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**Presbytery of Essex-Kent**  
**The Presbyterian Church in Canada**  
**Regular Meeting,**  
**Tuesday, April 23, 2024**  
**Valetta Presbyterian Church, Merlin**  
**5:30pm**

**The Presbytery of Essex-Kent was called to meet in REGULAR SESSION on Tuesday, February 20, 2024, within Paulin Memorial Presbyterian Church, Windsor, at 5:30pm, at the call of the Moderator Rev. Shalini Rajack-Sankarlal.**

**Worship**      Led by Sarah Stockford – 5:30pm.

During the dinner time special acknowledgement was made to Rev Chuck Congram for his 50 years of Service as Treasurer to the Presbytery of Essex-Kent (since April 1, 1974). In addition to framed letter of acknowledgement and appreciation from Don Muir and Victor Kim, Chuck received a Bulova watch. And we all ate a delicious celebratory cake!

**Call to Order**

**Prayer and Constitution** – Moderator Rev. Shalini Rajack-Sankarlal led in prayer and constituted the Court willing and able to deal with any matter that properly comes before it.

**Attendance:**

Present in the Court were: Revs. Mike Maroney, Andrew Cornell, Lisa Aide, Shirley Murdock, Shalini Rajack-Sankarlal, Shirley Carleton, Chuck Congram, and Tim Reddish.

Elders present: Barb Sargent, Mark Labadie, Alison Brown, Jane Lung, Sandra Smith, Bryan Stirling, Kathy Parks, Audrey Bauman, and Kathy Dupuis (Valetta Alternative).

Others present: Lay Missionary Brian McGuffin, WMS Representative Carolyn Reid, Sarah Stockford, Bob MacVicar, Andrew Templer, Robert Ivison, and Bob Vriesema.

Rev. Chris Little joined the meeting by iPhone.

**Regrets:** Nancy Carle, Jayne Broughton, Kathleen Knott, Audrey Landon, and Olwyn Coughlin.

**Welcome Guests:** Bob Vriesema, a recently appointed elder from St. Andrew's Dresden.

**Good News Moments and Prayer Requests**

**Rev. Tim Reddish – Clerk**

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**Barb Sargent** updated Presbytery on Jason Cartier's news. His cancer surgery is now likely to take place in London, and the surgery date (which was May 7) is also likely to change. Continue to pray for Jason and his family, and for Knox Wallaceburg.

**Barb Sargent** gave advance notice that Mike Maroney's retirement celebration dinner will take place on June 29; details to follow.

**Barb Sargent** also informed us that her relative Jim Baxter has moved to Hospice care.

**Carolyn Reid** gave each member of Presbytery a colorful laminated bookmark of the life cycle of a Monarch butterfly as an analogy of the Christian journey.

**Mark Labadie** informed us his sister Darlene was ill in hospital with a lung infection.

**Bryan Stirling** reported on a recent delightful musical event at Mount Zion.

**Examination of Session Records:**

Committee to Examine – Rev. Lisa Aide, Alison Brown, Bob MacVicar

April 2024: New St Andrew's Dover and LSA, along with Amherstburg's and Dresden's Rolls.

(Amherstburg's and Dresden's Session Records need bringing to Presbytery to be officially 'stamped'!)

**Reminder of Examination of Session Records' Schedule:**

June 2024 – Chatham and UCC

Sept 2024 – Valetta and Ridgetown

**Adoption of Agenda**

**MOTION: That the Agenda be adopted as presented.**

**MOVED by Aide and Maroney. MOTION CARRIED.**

**MINUTES** – Regular Meeting, February 20, 2024 - pages 4913-4936.

**MOTION – To adopt as presented/amended.**

**MOVED by Reddish and Aide. MOTION CARRIED.**

**REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES**

**ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE**

**Rev. Tim Reddish – Clerk**

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The committee met on April 9, 2024, at the home Barb Sargent, past moderator of presbytery. Also present were Rev. Andy Cornell (convenor), Rev. Chuck Congram (treasurer), and Rev. Tim Reddish (clerk). We opened in prayer.

Regrets: Rev. Shalini Rajack-Sankarlal (moderator and assistant treasurer) and Rev. Shirley Murdock (past clerk).

#### REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

**MOTION: That the Reports of Standing Committees be received and considered.  
MOVED by Cornell and Sargent. MOTION CARRIED.**

#### CORRESPONDENCE

- A letter was received from Audrey Bauman, Clerk of Session for LSA, asking for Presbytery's support for them to incorporate. **Forwarded to Admin.**
- Kathryn Muir communicated to the Clerk details of changes to the Roll. **Forwarded to Presbytery Members.**
- **FYI:** Sandra Smith informed the Clerk that she was no longer able to be Presbytery's Rep Elder for GA, due to an unforeseen clash, and that no one else at New St. Andrew's Dover was able to take on that role. The Clerk informed Rev. Cornell, as Dresden was the next congregation on the Elder GA rota; they had no elder who was able to attend. The Clerk then informed Rev. Little, as LSA is the next congregation on the Elder GA rota, but no one was able to attend. Consideration has now been extended to Mt. Zion Ridgetown.
- Alison Brown wrote to the Clerk asking for clarification concerning adherents on the Session Records checklist. **The Clerk communicated with Don Muir on this matter. The sent the PCC recommended Session Records checklist to all presbyters.**
- Barbara Nawratil from Wynford Drive has been in contact with the Clerk trying to chase up outstanding Tax records/submissions (and other financial matters) for Knox Leamington. **The Clerk informed her of various Knox's treasurers' details and the issues are being resolved.**
- Rev. Sankarlal submitted a letter requesting financial assistance to cover the cost of travel to Montreal for the second part of the Encouragement Conference in May. (The Presbytery approved the previous grant, and she is requesting financial assistance again.) **Forwarded to Finance and Funding.**

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- **FYI:** Emails were sent by the Clerk to Liz Brewer (Wynford Drive) and Kylah Thomson (Knox College) informing them of Presbytery's February decision to approve Sarah Stockford as a candidate for Minister of Word and Sacraments in the PCC. **Acknowledgements were received.**
- Correspondence was received inviting presbyteries to nominate individuals to be considered as delegates to the World Communion of Reformed Churches General Council in October 2025 in Thailand. **Forwarded to Presbytery members.**
- Rev. Shalini Rajack-Sankarlal would like Presbytery's support to be nominated as a delegate to the World Communion of Reformed Churches General Council in October 2025 in Thailand. **Forwarded to Admin.**
- **PCC's Finance Office** sent a letter to ensure that each congregation received their earlier letter regarding the T3010 forms and the statistical report. **Forwarded to Ministers and Rep Elders.**
- Kathryn Muir sent an updated PCC Roll. **Forwarded to Presbytery members.**
- In response to Admin Committee's request to LSA for further details concerning incorporation, a further letter was received from Audrey Bauman, Clerk of Session for LSA. **Forwarded to Andy Cornell, Admin Convenor, with the view that the matter be discussed at Presbytery.**
- **Correspondence** was received (today!) from Rebecca Simpson, Director of Presbyterian Formation informing Presbytery that Brian McGuffin had now successfully completed all ten required courses and is now eligible to receive a Call as Minister of Word and Sacraments in the PCC. **Will be processed by the Clerk.**

**Recommendation: That the above correspondence be received or referred as indicated.**

**MOTION: That the Correspondence be received as listed and noted.**

**MOVED by Cornell and Sargent. MOTION CARRIED.**

1. **Re: LSA's request asking for Presbytery's support for them to incorporate (see Appendix 1)**

This letter was in response to a June 2023 Presbytery motion:

“That LSA present a written proposal to the September meeting of Presbytery, containing their reasons for requesting incorporation, outlining their concerns about liability with rentals and presenting all associated costs.” (Moved by Sargent and Labadie. MOTION CARRIED.)

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Admin Committee notes that the letter (see Appendix 1) did *not* provide financial details. Admin is also asking for assurance that the draft incorporation document has been reviewed by denominational staff (i.e., Wynford Drive) to ensure that it fits within PCC guidelines and polity before considering the request.

The convenor informed LSA of the above decision and received a further reply (see Appendix 2). This letter addressed the earlier concerns.

**Recommendation: To approve “in principle” this *initial* step of LSA towards incorporation in line with PCC guidelines and polity, and in consultation with Wynford Drive. In due course Presbytery would need to approve the complete proposal.**

**MOVED by Cornell and Sargent. MOTION CARRIED.**

2. **Clarification.** In light of Alison Brown’s request for clarification concerning adherents on the Session Records Checklist, the Clerk communicated with Don Muir on this matter. The PCC recommended Session Records Checklist (previously sent to all presbyters) does *not* mention adherents, although their pastoral needs are assumed to be met by each congregation.

