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**PRESBYTERY OF ESSEX-KENT**  
**The Presbyterian Church in Canada**  
**Regular Meeting, Tuesday, June 21, 2022**  
**6:30 pm – Lakeshore St. Andrew’s Presbyterian Church**

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The Presbytery of Essex-Kent was called to meet in Regular Session on Tuesday, June 21, 2022 within Lakeshore St. Andrew’s Presbyterian Church, Windsor at 6:30 pm, by order of the Moderator Barbara Sargent.

**WORSHIP** was conducted by Lead Pastor Brian McGuffin, reading from Genesis, the story of Noah’s Ark. It was a condensed version of what he preached on June 19, 2022.

**Call to Order** - The Moderator called the Court to Order at 7:01 pm.

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

**ATTENDANCE**

Present in the Court were Revs. Andrew Cornell (acting clerk), Lisa Aide, Mike Maroney, Tim Reddish, Shalini Rajack-Sankarlal;

Elders Present were Barb Sargent (Moderator), Mark Labadie, Bryan Stirling, Jayne Broughton, Alison Brown, Jane Lung, Sandra Smith, Kathy Parks and Wendy Streptak;

Lay Missionary with Special Training Brian McGuffin;

Also present were LSA ruling elders Connie Hale-Duncan, Cathy Innocente and Audrey Bauman, along with Bob MacVicar.

**REGRETS**

Revs. Lillian Wilton, Shirley Murdock, elders Elaine Ross, Bonnie Pittock, Chuck Congram (Treasurer), WMS Representative Carolyn Reid

**Acting Clerk**

**MOTION: That Rev. Andy Cornell sit as Acting Clerk for this meeting**

**Moved by Skreptak and Lung. MOTION CARRIED.**

**Acceptance of Docket**

**MOTION: That the Docket be approved as amended.**

**Moved by Stirling and Maroney. MOTION CARRIED**

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**SIT and CORRESPOND**

**MOTION to allow visitors to sit and correspond**

**Moved by Aide and Rajack-Sankarlal. MOTION CARRIED**

**MINUTES**

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of April 19, 2022, emergent meeting of May 17, 2022 special meeting of June 1, 2022 and service of dissolution June 12, 2022 were presented.

**MOTION: That the Minutes of the April 19, 2022 regular meeting be adopted as presented.**

**Moved by Skreptak and Maroney. MOTION CARRIED**

**MOTION: That the Minutes of the May 17, 2022 emergent meeting be adopted as amended.**

**Moved by Reddish and Rajack-Sankarlal. MOTION CARRIED**

**MOTION: That the Minutes of June 1, 2022 be adopted as presented.**

**Moved by Aide and Parks. MOTION CARRIED**

**MOTION: That the Minutes of June 12, 2022 be adopted as presented.**

**Moved by Reddish and Rajack-Sankarlal. MOTION CARRIED**

**BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:** None

All other business from the minutes will be addressed in Reports from Standing Committees.

**GOOD NEWS MOMENTS AND PRAYER REQUESTS**

**Prayer:**

Clerk Shirley Murdock, today is the anniversary of her husband Lloyd's passing  
Mark Labadie and family on the passing of his mother in law Doris Northcott

**Good news moments:**

Sarah Stockford is doing very well in Valetta.

UCC hosted its first sit down student meal in some time. They hoped for 80 students and had 150 students and turned 50 away after they ran out of food.

Paulin fundraising committee is holding a July 23 dinner for \$20 and a Aug. 20 steak BBQ for \$25.

St. Andrew's Amherstburg held its first rummage sale first time in two years.

St. Andrew's Amherstburg will conduct two baptisms on July 3.

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St. Andrew's Dresden took part in town wide yard sale June 18. More a time of fellowship than anything else. After-worship coffee returns June 26 after two years.

**Report of the ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE**  
**PRESENTED BY REV. SHALINI RAJACK-SANKARLAL**

The Administration Committee of the Presbytery of Essex/Kent held an emergent meeting on May 3 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.

Recommendations from that meeting were presented to a special meeting of presbytery held on Wednesday June 1, 2022. See minutes for details.

The Administration Committee held its regular meeting on June 7 via Google Meets 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.

**RECOMMENDATION 1 – That Reports of Standing Committees and Ministries be received and recommendations considered.**

**MOVED BY Rajack-Sankarlal and Brown**  
**MOTION CARRIED**

**NOTICE OF MOTION that at a future sederunt I propose that presbytery reconsiders the terms of reference for LSA visitation.**

**MOVED by Reddish and Lung**  
**MOTION CARRIED**

**CORRESPONDANCE**

1. – LSA – Sharon Fraser re meeting of Presbytery June 1, 2022-FYI  
Unable to accommodate this meeting

**2. Report from St. Andrew's Dresden re Rutherford Amalgamation/Prescott Farm.**

Background – In April 2015, presbytery approved the Dresden/Rutherford amalgamation plan, which resulted in amalgamation as of May 31, 2015. All but two of

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the items in the plan have been achieved. First is the sale of the Prescott Farm and investing in the PCC consolidated portfolio (CP) and the second is the creation of a declaration of trust to administer those funds.

Report –

The house has been uninhabitable for several years but the congregation was unable to demolish it because there was no clear title to the property. Emerging the pandemic, we are now obtaining quotes for demolition.

As previously communicated, the Ontario Superior Court of Justice granted title to the congregation in June 2019. (In the 1950s, the farm was bequeathed to the Rutherford congregation for use while the congregation remained open; Rutherford continues through amalgamation. However, at no point was title actually transferred, a legal oddity which took a few years to resolve.) There is a lease on the property in effect until December 31, 2024. The congregation's board of managers took this action in good faith prior to receiving title. It produces a net income of about \$25,000/year. The lessees have no desire to terminate the contract early. The current advice to session is to sell the property at the end of the lease period, as required by the amalgamation plan, and invest the funds with the PCC. Current valuation is estimated at \$1.8 million.

Consolidated portfolio's latest 10-year average annual return is 7.5%. Clearly, despite the slight market risk, the financial returns would be much greater if invested in the CP (2/3 equity, 1/3 fixed income) and could provide greater mission opportunities.

The congregation was produced with this update at our recent annual meeting. We anticipate our next update in 2024 after the board/session plan next steps towards sale.

Recommendation – For the information of the committee.

**RECOMMENDATION 2 - That the preceding correspondence be received for information.**

**MOVED BY Rajack-Sankarlal, Cornell**

**MOTION CARRIED**

**3. May 31, 2022 via email from Nicole Jeffrey, Pension and Benefits Board regarding legal requirements to collect pension assessments.**

Following-up on the arrears payment plan for LSA and further to your request regarding legal requirements for pension contributions, I note the following:

The Pension and Benefits Act (PBA) provides the legal requirements for pension funds in Ontario and the regulator is the Financial Services Regulatory Authority of Ontario (FSRA). The PCC Pension Plan constitution is a legal document filed with both FSRA and

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CRA and provides the requirements for the administration of the pension plan. Below are the regulations that state the obligations for payment of the Employer contributions:

Pension Benefits Act (PBA), RSO1990, cP.8, sections 55 (2) and 56 (1), (2) state the following:

Payment by employers, etc.:

55 (2) An employer required to make contributions under a pension plan, or a person or entity required to make contributions under a pension plan on behalf of an employer, shall make the contributions in accordance with the prescribed requirements for funding and shall make the contributions in the prescribed manner and at the prescribed times,

(a) to the pension fund; or

(b) if pension benefits under the pension plan are paid by an insurance company, to the insurance company that is the administrator of the pension plan. R.S.O.

1990, c. P.8, s. 55 (2); 2005, c. 31, Sched. 18, s. 6 (1); 2010, c. 9, s. 39 (2)

Duty re payment of contributions

56 (1) The administrator of a pension plan and the agent, if any, of the administrator who is responsible for receiving contributions under the pension plan shall ensure that all contributions are paid when due.

Notice (2) If a contribution is not paid when due, the administrator and the agent, if any, shall notify the Chief Executive Officer in the prescribed manner and within the prescribed period. 1999, c. 15, s. 10; 2018, c. 8, Sched. 23, s. 23.

Section 6.1 of reg. 909 of the PBA states:

Notice of unpaid contribution, s. 56 (2) of the Act

6.1 Notice under subsection 56 (2) of the Act that a contribution was not paid when it became due must be given to the Chief Executive Officer within 60 days after the day on which the required contribution became due. O. Reg. 144/00, s. 6; O. Reg. 149/19, s. 1.

The PCC is obligated to ensure that the required pension plan contributions are remitted. As such, it is imperative that LSA work towards a repayment schedule as soon as possible to start paying down the Pension Plan Congregational Assessment arrears in the amount of \$131,570.76.

