

Minutes of the Presbytery of London

St. John's Presbyterian Church, Rodney, Ontario, at Rodney Community Centre, Tuesday, May 8, 2007, 7:00 p.m.

In Rodney, and within the Rodney Community Centre, and hosted by St. John's Presbyterian Church, Rodney, the Presbytery of London met in Regular Session on Tuesday, the eighth day of May, two thousand and seven at the hour of seven o'clock in the evening.

- Worship** The Reverend Johan Olivier led the opening worship service.
7:00 pm
- Constitution** The Moderator, Mr. Tom Jeffery, constituted the Court with Prayer.
- Welcome & Courtesies** The Moderator welcomed everyone to the meeting, and invited introductions of visitors. Theresa Glithero, Clerk of Session at North Caradoc was introduced, as well as Gail Turnbull, student at Knox College, and members of St. John's Church, who had arranged the use of this wheelchair-accessible facility, and provided refreshments. The Moderator took a moment to congratulate Andrew Human on the birth of his first grandchild, a girl.
- Attendance** Hugh Appel, Kate Ballagh-Steeper, John Bannerman, Charlotte Brown, Mavis Currie, Deborah Dolbear-Van Bilsen, Kathy Fraser, Andrew Human, Keith McKee, Douglas Miles, Lynn Nichol, Johan Olivier, Jim Redpath, Robert Robinson, Robert Shaw, Ministers; John Cameron, Susan Cushman, Neil Dickieson, Marilyn Edwards, Chris Evans, John Goodfellow, Wayne Hindmarsh, Tom Jeffery, Ken Keith, Rachelle Kernahan, Larry Langford, Sharon Marshall, Margaret McCullough, Bill McMurchy, John McNeil, Ben Ormseth, Linda Riddell, Gordon Sims, Don Speir, Gerald Stocking, Owen Thornton, Doris Tutt, Donna Jean Van Bilsen, Peter VanderKooy, Sandra Van der Veen, Elders; Pam Bradshaw, Bill Bradshaw, Betty King, Anna Nagy, St. John's, Rodney, Rob Evans, Elmwood, London, Andras Ramashwar, DaySpring, Rev. V. Murray, Pickering, Others.
- Regrets** Amanda Birchall, Sabrina Caldwell, Terry Ingram, Gloria Langlois, Linda Moffatt, Kevin Steeper, Michael Stol, Ministers; Carlton Dindial, Ruth Ann Drozd, Joan Mansell, Sheila McMurray, Joe Ruitenbeek, Allan Woolner, Elders.
- Absent** Mark Turner, Minister.
- Docket** The Docket had been circulated along with the Advance Reports, and the Court AGREED that the Docket be accepted as printed.
- Memorial Minute** The Reverend Keith McKee was invited forward to present a Memorial Minute for
Charles Parsons Mr. Charles Parsons, as follows:

Charles C. Parsons died suddenly at his residence in London on Thursday, March 20, 2007 in his seventy-eighth year. Mr. Parsons was an active elder at New St. James Presbyterian Church, and was the representative elder to the Presbytery of

Minutes of the Presbytery of London

St. John’s Presbyterian Church, Rodney, Ontario, at Rodney Community Centre, Tuesday, May 8, 2007, 7:00 p.m.

London for a number of years. Mr. Parsons enjoyed a distinguished career with the Canada Trust Company, retiring in 1992 as Senior Vice President, Southwestern Ontario Region. His financial acumen served the Church well. Mr. Parsons served on the Board of Managers at New St. James Church, and with the Thomas Kent Trust. He also led a lively Bible Study at New St. James, which met at six o’clock in the morning. Four years ago Mr. Parsons was appointed to the Assembly Council of the Presbyterian Church in Canada. His gifts were immediately recognized. He devoted many hours to the Council’s financial sub-committee and its audit committee. Most recently Mr. Parsons served on the ad hoc committee dealing with matters related to professorial stipends. Over the years, Charles Parsons also devoted much time to charities that were close to his heart. These included the Canadian Diabetes Association and St. John’s Ambulance. Charles was greatly admired and respected by colleagues, friends and his Church family. He had a quick mind, a way with words, and a gentle ability to put one in one’s place when one stepped out of line. Mr. Parsons’ funeral service was held on Saturday, March 24, 2007 at tow o’clock in the afternoon at New St. James Presbyterian Church. Charles was predeceased by his beloved wife Fran. He is survived by his children Lisa and her husband Terry Gregorini of Ingersoll, Grant and his wife Judy of Stayner, and Ian of Stratford. He was the cherished grandfather of Michael and Sara Gregorini and Ben and Matthew Parsons. Charles Parsons was a Christian man of deep faith and integrity who shared his beliefs with others in words and in actions.

The Moderator asked the Court to rise for a Moment of Silence, closing with “We Will Remember Him”.