**Recommendation: That the Presbytery use the Session Records Examination Checklist provided by the Clerks of Assembly.**

**MOVED by Cornell and Sargent. MOTION CARRIED.**

**Administration Committee matters – updates:**

1. General Presbyter position: Presbytery granted permission in February 2024 to begin the search. Posting was sent to Ministry & Church Vocations in early March and on April 9 it was finally posted on the Vacancies page at: <https://presbyterian.ca/job/presbytery-of-essex-kent-general-presbyter-part-time/> .
2. Standing Orders. Clean copy for distribution and uploading to the website. Minutes also need to be uploaded.
3. Special meeting with Presbytery, LSA reps, and Pension & Benefits Office concerning Presbytery’s assistance regarding the congregation’s pension debt owed to the PCC. Presbytery approved the appointment of a committee consisting of equal number clergy and ruling elders along with a rep from Pension & Benefits (PAB) Board to meet with officials from the congregation, including the interim moderator. Elders

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Phyllis May (Mt. Zion) and Bob MacVicar (Paulin) have agreed to be part of the Presbytery delegation, along with the moderator and clerk. LSA is requesting a meeting in early May, and we have asked them to suggest 2-3 dates. PAB director has been invited. Meeting to take place at LSA.

**New Admin Business:**

1. We have three requests for Presbytery to nominate them as a PCC delegate to the World Council of Reformed Churches (WCRC) conference in Thailand in October. ([Nomination form](#) and [memo with details.](#))
  - a. **Rev. Shalini Rajack-Sankarlal:** “I am writing to propose that I be considered for a mission trip to Thailand with the Presbyterian Church in Canada in 2025. I am a dedicated and experienced minister who has demonstrated a deep commitment to serving the national church, my community, and fostering meaningful connections across cultures.

I have been an ordained minister in the Presbyterian Church in Canada for the past 10 years, currently serving at University Community Church (UCC) in Windsor. I consider myself to have a strong understanding of the church's mission and values, and I consistently seek to effectively communicate and connect with people from diverse backgrounds.

I have also been actively involved in initiating various community outreach initiatives within UCC's neighbourhood, which is situated near the University of Windsor. In my time at UCC, we have organized a free meal for students at UCC that regularly attracts over 150 students of all faiths. This has been so appreciated in addressing food security that it gained the attention of the local CBC radio. We revised our food cupboard to allow for more people in the neighbourhood to access food while connecting with people in the congregation. We have also begun a mid-week program for students that draws over 25 students each week. We started a question and response effort for students at the entrance of UCC that leads to the café housed in our lower level, and I am in the process of developing more outreach initiatives that will be meaningful for the community. I welcome new outreach ideas that speak to the needs of the community.

This passion for social justice and desire to make a positive impact in the lives of others make me an ideal candidate for this mission trip.

I have extensive volunteer experience with the Presbyterian Church in Canada, further strengthening my qualifications for this opportunity. Most recently, I served on the Planning team for the leadership stream of the PCC Uplift Conference, I am

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a member of the Assembly Council, and Moderator of the Presbytery of Essex-Kent. Additionally, I am actively involved with the Finance Committee. I have also served on the Presbyterian Church Building Committee, demonstrating leadership skills and commitment to the church's mission.

My participation in this mission trip would also fulfill a diverse representation of Canadians. My multi-faith background would bring valuable perspectives and insights to the team, further enriching the cultural exchange and learning opportunities during the trip.

Personally, a mission trip with the Presbyterian Church in Canada to Thailand in 2025 would be a deeply life-giving experience. It would provide an opportunity to immerse myself in the rich cultural traditions of Thailand, learn about the local customs and beliefs, and foster meaningful connections with the Thai people. This cross-cultural exchange would broaden my perspectives, deepen my understanding of different faith traditions, and allow me to grow both personally and professionally. It would offer me insights I could bring back to the Presbyterian Church and my congregation.

I sincerely hope that the selection committee will consider my application to represent the Presbyterian Church in Canada on this meaningful and impactful mission trip. Thank you for your time and consideration.”

- b. **Barb Sargent:** “I am asking that the Presbytery of Essex/Kent submit my name as a delegate to the World Communion of Reformed Churches - General Council 2025 Meeting. As part of the Presbyterian Church in Canada I have served on the Assembly Council and other committees for the National Church body. I have been an Elder at First Presbyterian Church Chatham for 30 years. I have been Moderator of the Presbytery of Essex/Kent and have served on various committees within the Presbytery, currently as Convenor of the Life and Mission Committee.

For the last seven plus years I have had the privilege of serving the Congregation of Knox Church, Wallaceburg as their Minister.

Having been a delegate to two International Meetings in the past, I am very familiar with how such meetings work and the need for people to be able to speak clearly on behalf of the denomination. I am used to speaking to large gatherings as a former President of the Ontario Teachers Federation.

I would appreciate your support in this matter. Thank you for your consideration.”

