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Presbytery of Essex-Kent
Regular Meeting
Tuesday, February 15, 2022
Paulin Memorial Presbyterian Church, Windsor

The Presbytery of Essex-Kent was called to meet in-person for a Regular Session on Tuesday, February 15, 2022 within the Sanctuary of Paulin Memorial Presbyterian Church, Windsor at 6:00pm.

WORSHIP

Worship was presented by host minister Rev. Lisa Aide. Rev. Aide read from the Gospel of St. Luke 6: 39-49. She spoke on changes in our lives due to the Covid Pandemic and stated the Church is still here, in spite of the social changes, reminding us that our God is the same, yesterday, today and tomorrow. Mr. David Carle provided accompaniment for the hymns

CALL TO ORDER

Moderator Barbara Sargent called the meeting to order.

CONSTITUTION

The Moderator offered prayer and Constituted the Court able and willing to deal with any matter that properly comes before it.

ATTENDANCE

Present in the Court were Revs. Andrew Cornell, Lisa Aide, Tim Reddish, Shalini Rajack-Sankarlal, Lillian Wilton, Chuck Congram and Shirley Murdock (Clerk).

Representative Elders present were Barb Sargent (moderator), Mark Labadie, Bonnie Pittock, Jayne Broughton, Alison Brown, Jane Lung, Bryan Stirling, Kathy Parks, Wendy Streptak.

Others Present were Bob MacVicar, Kathy Dupuis, Rev. Nancy Carle

REGRETS

Regrets were received from Revs. Olwyn Coughlin, Mary Templer, Leslie Walker, Mike Maroney
Elders - Jeri-lou Brown, Elaine Ross, Sandra Smith
Convenor – Andrew Templer

**MOTION: That Bob MacVicar be permitted to sit as Rep. Elder for Knox Leamington.
Moved by Murdock and Aide . MOTION CARRIED.**

WELCOME TO GUESTS and VISITORS

The Moderator welcomed those visiting the Court.

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SIT and CORRESPOND

**MOTION: That Guests and Visitors be invited to Sit and Correspond
Moved by Reddish and Labadie. MOTION CARRIED**

GOOD NEWS MOMENTS and PRAYER REQUESTS

Rev. Mike Maroney had a fall on the ice. There is no concussion but he suffers from a headache and sore muscles.

Rev. Andy Cornell gave thanks for livestream opportunities for folks to share worship, etc.

Rev. Shalini Rajack-Sankarlal reported that Rev. Mary Templer is coming along after her car accident on Christmas Day. She is in good spirits.

ACCEPTANCE OF DOCKET

**MOTION: That the Docket be accepted with the addition of presentation of a Trust Deed from Paulin Memorial
Moved by Aide and Broughton. MOTION CARRIED.**

MINUTES

The Minutes of the Regular Meeting of November 16, 2021 and the Special Meeting on. January 30, 2022 were presented for review.

MOTION: That both sets of minutes as stated above be adopted as presented. Moved by Murdock and Pittock. MOTION CARRIED.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

All items of business arising are addressed in the Report of the Administration Committee.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

Presented by Convenor Rev. Andy Cornell

RECEIVE and CONSIDER REPORTS

**MOTION: To receive and consider the Reports and Recommendations of Standing Committees
Moved by Rajack-Sankarlal and Wilton. MOTION CARRIED.**

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The Administration Committee of the Presbytery of Essex/Kent met in person at First Presbyterian Church in Chatham on Feb. 1 with the following members present: Rev. Andy Cornell, convenor/secretary; Rev. Chuck Congram, treasurer; Rev. Shirley Murdock, clerk; Moderator Barbara Sargent and Rev. Shalini Rajack-Sankarlal, assistant treasurer (via speakerphone).

BUSINESS ARISING from November regular meeting of presbytery –

1. Resubmission of request from St. Andrew's Dresden session to Emergent Support Fund. See report below.

BUSINESS ARISING from Jan. 30 emergent meeting of presbytery –

1. Report from Knox Leamington congregation meeting, via M&D. This will be presented under committee reports.

RECOMMENDATION 2 - That the following correspondence be received for information and discussion. Moved by Cornell and Sankarlal. MOTION CARRIED.

CORRESPONDANCE

1. **Assembly Council report** – Nov 21-23 – from the moderator of presbytery, who is a member of the AC.

Assembly Council
November 21-23

The Assembly Council met from November 21-23 in a hybrid format that had some members joining by video conference and others attending the meeting in person at national offices of the PCC in Toronto.

The meeting opened with worship prepared and led by Carol Stymiest, who represents the Atlantic Mission Society at Council meetings and Cathy Reid, who represents the Women's Missionary Society. It was acknowledged that The Presbyterian Church in Canada and its members live, worship and work on this historic territory of the First Nations, Métis and Inuit Peoples of this land. As a church, we take seriously the challenge of reconciliation, to deepen bonds of friendship and solidarity, to strive to "Walk together" in the present and future and to live with integrity the words of Our Confession to Indigenous Peoples from 1994.

The Council expressed a strong preference for the next General Assembly (June 5-8, 2022) to be in person

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and held at Wilfrid Laurier University. That is where the last two in-person Assemblies met. The General Assembly Office is working with the university to determine, by mid-January, if it will be able to host the Assembly. If the university cannot commit to hosting by mid-January, Assembly Council will reconvene to consider other options.

The courts, agencies, colleges, and camps of the church are to review and update their policies, procedures and practices this year to ensure they reflect the full inclusion of all people. The Assembly Council has completed the review of its own policies.

Representatives of the theological colleges, the Atlantic Mission Society and the Women's Missionary Society are members of the Assembly Council. During the meeting, the Council heard updates from representatives about the ministries of these bodies in the church.

The Council heard updates from the following Assembly Council working groups:

- The Council provided input to the working group that is preparing a response to overtures that seek a way for congregations to leave the denomination and ask for an alternative form of governance to be developed. The working group, comprising Peter Kinch, Barb Sargent, Linda Shaw, John-Peter Smit, Henry Han, Brenda Butler, Jeffrey Murray (with the Clerks of Assembly) presented a framework for its work, and noted that it has so far met twice. Members of the working group have been reviewing the Clerk's response from 2018, the report of Assembly Council's Gracious Dismissal Committee, and all the relevant overtures. Council met in breakout rooms and groups twice during the meeting and discussed the committee's interim work in plenary. The working group reiterated its desire to have a final report ready for Council at the March meeting.
- Work continues on the referral about Gender pay equity and discrimination
- A response to an overture requesting legal indemnity for those who exercise liberty of conscience related to remits B and C, 2019 is in process and will be considered at the March meeting
- Council approved a response regarding the Legal implications of the remits about ordination and marriage
- A working group presented a response to an overture requesting that the church establish a national registry of congregations and ministers that are willing to celebrate same-sex weddings. The response to the overture proposes that such a registry be created and maintained by the General Assembly Office. Participation in the registry would be voluntary and the information would be made available on the PCC website and through other appropriate avenues. The final report will be submitted to the General Assembly in 2022.

