

Minutes of the Presbytery of London

Knox Presbyterian Church, Komoka, Ontario, June 19, 2007, 7:00 p.m.

In Komoka, and within Komoka Presbyterian Church, the Presbytery of London met in Regular Session on Tuesday, the nineteenth day of June, two thousand and seven, at the hour of seven o'clock in the evening.

Worship 7:00 pm The Reverend Kathy Fraser led the opening worship service.

Constitution The Moderator, Mr. Tom Jeffery constituted the Court with Prayer

Welcome and Courtesies The Moderator welcomed everyone to the Meeting, and formally introduced the Reverend Andrew Reid, recently inducted Minister at New St. James Presbyterian Church. All members of the Court were invited to introduce themselves.

Attendance Hugh Appel, Kate Ballagh-Steeper, John Bannerman, Amanda Birchall, Sabrina Caldwell, Deborah Dolbear-Van Bilsen, Kathy Fraser, Andrew Human, Terry Ingram, Gloria Langlois, Keith McKee, Douglas Miles, Lynn Nichol, Johan Olivier, Jim Redpath, Andrew Reid, Robert Shaw, Kevin Steeper, Michael Stol, Mark Turner, Ministers; John Cameron, Susan Cushman, Neil Dickieson, Ruth Ann Drozd, Marilyn Edwards, Chris Evans (Clerk), John Goodfellow, Mildred Greig, Wayne Hindmarsh, Tom Jeffery, Ken Keith, Rachelle Kernahan, Sharon Marshall, Adele McCallum, Margaret McCullough, Bill McMurchy, Sheila McMurray, John McNeil, Ben Ormseth, Linda Riddell, Gordon Sims, Owen Thornton, Donna Jean Van Bilsen, Trudy Van der Hoek, Peter VanderKooy, Sandra Van der Veen, Allan Woolner, Elders, Carol Rayner, Treasurer, Rob Evans, Elmwood, Brian Luscombe, Ailsa Craig, Fern Simpson, Ailsa Craig, Bob McCallum, Ailsa Craig, Bob Baron, New St. James, Diane Brodie, North Caradoc-St. Andrews, Others.

Regrets Mavis Currie, Minister; Larry Langford, Joan Mansell, Don Speir, Elders.

Absent Charlotte Brown, Robert Robinson, Ministers; Joe Ruitenbeek, Doris Tutt, Elders.

Docket The Docket had been circulated with the Advance Reports, and the following amendments were made: Item 11 (I) moved to prior to Item 7; Josleyn Reid to give a 5-minute presentation regarding L'Arche, following Item 7. AGREED that the Docket as amended be accepted for this meeting.

Website and Communications Team AGREED that Mr. Ben Stephenson be given permission to speak to this report. Ben Stephenson presented the report for the Website and Communications Team.

MOTION (Stol / Evans) THAT the Upcoming Events page on the Presbytery Website be removed as of September, 2007. CARRIED.

MOTION (Stol / Evans) THAT Mr. Ben Stephenson continue to be contracted as the webmaster of the Presbytery site. CARRIED.

MOTION (Stol / Evans) THAT the webmaster be paid \$600.00 (\$50.00 / month) for his work on the website. CARRIED.

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MOTION (Stol / Evans) THAT the technical costs of the website (approximately \$200.00 / year) continue to be paid by the Presbytery. CARRIED.

MOTION (Stol / Evans) THAT the committee present an evaluation of the website to the Court in 2010. CARRIED.

The Moderator thanked Ben for his presentation and gave him permission to withdraw.