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- c. **Alison Brown:** "I am asking that the Presbytery of Essex/Kent submit my name as a delegate to the World Communion of Reformed Churches - General Council 2025 Meeting.

I was baptized and raised in the Presbyterian Church in Canada. I have volunteered all my life with youth programs and in congregational life, demonstrating leadership skills and commitment to the church's mission. I have been an Elder at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Windsor and now University Community Church, Windsor for a total of 20 years. I am currently Clerk, Presbytery Representative Elder, Trustee, Chair of the Property Team and Administration Assistant.

I have been actively involved in running UCC's various community outreach initiatives in our neighborhood, which is located near the University of Windsor. Our free meals and social gatherings for students of all faiths provide a sense of community that is severely lacking in today's world and our food cupboard continues to provide in this time of food insecurity. All these connect us to the people that surround us and lets them know we truly care.

I would look forward to this trip's focus to promote the renewal and unity of the church and to participate in God's transformation of the world. I think that this experience will help me to learn from others, to eliminate divisions and to promote justice and peace in our broken world.

Thank you for your consideration."

**Recommendation: That Presbytery nominates Rev. Shalini Rajack-Sankarlal, Barb Sargent, and Alison Brown as delegates to the World Communion of Reformed Churches.**

**MOVED by Cornell and Aide. MOTION CARRIED.**

## **Finance and Funding Committee Report**

**Membership:** Chuck Congram, Presbytery Treasurer and Acting Chair; Robert (Bob) MacVicar (Paulin); Andrew Templer (UCC); Shalini Sankarlal (Assistant Treasurer). We met on April 18, 2024.

Chuck had previously provided an update on the general and special funds of the Presbytery (see details below), as well as a copy of relevant material from the Standing Orders regarding utilization of these funds.



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The meeting began with an extensive discussion as to the purpose and focus of the committee. It was unanimously agreed that the committee would be focused on creative ways to utilize the special funds of Presbytery rather than simply function as a regulatory body. It was also agreed that this would likely involve significant changes to the standing orders and, further, it would require engaging someone to facilitate such a transition.

**Bursary Fund.**

When St. Andrew's, Windsor closed the remaining monies in the Paulin Fund were transferred, with the approval of Presbytery, to the Bursary Fund. Since that time Paulin Memorial Church, Windsor, has continued to make monthly payments of \$506.12 for mortgage monies originally provided by that Fund. The total amount to date is \$37,452.88- which is in the General Fund. It was agreed that this money would be transferred to the bursary account of Presbytery. Paulin Church has only two monthly payments remaining which will also be placed in the bursary account.

**Recommendations.**

1. That Mike Maroney be added to the membership of this committee.

**MOVED by Congram and Carleton. MOTION CARRIED.**

2. That Shalini Sankarlal be provided \$1000 from the Bursary Fund to attend Part 2 of the Transitional Ministry program at Presbyterian College in May.

**MOVED by Congram and Carleton. MOTION CARRIED.**

3. That the request of St. Andrew's, Dresden for support of their Gospel ads program be deferred until some additional information is received.

4. That University Community Church be provided \$2500 to enable four young people to attend the Uplift Program of the Presbyterian Church in Canada in July. The congregation will be supporting 2 additional people. In light of the fact that this is a learning and training event it is recommended that monies be taken from the Bursary Fund.

**MOVED by Congram and Carleton. MOTION CARRIED.**

5. That the committee be encouraged to seek out an individual to engage with them in establishing a creative way to manage these financial resources of the Presbytery. It is hoped that we can do this without financial costs since there is no provision for this committee in the 2024 Budget. However, in the event there might be minor costs such as

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Travel, we would recommend that the Administration Committee be given power to issue in this regard.

**MOVED by Congram and Carleton. MOTION CARRIED.**

**Leamington Monies.**

Note from Head Office received April 18: The amount is \$298,801, give or take a few dollars as there may have been some slight adjustment since I sent it over for payment. This is to be merged with the Emergent Fund. For your information \$261,451 of the Presbytery portion went to Camp Kintail and \$186,750 to PWS&D, as per the Mission Plan.

It is the intention of the committee to meet on a more regular basis in order that this work can be undertaken reasonably quickly.

Chuck Congram, Acting Chair.

**Financial update - April 2024.**

**1. Monies invested with the Presbyterian Church in Canada.**

Book Value	\$434,049.77.
Market Value	\$472,106.48.

**2. General fund bank balance:** February 29, 2024, \$242,315.10.

**3. Presbytery Bursary Fund bank balance:** February 29, 2024, \$11,975.70.

**4. Congregational Support Fund.**

Original amount	\$216,402.08.
Interest earned	\$62,621.05.
Subtotal	\$279,023.63.
Grants awarded	\$84,109.28.
Balance	\$194,914.35.