Understanding that the adoption of the remits about marriage and ordination presents both an opportunity and a challenge for the PCC to explore the Bible's vision of God's welcome of diversity, the Assembly Council engaged in a workshop called "How will we live together?" led by The Rev. Dr. Pat

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Dutcher-Walls. All the texts that were studied show a situation in ancient Israel or the early church where the household of God were asked to live together with a diversity of identities and a diversity of theological understandings (Joshua 9:1-27, Ruth 1: 1-22, 2 Kings 5:1-19, Mark 1:40-45, Mark 5:24-34, Mathew 15:21-28, Acts 8:26-39 and Acts 10:1-48). The Council considered the following questions based on what they read in the texts:

- God is a god who...
- The household of God valued diversity by...
- Congregations today can draw an analogy to this story to understand diversity in the household of God as...

The Rev. Dr. Pat Dutcher-Walls also spoke on behalf of the General Assembly Design Team. She noted that the team will study the summary of commissioner evaluations of the 2021 Assembly and she invited feedback on how the team could better support commissioners prepare for and participate effectively at future Assemblies.

The Council welcomed Marilyn Repchuck and Ian Mason from the Presbyterian Church Heritage Centre to give an update on the Centre's work.

Healing and Reconciliation is an important part of the Council's focus. The Council heard an update on some of the work being done in the church in this regard. Information about the church's work in this area can be found at <https://presbyterian.ca/justice/social-action/indigenous-justice/>. Staff of the Life and Mission Agency will attend a future meeting to update the Council on the church's response to the Calls to Action from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. During the meeting, the Council approved terms of reference for the Honouring the Children: *Reconciliation and Residential Schools Fund*. This fund will support initiatives associated with searches for unmarked burial sites in communities where schools were operated by The Presbyterian Church in Canada.

The Council provided funds to support psychotherapy/counselling for those who have experienced harm done by homophobia, hypocrisy, transphobia and heterosexism in the denomination.

Barb Summers, the Associate Secretary for the Communications department of the PCC, will resign from her position at the end of February 2022. Fortunately, Barb will remain the editor of Presbyterian Connection newspaper. The Council approved a process by which the next Associate Secretary for Communications will be appointed and expressed thanks for Barb's extraordinary work for the church.

The Rev. Jinsook Khang and The Rev. Cherie Inksetter were named to the Assembly Council Executive.

The Principal Clerk position description was modified to include responsibility for representing the church in initiative supporting relationships with Indigenous peoples.

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Closing worship was led by The Rev. Dr. Ross Lockhart, the Dean of St. Andrew's Hall at The University of British Columbia.

2. Marilyn Repchuck, of the **Presbyterian Church Heritage Centre**, confirms her plan to speak at the April meeting of presbytery. Host church to facilitate a powerpoint presentation.
3. **New Beginnings Renewal Program**, in regard to an application from Paulin Memorial.

Your congregation has begun the New Beginnings process and the assessor to your church, the Rev. Mavis Currie has compiled initial reports regarding your congregation and community. It is recognized that Paulin Memorial Presbyterian Church has good potential for growth and ministry in south Windsor. Your sanctuary and facility are well cared for and you have a strong history of reaching out to your neighbours.

In conversations with Canadian Ministries, the assessor and the Hope Network for Missional Transformation staff, however, we are not confident that this is the right time for Paulin to be considering a process of transformation. It is clear that the pandemic has created many challenges for the congregation and with rising Covid 19 case counts over the winter months, we think it will be difficult for small groups to meet to discuss future stories for the congregation. In addition, it became clear during the assessment that Paulin Memorial has been navigating several conflicts over the last three years. A process of transformation and new beginning is better suited to a time when the congregation is in a place of stability

Paulin Memorial is encouraged to take the next six months to focus on intentional pastoral care and healing. If the Session would prefer the registration fee to be reimbursed until the process can be re-engaged, please let me know. I will check in with the Session in June and together we will discuss next steps.

Jennifer deCombe - Canadian Ministries

4. GA Office regarding the sole **nomination of Rev. Dr. Bob Faris** as General Assembly Moderator.

I am pleased to announce that The Rev Dr. Bob Faris, Associate Minister of St. Andrew's

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Presbyterian Church, Toronto is the individual who has received nominations from more than one presbytery to be Moderator. He has agreed to stand in nomination

5. **Clerks' Consultation** cancelled for 2022, rescheduled for April 14-17, 2023
6. **Pension and Benefits Office** in regard to Lakeshore St, Andrew's arrears of \$131,570.76

The Pension and Benefits Board has completed our year-end reconciliation and we are writing to inform you that **Lakeshore St. Andrew's (EK080)** has the following outstanding balances on their Pension Plan Congregational Assessments:

2021 Pension Plan Congregational Assessment outstanding: \$36,728.60

Prior years arrears (2019-2020): \$94,842.16

Total Outstanding for EK080: \$131,570.76

This amount is past due and must be paid as soon as possible.

We are writing to you in your authority and responsibility as Presbytery to ensure that this money is paid in full. A notice has already been sent directly to the congregation's treasurer advising of the outstanding amount.

When Pension Plan congregational assessments are in arrears, The Presbyterian Church in Canada is deemed to be in "**non compliance**" with its Pension Plan regulatory requirements. There are serious consequences that the entire Church faces as a result of unpaid Congregational Assessments, therefore we kindly ask for your cooperation and immediate attention in resolving this matter.

Under Ontario pension legislation all contributions due to the plan must be remitted **monthly**.

We kindly request the Presbytery's assistance in verifying that all congregations submit their pension plan payments on time as required.

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Thank you for your attention to this matter. Please do not hesitate to contact the office if you have any questions or concerns.

Many thanks,
Nicole Jeffrey
Director, Pension and Benefits

Rev. Andy Cornell, IM at LSA advised that a Zoom meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 16 at 10:30am with members of the Pension and Benefits Board (Corrie Stewart and Nicole Jeffrey) Brian McGuffin, Rich Berdan of LSA, Rev. Andy Cornell and the Clerk of Presbytery to consider a repayment plan.

7. General Assembly Office: 2022 Assembly will be ONLINE, June 5-8, 2022.

MOTION

That Items 1 through 7 be adopted for information.

Moved by Cornell and Rajack-Sankarlal

MOTION CARRIED.

8. From Rev. Ian Shaw, retired, Presbytery of Paris, speaking against online assemblies. A subsequent letter was received from deputy clerk of GA Don Muir stating this is a one-person opinion that was not initiated or authorized by Assembly Council. Presbyteries are free to write similar letters, but on an individual basis only, not speaking for the denomination or agency of the church. The Essex-Kent moderator expressed similar concerns.

RECOMMENDATION 3 - That the Presbytery of Essex Kent express its concerns about holding an online General Assembly and forward the letter written by its moderator.

The Moderator provided a list of points to be included in this letter. Each point was read to the Court by Rev. Cornell with discussion permitted after each point. Concern was expressed by Rev. Tim Reddish who sat as a Clergy Commissioner for the 2021 Assembly, stating time restraints were a major concern for that meeting. It had been suggested that the 2022 Assembly be extended by one additional day.

