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**PRESBYTERY OF ESSEX-KENT**  
**THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN CANADA**  
**EMERGENT MEETING, TUESDAY, AUGUST 15, 2023**  
**ST. ANDREW'S PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, AMHERSTBURG**

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**THE PRESBYTERY OF ESSEX-KENT WAS CALLED TO AN EMERGENT MEETING ON TUESDAY, AUGUST 15, 2023 BY ORDER OF THE MODERATOR REV. SHALINI RAJACK-SANKARLAL, WITHIN ST. ANDREW'S PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, AMHERSTBURG, ONTARIO AT 6:30PM**

**CALL TO ORDER:**

The Moderator called the meeting to order at 6:40pm

**PRAYER AND CONSTITUTION**

Moderator Rev. Shalini offered prayer and Constituted the Court willing and able to deal with the business before it.

**ATTENDANCE**

Present in the Court were Revs. Mike Maroney, Lisa Aide, Shirley Murdock, Shalini Rajack-Sankarlal and Olwyn Coughlin.

Representative Elders present were Barb Sargent, Alison Brown, Jane Lung, Bryan Stirling, Kathy Parks

WMS Representative Carolyn Reid

Alternate Carla Johnson-Hicks sat for Bonnie Pittock of Paulin Memorial.

**On motion of Maroney and Sargent, Carla Johnson-Hicks was invited to sit with voice and vote. MOTION CARRIED.**

**REGRETS**

Revs. Andrew Cornell, Tim Reddish, Lillian Wilton, Nancy Carle, Brian McGuffin, Chuck Congram

Elders: Jayne Broughton, Wendy Streptak, Bonnie Pittock, Sandra Smith, Kathy Dupuis, Robert Ivison, Mark Labadie.

Convenors: Andrew Templer

**GUESTS PRESENT and WELCOMED**

Bob MacVicar

Members of St. Andrew's Amherstburg – Clerk of Session Kathleen Knott, Doris Kepran, Lina Shank, Jim Vance.

**Rev. Shirley F. Murdock - Clerk**

**PURPOSE OF MEETING**

**To Receive and Consider a Gospel Call to Shirley Carleton to St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Amherstburg, Ontario.**

**EXAMINATION OF THE CALL** – The Clerk, Interim Moderator Rev. Mike Maroney and St. Andrew's Elder Jim Vance reviewed the Call on Monday, August 7 and found it to be in order.

**REPORT OF THE INTERIM MODERATOR – Mike Maroney**  
Report on fulfillment of Duties and Narration of Steps

**Interim Moderator Report for St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Amherstburg, ON.**

Following the announcement of Rev. Tim Reddish's retirement, I was appointed as Interim Moderator of St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church in Amherstburg, ON at the Presbytery meeting in June 2022. My duties were to begin August 1, 2022.

I stipulated that my interaction with the Session, congregation and eventually the Search Team would be via Zoom teleconferencing.

After meeting with the Session, a Search Team was formed. The members were: Colleen Fox, Mike Hawkins, Kathleen Knott, John McDonald, Terry Ridsdale, Kathy Parks, Linda Shank, Jim Vance, and Charles Wilson.

Our first order of business was to review the congregational profile that had been used during the previous search which called Rev. Reddish to St. Andrew's. Sections of that profile had to be updated, because the prolonged Covid pandemic had presented various challenges to the congregation. I was thankful that the Session and Search Team were forthcoming and transparent in addressing the changes and challenges that had arisen during that time. We did not want to present a picture that was no longer a reality.

Once the congregational profile was ready it was sent to Ministry and Church Vocations of the Presbyterian Church in Canada. We received several profiles directly from Wynford Drive. A few more came to me directly. We found that all the profiles we received were generic in nature, and did not seem to be familiar with St. Andrew's situation. After discussion, we eliminated all early profiles, and I contacted the ministers who had submitted them.

We spent many months without a single profile submitted to us, even though we had advertised in the Presbyterian Connection newspaper. The congregation was thankful for the continued preaching of Rev Olwyn Coughlin and Rev. Shirley Murdock who helped raise the spirits of the congregation.

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Finally, we received an inquiry from Shirley Carleton requesting our congregational profile. After a few days, Shirley submitted her profile and I arranged for the Search Team to meet with her by Zoom teleconferencing on July 10. After a fruitful meeting, the Search Team voted unanimously to recommend to the Session that Shirley Carleton be extended an invitation to preach for a call at St. Andrew's.

