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**Presbytery of Essex-Kent**  
**The Presbyterian Church in Canada**  
**Regular Meeting,**  
**Tuesday, February 20, 2024**  
**Paulin Memorial Presbyterian Church, Windsor**  
**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 Rev. Lisa Aide – 5:30pm

**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.

**Appointment of the Clerk:**

**MOTION: That the Court sustain the action of its Administration Committee in appointing Rev. Tim Reddish as Clerk as of January 1, 2024. MOVED by Cornell and Murdock, Admin Convenor. MOTION CARRIED.**

**Attendance:**

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

Others present were: Lay Missionary Brian McGuffin, WMS Representative Carolyn Reid, guest Bob MacVicar and Rev. Nancy Carle.

Elders present were: Mark Labadie, Alison Brown, Jayne Broughton, Jane Lung, Sandra Smith, Bryan Stirling, Kathy Parks, Audrey Bauman, Kevin Capling (FCC Alternative), Kathy Dupuis (Valetta Alternative), and Kathleen Knott (Amherstburg Alternate).

**Regrets:** Barbara Sargent, Andrew Templer, Robert Ivison, Lilian Wilton, and Chris Little.

**Changes to the Roll**

LSA:    Representative Elder - Audrey Bauman - [abauman@lsachurch.net](mailto:abauman@lsachurch.net)  
        Alternate Rep Elder - Wendy Skreptak - [wskreptak@lsachurch.net](mailto:wskreptak@lsachurch.net)

Paulin Memorial      Representative Elder - Audrey Landon - [alandon1971@gmail.com](mailto:alandon1971@gmail.com)

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First Church Chatham: Alternate Rep Elder - Kevin Capeling - [bcapeling@bell.net](mailto:bcapeling@bell.net)

**MOTION: That the above changes/additions to the Roll be adopted. MOVED by Cornell and Brown. CARRIED.**

**Good News Moments and Prayer Requests**

**Kathy Parks** reported of St. Andrew's Amherstburg's delight in their recently appointed minister, Rev. Shirley Carleton. They regard her as an excellent fit for the congregation and some whose attendance had declined in recent times have returned.

**Carolyn Reid** reported, with photographs, of the ongoing Milk Bag ministry. She is the Children and Youth Secretary for the Essex-Kent Presbyterial of the WMS. And in that role, she is offering to assist any Youth Leaders with the churches of Presbytery; interested Sessions can contact Carolyn via email: [sprkke@sympatico.ca](mailto:sprkke@sympatico.ca).

**Lisa Aide** reported Paulin Memorial's celebration of 70 years of mission, and that they had recently ordained three new elders and renewed five others.

**Andy Cornell** reported of Dresden's excitement with their new hire of a Sunday School Educator, along with their appointing new elders.

**Shirley Carleton** acknowledged her appreciation Rev. Lisa Aide for the loan of a clerical robe until her first (new) robe arrived.

**Examination of Session Records (Note: *not* Session Minutes)**

February: Amherstburg and Dresden, along with Paulin Memorial's Death/Funeral Register.

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

April 2024 – Dover and LSA

June 2024 – Chatham and UCC

Sept 2024 – Valetta and Ridgetown

**6:15pm Dinner**

The Moderator dismissed the Court to gather in the Church Hall for dinner, returning for the continuance of business at 7:15pm. The Moderator offered a blessing on the food and gathering.

**Return to Sanctuary for the business of the day.**

**Adoption of Agenda**

**Rev. Tim Reddish – Clerk**

**MOTION: That the Agenda be adopted as presented. MOVED by Aide and Maroney. MOTION CARRIED.**

**Minutes:** Regular Meeting, November 21, 2023, pages 4885 - 4912

**MOTION – To adopt as presented. MOVED by Murdock and Brown. MOTION CARRIED.**

## REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

### ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

The Administration Committee met on February 5, 2024, at 10am. Members present were Revs. Andrew Cornell (Convenor), Chuck Congram (Treasurer), Shirley Murdock (Past Clerk), Shalini Rajack-Sankarlal (Moderator and Assistant Treasurer), Tim Reddish (Clerk), and Barbara Sargent (Past Moderator).

### REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

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

### CORRESPONDENCE

1. International Teams Mission Toronto. **Forwarded to Admin.**
2. Online Sacrament Elder Course Offered by St. Andrew's Hall - February 3, 2024. **Forwarded to Admin. Recommended Action: received for information.**
3. Online Study - Wisdom Unveiled (**Presbyterian College, Montreal**). **Forwarded to Presbytery Members.**
4. Letter from Rev. Mike Maroney informing Presbytery of his intention to Retire on July 1, 2024. **Sent to M & D and will be addressed in their Report.**
5. Letter from Terrie-Lee regarding the Annual Presbytery Statistics. **Completed by Clerk.**
6. **Presbyterian Church Heritage Centre.** (They sent it to all Presbytery members.) **Recommended Action: received for information.**
7. Ministry Forum Community (Knox College). **Forwarded to clergy and stated pulpit supply members. Recommended Action: received for information.**
8. Distribution for dissolved congregation Knox Leamington – (Should be coming soon.)