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MOTION

That the Moderator forward a letter to Assembly Council, containing her points and Rev. Reddish's comments about time restraints.

Moved by Cornell and Rajack-Sankarlal

MOTION CARRIED.

Below is a copy of the letter sent by the Moderator to Assembly Council

TO: Sandra Cameron Evans – Convenor of Assembly Council

CC: Stephen Kendall - Principal Clerk, PCC

MEMBERS OF ASSEMBLY COUNCIL

At the Presbytery of Essex/Kent meeting on February 15, 2022, a motion was passed instructing the Moderator to send a letter to Assembly Council expressing our concerns of having another online assembly in June of 2022.

As Moderator, I am forwarding these concerns to you. These concerns were discussed at the meeting.

1. After the last General Assembly 2021 held online, a number of participants, congregations and presbyteries expressed concerns about a future online General Assembly. We feel that Assembly Council has not listened and given the concerns proper consideration. Assembly Council is not considering a number of issues and concerns affecting the denomination and the participants at another online GA.
2. If travel is still a concern, although things have opened up a lot in the past few weeks, Assembly Council should consider a Fall AG. This was not really discussed fully at the meeting. There are church venues that could accommodate the AG if held in the Fall in the Greater Toronto area.
3. In choosing to go ahead with another online GA, AC deeply prejudices the PCC against the ethnic Presbyteries and congregations with English as a second language. An online Assembly privileges those who speak English well and dis-enfranchises those for whom English is a second, or additional language. The rigid time limits advantage those who have expertise in English; and, as witnessed at the 2021 Assembly the tight time limits

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4. dis-enfranchise those speaking by translation. As well, last year, a professional accredited translator was not employed by the Assembly for the Korean delegates.
5. GA is a place where people meet and form relationships and friendships. An in-person GA allows issues to be discussed outside the physical meeting and Commissioners are able to make more informed decisions as a result. They are able to listen to others in an informal way rather than a formal meeting.
6. This GA, in June 2022 will be dealing with petitions from the HanCa presbyteries regarding systemic racism. Other very important issues of Gracious Dismissal, Alternate Synods, etc., and others pertaining to the very continuance of congregations in the denomination must be given time and discussion. These need serious consideration which is not easily done online.

It is deeply troubling that we are electing again to meet in such a disconnected way to discern such issues that will affect the future of the Presbyterian Denomination in Canada.

We, as a Presbytery, are asking the Assembly Council to revisit and reverse the decision of Assembly Council to have an online GA this June 2022.

YOURS IN CHRIST

Barbara Sargent

Moderator

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TREASURER'S REPORT

Presented by Chuck Congram

The presbytery treasurer presented the year-end financial report.

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Annual Financial report
Income and Expenses January 1,20221 – December 31, 2021

Income	Budget	Actual	Notes
1. Synod & Presbytery Dues	37,004.00	35,589.66	1
2. Offering/Investment Interest	7,000,00	22,201.75	2
SUB-TOTAL	44,004.00	57.791.41	
Unbudgeted Income			
1. Paulin Mortgage Payments	0.00	6,073.44	3
2. Congregational Support Rebate	0.00	1,553.85	
3. Dresden Legal Repayments	0.00	21,148.21	4
SUB-TOTAL	0.00	28,775.50	
TOTAL INCOME	52,958.00	86.566.91	
BUDGETED EXPENSES			
1. Synod Dues	22,229.00	22,229.00	
2. Presbytery Travel	5,000,00	623.00	
3. Committee Expenses			
A. Life and Mission	300.00	0.00	
B. Ministry and Doctrine	300.00	0.00	
C. Sexual Assault/Harassment	300,00	0.00	
4. General Assembly Meals	1,100.00	0.00	
Young Adult Representative			
5. Honoraria			
A. Clerk	5,000.00	5,000.00	
B. Treasurer	1,000.00	1,000.00	
6. Other Expenses			
A. Clerk	800.00	1,465.17	5
B. Treasurer	150.00	117.51	
C. PCC Insurance	1,500.00	1.159.62	
D. Police Checks	400.00	0.00	
7. Bank Service Charges	25.00	0.00	
BUDGETED EXPENSE TOTAL	38,104.00	31.594.30	

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UNBUDGETED EXPENSES

1. Congregation Support Grants	0.00	18,750.25	
2. Leadership Roundtable Expenses	0.00	195.96	6
3. Bursary Transfer Payments	0.00	9,435.74	7
4. Bursary Grant – S. Stockford	0.00	3,250.00	8
5. Counselling Support	0.00	1,666.25	
SUB-TOTAL		33,298.20	
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	38,104.00	64,892.50	

SURPLUS INCOME OVER EXPENSES

21,674.41

NOTES

1. This reflects the dues which were not collected with the closure of St. James, Chatham
2. The Presbytery has \$300,000.00 invested with the Presbyterian Church in Canada and received interest payments twice yearly.
3. Paulin Church, Windsor continues to complete payments monthly to the Presbytery which would have previously gone to St. Andrew's, Windsor.
4. Dresden has advanced their payment of legal funds used to acquire legal possession of the Rutherford property. Remaining balance owing is \$7,125.36
5. The overexpenditure of clerk expenses resulted from the transition costs involved in change of clerks.
6. Leadership Roundtable continues to work as part of the Pastor Support Groups at Presbyterian College, Montreal. A quarterly payment was missed in 20221 and will be made in 2022.
7. The Bursary Fund has an approximately 42% share of the Presbytery Investments, so receive their appropriate share semi-annually.
8. This amount will be transferred to the General Fund in 2022.

The treasurer offered thanks and praise to Paulin Memorial; St. Andrews, Wallaceburg and Valetta Presbyterian Churches for having already made full payments of Presbytery and Synod Dues for 2022.

RECOMMENDATION 4

That the annual financial report be adopted.

Moved by Cornell and Rajack-Sankarlal.

MOTION CARRIED

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NEW BUSINESS

1. **Elder commissioner** – Kathleen Knott, St. Andrew’s, Amherstburg

RECOMMENDATION 5 - That Kathleen Knott of St. Andrew’s Presbyterian Church, Amherstburg, be named Elder Commissioner for the 2022 General Assembly being held Online, June 5-8, 2022

Moved by Cornell and Rajack-Sankarlal

MOTION CARRIED.

Rev. Tim Reddish noted that Kathleen Knott accepted the commission with the understanding that the 2022 Assembly will be held online. Due to health issues, she would not be able to attend in-person.

Lakeshore St. Andrew’s summer intern program.

LSA is seeking funds from three outside sources (presbytery, Synod and Canadian Ministries) to finance this summer ministry, which had to be cancelled in 2020 and 2021. Canadian Ministries is asking for presbytery’s endorsement. Two documents (LSA student internship proposal, LSA student internship position description) provide details. Presbytery’s Congregational Support Team (CST) previously recommended a one-time \$5,000 grant in 2020, which we anticipate will be presented to presbytery during today’s meeting.

