

**Minutes of the Presbytery of London  
Appin Presbyterian Church, Appin, Ontario, May 9, 2006**

At Appin, and with Appin Presbyterian Church, the Presbytery of London met in regular session on Tuesday, the ninth day of May, two thousand and six, at seven o'clock in the evening.

- Worship** The Rev. Amanda Birchall and members of the Worship Team of Appin Church conducted the Worship Service.
- Constitution** The Moderator, the Reverend Kathy Fraser constituted the meeting with prayer.
- Attendance** The Rev. Kathy Fraser (Moderator), Hugh Appel, Kate Ballagh-Steeper, Amanda Birchall, Sabrina Caldwell, Mavis Currie, Andrew Human, Terry Ingram, Gloria Langlois, Douglas Miles, Johan Olivier, Robert Shaw, Kevin Steeper, Michael Stol, Mark Turner, Gale Kay, Ministers; Terry Axford, John Cameron, Ruby Cromwell, Ann Dahl, Bruce Dickert, Marilyn Edwards, Chris Evans (Clerk), Ian Fleck, John Goodfellow, Tom Jeffery, Jacqueline Leitch, Joan Mansell, Sharon Marshall, Adele McCallum, Margaret McCullough, Sheila McMurray, John McNeil, Hugh Orchard, Charles Parsons, Owen Price, Linda Riddell, Gordon Sims, Don Speir, Owen Thornton, Trudy VanderHoek, Sandra Van Der Veen, Donna Jean Van Bilsen, Peter VanderKooy, Allan Woolner, Elders; Robert Sinasac (Ordained Missionary), Rob Evans, Elmwood Ave., Mildred Greig, Komoka (WMS), Ray Henderson, North Caradoc/St. Andrews, Doug Bruce, Oakridge, Bob Wilson, St. James, N.Yarmouth, and Carol Rayner, Elmwood, Others.
- Regrets** Regrets were received from the following: John Bannerman, Keith McKee, Linda Moffatt, Lynn Nichol, Jim Redpath, Robert Robinson, Deborah Dolbear-Van Bilsen, Ministers; Ruth Ann Drozd, Margaret Field, Ken Keith, David & Mary Jane Laphorne, Joanne Lisiecki, Dorothy Meikle, Ben Ormseth, Gerald Stocking, Elders.
- Welcome and Courtesies** The Moderator welcomed everyone to the meeting, and informed those present that Mrs. Shirley McNair, Clerk of Session of New St. James Presbyterian Church, had passed away on Friday, May 5<sup>th</sup>, and that her funeral was held on Monday, May 8<sup>th</sup>, 2006. Mrs. McNair was a long-time faithful servant of the church, and will be fondly missed.
- A number of guests were welcomed and introduced to the members of the Court.
- Memorial Minute** The Rev. Michael Stol presented the following Memorial Minute for the late  
**The Rev. Lee Donahue** Reverend Lee Donahue, who died on January 9, 2006:
- “Lee Donahue lived the last few months of his life with that monstrous disease of cancer. He is survived by his wife, Lillian and five children. Lee accepted the fact that he did not have much time left, and one of the first things he did when he knew the end was near was to organize a party - his ‘premature wake’, he called it. He gathered his friends and loved ones around to say good-bye while he was still strong enough, and so that they didn’t get to party without him, he said.*”

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*“Lee served in many ways during his long lifetime. Lee volunteered in 1938 to serve in the armed forces, serving with the RAF throughout WWII in the Mediterranean and African theatres of war, including the siege of Malta. After the war, Lee devoted much time and energy to over 50 charitable activities and organizations - in Ontario, New Brunswick, British Columbia, and several areas of Quebec.*

*“In Montreal West, he was President of the local Canadian Legion for many years, he was active in the Royal Canadian Flying Club Association, he involved himself with the governing boards of the YMCA, and he worked with crippled children at the MacKay Institute in Montreal. While living in Montreal, his home became the meeting place for the Hungarian Refugee Society. In the late 1950's, in Montreal, Lee was instrumental in organizing an umbrella committee to deal with issues concerning poverty. Lee was also an early pioneer in organizing the Arctic Institute of North America, helping to pursue the objectives of continuing research into the environment, and the welfare of youth in the High Arctic.*