**5. Bursary Fund.**

Original amount	\$114,141.43.
Interest earned	\$32,988.92.
Subtotal	\$147,130.35.

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Bursaries awarded	\$21,850.
Balance	\$125,280.35.

**6. The Duart Fund.**

Original amount	\$69,455.97.
Interest earned	\$20,140.57.
Subtotal	\$89,596.54.
Grants awarded	\$1400.
Balance	\$88,196.54.

**7. The Hungarian Emergent Fund.**

Original amount	\$165,287.43.
Grants awarded	\$24,500.
Balance	\$140,787.43.

**Recommendation: That Presbytery receives the Treasurer's Report.**

**MOVED by Congram and Carleton. MOTION CARRIED.**

**AT THIS POINT THE ADMIN REPORT PAUSED**

## **Ministry and Doctrine Report**

The Ministry and Doctrine Committee communicated by email the week of April 3-5, 2024. Taking part in the discussions were Rev. M. Maroney, Jane Lung, Mark Labadie, and Wendy Skreptak.

**1. Interim Moderator for First Presbyterian Church:**

Rev. T. Reddish agreed to oversee the appointment of an Interim Moderator, given that Rev. M. Maroney is the convener of the M&D Committee. Rev. Reddish had received suggestions from the session at First Presbyterian Church, but none of the people suggested were able to take on this responsibility.

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Rev. T. Reddish subsequently reconsidered taking on the task, and informed Rev. M. Maroney of his intent to do so. Rev. T. Reddish is also able to begin those duties at the start of May, as approved by Presbytery at its meeting on February 20, 2024. The session at First Presbyterian Church were happy to hear the news.

Since both Rev. T. Reddish and Rev. M. Maroney could not lead the discussion, it was left to the members of the M&D committee to decide the matter. Their reply was unanimous in accepting Rev. T. Reddish's willingness to serve as Interim Moderator. This does not come as a motion to the Presbytery, as it was only discussed between committee members. That being said, the committee is pleased to make this recommendation:

**Recommendation No. 1: That Rev. T. Reddish be appointed as Interim Moderator to First Presbyterian Church, and that he starts his duties at the beginning of May. IM stipend and mileage (as necessary) to begin at that time.**

**MOVED by Lung and Labadie. MOTION CARRIED.**

**2. Employment Agreements for Barb Sargent and Jason Cartier:**

Documents for B. Sargent and J. Cartier were received from Knox Presbyterian Church, Wallaceburg. They were reviewed and accepted. (*These were circulated with the Docket for information and added as Appendices 3 and 4.*)

**Recommendation No. 2: That the Employment Agreements for Barb Sargent and Jason Cartier from Knox Presbyterian Church, Wallaceburg be approved.**

**MOVED by Maroney and Lung. MOTION CARRIED.**

**3. Bursary request – Rev. Andy Cornell.**

Rev. A. Cornell continues his studies, and requests bursaries for the following courses:

EMP3558H F – Trauma-Informed Psycho-Spiritual Therapy

KNP3506H F – Wrestling with Addiction

The request was discussed and approved.

**Recommendation No. 3: That Rev. A. Cornell receive bursaries for both courses at \$650 per course, for a total of \$1300.**

**MOVED by Maroney and Lung. MOTION CARRIED.**

**4. Study Leave Request from Rev. Lisa Aide**

I would like to request from Presbytery that I be able to take two weeks off for Study Leave, from April 29 to May 12<sup>th</sup>.

During this study leave I plan on making my way through several books that speak about Church growth and the future of the church, as well as several books that I will be using in the upcoming year of ministry, for Bible study, women's retreat, and special worship at Paulin. I wish to focus this time on Church growth, as Paulin is currently working through the next stage of the New Beginning program. This program is not focused on growing in numbers but instead to have create a new vision for our Paulin family as we seek to grow into the great church that God has called us to become.

I would like to take some time to dive deeper into what others are writing about Church growth and see if we can apply anything that I discover to Paulin as we continue to work toward this new beginning that God is sending our way.

The books that I will be getting for this study leave are:

*When the Church Stops Working* by Andrew root

*The Life We are Looking for* by Andy Crouch

*Future Church* by Will Mancini

*Overflow: Increase Worship & Bear More Fruit* by Tom Berlin

*Church: Why Bother?* by Phillip Yancy

*Vanishing Grace* by Phillip Yancy

Books for use in regular worship time (It was suggested by a member of the Court that I should ask to use some of my study leave money for resources that can be used through the year, due to Paulin struggling financially in the past several years as most church are I chose not to accept a book allowance. However there is more than enough money in my study leave account for the buy of all of these books, and they would be a great use to me to grow in my own personal skills but to also be able to incorporate them into the worship life at Paulin.)