General Assembly Reports

AGREED that the following Commissioners to General Assembly be given permission to speak: Anne Webster, Diane Brody and YAR Rachael Nyitray. The Commissioners to General Assembly were invited to speak to their written reports as follows:

Rachael Nyitray
Life and Mission Agency

- Planned Giving
- Stewardship and Presbyterians Sharing
- Education for Mission
- Education for Faith
- Ministry with Children, Youth and Families
- Evangelism and Church Growth
- Worship

Kate Ballagh-Steeper

- Committee on Theological Education
- Committee on History
- Archives
- MacLean Estate Committee
- Atlantic Mission Society
- Women's Missionary Society

Anne Webster

- Clerks of Assembly
- Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations Committee

Ruth Ann Drozd

- Assembly Council
- Presbyterian Church Building Corporation

Linda Moffatt

- Committee on Church Doctrine
- Presbyterian Record

Owen Thornton

- Trustee Board
- Fund for Ministerial Assistance
- Pension and Benefits Board

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Johan Olivier
- International Affairs
- Life and Mission Agency
- Justice Ministries

Kathy Fraser
Life and Mission Agency
- Canada Ministries
- Ministry and Church Vocations
- Resource Production and Communication

Diane Brodie
Life and Mission Agency
- Program Support and Administration
- International Ministries
- Presbyterian World Service and Development

The Moderator thanked all these individuals for representing the Presbytery of London at the General Assembly.

Ailsa Craig AGREED that the Presbytery of London receive and consider the report of the Ailsa
Dissolution Team Craig Dissolution Team.

The Reverend Deborah Dolbear-Van Bilsen circulated the motions the team was presenting, along with the Ailsa Craig Proposed Mission Plan, and while members of the Court were given some time to review these documents, it was AGREED that members of Ailsa Craig Presbyterian Church be given permission to address the Court. Brian Luscombe, Clerk of Session, spoke of the history of Ailsa Craig Church, of his support for the Mission Plan and of his appreciation for the hard work and dedication of Adele McCallum, and of the dedicated ministry of the Reverend Kate Ballagh-Steeper. Wayne Hindmarsh, Representative Elder, spoke also in favour of the Mission Plan, and expressed his appreciation for the ministry of the Reverend Kate Ballagh-Steeper, as she shared in the lives of the congregation of Ailsa Craig.

MOTION (Dolbear-Van Bilsen / Fraser) THAT the Presbytery receive the circulated "Proposed Mission Plan" from the congregation of Ailsa Craig Presbyterian Church, and recommend it to the Presbyterian Church in Canada. Following some discussion, the motion CARRIED.

MOTION (Dolbear-Van Bilsen / Fraser) THAT the Presbytery of London receive and consider the summary of information of the "Settlement Agreement" (for the pastoral charge of Ailsa Craig Presbyterian Church) between the Minister, the five Trustees and the two representatives of Presbytery as recommended and drafted by a local lawyer working on behalf of the Court (from the desk of Mr. R. Mahoney) as presented by the Ailsa Craig Dissolution Team of Presbytery. (Once received from Presbytery, all three parties, eight bodies in total shall sign gthis document in its final draft from the lawyer, with a witness present.) The Committee recommends the

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maximum transition term of four months. Following some discussion and questions, the motion CARRIED.

MOTION (Dolbear-Van Bilsen / Fraser) THAT the Presbytery of London homologate the actions advised by the Treasurer's Office of the Presbyterian Church in Canada to proceed forward to sell the manse of the Ailsa Craig Presbyterian Church, and that the Presbytery receive the verbal update regarding the sale of the church manse as presented by D. Dolbear-Van Bilsen. CARRIED.

MOTION (Dolbear-Van Bilsen / Fraser) THAT the following be recorded in the Minutes of the Presbytery of London: "The Dissolution Team and the Presbytery of London would like to formally thank Ailsa Craig Presbyterian Church members and adherents past and present for their faithfulness in service to our Lord, Jesus Christ, and for their diligence in service to the Presbytery of London and the Presbyterian Church in Canada. CARRIED.