*“It was in Kimberley, B.C., that Lee began to become involved with the Presbyterian Church, and when Lee became involved with anything, there were no half measures! Soon, he began leading regular Sunday Services as a lay leader, and re-organizing the curriculum and structure of the Sunday School in the same church.*

*“Later, in Montreal, he became a very active member of the Montreal West Presbyterian Church. Here, for 35 years, Lee was Sunday School teacher and Superintendent. Also during the years before his ordination he was a regular lay preacher at several churches in Eastern Quebec.*

*“In coming to know Lee, I soon discovered that the “Call of God” was very important to him. As he recounted stories to me, it was evident that Lee had spent his life listening intently to the inner voice of God calling him to various tasks. His one regret was in not surrendering to the call he received to Ministry of Word and Sacrament at a much earlier date than he did. In 1980, he could ignore that Call no longer. Finally, after 37 years working at Air Canada in several executive positions, Lee took early retirement to pursue the calling to ministry that he had received from God some time ago.*

*“In 1983, Lee was inducted as the Minister of Word and Sacrament in the Ephraim Scott Memorial Church, in Montreal, where he served with great enthusiasm, great passion and great faith.*

*“Lee loved God, and God’s people passionately. Even when he was ill, he could hardly wait to hear of the news from the church - of the activities that were coming up, asking about people, and our plans for the future. I took him our Session agendas and our Presbytery minutes, and he devoured all of that information even as he lay sick.*

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*“Lee loved life and was always determined to live his life to the fullest. He was a long-distance runner for 45 years, averaging 75 hours a week. In fact, he ran the equivalent of the Boston Marathon on his 72<sup>nd</sup> birthday! I remember laughing at his stories of how he was arrested 7 times while running in the wee hours of the morning. The police in the 1950's were not yet used to seeing lone runners up at 4 a.m. jogging!*

*“Lee was a compassionate extrovert who loved to be in the company of others. On a personal note, I treasured his friendship a great deal. He was a confidante, and an encourager. He offered his wisdom and his advice, but never pushed it. I appreciated his quick wit and his easy laugh. He took this world seriously, but not too seriously and he taught me to not always take myself too seriously. He could see the humour and the absurdities that life sometimes offered up. To know him as colleague and friend was an honour and a great privilege. Lee lived to be 88 years old - and filled every minute of it.*

*“Well done, good and faithful servant!”*

**Docket** It was agreed that the Docket be accepted as printed and circulated.

**Stated Hour** Owen Thornton, Chairperson of the Evangelism (Church Growth) Team, introduced  
**Alpha Canada** Susan and Martin Sandig who gave an informative presentation regarding Alpha Canada.

**Correspondence** RECOMMENDATION #1 (Evans / Stol) THAT the following correspondence be received for information: CARRIED

Number	From/Date (d-m)	Regarding
06-17	Asian Studies, Knox College	Cross Cultures Event May 15/06
06-19	L. Sinclair, Niagara	General Assembly
06-21	S. Kendall	Receipt of ballots
6-23	T. Hamilton	Changes to Roll

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

Number	From/Date (d-m)	Regarding	Refer To
06-18	G. Haynes,	Fund for Ministerial Assistance	Presbytery
06-20	J. Czeglédi	Liturgies for closing church buildings or when congregations amalgamate	Presbytery copied
06-22	T. Hamilton	Changes Affecting Professional Workers	Clerk
06-24	S. Philpot	Update Information re A&P	Clerk
06-25	D. Leader, Pres. Record	Subscriptions for Nursing Homes	Admin.Team
06-26	K. McKee, (IM - New St. James)	Permission to suspend health & dental premiums	Admin Team
06-27	C. Campbell, Presby. Huron-Perth	Certificate of Transfer - David Clements	Clerk

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**Hospital Visitor Focus Team** MOTION (Evans / Stol) THAT the report of the Hospital Visitor Focus Team be presented at this point in the meeting. CARRIED.  
AGREED that Mr. Doug Bruce, the Presbytery's Hospital Visitor be given permission to address the Court.  
Mr. Doug Bruce, Hospital Visitor, gave a report on his ministry in the hospitals in London over his first year in this position.

