

Minutes of the Presbytery of London

Dorchester Presbyterian Church, Dorchester, Ontario, Tuesday, October 13, 2009, 7:00 pm

In Dorchester, and within Dorchester Presbyterian Church, the Presbytery of London met in Regular Session on Tuesday, the thirteenth day of October, two thousand and nine at the hour of seven o'clock in the evening.

Constitution The Moderator, the Reverend Keith McKee welcomed everyone to the meeting, and constituted the Court with Prayer.

Worship The Worship Service was led by the Reverend Mavis Currie and a representation of Youth and Leaders who attended Canada Youth 2009. Various participants gave their impressions of this Canada-wide Youth event, and thanked the Presbytery for their financial assistance to attend CY-09.

**Welcome,
Courtesies and
Announcements** The Moderator welcomed visitors to the meeting, and recognized Mr. Bob Wilson, who is providing Pulpit Supply in Dorchester and South Nissouri during their vacancy, Mr. William Khalil, Lay Missionary with Special Training at Almanarah, and Mrs. Margaret McCullough, representing the WMS.

John Bannerman announced that on the third Sunday of every month, it is the turn of the Presbyterian Church to provide worship at Parkwood Hospital. Mr. Bannerman is coordinating this ministry and asked for volunteers. Keith McKee reminded the Court that Sunday, October 25th will be the second annual Kirkin' o' the Tartan at St. George's, and welcomed everyone to participate.

Attendance John Bannerman, Mavis Currie, Tom Godfrey, Keith McKee, Douglas Miles, Lynn Nichol, Andrew Reid, Robert Shaw, Michael Stol, Ministers; Bob Baron, John Cameron, Marg Chester, Bruce Dickert, Carlton Dindial, Ruth Ann Drozd, Chris Evans, Larry Gibbings, Theresa Glithero, Harrison Greig, Tom Jeffery, Patrick Laurin, Lacqueline Leitch, Matt Marshall, Paulina McCormick, Margaret McCullough, Ian McFarlane, Linda McKenna, Nancy Newell, Wilma Reath, Linda Riddell, Joe Ruitenbeek, Don Speir, Nancy Springer, Norma Stevenson, Tom Telfer, Donna Jean Van Bilsen, Peter VanderKooy, Elders; Bob Wilson, St. James, N. Yarmouth, William Khalil, Almanarah, Rob Evans, Elmwood, Kate Ballagh-Steeper, Southdale Chaplaincy, Others.

Regrets Amanda Birchall, Charlotte Brown, Deb Dolbear-Van Bilsen, Kathy Fraser, Terry Ingram, Ian Johnston, Kevin Steeper, Mark Turner, Ministers; Bill Kinchlea, Ross MacKay, Sheila McMurray, Barbara Nyitray, Elders.

Docket **MOTION** (Evans / Drozd) THAT the Docket as circulated be approved for the meeting. CARRIED.

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Stated Hour Southdale Chaplaincy The Reverend Kate Ballagh-Steeper, Chaplain at the Southdale Chaplaincy, gave a presentation in which she described her work at the Southdale Chaplaincy in South London. She expressed appreciation for the support received from the Presbytery and congregations within the Presbytery, and asked for continued financial support and prayers.

Administrative Business **MOTION** (Evans / Drozd) THAT the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of September 8, 2009 be adopted as circulated. CARRIED.

MOTION (Evans / Drozd) THAT the meeting move In-Camera to approve the Minutes of In-Camera Meetings held on May 12, 2009, June 16, 2009 and August 13, 2009. CARRIED.

When the meeting moved out of camera, it was noted that the following motions are to be included in the Public Record:

MOTION (Evans / Drozd) THAT the Minutes of the In-Camera meeting of May 12, 2009 be approved as read, and that this approval be noted in the regular Minutes. CARRIED.

MOTION (Evans / Drozd) THAT the Minutes of the In-Camera meeting of June 16, 2009 be approved as read, and that this approval be noted in the regular Minutes. CARRIED.

MOTION (Evans / Drozd) THAT the Minutes of the In-Camera meeting of August 13, 2009 be approved as read, and that this approval be noted in the regular Minutes. CARRIED.