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9. PCC Moderator Bios. **Forwarded to Presbytery Members.**
10. Voluntary Withdrawal Process Details/Reminder. **Forwarded to Presbytery Members. Recommended Action: received for information.**
11. Assembly Office – request for updated email addresses for clergy and Rep. Elders. **Completed by Clerk.**
12. Received from Treasurer: a copy of his letter to the Salvation Army in BC with a gift of \$441 from the offering received at Rev. Shirley Carleton’s induction service in Amherstburg.
13. Spring Granting Program: Key Dates Letter. **Forwarded to Presbytery Members.**
14. Nominations for General Assembly standing committees (presbytery and synod). **Details and invitation forwarded to Presbytery Members.**
15. GA committee to nominate - calling for nominations - presbytery synod. **Details and invitation forwarded to Presbytery Members. Recommended Action: receive for information, with the reminder for Presbyters to be aware of the deadline to respond.**
16. Correspondence from Kevin Capeling, Clerk of Session, First Presbyterian Church, Chatham concerning Rev. Mike’s departure and aftermath. **Forwarded to Admin and will be addressed later in their Report.**
17. Correspondence from PCC Pensions and Benefits Office concerning LSA arrears. **Forwarded to Admin. Recommended Action: That the Clerk of Presbytery reply and seek details on the “serious consequences” mentioned in their letter.**
18. Correspondence from St. Andrew’s Dresden’s Session requesting an amended call for Rev. Andy Cornell. **Forwarded to M & D and will be addressed in their Report.**
19. Correspondence from St. Andrew’s Dresden’s Session requesting continued funding for newspaper gospel ads. **Forwarded to Finance and Funding.**
20. Correspondence the Q4 2023 statement for Presbytery’s participation in the PCC Consolidated Fund. **This letter was copied to the Treasurer.**

**MOTION: That the Correspondence be received as listed and noted. MOVED by Cornell and Murdock. MOTION CARRIED.**

**Administration Committee matters – Updates:**

1. **General Presbyter (GP) position** – Presbytery’s Special Committee (Andy Cornell, Sandra Smith, Shalini Rajack-Sankarlal, and Chuck Congram) overseeing this new position met on January 23, 2024, and formulated a detailed proposal which was then presented to Presbytery, namely:
  - \$40,000 honorarium (includes housing allowance)
  - Pension and Benefits
  - Mileage: presbytery mileage for travel within presbytery. If the GP resides outside Chatham-Kent or Essex/Windsor, \$100-250/mo (depending how far they live from presbytery)
  - \$1,500 resource/expense budget
  - \$1,000 study as per PCC guidelines
  - Other expenses to be negotiated.

(Reminder: General Presbyter job description – approved by Presbytery April 23, 2023.)

General

The need for a General Presbyter (GP) is a response to the reality that while the spiritual needs in our world are greater, we have fewer human resources. At the same time, we are endowed with significant funds which must be used in mission. The intent is for a GP to reduce the workload of ministers and pastors with the hope that they will be able to spend more time actively discerning new ministry opportunities.

Terms

1. Half time on employment agreement. First incumbent would be hired for two years to allow the position to be established.
2. A member of the constituent roll with active participation in the court and its committees.
3. A stipend significantly above the minimum in order to reflect the qualifications and experience, and a housing allowance which reflects their community.
4. Residence in Essex-Kent preferred but not required. Able to commute from a reasonable distance.
5. Mileage to be negotiated, to reflect their place of residence.
6. A generous budget for resources and expenses.

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Qualifications

1. Several years experience in ministry
2. Ordained in the PCC as a teaching elder.

Responsibilities

1. To work in confidence with each minister and pastor to ensure they are caring for their mental, emotional, and spiritual health.
2. To take the lead on regular congregation visitations, in cooperation with L & M Committee.
3. To assist the clerk and other ministers in presbytery administrative matters as directed by the court.

**MOTION: That the Presbyter position be posted publicly, including the PCC website, with applications going to the Clerk of Presbytery and that the Administration Committee act as a search committee using the proposed financial details as guidance in its negotiations and make a recommendation for a call to Presbytery for consideration. MOVED by Cornell and Murdock. MOTION CARRIED.**

**2. For Information: Finance and Funding Committee.** This was created with the approval of Presbytery's amended Standing Orders in November 2023. Bob MacVicar and Andrew Templer have agreed to serve, along with the treasurer and assistant treasurer. The Treasurer, Chuck Congram, will call the first meeting of this committee in the near future.

**3. Examination of Session Records** (members roll, baptisms, marriage, and funeral registers) – Bob MacVicar, Lisa Aide, Alison Brown.

Schedule:

Feb 2024 – Amherstburg, Dresden and Paulin

April 2024 – Dover and LSA

June 2024 – Chatham and UCC

Sept 2024 – Valetta and Ridgetown

**MOTION: that congregations who do not have these records be advised to begin this practice. (Registers are available from the PCC.) MOVED by Cornell and Murdock. MOTION CARRIED.**

**4. Nominate next Moderator of Presbytery** to begin during the September meeting of presbytery.

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**MOTION: that Rev. Lisa Aide be nominated as moderator elect. MOVED by Cornell and Murdock. MOTION CARRIED.**

**5. For Information: Standing Orders.** A clean version of the revised Standing Orders, approved at the November 2023 meeting, were sent to all Presbyters.

**6. Mt. Zion** may be looking for a legal opinion regarding its *New To You* consignment shop, specifically on the wording of its employment agreement with the store manager and to what extent the store would be liable for damage/loss to goods in the event of a fire, water damage. The concern is to protect the congregation from financial claim. No denominational funds are available for a legal opinion. The presbytery treasurer advises that we have no funds available for this purpose.