We hope this information is helpful and we look forward to hearing from you.

Kind regards,

Nicole Jeffrey

Director, Pension and Benefits

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**RECOMMENDATION 3 – That correspondence from the Pension and Benefits board be forwarded to the Special Visitation Committee to Lakeshore St. Andrew’s.**

**MOVED BY Rajack-Sankarlal, Cornell**

**MOTION CARRIED**

**4. Heritage Centre** -Marilyn Repchuck – thanks for invitation to speak April 19, 2022  
“a gentle reminder that PCHC appreciates any support that comes to our mailbox.”

**RECOMMENDATION 4 – That \$500 be sent to the Presbyterian Church Heritage Centre in support of their continued endeavour to sustain the history of the denomination and that said funds come from the Emergent Support Fund.**

**MOVED BY Rajack-Sankarlal, Cornell**

**MOTION CARRIED**

**5. Synod Clerk – seeking commissioners for 2022 Synod**

“It is time to begin planning for Synod this October. Synod will use ZOOM technology again this year. The meeting will be held on Friday, October 21, beginning at 1 P.M. I am hoping you will appoint your commissioners at your June meetings. Please send me the contact information for your commissioners - name and email would be fine. If you have questions, or if I can help in any way, let me know. Blessings, Mark McLennan, Clerk of Synod.”

According to the current rotation, the Clergy Commissioner would be Rev. Shalini Rajack-Sankarlal and the Elder Commissioner should come from UCC. Due to prior commitment, Rev. Rajack-Sankarlali has declined.

**RECOMMENDATION 5 – That Rev. Shirley Murdock (interim moderator Valetta) and an Elder from UCC be named Commissioners to the 2022 Synod of Southwestern Ontario, to be held Friday, October 21, 2022 beginning at 1:00pm, via Zoom.**

**MOVED BY Rajack-Sankarlal, Cornell**

**MOTION CARRIED**

**6. Rev. Tim Reddish – Request for Retirement, September 1, 2022**

Dear Presbytery of Essex Kent,

It is after much careful consideration that I seek Presbytery’s approval to retire as Minister of Word and Sacraments to St. Andrew’s Amherstburg on August 31, 2022. At

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that time I will be 63. I appreciate that this request will likely be a surprise to Presbytery and to St. Andrew's Amherstburg. Nevertheless, I have been pondering this matter for some 8 months. In short, I am burnt out. I have given my all to Church ministry as faithfully and as diligently as I am able for 4½ years. These last 2 COVID years have seemed a great deal longer! Over the last 8 months I have found my energy levels waning and while I have strived to continue week-by-week, I don't believe I can sustain my efforts beyond this summer—and certainly not to age 65.

I believe I have provided important stability to the congregation following the departures of Rev. Joshua Kang and the Interim Minister Rev. Don Hill. There is much in the life of St. Andrew's that gives me cause for satisfaction and gratitude to God as I look back over 4½ years. I am also aware of the needs and challenges ahead for this congregation—and for many others. Some visionary plans to address church growth were already in place before COVID hit. I now need to pass on the baton of ministry to new, younger hands. I also think that St. Andrew's is now in a better position to know what kind of minister they need moving forward.

In light of the surprise of this request to retire, I am mindful that no person is irreplaceable—either in a Church or within Presbytery. We all continue to look forward to the future for God is still at work in the Church.

Yours sincerely, Tim Reddish

St. Andrew's, Amherstburg Representative Elder Kathy Parks spoke to the court, testifying to Rev. Reddish's his pastoral heart and his devoted Bible studies, among many other things. He will be very much missed.

Rev. Reddish told the court that while all is well in the congregation, he admits to feeling tired. The time had come for him to step down. He told the court he is confident that a suitable replacement can be found.

The moderator conveyed the court's best wishes to Rev. Reddish.

**RECOMMENDATION 6 – That Rev. Tim Reddish be grant permission to pursue the process for retirement, effective September 1, 2022.**

**MOVED BY Rajack-Sankarlal, Cornell**  
**MOTION CARRIED**

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**7. Received from Crieff Hills:** a learning opportunity to celebrate Pride Month. Enrichment Day with Rev. Michiko Bown-Kai. June 29, 2022: 9 AM – 3 PM.

**8. Received from Principal DeVries** – Presbyterian College, Montreal seeks to fill the full-time position of Director of Programs of the Leadership Centre.

**Recommendation 7 - That items 7 and 8 be received for Information.**

**MOVED BY Rajack-Sankarlal, Cornell**

**MOTION CARRIED**

**ADMIN COMMITTEE MATTERS – UPDATES**

**1. Presbytery website** – A plan was to come to this meeting but has been delayed. Rev. A. Cornell hopes to have this ready for presbytery’s September meeting.

**2. Review of standing orders.** As approved by presbytery in April, a review is under way with a September deadline.

**ADMIN COMMITTEE MATTERS – NEW**

**1. Proposal: Convenor is asking that we consider a general presbyter (GP) position.** Could be full or part time. GP would be an interim moderator in one or more places and work with congregations in general on mission. GP could also act as presbytery mod. We have funds from closures that should be used for missions as Chuck has pointed out. The GP job description would be centred primarily on mission and secondarily on admin to qualify as mission. The GP could also explore long-term EK vision, merge with other presbyteries, form cluster ministries within EK etc. All of this needs to be explored but we don’t time. Note this year’s LMA report to GA touches on the problem of long-term vacancies and stressed-out retirees and ministers. We are not alone.

Rev. Reddish asked whether a timeline was in place, given budget considerations. The committee noted that the treasurer was aware. There are no specific deadlines but the court was told by the Admin convenor that ideally a recommendation would be made in time for the November meeting of presbytery.

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**RECOMMENDATION 8 – That presbytery’s Administration Committee initiate research into the possibility of creating a General Presbyter position.**

**MOVED BY Rajack-Sankarlal, Cornell**

**MOTION CARRIED**

#### **SCENT-FREE ENVIRONMENT**

**RECOMMENDATION 9 – That the Presbytery of Essex-Kent be declared a scent-free ENVIRONMENT whenever it meets in-person and requests that everyone present in the court respect this declaration.**

**MOVED BY Rajack-Sankarlal, Cornell**

**MOTION CARRIED**

#### **Received for Information –**

**Obituary of The Rev. Alan M. Beaton.** Passed away, May 8, 2022, peacefully at Leamington Hospital. He is now reunited with his beloved wife Doreen and their granddaughter Alexandra. Dedicated father of Robert, David and James, father-in-law to Sherri, and grandfather of Jonathan and Reece. He was born in Rosetown, Sask., and eventually ended up going to University in Waterloo where he met Doreen. During Alan’s completion of studies at Knox College in Toronto, they became engaged, and after graduation married in September of 1959. They moved across the country while Alan was at different churches. Robert was born while living in Estevan, Saskatchewan. David came while living in Sooke, B.C., and Jim arrived in Victoria B.C. After many years in the west coast, the family moved to Cambridge, ON in 1975. Upon retirement, they moved to Harrow, ON and spent what time they could during the summer at the family cottage near Owen Sound. Dad’s greatest treasure in his life, were his 3 sons and 3 grandchildren. In addition to his love of family and faith, Alan has always had a special place in his heart as an “Earth Daddy” for his numerous beloved pets over the years Alan was an awesome dad, a loving husband and a deeply caring human being. People were genuinely drawn to his kind and open nature. Alan gave love freely and received loved unconditionally. If you so desire, donations to the St. Andrew’s Presbyterian Church, Amherstburg or Knox (Preston) Presbyterian Church, Cambridge would be appreciated by the family. Cremation has taken place. In Alan’s own words, “Live life slow and easy, and have no complaints” A Memorial Service will be held Saturday, June 25, 2022 within St. Andrew’s Presbyterian Church, Amherstburg at 2:00 pm.

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**TREASURER'S REPORT**

**Verbal report.**

\$585.00 was received from offering at the Service of Dissolution of Knox, Leamington  
These funds will be forwarded to LAERC (Leamington Area Ecumenical Refugee Committee)

**RECOMMENDATION 9 – That the treasurer's report be received as presented**

**MOVED BY Rajack-Sankarlal, Cornell**

**MOTION CARRIED**

**Recommendation 10 - that presbytery approve Administration Committee's report as a whole.**

**MOVED BY Rajack-Sankarlal, Cornell**

**MOTION CARRIED**

**BREAK -**

**MOTION that presbytery adjourn for a five minute break.**

**MOVED by Aide, Reddish**

**MOTION CARRIED**

**The moderator adjourned in prayer. The court adjourned at 7:40 for a brief break.**

**Call to Order** - The Moderator recalled the Court to Order at 7:51 pm.

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

**LSA VISITATION UPDATE– Received for Information**

These are the Terms of Reference adopted at the June 1, 2022 Special Meeting of Presbytery:  
The Visitation Team will meet independently with the Interim Moderator, the Lead Pastor, the Session, Committees of Session, the Congregation and Staff to:

☐ Learn of the health and future vision of the church.