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

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

Number	From	Regarding
09-54	K. Allen, WMS	Copies of On the Move + Annual Report
09-57	Assembly Office	Copy of response to Westmount's Overture
09-61	Assembly Office	Copy of memo to Clerks of Session
09-64	B. Nawratil, Finance Office	Distribution of Belmont Funds
09-65	Presbyterian College, Montreal	Invitation to Nominate for Honorary DD Degrees
09-66	T. McDonald-Lee, Camp Kintail	Letter re Donations

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

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Number	From	Regarding	Refer To
09-52	R. Buchan	Petitions	Admin Team
09-53	R. Buchan	Response to 09-52	Admin Team
09-55	Doug Miles	Transfer to Lambton-W.Middlesex	Admin Team
09-56	Life & Mission Agency	John H. Park, Guidance Conf.	Students & Educ.
09-58	Assembly Office	Nominations for Moderator	Denom.Wk.Team
09-59	Assembly Office	Overtures, Memorials & Petitions	Denom Wk Team
09-60	Assembly Office	2009 Remits	Denom Wk. Team
09-62	Assembly Office	Actions for Attention of Presbyteries	Denom Wk Team
09-63	Assembly Office	Request for 2010 Commissioners	Clerk
09-67	R. Buchan	Questioning lack of response to 09-53	Admin Team
09-68	S. Roche, Chief Financial Officer	Statistics Reports	In Mail Boxes

Re: Correspondence #09-68 - The Clerk reminded everyone to pick up Annual Statistical Reports which were in each Mail Slot, and deliver them to their Clerks of Session.

Re: Correspondence #09-64 - Funds have been distributed in accordance with Mission Plan.

Re: Correspondence #09-52, 53, 67 - Mr. Buchan is still not satisfied with the actions of Presbytery regarding petitions "not received" and lack of response to #09-53.

REC. #3 (Evans / Drozd) THAT the Clerk of Presbytery be instructed to write to Mr. R. Buchan stating that the Presbytery dealt with the Petitions according to the Book of Forms, that there is no avenue of appeal for Mr. Buchan at this late date, and that the Presbytery considers the matter of the petitions resolved. CARRIED.

Re: Correspondence #09-55, Doug Miles has requested that his name be transferred to the Appendix to the Roll of the Presbytery of Lambton-West Middlesex upon his retirement, October 31, 2009, as he is resident in that district.

REC. #4 (Evans / Drozd) THAT the name of the Reverend Douglas Miles be transferred to the Appendix to the Roll of the Presbytery of Lambton-West Middlesex on November 1, 2009. CARRIED.

Stalker Fund

There have been three applications for funding from the Dr. D. Stalker fund, and as the Ministry Teams have not been formalized, and the Administrative Team is in possession of the files, and after considering the three applications,

REC. #5 (Evans / Drozd) THAT the funds available for distribution in the Stalker Fund (\$2,311) be allocated as follows:

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Mr. John Park, certified by the Presbytery of London: \$1,000.00

The Rev. Andras Rameshwar, certified by the Presbytery of London: \$1,000.00

Mr. Arie Van Den Berg, certified by the Presbytery of Paris: \$300.00

CARRIED.

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Canada Ministries Applications are in process for grants from Canada Ministries from the following:

Applications Southdale Chaplaincy
Almanarah Presbyterian Church

REC. #6 (Evans / Drozd) THAT the Presbytery of London support the application of Almanarah Presbyterian Church, London, for ongoing funding from Canada Ministries, in the amount of \$60,720. **CARRIED.**

REC. #7 (Evans / Drozd) THAT the Presbytery of London support the application of Southdale Chaplaincy for funding from Canada Ministries, in the amount of \$10,000. **CARRIED.**

REC. #8 (Evans / Drozd) THAT the Core and Focus Ministry Teams be approved as named below: **CARRIED.**

Administrative Team (Core Team)

Chris Evans (Clerk), Keith McKee (Moderator), Tom Jeffery,(Past Moderator), Carol Rayner (Treasurer), Ruth Ann Drozd, Bob Baron, Kathy Fraser.

