

Minutes of the Presbytery of London

Ailsa Craig Presbyterian Church, Ailsa Craig, November 8, 2005, 7:00 p.m.

At Ailsa Craig, and within Ailsa Craig Presbyterian Church, the Presbytery of London met in Regular Session on Tuesday, the eighth day of November, two thousand and five, at seven o'clock in the evening. The Moderator, the Reverend Kathy Fraser, constituted the meeting with prayer.

- Attendance** The Rev. Kathy Fraser (Moderator), Hugh Appel, Kate Ballagh-Steeper, John Bannerman, Amanda Birchall, Sabrina Caldwell, Mavis Currie, Terry Ingram, Gloria Langlois, Don McInnis, Keith McKee, Linda Moffatt, Lynn Nichol, Jim Redpath, Robert Robinson, Robert Shaw, Michael Stol, Ministers; Ann Dahl, Bruce Dickert, Ruth Ann Drozd (Alternate), Marilyn Edwards, Chris Evans (Clerk), Margaret Field, Ian Fleck (Alternate), Tom Jeffery, Ken Keith, Jacqueline Leitch, Joanne Lisiecki, Sharon Marshall (Alternate), Adele McCallum, Margaret McCullough, Irene McLean (Alternate), John McNeil, Dorothy Meikle, Ben Ormseth, Charles Parsons, Linda Riddell (Alternate), Don Speir, Gerald Stocking, Owen Thornton, Sandra Van Der Veen, Peter VanderKooy (Alternate), Allan Woolner, Elders; Robert Sinasac, Lay Missionary; Audrey Gordon, Treasurer; Shirley Redpath, W.M.S., Kay Hirtle, Port Stanley, Don Durkin, Port Stanley, Mary Henderson, North Caradoc-St. Andrews, Ron Snell, New St. James, Others.
- Regrets** Regrets were received from: Andrew Human, Harold Kouwenberg, Douglas Miles, Johan Olivier, Kevin Steeper, Ministers; Terry Axford, Ruby Cromwell, John Goodfellow, Doug Hill, Gordon Sims, Elders .
- Absent** Mark Turner, Minister; Carl Crossett, Bill Kinchlea, Elders.
- Welcome and Courtesies** The Moderator welcomed the members of Presbytery to the meeting, and extended a special welcome to Mrs. Shirley Redpath, representing the W.M.S., and also members of St. John's Church in Port Stanley, and other guests in attendance.
- Docket** **AGREED** that the docket be accepted as printed and circulated.
- Worship** The Worship Service was conducted by the Rev. Kate Ballagh-Steeper, with music provided by Mr. Wayne Hindmarsh.
- Minutes** Minutes of the special meeting of October 5, 2005, the regular meeting of October 11, 2005, and the special meeting of October 18, 2005 had been printed and circulated to the Presbytery at least ten days prior to the meeting.
MOTION (Evans / Thornton) THAT the minutes of the special meeting of October 5, 2005 be approved, with the addition of the attendance of M. McCullough and R. Robinson. CARRIED.
MOTION (Evans / Thornton) THAT the minutes of the regular meeting of October 11, 2005 be approved. CARRIED.
MOTION (Evans / Thornton) THAT the minutes of the special meeting of October 18, 2005 be approved. CARRIED.
- Stated Hour** Worship in Panicky Times Mary Kloosterman, Chairperson of the Synod of

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Southwestern Ontario Congregational Life Committee was introduced.

MOTION (Langlois / Bannerman) that Mary Kloosterman be given permission to speak. CARRIED

Ms. Kloosterman gave a presentation to the Court regarding an upcoming workshop entitled "Worship in Panicky Times", scheduled for March 3, 4, 5, 2006, and encouraged members of the Presbytery to attend. The keynote speaker will be Dr. Tom Long, Candler Professor of Theology, Emory University, Atlanta.

The Moderator thanked Mary for her presentation, and invited her to remain for the remainder of the meeting.

Stated Hour

St. John's Presbyterian Church, Port Stanley The report from St. John's, Port Stanley, and a copy of the proposed contract had been circulated prior to the meeting. The Reverend Don McInnis presented the proposed contract for Mr. Tom Jeffery to provide Lay Missionary ministry to St. John's, Port Stanley.