**MOTION: That the session of Mt. Zion consider using income from this mission towards a legal opinion. MOVED by Cornell and Murdock. MOTION CARRIED.**

### Treasurer's Report

**2023 Financial Report.** Congregations are encouraged to pay their synod and presbytery dues as soon as possible. Valetta, New St. Andrew's Dover, and Paulin Memorial have all paid their 2024 presbytery/synod dues in full, with the appreciation of the treasurer.

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Jan 1-Dec 31, 2023.**

#### Financial Statement

|                            | Budget           | Actual           |
|----------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| <b>Income</b>              |                  |                  |
| Synod-Presbytery Dues      | 37,664.20        | 36,477.04        |
| Offerings                  | 7,000.00         | 0.00             |
| Sub-total                  | 44,664.20        | 36,477.04        |
| <b>Unbudgeted income</b>   |                  |                  |
| Paulin mortgage            |                  | 6,579.56         |
| Transfer from Bursary fund |                  | 14,750.00        |
| <b>Sub-total</b>           |                  | <b>21,329.56</b> |
| <b>Total income</b>        | <b>44,664.20</b> | <b>57,807.60</b> |
| <b>Expenses</b>            |                  |                  |
| Synod dues                 | 21,437.28        | 21,439.28        |
| Presbytery travel          | 5,000.00         | 5,385.52         |
| Committee Expenses         |                  |                  |
| Life and Mission           | 300.00           | 0.00             |

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|                            |           |           |
|----------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| Ministry and Doctrine      | 300.00    | 0.00      |
| Sexual assault/ Harassment | 300.00    | 0.00      |
| General assembly Meals     | 1,300.00  | 645.00    |
| Honoraria                  |           |           |
| Clerk                      | 5,000.00  | 5,000.00  |
| Treasurer                  | 1,000.00  | 1,000.00  |
| Other expenses             |           |           |
| Clerk                      | 1,300.00  | 1,193.61  |
| Treasurer                  | 150.00    | 144.28    |
| P.C.C. insurance           | 1,600.00  | 1,445.74  |
| Police checks              | 400.00    | 34.12     |
| Bank service charges       | 25.00     | 0.00      |
| Total budgeted expenses    | 38,112.28 | 36,287.55 |

**Unbudgeted expenses**

|                               |           |
|-------------------------------|-----------|
| Admin Committee               | 55.51     |
| Congregational support grants | 22,077.53 |
| Duart grant                   | 1,400.00  |
| Leadership roundtable         | 210.68    |
| Card ministry                 | 56.20     |
| Emergent fund                 | 20,000.00 |
| Bursaries                     | 16,150.00 |
| G.A.-YAR                      | 175.00    |
| I T Worship- Website          | 932.25    |
| Total unbudgeted expenses     | 61,057.17 |

**MOTION: that Presbytery receives the Treasurer’s 2023 Financial Report with a polite reminder for congregations to pay dues and assessment promptly. MOVED by Cornell and Murdock. MOTION CARRIED.**

**New Business**

**1. Recommendations from the incoming Clerk:**

a) That Committee Convenors who are not on the Constituent Roll or members of the Court be granted permission to move motions on behalf of their committee and that this motion be included in the Standing Orders of Presbytery. (This would currently apply to Andrew Templer, Chuck Congram, and Tim Reddish).



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Reminder - Recommendations from Committees should, as much as it is possible, be moved and secondly ONLY by members who were present when the committee met to discuss such issues.

**MOTION: That Presbytery's Standing Orders be amended to allow convenors of standing committees who are not members of Presbytery to move motions on behalf of their committees and to allow the clerk to make motions if he/she is not on the constituent roll of presbytery. MOVED by Cornell and Murdock. MOTION CARRIED.**

b) Requests for financial assistance

**MOTION: That requests for financial assistance from the various funds of Presbytery must be presented to the appropriate committee *prior* to a meeting of Presbytery. Requests presented on the floor of Presbytery will not be considered until the proper committee has had ample opportunity to consider the request, and that this action, if approved, be included in the Standing Orders. MOVED by Cornell and Murdock. MOTION CARRIED.**

2. **For Information:** Clerk's operating expenses: computer, internet, etc. We reimbursed the past clerk for half of her 2023 internet costs, same as with her predecessor. Our practice will continue with the new clerk.

**3. Letter from UCC Session re: Property Title.**

Date: January 11, 2024

To: The Rev. Andrew Cornell, Convener Administration Committee, Presbytery of Essex-Kent

Cc. Tim Reddish, Clerk, Presbytery of Essex-Kent

From: The Rev. Shalini Rajack-Sankarlal (Minister), Alison Brown (Clerk Of Session) University Community Church

Dear Rev. Cornell,

In November 2023, it came to our attention that Knox Presbyterian Church (Knox) is currently listed as the property owner of 2320 Wyandotte Street West, Windsor, Ontario with the City of Windsor. This location has operated as University Community Church (UCC) since 2001. UCC, however, does not appear on the city's record. A simple request for a Diabetes Canada clothing donation bin to be placed on the property brought this discrepancy to light. The Diabetes Toronto office discovered this when applying for the required license to place the bin at our location. It was then we discovered the name on the deed is not UCCs. We were informed by the City of Windsor that the usual process is for a new deed to be registered with them when ownership changes. This obviously did not occur. The current Session was unaware of this, as we have a city hall license and property insurance in our name. Obviously, this needs to be resolved as we're thinking about more important issues that could occur in the future. (lawsuits, need to sell, etc).

