

## Minutes of the Presbytery of London

Oakridge Presbyterian Church, London, Ontario, Wednesday, January 27, 2010, 7:00 pm

In London, and within Oakridge Presbyterian Church, the Presbytery of London met in Special Session on Wednesday, the twenty-seventh day of January, two thousand and ten, at the hour of seven o'clock in the evening.

- Constitution**            The Moderator, the Reverend Keith McKee opened the meeting with prayer and constituted the Court.
- Attendance**            Deb Dolbear-Van Bilsen, Kathy Fraser, Terry Ingram, Keith McKee, Andrew Reid, Robert Shaw, Kevin Steeper, Ministers; Bob Baron, Marg Chester, Chris Evans, Tom Jeffery, Patrick Laurin, Linda McKenna, Nancy Springer, Norma Stevenson, Donna Jean Van Bilsen, Peter VanderKooy, Elders. Robert Wilson, Lay Missionary, Other.
- Regrets**                John Bannerman, Charlotte Brown, Mavis Currie, Tom Godfrey, Ian Johnston, Amanda MacMillan, Lynn Nichol, Ministers; John Cameron, Ruth Ann Drozd, Larry Gibbings, Theresa Glithero, Harrison Greig, Matthew Marshall, Nancy Newell, Wilma Reath, Elders.
- Absent**                 Michael Stol, Mark Turner, Ministers; Bruce Dickert, Jacqueline Leitch, Ross MacKay, Marg McCullough, Ian McFarlane, Sheila McMurray, Joe Ruitenbeek, Don Speir, Elders.
- Purpose of the Meeting**    The Moderator outlined the purpose of this meeting, namely to consider referrals sent down from the General Assembly.
- Committee of the Whole**    **MOTION:** (Evans / Steeper) THAT the meeting move into a Committee of the Whole. CARRIED.
- The Moderator, the Rev. Keith McKee chaired the Committee of the Whole, and the Clerk, Mrs. Chris Evans served as Secretary. The Denominational Work Team of the Rev. Terry Ingram, the Rev. Andrew Reid and the Rev. Kevin Steeper led the discussions.
- Referrals**                The following referrals were discussed, with the following recommendations made:
- a)        Biennial Assemblies  
                                  Comments in favour of Biennial Assemblies included: better stewardship, Presbyteries and Synods would play a larger role in decision-making, this could allow more time for committees' work. Comments against Biennial Assemblies included: possibility of too much power for staff, need for legislative changes re the Barrier Act, the way appeals to General Assembly are handled (i.e. the judicial system), change in expectations of the role of the Moderator. Regarding off-year congress, it is felt that should this be the case, attendance would have to be treated as seriously as General Assembly. Concern regarding whether Synods would be able to deal with downloaded issues.

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**By a majority, the Presbytery of London is not in favour of Biennial General Assemblies.**

b) Doing Weddings Better

Comments in favour of Clergy continuing to conduct weddings and sign marriage licenses included: this is an opportunity for Clergy to reach into the lives of couples coming into church - if we give up signing licenses we could lose this opportunity. We need a clear policy about conducting weddings (Clergy and Sessions). Suggestion that Presbytery engage in a pre-marriage training session. Opinions were split regarding Clergy signing marriage licenses.

**By a majority, the Presbytery of London is in favour of Clergy continuing to conduct weddings and to sign Marriage Licenses.**

c) Non-Disciplinary Cases

There was general discussion around this referral, noting that this would enhance Presbytery's authority, and also clarifies Presbytery's authority.

**The Presbytery of London is unanimous in supporting the recommendation to revise the wording in Section 334.**

d) Permanent Nominating Committee

**The Presbytery of London is unanimous in supporting the recommendation to change Section 228.1 to appoint a permanent Committee to Nominate Standing Committees.**

**MOTION:** (Baron / Springer) THAT the Clerk transmit these findings and comments to the Clerks of Assembly. CARRIED.

**Move out of  
The Whole**

**MOTION:** (Ingram / Chester) THAT we move out of the Committee of the Whole. CARRIED.

**Notice of Motion**

I, Andrew Reid, will move or cause to be moved at the February meeting of the Presbytery of London, that Presbytery reconsider the motion to cite the congregations of DaySpring and Almanarah to appear at the Presbytery meeting in April, when the Shaw notice of motion will be discussed, with the intention that the congregations be cited to appear in March and the notice of motion discussed at that meeting.

**Adjournment**

On a motion to adjourn by Patrick Laurin, the Moderator closed the meeting with prayer.

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Moderator

Clerk