MOTION (McInnis / Edwards) THAT the Presbytery of London approve the job description as provided. CARRIED.

MOTION (McInnis / Edwards) THAT the Presbytery of London approve the appointment of Mr. Tom Jeffery as a Lay Missionary (without specialized training) for the period of one year retroactive to September 1, 2005, in accordance with the terms of the contract which has been approved by the Session of St. John's Presbyterian Church, Port Stanley. CARRIED.

MOTION (McInnis / Edwards) THAT the Interim Moderator and the Session of St. John's Presbyterian Church, Port Stanley, serve as an Advisory Committee to this Lay Missionary following the practice and advice of the Presbyterian Church in Canada. CARRIED.

MOTION (Evans / McInnis) THAT the members of St. John's Presbyterian Church, Port Stanley, be given permission to address the Court. CARRIED.

The following members of St. John's Church spoke in support of the appointment of Mr. Tom Jeffery as Lay Missionary to their congregation: Sharon Marshall, Don Durkin, Kay Hirtle. Thanks were also expressed to the Interim Moderator, the Rev. Don McInnis for his guidance through this process.

MOTION (McKee / McInnis) THAT the Moderator of Presbytery in cooperation with the Interim Moderator and Session of St. John's Church make arrangements for a recognition service for Mr. Jeffery. CARRIED.

Administrative Team Report

The Clerk, Mrs. Chris Evans, presented the Administrative Team Report.

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

Number	From/Date (d-m)	Regarding
05-126	S. Philpot (10-10)	Changes to the Roll
05-127	Presbytery of Oak Ridges (14-10)	Letter of Standing - Rev. Nadar Awad
05-130	H. Appel (05-10)	DaySpring
05-131	S. Shaffer, Ctee on Education & Reception	Reception as Minister: Rev. In Kyu Park, Rev. Hyung Rae

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05-132 R. Sinasac Song, Rev. Ibrahim G. Wahby; Examination for Certification: Mr. Edward M. W. Charlton. Thanks for Stalker Fund support

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

Number	From/Date (d-m)	Regarding	Refer To
05-128	Presbytery of Calgary-Macleod (10-10)	Call to the Rev. Joys Platform	Presbytery
05-129	Jude Archer-Green (Synod Clerk) (25-10)	Mooney Appeal	Admin Team

It was reported that Synod decided not to receive the appeal of the Moneys as it did not outline any aspect of procedure that was not followed, or followed correctly by the Presbytery, nor did it introduce any new information. The Clerk of Synod will be writing formally to the Moneys and the Clerk of the Presbytery of London.

REC. #3 (Evans / Thornton) THAT the following ministry teams be named as listed: CARRIED.

Core Ministry Teams

Administrative Team: Moderator (ex officio), Past Moderator (ex officio), Clerk (ex officio), Audrey Gordon, Tom Jeffery, Robert Sinasac, Michael Stol, Owen Thornton.
Students and Education Team: Sabrina Caldwell, Audrey Gordon, Kate Ballagh-Steeper.

Denominational Work Team: Kate Ballagh-Steeper, John Bannerman, Kevin Steeper.
Vacancy and Visitation Team: Hugh Appel, Tom Jeffery, Lynn Nichol (Note: Lynn will convene the first meeting but will not be staying on the committee.)

Focus Ministry Teams

Small Church Ministries Fund: Audrey Gordon (Ex Officio), Tom Jeffery, Lynn Nichol, Amanda Birchall, John Goodfellow.

Hospital Visitor Team: Harold Kouwenberg, John Commie, Don McInnis
Communication and Campus Ministry Project (Presbytery Web Site) Team: Johan Olivier, Mavis Currie, Audrey Gordon, Ben Stephenson.

***Evangelism (Church Growth) Team:* Owen Thornton, Michael Stol, John Bannerman**

Hymn Fast Team: No Hymn Fast in 2005/6 year. Team will be re-formed for 2006/7.

REC. #4 (Evans / Thornton) THAT the Denominational Work Team assume responsibility of overseeing the implementation and support of the Leading with Care Policy (to be completed by the end of June, 2006).