☐ Ensure that the Session and Lead pastor are knowledgeable of and adhering to polity and procedures of the Presbyterian Church in Canada.

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- ☐ Create an understanding of the obligation to the PCC Pension fund and the need for a process of repayment.
- ☐ Discern an understanding of the working relationship between all committees of Session, the Lead Pastor and Session.

Withdrawn from LSA Visitation – Emails have been received from Revs. Shalini Rajack-Sankarlal, Mike Maroney and Tim Reddish, each withdrawing from membership on the Visitation Team into LSA.

Remaining Members are Elders Phyllis May and Michael Currie

**MOTION that the Administration Committee revise the LSA visitation terms of reference and the membership of the team with power to issue.**

**MOVED BY Reddish, Lung**

**MOTION CARRIED.**

**MINISTRY AND DOCTRINE REPORT FOR PRESBYTERY JUNE 21ST, 2022**

**PRESENTED BY REV. TIM REDDISH**

M & D met via Zoom on June 2nd, 2022, at 1:30pm via Zoo

**1. New Interim Moderators:**

**Recommendation 1:** That Presbytery appoints Rev. Mike Maroney as Interim Moderator Elect at St. Andrew's Amherstburg from August 1 st , 2022, and as Interim Moderator from September 1 st , 2022, noting that the majority of meetings with Session will be via Zoom.

**MOVED BY Reddish, Skreptak**

**MOTION CARRIED**

**Recommendation 2:** That Presbytery appoints Rev. Lisa Aide as Interim Moderator to Knox Wallaceburg (replacing Rev. Mike Maroney) from September 1 st , 2022.

**MOVED BY Reddish, Skreptak**

**MOTION CARRIED**

**2. Knox Leamington:**

Revs. Mike Moroney and Tim Reddish attended Knox's last Session meeting on June 1 st .

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Session informed us that Knox's special concerns were LAERC (Leamington Area Ecumenical Refugee Committee), PWS&D, and Camp Kintail. For Presbytery's information, according to the PCC's Guidelines for the Dissolution of Churches, 2 by law, at the point of dissolution, the ownership of the church, contents, funds, archival records, and all other property transfer to the Trustee

Board of The Presbyterian Church in Canada (in short: "Trustee Board"). The Trustee Board sells church buildings. The assets are consolidated and ensuing expenses are deducted from them. Currently, the formula for the distribution of asset proceeds is as follows:

60% to the presbytery for approved mission initiatives,  
10% to Indigenous Ministry Fund,  
30% to the New and Renewing Ministries Fund.

For up to 60% of the proceeds to be returned to Presbytery a Mission Plan must be submitted (by Presbytery) and affirmed by the PCC's Commission on Assets. Revs. Mike Maroney and Tim Reddish, in consultation with Knox's Session, have prepared the Mission Plan below for Presbytery's approval.

### **Mission Plan**

Proposed Use of Funds from Dissolution of Knox Presbyterian Church, Leamington, Ontario. We write to you to communicate the Mission Plan of the Presbytery of Essex Kent, having consulted with the former Session at Knox Presbyterian Church, regarding the use of money returning to the Presbytery resulting from the dissolution and sale of the church building and its assets. Presbytery wishes that 35% of the funds that can be returned to the Presbytery be given to Camp Kintail. The congregation of Knox has had a long-held affinity for the ministry of Camp Kintail and wishes to bless it with a financial donation with no stipulations on how it is to be used. Presbytery is aware that the COVID-19 pandemic has been especially tough on Camp Kintail and hopes this gift will be especially useful at this difficult time.

2 See: <https://presbyterian.ca/downloads/40008/>.

The Presbytery recognizes Knox Leamington's long association with LAERC (Leamington Area Ecumenical Refugee Committee), a local non-profit group whose mandate is to sponsor one family a year to come to live in Canada. 3 Knox Presbyterian had guaranteed a gift of \$10,000 to LAERC but the difficulties experienced by the congregation in the last two COVID years sidelined that donation. The Session was hoping that a donation can be made from the funds resulting from the dissolution; Presbytery approves of that notion since it regards this amount as an outstanding debt that needs to be covered. Ideally, Presbytery would like to give more to LAERC

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as it directly supports local refugee families. Our understanding is that this is not possible since LAERC is not officially affiliated with the PCC. Given that this refugee program was a high priority in Knox’s mission, we therefore propose that 25% of the money returned to Presbytery be given to PWS&D’s Refugee program. 4 Finally, the Presbytery expresses the desire that 40%

of the money returned to Presbytery could be put in the Essex-Kent Presbytery Emergent Support Fund which gives loans and grants to our congregations for new and innovative ministries within our bounds. (A summary of its terms of reference is given below)

Respectfully submitted, Revs. Mike Maroney and Tim Reddish on behalf of the Presbytery of Essex Kent.

3 See: <https://www.facebook.com/LAERC-361451927255221/> ;  
<https://pccweb.ca/knoxleamington/our-ministries/mission-outreach/> .

4 See: <https://presbyterian.ca/pwsd/refugee-sponsorship/> .

**Recommendation 3: That Presbytery approves the proposed Mission Plan for portion of the Knox assets**

**that returns to Presbytery.**

**MOVED BY Reddish, Skreptak**

**Amendment: that the formula be amended to 15% to Camp Kintail, 15% to PWS&D and 70% to the emergent Support Fund.**

**MOVED by Cornell, Stirling**

**AMENDMENT DEFEATED**

**ORIGINAL MOTION CARRIED**

**In Addition:** Other than Glenna Lane (Former Clerk of Session), there is a complete lack of personnel who will/can help (a) clear the whole church of valueless junk and (b) assist in the gathering and transfer of historical materials to be archived.

Consequently, the Dissolution Committee for Knox requests “urgent assistance from Presbytery and its congregations to provide willing helpers who would come and help on a mutually-

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agreeable designated day(s). We also propose that their travel expenses be covered either by Knox's residual funds or by Presbytery."

Presbytery was told by former assessor elder Bob MacVicar that members of the Karen Community have done tremendous work on the property.

**Recommendation: That Knox Leamington treasurer Debbie Wilson-Safa and the former Clerk of Session Glenna Lane each receive an honorarium of \$400 for their ongoing work towards Dissolution, with proceeds coming from the dissolution of the congregation's assets.**

**MOVED BY Reddish, Skreptak  
MOTION CARRIED**

**Recommendation: That presbytery reimburse dissolution committee members for travel expense between home and the congregation.**

**MOVED BY Reddish, Skreptak  
MOTION CARRIED**

**Recommendation 4: That Presbytery dismisses Knox's Interim Moderator, Rev. Shalini Rajack-Sankarlal, with the court's gratitude for her service.**

**MOVED BY Reddish, Skreptak  
MOTION CARRIED**

### **3. LAKESHORE ST. ANDREWS**

The employment agreement with Lead Pastor (Lay Missionary with Special Training ) Brian McGuffin was renewed by the Session retroactively from September 14, 2021 until September 15, 2022. There are no changes in salary, benefits, and all other payments and requirements by all parties

**Recommendation 5: Approve Brian McGuffin's renewed employment agreement (sent separately), which was approved by Session in May 2022.**

**MOVED BY Reddish, Skreptak  
MOTION CARRIED**

### **STUDY LEAVE UPDATES**

- a. Rev. Tim Reddish provided a written study leave report.
- b. Rev. Mike Maroney provided the court with a verbal report.
- c. Rev. Lisa Aide provided a written study leave report.

**Recommendation 6: That Presbytery receive the above study leave reports.**

**MOVED BY Reddish, Skreptak. MOTION CARRIED**

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**5. Certified students (Sarah Stockford).**

Rev. Mike Maroney and Jane Lung met with Sarah via Zoom for her Recertification Interview on May 24. Sarah had finished her first year at Knox College and is now taking two summer Greek courses. She continues to work as a chaplain at Hotel-Dieu Grace Healthcare and is preaching at Valetta Presbyterian Church. By all accounts, Sarah is doing extremely well. Without hesitation, we recommend that Sarah be recertified to continue her studies at Knox College.

