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**Presbytery of Essex-Kent**  
**The Presbyterian Church in Canada**  
**Regular Meeting**  
**Tuesday, November 21, 2023**  
**First Presbyterian Church, Chatham**  
**5:30pm**

The Presbytery of Essex-Kent is called to meet in **REGULAR SESSION** on **Tuesday, November 21, 2023** within **First Presbyterian Church, Chatham** at **5:30pm**, at the call of the Moderator **Rev. Shalini Rajack-Sankarlal**.

**WORSHIP** Led by **Rev. Mike Maroney – 5:30pm**

**Call to Order**

**Prayer and Constitution – Moderator Rev. Shalini Rajack-Sankarlal**

**Attendance**

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

Others present were Lay Missionary Brian McGuffin, WMS Representative Carolyn Reid, CST Convenor Andrew Templer, Wallaceburg Assistance Jason Cartier and guest Bob MacVicar.

Elders present were Barbara Sargent, Mark Labadie, Carla Johnson-Hicks, Alison Brown, Sandra Smith, Bryan Stirling, Kathy Dupuis and Jane Burritt (Wallaceburg Alternate) Audrey Bauman sat for Wendy Streptak of LSA.

**Good News Moments and Prayer Requests**

**Andy Cornell** reported that Dresden is seeking a Sunday School Educator and are considering applications. Andy also hosted the Renewal Fellowship Conference where it was noted that approximately half of those attending were under the age of 50 years.

**Mike Maroney** reported that Saturday Breakfasts at First Church Chatham are now eat-in gatherings.

**Carolyn Reid** informed the Court that she has a study booklet and VHS tape of the Church in Japan, if anyone was interested in using it.

**UCC** reported that regular student meals now average 150 meals. They have started a mid-week student gathering that offers music and conversation. 30-50 have been attending.

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**Bryan Stirling** advised the Court of a mass choir Christmas Service on December 3, 2023.

**Examination of Session Records –**

Knox, Wallaceburg and Paulin Memorial, Windsor  
Committee to Examine – Rev. Lisa Aide, Alison Brown, Bob MacVicar  
Alison Brown and Barb Sargent examine Paulin  
Bob MacVicar and member of Presbytery (to be named) to examine Wallaceburg  
Rev. Mike Maroney volunteered. Accepted.

**Schedule:**

Nov 2023 – Wallaceburg and Paulin  
Feb 2023 – Amherstburg and Dresden  
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 lower hall for dinner and returning for the continuance of business at 7:00pm.  
The Moderator offered a blessing on the food and gathering.

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

**Adoption of Agenda**

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

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

**STATED HOUR – To receive and consider proposed changes to Standing Orders**  
**Orders were emailed with Docket**

**MOTION: That the proposed changes to the Standing Orders be adopted.**

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

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**MINUTES** – Regular Meeting, September 19, 2023- pages 4849 - 4881  
Special Meeting, September 24, 2023 – pages 4882 - 4884

**MOTION** – To adopt as presented with one correction

**The new name of Knox, Leamington should read as Leamington Community Hope Centre.**

**Moved by Murdock and Brown. MOTION CARRIED.**

### **REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES**

#### **ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE**

The Administration Committee met on Friday, November 10, 2023 at 9:30am via ZOOM  
Members present were Revs. Andrew Cornell (Convenor), Chuck Congram (Treasurer),  
Shirley Murdock (Clerk), Shalini Rajack-Sankarlal (Moderator and Assistant Treasurer)  
and Barbara Sargent (Past Moderator).

#### **REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES**

**MOTION: That the Reports of Standing Committees be received and considered.**

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

#### **CORRESPONDENCE**

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

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

#### **FOR INFORMATION**

1. Kintail – notice of Preaching Workshop for laity – emailed to clergy to share
2. UCC – Notice of visit from Rev. Dr. Sarah Travis – October 8, 2023 – emailed to clergy
3. PCC – Changes to the Roll – September 2023 – emailed to presbyters
4. PCC - Inquiry about Duart House. Confirmed it was torn down – emailed to PCC
5. Rev. Chris Little – revised Agreement of Employment for Brian McGuffin – to M&D

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6. IM reports – Revs. Lisa Aide, Mike Maroney, Shirley Murdock (Andy Cornell)
7. PCC – Presbyterians Sharing Report and Allocations
8. PCC – Changes to the Roll – October 2023 – emailed to presbyters
9. Visitation Committee – Report of Visitation to First Church, Chatham – to Rev. Mike and Session, then to L&M
10. Education and Reception – names for consideration for Ordination – to M&D
11. Rev. Shalini Rajack-Sankarlal - Interfaith Symposium at University of Windsor, November 23, GOD, FACT or FICTION. 6-8pm
- 12. Synod Clerk – permission for Rev. Chris Little to continuing serving within our bounds**