Students and Education Team (Core Team)

Kathy Fraser, Amanda Birchall, Terry Ingram

Denominational Work Team (Core Team)

Andrew Reid, Kevin Steeper, Terry Ingram, Sharon Marshall

Vacancy and Visitation Team (Core Team)

Tom Jeffery (Convenor), Donna Jean Van Bilsen, Ruth Ann Drozd, Gerald Stocking, Margaret McCullough

Leading with Care (Core Team - membership mandated for 3 years)

Kathy Fraser(Convenor), Michael Stol, Sandra Van der Veen, Donna Jean Van Bilsen, Tom Jeffery, Kevin Steeper, Chris Evans (Ex-officio as clerk)

Small Church Ministries Fund (Focus Team)

Lynn Nichol, Bob Baron, Sheila McMurray, Carol Rayner, (Ex-officio as treasurer)

Evangelism Team (Focus Team)

Tom Jeffery, John Bannerman, Deb Dolbear-Van Bilsen, Michael Stol

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Hospital Visitor Team (Focus Team)

Margaret Chester, Charlotte Brown, Jim Redpath.

Campus and Youth Ministry Team (Focus Team)

Mavis Currie (Convenor), Matthew Marshall, John Bannerman, Donna Jean Van Bilsen, Sheila McMurray, Tom Godfrey, Elise Chambers, Joanne MacPherson, Spencer Edwards, Trish Deruiter, Mikal Schomberg, Val Hermans, Debbie Kemp, Kris Kuhlmann-Bigg, Heather Schmidt, Darlene Hoover, Carol Huston, Terry Neudorf, Janis Boyle, Doug Gillard.

Website and Communications Team (Focus Team)

Mavis Currie (Convenor), Chris Evans, Tom Hunter, Matt Marshall, Ben Stephenson

Local Arrangements Committee (for General Assembly 2011)

Keith McKee (Convenor), Andrew Reid, Mary Lou McCrimmon, Rob Evans, Chris Evans, Tom Jeffery - plus many sub-committees.

Each Ministry Team should meet and appoint their convenor, whose name should be reported to the Clerk of Presbytery.

Bethel Presbyterian Church, Ilderton - The Moderator has appointed the Reverend Tom Godfrey as Interim Moderator to Bethel when it is declared vacant on November 1, 2009.

DaySpring Presbyterian Church, London - The Moderator has appointed the Team to follow-up on the DaySpring Visitation as follows: Andrew Reid, Deb Dolbear-Van Bilsen, Tom Godfrey, Mary Lou McCrimmon, and Patrick Laurin.

Commission Concerning Leading with Care

At the special meeting held August 13, 2009 the Moderator of Presbytery was given the responsibility of naming a commission to deal with legal matters that resulted from the Leading with Care report. Because the Moderator has been copied on all correspondence dealing with this matter, is an officer of the Presbytery, and is the one our lawyer has advised to sign the release documents on behalf of the Presbytery, he named himself to the commission along with the Clerk

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of Presbytery and the Reverend Kathy Fraser, the convener of the Leading with Care Committee. The Presbytery was informed at its September meeting that The Reverend Andrew Reid would be replacing Mrs. Fraser who is on a short medical leave.

The Presbytery's lawyer, Mr. McNair of McKenzie Lake, LLP has received correspondence from the complainant's lawyer requesting the release documents. These release documents prevent the complainant from seeking additional settlements from the Presbytery, New St. James Presbyterian Church, the Presbyterian Church in Canada and the complaine. At the time of this report (October 1, 2009) these documents have not been signed and returned. Mr. McNair has been away from his office from September 24, 2009 and is expect to return October 7, 2009.

Mr. McNair, after considerable negotiation with Zurich Insurance has informed the commission, through the Moderator, that Zurich Insurance has agreed to cover the claim of \$17,250.00. The Presbytery will have to pay the claim when the release documents are signed and then the insurance company will reimburse the Presbytery.

The Presbytery has also had to pay legal expenses to date, amounting to \$8605.87. It is anticipated that this amount will increase as Mr. McNair continues to do work on behalf of the Presbytery. A claim will be made to Zurich Insurance to cover these expenses after the release documents have been signed.

The commission continues to ask for the Presbytery's prayers.

Session Records Mr. Rob Evans examined the Session Records of New St. James Presbyterian Church, London.

MOTION (Jeffery / Evans) THAT the Session Records of New St. James Presbyterian Church, London, be attested as being neatly and correctly kept.
CARRIED.