Minutes

MOTION (Evans / Fraser) THAT the Minutes of the Special Meeting of April 1, 2007 be adopted as printed and circulated. CARRIED.

MOTION (Evans / Fraser) THAT the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of April 10, 2007 be adopted as printed and circulated. CARRIED.

Administrative Team Report

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

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

Number	From	Regarding
07-23	Terrie-Lee Hamilton	Copy of Cong. Orders for A&P
07-25	S. Kendall	Receipt of Change of Commissioner (1 Minister)

Minutes of the Presbytery of London

St. John's Presbyterian Church, Rodney, Ontario, at Rodney Community Centre, Tuesday, May 8, 2007, 7:00 p.m.

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

Number	From	Regarding	Refer To
07-22	Dr. Fred Rennie	Experimental Fund	Circulate
07-24	Terrie-Lee Hamilton	Changes Affecting Prof. Church Wrks	Clerk

Strategic Visioning Team Further to a motion made at the January meeting of Presbytery, namely: *“THAT the Administrative Team take action to look into problems in rural and other congregations experiencing difficulties.”*

REC. #3 (Evans / Fraser) THAT the Presbytery Strategic Visioning Team be established, develop terms of reference, and that the Moderator name this team consisting of no more than five members. CARRIED.

General Assembly 2011 Further to the announcement that the Presbytery of London will be hosting the General Assembly in 2011, a local arrangements committee should be established now to begin planning this event.

REC. #4 (Evans / Fraser) THAT Keith McKee head up the local arrangements committee to plan for the hosting of the General Assembly in London in 2011, and that Keith be given permission to select and to receive names of individuals to work on this committee with him. CARRIED.

Permission to Sit and Correspond Following the Service of Recognition for the Reverend Andras Rameshwar as an Ordained Missionary at DaySpring Presbyterian Church, and based on the precedent set by the Reverend Robert Sinasac,

REC. #5 (Evans / Fraser) THAT the Reverend Andras Rameshwar be given permission to sit and correspond at meetings of the Presbytery of London while he is on contract at DaySpring. CARRIED.

Open House for Murdo Pollock Presentation An Open House will be held at St. George's Presbyterian Church in the afternoon of Sunday, May 27, 2007 to celebrate the 60th Anniversary of the Reverend Murdo Pollock's Ordination to the Ministry of Word and Sacrament.

REC. #6 (Evans / Fraser) THAT a gift of a \$100 Dinner Gift Certificate be made to Murdo Pollock by the Presbytery of London in recognition of his years of service to the Presbytery of London, to be presented at above-noted Open House. CARRIED.

Minutes of the Presbytery of London

St. John's Presbyterian Church, Rodney, Ontario, at Rodney Community Centre, Tuesday, May 8, 2007, 7:00 p.m.

Records Examination	MOTION (Currie / Evans) THAT the Session records of St. Lawrence Presbyterian Church, London, Ontario be attested as being neatly and correctly kept. CARRIED. The Session records of Ailsa Craig Presbyterian Church, scheduled for review at this meeting will be presented for review at the June meeting of Presbytery.
Students and Education Team	No Report
Denomination Work Team	No Report
Vacancy and Visitation Team	No Report, but Keith McKee expressed the appreciation of St. George's Presbyterian Church congregation and session for the manner in which their recent visitation was conducted.
Leading with Care Team	A report from the Leading with Care Team will be presented at the June meeting.
Hospital Visitor Team	Charlotte Brown reported that the Hospital Visitor Team is working on the Memorandum of Agreement, and will have a report and recommendations to the Administrative Team as soon as possible.
Youth and Campus Ministry Team	Mavis Currie indicated that prizes are needed for the Youth Volleyball Tournament on May 26 th .
Website and Communications Team	Mavis Currie indicated that this team will report at the June meeting of Presbytery.
Small Church Ministries Fund	No Report
Evangelism Team	Owen Thornton reported on the huge success of the recent Workshop held on May 5 th at Westmount Church, led by the Reverend Jim Czegledi.
Reports on Vacancies	<u>DaySpring</u> - Robert Shaw reported that "All is well at DaySpring". <u>St. John's, Port Stanley</u> - No Report
	<u>Rodney / Kintyre / New Glasgow</u> - Johan Olivier reported that a Joint Congregational meeting is to be held on May 27 th , followed by a Joint Session

Minutes of the Presbytery of London

St. John's Presbyterian Church, Rodney, Ontario, at Rodney Community Centre, Tuesday, May 8, 2007, 7:00 p.m.

meeting on May 31st. Issues to be discussed regarding viability are whether to maintain the status quo, amalgamation, or suspension of services and joining with other congregations.