*The Scandal of Forgiveness* by Phillip Yancy

*Wrestling with Doubt* by Adam Hamilton

*Sermon on the Mount* by Amy Jill Levine

*Light of the World* by Amy Jill Levine

*The Grace of Les Misérables* by Matt Rawle

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*An Unlikely Advent* by Rachel Billups

*Reckless Love: Jesus' Call to Love Our Neighbor* by Tom Berlin

*Restored: Finding Redemption in our Mess* by Tom Berlin

*Courage: Jesus and the Call to Brave faith* by Tom Berlin

The cost of all these books will be under \$400, and I will be happy to share these resources with anyone in Presbytery if they are interested. I also know that this looks like a lot of books, but I tend to be a very fast reader, and will make my way through them in a short time frame.

Lisa Aide.

**Recommendation No. 4: That the study leave request by Rev. Lisa Aide be granted.**

**MOVED by Maroney and Lung. MOTION CARRIED.**

On a strictly personal matter, I recognize that my retirement will add to the load of members of Presbytery, as there are not enough ordained ministers to carry out some of the responsibilities of the court. With that in mind, I am informing the Essex-Kent Presbytery that I am willing to continue in my duties as a member of Presbytery for at least a year if the court deems it acceptable to do so. If permitted, I will continue as convener of the M&D committee, IM for New St. Andrew's (no preaching!) and a member of the reminted Congregational Support Team.

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. M. Maroney

Convener, Ministry and Doctrine Committee, Essex-Kent Presbytery.

**MOTION: M & D Report as a whole.**

**ADMIN COMMITTEE ADENDUM**

**Recommendation: that Administration committee conveys its sincere thanks to Rev. Mike Maroney for his willingness to continue in his presbytery roles for at least one year.**

**MOVED by Cornell and Sargent. MOTION CARRIED.**

Admin recognises that we do need new members for M&D in response to a request from the convenor, and this will be addressed at a future meeting.

**Andy Cornell, Convenor**

**MOTION: ADMIN Report as a whole**

**MOVED by Cornell and Sargent. MOTION CARRIED.**

## **LIFE and MISSION COMMITTEE**

The Life and Mission Committee met on April 10, 2024, via Zoom.

- 1. Recommendation referred from February's Presbytery meeting concerning the definition of 'Evangelism.'**

**Recommendation 1: That the following definition of Evangelism be approved and inserted into the Visitation Guidelines for Congregations under Visitation Content and that the Standing orders be updated to reflect the change.**

**"Evangelism is spreading the gospel of Jesus Christ."**

**MOVED by Sargent and Smith. MOTION CARRIED.**

- 2. Report from Grant Fairly.**

As a follow up to the Visitation to Dresden, Grant Fairley was retained to meet with the Leadership of St. Andrew's Dresden to discuss and work through some of the challenges being faced particularly within the Leadership at Dresden. (Grant Fairley's report is attached below as Addendum A at the end of this report.)

In conversation with Grant Fairley and Rev. Andrew Cornell the Committee would like to propose the following recommendation:

**Recommendation 2: That a meeting between Rev Andy Cornell, the Clerk of Session, the Session Rep to the Board of Managers, the Chair of the Board of Managers, and Representatives from the Life and Mission Committee of Presbytery be arranged to discern whether further action is needed.**

**MOVED by Sargent and Smith. MOTION CARRIED.**

**Recommendation 3: That an honorarium of \$150 be given to Grant Fairly (from the Life and Mission budget.)**

**MOVED by Sargent and Smith. MOTION CARRIED**

**3. Visitations: A reminder of the regular visitation schedule.**

Valetta (Visitation Team: Rev. Andrew Cornell, Jane Lung, Sandra Smith). The visitation has occurred, and the report will be presented to the June presbytery meeting.

Rev. Shirley Murdock raised a point of order, stating that – in terms of process – the Session (and Minister) *should* receive the Visitation Team’s report *before* Life and Mission. (See Presbytery’s Standing Orders, p19, No. 5: “*The Visitation Team’s report will be submitted to the Minister and Session before being circulated to Presbytery through the Life and Mission Committee.*”)

Elsewhere it says: “*Following the visit, the Visitation Team will forward a report to the Life and Mission Committee for review and then forward the report to the Presbytery meeting closest to the date of the visitation. You will receive the report first to be allowed to comment before it is presented to the Presbytery.*” (Presbytery’s Standing Orders, p19.)

