

Minutes of the Presbytery of London

DaySpring Presbyterian Church, London, Ontario, October 9, 2007, 7:00 p.m.

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

- Worship** The Reverend Andras Rameshwar conducted the worship service, with the Interim Moderator for DaySpring, the Reverend Robert Shaw assisting.
- Welcome, Courtesies and Announcements** The Moderator, Mr. Tom Jeffery, welcomed everyone to the meeting, making special note of visitors from St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Port Credit, and from Knox Presbyterian Church, St. Thomas, and Marion McKenzie from Knox, St. Thomas, representing the WMS.
- Attendance** Hugh Appel, Amanda Birchall, Charlotte Brown, Mavis Currie, Deborah Dolbear-Van Bilsen, Kathy Fraser, Andrew Human, Keith McKee, Douglas Miles, Lynn Nichol, Andras Rameshwar, Robert Shaw, Kevin Steeper, Michael Stol, Ministers; Terry Axford, Bob Baron, John Cameron, Carlton Dindial, Ruth Ann Drozd, Chris Evans (Clerk), Theresa Glithero, John Goodfellow, Mildred Greig, Tom Jeffery (Moderator), Ken Keith, Jacqueline Leitch, Joan Mansell, Sharon Marshall, Linda McKenna, John McNeil, Linda Riddell, Gordon Sims, Don Speir, Nancy Springer, Gerald Stocking, Donna Jean Van Bilsen, Trudy Van der Hoek, Peter VanderKooy, Elders; Carol Rayner, Treasurer; Victoria Murray, Presbytery of Pickering, Rob Evans, Elmwood, London, Judy DeGroote, Bryan Hall, Donald Vicary, Julie Campbell, Chuck Raven, Ian Begg, Leslie Carroll-Frey, John Lyle, Matthew Marshall, Ida Human, Knox, St. Thomas, Marion McKenzie, WMS, Peter Barrow, J. A. Sparling, Carol Harron, Scott Cooper, Alison Cooper, Robert English, Richard Wynn, St. Andrew's, Port Credit, Robert Simpson, Westmount.
- Regrets** John Bannerman, Sabrina Caldwell, Terry Ingram, Linda Moffatt, Johan Olivier, Jim Redpath, Andrew Reid, Mark Turner, Ministers; Margaret McCullough, Bill McMurchy, Sheila McMurray, Barbara Nyitray, Tom Telfer, Sandra VanDerVeen, Allan Woolner, Elders.
- Absent** Susan Cushman.
- Constitution** The Moderator, Mr. Tom Jeffery, constituted the Court with Prayer.
- Docket** The Docket had been circulated prior to the meeting and it was AGREED that this docket be accepted for the meeting.
- Stated Hour 7:30 pm** MOTION (Evans / Baron) THAT Mr. Bob Simpson be given permission to address the Court. CARRIED.
- Building and Extension Fund** Mr. Bob Simpson, Treasurer of the Presbytery's Building and Extension Fund presented the annual financial report.
MOTION (McKee / Shaw) THAT this report be accepted. CARRIED.

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Stated Hour MOTION (McKee / Baron) THAT the actions of the Clerk in citing the congregation of Knox Presbyterian Church, St. Thomas, be homologated. CARRIED.
7:30 pm

Presentation of Call to Andrew Human MOTION (Evans / Baron) THAT the call from St. Andrew's Memorial Presbyterian Church, Port Credit, Ontario to the Reverend Dr. Andrew Human be received and considered. CARRIED.

MOTION (Evans / Baron) That the Reverend Peter Barrow, Interim Moderator of St. Andrew's Memorial Presbyterian Church, Port Credit, Ontario, and the following representatives of St. Andrew's Memorial Presbyterian Church, be given permission to address the Court: Robert English, Alison Cooper, Richard Wynn. CARRIED.

The Moderator called on the Reverend Peter Barrow to speak to the Call. Mr. Barrow read the Call, and then the Guarantee of Stipend as follows:

"We, the office-bearers and members of the congregation of St. Andrew's Memorial Presbyterian Church, Port Credit, being professing members desirous of promoting the glory of God and the good of the church, being destitute of a fixed pastor, and being satisfied by our experience (or, by good information) of the piety, literature, ministerial abilities and prudence, and also of the suitability to our edification of the gifts of you, Rev. Andrew Human, D.Min., have agreed to invite, as we by these presents do invite and call you to undertake the office of pastor among us, promising you, on your acceptance of this our call, all due respect, encouragement, and obedience in the Lord, and further engage to contribute to your suitable maintenance, as God may prosper us. In witness thereof we have subscribed this call on this the 9th day of September in the year 2007."