Students and Education Team No Report

Denominational No Report

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Work Team

**Vacancy and
Visitation Team** No Report

DaySpring Visitation Team - Andrew Reid spoke to the report which had been circulated with the Advance Reports. The Court will be kept up-to-date on any progress and recommendations as necessary.

Oakridge Exit Review Visitation regarding Sabrina Caldwell. This report will be presented at the next meeting of Presbytery.

**Leading with
Care** No Report

**Hospital Visitor
Team** No Report

**Youth and
Campus Mini-
stries Team** The Clerk the following message from Mavis Currie: "this Committee will be setting a date for their first meeting to organize University Care Packages and One Day Wonder.

Website Team No Report

**Small Church
Ministries Team** Lynn Nichol presented the Report of the Small Church Ministries Fund and the following Recommendations were made:

MOTION (Nichol / Bannerman) THAT Almanarah Presbyterian Church be given a grant of up to \$2,000 from the Small Church Ministries Fund to cover the actual expenses of their retreat. CARRIED.

MOTION (Springer / Baron) THAT Knollwood Park Presbyterian Church be granted \$2,000 from the Small Church Ministries Fund for their after-school programme. CARRIED.

**G.A. 2011
Local Arrange-
ments Team** Keith McKee, convenor of the General Assembly 2011 Local Arrangements Committee, gave a brief verbal report.

**Trinity-West
Elgin Dissol-
ution Team** No Report

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Reports of Interim Moderators

Almanarah, London - The Moderator asked the former Moderator, Mr. Tom Jeffery to assume the Chair so that he could report as Interim Moderator. Mr. McKee spoke to the written report which had been circulated, and the following recommendations were made:

MOTION (McKee / Shaw) THAT the Presbytery of London endorse the application to Canada Ministries for ministerial and congregational coaching for Almanarah Presbyterian Church. CARRIED.

MOTION (McKee / Shaw) THAT the Presbytery strongly encourage congregations to designate one Sunday in 2010 to be "Almanarah Presbyterian Church Sunday" and that a free-will offering be collected to support the work of Almanarah Presbyterian Church. CARRIED.

The Moderator, the Reverend Keith McKee thanked Mr. Jeffery, and then resumed the Chair.

Burns, Mosa - Michael Stol reported that this is a healthy congregation, and the pulpit is being well-supplied. He also noted that the Search Committee has invited an individual to preach for the Call on November 8, 2009.

Crinan / Largie - No Report

DaySpring - The Clerk read the following note from Mavis Currie, the Interim Moderator at DaySpring: "Session is meeting regularly; John Bannerman has agreed to help supervise Andras Rameshwar in his education; The Session has provided some input to the committee looking into future options at DaySpring, and are presently awaiting the response of the Committee (which probably won't be until early November)."

Dorchester / South Nissouri - Lynn Nichol reported that the pulpit is being supplied by BobWilson, there has been a Joint Session Meeting, a Search Committee has been formed and has initiated work on a Survey.

Knox -Fingal - No Report

Knox - St. Thomas - Andrew Reid spoke to the report of the Interim Moderator, which had been circulated with the Advance Reports. As he had assured the Session that he would read this report to Presbytery, he then read the report.

MOTION (Reid / Drozd) THAT this Interim Moderator's Report be received.

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CARRIED.

Andrew Reid then spoke to the Report of the Assessor Elders at Knox, St. Thomas, which had been circulated with the Advance Reports.

MOTION (Evans / Baron) THAT this Report be accepted. CARRIED.

Andrew Reid then spoke to the Report of the Six-Month Review of the Interim Minister at Knox, St. Thomas, which had been circulated with the Advance Reports.

MOTION (Reid / Evans) THAT this Report of the review of Interim Ministry at Knox Presbyterian Church, St. Thomas, be received. CARRIED.

Oakridge, London - Associate Minister - No Report

St. James, North Yarmouth - John Bannerman reported diligence.

St. John's, Port Stanley - No Report

Other Business Nil

Adjournment On a motion by Michael Stol, the Court stood adjourned at five minutes past nine in the evening, to meet again in Regular Session on Tuesday, the tenth day of November, two thousand and nine, at the hour of seven o'clock in the evening, in Dutton, and within Knox-St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church.

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

Moderator

Clerk