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For your information: Knox amalgamated with St Andrew's, Downtown Windsor in 2000 but only for the purpose of membership. We have ascertained that during this time, Presbytery was given control of the Knox assets, holding onto them until the mission of UCC started in 2001. UCC operated as a mission for 10 years. It was established as a congregation in 2011. A Trust Fund (UCC Trust Fund) has been in the congregation's control since its inception, indicating that the current assets (funds) were transferred into UCC's name by the Presbytery. However, no records exist either with UCC or the Presbytery of Essex-Kent, showing how the fixed assets (buildings and land) were accounted for. This would have been the Presbytery's responsibility to transfer the property into UCC's name.

Further research with the National Office prompted this response: "So, if the property is still registered to Knox (presumably The Trustees of Knox Presbyterian Church) then it seems that the Presbytery never did go ahead with its plans to appoint Trustees and take over the care of property. If they had, the name on the title would be The Trustees of the Presbytery of Essex-Kent. It would have been a very unusual move in any case as Presbyteries don't normally have trustees. So what needs to be done is a lawyer will have to work on changing the title. Hopefully, at least two of the former trustees of Knox are still alive and can be located. That will make it easier. More difficult if they cannot be located. I would recommend that you let the presbytery know of this dilemma. Presbyteries are to firstly ensure, secondly and to assist congregations to get their titles in good order. Let me know if there is any more that I can do to help." Barbara Nawratil, Interim Senior Administrator.

**The Session of University Community Church requests Presbytery to:**

- 1. Engage a lawyer to facilitate the transfer of the property deed to the Trustees of University Community Church and**
- 2. Cover all financial costs associated with this transaction.**

Respectfully,

Rev. Shalini Rajack-Sankarlal (Moderator),      Alison Brown (Clerk, Trustee)

**MOTION: That Presbytery's Treasurer engage a lawyer to facilitate the transfer of the property deed to the Trustees of University Community Church and cover all financial costs associated with this transaction. MOVED by Cornell and Murdock. MOTION CARRIED.**

4. The interim moderator for LSA is requesting presbytery's assistance regarding the congregation's pension debt owed to the PCC. Email from IM Rev. Chris Little: "In spite of my efforts, the Session has taken no action to begin repayment of the loan to the Pension Board. The request by the church for a meeting is a response to my

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expression of concern and provides an opportunity for representatives of the Session and Finance Committee of the congregation to share their thoughts. The meeting will also allow Presbytery representatives to exercise pastoral oversight in this regard. Another sympathetic yet realistic voice needs to be heard by the leaders of LSA if there is to be any hope of repayment to begin in the foreseeable future.” The IM is suggesting that a delegation from LSA meets with presbytery’s Admin Committee to persuade them to begin repayments.

**RECOMMENDATION: That Presbytery authorize a committee consisting of, if possible, an equal number clergy and ruling elders along with a representative from the Pension and Benefits Board to meet with a delegation from the congregation, including the interim moderator.**

At this point there was a **MOTION TO AMEND** the above recommendation to “exclude a representative from the Pension and Benefits Board for the first meeting.” **MOVED by Bauman and Cornell. MOTION CARRIED.**

After much discussion, the above **MOTION TO AMEND** was **DEFEATED**.

**The original MOTION was then MOVED by Cornell and Murdock. MOTION CARRIED.**

5. **For Information:** Reporting protocol. Some presbyters send reports to the Clerk for distribution to the appropriate committee. Others send directly to the committee convenor.

**MOTION: That all reports be sent to the Clerk for dissemination to the appropriate recipient. MOVED by Cornell and Murdock. MOTION CARRIED.**

6. Request from UCC for approval for its application for \$8,750 to the Presbytery of East Toronto Cooke’s Church Trust Fund for financial support for UCC’s Student Outreach Meal: “Meet and Eat.” (FYI: This initiative has previously received \$3000 from the Presbytery’s Emergent Support Fund.)

**MOTION: That Presbytery approves the application to the Cooke’s Church Trust Fund. MOVED by Cornell and Murdock. MOTION CARRIED.**

**The ADMIN REPORT PAUSED at this point.**

## Ministry and Doctrine Report

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The Ministry and Doctrine Committee met on January 24, 2024, at 10:00 a.m. by Zoom teleconferencing. Present at the meeting were Rev. M. Maroney, Jane Lung, and Rev. Tim Reddish. Regrets from Mark Labadie and Wendy Skreptak.

1. **Rev. M. Maroney's Retirement Announcement/Letter.** (As Rev. M. Maroney is the convenor of the M&D Committee, Rev. Tim Reddish (the former convenor) led this portion of the meeting.)

January 17, 2024.

To the Essex-Kent Presbytery,

I am informing you of my decision to retire from congregational ministry, and my position at First Presbyterian Church in Chatham, Ontario, effective July 1, 2024. My last Sunday in the pulpit will be June 30. By then I will have served my entire 20 years of ordained ministry at First Presbyterian Church (22, if you count student ministry).

This is a decision I have prayed about for more than a year, and along with my wife Jodi, am happy to be making. I am turning 65 in March, and I am looking forward to the next chapter in my life. That being said, the last 22 years have been the most satisfying years of my life, and I will be forever grateful for my time at First Church, and for the love I have been shown by the congregation.

Following my email to the Clerk of Presbytery and Moderator of Presbytery informing them of my decision, my retirement announcement was accepted, with regrets, by the session at First Presbyterian Church on Friday, January 12, 2024. The session elders were taken aback by my announcement, but were quick to give thanks for my ministry, and gave me wonderful support for my decision. They spoke gratefully about all that we have accomplished in the last two decades and were confident that God would lead them in the next phase of their congregational life.