"We, the congregation of St. Andrew's Memorial Presbyterian Church, Port Credit, hereby present to the Presbytery of Brampton, of the Presbyterian Church in Canada, that the estimated annual revenue of the said congregation for the maintenance of religious ordinance among ourselves is three hundred thousand five hundred and eleven dollars (\$300,511.00).

"We hereby agree to pay out of the said revenue, as it shall be collected, and as first charge thereon, to Rev. Andrew Human, D.Min. the annual stipend of fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000.00), which amount is inclusive of annual car or travel allowance, and to provide twenty four thousand dollars (\$24,000.00) annually for housing allowance, plus cost of utilities. In addition to this shall be reported as stipend, and added to the foregoing amount, the amount expended under the study leave of clauses 1 and 2 below.

"We agree to make payments of the above amounts monthly and we undertake to review the stipend and allowances annually in consideration of any changes in the cost of living or in the needs of our minister. We further engage to use our utmost diligence to the end that Rev. Andrew Human, D. Min. may regularly receive the stipend and allowance herein named.

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“We agree further:

- 1. To give two weeks study leave annually, and to provide at least the minimum allowance as set by the General Assembly.*
- 2. That the benefits of number 1 above shall be cumulative up to five years.*
- 3. To give five weeks holiday annually.*
- 4. To pay for any special assistance required by the congregation during the periods of study leave and holidays.*
- 5. In case of disability or extended illness, to continue to provide stipend, accommodation and allowance for a period not less than that set by the General Assembly, and to pay the cost of any special assistance required by the congregation.*

“In addition, we will pay the necessary moving expenses to settle Rev. Andrew Human, D. Min. as minister in this congregation.”

Three members of the congregation of St. Andrew’s Memorial Presbyterian Church spoke in support of the call to the Reverend Dr. Andrew Human, indicating their feeling that this is a true Gospel Call. All acknowledged the sorrow that will be felt at Knox, St. Thomas.

MOTION (Human / Evans) THAT the following members of the Knox, St. Thomas congregation be given permission to address the Court: Bryan Hall, Judy DeGroot, Matthew Marshall. CARRIED.

The Moderator invited the above-named individuals forward to speak to this call, indicating their regret at the departure of their minister, and voicing their appreciation for Dr. Human’s ministry in their congregation over the past eight years. All wished Dr. Human and the congregation of St. Andrew’s the best for their new ministry.

MOTION (Evans / Baron) THAT the Call to the Reverend Dr. Andrew Human to St. Andrew’s Memorial Presbyterian Church, Port Credit, be sustained as a regular gospel call. CARRIED.

The Moderator invited the Reverend Peter Barrow and the Reverend Dr. Andrew Human, and Mrs. Ida Human to come forward for the presentation of the Call. Rev. Barrow placed the Call in Dr. Human’s hands, and Dr. Human indicated to the Court and all present that he would accept this Call.

Following a five minute recess to allow the visitors to depart, the meeting resumed.

MOTION (Evans / Baron) THAT the Moderator appoint an Interim Moderator for Knox Presbyterian Church, St. Thomas as soon as possible. CARRIED.

MOTION (Evans / Baron) THAT the Moderator appoint an Exit Review team to visit the Session, Congregation and Rev. Human prior to his departure. CARRIED.

MOTION (Evans / Baron) THAT the Reverend Dr. Andrew Human’s last Sunday with the congregation of Knox, St. Thomas, be Sunday, October 28, 2007. CARRIED.

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MOTION (Evans / Baron) THAT the Reverend Dr. Andrew Human be transferred from the Roll of the Presbytery of London to the Roll of the Presbytery of Brampton, effective November 1, 2007. CARRIED.

MOTION (Evans / Steeper) THAT the Exit Review Team to Knox be made up of the following: Deborah Dolbear-Van Bilsen, Robert Shaw, Ruth Ann Drozd. Following discussion and questions, it was brought to the Court's attention that such motion is out of order as the Moderator was empowered to appoint the Exit Review Team. The motion was withdrawn.

The Moderator announced that the Exit Review Team to Knox, St. Thomas will be made up of the following: Deborah Dolbear-Van Bilsen, Robert Shaw, Ruth Ann Drozd.