RECOMMENDATION 6 – That the Presbytery of Essex Kent endorse Lakeshore St. Andrew’s student internship proposal and position description as the congregation seeks grants from Synod and Canadian Ministries funds.

Moved by Cornell and Rajack-Sankarlal

MOTION CARRIED.

2. **Pastoral care for presbyters.** The clerk suggested that we establish a formal process of recognition for ministers and elders, including those on the appendix, who are experiencing illness and other challenges. The committee agreed that this would be worthwhile. Since that time, someone has come forward who is willing to take on this responsibility.

Bonnie Pittock has agreed to a “CARD” Ministry wherein she will send appropriate cards to members of Presbytery as required with all expenses being covered by Presbytery funds.

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RECOMMENDATION 7 – That Bonnie Pittock be granted permission to send appropriate cards to members of Presbytery, on behalf of the Presbytery of Essex-Kent, with all expenses being covered by Presbytery funds, to begin as soon as she secured sufficient supplies.

Moved by Cornell and Rajack-Sankarlal

MOTION CARRIED.

Presbyters are encouraged to advise Bonnie of any circumstance requiring attention. For those who received various greeting cards from Charitable Organizations, you might want to consider sharing some with Bonnie.

EMERGENT SUPPORT FUND

The fund was established in 2021 to address “emergencies when a congregation is seen to be in need of interim financial assistance” or “to support a Mission Plan in the community or beyond. This Mission Plan could be instituted by a congregation of the Presbytery or the Presbytery itself.” Initial funds were to come from the sale of the former Hungarian congregation building. Approximately \$163,000 is expected to arrive from the national church office this month. Applications in writing must be made to Administration Committee. This fund will be administered by the Administration Committee on approval of the Presbytery.

1. St. Andrew’s Dresden Gospel ads mission proposal. The Administration committee in November accepted this proposal in principle but because the ESF had no funds at that time, the session was asked to submit it to the Congregational Support Fund. This proposal was turned down by presbytery in November on the advice of the Congregational Support Team as it didn’t meet its mandate. It now returns to presbytery for consideration under the ESF. The proposal from Dresden is for funds to cover weekly ads in the local newspaper and Coffee Times which have different scripture each week and lead people directly to the website and livestream link. It’s frontline evangelism, designed to reach secular readers. Ads have been running since Advent. The committee acknowledges that this approach may not be effective in every setting, but St. Andrew’s leadership is reporting that the ads have received some attention and some people in the community have asked church members what’s going on there. The total estimated cost will be \$3,634 per year and session is asking ESF to provide \$2,700.

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RECOMMENDATION 8 - That the Presbytery of Essex Kent approve a grant of \$2,700 from the Emergent Support Fund be granted to St. Andrew's Dresden toward the cost of Gospel Ads and that the session provide a report to presbytery on the effectiveness of this ministry in time for its November meeting.

Moved by Rajack-Sankarlal and Broughton

MOTION CARRIED

Bob MacVicar asked if this is a one-time request or will a similar application for further funding be received in the future?

The Moderator stated the current Terms of Reference do not state requests are of a one-time nature but grants/loans will be consider on the merits of each application.

2. FOR INFORMATION

The Congregational Support Team (CST) in April 2020 recommended a \$5,000 grant to **Lakeshore St. Andrew's towards its summer student intern program**. However, presbytery never considered this due to its April meeting being cancelled and the program being put on hold for two years. LSA has requested that the CST present its recommendation to presbytery. If the CST is not willing to do that, then Admin Committee is proposing that this be considered under the Emergent Support Fund. As of writing, the status is undetermined. A recommendation will come if required.

WORKS IN PROGRESS

1. A convenor is needed for the Presbytery's Life and Mission Committee. Sandra Smith is in an acting capacity. The moderator approached an individual to consider this position. The position was declined.

For the Information of the Court and anyone considering this position, below are the Terms of Reference according to the Current Standing Orders of 2018.

Duties of Life and Mission Committee

4.2. Life and Mission Committee

Membership

4.2.1 The Life and Mission Committee will consist of equal numbers of ministers and elders, together with a young adult representative.

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Responsibilities

4.2.2 Congregational Life

- Christian education;
- youth work;
- social action;
- stewardship (including *Presbyterians Sharing*);
- eldership development.- oversight of Leading with Care policy.
- coordination of an ongoing program of congregational visitations;
- present visitation reports to presbytery.

4.2.3 Mission

- mission education;
- oversight of mission charges (including personnel and grant requests);
- university chaplaincy;
- Presbyterian World Service and Development;
- coordination of mission deputation visits.

4.2.4 Other responsibilities will include provision of support and encouragement for congregations in their Christian life and mission by:

- providing information on programs and resources available to congregations;
- providing leadership training opportunities for congregations;
- identifying resource people to assist congregations.

4.2.5. Strategic planning.

- Responsibility for obtaining a preliminary strategic plan from all churches within our Presbytery.
- Responsibility for following up on all strategic plans. This involves contacting churches to see how they are progressing with implementing their plans, offering help where needed, and keeping strategic plans up to date.

4.2.6 And any other responsibilities as may be assigned by the Presbytery.

2. **Presbytery website.** Rev. Cornell was given permission in November to research the costs and logistics of setting up a website and provide examples from other courts. Content would include list of congregations with contacts and links to websites, presbytery meeting schedule and location, presbytery minutes and standing orders, list of standing committees and convenors, events if any. The main practical item would be a central storage for minutes/standing orders. No report at this time.

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3. Report of Committee reviewing **Duties of Interim Moderators** – no report at this time.
4. **Police Screenings.** Presbytery still requires updated reports from some members of the court. Presbytery covers the cost by submitting receipts to the Treasurer.
The following people have currently active reports:
Andrew Cornell Shirley Murdock Leslie Walker
The following reports expire in 2022
Tim Reddish Barbara Sargent Kathy Dupuis
All others are expired and need to be renewed or were not transferred to the present Clerk.
5. **Shredding** of old presbytery records – done and paid
6. **Review of Presbytery’s standing orders.** The Admin Committee plans to review at its April meeting.

RECOMMENDATION 8 – That the court accept the Administration Committee’s report as a whole.

Moved by Cornell and Rajack-Sankarlal

MOTION CARRIED

It was noted by Rev. Tim Reddish that the Final Report of the “On-Line” Ministry Proposal from St. Andrew’s Presbyterian Church, Amherstburg, submitted January 18, 2022, was not included in this Report.

The Clerk advised it mistakenly had not been received by the Administration Committee, but would be received at the April meeting.

Rev. Shirley F. Murdock – Clerk

**(Updated) Ministry and Doctrine Report for Presbytery February 15th, 2022 –
Rev. Tim Reddish**

M & D met via Zoom on January 6th, 2022, at 7pm via Zoom.