*Motion: That the Synod of Southwestern Ontario give permission to the Presbytery of Essex-Kent to have The Rev. Christ Little, Presbytery of Paris, serve within their bounds. Moved, seconded and carried. Received for Information and with Thanks.*

**FOR ACTION**

**Paulin – Elder Commissioner to Synod 2023**

**MOTION TO SUSTAIN ACTION OF CLERK in forwarding the name of Elder Commissioner Audrey Landon (Paulin Memorial) to Synod Clerk Rev. Mark MacLennan.**

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

**Rev. Shirley F. Murdock – Clerk**

### Resignation of Clerk

Friends –

After much contemplation and continuous prayer, I am submitting my resignation as Clerk of Presbytery.

In a perfect world, someone will step up to assume this position and I would pass over the gavel as of January 1, 2024.

However, understanding that may not be the case, I will continue to do the job to the best of my ability until someone new has been appointed and trust the Administration Committee will be diligent in their search for a new Clerk.

If you feel it appropriate and helpful, I would like to remain a member of the Administration Committee but also understand if you might consider that a conflict of interest.

I would also like to remain as Interim Moderator for Valetta Presbyterian Church, also if that is deemed appropriate for the foreseeable future.

I will happily offer any assistance to the new Clerk.

Respectfully

Rev. Shirley F. Murdock

**MOTION – That presbytery receive the resignation of Shirley Murdock as Clerk of Presbytery with regret and advise the court that the administration committee will search for a new clerk to begin ideally on Jan. 1, 2024.**

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

Permission to have minutes to November 2023 bound

**MOTION: That the current Presbytery Minutes – February 16, 2021 to November 21, 2023 be professionally bound and paid for by Presbytery.**

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

### FOR INFORMATION – DUTIES OF THE CLERK

**The Clerk** will serve at the court's pleasure, the appointment being reviewed and renewed annually.

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The duty of the clerk is to keep the record of proceedings, to transmit the same annually to the synod for review, to keep an accurate roll of members, to preserve all papers belonging to the court, to give certified extracts of minutes when instructed or applied for, or when the nature of the business requires they be given. The clerk will send out notices of meetings 10 days prior to each called meeting of the court. The clerk will send out a docket of the order of business, along with all reports that have been submitted as well as the minutes of the previous meeting(s) and ensure the Minutes are properly bound. (BF 181)

The annual review shall be undertaken by the Administration Committee in order to determine whether the duties assigned to that position have been fulfilled and whether changes to the role of the clerk should be considered. The committee shall recommend either reappointment or termination of the appointment.

#### **UPDATES**

1. **General presbyter position** – Presbytery granted authority in June to appoint a Special Committee to propose financial details and oversee the Search Process and report back. Andy C to convene, with Sandra Smith and Revs. Shalini Rajack-Sankarlal and Chuck Congram as members. The task: propose financial details (stipend and housing allowance and work with treasurer/assistant treasurer on sources of funding) in consultation with the treasurer and assistant treasurer and to oversee the search process (post the position, receive applications, review, interview and recommend a call.) The committee to begin its work this month. We hope to have someone in place sometime in 2024.

#### **Presbytery of Essex Kent General Presbyter job description**

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.

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**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.

**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 M&D Committee
3. To assist the clerk and other ministers in presbytery administrative matters as directed by the court.

Approved by Presbytery, April 18, 2023

**Commissioners to 2024 General Assembly –**

The Current Rotation suggests that our Clergy Commissioner be Rev. Shalini Rajack-Sankarlal. Elder Commissioner – New St. Andrew's Dover or Dresden.

**MOTION: that presbytery nominate Rev. Shalini Rajack-Sankarlal as Clergy Commissioner and Sandra Smith of NSA as elder commissioner to General Assembly 2024.**

**Rev. Shirley F. Murdock – Clerk**

**Moved by Cornell and Sargent. MOTION CARRIED.**  
**Names have been forwarded to the GA Office.**

**Remits – discussion but no debate – Approve or disapprove**

**Number of Voting Presbyters present at time of vote – 14 or 16 members of the Court**

**REMIT A – Committee to Nominate Standing Committees**

Book of Forms 288.1 would be amended as follows. The bold text represents new legislation. The amended version appears in the recommendation below.

288.1 A Committee to Nominate Standing Committees, consisting of nine members of The Presbyterian Church in Canada, shall be appointed by the General Assembly. with members being nominated by synods from within their bounds, with one synod, every three years in rotation, nominating two members. Each synod nomination will alternate between clergy and non-clergy each time its term comes in the rotation. **Synods will present candidates for the Committee to Nominate Standing Committees to the Assembly Council every three years from members within their bounds. The Assembly Council, when necessary, in the rotation, will name a ninth member to the committee. The Assembly Council will prepare a slate of nominees for the consideration of the General Assembly that is representative of the membership of the denomination. In rare cases, should the need arise, the Assembly Council may choose a nominee from beyond the names presented by the synods in order to meet the General Assembly's directive for an appropriate ethnic and cultural mix on the Committee to Nominate Standing Committees.** The convener is to be named from among the membership. Each member shall serve a three-year non-renewable term with one third of the members retiring each year.