I then shared the news with the congregation at the end of the worship service on Sunday, January 14. I was overwhelmed by the show of love and support I received at that worship service, and in countless emails and phone calls in the days immediately following. Although people have expressed sadness that I am leaving the congregation, they have also been gracious to congratulate me on my retirement. Their response to my announcement was exactly how I wished it would be. I am very grateful for that.

Blessings,

M. Maroney Minister,  
First Presbyterian Church,  
60 Fifth St., Chatham, ON., N7M 4V7

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Rev. M. Maroney informed the committee that he will be making a full break from First Church at his retirement, and that he and his wife Jodi will attend worship at another church. Although Rev. Mike is staying in Chatham, he will not exert any influence on the life and ministry at First Church. Rev. Mike stated that he was encouraged, that although members of the congregation expressed sadness at his retirement, they were also quick to congratulate him on his retirement. The congregation is fully informed that Rev. Mike and Jodi will no longer be attending First Church following Sunday, June 30, 2024.

Rev. M. Maroney will be doing an exit interview and asks if Rev. Tim Reddish can lead that interview. It is understood that exit interviews are confidential but can be shared with the Interim Moderator once chosen.

Following this discussion, Rev. Tim Reddish received Rev. M. Maroney's retirement letter, with regrets, and he moved, and Jane Lung seconded, the following recommendation:

**MOTION: That the Presbytery of Essex-Kent receive and approve, with regret, Rev. M. Maroney's retirement letter, effective July 1, 2024. MOVED by Reddish and Lung. MOTION CARRIED.**

**ADMIN COMMITTEE ADENDUM:**

1. **Appointment of an Interim Moderator for First Church, Chatham.** Presbytery received a letter from the Session of First Church, Chatham, regarding steps to be taken following the planned retirement of its minister.

To the Clerk of Presbytery,

The following items were discussed at our Emergent meeting of Session this evening, Tuesday, January 30, 2024:

The Session of First Presbyterian Church strongly feels that the congregation is ready to have an Interim Moderator appointed to lead the search for a new minister. An Interim Minister is not required.

The session would be happy to have the Interim Moderator appointed and in place prior to Rev. Maroney's retirement. It would be helpful to begin writing our congregational profile as soon as possible.

The following names were suggested as possible Interim Moderators: Rev. Shalini Rajak-Sankarlal, Rev. Lillian Wilton, and Rev. Chuck Congram.

We will let Paulin Memorial know the number of people attending the Presbytery meeting to speak to Rev. Maroney's retirement. At the moment, the only person going for certain is myself.

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Respectfully,

Kevin Capeling, Clerk of Session, First Presbyterian Church, Chatham.

Kevin Capeling then spoke to Presbytery on behalf of First Presbyterian Church, Chatham. He said that the congregation were blessed by Rev. Mike's ministry, noting its long duration. He mentioned the outcome of Presbytery's recent visitation had been very good/positive. The congregation will miss Rev. Mike, but fully support his decision.

**MOTION: That the letter from the session of First Chatham be received with thanks. MOVED by Cornell and Murdock. MOTION CARRIED.**

**MOTION: That the Ministry and Doctrine Committee be asked to provide a recommendation for an Interim Moderator for First Church, Chatham, for Presbytery's April meeting. MOVED by Cornell and Murdock. MOTION CARRIED.**

**For Information: Leadership of M&D.** With the retirement of the committee convenor, the Administration Committee will be discerning his replacement and committee membership.

**MOTION: Administration Committee Report as a whole. MOVED by Cornell and Murdock. MOTION CARRIED.**

**M & D REPORT CONTINUES:**

**2. Bursary Requests.**

The following bursaries were requested:

Sarah Stockford – 4 courses: You, Your Congregation, and the End of the World; Bible in Context; Practicum in Mission; Preaching.

Brian McGuffin – 2 courses: Reformed Theology in the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> Centuries; Contemplative Prayer and the Reformed Tradition.

**MOTION: That the above bursaries be awarded at the cost of \$650 per course. MOVED by Maroney and Lung. MOTION CARRIED.**

**3. Sarah Stockford – Certification for Ordination**

Rev. M. Maroney and M. Labadie met with Sarah Stockford by Zoom teleconferencing on Monday, January 22, 2024, for examination to certify her as a Candidate for Ordination.

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Sarah provided the committee with the following:

- a. A written statement of intent to proceed to ordination in the Presbyterian Church, and her intent to accept the Preamble on Ordination and the Subordinate Standards of the Presbyterian Church.
- b. A written statement of her faith journey.
- c. A theological paper. (Note: an exegesis paper and sermon were not required, as Sarah is currently taking her exegesis course at Knox College.)

We had an informative conversation with Sarah as she told of us of her progress in seminary, as well as her work as a hospital chaplain, and her pulpit supply at Valetta Presbyterian Church. Sarah is on track to finish her seminary studies in April 2024.

Sarah has managed her busy schedule very well and is showing adaptability and a growth in her theological understanding of ministry. We are satisfied of her call to ministry in the Presbyterian Church in Canada.