The Session subsequently unanimously approved the recommendation of the Search Team. I was able to speak with three of four of Shirley Carleton's references, who gave highly positive feedback regarding her character, gifts, work ethic, and call to ministry.

The date for preaching for the call was set for Sunday, July 30, 2023 at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Amherstburg. As well, a meet-and-greet was arranged for Saturday, July 29, 2023 which was very well attended. The Session paid for Shirley Carleton's travel expenses and lodging needs. As well, Shirley Carleton's husband Terrence was able to attend the weekend's activities. Time at the meet and greet was set aside for members and adherents to ask questions directly to Shirley Carleton. The Clerk of Presbytery, Rev. Shirley Murdock attended the meet and greet.

On Sunday, July 30, the sanctuary was almost full, and Shirley Carleton led the service and preached the sermon.

Immediately after the worship service a question period was held in order to accommodate people who had not been able to attend the meet and greet the day before. Shirley Carleton spent time answering people's questions, and then left the sanctuary.

I read the terms of the call and stipend, which were approved by the congregation. I asked if the congregation was ready to proceed with the call, to which they replied in the affirmative. I then reread the terms and stipend with Shirley Carleton's name included.

It had been decided beforehand to use a ballot system, and ballots had been distributed to members as they entered the sanctuary. Scrutineers were appointed and they counted the vote. The result was a unanimous decision to extend a call to Shirley Carleton.

Out of 61 communicant members, 37 members voted in favour of the call. That constituted 61% of the congregation.

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24 communicant members did not sign, representing 39% of the congregation. The reasons for not signing are as follows:

- 9 in nursing homes or with medical issues.
- 5 away and unable to be contacted.
- 9 contacted but did not reply.
- 1 recently deceased.

Adherents present on July 30 were able to sign to concur with the call. The elders then spent the following week calling members and adherents who wished to have their signature added to the call.

After the vote and signing were complete, I spoke with Shirley Carleton to give her the results.

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. M. Maroney

Interim Moderator, St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Amherstburg, Ontario

1. **MOTION: THAT THE ACTIONS OF THE INTERIM MODERATOR BE APPROVED MOVED BY AIDE AND SARGENT. MOTION CARRIED.**

### **PRESENTATION OF THE CALL – IM Mike Maroney**

#### **Call to a minister of Word and Sacraments and guarantee to presbytery of stipend (Appendix A-29)**

We, the professing members of **St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Amherstburg**, being well satisfied with your faithfulness to the Gospel and your qualifications for the ministry of Word and Sacraments and confident that the Holy Spirit has led us to you, earnestly and solemnly call you, **SHIRLEY CARLETON**, to become the minister of this congregation. In calling you we promise you all due respect, encouragement, and allegiance in the Lord as, together, we seek to use our gifts in the church and in the world to the glory of God.

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**Guarantee of Stipend - \$72,000.00**

In order that you, **SHIRLEY CARLETON**, may be free to devote yourself to ministry of Word and Sacraments among us, we the congregation of **St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church** hereby guarantee to the **Presbytery of Essex-Kent**, of The Presbyterian Church in Canada, that out of our estimated annual revenue of One Hundred Eighteen Thousand Dollars (\$118,000.00) plus a bequest of Two Hundred and Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$250,000.00) we promise and obligate ourselves to provide you, as a first charge thereon, the following annually:

Annual Stipend	
Option A (inclusive of travel allowance)	\$48,000.00
Option B (exclusive of travel allowance)	\$ _____
with travel reimbursed at \$____/km up to annual maximum of \$_____	
Manse (or Housing/Rental allowance)	\$24,000.00
Cost of utilities	\$ _____
Total	\$72,000.00

We agree to make payments of the above amounts on the first day of each month and agree to adjust the stipend and allowances annually in view of any changes in the cost of living or the needs of our minister.

We agree further:

1. To provide two weeks for continuing education annually and 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 provide five weeks vacation annually, which shall be used in the year they are given.
4. To pay supply during the periods of continuing education and holidays.
5. In case of disability or extended illness, to continue to provide stipend, accommodation and allowances for a period not less than that set by the General Assembly, and to pay the cost of pulpit supply.
6. To pay for Medical and Dental Insurance as provided through the Pensions and Benefits Board of the General Assembly and to make contributions to the Pension Plan in compliance with the terms of the plan.
7. To pay necessary moving expenses.
8. Optional (such as book allowance, entertainment allowance, internet, cell phone, etc).