1. Study Leave Requests

- a. Rev. Mike Maroney requests a study leave for March 14-20. He desires time to reflect on a number of webinars hosted by *Church Answers*:
1. How to reboot your ministry as you regather
 2. Avoiding mediocrity in ministry
 3. Essentials for Effective Preaching in 2021
 4. Restoring the habit of In-Person worship
 5. Simple Church in Post-Covid times
 6. Moving your church from apathy to growth
 7. The Blank Slate Church

He has already had a preliminary look at these podcasts but requires sufficient quality time to reflect on all the material with an aim to work them into an action plan for First Church Chatham.

Recommendation: That Presbytery approve the above study leave.

Moved by Reddish and Lung.

MOTION CARRIED.

- b. Rev. Tim Reddish's Study Leave Report is given below.

Recommendation: That Presbytery receive this Study Leave report.

Moved by Reddish and Lung.

MOTION CARRIED.

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2. Training of Elders for Baptism and Holy Communion

Robert Ivison, an elder at Valetta Presbyterian, has completed the Sacraments Seminar under the guidance of Rev. Mike Maroney.

Recommendation: That Robert Ivison be certified to administer the Sacraments in a pastoral capacity and under the supervision of Valetta's Interim Moderators for a period of two years.

Moved by Reddish and Lung

MOTION CARRIED.¹

3. Rev. Leslie Walker: Following the Presbytery approved recommendations of Knox's Ministry Review Team (at Presbytery's April 2021 meeting), Rev. Walker's *Certificate of Transfer* was withheld by Presbytery until the required counselling was completed. On December 15th, 2021, Presbytery received a letter from a registered therapist stating that Rev. Walker had been "an engaged participant in a therapeutic process for six months and demonstrated a desire to maximize the opportunity for self-growth and healing," together with a wholehearted recommendation that Rev. Walker's credentials to be restored.

Recommendation: That being the case, M & D recommends that Rev. Walker's *Certificate of Transfer* be released by Presbytery so that she can pursue other avenues of ministry.

Moved by Reddish and Lung

MOTION CARRIED.

The Clerk will advise Rev. Leslie of this motion.

4. Comments on the Referrals from GA.

Having studied the six documents, we have no serious concerns on the wording within them. We simply have two observations:

a) Preamble to Ordination of Ministers and Ruling Elders

We recognize the attempt to use modern wording is important and helpful. However, the reference to "catholic" and "apostolic" could be better explained (as done earlier with "prophet, priest, and sovereign"). We suggest as a friendly amendment adding to "catholic" (universal – the church in all times and places) and to "apostolic" (sent/commissioned by Jesus Christ).

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¹ This practice was originally approved at Presbytery's November 2018 meeting.

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b) Guidelines Re Ministry and Mental Health

This is a helpful resource and a detailed roadmap in addressing the practical and pastoral concerns arising from mental health concerns. However, we note this policy may – in practice - be burdensome to implement without wise people involved (and in a small church/presbytery). M & D were given “power to issue” at the November Presbytery and so these comments have been communicated to PCC’s GA Office.

Comments have been forward to GA office

CONTRACT FOR BARB SARGENT

The Contract of Employment with St. Andrew’s Presbyterian Church, Wallaceburg; The Presbytery of Essex-Kent and Barbara Sargent was presented for annual renewal.

The Court was advised that Session had approved the renewal. It had also been received at the Annual Meeting.

MOTION: That the Contract of Employment for Barbara Sargent, St. Andrew’s Presbyterian Church, Wallaceburg and the Presbytery of Essex-Kent be approved.

Moved by Reddish and Cornell

MOTION CARRIED.

Report as a Whole

Moved by Reddish and Lung.

MOTION CARRIED

Study Leave Report (November 20, 2021)

Rev. Tim Reddish

Scot McKnight’s *The King Jesus Gospel: The Original Good News Revisited* (Zondervan, 2016)

Although I had heard of Prof. Scot McKnight, I had never read one of his books. I found this one to be well worth the read. It starts with a “simple” question: “*What is the gospel?*” People’s responses vary - personal salvation, justification, atonement theories (e.g., penal substitution), etc. He cites one minister as saying that since Jesus didn’t preach “justification by faith,” Jesus *couldn’t* have preached the “gospel” since Paul’s understanding is post Jesus’ resurrection and ascension! The point being that if the gospel is reduced to, say, “the four spiritual laws” or the “believer’s prayer” then it has little to do Jesus’ teaching, miracles, and his identity as Messiah.

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Evangelicals (whose root Greek word *euangelion* means gospel – good news) have, in McKnight’s opinion, effectively become “salvationists” (Greek *soteria*), hence *soterians*. The broader New Testament gospel culture has (mistakenly) become a salvation culture for many (evangelical) churches, especially in the US.

McKnight then points out that soterians have largely forgotten the Old Testament and focus on the New, particularly Paul’s letters. For McKnight, the biblical picture has its *foundational sequence* of the story of Israel² → the story of Jesus³ → plan of salvation → method of persuasion⁴; for soterians, the order of importance is, in his view, reversed. The story of Jesus is first and foremost the resolution of Israel’s story, and because of that, it *saves* – the world. The “plan of salvation” is, then, not the same as “the gospel,” (nor the “kingdom”) but emerges from it. And the “method of persuasion” in many evangelical hands has, according to McKnight, “*crushed* the story of Jesus and the story of Israel.”⁵

McKnight then considers the apostolic gospel (Paul, Peter – what did *they preach?*) and the Jesus gospel – are they different?⁶ Starting with 1 Cor 15 – taken as an early creed – he shows how Paul

² This begins with Adam and Eve, then Abraham, then Israel and their collective failure to be God’s image bearers and the means to bless the whole world. This led the prophetic voices proclaiming the coming of the messiah, with the future goal of the God finally setting up his kingdom – i.e., the consummation of history.

³ Jesus came with his kingdom vision, as demonstrated through his teaching, miracles, actions, death, resurrection – the whole package – along with his titles of Messiah, Son of Man, Savior, etc.

⁴ Which ultimately is the “techniques” of bringing a person to a moment of *decision*, rather than *discipleship*.

⁵ p43.

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preached *the Jesus story in the context of the story of Israel* (as fulfilling “the scriptures”). Later on, McKnight supports his argument by detailed considerations the *contents* of Peter and Paul’s sermons in the book of Acts.⁷ Since they preached what Jesus preached, there is then one *New Testament* gospel.

How then did modern evangelicalism lose sight of this gospel and become soterians? McKnight argues this did *not* arise in the church councils or creeds, nor in the Reformation, rather it emerged out of *Revivalism* and its personal and experiential focus.

McKnight’s point is that evangelicalism, or some branches of it, have lost sight of the true gospel by only focusing personal decisions and disconnecting the New Testament message from Jesus *as Messiah*, a title that can only be understood in the context of the story of Israel – the *whole* biblical narrative. Some might think that this is a harsh critique. However, methods of persuasion that lead to personal decision-making does not necessarily lead on to discipleship.⁸ To help address that concern, I agree with McKnight that we need to appreciate *our identity as part of the ongoing biblical narrative*. Afterall, preaching Jesus as savior can be divorced from Jesus as

Messiah, Son of Man, Lord. And when we do that, we lose the rich meaning and theological significance of those titles.