New St. James - Keith McKee reported on events and progress at New St. James. He expressed gratitude to the Rev. Dr. Bob Robinson for his work as Interim Minister and summarized his ministry over the past twenty months. Dr. Robinson's final Sunday at New St. James will be May 27th. The congregation will be holding a special fellowship hour to say goodbye to the Robinsons. Keith McKee will be celebrating Holy Communion at New St. James on June 3rd, and in the morning of June 10th, the Rev. Joyce Elder will be preaching. The Service of Induction of the Reverend Andrew Reid will be held in the afternoon of June 10th, and the Moderator of the 1995 General Assembly, the Reverend Dr. Alan McPherson will be preaching. Rev. McKee also reported that a new representative elder to replace Mr. Charles Parsons will be elected by the New St. James Session at a meeting to be held within the next week. Keith reported that New St. James has seized hold of this transition period to get its house in order to welcome well a new minister.

St. Lawrence - Lynn Nichol reported that the pulpit is being supplied, services are well-attended, new members will soon be welcomed, baptisms are planned. She reported that interviews are being conducted, and anticipates that Presbytery will be asked to process a call within the next few months.

Knox-Belmont / St. James -North Yarmouth - John Bannerman reported that the Interim Moderators are in the process of meeting with the two Sessions and conducting exit interviews. A report will be given at the June meeting.

**Moderator
Search Team**

Chris Evans had given a Notice of Motion on at the previous meeting of Presbytery as follows: "At a future meeting of Presbytery, I will move or cause to be moved, THAT in future, Moderators be appointed for two-year terms."

MOTION (Evans / Fraser) THAT in future, Moderators of Presbytery be appointed for two-year terms, beginning with the 2008-2010 term. Following discussion, the motion CARRIED by a majority. Lynn Nichol and Don Speir recorded their opposition to the motion.

MOTION (McKee / Van Bilsen) THAT the Moderator Search Team be dismissed with the thanks of the Court. CARRIED.

**Ailsa Craig
Dissolution**

Deborah Dolbear-Van Bilsen, Mavis Currie and Kathy Fraser presented their report which had been circulated previously.

MOTION (Dolbear-VanBilsen / Currie) THAT the Reverend Sabrina Caldwell be appointed to provide pastoral care to the Reverend Kate Ballagh-Steeper during the process of the dissolution of the pastoral tie at Ailsa Craig. CARRIED.

Minutes of the Presbytery of London

St. John's Presbyterian Church, Rodney, Ontario, at Rodney Community Centre, Tuesday, May 8, 2007, 7:00 p.m.

MOTION (Dolbear-VanBilsen / Currie) THAT the Reverend Kate Ballagh-Steeper be granted Study Leave from May 28 - June 1, and June 11-27, 2007. CARRIED.

MOTION (Dolbear-VanBilsen / Currie) THAT the pastoral tie between the Reverend Kate Ballagh-Steeper and the Congregation of Ailsa Craig Presbyterian Church be dissolved as of July 31, 2007. CARRIED.

MOTION (Dolbear-VanBilsen / Currie) THAT a transition allowance agreement of four months be drafted by the Presbytery Team and presented to the Reverend Kate Ballagh-Steeper in accordance with the recommendations in the Dissolution of Pastoral Tie Document, and presented to the Presbytery of London at its June meeting. CARRIED.

MOTION (Dolbear-VanBilsen / Currie) THAT upon the date of dissolution of the congregation of Ailsa Craig Presbyterian Church, and the final service of worship on May 27, 2007, the following steps will occur as outlined by Mr. Steven Roche at the National Office of the Presbyterian Church in Canada:

i) at 12:00 am, Monday, May 28, 2007, the property of Ailsa Craig Presbyterian Church: the church building and the manse, shall be received by the Board of Trustees in the National Church of the P.C.C. The Board of Trustees shall then handle the legal matters and give the necessary direction according to the policy of the P.C.C.

Amendment

MOVED IN AMENDMENT: (Shaw / McKee) THAT the date May 28, 2007 be changed to July 31st, the date of the dissolution of the congregation. CARRIED. Opposition to the motion by Owen Thornton was recorded.

Friendly Amendment

Friendly Amendment, THAT the phrase "on July 31, 2007" be inserted in the motion to read "THAT upon the date of dissolution of the congregation of Ailsa Craig Presbyterian Church on July 31, 2007 ..." AGREED.

MOTION AS AMENDED: (Dolbear-VanBilsen Currie) THAT upon the date of dissolution of the congregation of Ailsa Craig Presbyterian Church on July 31, 2007, and the final service of worship on May 27, 2007, the following steps will occur as outlined by Mr. Steven Roche at the National Office of the Presbyterian Church in Canada:

i) At midnight, Wednesday, July 31, 2007, the property of Ailsa Craig Presbyterian Church: the church building and the manse, shall be received by the Board of Trustees in the National Church of the P.C.C. The Board of Trustees shall then handle the legal matters and give the necessary direction according to the policy of the P.C.C.