**Minutes** MOTION (Evans / Stol) THAT the Minutes of the regular meeting of March 14, 2006 be adopted with the following correction - that the financial report was reviewed, not audited. CARRIED.

**Administrative Team Report** MOTION (Evans / Stol) THAT the name of the Reverend Donald McInnis be moved to the Appendix to the Roll of the Presbytery of London, effective April 1, 2006. CARRIED.

MOTION (Evans / Stol) THAT in response to receipt of the Certificate of Transfer of the Rev. David Clements from the Presbytery of Huron Perth, that his name be added to the Appendix to the Roll of the Presbytery of London, effective immediately. CARRIED.

The Clerk indicated that she had received a verbal request from the Rev. James T. Hurd, Clerk of the Presbytery of Ottawa, to transfer the name of the Rev. Harold Kouwenberg from the Appendix to the Roll of the Presbytery of London to the Presbytery of Ottawa.

MOTION (Evans / Stol) THAT the Clerk send the Certificate of Transfer of the Rev. Harold Kouwenberg to the Presbytery of Ottawa, upon receipt of written request. CARRIED.

MOTION (Evans / Stol) THAT the Presbytery of London endorse the request of New St. James Church that its premiums for the position of Senior Minister of the congregation be suspended effective June 1, 2006.

**Trinity Community Presbyterian Church** MOTION (Stol / Jeffery) THAT the Clerk be instructed to send a registered letter to the Clerk of Session, with a copy to the Minister and to the Treasurer of Trinity Community Presbyterian Church, noting concerns regarding delinquency in payments of Presbytery Dues, as well as lack of participation in the Presbytery of London.

Following discussion and comments from the Rev. Mark Turner of Trinity and Representative Elder, Sheila McMurray, the motion was **RESCINDED**.

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**Records  
Examinations** Tom Jeffery indicated that the Session Records of six congregations had been examined, and made the following motions:

MOTION (Jeffery / Currie) THAT the Session Records of Appin Presbyterian Church be attested as neatly and correctly kept, *cum nota*. CARRIED.

MOTION (Jeffery / Currie) THAT the Session Records of Guthrie Presbyterian Church, Melbourne, be attested as neatly and correctly kept, *cum nota*. CARRIED.

MOTION (Jeffery / Currie) THAT the Session Records of DaySpring Presbyterian Church, London, be attested as neatly and correctly kept, *cum nota*. CARRIED.

MOTION (Jeffery / Currie) THAT the Session Records of Elmwood Avenue Presbyterian Church, London, be attested as neatly and correctly kept. CARRIED.

MOTION (Jeffery / Currie) THAT the Session Records of Oakridge Presbyterian Church, London, be attested as neatly and correctly kept, *cum nota*. CARRIED.

MOTION (Jeffery / Currie) THAT the Session Records of St. George's Presbyterian Church, London, be attested as neatly and correctly kept, *cum nota*. CARRIED.

Mr. Jeffery then commented on some of the deficiencies found in the Minutes, such as pages not numbered, pages not signed, pages not indexed, erasures etc. not noted and initialled, vacant spaces not crossed and signed by the clerk, unacceptable binders. He noted that the use of computer generated minutes has created logistical issues related to the type of binders used. It was suggested that a workshop be set up for Clerks of Session to discuss these issues.

**Students and  
Education Team** RECOMMENDATION #1 (Caldwell / Ballagh-Steeper) THAT Kate Ballagh-Steeper be granted Study Leave to work on an 18 month Advanced Certificate in Conflict Management through Conrad Grebel University College, Waterloo. CARRIED.

RECOMMENDATION #2 (Caldwell / Ballagh-Steeper) THAT Bob Robinson be granted Study Leave to attend the 65<sup>th</sup> Annual Institute of Theology at Princeton Theological Seminary, June 25 - 30, 2006. CARRIED.

RECOMMENDATION #3 (Caldwell / Ballagh-Steeper) THAT the Presbytery of London certify Mr. Robert Wilson as a candidate for ministry within the Presbyterian Church in Canada. CARRIED.

