

Minutes of the Presbytery of London

Bethel Presbyterian Church, Ilderton, Ontario, Tuesday, April 10, 2007, 7:00 p.m.

At Ilderton, and within Bethel Presbyterian Church, the Presbytery of London met in Regular Session on Tuesday, the tenth day of April, two thousand and seven, at seven o'clock in the evening.

- Worship** The Reverend Douglas Miles led the Worship Service, with organ accompaniment by Margaret McCullough.
- Constitution** The Moderator, Mr. Tom Jeffery, constituted the meeting with prayer.
- Welcome and
Courtesies** The Moderator welcomed everyone to the meeting, making particular point of welcoming the many members of congregations who had come to speak to issues regarding their own congregations. Mr. Neil Dickieson was introduced as the Representative Elder for New St. James, replacing Mr. Charles Parsons, who died suddenly last month. The Reverend Robert Shaw introduced the Reverend Victoria Murray of the Presbytery of Pickering, who has moved to the Rodney area, and also the Reverend Andras Ramashwar.
- Attendance** Kate Ballagh-Steeper, John Bannerman, Amanda Birchall, Sabrina Caldwell, Mavis Currie, Deborah Dolbear-Van Bilsen, Kathy Fraser, Andrew Human, Terry Ingram, Gloria Langlois, Douglas Miles, Linda Moffatt, Johan Olivier, Jim Redpath, Robert Robinson, Robert Shaw, Kevin Steeper, Clergy; John Cameron, Susan Cushman, Neil Dickieson, Marilyn Edwards, Chris Evans (Clerk), Wayne Hindmarsh, Tom Jeffery (Moderator), Ken Keith, Rachelle Kernahan, Larry Langford, Jacqueline Leitch, Joan Mansell, Sharon Marshall, Margaret McCullough, Sheila McMurray, John McNeil, Linda Riddell, Gordon Sims, Don Speir, Norma Stevenson, Gerald Stocking, Owen Thornton, Donna Jean Van Bilsen, Peter VanderKooy, Allan Woolner, Elders; Rob Evans - Elmwood, Carl Taylor, Kathryn Ferguson, Jim Ferguson, Jean Gooding, Nancy Newell - St. James, N. Yarmouth, Catherine McMillan - Knox - Belmont, Victoria Murray - St. Andrew's, Dutton, Audrey Weldon, Nelson Sue Jong, Lee Cyn Ang, Barry McNaughton, Bill Fletcher, Charmaine Fletcher, Ruth Carey, Liz Moir, Lindsay Moir, Lindsay Pursey, Connie Pursey, Joyce Speir - Day Spring, Catherine Montgomery - Ailsa Craig.
- Regrets** Hugh Appel, Charlotte Brown, Keith McKee, Lynn Nichol, Michael Stol, Mark Turner, Clergy; Ruth Ann Drozd, John Goodfellow, Bill McMurchy, Doris Tutt, Elders.
- Absent** Ben Ormseth, Joe Ruitenbeek, Sandra Van Der Veen, Elders.
- Docket** AGREED that the Docket be adopted as printed and circulated.
- Stated Hour
7:15 pm
WMS Report** Margaret McCullough presented the report of the London Presbyterian WMS, which had been prepared by the President, Mrs. Winn Files. Many events and achievements were highlighted. The Moderator, Mr. Tom Jeffery thanked Margaret and praised the dedication and hard work of the WMS.

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Permission to Speak MOTION (Fraser / Cameron) THAT members of the congregations of DaySpring - London, St. James - North Yarmouth, Knox - Belmont, and Ailsa Craig be given permission to address the Court during their respective Stated Hours. CARRIED.

Stated Hour 7:30 pm DaySpring The Reverend Robert Shaw, Interim Moderator for DaySpring Presbyterian Church, London, presented a report and a proposal for a one-year contract to appoint an Ordained Missionary to DaySpring.

Mr. Lindsay Moir, a member of DaySpring, spoke strongly in favour of this proposal, indicating the enthusiasm of the entire congregation for the ministry of the Reverend Andras Rameshwar. Mr. Don Speir, Representative Elder, also spoke in favour of this appointment, reporting that finances are in order to fund this ministry.

There was a brief discussion, and relevant questions were asked and answered.

MOTION (Shaw / Speir) THAT the congregation of DaySpring be granted permission by the Presbytery of London to engage a person in full-time ministry. CARRIED.

MOTION (Shaw / Speir) THAT the Presbytery of London approve the terms of the contract as presented. CARRIED.