A discussion took place between as to whether the proper process, with Life and Mission favouring the latter statement.

The Moderator asked what had been past practice and it was ascertained that in the two previous visitations the Session received it before Life and Mission. The matter was put to the Presbytery vote:

**Motion: “That Session receives a copy of the Visitation Report before Life and Mission.”**

**MOVED by Aide and Maroney. MOTION CARRIED.**

This decision was for the Valetta Report only, and we are to expect further clarity moving forward in the June Presbytery meeting.

**September 2024 Visitations**

- a) New St Andrew’s Dover (Shalini Rajack-Sankarlal, Jayne Broughton, Barbara Sargent)
- b) Mount Zion, Ridgetown (Mike Maroney, Barbara Sargent, Rep Elder from LSA)



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**2025 Visitations:** St Andrew's Amherstburg, University Community Church, Paulin Memorial, Knox Wallaceburg (Team Members to be named)

Respectfully submitted, Barbara Sargent, Convenor.

**MOTION: Report as a whole**

**MOVED by Sargent and Smith. MOTION CARRIED.**

**ADDENDUM A**

**Strategic Seminars**

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Re: St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church (Dresden)

March 25, 2024

Dear Barb,

As we have discussed, we had the privilege of being with the leadership of St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church over recent months. In preparation for our work together, I spoke with minister Andrew Cornell, one of the leadership team members, and you. These conversations were constructive. I suggested using our "Mending Our Nets" workshop to encourage the leadership groups and allow opportunities to discuss the church's health together.

On Saturday, November 25, 2023, my wife Cari and I met with the board and the church session without the minister. We reviewed the many common challenges churches face today and the need to regularly "mend our nets" as we serve God, one another, and the community. A significant focus was communication skills and an awareness that people communicate differently. Many conflicts and frustrations in any group can arise from those differences. The principles were applicable in all of our relationships at home, the workplace, the community, and the local church's life. The two seminars were well attended, and there was an openness to discussing church life.

A follow-up Saturday was held on Saturday, February 24, 2024. The session and the board met again with the minister included. Fewer of the individuals attended. Those who were present were engaged and thoughtful. There was an open discussion with the leaders and the minister. It was a valuable time of communication, purpose, and renewal. As with all such events, it was only a beginning. Hopefully, it will create greater openness for leaders to share and recognize that good communication is a continuing challenge.

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I am happy to provide additional details if that would be helpful.

Yours in Christ,



Grant Fairley cell (519) 969-3388

[grant@strategic-seminars.com](mailto:grant@strategic-seminars.com)

## **INTERIM MODERATOR REPORTS**

### **Mt. Zion, Ridgetown – Rev. Andrew Cornell**

The congregation said farewell to Katherine, a University of Guelph Ridgetown Campus student who has been part of the Mt. Zion congregation for the past two years. She conducted the Heavenly Huddle and talked about her faith walk. We presented her with a book and prayed over her. Katherine could have joined a larger congregation in town with a vibrant youth program but she chose to be surrounded by folks who are of grandparent age. On a human level, her presence has been a powerful reminder that age is a state of mind and that great maturity is not directly correlated to age. Spiritually, it's been a reminder that God can work in unexpected and surprising ways.

On the worship front, a summer tradition will continue with services combined with Erie Street United Church; each congregation will take it in turns to be closed and join the other – the result is that each congregation will be closed for five Sundays from the end of June to Labour Day weekend. Inspiring preaching continues from Rev. Colin Paterson, Rev. Lillian Wilton, Rev. Doug and Cathi Cameron, Mary Pat Elliot and members of session.

Ruling elders Phyllis May (clerk), Bryan Stirling (rep elder) and Renee Geluk (board rep) continue to provide wise and stable leadership with the assistance of a capable board of managers and a part-time administrator.

### **New St. Andrew's, Dover – Rev. Mike Maroney**

NSA has Pulpit Supply covered until June. We have been blessed with Rev Ken Powell and Corey Tatsu who have been available most Sundays. Our attendance remains steady. We have Christine Prosser as our pianist, and occasionally Christine brings a student soloist for our services. Once a month starting in May, we are having a coffee/social hour

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following the service which everyone is looking forward to June 23rd we will have a picnic in the park with games, and a barbeque.

Rev Ken Powell has offered to cover any needs our congregation has for Pastoral Care. Everyone is grateful for his concerns for our members.

NSA will close for the month of August. The last service will be July 28 and return September 8, 2024. Session will meet on Tuesday, May 28, 2024.