**You are asked to approve or disapprove this change.**

**DISAPPROVE**

**REMIT B**

it is proposed that 176.1.7 be deleted and 176.1.6 revised to read:

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176. The presbytery consists of:

176.1 Ordained ministers within the bounds, whose ministry is carried out on a minimum of a half- time basis and:

176.1.6 who make request and are serving in agencies not directly responsible to The Presbyterian Church in Canada as Bible Society secretaries, teachers in Bible or theological colleges or university departments of religion; workers in inner-city, national or overseas missions (the last when residing within the bounds); (Declaratory Act: A&P 1989, p. 268, 65); or institutional chaplains, appointed for not less than one year (Declaratory Acts: A&P 1992, p. 383, 63; A&P 1995, p. 229, 38; A&P 2017, p. 279–80, 15).

**176.1.7 who are institutional chaplains, appointed for not less than one year with the approval of the responsible committee of the General Assembly; (Declaratory Acts: A&P 1988, p 283, 34; A&P 1992, p. 383, 63; and A&P 1995, p. 229, 38; A&P 2017, p. 279–80, 15)**

The Declaratory Act references still required would be the 1992 General Assembly's decision to include "accredited pastoral counsellors" under the definition of "institutional chaplains"; the 1995 General Assembly's decision that the "responsible committee of the General Assembly" (now the Committee on Education and Reception) grant permission to presbyteries for ordinations to institutional chaplaincies; and the 2017 General Assembly's decision that an institutional chaplain's presbytery membership should be lodged within the bounds of the presbytery where they reside rather than where they work.

**You are asked to approve or disapprove this change.**

**APPROVED**

**Results have been forwarded to GA Office.**

**TREASURER'S REPORT - Rev. Chuck Congram**

**Rev. Shirley F. Murdock – Clerk**

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**Proposed Budget for 2024**

<b>INCOME</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2024</b>
1. Synod Dues	21,443.00	17,123.00
2. Presbytery Dues	16,226.92	15,975.00
3. Offerings/Other Income	<u>7,000.00</u>	<u>000.00</u>
<b>Income Total</b>	<b>44,669.92</b>	<b>33,098.00</b>
<b>BUDGETED EXPENSES</b>		
1. Synod Dues	21,443.00	17,123.00
2. Presbytery Travel	5,000.00	6,000.00
3. Committee Expenses		
A. Life and Mission	300.00	300.00
B. Ministry and Doctrine	300.00	300.00
C. Sexual Assault/Harassment	300.00	300.00
4. General Assembly Meals	1,900.00	900.00
5. Honoraria		
<b>A. Clerk</b>	<b>5,000.00</b>	<b>5,000.00</b>
B. Treasurer	1,000.00	1,000.00
7. Other Expenses		
A. Clerk	1,300.00	1,000.00
B. Treasurer	150.00	150.00
C. PCC. Insurance	1,800.00	1,500.00
D. Police Checks	400.00	400.00
8. Bank Service Charges	<u>25.00</u>	<u>25.00</u>
<b>Budgeted Expenses Total</b>	<b>38,918.00</b>	<b>33,998.00</b>

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**PRESBYTERY and SYNOD DUES 2024**

<b><u>Congregation.</u></b>	<b><u>Synod.</u></b>	<b><u>Presbytery.</u></b>	<b><u>Total</u></b>
1. Amherstburg.	\$1,050.10	\$1031.529	\$2081.62
2. 1 <sup>st</sup> Church, Chatham.	\$2,167.94.	\$2,129.57	\$4,297.51
3. New St. Andrew's.	\$455.87.	\$447.80.	\$903.67.
4. Valetta.	\$523.25.	\$513.98.	\$1,037.23
5. Dresden.	\$1,314.82.	\$1,291.55.	\$2,606.37
6 Lakeshore St. Andrews.	\$6,640.72	\$6523.18.	\$13,163.90.
7. Ridgetown.	\$528.25.	\$518.90.	\$1,047.15
8. Wallaceburg.	\$866.94.	\$851.59.	\$1,18.53.
9. Paulin.	\$2,042.90.	\$2,006.75.	\$4,049.65.
10. University Community.	\$1,588.03.	\$1,560.52.	\$3,148.55.

Note: Synod dues are assessed at a rate of .0113 of dollar base and presbytery dues at \$.0111 of dollar base.