**MOTION: That the Presbytery of Essex-Kent certify Sarah Stockford as a Candidate for Ministry of Word and Sacrament in the Presbyterian Church in Canada. MOVED by Maroney and Labadie. MOTION CARRIED.**

**Addendum to M&D Report: Added material submitted and addressed after the Committee met:**

**4. Study Leave Report – Andy Cornell**

Studies continue in Knox College's Master of Psychospiritual Studies/Psychotherapy program. I am continuing an eight-month practicum at the Community Counselling Centre of London (CCCL) which will conclude at the end of April. I have 15 clients, who I see in the London or Exeter offices or at South Huron District High School. I anticipate taking two spring/summer courses and two fall courses. I remain on track to complete the program in December 2024.

**MOTION: That the above Study Leave Report be received by Presbytery. MOVED by Maroney and Lung. MOTION CARRIED.**

**5. Bursary Request – Andy Cornell – 1 course**

Supervised Psycho-Spiritual Education (practicum) KNP3551Y Y SPE Basic Unit 1.

**MOTION: That the above bursary be awarded at the cost of \$650. MOVED by Maroney and Lung. MOTION CARRIED.**

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**6. Request From St. Andrew’s Dresden to Amend the Call of Rev. Andy Cornell.**

*St. Andrews Presbyterian Church*

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Box 93, Dresden, Ontario NOP 1M0  
519-683-2442 [standrewspcdresden@gmail.com](mailto:standrewspcdresden@gmail.com)  
Rev. Andy Cornell

To            Presbytery of Essex Kent  
From         Mark Labadie, Clerk of Session  
Date         Feb. 11, 2024  
  
Re            Amended call to Rev. Andy Cornell

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In 2013, the congregation called Rev. Andy Cornell to be their full-time minister. The congregation was able to financially sustain this call for a number of years. In 2017, the congregation approved an amended call to 60-per-cent time to allow Andy to take on the role as Executive Director of The Renewal Fellowship within The Presbyterian Church in Canada. The congregation’s financial share of his stipend, housing allowance, pension and benefits was reduced to 60 percent, saving approximately \$25,000 a year. In approving this, the understanding was that funds could be found to hire an administrator, along with personnel to assist with the children’s Wednesday after-school program (LIFE). This arrangement continued for several years. The congregation remained healthy and began to grow, with increasing demands on the minister. In early 2023, the Renewal Fellowship’s board determined that it could no longer financially sustain an Executive Director at the current level. At the same time, Andy approached session about increasing his call to be able to adequately serve the congregation. (An increased call would more accurately reflect the time devoted to the congregation.) After prayerful discernment and consultation with the Board of Managers, session and the Board proceeded to prepare a 2024 budget which reflected an 80-per-cent call. The budget was approved by the congregation on this date, along with the following:

MOTION – That the call to the Rev. Andy Cornell by amended to 80 per cent effective March 1, 2024.

Session and the congregation present this to presbytery for its consideration.

Mark Labadie  
Clerk of Session



**Rev. Tim Reddish – Clerk**



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M&D team members (minus Mark Labadie, who is the Clerk of St. Andrew's, Dresden) were consulted via email to consider this request. Wendy Skreptak moved, and Jane Lung seconded to accept the amended call to Rev. Cornell.

**MOTION: That Presbytery approved the amended call to Rev. Andy Cornell from St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Dresden, ON. MOVED by Maroney and Lung. MOTION CARRIED.**

Respectfully submitted.

Rev. Mike Maroney, Convenor.

**MOTION: Report as a whole. MOVED by Maroney and Lung. MOTION CARRIED.**

### **LIFE and MISSION COMMITTEE**

The Life and Mission Committee met on February 2, 2024, via Zoom. All members were present.

#### **1. RECOMMENDATION REFERRED FROM PRESBYTERY**

**Recommendation referred from Presbytery:** That the Life and Mission Committee review the Visitation Guidelines to add in a short and concise definition of the areas of focus, particularly discipleship and evangelism. (See November 21, 2023, Minutes):

The committee had a great deal of discussion with this as we felt that the questions that are provided in the Visitation document already give a good idea of what these areas mean. Over the years and presently, theologians continue to debate the meaning of Evangelism and Discipleship. In the end we bring forth these two definitions for your approval.

**Evangelism:** "Evangelism means preaching, announcing, or otherwise communicating the gospel, our salvation. It's delivering the message that Jesus Christ is not only the Son of God but also gave His life as a sacrifice for our sins. In doing so, He ensured eternal life for anyone who believes."

**Discipleship:** “Becoming and being a follower of Jesus who embodies the character of Christ by engaging in a lifelong, personal pursuit of transformation and doing so within a like-minded community of faith committed to being and making other disciples.”

**MOTION:** That the above definitions of *Evangelism* and *Discipleship* be approved and inserted into the Visitation Guidelines for Congregations under Visitation Content, and that the Standing orders be updated to reflect the change. **MOVED by Smith and Aide.**

There then followed a lengthy discussion on the proposed definition of Evangelism. Rev. Maroney thought it was not broad enough, while Rev. Cornell – along with Brian McGuffin – said it wasn’t narrow/exclusive enough.

A **MOTION** to refer the definition of *Evangelism* back to Life and Mission for reconsideration along more exclusive lines was **proposed by Cornell and Bauman.**

This resulted with even further discussion. The Moderator, along with Rev. Coughlin, pointed out that we must be consistent with the PCC’s Subordinate Standard, *Living Faith*. (See: [https://presbyterian.ca/wp-content/uploads/gao\\_living\\_faith.pdf](https://presbyterian.ca/wp-content/uploads/gao_living_faith.pdf) )

**Clerk’s Note: FYI - *Living Faith’s Chapter Nine - The Church Reaches Out – states:***

**9.1 Our Mission**

9.1.1 As God sent Christ to us, so Christ sends us into the world. We are here to proclaim Christ in word and deed.

9.1.2 Mission is evangelism, the offer of salvation to all people in the power of the Holy Spirit, to be received through faith in Christ. It asks people to repent of their sins, to trust Christ, to be baptized, and to enter a life honouring Jesus as Lord.