**Recommendation 7: That Presbytery recertify Sarah Stockford's in her calling towards becoming a Minister of Word and Sacrament.**

**MOVED BY Reddish, Skreptak**

**MOTION CARRIED**

For information: Details of Sarah's Ministry Placement plan for September 2022 – April 2023 is being finalized by Knox College. At present the plan her placement be at UCC with Rev. Shalini Sankarlal as her supervisor, allowing for one Sunday a month at Valetta for pulpit supply.

**Student Bursary request has been received from Sarah regarding summer courses.**

**Recommendation 8: That Presbytery approve Sarah Stockford's Bursary application for two summer courses (i.e., \$1,300).**

**MOVED BY Reddish, Skreptak**

**MOTION CARRIED**

**6. PAULIN MEMORIAL**

We received Paulin Memorial's jointly written report (co-authored by the Minister, Clerk of Session, and Chairperson of the Board) outlining the progress in working together for the good of Paulin. (That Report is given below.) We are heartened by the signs of cooperation, and the commitment to work together. We also note the changes in administrative staff. Some of the concerns raised in the report seem to be the same as they were two years ago.

**Update on Governance Issues at Paulin Memorial Presbyterian Church**

Since February 2021, the Session, Board of Managers and Minister of Paulin Memorial Presbyterian Church have endeavoured to work together in a co-operative manner. While

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there may not have been agreement on all issues within these governing bodies as well as between the two governing bodies, generally, people have been respectful of the decisions made at the appropriate levels, whether it be by board, session, or congregational meeting. Here is a summary of the ways in which the session, board of managers, and minister have worked together from February 2021 to March 2022. Annual Reports & Meetings. For both the 2020 AGM held virtually on March 21, 2021 and the 2021 AGM held in-person on March 6, 2022, clear deadlines for committees to submit reports were discussed at session meetings and were provided to all committee chairs by the Clerk of Session. After the reports were collated, the reports and the agenda were circulated to the minister, clerk of session, treasurer, board secretary and board chair for any edits or corrections before the report was distributed by email, posted on the website or by provided by printed copy. While the board and session have different views on the amount of money to be allocated to Presbyterians Sharing within the budget, the decision made by the congregation at the AGM is respected.

**Pandemic Planning Committee.** The committee, composed of A. McLachlan (chair & clerk of session), N. Diffey (worship committee chair), D. Naklie (treasurer), B. MacVicar (board chair) & M. Douthart (board secretary) & Rev. Aide met virtually or via email to update the Pandemic Safety Plan, 9 times from 2020 to 2022 in response to the changing Public Health measures. The bulk of the work in reviewing the public health documentation was completed by A. McLachlan & D. Naklie.

**Communication.** D. Naklie, as an elder and member of the board of managers, served in the role of session-board liaison. J. Zuk, an elder, joined the board in March 2021 and took over the role of session-board liaison in January 2022. To improve communication within the congregation, the Clerk of Session provided a Session Highlights summary after every meeting that was posted on the website and sent to the elders, church office administrator and board secretary to be distributed. A Church newsletter, edited by 2 elders, was distributed every 2 months with input from the board of managers and various church committees to help keep the congregation updated on what is going on in the church.

**New Beginnings.** A joint session-board meeting was held on June 7, 2021 via Zoom to discuss the New Beginnings process. The board of managers and session agreed to move forward with this process. It was decided to establish a New Beginnings committee that would include the minister, an elder, a board member and several members from the



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congregation. Rev. Aide spearheaded the New Beginnings process and completed the documentation for the Appreciative Inquiry phase with support from B. MacVicar, M. Douthart, D. Naklie and A. McLachlan. The assessor, Rev. M. Currie, completed her visit on December 2, 2021. Due to challenges related to the COVID-19 pandemic and public health measures, attendance for the congregational meeting was low. Because of uncertainty related to the pandemic and difficulties in safely gathering people together, the New Beginnings process has been put on hold and will be reviewed in June 2022.

**Relationship with Church Office Administrator.** Under the leadership of D. Naklie, the personnel committee, board of managers, and session worked to follow-up on issues with the office administrator to ensure that her workload concerns were addressed and information about church activities were communicated with her. Due to challenges related to the pandemic as well as financial challenges, several difficult but necessary changes were made in the work agreements and work hours with Paulin's part-time employees (custodian, organist & office administrator) to begin in January 2022 and were supported by both the board and session. The church office administrator did not agree to the reduction in her work hours and met with 2 members of the board of managers to tender her resignation in December 2021. Until a part-time office administrator is hired, M. Douthart (board secretary) and D. Naklie (treasurer) have volunteered to complete tasks to keep the church office running smoothly.

**Minister's Mentorship.** In the original Presbytery visitation, the recommendation had been made that the Ministry and Doctrine committee would assign a mentor to work with Rev. Aide in the areas of leadership, communication, and professional demeanour. Rev. Aide continuing to develop her tools for ministry by signing up for the mentoring program through the Montreal Presbyterian Theological College

We hope that this summary will reassure the Ministry and Doctrine Committee that the minister, session and board of managers at Paulin Memorial Church are committed to working together in the common goal of supporting our community in their faith journey.  
Sincerely,

Rev. Lisa Aide, Margaret Douthart (Board Secretary) & Anne McLachlan (Clerk of Session)

**Recommendation 9: That Presbytery receive the Progress Report of Paulin Memorial.**  
**MOVED BY Reddish, Skreptak**  
**MOTION CARRIE**

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**Recommendation 10: that presbytery grants Paulin permission to consider to term eldership.**

**MOVED BY Reddish, Skreptak**

**MOTION CARRIED**

**Recommendation 11: that M&D's report be received as a whole**

**MOVED BY Reddish, Skreptak**

**MOTION CARRIED**

**Study Leave Report - Tim Reddish**

Rev. Tim Reddish had a (rescheduled) Study Leave during May 1-7, 2022, to read Luke Timothy Johnson's "The Creed: What Christians Believe and Why It Matters." New York: DoubleDay, 2005.

This is an excellent book! If you only read one book on the "Nicene" 5 Creed, make sure it is the one. It is both thorough and accessible, and you sense Johnson's passion growing as the book proceeds. It also addresses the book's subtitle in ways that are convincing, devotional, and – I suggest - preach-able. Johnson is an eminent US Roman Catholic scholar, but don't let that put you off! Yes, he defends the importance of the Creed but he's not defensive about its history, contents, or purpose. He is broadminded, yet traditional, and addresses fairly its controversies in what is really the Creed of the church universal. He outlines the connections between the Creed and Scripture, and stresses that Creed's purpose is to point to Scripture, not replace it. The very conciseness of the Creed is also helpful; for example, there are no specifics on the doctrine of the atonement. In other words, what details are omitted are important, as well as what's included.

In the bulk of the book, Johnson carefully presents the Nicene Creed, clause by clause, explaining the original context and its continuing importance for today. On one level, that detail might seem excessive, yet he is informative and persuasive. I have been asked to lead a study on the Creed; while there is still a place for that, I am now convinced that it's worth a preaching series.

I also read:

Mark A. Noll, Turing Points: Decisive Moments in the History of Christianity, 3 rd ed. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2012, chapter 2.

Donald Fairbairn and Ryan M. Reeves, The Story of Creeds and Confessions: Tracing the Development of the Christian Faith. Grand Rapids, Baker, 2019, chapters 2-4

5 The Creed of Nicaea (325) was upheld and extended in Constantinople (381); it is this latter version that is known as the Nicene Creed. Incidentally, the Apostles' Creed was not established by the apostles! The (reconstructed) Old Roman Creed of the 2 nd /3 rd centuries was revised in ca. 400 (and named the Apostles' Creed), which was updated later ca. 700 to the version used today.

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**Rev. Lisa Aide – Study Leave Report**

In May I was blessed to spend two weeks diving deeper into my understanding of Cognitive Behaviour therapy (CBT) and how it echo's the good news of the gospel. Throughout my study I found that while there are a few books that speak about the joining of these two schools of thoughts many of them can come off as rather dismissive of theories that come from outside the witness of scripture and tend to focus only on how one can become better if they work on their faith more. At times might be a positive message for those who are seeking to deepen their faith, it can come off harsh or dismissive to those who are struggling with mental health issues because the answer seems to be to have a stronger faith and then you will not suffer from any issues. With this in mind I started to look both at the theories behind CBT and started to compare them to the teachings of Jesus, especially the stories around the Easter message and found that much of what is taught in CBT echoes the good news that Jesus gave to us. For example, one of the first teachings of CBT is to take an inventory of what is going on in your head, to list out and name the challenges that you are facing. The reason behind this mental inventory is to understand what thoughts are helpful and what thoughts are negative and at times dangerous. Is this not similar to what Jesus did with Peter on the beach so long ago when he invited Peter to let go of his regret and instead focus on his new mission to feed his fish? Another central part of CBT is focusing on how we tell our story, as the way we tell ourselves that an event happened will impact the way we see the world. Again there is a biblical equivalent of the men on the road to Emmaus when Jesus allowed his followers to tell their story and then used facts to help them see clearly that not only did the son of Man have to die but also that would be raised up to a new life after death.