Payable to Presbytery of Essex- Kent,  
C/O C. Congram,  
393 Pinehurst Dr.,  
Belle River, Ont.  
N0R 1A0.

**MOTION: To adopt the 2024 proposed budget and allocations as presented.**

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

**MOTION: Report as a whole.**

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

Rev. Shirley F. Murdock – Clerk

**LIFE and MISSION COMMITTEE – Barb Sargent**

The Life and Mission Committee did not meet. There are ongoing activities referred to us from earlier meetings. This is a progress report on the activities.

1. Grant Fairley has set up meetings with the groups involved for early in the new year at St Andrews, Dresden.
2. We have not received the report from the visitation at First Presbyterian, Chatham at this time. Session has received the report and is expected to be shared with presbytery in time for this meeting.

**CLERK'S NOTE**

*The Report of the Visitation Team has been reviewed by the Session of First Presbyterian Church, Chatham, has been emailed to the Convenor of L&F and is ready for consideration of Presbytery.*

3. There are resources on the PCC website for Congregational Treasurers. These explain their roles and responsibilities. All Congregational Treasurers are encouraged to access them.

**PRESBYTERY VISITATION  
FIRST CHURCH CHATHAM  
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2023**

The Presbytery of Essex-Kent appointed a Team to conduct a regular Presbytery Visitation with First Presbyterian Church, Chatham. The Team consisted of Rev. Shirley Murdock, Jayne Broughton (Valetta Elder) and Bryan Stirling (Mt. Zion Elder). Arrangements were made through the Session to meet on Sunday, November 5, 2023

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Previous to this meeting, the suggested questionnaire was circulated throughout the congregation. Thirty-Six (36) responses were received. Rev. Murdock summarized the comments and forwarded them to the other team members for consideration prior to the day of visitation.

The Team gathered in the Sanctuary on Sunday, November 5, 2023 to share worship with the members and adherents on First Church. This being Remembrance Sunday, Rev. Mike Maroney led The Act of Remembrance. The remainder of the service followed their normal Order of Service. The music was augmented by a full choir and a praise band.

The Team met first with the Congregation in the Sanctuary. Rev. Murdock explained our presence and upheld the assurance we were there to celebrate the ministry and mission of this congregation and did not come in judgement or seeking problems.

A reading from Colossians 1: 1-14 was shared and prayer offered.

The discussion followed the five areas of focus as suggested in the Presbytery-adopted Guidelines for Visitations – worship, discipleship, fellowship, service and evangelism.

### **WORSHIP**

The 2022 Annual Report lists 286 professing members and 180 adherents with 289 households

On this particular Sunday there were approximately 55 people in attendance with an estimated 30-50 streaming online. This is stated to be a normal count.

The Order of Service includes a blending of Praise Songs and Traditional Hymns. For most, this is acceptable with only a very few commenting they prefer traditional. The organ is used at least once each Sunday and the steeple bells are not all working so it is not possible to play them at the present time and it would be expensive to have them repaired.

It was stated that most people experience a sense of Spirituality as they enter the sanctuary for worship. It is this ambiance that carries them through their week and brings them back for more of the same each week.

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The majority of the congregation offered complimentary remarks concerning the preaching and the general Order of Service, stating they find the message inspirational and thought provoking. A few commented on the length of the Pastoral Prayer and that issue was addressed with Rev. Mike.

**DISCIPLESHIP**

The general comment was that discipleship means the acting out of their faithfulness and understanding of the Gospel Message in daily living. There is opportunity for Bible Study on a regular basis.

**FELLOWSHIP**

Some events that were normal occurrences prior to Covid have returned, but not all. Everyone is eager to initiate any activity that brings people together and hoped to see new opportunities coming soon.

Coffee after worship was warmly welcomed and congregational dinners are happily anticipated. Those involved with various committees and groups within the congregation are delighted to be able to gather and accomplish the tasks assigned to them.

A suggestion was made to consider an “each one bring one” Sunday where people are encouraged to invite a family member, neighbour or friend to join them on a particular Sunday, with no obligation or strings attached, but simply an opportunity to let others see what happens inside the walls of this stately downtown Church. This adventure has proven successful in other congregations.

**SERVICE**

Community Outreach Programs are celebrated by everyone. Saturday morning breakfasts and Backyard Mission have put this church on the radar of Chatham. Rev. Mike is on a rotation with other clergy in town to give a short message that is aired on a Sunday morning radio program in Chatham.

It is a normal concern that 20% of the people perform 80% of the workload and we are grateful for those who step up as often as they do. The Session understands that many others are willing to help with various tasks from time to time and will help whenever invited to do so. Committees feel fully supported by the congregation.

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It was suggested that perhaps an Appreciation Event could be sponsored by the Session to remind the congregation of who does what and let the workers know how much their time and talents are valued by the congregation.