MOTION (Shaw / Speir) THAT the Presbytery of London appoint the Reverend Andras Rameshwar under the terms of the approved contract, such appointment beginning on April 16, 2007. CARRIED.

MOTION (Shaw / Speir) THAT the recognition service for the Reverend Andras Rameshwar be conducted at 2:00 pm on April 22, 2007 at DaySpring Presbyterian Church, with arrangements for the service left in the hands of the Moderator or Presbytery, the Clerk of Presbytery and the Interim Moderator of DaySpring. CARRIED.

Contract Details In terms of the Reverend Rameshwar's appointment to DaySpring:

- The Session will be moderated at all times by the Interim Moderator;
- The Reverend Rameshwar will:
 1. Lead worship and preach each Sunday
 2. Provide pastoral care to the sick and shut-ins
 3. Provide regular ongoing visitation
 4. Officiate at weddings and funerals within the bounds of the charge
 5. Perform other duties as requested by the Session or Interim Moderator.
- The goals of this ministry are the maintenance of a healthy congregational life, the provision of continuity of leadership, and the nurture of spiritual growth leading to numerical growth of the congregation.

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This agreement is for a period of twelve months, effective at the time of Presbytery’s appointment. However, this agreement may be terminated by the Session or The Reverend Rameshwar upon sixty days written notice, without further obligation, financial or otherwise. Alternately, this covenant may be extended upon approval of all parties to the agreement, inclusive of Presbytery, or upon The Reverend Rameshwar being received as a minister of the Presbyterian Church in Canada, a ‘Call’ may be issued by the congregation to Mr. Rameshwar upon the conclusion of the one year appointment by Presbytery.

Mr. Rameshwar will be employed on a full-time basis and will be compensated as follows:

1. Stipend: Thirty-Four Thousand dollars (\$34,000.00) per year inclusive of travel allowance.
2. Housing Allowance of Ten Thousand dollars (\$10,000.00) per year inclusive of utilities.

The charge also agrees to provide Mr. Rameshwar five weeks of vacation per year and to cover the cost of supply. It will also provide assistance for moving, if required. As an Ordained Missionary, Mr. Rameshwar also qualifies for health and dental benefits within the plan of the National Church (\$3,850.00 / year benefit). He will receive two (2) weeks study leave, with \$600.00 / year. During the length of this agreement, the Reverend Andras Rameshwar will be accountable to the Interim Moderator of the charge.

Administrative Team Report

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

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

Number	From	Regarding
07-15	S. Kendall	Receipt of Remit A
07-16	R. Davidson, Presbytery of Quebec	Demission from Ministry - Scott Emery (Now teaching high school)
07-17	E. Bartlett	Changes to the Roll
07-19	S. Kendall	Receipt of 30 Ballots for Moderator

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

Number	From	Regarding	Refer To
07-14	T. Hamilton	Statistical Information	Clerk
07-18	G. Langlois	Notice of Resignation / Retirement	Admin. Team
07-20	G. Haynes	Applications for Ministerial Assistance	Circulate
07-21	T. Hamilton	Committee to Nominate	Clerk

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REC. #3 (Evans / Currie) THAT the "In Camera" Minutes of September 30, 2003 be regarded as "lost", and this be noted in the minutes. CARRIED.

REC. #4 (Evans / Fraser) THAT in the event of the death of a member of this Court, either on the Constituent Roll or on the Appendix to the Roll,
a) A Memorial Donation of \$50 be made to the charity of their choice or to their congregation;
b) The Presbytery be responsible for the submission of the obituary to the Presbyterian Record;
c) That a Memorial Minute be prepared and presented by a colleague at a subsequent meeting of the Presbytery.

CARRIED.

Equipment The Clerk requested the indulgence of the Court, indicating that she was in possession of certain old equipment belonging to the Presbytery, for which she has no storage space. Since this equipment is no longer functional, and is not needed, the clerk was advised to dispose of it. Mr. Don Speir offered to supply the contact information for a company that may be willing to take this equipment.

Stated Hour 8:00 p.m. Gloria Langlois Retirement The Moderator, Mr. Tom Jeffery, read a letter from the Reverend Gloria Langlois, indicating her intention to retire as minister to the joint pastoral charge of Knox Presbyterian Church, Belmont and St. James Presbyterian Church, North Yarmouth, effective June 30, 2007.

The following members of St. James Presbyterian Church and Knox Presbyterian Church spoke in response to Gloria's retirement, expressing their love and deep appreciation for her fifteen years of ministry among them: Nancy Newell, Carl Taylor, Joan Mansell (St. James), Catherine McMillan (Knox). Members of the Court also expressed their appreciation for Gloria's years of commitment and active participation in Presbytery. Gloria's retirement request will be accepted with much regret, many thanks and best wishes.