9.1.3 Mission is service, a call to help people in need and to permeate all of life with the compassion of God.

**9.2 Our Mission and Other Faiths**

9.2.1 Some whom we encounter belong to other religions and already have a faith. Their lives often give evidence of devotion and reverence for life. We recognize that truth and goodness in them are the work of God’s Spirit, the author of all truth. We should not address others in a spirit of arrogance implying that we are better than they. But rather, in the spirit of humility, as beggars telling others where food is to be found, we point to life in Christ.

9.2.2 We witness to God in Christ as the Way, the Truth, the Life, and invite others to accept from him the forgiveness of God. We are compelled to share this good news.

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In light of the various opinions expressed, Cornell and Bauman modified their proposed **MOTION: To refer the definition of *Evangelism* back to Life and Mission for reconsideration, reflecting the diverse voices of the Court. MOVED by Cornell and Bauman. MOTION CARRIED.**

The Moderator reminded the Court that any correspondence to Life and Mission's Convenor (Barb Sargent) on this (or any other) matter must *also* be sent to the Clerk.

**MOTION: That the above definition of *Discipleship* be approved and inserted into the Visitation Guidelines for Congregations under Visitation Content and that the Standing orders be updated to reflect the change. MOVED by Smith and Aide. MOTION CARRIED.**

## 2. LEADING WITH CARE

Since we are finally getting back into regular Worship and activities in the Church, the committee feels it is time for all Congregations to review their own *Leading with Care* Policy.

**MOTION: That all congregations in the Presbytery of Essex-Kent review their Leading with Care Policy to make sure it is current. MOVED by Smith and Aide. MOTION CARRIED.**

## 3. FYI: VISITATIONS: A reminder of the regular visitation schedule:

### January 2024

- a) Mount Zion, Ridgetown (Mike Maroney, Barbara Sargent, Rep Elder from LSA)
- b) Valetta (Andrew Cornell, Jane Lung, Sandra Smith) – Andy has been in touch with the interim moderator Shirley Murdock. on behalf of the committee. We mutually agree that January is not the best time to do this. Saturday March 23 will be the day of visitation. An advance questionnaire has been sent to Shirley for distribution.

### September 2024

- a) New St Andrew's Dover (Shalini Rajack-Sankarlal, Jayne Broughton, Barbara Sargent)
- b) Knox Wallaceburg (Brian McGuffin, Mark Labadie, Sandra Smith)

**2025** – St Andrew's Amherstburg, University Community Church, Paulin Memorial (Team Members to be named.)

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The Court noted that the Mount Zion's visitation has had its timetable shifted backwards.

Respectfully Submitted,

Barbara Sargent, Convenor

**MOTION: Report as a whole. MOVED by Smith and Aide. MOTION CARRIED.**

### **INTERIM MODERATOR REPORTS**

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

The new exterior sign was formally dedicated by the interim moderator prior to the congregation's annual meeting on Jan. 21. The congregation is very pleased with Presbytery's generous financial support, which covered close to the entire cost. Session and the Board of Managers is in discussion with a local congregation (The Gathering Place) which needs worship space for approximately 18 months during construction of a large addition. A list of concerns was compiled at the annual meeting, and they will form the basis of a proposal. If a deal can be reached, Mt. Zion will welcome its guests after Easter. Aside from providing Christian hospitality to brothers and sisters, the arrangement would add a modest income stream. Approximately one-third of the congregation's operating costs in 2024 are budgeted to come from reserves. Inspiring preaching continues from Rev. Colin Paterson, Rev. Lillian Wilton, Rev. Doug and Cathi Cameron, Mary Pat Elliot, and members of session.

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

New St Andrew's has been blessed with Pulpit Supply for our Sunday Worship Services and we are booked with speakers into spring. We are so thankful for all those that are leading us in our Worship Services. We still have an average attendance of 15-20 on Sundays. We have had great support for our special events that were held in November and December which were all great successes. Our Board of Managers are providing a pancake breakfast in February with donations going to charity and more events are being planned for spring and summer. The Annual Meeting will be held February 11, 2024, at 12 noon.

#### **Knox, Wallaceburg – Rev. Lisa Aide**

The Spirit of the living God has been hard at work at Knox's these past months. They have

**Rev. Tim Reddish – Clerk**

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continued to grow in their ministry and mission. This past month had them creating a new position centering around a music ministry, where rather than having a person play each Sunday for worship, they are investing in creating different teams of musicians to lead on any given Sunday. This will give the talented members of the congregation a chance to worship with their families rather than always being on the platform each Sunday. There is also a plan in the future for up-and-coming musicians to hone their skills by leading the children's worship time during Sunday school. Knox's music leader has a great plan on how to build up musical worship at Knox and encourage people to worship with more than just their neck up.

I am happy to announce that over the past few months Knox has seen some great growth under Barb and Jason's leadership as they have almost doubled the amount of people joining them for in person worship. They have gone from 25 people a week to almost 50. Their Sunday school has grown as well with many young children now attending worship to learn more about the great love that God has for them. Knox will be having their AGM on February 11th, and while they will still be operating under a deficit it is much smaller than they thought it would be. Barb, out of respect for the deficit, had requested that her salary be dropped down to \$20,000 a year to match what Jason receives, as they both would rather see Knox's continued growth, than to receive a higher paycheck. I have checked with both Jason and Barb and they have told me that this change will not impact their quality of life.