I have often heard (at St. Andrew’s) that the Old Testament should just be thrown away – it’s superfluous, we want a (loving, kind, gracious) New Testament “God.” Yet when I make connections with the Old Testament while preaching, people are fascinated and never realised the links. This book has caused me to no longer be shy or apologetic – not that I ever really was! - in using the Old to connect with the New, or to paint the big picture from creation to consummation. This book has also caused me to no longer be shy or apologetic in preaching from the Gospels, rather than imagine that is secondary to Paul’s letter to the Romans! This book was straightforward to read, informative, has aspects that are “preach-able,”⁹ and was encouraging.¹⁰

⁶ He also notes the biblical origins of the early creeds and that they were a faithful summary of the gospel.

⁷ Regardless of the historicity of those sermons in Luke’s skillful writing, their collective content and context are enlightening.

⁸ This is a well-appreciated critique of revivalism, as Billy Graham himself acknowledged.

⁹ For example, this book has reshaped how I see Peter and Paul’s sermons in Acts and would now preach on them in a different way.

¹⁰ Surprisingly, it also resonated with key themes in Reddish, *The Jesus I Didn’t Know I Didn’t Know* (Wipf & Stock, 2021).

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Incidentally, I had previously read James Dunn's "*Jesus, Paul, and the Gospels*" (Eerdmans, 2011). He makes the exact same case of Paul and Jesus preaching the *same* gospel. It turns out Dunn was McKnight's PhD supervisor!

John Sanders' *Embracing Prodigals: Overcoming Authoritative Religion by Embodying Jesus' Nurturing Grace* (Cascade, 2020).

Prof. Sanders tells the well-known story of the prodigal son and then describes/defines "authoritative" and "permissive" fathers and compares them with "nurturant" behaviors. In the parable, the older brother is the one demonstrating authoritative values (moral judgement) and sees his father of behaving inappropriately, even immorally. The nurturant father is not permissive (i.e., anything goes) with the younger son, rather he lavishes forgiveness and acceptance to restore and transform their relationship. When we imagine God, do we see him as primarily as an authoritative rule-keeper or one who prioritizes forgiveness and relationship over rules? This book systematically presents a contrast between authoritative and nurturant values/behaviors¹¹ and connects them not just with parenting, but with God, Jesus, the Bible, theology, church leadership, psychology, politics, ethics, culture wars, etc.

The book is persuasive, accessible, well-researched and written, though a times a little long-winded. His primary audience is American, but his basic thesis – that Jesus (and hence, so is God,) was/is a *nurturant* – needs recognizing afresh in church cultures that favor authoritative Christianity (or God), and hence that leadership style, behavior, etc. Given the present polarization in American politics and Christianity, Sanders detailed portrayal of authoritative and nurturant values/behaviors is timely and eye-opening, perhaps particularly for an outsider trying to understand the confusing US cultural scene.

Having presented separate chapters on Jesus and God, he points out that our view of God shapes *us*. We are (in)formed by our predominant mental image of God, either authoritative or nurturant, and they have very different core values. And this impacts our relationships (marriages, parenting), mental health, decision making, and theology. That latter aspect is explored in a chapter on grace, which considers how our view of God influences, say, our view(s) of atonement, Holy Communion, and Baptism, non-Christians, and hell. Underlying all these is the different views on justice – and hence why "authoritatives" just don't "get" grace (the prodigal son story and other similar parables).¹² Taking a step backwards, Sanders points out that these two contrasting views of God also shapes how we see and read the Bible itself. "Bible-believing" Christians favor the authoritative view of God - and hence the ('inerrant') Bible - because it ties in with their quest for simplicity (clear boundaries, no nuance) and certainty (no

¹¹ At times, stereotypically (but not as a straw man), so as to highlight the two extremes or poles and hence make his point. This issue is not presented as black and white, but of *propensity* to one over the other.

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debate/ambiguities).¹³ This also shapes morality/moral behavior (i.e., ethics) and politics. The latter is made abundantly clear in his chapter on *religious* politics in America, as he (briefly) considers income inequality, race, health care, criminal justice, same gender marriage, democracy, and Trump. This book, then, presents a convincing framework to help understand America today. In short, our view of God (authoritative or nurturant) not only shapes who we are as individuals, but our family dynamics, church leadership, structures, and doctrinal tensions, and even national sociology. This is true whether one is a Christian or not.

Yes, I would recommend this book for its well-argued ecclesiastical and cultural commentary and its theological insights. While it is tempting to think his analysis oversimplifies things, he still makes his point convincingly. It also helps to understand the difficulty in meaningful theological dialogue between authoritatives and nurturants. In brief, the authoritatives don't really see the need to dialogue, after all, they know they are right.¹⁴ All that's needed is for you to recognize they are right; compromise or nuance is seen as watering down or the thin end to the wedge - and hence inconceivable. For nurturants, dialogue is part of their values because relationship is more important than principles, faith/trust over certainty, situational ethics over rule keeping, grace over law.

CONGREGATIONAL SUPPORT TEAM REPORT
Presented by Wendy Streptak

PART ONE

Funding Request from Paul Memorial Presbyterian (Windsor)

The Congregational Support Team (CST) has received a funding request from Paulin Memorial for the technology needed to support the live streaming of the Sunday morning service to replace the present recorded version. This will greatly facilitate congregational engagement during the ongoing Covid restrictions. In addition, the request mentioned that this was part of a wider endeavour to make the most of new technology going forward, for instance in participating in the PCC New Beginnings program.

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To Get an understanding of what would be needed, the Paulin Board of Managers contacted, “Live Production Group” who assessed their existing equipment and recommended the additional equipment as itemized in the attached quote for \$5,373.95.

The Board has agreed that money from the Paulin Church Capital Fund will cover any remaining cost. While the intention had been to trial the live stream before Christmas, they dedicated to wait until they heard if Presbytery would provide financial support for the project.

CST DELIBERATION

The CST met via email communications between the 8-11th January, 2022 and determined that t his request was similar, in principle, to previous on-line technology support requests already supported. We would have preferred more than one quote, but were assured by the Paulin Board that they had every confidence in the quote provided and would have chosen them anyway. In addition, the quote appeared quote reasonable to the CST.

The CST approved a motion (moved: Bob MacVicar, Seconded Mike Maroney) to bring the following recommendation forward:

RECOMMENDATION #1:

That Presbytery approve a grant of S\$4,000.00 from the Congregational Support Fund to assist Paulin Memorial (Windsor establishing a live-streaming ministry through the use of new technology. Within one year, Paulin shall provide a report to Presbytery to evaluate the use of this new approach and include a financial statement outlining the total costs.

Moved by Streptak and Reddish

MOTION CARRIED.

PAULIN MEMORIAL LIVE STREAM - 11/07/21

Live Production Group, 789 Bridge Avenue, Windsor, ON N9B 2M5

We have been tasked with putting together a proposal for Paulin Memorial Presbyterian Church in regards to live streaming their Sunday services and any special services they have.

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1. TO create a system that is user friendly to their volunteers
2. TO enhance their web presence
3. TO assist the minister and volunteers with removing the need to come in during the week to pore record a sermon and edit before Sunday morning.