The members of Ailsa Craig Presbyterian Church came forward and formally thanked the Reverend Kate Ballagh-Steeper for sharing her God-given gifts with their congregation throughout their ministry together. Kate was presented with a bouquet of roses and a gift and card from the Ailsa Craig congregation. Kate also thanked the members of the Ailsa Craig Presbyterian Church for their faithful service to the church, and also their faithful action in making the difficult decisions which had been made with respect to the dissolution of this congregation. Presbytery was also thanked for their support throughout this process.

MOTION (Dolbear-Van Bilsen / Fraser) THAT the following be recorded in the Minutes of the Presbytery of London: "On behalf of the Ailsa Craig Dissolution Team of Presbytery, and the Presbytery of London, that the Reverend Kate Ballagh-Steeper receive our words of appreciation for her diligence serving our Lord in Ailsa Craig Presbyterian Church and actively participating in roles of leadership within the Presbytery of London. We shall continue to extend our prayers, support and our good wishes to Kate as we show our appreciation tonight. God Speed in the future, Kate." CARRIED.

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MOTION (Evans / Stol) THAT the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of May 8, 2007 be adopted as printed and circulated. CARRIED.

Administrative Team Report

The Clerk, Mrs. Chris Evans, and the Moderator, Mr. Tom Jeffery, presented the Report of the Administrative Team.

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

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Number	From	Regarding
07-26	S. Shaffer, Comm. Educ & Reception	<u>To be Rec'd as Minister:</u> Rev. Chi-Hwan An, Presby. of Western Han-Ca Rev. Anthon Bouw, Presby. of Winnipeg Rev. Kyu Young Choi, Presby of Eastern Han-Ca Rev. Karsten Decker Rev. Johannes (Jim) De Villiers Rev. Willian Alan Dowber, Presby. of Paris Rev. Soo Hyun Kim, Presby of Western Han-Ca Rev. Yo-Hwan Kim, Presby. of Eastern Han-Ca Rev. Paul S. W. Lam Rev. Eunsung Moon, Presby. of Eastern Han-Ca <u>Examination for Certification for Ordination</u> Mr. Martin Baxter, Presby. of Westminster Ms. Christina M. Conroy, Presby of Assiniboia Mrs. Dorothy M. Henderson, Presby. of Oak Ridges Mrs. Peggy A. Kipfer, Presby. of Waterloo Mr. David I. Pandy-Szekeres, Presby. of West Toronto
07-28	E. Bartlett	Changes to the Roll
07-27	Margaret Hyde, Oakridge PC	Plans for Bldg. Renovation/Expansion
07-30	J. MacDowell, Presby. of Wat. Well.	Dwight Strain - lack of credentials, ordination
07-32	C. McPherson, Presby. of Pictou	Suspension from Christian Ministry - Rev. H. K. Stright

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

Number	From	Regarding	Refer To
07-29	Ruth Ann Drozd, New Glasgow	Enclosing Memorial - B. Buchan	Admin. Team
07-31	Synod Missions Committee	Church Planting	Evangelism
07-33	John Lyle, Knox, St. Thomas	Bulk buying of Gas	Admin Team
07-34	Owen Thornton	Good News Suggestion	Admin Team

REC. #3 (Stol / Evans) THAT the Clerk notify the Clerk of Session of New Glasgow that the Memorial from Mr. Buchan be dismissed.

AMENDMENT (McKee / Stol) that the words “Memorial from Mr. Buchan be dismissed” be replaced by “Transmission by the Clerk of Session of the Memorial from Mr. Buchan not be received. CARRIED.

AMENDED MOTION THAT the Clerk notify the Clerk of Session of New Glasgow that the transmission by the Clerk of Session of the Memorial from Mr. Buchan not be received. CARRIED.

**Banking
Arrangements**

REC. #4 (Evans / Stol) THAT the Treasurer, Clerk and Moderator be given authority to transfer the Presbytery Bank accounts and investments upon maturity to a more convenient financial institution offering more favourable banking terms than those presently in effect. CARRIED.