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Number of Signatures supporting the Call

Membership = 61

Members who signed or had elder sign for them – 37 members = 61%.

Members did not sign but are accounted for = 24 = 39%

Adherents who signed = 21

- 2. MOTION: THAT THE CALL TO SHIRLEY CARLETON BE RECEIVED AND CONSIDERED AND THAT REPRESENTATIVES FROM ST. ANDREW'S PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, AMHERSTBURG BE HEARD. MOVED BY AIDE AND SARGENT. MOTION CARRIED**

Kathleen Knott – Clerk of Session and Kathy Parks – Presbytery Representative both spoke in favour of the Call and shared the enthusiasm of the Congregation to receive Shirley Carleton as their Minister.

- 3. MOTION: THAT THE GUARANTEE OF STIPEND be deemed acceptable. MOVED BY AIDE AND SARGENT. MOTION CARRIED**
- 4. MOTION: THAT THE CALL BE SUSTAINED AS A GOSPEL CALL MOVED BY AIDE AND SARGENT. MOTION CARRIED**
- 5. MOTION: THAT THE INTERIM MODERATOR CONFIRM WHO WILL REPRESENT THE PRESBYTERY OF ESSEX-KENT AND THE CONGREGATION OF ST. ANDREW'S, AMERSTBURG WHEN THE CALL IS PRSENTED TO THE PRESBYTERY OF WESTMINSTER, BRITISH COLUMBIA. MOVED BY AIDE AND SARGENT. MOTION CARRIED**

The Clerk was informed that Rev. Paddy Eastwood will speak to the Call on behalf of the Presbytery of Essex-Kent.

- 6. MOTION: THAT THE PRESBYTERY OF ESSEX-KENT WAIVE THE RIGHT TO ORDINATION AND REQUEST THE PRESBYTERY OF WESTMINSTER TO PROCEED WITH ORDINATION. MOVED BY AIDE AND SARGENT. MOTION CARRIED**
- 7. MOTION; THAT A SERVICE OF INDUCTION BE CONDUCTED BY THE PRESBYTERY OF EESSEX-KENT ON SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2023 AT 3:00PM WITHIN ST. ANDREW'S PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, AMHERSTBURG WITH**

Rev. Shirley F. Murdock – Clerk

**PRESBYTERY MEETING AT 2:30PM AND A RECEPTION TO FOLLOW THE SERVICE PREPARED BY THE CONGREGATION OF ST. ANDREW'S.  
MOVED BY AIDE AND SARGENT. MOTION CARRIED**

- 8. MOTION: THAT REV. OLWYN COUGHLIN PREACH THE SERVICE OF INDUCTION AND REV. MIKE MARONEY AS IM OFFER THE CHARGE TO THE CANDIDATE AND THE CONGREGATION**
  
- 9. MOTION: THAT THE OFFERING BE DESIGNATED TO PWS&D FOR RELIEF EFFORTS DUE TO THE BC WILDFIRES.  
MOVED BY AIDE AND MARONEY. MOTION CARRIED**
  
- 10. MOTION; THAT THE REMAINING DETAILS OF THE SERVICE OF INDUCTION BE ARRANGED BY THE MODERATOR, CLERK AND IM IN CONSULTATION WITH CLERK OF SESSION AND ORGANIST.  
MOVED BY AIDE AND SARGENT. MOTION CARRIED**
  
- 11. MOTION; THAT THE EDICT OF INDUCTION BE READ FROM THE PULPIT TWO CONSECUTIVE SUNDAYS PRIOR TO THE DATE OF INDUCTION, (Sept 10 & 17) SIGNED AND RETURNED TO THE CLERK ON THE DAY OF INDUCTION.  
MOVED BY AIDE AND SARGENT. MOTION CARRIED**
  
- 12. MOTION: THAT THE CLERK TRANSMIT THE ORIGINAL CALL DOCUMENTS TO THE PRESBYTERY OF WESTMINSTER, BRITISH COLUMBIA C/O CLERK REV. MARTIN BAXTER.  
MOVED BY AIDE AND SARGENT. MOTION CARRIED**
  
- 13. MOTION TO ADJOURN  
MOVED BY B. SARGENT**

**THE COURT STANDS ADJOURNED TO MEET IN REGULAR SESSION ON TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2023 WITHIN KNOX PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, WALLACEBURG WITH TIME AND DOCKET YET TO BE DETERMINED.'**

**CLOSING PRAYER AND BENEDICTION – THE MODERATOR**