At this time they required:

The ability to live stream one(1)- two(2) cameras and powerpoint slides to Facebook and or YouTUBE.

To be able to get audio from the mixing console

To have room to expand in the future.

To be operational by at least 1 Sunday service before Christmas Eve.

1. Black Magic Atem Mini Pro – 4 Camera switcher and streamer
2. MSI MAG INFINITE 11TC – streaming computer
3. CANON XA11 Video camera – Second camera
4. CAMERA DESK MOUNT – camera mount for second camera
5. 3 HDMI CABLES – to connect cameras and computer to switcher
6. VGA TO HDMI ADAPTOR – this may not be needed depending on current powerpoint computer
7. HDMI SPLITTER – to send slides to projector/screen and switcher
8. ¼ INCH – XLR ADAPTOR – to get audio to the Cameron from console
9. L00 FOOD Cat6 ETHERNET CABLE – to get ethernet into the sanctuary in order to stream the services live.

SERVICES PROVIDED BY LIVE PRODUCTION GROUP

Purchase and install equipment

Test and troubleshoot system with Paulin Volunteers

Attend two services or training sessions with Paulin Volunteers

Configure network to allow new streaming requirements

\$5,373.95

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PART TWO – FUNDING REQUEST FOR STUDENT INTERNSHIP PROGRAMME AT LAKESHORE ST. ANDREWS

The Congregational Support Team (CST) proposed a motion at a meeting held in April 2020 to allocate a grant of \$5000 to support a student intern at LSA. Apparently this was never brought to Presbytery (the meeting in April 2020 was cancelled). We have checked with the treasurer Chuck Congram who confirmed that no cheque was ever issued for this grant.

LSA has applied for a new grant for a 2022 Internship programme, essentially the same as the 2020 version. The CST considers it reasonable to allow the earlier motion to stand and have it apply to their current request. This is on the understanding that this request is a one-off as we do not typically fund ongoing programmes.

CST Deliberation

The CST met via email communications between the Jan 30th and Feb 2nd 2022 and agreed to put forward the original (2020) motion to Presbytery, with revised dates to allow the funds requested to be applied to the current (2022) student internship request.

The CST approved a motion (Moved: Mike Maroney, Seconded: Wendy Skreptak) to bring the following recommendation forward (Original motion with revised dates):

Recommendation #2:

That Presbytery grant the sum of \$5,000 from the Congregational Support Fund to Lakeshore St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church to assist in the implementation of their pilot project as outlined in the proposal to hire three summer interns from June 1, 2022, to August 30, 2022.

And further, that a report on the success of the project be submitted to the clerk of Presbytery in time for the September meeting of Presbytery. This report shall include a financial accounting and an evaluation of the project in light of the goals originally laid out.

Moved by MacVicar and Reddish

MOTION CARRIED

It is understood that any funds from the grant are unused, they shall be returned to Presbytery. It should also be noted that since the Congregational Support Fund was not designed to fund ongoing projects within any congregation, LSA should look for alternative means to fund this project in upcoming years as the CST would not entertain a similar request for next year.

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It was noted that LSA is also seeking funding from other sources and the program is contingent on receiving all funds requested

Report as a whole
Moved by Streptak and Reddish
MOTION CARRIED

REPORT OF LIFE and MISSION COMMITTEE
No Report

INTERIM MODERATOR REPORTS

Knox, Leamington – Rev. Lillian Wilton

Services at Knox continued in person for November and December with very competent supply preaching. The congregation was about 10 to 15 people at a service and they appreciated the preaching of those supplying. Finances held their own with about \$6000 to \$7000 above expenses. At the end of December the secretary/treasurer/organist/elder resigned and asked for their membership transfer as well as eight other people two of whom were elders. Session decided that because of the lack of an organist and because of Covid concerns services for the month of January would be via You Tube except for the service on Jan. 30th 2022 which would be in-person before the annual meeting and Presbytery meeting to follow. The annual meeting at which twelve attended was held. A sum of two thousand dollars for Presbyterian Sharing was accepted as the allocation with the hope that the givings could be increased to three thousand if finances allow. There are a number of volunteers needed for leadership roles, the major one being a treasurer. To date all those with skills in this area who have been asked have declined. There are as well three committees who do not have any members or have only one person on them. A recommitment to Christ and his church is really needed.

At the Presbytery meeting Knox was encouraged to seek other ways to stay open and Session was given permission to contact other congregations in the Presbytery to see if any were interested in a partnership or other form of agreement to help Knox remain a visible witness in the downtown core. One proposal was

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made to Presbytery from Lakeshore St. Andrews. That possibility and others will be discussed at Session on Feb.4th and plans made to follow through on Presbytery's suggestion. Services have been suspended during that process. A new interim moderator, Rev. Shalini Rajack-Sankarlal was named for Knox to begin after the Feb. Presbytery meeting. She is going to attend the Feb. 4th Session meeting at Knox as well.

It is my hope and prayer that the congregation of Knox Leamington will be able to continue as a presbyterian witness to Christ there in a new and vital way and that those still part of the congregation will stand up and take leadership to make that happen.

THANKS

The Moderator offered thanks to Rev. Lillian for all the work she has done in Leamington.

MOTION: That the name of Rev. Lillian Wilton be removed from the Constituent Roll as Equalizing Clergy and placed on the Appendix to the Roll as Retired Minister.

Moved by Murdock and Reddish.

MOTION CARRIED

Valetta Presbyterian – Rev. Shirley Murdock

Valetta Presbyterian Church held services in November and December mostly in-person. Rev. Jason Cartier ended his ministry on December 31, 2021 with his last service of worship being conducted on December 26. On Sunday, December 19 a gathering was held following worship to recognize his 14 years with Valetta when gifts were presented and cake was enjoyed, all while maintaining appropriate distancing and Covid precautions.

Session met in January to review the proposed budget and prepare for the Annual Meeting.

Sarah Stockford, Certified Candidate for the Ministry of Word and Sacraments began preaching at Valetta the second Sunday of January. She has agreed to remain through to the end of April. It is the hope and prayer of the Session that she will extend her time with them for much longer.

The Annual Meeting was held Sunday, February 6, 2022 via zoom, following morning worship led by Sarah.

They have accepted an allocation to Presbyterians Sharing of \$3,500 and expect to exceed that amount with regular contributions.

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It was agreed by those present at the Annual Meeting that the time of worship will change from 10:00am to 10:30am beginning February 13, 2022. Session will sustain this request at their next Regular Meeting in April of 2022.

It was also agreed by those present that worship will happen via ZOOM for the month of February with hopes to re-open for in-person worship on March 6, 2022. Session will also sustain this action when they meet next.

The possibility of forming a partnership with Knox Presbyterian Church, Leamington was discussed. All present agreed this is not an appropriate time for Valetta to consider such a proposal.

Jayne Broughton and Kathy Dupuis remain as Representative and Alternate Elders, respectively. Robert Ivison was appointed as a second Alternate Elder.