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Regular Meeting Schedule for 2007 - 2008 **REC. #5** (Evans / Stol) THAT in compliance with the Standing Orders, the Regular Meetings of the Presbytery of London for 2007 / 08 be as follows: CARRIED.

September 11, 2007	Chalmers, London
October 9, 2007	DaySpring, London
November 13, 2007	Elmwood, London
January 8, 2008	Knollwood Park, London
February 12, 2008	New St. James, London
March 11, 2008	Oakridge, London
April 8, 2008	St. George's, London
May 13, 2008	St. Lawrence, London
June 17, 2008	Trinity Community, London

According to the Standing Orders of the Presbytery of London, "Whenever there is a member of Presbytery with a physical disability, the congregation scheduled to host a meeting of Presbytery will ensure that the meeting will be held in an appropriately accessible facility, and should this arrangement not be possible, the congregation will contact the Clerk of Presbytery who will make alternate arrangements for the meeting to be held at another facility which is appropriately accessible."

Elder Commissioners, 2007-08 **REC. #6** (Evans / Stol) THAT the following Commissions for Elders (Representative / Alternate Representative Elder) be recognized and their names be added to the Roll of the Presbytery of London for September 2007 to August 2008: Appin/Melbourne: Susan Cushman/Judith Chamberlain; Belmont/North Yarmouth: Joan Mansell/Eva Roberts; Crinan/Largie: Jackie Leitch/Bill McMurchy; Dorchester/South Nissouri: Terry Axford/Larry Gibbings; Dutton: John McNeil/John McIntyre; Fingal: Peter VanderKooy/Janice Lockhart; Glencoe/Wardsville: John Cameron/Gerald Stocking; Ilderton: Margaret McCullough/Linda Riddell; Kintyre/New Glasgow/Rodney: Allan Woolner/Janet Quinton; Komoka/North Caradoc: Mildred Greig/Theresa Glithero; London-Chalmers: John Goodfellow/Norma Stevenson; London-DaySpring: Don Speir/Ruth Carey; London-Elmwood Avenue: Chris Evans/Trudy Van der Hoek; London-Knollwood Park: Carlton Dindial/Joe Ruitenbeek (Ross MacKay-second alternate); London-New St. James: Bob Baron/Neil Dickieson; London-Oakridge: Ken Keith/Olive Bell; London-St. George's: Gordon Sims/Robert Bedggood; London-St. Lawrence: Nancy Springer / Ben Ormseth; London-Trinity Community: Sheila McMurray/ _____; London-Westmount: Barbara Nyitray/Tom Telfer; Mosa: Donna Jean Van Bilsen/ Margaret Field; Port Stanley: Sharon Marshall/Linda McKenna; St. Thomas: Sandra Vandervdeen/Hugh Orchard. CARRIED.

Thank you letters **REC. #7** (Evans / Stol) THAT the following Presbyters who will complete their terms on August 31, 2007 be thanked for their service by a letter from the Clerk: Wayne Hindmarsh/Adele McCallum (Ailsa Craig, effective July 31, 2007), Rachele Kernahan (Dorchester/South Nissouri), Larry Langford (Komoka/North Caradoc), Doris Tutt (Chalmers-London), Owen Price (St. Lawrence-London), Owen Thornton (Westmount-London), Marilyn Edwards (Port Stanley). CARRIED.

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The Administrative has reviewed the Standing Orders and after due consideration has made no recommendations for changes to the Standing Orders for 2007/08.

Appendix to Roll

REC. #8 (Evans / Stol) THAT the name of the Reverend Robert Robinson be moved to the Appendix to the Roll, as he has completed his contract as Interim Minister at New St. James. CARRIED.

REC. #9 (Evans / Stol) THAT the name of the Reverend Gloria Langlois be moved to the Appendix to the Roll, effective the date of her retirement as Minister to the Pastoral Charge of Knox, Belmont and St. James, North Yarmouth, on June 30, 2007. CARRIED.