I am continuing with this study as I know right now many people are struggling with their mental health and it is my prayer that through my studies and the work of the Holy Spirit we as a church will be able to help people not only grow in their faith but also in the bettering of their mental health, I also plan on using some of what I learned at this years women's retreat.

**LIFE & MISSION COMMITTEE**

**No report.**

Administration Committee is hopeful that a convenor will be appointed soon.

**CONGREGATIONAL SUPPORT FUND**

**No report**

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**CARD MINISTRY**

Get Well – Jeri-lou Brown

Thanks – Keri-lou Brown and Glenna Lane

Thinking of You – Rev. Leslie Walker

Sympathy – Bonnie Pittock – Death of sister Marlene

Presbyters were reminded to let Bonnie Pittock know when someone is in need of recognition and good wishes

**Recommendation 17 – That Presbytery receive the reports of the interim moderators.**

**MOVED BY Reddish, Brown**

**MOTION CARRIED**

**REPORTS OF INTERIM MODERATORS**

**1. Ridgetown Mt. Zion – Rev. Andy Cornell**

We welcome John McIntosh as an addition to the preaching rotation. John is a former chiropractor, Chatham Christian High School science teacher and has an M.Div from Liberty University. He joins Rev. Lillian Wilton, Rev. Doug Cameron, Knox Wallaceburg Elder Mary Pat Elliott and Rev. Colin Paterson. Rev. Merv Tubb is our backup. Music is provided on rotation by Gabby Martin and Liz Brown on piano. Worship continues in person with a livestream option. Session is acutely aware of the decline in attendance. Session also recognizes that if the congregation was to close, few if any congregants would worship elsewhere. That alone is a reason to keep going. That said, we continue to hope and pray for renewal and revival. Session will meet via Zoom every other meeting to reduce travel time for the interim moderator and fuel costs for everyone.

**2. Lakeshore St. Andrew's – Rev. Andy Cornell**

We welcome Audrey Bauman and Cathy Innocente as newly-ordained members of session. Audrey is being trained to take over as clerk of session. Staff continues on the mission to update policies for the first time in many years. Annual meeting was to be May 1 but was rescheduled for June 13. Lead pastor Brian McGuffin continues to make

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progress on prescribed courses through Vancouver School of Theology to prepare for reception into the PCC. Lots of new things going on at LSA. I defer to Brian to share all that with the court.

**3. Rev. M Maroney – Knox Wallaceburg**

No Report received. Rev. Maroney informed the court that his report was sent to the clerk.

**4. Rev. M Maroney – New St. Andrew’s Dover**

New St Andrew’s is continuing Sunday Morning Worship with Rev Ken Powell, Rev Colin Paterson, and Rev Doug and Cathi Cameron leading us in worship. The Elders hosted a Picnic with Bible Trivia, Barbeque and a great social get-together.

Session has made the decision to close for 6 Sundays starting July 24 th and resuming worship services on Sunday September 4 th . Congregation is made aware that they can attend services at First Church Chatham for those Sundays.

**5. Rev. Shirley Murdock– Valetta**

On Sunday, June 5, 2022, Valetta Presbyterian Church celebrated its 176 th Anniversary. Student Sarah Stockford preached and assisted IM Rev. Shirley Murdock in serving the Sacrament of Holy Communion. Elder Robert Ivision will take Communion to shut-ins. Rev. Nancy Carle preached June 12. Sarah Stockford will continue to provide pulpit supply up to July 24, 2022. Rev. Shirley will preach the last service of July and the congregation will take the month of August off.

Sarah will be involved with her Field Education Placement from September 2022 to April 2023. Knox College has suggested a hybrid model wherein Sarah will be at UCC for three Sundays each month and one Sunday each month with Valeteta. Details of that placement are pending. It is anticipated she will return to regular pulpit supply when her placement is completed. Weekly pulpit supply will be discussed when Session meets on June 23 at 10:00am.

Attendance remains regular and finances are steady.

**6. Rev. S. Rajack-Sankarlal – Knox Leamington**

The Session of Knox Leamington held its final meeting on June 1, 2022. The Rev. Dr. Tim Reddish was present as the convenor of the dissolution team for Knox. The Session

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concentrated on items that needed attention for the building to be in good and proper order; considered participants for the closing service, and sought ways to honour and acknowledge the grief of the congregants. It also reviewed the correspondence of requests of items within the church and the next steps in the dissolution process. As the interim moderator, I thank Rev. Shirley Murdock and Robert McVicar for their dedication to the congregation as assessor elders. It is evident that they have built relationships with several members of Knox. I am grateful to Glenna Lane who went above and beyond in her role as Clerk of Session and Jeri-Lou Brown who stayed faithful to the Session, the Church and God despite her challenges. A special thanks to Deborah Wilson-Safa who was acting treasurer but also stepped into many roles. The closing service was held at Knox Presbyterian Church on Sunday June 12. The Presbytery met beforehand to determine where the offerings designated would go. It was noted there was little Presbytery presence, but we are thankful to those who took the time to attend this service. The service itself was well attended by members and guests of Knox. The Rev. Murdock preached, recalling that God has worked through this congregation in many ways and it was the best of times when God did this. Grief, which is part of life was also witnessed in this congregation, as was conflict and that might be noted as the worst of times. The Karen group who were supported by Knox, also sang for the service. A time of fellowship was held afterwards. The church is closed, but God's kingdom is still being built. The dissolution team continues to work with the National Office of the Presbyterian Church in Canada and the Presbytery on the dissolution. May they do so with the grace of God. Thank you for the opportunity to serve as the Interim Moderator.

## **REPORTS FROM COMMISSIONERS TO GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

### **1. Rev. Lisa Aide**

I would like to start by thanking the Presbytery for allowing me the opportunity to attend this year's GA, I confess that I was not overly excited about the idea of an online assembly as I was fearful of what the meetings would be like having been to several assemblies in the past. And while I look forward to when these meetings can be held in person again, there are many aspects of this assembly that I would like to see carried forward in the coming years. They helped to not only make the assembly flow smoother

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but they also allowed for people to jump into the debate in a much easier fashion. I found PCBiz a great tool in keeping track of what the court was called to focus on each of the sedarents and being able to see the new motions or amendments on my screen helped me to see what the changes were, in the past it was often hard to read it from the main screen. I also appreciated the fact that there was a limit on how long a person can speak, as in past assemblies there have been people who longed to make a sermon out of their point rather than just a brief summary. These are all things that I pray will be brought forward to future assemblies as they help people to stay connected to the issues at hand and inspire people to be direct in their comments.

One of the most powerful moments for me at Assembly was the public confession made to our LGBTQ members, the fact that our current moderator stepped down from the chair so that he could receive this apology was both powerful and heartbreaking. He was one of the people who has been hurt by the way our church has ministered to those who did not fit into our traditional understanding of marriage. Our church has come a long way in seeking to understand the pain that we have caused to others who did not fit our image of what a good Christian was meant to be, now we are taking the time to both listen and to be willing to admit our mistakes. This was also seen in the report of our first nation ministries as now we have a new statement of faith that allows our first nation brothers and sisters to be able to proclaim their faith in Jesus Christ but also to hold on to their traditional understanding of finding the glory of the Lord in the created world. It was wonderful to see how we have continued to walk the path of healing and reconciliation, although we know that there is still far for us to walk together.

One of the biggest issues that was tackled during this General Assembly was how to work with those in our church who hold on to the traditional understanding of marriage, this was a painful issue for many assembly members, who struggled with feeling as if their voice was no longer being valued. I can understand their frustration as for many years I felt as if my understanding in regard to human sexuality was in the minority and it was hard as it felt as if every time the vote did not go my way it was an attack on what I believed. So I can understand their pain and their frustration and I do believe that the assembly tried to be as fair as they could to both sides of the conflict, I know that many of my brothers and sisters struggled with the decisions that were passed. It is my prayer that we will be able to continue working together for the glory of the Lord but I understand that we may lose some of our churches due to the decisions of the previous assembly. I believe that allowing those churches to leave with 50 percent of their goods is a good compromise, neither side was able to get all that they wanted, as one commissioner stated, this will allow ministries to still grow and allow us to meet the

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requirements that we have already agreed upon with our mission and outreach. I pray that we will continue to be supportive of one another as we struggle to find a balance between the two understandings of marriage and that no matter what might happen in the future we will still be able to greet each other as brothers and sisters in Christ. One other issue that I would like to touch on is that a motion passed on increasing our benefits to help cover issues of mental health, I am very grateful for this increase. As one that not only struggles with anxiety, but also as one who knows firsthand how challenging life in the ministry can be for both the minister and their partner. \$300, would not go far for someone who is in crises and needs someone to help them through the storm of life, I am also grateful that the assembly is taking the time that they need to help better understand clergy burnout and is actively seeking ways to help lighten the load of those who have been called to serve as teaching elders. Thank you once again for the opportunity to attend General Assembly, for while I missed out on the fellowship of previous assemblies, I felt honoured to witness and be part of an assembly that is seeking to blaze a path for years to come.