MOTION (Evans / Steeper) THAT the resignation of the Reverend Gloria Langlois be accepted with thanks and regret. CARRIED.

MOTION (Evans / Steeper) THAT the existing Petition Visitation Team of Tom Jeffery, Kevin Steeper and John Bannerman be named as the Exit Review Team. CARRIED.

MOTION (Evans / Steeper) THAT Kevin Steeper and John Bannerman be named as Co-Interim Moderators to Knox, Belmont and St. James, North Yarmouth. CARRIED.

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Stated Hour The Reverend Kate Ballagh-Steeper, Minister of Ailsa Craig Presbyterian Church,
8:30 pm presented the Petition from Ailsa Craig, indicating that this report is supported by
Ailsa Craig both the Session and Congregation. The congregation of Ailsa Craig, at a duly
Petition to Close called congregational meeting held on Sunday, March 11, 2007, voted unanimously
to close. Kate outlined the history of this congregation, indicating the long, painful
journey which has led to this decision.

Mr. Wayne Hindmarsh, Representative Elder, also spoke to this report, and asked for the prayerful support of the Presbytery for this congregation. He stressed that this decision was not arrived at lightly.

The Reverend Kathy Fraser spoke to honour the journey of Ailsa Craig Church.

MOTION (Ballagh-Steeper / Hindmarsh) THAT the Presbytery of London grant permission to the Session and Congregation of the Ailsa Craig Presbyterian Church to begin formulating their Mission Plan for the dissolution of the Congregation. CARRIED.

MOTION (Ballagh-Steeper / Hindmarsh) THAT a team, appointed by the Moderator and Clerk be formed to assist the Session, Minister and Congregation with their Mission Plan. CARRIED.

MOTION (Evans / Ballagh-Steeper) THAT this team consist of The Reverend Mavis Currie, the Reverend Kathy Fraser, and the Reverend Deborah Dolbear-Van Bilsen.

MOTION (Fraser / Dolbear-Van Bilsen) THAT the Presbytery of London dissolve the congregation of Ailsa Craig Presbyterian Church, Ailsa Craig, Ontario, with the concluding service to be held on Pentecost, Sunday, May 27, 2007, in the evening. CARRIED.

MOTION (Fraser / Dolbear-Van Bilsen) THAT the Moderator and Administrative Team ensure the provision of a transition allowance, holiday time and study leave to the Minister, in consultation with the Session, and Ministry and Church Vocations to facilitate the dissolution of the pastoral tie. CARRIED.

The Moderator led the Court in Prayer for guidance and support for the Congregation, Session, and Minister of Ailsa Craig Presbyterian Church as they journey through this difficult time.

Minutes MOTION (Evans / Fraser) THAT the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of March 13, 2007, and the Special Meeting of March 18, 2007, which had been sent out previously, be adopted. CARRIED.

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Records Examination MOTION (Currie / Evans) THAT the Session Records of North Caradoc-St. Andrews Presbyterian Church, North Caradoc, be attested as neatly and correctly kept, with the following notes: 27.2, 27.5. CARRIED.

MOTION (Currie / Evans) THAT the Session Records of Knox Presbyterian Church, Komoka be attested as neatly and correctly kept, with the following notes: 27.2, 27.7. CARRIED.

MOTION (Currie / Evans) THAT the Joint Session Records of Knox Presbyterian Church, Komoka and North Caradoc-St. Andrews Presbyterian Church, North Caradoc, be attested as being neatly and correctly kept, with the following notes: 27.2, 27.4, 27.5, 27.7. CARRIED.

Students and Education Team No Report

Denomination Work Team No Report

Vacancy and Visitation Team R. Shaw presented the following Visitation Team Reports:
a) Visitation Team to Knox Church, St. Thomas, which had been previously circulated.

MOTION (Shaw / Bannerman) THAT the Session meetings include a report from the Minister where the Minister reports due diligence. Following discussion and indication of agreement from Dr. Human, the motion CARRIED.

MOTION (Shaw / Bannerman) THAT the Minister work with the Session (or the appropriate committees of Session) to work through the issues expressed in the visitation related to pastoral visitation and preaching. Following discussion and indication from Dr. Human that this work is under way, the motion CARRIED.

MOTION (Shaw / Bannerman) THAT Knox Presbyterian Church participate in a visioning process in the near future with an experienced church leader serving as a facilitator, with particular attention to church size and congregational growth. CARRIED.