REC. #10 (Evans / Stol) THAT the name of the Reverend Kate Ballagh-Steeper be moved to the Appendix to the Roll, effective the date of the dissolution of the pastoral tie with Ailsa Craig Presbyterian Church, on July 31, 2007. CARRIED.

Records Examination

MOTION (Stol / Evans) THAT the Session Records of Chalmers Presbyterian Church, London, be attested as being neatly and correctly kept, with the following notes: S. 27.8, 27.9, 27.11 + that the Minute pages be consecutively numbered. CARRIED.

Josleyn Reid L'Arche

AGREED that Josleyn Reid be given permission to address the Court. Josleyn was welcomed and she gave a brief presentation about the L'Arche communities in London, and encouraging people to participate in these programmes.

Students and Education Team

REC. #1 (Caldwell / Stol) THAT Gale Turnbull be recertified as a candidate for ministry within the Presbyterian Church in Canada. CARRIED.

Sabrina Caldwell also asked members of the court to consider joining this team, as their numbers are down.

Denomination Work Team

No Report

Vacancy and Visitation Team

MOTION (Shaw / Appel) THAT a visitation team consisting of Hugh Appel and Jim Redpath and their elders, conduct a follow-up visit to Knox Presbyterian Church, St. Thomas, in the fall of 2007.

AMENDMENT (McKee / Fraser) THAT one of the original visitation team be part of the follow-up visitation team. CARRIED.

AMENDED MOTION THAT a visitation team consisting of Hugh Appel and Jim Redpath, their elders and one of the original visitation team conduct a follow-up visit to Knox Presbyterian Church, St. Thomas, in the fall of 2007. CARRIED.

Visitation to Knox, Fingal

Hugh Appel spoke to the report on the Visitation Team to Knox Presbyterian Church, Fingal.

MOTION (Dolbear-Van Bilsen / Birchall) THAT the Visitation Team to Knox Presbyterian Church, Fingal be dismissed with the thanks of the Court. CARRIED.

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Hugh Appel shared news of celebrations at Duff Church, Largie, with twelve new members joining their congregation.

Leading with Care Team

Michael Stol presented the report of the Leading with Care Team. He indicated that a "Pastoral Care Team" was discussed, with the following suggested **terms of reference**: to offer pastoral care, support, encouragement, and a "listening ear" to those clergy in our midst who are in crisis, or need to talk about their ministries in an environment of trust and confidence. Conversations would be kept in utter confidence, and there would be no reports to Presbytery concerning these conversations from this team. There would simply be a report of due diligence to the Leading with Care Team each year.

MOTION (Stol / Evans) THAT a Pastoral Care Team be established for the purpose of supporting, encouraging, and listening to clergy within the bounds of our Presbytery who are in crisis, or who feel the need of a "listening ear" and collegial support, with the above terms of reference.

Discussion followed with questions and comments both in favour and against this motion, resulting in

MOTION TO REFER (Bannerman / Ballagh-Steeper) back to the Leading with Care Team, with the advice to consult with the Ministry and Church Vocations people at the National Church Offices. CARRIED.

Hospital Visitor Team

No Report

Youth and Campus Ministries

No Report

Small Church Ministries Fund

No Report

Evangelism Team

Owen Thornton spoke briefly to the Report of the Evangelism Team, which had been circulated previously.

Strategic Visioning Team

MOTION (Evans / Stol) THAT the following be appointed to the Strategic Visioning Team: Kevin Steeper, Michael Stol, Ruth Ann Drozd, and two additional members, to be named at a later date. CARRIED.

Reports of Interim Moderators

DaySpring, London - Rob Shaw reported that things are going well at DaySpring, and that Andras Rameshwar is in the process of finding out the necessary steps to be recognized as a Minister in the Presbyterian Church in Canada.

St. John's, Port Stanley - Terry Ingram reported that things are going well.