Robert Ivison has completed the Course on Sacraments presented by Rev. Mike Maroney. Robert will be available to take Communion to the Shut-ins associated with the congregation. Thanks is extended to both Robert and Rev. Mike.

Ridgetown Mt. Zion – Rev. Andy Cornell

Worship continues in person with a livestream option. We continue to be blessed with faithful, Biblical messages from Rev. Lillian Wilton, Rev. Doug Cameron, Knox Wallaceburg Elder Mary Pat Elliott and Rev. Colin Paterson. Rev. Merv Tubb is our backup in case of emergency. Music is provided on rotation by Gabby Martin and Liz Brown on piano. We are thankful for Don Flowers, who played guitar until the end of 2021 and has gracefully bowed out after moving to Chatham.

The annual congregation meeting is scheduled in person following worship on Feb. 13. We are very grateful for the diligent work of administrator Bethie Carnie. Session (clerk Phyllis May, rep elder Bryan Stirling and elder Renee Geluk) meet monthly with the interim moderator. Finances are relatively healthy, but the congregation continues to age, which is a concern.

Lakeshore St. Andrew's – Rev. Andy Cornell

I'm excited to announce the creation of a new position, Director of Operations, in late January. Rich Berdan oversees the overall operations and administration at LSA in cooperation with the pastors, office staff and Session. One of his primary tasks will be to work with session to review the mandates of its standing committee and staff job descriptions so that the congregation can operate once again as a well-oiled machine. Operational efficiency has been lacking in recent

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years, particularly since the previous minister resigned and the congregation split. (The interim moderator admits that he had hoped to restore efficiency prior to hiring of a lead pastor, but

the job was too great.) Rich will be responsible for human resources, health and safety, employee relations and development, facility services, policies and will work closely with Session on efficiency, innovation, and growth initiatives. That final point is important. LSA is gifted with a first-rate facility and wonderful location which can be leveraged not only to bless the community but practice the Great Commission. Rich is a longtime member of LSA and brings 25 years of senior management and executive leadership at several multinational companies and sectors including sales and customer service, manufacturing and production, and human resources and labour relations.

The elder nomination process is approaching its conclusion and we hope to present nominees to the congregation in the weeks to come. Clerk Sylvia Verhulst, rep elder Wendy Skreptak and elders Connie Hale-Duncan and Wendy Berdan continue to meet regularly with the lead pastor and interim mod.

Sunday worship continues in person via two services and online.

Knox Presbyterian Church, Wallaceburg: Knox continues under the part-time ministry of Barb Sargent. I am always amazed at the number of ministries and mission projects the congregation supports.

Covid has taken a toll on finances, hoping this will turn around – Barb says

New St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Dover: In person-worship services have resumed.

Rev. Ken Powell is in the pulpit through February. Christine Prosser is the organist. The annual meeting was held Sunday, February 13.

MOTION

That the above Reports from Interim Moderators be adopted as presented.

Moved by Reddish and Aide

MOTION CARRIED.

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NEW BUSINESS

1. Correspondence received after meeting of Admin. Co

From Rev. Scott McAllister

To the Presbytery of Essex-Kent

Erin and I have relocated to Dorchester, Ontario which is in the Presbytery of London. I am requesting that my membership be transferred to the Presbytery of London at the court's convenience.

It was an honour to serve in ministry with you. Erin and I were very blessed by our time in Windsor with UCC and the Presbytery of Essex-Kent. We continue to pray for all of you as you minister together and in your congregations.

Blessings and with thanks

Scott McAllister

RECOMMENDATION: That a Certificate of Transfer be issued for Rev. Scott McAllister and forwarded to the Clerk of the Presbytery of London, effective February 15, 2022.

Moved by Reddish and Wilton

MOTION CARRIED.

FYI -

STATISTICAL REPORTS

From Oliver Ng, Chief Financial Officer – and –

Jackie Czegledi, Senior Administration, Finance

The Statistical Form and guide has been emailed to each Session for whom we have an email address. They will be mailed out to those without email address this week. (Feb , 2022).

The Guide and form can be downloaded and filled out online at presbyterian.ca/finance and presbyterian.ca/stat-report

Congregations are being requested to use the online form to submit their data this year. This improves accuracy and significantly reduces the cost of entering the data into the national database. Once a congregation has created their online form, they can save the information as they progress and return to correct it as needed. It allows multiple people to fill out different sections of the form.

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FYI

FUNDING FOR THERAPY

From Carragh Erhardt, Program Coordinator, Sexuality and Inclusion – PCC

In 2021, The General Assembly received and adopted various recommendations contained in “Not All Are Welcome”, the final report of the Rainbow Communion. “Not All Are Welcome” drew on the stories of people who shared their experiences of harm due to homophobia, hypocrisy, transphobia and heterosexism in the church. In recognition of the harm the church has caused, General Assembly decided that a fund should be established to provide financial assistance for accessing psychotherapy or counseling to support healing. These funds are available and the information about eligibility and how the fund is administered can be accessed at <https://presbyterian.ca/2022/02/08/funding-for-harm-done>.

TRUST DEED – PAULIN MEMORIAL

Bob MacVicar presented a template of a Trust Deed for Paulin Memorial Presbyterian Church, Windsor, seeking signatures of the Court.

He advised that Paulin was dealing with a legal matter. The lawyer requested a document that identifies the church as a religious charitable organization.

Prior to signing a Trust Deed, it was agreed Mr. MacVicar would provide the current charitable status number to the lawyer. If required, the Clerk would write an accompanying letter. If a Trust Deed is deemed necessary, the Session of Paulin Memorial would need to receive and consider the Deed prior to it coming to Presbytery for acceptance and signing.

NEXT MEETING:

The following schedule of meetings and host congregations was agreed upon by the Court.

April 19, 2022 – Tuesday - Presbytery – St. Andrew’s, Dresden
Tuesday, April 5, 2022 – Administration Committee
Week prior for Standing Committees

June 21, 2022 – Tuesday – Presbytery – Lakeshore St. Andrews
Tuesday, June 7 – Administration Committee
Week prior for Standing Committees

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Regular Meeting, Tuesday, February 15, 2022
Paulin Memorial Presbyterian Church, Windsor

September 20, 2022 – Tuesday – Presbytery – St. Andrew’s, Amherstburg
Sacrament of communion will be offered
Installation of Moderator of Presbytery
Tuesday, September 6 – Administration Committee
Week prior for Standing Committees

November 15, 2022 – Tuesday – Presbytery – University Community Church, Windsor
Tuesday, November 1 – Administration Committee
Week prior for Standing Committees

MOTION TO ADJOURN

The Court is called to meet next in Regular Session on Tuesday, April 19, 2022 within St. Andrew’s Presbyterian Church, Dresden. Time and Details yet to be determined.
Moved by Wilton and Cornell
MOTION CARRIED

PRAYER – The Moderator offered prayer and dismissed the Court at 8:10pm

Barbara Sargent, Moderator

Rev. Shirley F. Murdock, Clerk

Rev. Shirley F. Murdock - Clerk