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AMENDMENT (McKee / Parsons) THAT all congregations in the Presbytery of London implement the Leading with Care Policy. CARRIED.

MOTION AS AMENDED: THAT all congregations in the Presbytery of London implement the Leading with Care Policy, and that the Denominational Work Team assume responsibility of overseeing the implementation and support of the Leading with Care Policy (to be completed by the end of June, 2006. CARRIED.

REC. #5 (Evans / Thornton) THAT starting with the January, 2006 meeting of the Presbytery of London, we will gather for a 15 minute Worship Service at 7:00 p.m. led by the host congregation, followed by Constitution and the business of the Court. CARRIED.

REC. #6 (Evans / Thornton) THAT the following Elder Commissioners to the 2006 General Assembly be named: Margaret McCullough (Bethel, Ilderton), Larry Gibbings (South Nissouri), Ruby Cromwell (Knox, Fingal), Ian Fleck (Knox-St. Andrews, Dutton). CARRIED.

Budget

AGREED THAT the Treasurer, Mrs. Audrey Gordon, be given permission to address the Court. CARRIED.

The Treasurer, Mrs. Audrey Gordon presented the proposed Budget for 2006.

MOVED (Evans / Redpath) THAT the proposed Budget for 2006 be accepted.

AMENDMENT (Nichol / Keith) THAT an additional line of \$1,000 for contingent expenses be added to the budget. DEFEATED.

The original motion CARRIED.

Examination of Session Records

Tom Jeffery reported that he had examined the Session Records of Ailsa Craig Presbyterian Church, Ailsa Craig.

MOVED (Jeffery / Field) THAT the Session records of Ailsa Craig Presbyterian Church, Ailsa Craig, be attested as neatly and correctly kept. CARRIED.

Tom Jeffery reported that he had examined the Session Records of Knox Presbyterian Church, Kintyre.

MOVED (Jeffery / Field) THAT the Session records of Knox Presbyterian Church, Kintyre, be attested as neatly and correctly kept, *Cum Nota*. CARRIED.

Students and Education Team

No Report

Denomination Work Team

The Reverend Kate Ballagh-Steeper presented the report of the Denomination Work Team, which had been circulated prior to the meeting.

REC. #1 (Ballagh-Steeper / Langlois) THAT the Presbytery of London nominate the

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Reverend Karen Horst for the position of Executive Director of PWS&D. CARRIED
REC. #2 (Ballagh-Steeper / Bannerman) THAT the following actions of the 131st
General Assembly be received for the information and study of Presbyters, and
Sessions within the Presbytery of London. CARRIED.

1.1 Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations Committee, Rec. No. 1 p. 286 Acts and Proceedings

That the document entitled “Covenanting for Justice in the Economy and the Earth” be commended for study, and that responses to the document be forwarded to the Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations Committee by January 31, 2006 (Document can be found on pg. 281-86 of 2005 A&P)

2.1 Special Committee re: Overture Nos. 11 and 13, Rec. No. 2, p. 43

That the 131st General Assembly advise presbyteries seeking to respond to requests from ministers for guidance in the conduct of marriages and requests from congregations for guidance for the participation to be guided by the confessional position of the Presbyterian Church in Canada on the definition of marriage, and that this be the response to Overture 13, 2005.

3.1 Assembly Council, Rec. No.5, p. 210

That the church be called to observe a year of Sabbath preparation starting November 27, 2005 followed by a Sabbath Year in its life and ministry commencing on December 3, 2006.

4.1 Committee on Church Doctrine, Rec. No 2, p. 267 A&P

That with the understanding contained in the above paper Assembly affirm the continued use of the term ‘stipend’ to refer to provision for and payment to ministers.

4.2 Committee on Church Doctrine, Rec. No. 4, p.267

That the “word to the payer and the payee” found in the section; “practical applications” be commended for reflection to all presbyteries, congregations and ministers of the denomination as well as Church Offices.

The section referred to in this recommendation may be found on pg. 261 of A&P and is printed as follows;

1. Word to the payer; The following are good reasons to be generous toward ministers of the gospel quite apart from personalities involved. To stint a minister a. shows disrespect to God, ingratitude for God’s provision of Word and Sacrament, and defiance of scripture; b. disregard for the equity principle of natural law, which because it is universally acknowledged, creates a poor witness before the world; and c. disregard for the minister’s family (where applicable) who are a

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separate concern from the minister.