**2. Barbara Sargent**

The 2022 General Assembly of The Presbyterian Church in Canada took place online for the second year due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Assembly began on Sunday, June 5, with worship led by the Rev. Dr. Daniel D. Scott, Moderator of the 2021 General Assembly, and participation from members of Richmond Presbyterian Church in Richmond, B.C., with music by the Church of St. Andrew and St. Paul in Montreal. The text for Dr. Scott's sermon, entitled "Back to the Garden," was based on Genesis 3:20–4:2 and Acts 2:42–47. As Adam and Eve longed to get back to the Garden of Eden, so the church has longed to return to the days when churches were full, church schools were large, and the church mattered more to Canadian society. Adam and Eve learned that it wasn't their actions that effected change, but God's. In the Book of Acts, it was not the early church that added to their own numbers as the church grew, it was God who caused the church to grow. And the same can be said of the PCC, it's not our church, it is God's, and God cares and tends it. God is our refuge and our strength. Let that bring us peace."

Thanks to Rev. Dr. Daniel D. Scott

The Assembly unanimously expressed thanks for the service of the Rev. Dr. Daniel D. Scott for his service as Moderator. It was noted that Dan was "an encouragement and a true ambassador for Christ's church. Dan loves the church, and, in his own words, he is



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not alone in this love. Wherever he went, he found people with a profound love for the church and a passion for ministry. His final word of hope for the church is that when we are down, we need to share stories of hope for this is contagious.”

Gratitude was also expressed by the Assembly to St. John’s Presbyterian Church in Bradford West Gwillimbury, Ont., for their support during Dan’s time as Moderator, as well as to groups, congregations and church partners who welcomed the Moderator.  
Installation of the New Moderator

The Rev. Dr. Bob Faris, associate minister at St. Andrew’s Presbyterian Church in Toronto, was elected and installed as the Moderator of the 2022 General Assembly. During his opening reflections, Bob thanked his partner, Redha, and other family members for their support. He also expressed his thanks for the support he received from the congregation he serves and the presbyteries that nominated him.

He pointed out that the stole he wore was a gift from the Presbytery of East Toronto and was made by the Rev. Deb Stanbury of ARISE Ministry. Bob spoke directly to people who identify as LGBTQI, saying: “All of our stories are different as we learned so powerfully in Rainbow Communion. I recognize my nomination and now installation marks an historic moment in The Presbyterian Church in Canada for all of us. I pray this will be one more step in the journey of recognizing that God’s love includes all of us, and that whoever we are, we are part of the body of Christ, each with gifts to share. I pray God will give me the grace to fulfill the duties of this office.” Bob called for kindness and respect in our discussions and openness to the grace of Christ.

**Atlantic Mission Society Report**

The Atlantic Mission Society reported that they continued to provide financial support to local, regional and international mission work, including the Atlantic Synod camp and two presbytery summer camps. The Presbyterian Message was published nine times, connecting the society with each other and the wider church through monthly devotions, prayer, mission studies and information about local, national and international events. Meetings continued to be held by Zoom, which had the added benefit of saving expenses to meet in person. \$60,000 of invested shares were sold to support Presbyterians Sharing, PWS&D, Canadian Ministries, International Ministries and the Priorities for Mission Fund.

Their focus is shifting from doing the mission work, to focus on education and empowering the whole church to engage in mission. This includes groups leading worship on Presbyterians Sharing and PWS&D Sundays, providing education and opportunities to engage in local mission, Gifts of Change and other projects. While the way they do mission work is changing, they are steadfast in their determination to share Christ’s love with the world.

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**Women’s Missionary Society Report**

The WMS meets regularly online. With the changes in staff, as well as to simplify the format for virtual meetings, the structure of the Council Executive was streamlined so all matters were dealt with by the committee-as-a-whole. Sadly, the Women’s Gathering 2022 was cancelled, however, a successful Come Together Series, which allowed people to learn about mission-related topics online, was conceived. Speakers came from the Mid India Board of Education, the Graduate School for Nurses in India, Action Réfugiés Montréal, World Day of Prayer, Evangelical Presbyterian Church of Ghana, The Presbyterian Church of Nigeria, Bible translation work in Taiwan, the Centre for Minority Issues in Japan, the Kenora Fellowship Centre, the Church of North India, Canadian Foodgrains Bank, Zomba Theological College and Church of Central Africa, Malawi. They also were able to celebrate Pauline Brown’s 70th anniversary in India.

Grants were given from endowment funds to a variety of PWS&D and PCC projects. The mission study topic for 2021–2022 was on the Together We Can! projects: Action Réfugiés Montréal and the MIBE Graduate School for Nurses in Indore, India.

Day two of General Assembly began with worship. The Rev. Paulette Brown, minister of St. Andrew’s Humber Heights in Toronto, Ont., preached the sermon.

**Maclean Estate Committee Report**

The Maclean Estate Committee reported on the management of the 250-acres which make up Crieff Hills Retreat and Conference Centre, elaborating on how they bring people from all walks of life to connect with God’s creation and find rest and renewal.

**Trustee Board Report**

The Trustee Board acquires and manages properties, enters into contracts, oversees investment of funds, issues annuities, establishes pension plans and executes documents of The Presbyterian Church in Canada.

The board reported that in 2021, the rate of return for the Pension Fund was 13.7 percent and the rate of return on the consolidated fund was 11.7 percent, elaborating that the consolidated fund is affected by market volatility more than the pension fund due to different investment goals and timelines.

In 2021, a total of \$1,912,628 came from the sale of assets of dissolved congregations. According to a decision made by the General Assembly in 2017 it was decided that each year 50 percent of dissolved congregations, up to an aggregate of \$2,000,000, should be directed to the Pension Solvency Fund. That aggregate limit was reached in 2021, so funds from dissolved congregations no longer go into the Pension Solvency Fund.

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As approved at the 2021 General Assembly, the Trustee Board and the Investment Advisory Committee are investigating appropriate investment opportunities in Indigenous enterprises with the goal of investing approximately five percent of the assets in the Consolidated Fund in the Indigenous economy.

**Presbyterian Church Building Corporation Report**

The Presbyterian Church Building Corporation serves to help congregations obtain the funds necessary to build or expand their facilities at favourable rates of interest by providing guarantees for loans. PCBC also helps provide housing to retired servants of the church through subsidies or rental accommodations geared to income.

Working with other committees of the national church, the PCBC is helping develop a plan to help congregations discern possibilities for their buildings. Last year, there was over \$6.8 million in loans to a total of 17 congregations and related entities.

**Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations Committee Report**

Several recommendations were passed that encouraged congregations to get involved in activities to strengthen ecumenical and interfaith relations, including:

☐ Nurturing ecumenical partnerships

☐ Using materials for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity events in 2022 and 2023.

☐ Participating in the National Council of Churches' Korea Peace Appeal . The appeal seeks the end of the Korean war with a peace agreement, the creation of a Korean Peninsula and a world without nuclear weapons

☐ Engaging in intentional anti-racism work using resources available through the Canadian Council of Churches and The Presbyterian Church in Canada.

Congregations can use ideas found in A Common Word to engage in conversation and dialogue between Christian and Muslim groups, and nurture relationships with Jewish neighbours by sharing written greetings on their holy day using templates found on the Canadian Council of Churches website .

☐ Engaging in studies and prayer in preparation for the 11th Assembly of the World Council of Churches , taking place in Karlsruhe, Germany, August 31 to September 8, 2022.

**National Indigenous Ministry Council (NIMC) Report**

This is the first report of the National Indigenous Ministry Council (NIMC), which was created as a standing committee by the General Assembly in 2021. The report noted that the PCC currently has three ordained Indigenous Presbyterian ministers, and five of its nine Indigenous ministries are led by Indigenous leaders.