RECOMMENDATION #4 (Caldwell / Ballagh-Steeper) THAT Gale Turnbull be re-

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certified as a candidate for ministry within the Presbyterian Church in Canada.  
CARRIED.

RECOMMENDATION #5 (Caldwell / Ballagh-Steeper) THAT as a result of receipt of notification that Robert Sinasac has successfully completed the courses required by the Committee on Reception and Theological Education and the General Assembly, Robert Sinasac's name be added to the constituent roll of the Presbytery of London. CARRIED.

RECOMMENDATION #6 (Caldwell / Ballagh-Steeper) as a follow-up to Notice of Motion given in March, 2006, THAT we discontinue the Education portion of the meetings of the Presbytery of London. CARRIED.

**Denominational Work Team** RECOMMENDATION #1 (Ballagh-Steeper / Stol) THAT the Presbytery of London reply "yes" to indicate our support of the changes to the Book of Forms, Chapter 9 (as reported in the 2005 Acts and Proceedings, pages 537-553). CARRIED.

RECOMMENDATION #2 (Ballagh-Steeper / Appel) THAT the Presbytery of London reply "yes" to indicate our support of the changes to the Book of Forms in Remit B. CARRIED.

**Vacancy and Visitation Team** No Report

**Moderator Search Team** MOVED (Steeper / Evans) THAT Mr. Tom Jeffery be named as the Moderator of the Presbytery of London starting in September, 2006. CARRIED.

**Treasurer Search Team** MOVED (Evans / Jeffery) THAT the Treasurer Search Team be allowed to present the name of their recommendation for Treasurer at the meeting of May 9, 2006, without previously circulating that name. CARRIED.

MOVED (Evans / Jeffery) THAT Mrs. Carol Rayner be named as the Treasurer of the Presbytery of London, effective June 1, 2006. CARRIED.  
The Convenor of the Treasurer Search Team introduced Mrs. Rayner, and gave a brief description of her experience and suitability for this position.

MOVED (Evans / Jeffery) THAT the Treasurer Search Team be dismissed.  
CARRIED.

**Campus Ministry/ WebSite/ Communications Team** Mavis Currie made a presentation related to the Presbytery WebSite, and made the following recommendations:

RECOMMENDATION #1 (Currie / Thornton) THAT the Presbytery WebSite continue for one more year in the same way as it is at present. (The site will be re-evaluated next spring) CARRIED.

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RECOMMENDATION #2 (Currie / Olivier) THAT this committee be responsible to monitor and report regarding the web page. They would meet three times a year: once in September, once in January and once in April. CARRIED.

RECOMMENDATION #3 (Currie / Olivier) THAT a separate committee of Presbytery be struck and be responsible for ministry to youth and young adults. CARRIED.

**Small Church  
Ministries Fund** No Report

**Evangelism  
(Church Growth)** Owen Thornton spoke briefly to the report of the Evangelism (Church Growth) Team, which had been circulated with the advance reports.

**Vacancies** DaySpring, London Gloria Langlois, Co-Interim Moderator reported that DaySpring is no longer pursuing amalgamation with another congregation, and is now taking steps towards a half-time ministry position. Profiles are being sought, and a notice has been published in the most recent issue of the Presbyterian Record. Gloria reported that the pulpit is being supplied.

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St. John's, Port Stanley Terry Ingram reported that he will be meeting with the Session of St. John's in the next week. He expressed appreciation for the Lay Ministry being provided by Tom Jeffery.

Rodney / Kintyre / New Glasgow No Report

New St. James, London No Report

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Glencoe / St. John's, Wardsville Kate Ballagh-Steeper reported that the Rev. Deborah Dolbear-Van Bilsen started as Stated Supply in May.

St. Lawrence, London No Report

**Adjournment** On a motion by Tom Jeffery, the Court stood adjourned at nine fifteen o'clock in the evening, to meet again in Regular Session on the twentieth day of June, two thousand and six, at the hour of seven o'clock in the evening, preceded by a dinner, to be served at six o'clock in the evening, in Belmont, and within Knox Presbyterian Church, Belmont. The Moderator closed the meeting with prayer and the Benediction.

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K. Fraser, Moderator

C. Evans, Clerk