**Knox, Wallaceburg – Rev. Lisa Aide (*No Report, as Session did not meet.*)**

**Valetta – Rev. Shirley Murdock**

Valetta Congregation shared a wonderful Easter Service to Celebrate Resurrection! The church was full. We set out more chairs. Sarah Stockford and Rev. Shirley shared the Good News of the Resurrection Message and shared in presenting the Sacrament on Holy Communion.

The Presbytery Visitation happened on Saturday, March 23. The Session awaits the report from the visitation team.

The Congregation is excited for Sarah to complete her studies at Knox College this month. We are grateful she has agreed to continue to supply their pulpit for the foreseeable future, but also wish her many blessings as she discerns a Call in ministry.

Regular activities continue with WMS, Church Help, Sunday School and Sunday Worship as well as plans for the Baptism of the Broughton twins and the annual plant and bake sale. (We are very excited to be celebrating this double baptism in the near future!)

Session will meet on Monday, April 29, 2024.

**LSA – Rev. Chris Little**

Brian has successfully completed his Field Education requirement while serving at LSA by focusing on the areas of Leading Change, Church Governance, and Leading a Multi-Staff Group. I acted as his supervisor for an eight-month period.

We can celebrate that Brian has now completed his requirements as prescribed by the Education and Nurture Committee. He is to be commended for the significant effort he has put into this challenge while also leading LSA.

Staffing has been reduced by combining the youth ministry and children's ministry positions into one family ministry position. This change has been working well with the assistance of many committed volunteers.

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There are now 10 individuals involved in the newly formed React ministry which exists to help people struggling with varying types of addictions.

The Elders were encouraged with over 300 in attendance at the Easter Sunday service. They trust this is a sign of the developing health and vitality of the congregation.

The session continues to work with the Administration Committee of presbytery toward the possibility of the incorporation of the congregation.

Added at Presbytery was Chris's commendation of Brian's commitment to his studies and in finishing them.

### REPORT OF COMMITTEE TO EXAMINE SESSION RECORDS

**MOTION:** That records (Session minutes) for New St. Andrew's, Dover, be attested as neatly and correctly kept. Missing roll to be submitted. (Registers are lost.)

**MOVED** by Aide and Brown. **MOTION CARRIED.**

**MOTION.** That records and registers for LSA be attested as neatly and correctly kept. Roll to be returned for corrections.

**MOVED** by Aide and Brown. **MOTION CARRIED.**

**MOTION.** That the roll for St. Andrew's Amherstburg be returned for corrections.

**MOVED** by Aide and Brown. **MOTION CARRIED.**

**MOTION.** That the roll for St. Andrew's Dresden be returned for corrections.

**MOVED** by Aide and Brown. **MOTION CARRIED.**

A further discussion ensued as what details are needed for the Roll (and why), with specific reference to the Session Records Examination Checklist provided by the Clerks of Assembly:

**Professing Members' Roll** (See Book of Forms 125 and following)

✓ **the following items that are neatly and correctly included on the roll.**

- Names and addresses of the professing members clearly noted.
- Date of enrollment and manner of enrollment clearly noted.  
*(By profession of faith, certificate, or special resolution of session)*
- Date of removal and manner of removal clearly noted.  
*(By death, transference, or special resolution of session with reason for resolution noted.)*

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It was recognized that in many/most congregations certain details (dates, reasons) were either omitted or lost (or perhaps buried in Session Minutes). What are we to do?

**It was therefore recommended that Admin Committee provide clearer – and more practical/realistic – guidelines for the June Meeting.**

**MOVED by Aide and Brown. MOTION CARRIED.**

**Schedule for Future Presbytery Meetings**

June 25, 2024 – Amherstburg (Delayed a week from normal due to GA.)

Sept 17, 2024 – Paulin Memorial

Nov 19 -2 024 – UCC

**Reminder: Commissioners to 2024 General Assembly**

Clergy Commissioner - Rev. Shalini Rajack-Sankarlal

Elder Commissioner – *To Be Determined.*

**OTHER BUSINESS**

**MOTION TO ADJOURN**

**MOVED by Maroney and Parks. MOTION CARRIED.**

**THE PRESBYTERY OF ESSEX-KENT STANDS ADJOURNED, TO MEET NEXT IN REGULAR SESSION ON TUESDAY, JUNE 25, 2024, WITHIN ST. ANDREW’S PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, AMHERSTBURG, BEGINNING AT 5:30PM WITH WORSHIP.**

**Dismissal Prayer and Benediction – The Moderator - 8:30pm.**

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**Rev. Shalini Rajack-Sankarlal, Moderator**

**Rev. Tim Reddish, Clerk**

**Rev. Tim Reddish – Clerk**