2. Word to the payee; The following relevant questions for payees to ask themselves when receiving church monies; Am I a. receiving too much; b. failing to disburse again in the Lord's work a due proportion, even to the extent of 'making myself poor' and c. doing the work for which this money has been freely given and to which it has been dedicated"?

5. 1 Committee on History, Rec. No. 2 p. 293

That all church and courts and congregations be strongly encouraged to have their official records microfilmed through the Presbyterian Church Archives, depositing a microfilm copy with the archives.

6.1 International Affairs Committee, Rec. No. 4, p. 303

That the KAIROS/CCODP Water Declaration be endorsed.

The Water Declaration, as found in the preamble to this recommendation is as follows; I agree with the following declaration and commit myself to upholding its principles;

- Water is a sacred gift that connects all life.*
- Access to clean water is a basic human right.*
- The value of the earth's fresh water to the common good takes priority over any possible commercial value.*
- Fresh water is a shared legacy, a public trust and a collective responsibility.*

6.2 International Affairs Committee Rec. No. 5 p. 304

That presbyteries and congregations be encouraged to participate in the 2005-06 joint KAIROS/CCODP campaign on water.

7. 1 Life and Mission Agency, Rec. No. 5 p. 317

That presbyteries and synods give a clearly articulated justification of the Canada Ministries' grants for congregations and other ministries within their bounds in terms of Canada Ministries' guidelines when passing the grant requests on to Canada Ministries for consideration at the Grants Meeting.

8.1 Life and Mission Agency Rec. No. 30, p.425

That the preceding report be commended to presbyteries and professional church workers NB: This report concerns an overture asking for the implementation of an employee assistance program. The prayer of the overture was not granted but report is worth reading.

9.1 Life and Mission Agency Rec. Nos., 57, 58, 59, 60 p. 468

All of these recommendation concern the Church's "Towards a World Without AIDS"

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- campaign;*
- a. that the campaign continue for at least another year*
 - b. that the church continue developing educational and advocacy work on this theme*
 - c. that youth be encouraged to learn about and work with the church on HIV/AIDS issues.*
 - d. that projects that address HIV/AIDS care and education here in Canada be forwarded to Canada Ministries.*

10.1 Maclean Estate Committee, Rec. No. 1, p.523

That presbyteries located within reasonable distance be encouraged to make use of the facilities of Crieff Hills Community for their regional educational events such as Leading with Care seminars.

Rec. #3 (Ballagh-Steeper / Bannerman) THAT the Presbytery of London hold a mid-implementation workshop led by Mr. David Phillips on a date to be announced. CARRIED.

Rec. #4 Withdrawn.

MOTION (Ballagh-Steeper / Birchall) THAT the Presbytery of London nominate the Reverend Glynis Williams for the position of Executive Director of PWS&D. CARRIED.

MOTION (Ballagh-Steeper / Nichol) THAT the Presbytery of London nominate Guy Smagge for the position of Executive Director of PWS&D. CARRIED.

Vacancy and Visitation Team

No Report

Ailsa Craig Visitation Team

The Reverend Amanda Birchall presented the report on the Visitation Team to Ailsa Craig Presbyterian Church, which had been circulated prior to the meeting, and made the following recommendations.

REC. #1 (Birchall / Jeffery) THAT the Presbytery of London encourage Ailsa Craig Presbyterian Church to reach a consensus as to the viability of the future of their ministry. CARRIED.

REC. #2 (Birchall / Jeffery) THAT at the March 2006 meeting of the Presbytery of London, the representative elder of Ailsa Craig Presbyterian Church report on the decision of the congregation in terms of their future course. CARRIED.

REC. #3 (Birchall / Jeffery) THAT if the congregation has not reached a clear consensus as to the future of their ministry by March 2006 then Presbytery will name a committee to discern that with them. CARRIED.

REC. #4 (Birchall / Jeffery) THAT the Presbytery of London acknowledge the 135 years of Christian Ministry of Ailsa Craig Presbyterian Church. CARRIED.