**EVANGELISM**

We heard the usual lament that the church is void of younger families, youth and children and that not everyone has returned since Covid. However, it was also noted that many of the volunteers who help with Saturday Breakfasts are the youth of the community who come to secure their community service hours but many remain and continue to be part of this outreach project.

It was reported that of those 30-50 who watch the Worship Service online, are not all members of the congregation. Streaming has provided an Outreach not previously utilized by many congregations. But all would much prefer to see the actual person in worship.

**REV. MIKE**

This was a most delightful conversation. Rev. Mike is happy! He is happy with his 19 years of ministry at First Church. He is happy with his relationship with people and committees. He is happy that God has placed him in a friendly and supportive yet sometimes challenging congregation where he has grown from zealous to caring.

We offer sympathy, love and prayers to Rev. Mike and Family on the of his Father-in-law Ted.

**GENERAL COMMENTS**

There is a good working relationship between Minister, Session and Congregation. They are aware of many of the comments shared and are searching out appropriate responses to areas of concern (attendance and finances).

The Finance Committee is conscious of a probable shortfall from the budget for 2023. However, they will uphold their Presbyterians Sharing Allocation of \$20,000.00 and include PWS&D as an annual item in the budget. They are seeking ways to conserve funds while continuing the ministry and mission of the congregation.

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To quote Rev. Mike from his message to the congregation in the 2022 Annual Report .....

“Life at First Church has not been spared (the effects of Covid). Yet... no matter what was – this is where we are now. To be honest, I have stopped wishing for the way things were, and am focused on what we do have. And that, my friends is a lot! We have no deep-seated discord in this congregation. Teams work well with one another. There is respect for decisions made, and trust is high among the people who work together for the good of this grand old church. People genuinely love and care for one another. I am so thankful for that. That is, I am so thankful for you!”

We seek God’s continued blessings up the ministry and mission of First Church, Chatham.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

1. That Minister, Session and Congregation be commended for the congenial and cohesive manner in which they all seem to work together and support each other in their various duties and responsibilities.  
**Moved by Murdock and Stirling. MOTION CARRIED.**
  
2. That an Elder Training be offered within 2024 for all Elders (those both active and inactive according to various terms and new elders have been ordained recently). That this training includes the basic duties of all elders as well as address a request for helping elders respond to comments from the congregation about wanting to return to church but not right now and how to encourage newcomers to join in the fellowship  
**Moved by Murdock and Stirling. MOTION CARRIED.**
  
3. That the list of those wanting visits from members of the Visitation Team be updated. (Last list was prepared 10-15 years ago). Consideration might be given to increasing the number of committee members.  
**Moved by Murdock and Stirling. MOTION CARRIED.**
  
4. 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.  
**Moved by Murdock and Stirling. MOTION CARRIED.**

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**MOTION: That the Visitation Team be dismissed with thanks.  
Moved by Sargent and Aide. MOTION CARRIED.**

**REPORT AS A WHOLE  
Moved by Sargent and Aide. MOTION CARRIED.**

## **Ministry and Doctrine Report for Presbytery November 21, 2023**

The Ministry and Doctrine Committee met on November 8, 2023 at 1:00 p.m. Present at the meeting were Rev. M. Maroney and Mark Labadie. Mark Labadie joined the committee this month.

1. A signed copy of the Employment Agreement for Brian McGuffin was received from Rev. Chris Little, IM for Lakeshore St. Andrew's. The agreement is attached to this report. **MODERATOR SIGNED AGREEMENT.**
2. Rev. M. Maroney's study leave report was received.
2. A list of candidates eligible to be received as a Minister was received from Rev. Tim Purvis, Life and Mission Committee in the PCC.

**Rev. Tim Purvis, Secretary, Committee on Education and Reception**

**Re:           Competent Objections by Presbyteries to Applications**

**Note:**

The purpose of sending circular letters to presbyteries is not to involve the courts in assessing the ecclesiastical or educational credentials of candidates – that is the responsibility of the Committee on Education and Reception. Rather, these letters are meant to solicit information from presbyteries and presbyters relating to the applicants' professional or personal conduct that the committee may not have.

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**Eligibility to be Received as a Minister**

Rev. Jaebok Gu, Presbytery of Westminster  
Rev. Dr. Christopher Alan Joiner – USA  
Rev. Gergely Kasa – Slovakia  
Rev. Martha McDowell – Presbytery of Winnipeg  
Rev. Dr. Karen Elizabeth Peterson Finch - Presbytery of Montreal  
Rev. Steven Laird Schumm - Mennonite Church Canada  
Rev. Han Joon – Presbytery of Eastern Han Ca  
Ms Sumi Jung – Presbytery of Assiniboia  
Mr. Taeryong No – Presbytery of Assiniboia

**Study Leave Report – November 2023:**

I used my study leave to read the book *St. Francis and the Foolishness of God* by Dennis, Nangle, Moe-Lobeda, and Taylor. The book discusses the life of St. Francis, and offers reflections from both Catholic and Protestant perspectives.