Mission continues to be at the heart of Knox's ministry, and they are in the midst of changing up a room to create a safe space for the youth in their community to gather and learn about the Lord. And Jason will soon be moving the office of U Turn ministry to Knox. I continue to look forward to the great plans that God has for Knox, as I continue to serve as their Intern Moderator.

**Valetta – Rev. Shirley Murdock**

Valetta congregation continues to meet regularly for worship with a steady attendance each week. If travel is not safe during the year, they meet via Zoom. We are grateful for their dedication and desire for fellowship within a community of faith. On the first Sunday of each month they gather for lunch and conversation.

Everyone was delighted to hear of the early but safe delivery of Jayne Broughton's new twin granddaughters. Congratulations to Becky and babies.

The congregation was saddened at the death of Robert Reid, a lifelong member of Valetta, an elder for 50 years and a man of faith for 98 years. His Celebration on Life happened on Monday, February 5 from McKinlay's Funeral Home in Chatham.

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Session met on January 15, 2024. The proposed budget was drafted. An Allocation of \$3,500 for Presbyterians Sharing will be presented to the Annual Meeting on February 18 with the expectations of exceeding that amount as they did last year, submitting \$4,270.00.

Presbytery and Synod Dues for 2024 have been paid in full (\$1,037.23).

Mission Awareness Sunday will be recognized on April 28 with guest speaker being Joyce Chandler.

Presbytery Visitation is scheduled for Saturday, March 23, 2024.

The Sacrament of Holy Communion will be held on Easter Sunday with Rev. Shirley Murdock officiating.

Valetta will host the April meeting of Presbytery on April 16, 2024.

**LSA – Rev. Chris Little**

An election of a new Elder took place on Sunday Jan 14<sup>th</sup>, with an ordination service planned for Sunday Feb 4<sup>th</sup>.

Pastor Brian in finishing his last three courses this semester (field education included) and expects to be finished all the Education and Reception requirements in the spring. As part of his requirements, Brian will be experiencing an eight-day silent retreat at Loyola House near Guelph, which will include spiritual direction.

Attendance at worship has increased. This year attendance is up by 40 to 50 people compared to the same services last year. More than 600 people attended Christmas Eve services. It is believed that increased attendance is reflecting the growing health of the congregation.

Liza Briukhin is a new staff member who will lead youth and children's ministry and has begun serving at LSA. She will be a strong addition to the staff team. Overall the number of staff and expense of staff has been reduced to reflect the smaller budget and size of the congregation.

The Session continues to embrace PCC practices and polity. Using the appropriate process of electing a new Elder is a case in point.

An extended meeting is planned for March with the Elders to develop an understanding of their governance responsibilities and to begin to form the policies needed for the church to function well.

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A meeting has been requested by LSA with the Administration Committee of Presbytery to discuss the Pension board debt. It is hoped that meeting will be valuable in terms of developing a shared understanding regarding the debt and strengthening the relationship of the congregation and Presbytery.

### Congregational Support Team

**Membership:** Andrew Templer: (UCC): Convenor; Mike Maroney: (First Church): Clergy member; Wendy Skreptak (LSA); Robert (Bob) MacVicar (Paulin).

Nothing to report.

### Report of Committee to Examine Session Records

**MOTION: That marriages, baptisms, and funerals records and registers for St. Andrew’s Amherstburg be attested as neatly and correctly kept. The Roll has missing details and is returned for corrections. MOVED by Brown and Aide. MOTION CARRIED.**

**MOTION. That marriages, baptisms, and funerals records and registers for St. Andrew’s Dresden be attested as neatly and correctly kept. The Roll has missing details and is returned for corrections. MOVED by Brown and Aide. MOTION CARRIED.**

It was noted that there is currently *no* Funeral Register for Paulin Memorial.

**MOTION. That Paulin Memorial be required to instigate and maintain a Funeral Register. MOVED by Brown and Aide. MOTION CARRIED.**

### Schedule for Future Meetings

It was noted that Easter Sunday is on March 31 this year. In order for Presbytery’s Committees to be able to do all their business before the next regular meeting of Presbytery (normally scheduled for Tuesday April 16), **the Moderator, with the approval of Valetta - the host venue, rescheduled the next regular meeting of Presbytery to April 23, 2024.**

The next meetings of Presbytery’s Standing Committees are scheduled for the week after Easter, i.e., April 2, and the next meeting of the Admin Committee on Tuesday April 9.

**FYI: Future Hosts for Presbytery Meetings:**

June 18, 2024 – Amherstburg

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September 17, 2024 – Church of New Moderator: Paulin Memorial

November 19, 2024 – UCC

**Reminder: Commissioners to 2024 General Assembly**

Clergy Commissioner - Rev. Shalini Rajack-Sankarlal (UCC)

Elder Commissioner – Sandra Smith (New St. Andrew’s Dover)

**There was no other business.**

**MOTION to Adjourn. MOVED by Parks and Aide. MOTION CARRIED.**

**THE PRESBYTERY OF ESSEX-KENT STANDS ADJOURNED, TO MEET NEXT IN REGULAR SESSION ON TUESDAY, APRIL 23, 2024, WITHIN VALETTA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH NEAR TILBURY, 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**