REC. #5 (Birchall / Jeffery) THAT the Presbytery of London commend the Reverend Kate Ballagh-Steeper for her integrity and diligence in her ministry with Ailsa Craig Presbyterian Church. CARRIED.

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REC. #6 (Birchall / Jeffery) THAT the Visitation Team to Ailsa Craig Presbyterian Church be dismissed. CARRIED.

Glencoe and St. John's, Wardsville Visitation Team

The Reverend Gloria Langlois presented the report of the Visitation Team to Glencoe and St. John's, Wardsville churches, which had been circulated prior to the meeting.

REC. #1 (Langlois / Birchall) THAT the visitation Team to Glencoe and St. John's Wardsville Churches be dismissed. CARRIED.

Hospital Visitor Team

The Reverend Don McInnis gave a verbal report for the Hospital Visitor Team. He indicated that Mr. Douglas Bruce, the Presbytery Hospital Visitor is doing a good job and is diligent. Mr. Bruce took a course on Healing Connections, and is involved in other studies. Rev. McInnis reminded members of the Court that this team needs additional members.

Campus Ministry Communication Team

The Reverend Mavis Currie presented the report of the Campus Ministry Communication Committee, which had been circulated prior to the meeting.

REC. #1 (Currie / Thornton) THAT the Minutes and the Agendas of Presbytery Meetings be E-Mailed by the Clerk of Presbytery to Mr. Ben Stephenson (ben@csd.uwo.ca) to be posted on the Presbytery Website, members' link. CARRIED.

Small Church Ministries Fund

No Report

Evangelism (Church Growth) Team

Owen Thornton presented the report of the Evangelism (Church Growth) Team which had been circulated prior to the meeting, and highlighted some of the progress the Team has made since its recent inception.

Presbyterians Sharing

The Reverend John Bannerman presented the report on Presbyterians Sharing, which had been circulated prior to the meeting. He noted that information regarding Presbyterians Sharing is on the PCC website.

REC. #1 (Bannerman / Thornton) THAT the Presbytery of London recommend to congregations the acceptance of the amounts under the heading "2006 Recommended". CARRIED.

These recommended allocations are attached to the minutes.

REC. #2 (Bannerman / Caldwell) THAT congregations that do not accept the amount recommended by the Presbytery for 2006 give reasons and explanation in writing to the Presbytery through John Bannerman. CARRIED.

Reports on Vacancies

DaySpring Presbyterian Church, London: The Interim Moderators, R. Shaw, and G. Langlois, reported that ministry continues at DaySpring.

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St. John's Presbyterian Church, Port Stanley: The Reverend Don McInnis referred to the steps taken in appointing Mr. Tom Jeffery as Lay Missionary, and indicated that training for the three new elders was underway. He also expressed his appreciation to the Session of St. John's for their support and hard work.

Rodney / New Glasgow / Kintyre: The Reverend Jim Redpath, Interim Moderator, presented the report on this pastoral charge, which had been circulated prior to the meeting.

REC. #1 (Redpath / Woolner) THAT the contract between the pastoral charge of Rodney, Kintyre and New Glasgow and the Reverend Robert Sinasac be extended to the end of 2006. CARRIED.

REC. #2 (Redpath / Woolner) THAT the Presbytery of London allow the congregation of Knox, New Glasgow, to elect two elders from their membership. CARRIED.

New St. James, London: The Reverend Keith McKee, Interim Moderator, gave a verbal report, indicating that things are progressing well, that the Reverend Dr. Robert Robinson is working diligently. A complete report will be presented to Presbytery at a future meeting.

Glencoe, St. John's, Wardsville: The Moderator indicated that the Reverend Hugh Appel has been appointed Interim Moderator Pro-tem, pending Exit Visitation, after which time an Interim Moderator will be appointed.

Adjournment

On a motion by Hugh Appel, the Presbytery stood adjourned at nine o'clock in the evening, to meet again in Regular Session on the tenth day of January, two thousand and six, at the hour of seven o'clock in the evening, preceded by a dinner at six o'clock in the evening, in London, and within Westmount Presbyterian Church. The Moderator closed the meeting with prayer and the Benediction.

K. Fraser, Moderator

C. Evans, Clerk