I found the book encouraging in its reminder to take the Bible literally in addressing the needs of the poor and marginalized, which I easily dismiss in my comfortable life in Canada. Growing up in a wealthy social class in Mexico, yet surrounded by abject poverty is something I've never been able to justify or truly address. And, of course, poverty and injustice are found everywhere. Chatham has a rising population of homelessness and drug use, and across our nation we are dealing with the brutal legacy of the abuse heaped on Indigenous people. These are things we can't just shrug off while getting on with our lives. I can't say I know exactly where this book is leading me, but it dovetails with most of what I am reading or reflecting on of late.

I also appreciate St. Francis' call to view creation wholistically, and not as something to consume at will. I am always taken aback at how easily people dismiss global warming as some kind of political or "woke" nonsense. The attacks on science from sectors in the Christian Church only help to exacerbate matters. All the sadder, given that the objections to science as a whole are based in large part to it not agreeing with the first few chapters in Genesis.

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I also used my time to reflect on what I'd like to cover in my upcoming message series, and was able to plan up to the end of June. I do not use the lectionary, so planning ahead is essential to me. I am thankful for the time I am given to do this, because setting up my preaching schedule allows me to connect with our music and AV teams in advance.

**RE: Study Leave report for November 2023 Presbytery**  
**Rev. Andrew Cornell**

Studies continue in Knox College's Master of Pastoral Studies/Psychotherapy program. I began an eight-month placement at the Community Counselling Centre of London (CCCL) which has a satellite office in Exeter, where I am seeing clients one day a week and taking online training on another day. The CCCL operates out of a Christian Reformed Church congregation. The large majority of clients are on some form of disability pension or social assistance. It's an eye opener. If all goes as planned, I hope to complete the program and be eligible to practice under supervision in early 2025. Knox College is proposing to rename the MPS as Master of Psychospiritual Studies next June.

**REPORT AS A WHOLE**

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

**INTERIM MODERATOR REPORTS**

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

Life carries on but with some glimmers of hope. The Ridgetown College student who attended fairly regularly last year and returned home for the summer has returned and is bringing another student. We thank God for Catherine's faith and witness and we pray for her and other students. A retired gentleman who moved to town a year ago recently joined. A retired United Church minister from the area shows up once in a while. Praise the Lord for these new souls. The new electronic sign has been installed (thanks to presbytery's grant) and they hope to have it lighted up by Christmas. One of the elders has been closely reviewing the website and working with the webmaster to keep it accurate and current. The Christmas Cantata (cancelled during the pandemic years) is a go for

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Dec. 3. The congregation's operating deficit is a bit lower. The New to You used clothing ministry reported \$33,000 sales over five hours at its most recent event. (The congregation sponsors this outreach, which is operated by a manager and a legion of volunteers. All profits go back to the community in the form of grants; they are not used to support the congregation.)

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

New St Andrew's has remained steady for the fall season with 15-20 attending Sunday Services. Sandra Smith has stepped down as Clerk of Session and Elaine Ross has accepted the position with help from the existing Elders. Sandra will remain Representative Elder for Presbytery and Elaine as Alternate. Pulpit Supply is confirmed for the remaining Sundays in November and December. The Broasted Chicken Dinner - take-out only is a sold-out event for 200 on Sunday November 12. The Annual Sharing Tree Service will be held on Sunday, December 10th where the lights will be lit on the tree at the front entrance to the church in memory of members and to honour families of NSA. Holy Communion will be served on the First Sunday of Advent. With God's help NSA will continue to be a cornerstone to the community.

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

The mission and ministry at Knox continues to go strong under the joint leadership of Barb and Jason, as the good news is preached both powerfully and impactfully to both old members and new visitors to Knox. At times it seems as if each Sunday there are new faces ready to come and worship within Knox's walls. Barb and Jason have put together worship centered first around the power of prayer, and then allowing that preaching series to lead into one about spiritual gifts, as they seek to equip those who come to worship to go out into the world to serve as Jesus hands and feet.

With the addition of Jason to the ministry team and the many wonderful ideas that he is bringing to the table at Knox there have been a few growing pains. At times communication has not always been the best it could be. But Barb, Jason and the session are committed to work on this challenge so that it will not hamper the good

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work that is being done at Knox. There is a great passion in this church to not only preach the word of God but to share God's love with the community and the world

around them. This is done with both their pantry ministry and how this past year's VBS was able to raise \$700 to allow 150 kids in Hattie to have their own VBS. It is clear to me that the members and worship leaders are filled with God's holy spirit, as it cannot help but spill out into the community around.