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Rodney / Kintyre / New Glasgow - Johan Olivier, one of the two Interim Moderators reported that the three congregations had been holding meetings, and conducting a SWOT (Strengths-Weaknesses-Opportunities-Threats) Analysis, and they will be considering the following three scenarios:

Maintaining the Status Quo / Exploring the idea of amalgamation / Suspension of services at the charge and joining another congregation.

Since the original mandate was to identify the viability of the New Glasgow charge only, and it appears the same issues apply to all three congregations,

MOTION (Olivier / Woolner) THAT the Interim Moderator, together with the Joint Session evaluate the viability of the pastoral charge of New Glasgow / Rodney and Kintyre and report to Presbytery. CARRIED. It is hoped that this will be done before the end of 2007.

St. Lawrence, London - Lynn Nichol reported that Ministry is continuing, and that candidates are being interviewed.

Belmont / North Yarmouth - Kevin Steeper reported on behalf of the Exit Review Team and also the Interim Moderators.

REC. #1 (Steeper / Bannerman) THAT the Reverend Gloria Langlois be commended for her strong and faithful ministry to the pastoral charge and to the Presbytery of London. CARRIED.

REC. #2 (Steeper / Bannerman) THAT the Sessions be commended for their support concerning the Rev. Langlois' ministry. CARRIED.

REC. #3 (Steeper / Bannerman) THAT the Session of Knox, Belmont, be commended for revising the membership roll and for the formation of the Information Gathering Team. CARRIED.

REC. #4 (Steeper / Bannerman) THAT the congregations of St. James, North Yarmouth and Knox, Belmont engage in a visioning process concerning their future with the support of the Presbytery of London. CARRIED.

REC. #5 (Steeper / Bannerman) THAT the pastoral charge not proceed with a search for a Minister of Word and Sacrament until the visioning process is complete and they have received approval from the Presbytery. CARRIED.

REC. #6 (Steeper / Bannerman) THAT the Belmont Petition / Exit Review Team be dismissed with the thanks of the Court. CARRIED.

The Rev. Steeper also reported that the Interim Moderators have been meeting with the two congregations and sessions, and that pulpit supply is in place through the summer.

Other Business

General Assembly, 2011 - Keith McKee spoke regarding his report which had been circulated with the docket and advance reports, stressing the importance of the meeting which is set for September 25, 2007, encouraging participation from each congregation, and reminding everyone that plans must be made well in advance of such an event.

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Rural Church Workshop - Amanda Birchall spoke regarding the Rural Church Workshop Proposal, on Saturday, October 13, 2007, with a suggested budget of \$900.00.

RECOMMENDATION (Birchall / Redpath) THAT the Presbytery of London sponsor the workshop described in the report, by providing the needed funds as set out in the proposed budget. CARRIED.

Wayne Hindmarsh asked to speak to the Court, and was encouraged to do so. He indicated that he had only been involved in Presbytery for a short time, and his original feeling about Presbytery is that it is made up of “useless tools”, but after his time as a Representative Elder, now feels that it is made up of “useful tools”. He has attended two inductions and one service of dissolution, and feels that it is important for the members of Presbytery to attend these events, to share in the celebrations of the fellow Presbyters and congregations, as well as to offer support in the sad times. Discussion followed regarding the message the Clerk had circulated expressing disappointment in the poor turnout for the most recent induction service, and while some supported the message, others felt the Clerk should be reprimanded.

NOTICE OF MOTION (M. Stol) “At a future meeting of the Presbytery of London I will make or cause to be made the following motion: THAT Inductions of Ministers into charges be held in a regular Sunday worship service with attendance by the Moderator, Clerk and Interim Moderator.”

Adjournment

On a motion by Hugh Appel, the Court stood adjourned at nine twenty-five in the evening (9:25 pm), to meet again in Regular Session on Tuesday, the eleventh day of September, two thousand and seven, at seven o'clock in the evening, in London, and within Chalmers Presbyterian Church. The Moderator closed the meeting with prayer.

Moderator

Clerk