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MOTION (Evans / Baron) THAT the Minutes of the regular meeting of September 11, 2007 be adopted as printed and circulated. CARRIED.

Note of Clarification: The Reverend Keith McKee noted that the September 11, 2007 minutes indicated that he would be appealing the motion regarding the timing of inductions, to the next higher court. Subsequently, it was learned that pursuant to new rules in the Book of Forms, this procedure is no longer in effect, and that this matter must be dealt with as a complaint.

Administrative Team Report

The Clerk, Mrs. Chris Evans, presented the Report of the Administrative Team, which had been circulated earlier.

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

| Number | From | Regarding |
|--------|------------------------------------|--|
| 07-46 | Richard Fee, Life & Mission Agency | Executive Staff Position |
| 07-52 | Anne Miller, Ctre for Clergy Care | Programme on Difficult Behaviours in Congregations |

REC. #2 (Evans / Baron) that the following correspondence be referred as named, and pursuant to S. 91 of the Book of Forms, Correspondence #07-48 and #07-49, must be read into the minutes: CARRIED.

| Number | From | Regarding | Refer To |
|--------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------|------------|
| 07-47 | Bruce Tallman | Marriage Preparation services | Circulate |
| 07-48 | Keith McKee, St. George's, London | Complaint re Sept. Decision | Admin Team |
| 07-49 | Andrew Reid, New St. James | Reasons for Dissent | Admin Team |
| 07-50 | Donald Muir | Marriage Act | Clerk |
| 07-51 | M. Greig, Knox, Komoka | Request for Assessor Elder | Admin Team |

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Correspondence # 07-48

“At the meeting of the Presbytery of London, held on the 11th day of September, 2007, the following decision was made:

‘That inductions of ministers into charges be held in a regular Sunday worship service with attendance by the Moderator, Clerk and Interim Moderator.’

“At the time of this decision I rose and recorded my dissent with reasons to be given in writing to you within ten days, and with leave to appeal to the next highest court. I now comply.

“I dissent from this decision because I contend that this decision is unconstitutional and is contradictory to the polity of our denomination and the practices of the Presbyterian Church in Canada.”

*Yours in Christ’s Service,
The Reverend Keith McKee*

Correspondence #07-49

“I dissent from the decision of the Presbytery of London re the Stol/Shaw motion at the meeting of the court on September 11, 2007, for the following reasons:

1. This decision contravenes several sections of the Book of Forms. These include, most obviously:

4.1 It is a fundamental principle of Presbytery polity that every member of a court has a right to take part in, and is responsible for, the whole business of the court.

4.3 It is unconstitutional for a court to divide its members or to distribute its functions in such manner that any member is deprived of his/her right in, or relieved of his/her responsibility for, any department of the work of the court, or the court itself restricted to an appellate jurisdiction in relation to such department.

11.2 By virtue of their ordination, all ministers and elders are obliged to exercise full ministry including, among other things, active participation on the ordination of candidates to the eldership and to the ministry of Word and Sacraments...

186: The presbytery meets at stated intervals, and at other times as frequently as its business demands. It is the duty of every member to attend the meetings, and absentees may be called to account...

2. This decision diminishes the role of the court in the induction of ministers by reducing the court’s involvement to a mere handful, thus substituting a congregational mindset for Presbyterian principle.

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3. *This decision is a red herring which fails completely to address the very issue which caused the motion to be presented in the first place: poor attendance by members of the court at induction services. In fact, the motion condones and legitimizes poor attendance.*

Yours sincerely,

Rev. Andrew D. Reid."

Regarding Correspondence #7-50 (Marriage Act), the Clerk informed the Court that she is required to notify the Registrar General of all Clergy in the Presbytery who are entitled to perform marriages. Discussion ensued and it was confirmed that only those Ministers active in pastoral charges or chaplaincies may perform marriages.

REC. #3 (Evans / Baron) THAT the following commission for Alternate Representative Elder be recognized and that his name be added to the roll of the Presbytery of London for September 2007 to August 2008: Blake Wilcox, Wardsville (to replace Gerald Stocking who has been appointed as Equalizing Elder). CARRIED.

Rec. #4 (Evans / Baron) THAT the Moderator be asked to name a committee to review the complaint received from Keith McKee and bring their recommendations to the November meeting of Presbytery. CARRIED.