With the back-to-school season, the Sunday School programs have started once more for the 5-7 kids on average. They even have someone who is coming to teach the kids some sign language so that they can sing with their voices as well as their hearts. The women's ministry is back up and running, allowing for a space for people to come and learn more about their faith and the impact that it can have on their life and the lives of those around them.

Great things are continuing to happen at Knox and I ask if you'd continue to keep them in your prayers, as they continue to serve God with all that they are.

**Valetta – Rev. Shirley Murdock**

Valetta presents a warm, inviting and supportive church family, inside and outside the building.

We have been walking with members struggling serious illness and death of loved ones.

Attendance remains steady. Finances are stable. 2023 will be another year where it is not necessary to draw from the Memorial Fund to meet the budget. For that we are most grateful

Sarah Stockford continues to supply the pulpit most Sundays. Rev. Shirley conducts the Sacraments as scheduled with Sarah assisting.

Christmas Eve Service will happen on Sunday, December 24 at 1 0:30am with no evening service being offered this year.

WMS and Church Help Groups meet regularly and are active within the ministry and mission of the congregation. Plans were discussed for World Day of Prayer and Mission Awareness Sunday.

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The Sunday School began a Mission Fund on Mission Awareness Sunday in April of 2023. One container was filled and additional ones were provided. They raised \$278.45 and have decided to purchase toys for local children.

Mini Mission Projects receive excellence response. During November, folks will donate non-perishable food items that will be divided between the local food banks. The Annual Christmas Potluck and gift exchange is scheduled for December 17. It is eagerly anticipated as a time of fellowship and celebration.

There are no major maintenance issues. The Board of Managers keeps a close eye on property needs, both inside and out.

Session met on November 14, 2023. Advent preparations were discussed. The Annual Meeting is set for February 18, 2024.

It is a pleasure to share ministry with this congregation. May God continue to bless them as they strive to glorify him in all things and work together for the common good of the congregation.

**LSA – Rev. Chris Little**

With some staff departures in recent months, one position will not be staffed going forward and volunteers have been recruited and assigned appropriate responsibilities.

Plans are in place for the Session to develop a mission, vision and strategy for LSA. Discussion will also take place over the significant challenge of transitioning from a Corporate style church (350 or more on a Sunday morning) to Program style church (150-350).

The process of electing new Elders is underway.

Plans for opening a Daycare in the church building have been put on hold for approximately one year.

The Friday night Flow worship night is proving successful and is becoming a unifying event for the congregation.

A new roof has recently been put on the church building at considerable expense (approximately \$200,000).

**MOTION TO ACCEPT IM REPORTS AS PRESENTED.**

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

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**Congregational Support Team – Andrew Templer**

***Membership***

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

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***Funding Requests Received***

We received an emailed request (28<sup>th</sup> October, 2023) from Barbara Sargent and Jason Cartier on behalf of the Session of Knox Presbyterian Church, Wallaceburg, for the funds to support the renovation of a youth ministry space at the church.

As their letter of application put it: *“We would like to start a programme here at Knox called the “Underground” for teens. In order to do this, we would need to update the Youth Room in the basement of the church. This renovated space will feature new flooring, paint, lighting fixtures, a stage area and fresh paint.” .... “We are excited about the good things happening at Knox and we ask for the support of the Presbytery in this endeavour.”*

The application included a quote from Campbell Construction for the renovation mentioned above.

In addition, it was clarified that Knox Wallaceburg will contribute the refurnishing of the area, stage lighting, a full PA system and a café area. In a subsequent email (31<sup>st</sup> October) Barb estimated that this additional contribution from Knox would likely entail spending approximately an additional \$5,000 to \$6,000.

Attached is a copy of the request and the quote from Campbell Construction.

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**Detailed Support Requested:**

Total Cost of quote from Campbell Construction:	\$18,495.72
(Mostly for flooring and lumber)	
Amt. Requested:	\$12,000.00

(As Barb puts in in her email, “an amount of \$12,000 to \$14,000 would be very helpful”)

***CST Deliberation***

The proposal arrived while some CST members were facing some family emergencies and some further delay resulted from a request for more information on the amount requested.