The report summarized the experience and history of Indigenous people in Canada and in the church, including colonial assimilation through Residential School systems. It also summarized what is needed to move forward to healing and reconciliation. It named the following needs:

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- ☐ the need for more Indigenous people to be represented in the PCC
- ☐ the need to reconcile Indigenous wisdom and spirituality with the Christian faith
- ☐ the need to speak against Indigenous-specific racism, hate and violence
- ☐ the need for sustained funding to enable healing for Indigenous people
- ☐ and the need to reconcile the church's broken relationship with God and Indigenous people.

The Assembly adopted a recommendation that the National Indigenous Ministry Council work on a statement of faith relevant to today, in consultation with the Church Doctrine Committee.

**Special Committee re. Confession to LGBTQI People**

The Assembly adopted a confession to God and LGBTQI people, confessing the harm caused by homophobia, transphobia, heterosexism and hypocrisy in The Presbyterian Church in Canada and committing the church to a true change of heart and behaviour.

The Special Committee re Confession to LGBTQI People was discharged.

**Theological Colleges Report**

**Knox College**

Knox College adopted strategic priorities that included a focus on equipping congregations to engage their communities, deepening a critical approach to faith and using their facilities to accomplish the priorities.

The Assembly was informed of the decision to sell the Knox College properties to the University of Toronto, with Knox College leasing back the academic wing for up to 40 years.

A moment of appreciation was adapted for the Rev. Dr. John Vissers as he retired as Principal of Knox College for his service to our church and visionary leadership of Knox College.

The Rev. Dr. Ernest van Eck was appointed to the position of Principal of Knox College, for a five-year renewable term, beginning July 1, 2022.

**St. Andrew's Hall and Vancouver School of Theology (VST)**

The primary mission of St. Andrew's Hall is to educate and form leaders for The Presbyterian Church in Canada and the worldwide church. This mission is fulfilled through a partnership with the Vancouver School of Theology and the Centre for Missional Leadership in B.C.

VST continues to invest substantial resources in online learning, teaching and formation, and expands its impact through multiple national and international strategic partnerships. The goal is to provide a theological education that is contextually appropriate and global in scope.

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A minute of appreciation was offered to Professor Pat Dutcher-Walls as she retired as Professor of Hebrew Scripture and Dean of the Faculty at Vancouver School of Theology. Presbyterian College

Presbyterian College in Montreal, Que., offers quality theological education and strives to upbuild and encourage leadership in the church more widely. Lay education has been a key part of the mission.

The College has initiated a new program of online study courses that are accessible to individuals or congregational study groups. The first course explored the Bible for Doubtters, examining some of the challenging texts and themes of scripture. The second study will be on the theme of reconciliation and forgiveness.

Life and Mission Agency Report

Climate Change

The General Assembly asked national committees to report when, how and where they meet as a means of finding ways to reduce their reliance on fossil fuels and report to the General Assembly. The committee continues to learn what can be done online and what is better done

in person and will consider the best stewardship of church resources and care for creation when deciding how, when and where it will meet.

Inclusion Actions

The Life and Mission Agency took action to support healing connected to repenting of the harm that LGBTQI2+ people, their families and faith communities have experienced because of homophobia and transphobia in the denomination. Effectively identifying and transforming sources of harm within a ministry is a cyclical process of identifying areas of ministry that can be strengthened, learning, implementing change and reviewing the effect of the changes

Policies, procedures, documents, resources and practices were updated to reflect the full inclusion of all people.

and Inclusion Advisory Committee. Details about who is eligible to receive financial assistance and how the fund is administered are available on the PCC website.

Congregations, presbyteries, synods and theological colleges are encouraged to consider ways to provide pastoral care among LGBTQI2+ people and their families. The Program Coordinator, Sexuality and Inclusion, offers advice to those starting new support networks and navigating existing options for support.

Rainbow Pathways, an online course to equip ministries to become more welcoming and inclusive of LGBTQI2+ people and their families, was offered.

Presbyterian World Service & Development Report

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In 2021, PWS&D contributed \$4.6 million towards life-changing development and relief programs. This was done with a total of \$2.6 million in donations from members of The Presbyterian Church in Canada, including \$348,326 to our Canadian Foodgrains Bank account and \$391,171 in legacy funds given to the Loaves and Fishes Fund. PWS&D is grateful for the support of the Government of Canada and membership in the Canadian Foodgrains Bank, which allows the PCC to multiply and expand our impact through matching funds and collaboration with our ecumenical members and their partnerships. PWS&D's refugee sponsorship work has allowed PWS&D to provide accompaniment to 52 congregations and six presbyteries involved in sponsoring 266 refugees during 2021. The year 2022 marks 75 years of PWS&D, and the Assembly celebrated this milestone by watching a special video, Practical Compassion, and recommending the corresponding book.

**Minutes of Appreciation**

Barb Summers, Associate Secretary of Communications

A minute of appreciation was offered for the 15 years Barb Summers has generously and tirelessly shared her wisdom, skill, creativity and passion with the church and its people, first as Communications Coordinator with Presbyterian World Service and Development and then as

Associate Secretary of Communications. Barb will be continuing to serve the church as Editor of the Presbyterian Connection newspaper.

The Rev. Dr. Glynis Williams, Associate Secretary of International Ministries

Sincere thanks and appreciation were expressed to the Rev. Dr. Glynis Williams for 10 years of service to Christ as Associate Secretary for International Ministries, and as director of Action Réfugiés Montréal, which is a strong voice of justice and care for refugees arriving in Canada. Under Glynis' leadership, International Ministries engaged in the complex world that God created and loves while maintaining and nurturing the church's relationships with historic church partners, especially in Taiwan, India, Malawi, Lebanon and Eastern Europe.

For her passion, commitment and care of people in need of refuge, Glynis was given the degree of Doctor of Divinity, honoris causa.

Jeanie Lee, mission staff appointed to the Reformed Church in Hungary

with the Kalunba refugee ministry in Budapest. When the Hungarian borders closed to refugees, the refugee ministry was no longer possible.

Jeanie Lee retired in January 2022, and gratitude was expressed for her faith and witness to Christ.

**Justice**

The Assembly adopted recommendations related to justice initiatives: Sessions, presbyteries and committees of the General Assembly are encouraged to learn more

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about colonialism and the impacts of intergenerational trauma; identify and participate in a climate initiative in their community; and contact shelters and agencies providing support to people experiencing domestic violence to learn more about this issue and how to support people experiencing it.

The Moderator of the General Assembly, Sessions and presbyteries are asked to write the government to advocate for lowered carbon emissions across Canada and increased funding for climate crisis impacts; respond to Call to Action no. 21 of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission by providing sustainable funding for Indigenous healing centres to address the harms of Residential Schools and colonization; and request an update on progress related to housing issues and encouraging increases in affordable housing with additional and specific supports for victims of domestic violence.

Congregation members are asked to avoid donating to causes with known white supremacist ties, when possible. As well, congregations are encouraged to engage in intentional anti-racism work, and the Life and Mission Agency will begin preparing an anti-racism covenant with accompanying strategies.

#### Ministry and Church Vocations

The Inter-Mission for Professional Church Workers Guidelines, which allow eligible professional church workers to take a 10-week inter-mission sabbatical were updated to allow for professional church workers to draw on their accumulated study leave allowance for inter-mission in certain circumstances. The report, “The Nature and Impact of Long-Term Pulpit Vacancies,” is recommended to presbyteries, Sessions and congregations for study and reflection. The subject of mental health among professional church workers is a matter of continuing study.

#### Stewardship

Appreciation was expressed to the congregations, individuals and groups who faithfully supported Presbyterians Sharing in 2021 with prayers, financial gifts, volunteering for committees and working groups, participating in programs, and engaging in advocacy initiatives.

#### Special Committee re. Petitions 1 & 2, 2021

The Special Committee re. Petition Nos. 1 and 2, 2021, met with representatives of the Presbytery of Eastern Han-Ca and the Presbytery of Western Han-Ca, and others, to hear their concerns as the committee prepared the report. The Assembly expressed gratitude to all those who shared their stories and experiences.

The Assembly asked the Special Committee to continue to listen and strive to design an apology for an upcoming year. Funds were established to provide counselling for those harmed by the church’s racism and marginalization, and to provide mentoring to help non-European Canadian clergy learn about and try out ideas to engage with Euro-Canadian culture. Within the next three years, steps are to be taken so that the

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Committee to Nominate Standing Committees is representative of the ethnic and cultural mix of the PCC, and the Assembly set an aspirational goal that all General Assembly standing committees be representative of the ethnic and cultural mix of the denomination.

A course in Inter-cultural Studies will be developed and offered at the theological colleges, and workshops in cross-cultural awareness will be delivered to all the presbyteries of the church.