Minutes of the Presbytery of London

St. John's Presbyterian Church, Rodney, Ontario, at Rodney Community Centre, Tuesday, May 8, 2007, 7:00 p.m.

ii) The financial books of Ailsa Craig Presbyterian Church will remain open in order to make all payments necessary to pay the regular and all necessary bills, including the minister's stipend until July 31, 2007, and the minister's dispensation.

iii) The locks on the church be changed as soon as possible following the transfer of ownership, from the Presbytery of London to the P.C.C., for insurance purposes to ensure that the building is secure. The Board of Trustees will give direction to those who will be holders of the keys.

iv) A person will be appointed to check on the building three days per week in accordance with the Insurance Policy (and a new key provided for this person).

v) The Trustee Board will seek the recommendation from the Presbytery for a name of a local, reputable Real Estate Agent. We suggest Mrs. Ruth Ann Drozd - in addition to her upstanding reputation and experience as a Real Estate Agent, she is also an Equalizing Elder in the Presbytery of London, and an Elder of Elmwood Presbyterian Church, London.

vi) The Presbytery Team for Ailsa Craig will convey any interest in obtaining or purchasing the property to the Board of Trustees on behalf of the congregation.

vii) All contents in the church will be dispersed or sold *before* the building is *purchased by the buyer*.

viii) The Presbytery Team for Ailsa Craig will confirm that the Treasurer of Ailsa Craig Presbyterian Church is available to write cheques *until* the church is sold, and will issue 2007 tax receipts in December.

ix) The Presbytery Team for Ailsa Craig will confirm that the Treasurer of Ailsa Craig Presbyterian Church will submit File T30-10 as required by the P.C.C.

x) The Board of Trustees will send a Revocation Notice in June 2008.

CARRIED.

Opposition to the Motion recorded by Owen Thornton.

Assessor Elder Reports

The Clerk, Chris Evans, had received reports from the Assessor Elders of DaySpring and DaySpring.

MOTION (Shaw / Van Bilsen) THAT these reports be received. CARRIED.

DaySpring: Mary Lou McCrimmon (Assessor Elder) wrote describing the history of the term of the assessor elders at DaySpring, concluding "We three Assessor Elders agree that we are satisfied that the Session and congregation of DaySpring

Minutes of the Presbytery of London

St. John's Presbyterian Church, Rodney, Ontario, at Rodney Community Centre, Tuesday, May 8, 2007, 7:00 p.m.

Presbyterian Church are on track to a bright future under the leadership of Rev. Rameshwar and that, with God's guiding hand they are ready to move ahead with confidence. We three therefore question the need for us to continue as Assessor Elders. Inasmuch as we were appointed by Presbytery, we must be dismissed by Presbytery.

MOTION (Fraser / Thornton) THAT Presbytery grant the request of the Assessor Elders of DaySpring and dismiss them with the sincere thanks of the Court.
CARRIED.

Don Speir, Representative Elder and Clerk of Session of DaySpring, expressed the appreciation of the DaySpring Session for the hard work and help of the Assessor Elders.

Knox - New Glasgow: Ruth Ann Drozd (Assessor Elder and Clerk of Assessor Session) and Ian Fleck (Assessor Elder), wrote describing the history of their terms as Assessor Elders to the Knox, New Glasgow church. Both felt that progress is being made and that there can be some agreement and positive change for things to happen within this church and the Three Point Charge of Knox New Glasgow, St. Johns Rodney, and Knox Kintyre. The members recognize the need for the church in the community; and are very positive about the future.

Small Churches Group Report Hugh Appel gave a verbal report following the second "get-together" of the Small Churches. They are hoping to organize a workshop in the fall. Consideration is also being given to holding Regional Services, grouping congregations within reasonable geographical distance, perhaps on the fifth Sundays of months with five Sundays.

Adjournment On a motion by Jim Redpath, Court stood adjourned at eight-thirty o'clock in the evening, (8:30 pm) to reconvene in Special Session on Sunday, the twenty-seventh day of May, at seven o'clock in the evening, in Ailsa Craig, and within Ailsa Craig Presbyterian Church, for the purpose of conducting the final service of worship at seven-thirty o'clock in the evening; and in Special Session on Sunday, the tenth day of June at two-thirty o'clock in the afternoon (2:30 pm), in London, and within New St. James Presbyterian Church, for the purpose of inducting the Reverend Andrew Reid to that pastoral charge in a worship service to start at three o'clock in the afternoon; and in Regular Session on Tuesday, the nineteenth day of June, two thousand and seven, at the hour of seven o'clock in the evening (7:00 pm) in Komoka and within Knox Presbyterian Church. The Moderator closed the meeting with prayer.