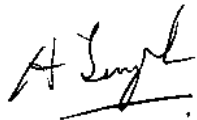
The CST discussed this request via several email exchanges from November 1-11. We decided that the proposal was of sufficient merit to bring it forward in time for the November meeting of Presbytery without all the information we would have liked. On the 11<sup>th</sup> November, we unanimously moved a motion\* to bring forward the following recommendation:

***Recommendation:***

**That Presbytery approve a grant of \$8,400.00 from the Congregational Support Fund to enable Knox Wallaceburg to renovate their Youth Room to undertake a new “Underground” ministry to area teens.**

**Within one year, Knox Wallaceburg shall provide a report to Presbytery to evaluate their program and include a financial statement confirming the total costs.**

**Motion – moved by Maroney and Aide. MOTION CARRIED.**



**Rev. Shirley F. Murdock – Clerk**

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## KNOX PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



**251 Duncan St. Wallaceburg, Ont. N8A 5G5**

**Phone: 519-627-4367 E-mail: [knox251@hotmail.com](mailto:knox251@hotmail.com)**

***To: Congregational Support Team***

***Date: Monday, October 23rd, 2023***

***RE: Knox Wallaceburg Youth Room Renovation***

On behalf of the congregation and the Session at Knox Wallaceburg I am pleased to report that we are experiencing growth. To help support and continue congregational growth we have plans to establish a youth ministry space designated with teenagers as the focus demographic. Pastor Jason has a long history of working with youth in the Wallaceburg community. At present he leads Thrive which is a gathering weekly during the school year for up to 100 kids from 6-12. In addition to that he leads a summer camp for youth which attracts approximately 200 children from across the community.

We would like to start a programme here at Knox called the “Underground” for teens. In order to do this, we would need to update the Youth Room in the basement of the church. This renovated space will feature new flooring, paint, lighting fixtures, a stage area and fresh paint. Thankfully, Campbell Construction, a local construction company (and a family friend) has agreed to donate time to this project!

In addition to the new construction Knox Wallaceburg will also be refurbishing the area with couches, tables, chairs, stage lighting, a full PA system and a cafe area. The congregation will undertake the expense and work associated with refurbishing.

**Synod Reports – Rev. Lisa and Audrey Landon**

The Synod met via zoom on Friday October the 20 at 1pm, and it was a very short meeting with very little work that needed to be done by the court. The length of the meeting has made me a little bit concerned about the desire that was presented about going back to an in-person Synod as not many people would be happy to travel up to five hours for an hour meeting.

Synod has approved our motion that Rev. Chris Little be able to serve with our bond for another six months. The other main business centered on Camp Kintail and Heron Feather ministry. I am happy to report that Camp Kintail did wonderfully this year, as not only were they able to run all their summer camps but they have also started to get a good reputation for hosting weddings on site. The Synod agreed to apply for the 2023 Regional Resourcing grant from Canada Ministries for \$61,000 to support the Director of Camp Kintail and the application was approved. There was also a motion that Heron Feathers be given a grant of 13,00 for the year of 2024.

The Creative Ministry Committee would like to remind everyone that there is a \$1000.00 grant available to any Presbytery that undertakes a new refugee sponsorship within its bounds.

One of the highlights of the meeting was guest speaker Rev. John Borthwick, who is now the Director of the Center for Lifelong Learning. This is a new project that Knox College is undertaking. Lifelong Learning is an exciting new program that is focused on meeting the needs of our church and will be available to ministers and lay leaders across Canada in the coming months. Rev. John was excited about being able to help support leaders in the church in their continuing education long after they have left the university.

Rev. Lisa Aide

**Rev. Shirley F. Murdock – Clerk**

**REPORT OF COMMITTEE TO EXAMINE SESSION RECORDS**

**MOTION:** That records and registers for Knox, Wallaceburg be attested as neatly and correctly kept, with notes.

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

**MOTION.** That records and registers for Paulin Memorial be attested as neatly and correctly kept, with notes.

**Death Register not presented. To be examined at February 2024 meeting.**

**Moved by Brown and Sargent. MOTION CARRIED.**

**CLERK'S NOTE:** It was noted that some congregations do not have registers. In consultation with Terrie-Lee Hamilton of the General Assembly Office, the Clerk was advised that all congregations should have and utilize all registers, in addition to notes added to the Roll of Professing Members.

**Registers can be ordered through the PCC.**

**If you are starting a new book, you have the option of starting fresh with new entries, or doing your best to record whatever information is available.**

**Schedule for future meetings**

Next Regular Meeting of Admin, week of Feb. 5 in Essex

Next meetings of Standing Committees – Week of Jan. 29

Next regular meeting Feb. 20, 2024

**MEETING HOSTS**

Feb 20, 2024 – Paulin Memorial

April 16, 2024 – Valetta

June 18, 2024 – Amherstburg

Sept 17, 2024 – Church of New Moderator

Nov 19 -2 024 – UCC

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**OTHER BUSINESS**

**MOTION TO ADJOURN.**

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

**THE PRESBYTERY OF ESSEX-KENT STANDS ADJOURNED, TO MEET NEXT IN REGULAR SESSION ON TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2024 WITHIN PAULIN MEMORIAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN WINDSOR, BEGINNING AT 5:30PM WITH WORSHIP**

**DISMISSAL PRAYER AND BENEDICTION – THE MODERATOR - 8:11pm**

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

**Rev. Shirley F. Murdock, Clerk**