A recommendation passed that General Assembly urge mutual respect between members, elders and ministers who disagree on the definition of marriage and that the boards and committees of the church ensure that people are not excluded from serving based on their theological conviction of either definition of marriage.

The Assembly requested the formation of a committee that would explore whether having intentional associations, distinct from presbytery, is a way forward to address the support needs of clergy and congregations. The associations would have no polity role, they would not be a new level of court, but would have memberships across presbytery and synod geographical boundaries, providing a vital network of support. The type of associations that could be helpful would need to be determined. The committee will report back to the 2023 Assembly.

Assembly Council was directed to consider providing a grant of \$50,000 to the Canadian Council of Churches' Forum for Intercultural Leadership and Learning to sustain its work and \$25,000 to help develop its Korean-language capabilities, with the hopes of adding other languages in future years.

Report of the Assembly Council

The Assembly Council has a coordinating role in the church as well as a responsibility for financial matters under the authority of the General Assembly.

In response to the Moderators' statement regarding the graves of 215 children at the Kamloops Indian Residential School in British Columbia, and with the knowledge that many more would likely be found, an Honouring the Children Fund was established and \$1,000,000 transferred into it. The report on this work can be found in the Life and Mission Agency report and the Assembly agreed that LMA resources in Healing & Reconciliation be recommended to the wider church for education. Congregations were urged to review their digital files and apply records management standards to them as they would physical records, and to take part in the Web Archiving Program offered through the Presbyterian Church Archives to preserve material that is posted online to websites or social media pages.

The Assembly adopted recommendations that will create a national registry of ministers and congregations that are willing to conduct and host same-sex weddings.



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The Assembly adopted procedures and policies to be used when a congregation decides to withdraw from The Presbyterian Church in Canada. The following motion was passed. That the proposed approach for congregations wishing to depart from The Presbyterian Church in Canada on a voluntary withdrawal basis and retain a stipulated portion of assets (50%) be approved, including determination of the value of church property that may be distributed upon withdrawal and related procedures to effect voluntary withdrawal from The Presbyterian Church in Canada, but that the time for sessions to register their intention to leave the PCC be November 1, 2022 to May 31, 2024.

**Minute of Appreciation**

The Rev. Stephen Kendall, Principal Clerk of Assembly

A minute of appreciation was offered for the 24 years that the Rev. Stephen Kendall served as Principal Clerk of the General Assembly. Stephen provided strong leadership and pastoral guidance through our church's participation in the Residential Schools Settlement Agreement and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. He worked diligently on the church's process for considering the remits that ultimately gave the church two definitions of marriage.

**Appointment of Principal Clerk**

The Rev. Victor S.J. Kim was appointed as Principal Clerk of Assembly. His deep faith, hope for the future of the denomination and grasp of the role were highlighted. In ministry, Victor has been active in his community, both in Richmond and Calgary, with interfaith organizations as well as ecumenical coalitions working for justice and dignity for all people. The Rev. Kim will begin in the position of Principal Clerk on July 1, 2022.

**Report of the Clerks of Assembly**

The Clerks of the Assembly are appointed to serve and strengthen the courts of the PCC through the preservation and promotion of the denomination's polity.

The Assembly affirmed that ministers and congregations are free to set wedding policies that follow either of the two definitions of marriage, but that when a same-sex couple requests marriage by a minister who does not conduct same-sex marriages or to be married in churches that do not host same-sex weddings, the couple will be referred to a minister or congregation willing to consider conducting the wedding.

Guidelines to facilitate calls and election of LGBTQI candidates and considerations regarding marriage were commended to Sessions, congregations and presbyteries.

The Clerks of Assembly will begin facilitating online voting for the nominee for Moderator of the 2023 General Assembly.

**Report of the Committee on Church Doctrine**

The Committee on Church Doctrine considers and reports on all matters of faith and order, to which the General Assembly refers, or on issues that are important for the

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church to consider in its life and witness. The work that has been done over the years by the Committee on Church Doctrine, the Life and Mission Agency and the Rainbow Communion on the topic of gender and full inclusion will be gathered for the use of the church. An additional motion was adopted to change the title of the document, “Physician Assisted Suicide,” to “Medical Assistance in Dying (MAID).”

**Report of the Committee to Nominate Standing Committees**

The Committee to Nominate Standing Committees receives nominations from Sessions, presbyteries, synods and other standing committees in order to recommend a slate of names for membership on each standing committee of the General Assembly. Thanks was expressed to all those who serve on standing committees of the General Assembly.

**Report of the Pension and Benefits Board**

The Pension and Benefits Board administers the PCC Pension Plan, Group Benefits Plan and other benefit programs on behalf of the General Assembly. As of Jan. 1, 2023, the member pension contribution rate will be reduced to 7.5% of pensionable income, the pension plan congregational assessment rate will be reduced to 4% of dollar base, and the employer contribution rate will be reduced to 10.5% of pensionable income. Starting July 2022, the mental health provision under the PCC’s group benefits will increase from \$300/year to \$700/year, and the practitioner list was expanded.

**Report of the International Affairs Committee**

The International Affairs Committee draws attention to international affairs and situations of injustice with a global perspective and suggests how the church can respond in ways that speak out against and disrupt systems that oppress and hurt people and creation. The Assembly encourages Presbyterians to: learn about the Love My Neighbour campaign in support of global vaccine equity; study the complexities of food systems and advocate for governmental policies that protect the human right to food; promote climate resilient food systems to support small-scale growers; improve food security; address the climate crisis; protect biodiversity; increase gender equality; and learn about how we can access and use more ecologically sustainable and ethically produced food. Congregations are also encouraged to use template letters available on the Social Action Hub as models to write personal letters to members of the Government of Canada about the State of Israel’s occupation of Palestine, and to support Palestinian farmers and olive tree planting through the Olive Tree Project through Gifts of Change.

**Report of the Committee on History**

The Committee on History believes in the importance of preserving Presbyterian history across the country and works to encourage an interest in and awareness of the denomination’s history. Congregations are encouraged to celebrate Heritage Sunday on

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February 19, 2023, or on another Sunday, as a means of celebrating the unique faith journey and heritage we enjoy as Presbyterians. The winners of two history prizes were recognized:

☐ Memoir: A Presbyterian Requiem, A Canadian Pastor Reflects on 50 Years of Ministry – Written by A. Donald MacLeod

☐ Congregational: A Sacramental Vision of the World, The Coherency of the Stained Glass in the Sanctuary of MacNab St. Presbyterian Church, Hamilton, Ontario – Written by Kenneth Post (2020)

Congregations and individuals are encouraged to contribute to the Presbyterian Church Heritage Centre's Our New Home campaign over the next two years, and church courts are reminded to follow the advice and guidance provided by the Presbyterian Church Archives.

Having sat through two years of GA online I hope this will be the last. A big part of an in-person GA is the time Commissioners have to talk together and discuss the issues outside of the sederunts. An online GA obviously prevents this and inhibits good and sound debate on very important issues. PCBiz is not a good platform to carry on business. At times it was difficult to be recognized to speak and also to get amendments submitted. It continues to sadden me that this denomination is clearly divided along theological lines. I am concerned for the Presbyterian Church in Canada and its continued existence.

Respectfully submitted

**Barbara Sargent**

**MOTION: That reports from GA commissioners be received for information and with the thanks of the Court.**

**MOVED by Maroney, Reddish**

**MOTION CARRIED**

#### **EXAMINATION OF SESSION RECORDS**

Barb Sargent is preparing a roster/schedule. A. Brown asked that the roster be emailed to each congregation.

#### **SCHEDULE FOR FUTURE MEETINGS**

Next Meeting of Administration Committee – Tuesday – Sept. 6, 2022 in Chatham

Next meetings of Standing Committees – Week of Aug. 29, 2022

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Next regular meetings of presbytery

Sept. 20, 2022 at UCC, Windsor

Nov. 15, 2022 at First Chatham

Feb. 21, 2023 at Paulin Memorial

April 18, 2023 at Valetta

June 20, 2023 at Lakeshore St. Andrew's

**MOTION TO ADJOURN**

**Recommendation 18 – That the court stand adjourned to gather for a regular meeting on Tuesday, September 20, 2022 at University Community Church in Windsor. Installation of Moderator of Presbytery Rev. Shalini Rajak-Sankar will take place and the Sacrament of Holy Communion will be offered.**

**MOVED BY Aide, Skreptak**

**MOTION CARRIED.**

**CLOSING PRAYER Moderator Barbara Sargent**

**Court dismissed 9 pm**

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**Barbara Sargent, Moderator**

**Rev. Andrew Cornell, Acting Clerk**

**Rev. Andrew Cornell, Acting Clerk**