MOTION (Shaw / Bannerman) THAT the Session provide continuing education for all the elders on matters of the duties and responsibilities of elders and skill development for elders. CARRIED.

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MOTION (Shaw / Bannerman) THAT the Minister of Knox Church, the Rev. Dr. Andrew Human, participate in a Church Leadership and Management course as part of his continuing education within the next year. Following discussion and confirmation from Dr. Human that he does have study leave available, the motion CARRIED.

MOTION (Shaw / Bannerman) THAT the Board of Managers of Knox Church ensure that the issues re the Christian Education wing of the church building be dealt with as soon as possible. CARRIED. Dr. Human reported that this is already in process. An architect is working with Knox to determine their vision for the future and how the building can be adapted to the vision.

MOTION (Shaw / Bannerman) THAT the Presbytery of London conduct a follow-up visitation to Knox Presbyterian Church, St. Thomas, in November 2007 to ensure the care and oversight of the Presbytery in support of this congregation of God's people. CARRIED.

MOTION (Shaw / Evans) THAT the Visitation Team to Knox Presbyterian Church, St. Thomas, be dismissed with the thanks of the Court. CARRIED.

b) Visitation Team to St. George's Presbyterian Church, London - this report was previously circulated. There were no motions contained in the body of the report, and it was

MOVED (Shaw / Speir) THAT this report be accepted. CARRIED.

MOTION (Shaw / Evans) THAT the Visitation Team to St. George's Presbyterian Church be dismissed with the thanks of the Court. CARRIED.

Leading With Care Team	Due to the absence of the Chairperson of this team, the report will be presented at the May meeting of Presbytery.
Hospital Visitor Team	No Report
Youth and Campus Ministries Team	Mavis Currie reminded members of the Court of the upcoming Youth Volleyball Tournament on May 26 th , and asked that this event be promoted within each congregation.
Website and Communications Team	No Report
Small Church Ministries Fund	No Report

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**Evangelism
Team**

Owen Thornton reminded everyone of the upcoming Workshop in May 5th, and indicated that there are approximately 19 people registered to date. He also mentioned the REAP conference, scheduled for May 12th.

**Reports on
Vacancies**

DaySpring - this vacancy was fully reported upon at the 7:30 Stated Hour.

St. John's, Port Stanley - Interim Moderator, Terry Ingram reported that everything at St. John's is in good order.

Rodney / Kintyre / New Glasgow - Interim Moderator, Johan Olivier, drew everyone's attention to the report which had been circulated, and asked for guidance as to what details and conclusions are to be reported on in relation to the Viability Study. Several suggestions were forthcoming.

New St. James, London - The Clerk read a report from the Interim Moderator, Keith McKee, in his absence. Mr. McKee reported that he and the Clerk of Session, Mrs. Mary Lou McCrimmon were attending the meeting of the Presbytery of Hamilton to prosecute the call to the Reverend Andrew Reid on behalf of the congregation of New St. James. Plans are underway for the induction service, to be held on Sunday, June 10th, 2007 at 3:00 o'clock in the afternoon. The Reverend Dr. Alan McPherson, Moderator of the 1995 General Assembly will be preaching at the induction service.

New St. James continues to mourn the sudden death of Charles Parsons. Mr. Neil Dickieson, the alternate representative elder has agreed to represent the congregation until such time as the Session appoints a new representative elder.

The congregation continues to appreciate the ministry of their Interim Minister, the Reverend Dr. Bob Robinson, whose last Sunday at New St. James before vacation is May 27, 2007.

St. Lawrence, London - No report as the Interim Moderator had sent regrets for this meeting.

**Moderator
Search Team**

Chris Evans reported on behalf of the Moderator Search Team, indicating that Mr. Tom Jeffery has agreed to serve a second term as Moderator.

MOTION: (Evans / Fraser) THAT Mr. Tom Jeffery be appointed for a second year as Moderator, this term to run from September 1, 2007 until August 31, 2008.
CARRIED.

NOTICE OF MOTION (Evans) THAT at a future meeting of the Presbytery of London, I will move or cause to be moved, on behalf of the Moderator Search Team, THAT in future, Moderators be appointed for two year terms.

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Adjournment On a motion by Jim Redpath, the Court stood adjourned at nine-thirty o'clock in the evening (9:30 pm), to reconvene in Regular Session on Tuesday, the eighth day of May, two thousand and seven, at the hour of seven o'clock in the evening, in Rodney, and within the Rodney Community Centre, 135 Queen Street, Rodney, Ontario, which is a wheelchair accessible facility, and hosted by St. John's Presbyterian Church, Rodney. The Moderator closed the meeting with prayer.

Moderator

Clerk