Note: The Moderator named the following to this committee: Kathy Fraser, Ruth Ann Drozd, Amanda Birchall.

Rec. #5 (Evans / Baron) THAT the Moderator name a new Assessor Elder to Knox, New Glasgow to replace Hugh Orchard, whose resignation was accepted at the September meeting of Presbytery. CARRIED.

Note: The Moderator has named Gerald Stocking as the replacement Assessor Elder to Knox, New Glasgow.

Rec. #6 (Evans / Baron) THAT Bonnie Spindler be appointed as Assessor Elder to Knox, Komoka, to replace Steve Hartman, who has resigned as an Elder at Knox. Following discussion, which suggested that Presbytery could appoint another Assessor Elder in addition to Bonnie Spindler should Knox Session feel this would be helpful, the motion CARRIED.

Rec. #7 (Fraser / Dolbear-Van Bilsen) THAT the previous Assessor Elders to St. John's, Rodney, who had not previously been dismissed, now be dismissed with the thanks of the court. CARRIED.

Core and Focus Team Sign-ups

The Clerk drew the court's attention to the fact that not everyone had been given an opportunity to add their names to the various Core and Focus Teams, and re-circulated the folder of team lists.

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Records Examination The Session Records of New St. James Presbyterian Church, London were examined by Rob Evans.

MOTION (Currie / Evans) THAT the Session Records of New St. James Presbyterian Church, London, be attested as neatly and correctly kept, with notes. CARRIED.

The Session Records of Knollwood Park Presbyterian Church were not available for examination, and therefore must be presented for examination at the November meeting of the Presbytery.

Students and Education Team No Report

Denominational Work Team No Report

Vacancy and Visitation Team MOTION (Shaw / Appel) THAT the team appointed to conduct the follow-up visitation to Knox, St. Thomas be dismissed with the thanks of the Court.

AMENDMENT TO THE MOTION (Currie / Goodfellow) THAT the following be added to the motion: with the understanding that the Exit Team will address the recommendations in the previous report. CARRIED by a majority.

AMENDED MOTION CARRIED by a majority.

Leading with Care Team No Report

Hospital Visitor Team Gale Kay, Convenor, requested the Clerk to convey the message that she had been contacted by Doug Bruce who wanted to share how well things are going.

Youth and Campus Ministries Mavis Currie gave a verbal report indicating that plans are underway for a youth mission trip to Cape Breton next summer to run a Vacation Bible School, that the One Day Wonder will be held at Westmount on February 23, 2008, and that names are being collected for Care Packages for students at Fanshawe and Western. Names of students to receive these packages must be to Mavis by November 10th.

Website and Communications Team No Report

Small Church Ministries Fund Lynn Nichol reported that this team will be meeting on October 29, 2007 at 7:00 pm

Evangelism Team No Report

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**Strategic
Visioning Team** No Report

**G.A. 2011
Local
Arrangements
Committee** Keith McKee reported on the recent meeting held regarding the General Assembly Local Arrangements Committee. The printed report was included with the materials which were sent out with the Docket.
MOTION (McKee / Evans) THAT the steering committee for General Assembly be named as follows: Keith McKee (convenor), Rob Evans, Chris Evans, Tom Jeffery, Mary Lou McCrimmon, and Andrew Reid. CARRIED.

**Reports of
Interim** DaySpring - No Report

Moderators St. John's, Port Stanley - No Report

Rodney / Kintyre / New Glasgow - No Report

St. Lawrence, London - No Report

Belmont / North Yarmouth - Kevin Steeper reported that the pulpit is being supplied, Sacraments are being celebrated (in fact a baptism will be taking place this coming Sunday), and the congregations are involved in a Visioning process.

Other Business John Goodfellow reminded the Court of the guest speaker, Kennon Callaghan, at the upcoming meeting of the Synod of Southwestern Ontario, and of the Women's "Night Out" at Chalmers, led by the Rev. Karen Horst, and also reminded everyone to pick up the Presbyterians Sharing information on the table by the entrance.

Adjournment On a motion by Keith McKee, the Court stood adjourned at nine twenty five (9:25) o'clock in the evening, to meet again in Regular Session on Tuesday, the thirteenth day of November, two thousand and seven, at the hour of seven o'clock in the evening in London, and within Elmwood Avenue Presbyterian Church. The Moderator closed the meeting with prayer.

Moderator

Clerk