutes. CARRIED.

**Call to the Rev.  
Johan Olivier**

**REC. #12** (Evans / Jeffery) THAT the actions of the Clerk in citing the congregations of Dorchester Presbyterian Church, Dorchester, and South Nissouri Presbyterian Church, South Nissouri, be homologated. CARRIED.

**REC. #13** (Evans / Dolbear-Van Bilsen) THAT the Call from Knox Presbyterian Church, Guelph, Ontario, be received and considered. CARRIED.

**REC. #14** (Evans / Reid) THAT the Reverend Angus Sutherland, Interim Moderator of Knox Presbyterian Church, Guelph, Ontario, and the following representatives of Knox Presbyterian Church of the Presbytery of Waterloo-Wellington, be given permission to address the Court: Tom Stinson, Ann Wilson, Jessie Bush. CARRIED.

The Clerk, at the request of the Moderator, read the Narration of Steps leading up to the Call, and the Guarantee of Stipend as follows:

*“We, the congregation of Knox Presbyterian Church, Guelph, hereby present to the Presbytery of Waterloo-Wellington of the Presbyterian Church in Canada, that the estimated annual revenue of the said congregation for the maintenance of religious ordinance among ourselves is four hundred forty-five thousand eight hundred thirty-three dollars (\$445,833).*

*“We hereby agree to pay out of the said revenue, as it shall be collected, and as first charge thereon, to the **Rev. Johan Olivier** the annual stipend of fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000), which amount is inclusive of annual car or travel allowance, and to provide eighteen thousand, five hundred dollars (\$18,500) annually for housing allowance which amount is inclusive of utilities.*

*“In addition to this shall be reported as stipend, and added to the foregoing amount, the amount expended under the study leave of clauses 1 and 2 below. 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.*

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*“We further engage to use our utmost diligence to the end that the **Rev. Johan Olivier** may regularly receive the stipend and allowance herein named.*

*“We agree further:*

*1) To give two weeks study leave annually, and to provide two thousand, two hundred and fifty dollars (\$2,250) annually for study leave and book allowance.*

*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. Johan Olivier** as minister in this congregation.”*

The Moderator called on the Reverend Angus Sutherland and Mr. Tom Stinson, Convenor of the Search Committee of Knox Presbyterian Church, Guelph, Ontario, to speak to the Call. They described the progress of this congregation through the vacancy up to this point of calling the Reverend Johan Olivier as their Minister.

**REC. #15** (Evans / Fraser) THAT the following members of the Dorchester and South Nissouri congregations be given permission to address the Court: Michael Kernahan, Doug Hill, Sam Gallagher. CARRIED.

All three individuals described the ministry of the Reverend Johan Olivier from the time of his arrival in Canada from South Africa to the present, and expressed their deep appreciation for his teaching, preaching and friendship within both congregations.

The Moderator invited members of the Court to speak to the call, and the Reverend Kathy Fraser, Mrs. Chris Evans, and the Reverend Deb Dolbear-Van Bilsen thanked Johan for his hard work, diligence and ministry within the Presbytery of London.

**REC. #16** (Evans / Dolbear-Van Bilsen) THAT the Call to the Reverend Johan Olivier to Knox Presbyterian Church, Guelph, Ontario be sustained as a regular Gospel Call. CARRIED.

The Moderator, the Reverend Keith McKee then placed the Call in the hands of the Reverend Johan Olivier, and also gave thanks to Johan for his ministry within the Presbytery of London. He indicated that he had seven days in which to declare his acceptance of this call. The Reverend Johan Olivier responded that he accepts this

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Call. He then took the opportunity to thank the congregations of Dorchester and South Nissouri for their support, as well as the Presbytery.

**REC. #17** (Evans / VanderKooy) THAT the Moderator appoint an Interim Moderator for Dorchester and South Nissouri Presbyterian Church, as soon as possible. CARRIED.

The Moderator indicated that there are many vacancies within our Presbytery currently, and requested that prayerful consideration should be given to his requests to serve as an Interim Moderator. He explained that Johan's leaving will also necessitate appointing another Interim Moderator for Almanarah Presbyterian Church, and that there will be a retirement being dealt with in September.

**REC. #18** (Evans / Jeffery) THAT the Moderator appoint an Exit Review team to visit the Sessions, Congregations, and the Reverend Johan Olivier prior to his departure. CARRIED.

**REC. #19** (Evans / McHardy-Leitch) THAT the Reverend Johan Olivier's last Sunday with the congregations of Dorchester and South Nissouri be Sunday, August 30, 2009. CARRIED.

**REC. #20** (Evans / Reid) THAT the Reverend Johan Olivier be transferred from the Roll of the Presbytery of London to the Roll of the Presbytery of Waterloo-Wellington, effective September 1, 2009. CARRIED.

**REC. #21** (Evans / Van Bilsen) THAT the thanks of the Court to the Reverend Johan Olivier for his service to the Presbytery of London and the congregations of Dorchester and South Nissouri Presbyterian Churches be noted in these Minutes. CARRIED.

### **Adjournment**

On a motion by Kathy Fraser, the meeting stood adjourned at eight fifty-five 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. Andrews Presbyterian Church, and in Special Session on Thursday, the thirteenth day of August, two thousand and nine at the hour of seven o'clock in the evening, in London, and within Westmount Presbyterian Church, London, Ontario. It is anticipated that this meeting will be held "In Camera".

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

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Moderator

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Clerk