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PRESBYTERY OF ESSEX-KENT
THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN CANADA

REGULAR MEETING – 5:30pm
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2023
KNOX PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, WALLACEBURG

THE PRESBYTERY OF ESSEX-KENT IS CALLED TO A REGULAR MEETING ON TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2023 WITHIN KNOX PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, WALLACEBURG AT 5:30PM

WORSHIP was led by Jason Cartier and the Knox Worship Band.

SACRAMENT of HOLY COMMUNION was conducted by Moderator Rev. Shalini Rajack-Sankarlal.

DINNER was served at 6:45pm, hosted by the ladies of Knox, Wallaceburg
Session Minutes from First Church, Chatham were examined during dinner.

CALL TO ORDER – THE MODERATOR called the Court to Order at 7:33pm
The Moderator offered prayer and Constituted the Court willing and able to deal with any matter that properly comes before it.

BUSINESS OF THE DAY

ATTENDANCE

Present in the Court were Revs. Mike Maroney, Andrew Cornell, Lisa Aide, Shirley Murdock, Shalini Rajack Sankarlal and Chuck Congram. Rev. Chris Little joined by Zoom.

Elders present were Barb Sargent, Alison Brown, Jane Lung, Sandra Smith, Bryan Stirling, Kathy Parks, Kathy Dupuis, and Kathleen Knott.

Also attending were Brian McGuffin, Carolyn Reid and Bob MacVicar.

REGRETS were received from Robert Ivison, Carla Johnson-Hicks, Rev. Tim Reddish, Wendy Streptak

WELCOME OF GUEST

Rev. Mike Maroney introduced Rev. Shirley Carleton

The Moderator welcomed Rev. Carleton. She will be inducted into St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Amherstburg on Sunday, September 24, 2023.

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SIT and CORRESPOND

MOTION: That Rev. Shirley Carleton be invited to Sit and Correspond for this meeting of Presbytery.

Moved by Maroney and Brown. MOTION CARRIED.

Her contact information is below

260 Seymore Street, Amherstburg, Ontario N9V 2B5

Shirley.carleton@gmail.com

604-753-8412

ADOPTION OF DOCKET

MOTION: That the Docket be adopted as amended with a few additions that came to the Clerk after the Docket was emailed to Presbytery.

Moved by Sargent and Maroney. MOTION CARRIED.

GOOD NEWS MOMENTS AND PRAYER REQUESTS

Carolyn Reid reported on her visit to the former Knox Church in Leamington, now known as the Knox Leamington Unity Centre.

An Open House took place on September 9, 2023.

The Centre is open from 6-10pm and feeds more than 50 people daily.

The Ladies Parlour now holds washers and dryers and stand-up freezers as well as racks of clothing.

All the pews have been removed from the sanctuary and replaced with round tables and chairs. The organ is gone. The grand piano now sits in the Chancel. Worship, prayer time and community events happen in the former sanctuary.

There is a Knox Historical Table with photos and memorabilia as well as a quilt made in 1935 that has the names of members embroidered on it.

The lower level houses a board room and meeting rooms where spiritual and community programs are provided.

The church is being used for something good and wonderful.

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MINUTES: JUNE 20, 2023 REGULAR MEETING – PAGES 4800 - 4841

AUGUST 15, 2023 EMERGENT MEETING – PAGES 4842 – 4848

MOTION: That the Minutes of June 20 and August 15, 2023 be adopted as printed.

Moved by Murdock and Aide. MOTION CARRIED.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE – BARB SARGENT

Motions were moved by Sargent and Murdock.

The Administration Committee met on Tuesday, September 5, 2023 via Zoom.

Members in attendance were Rev. Shalini (Moderator, Assistance Treasurer, Acting Convenor)

Rev. Chuck Congram (treasurer) Rev. Shirley Murdock (Clerk), Barbara Sargent (Past Moderator).

Rev. Andrew Cornell was absent.

RECOMMENDATION 1

That Reports of Standing Committees be received and recommendations considered.

Moved and Carried.

RECOMMENDATION 2

That the following correspondence be received as noted

Moved and Carried.

FOR INFORMATION

UCC – current Elders and Trustees – Admin Co.

GA – July Changes to the Roll – emailed to Presbyters

Westminster Presbytery – Details for Call to Shirley Carleton

GA – Don Muir - Information on Incorporation and Church Sponsored Day Care

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GA – Don Muir – assistance with CRA for St. James, Chatham Charitable Status

Paulin Memorial – New Rep Elders – Carla Johnson-Hicks and Audrey Landon

Seaway-Glengary Presbytery – Mr. Alexander Plan withdrawn from Ministry process

Rev. Leslie Walker -Requesting assistance with CRA and 2021 T4. Referred to treasurer Deborah Wilson

GA – Attention of Presbytery

- a) Continuing Education Allowance will increase to \$1,000.00 per year effective January 1, 2024, increasing by \$100.00 per year for the following five years, up to \$1,500.00/year.
- b) Congregations and Presbyters to name a PWS&D Champion to promote the Agency
- c) Minimum Stipend for 2024 can be found on page 63 of 2023 A&P (end of Docket)
- d) Declaratory Act – Section 251 – Presbytery may issue a Letter of Standing if a minister has neglected to request one – Adopted at 2023 GA

GA – Seeking nominations for Intercultural Liaison – due January 15, 2024

GA – Requesting nominations for Moderator of 2024 General Assembly – due November 30, 2023

GA – Due dates – Memorials and Petitions – April 1, 2024

Referred Overtures – February 1, 2024

Unreferred Overtures – April 1, 2024

GA – REMIT A – Committee to Nominate Standing Committees 288.1

REMIT B – Constituent Roll – delete 176.1 and revise 176.1.6 (include Chaplains)

Refer to November Meeting of Presbytery

Pension & Benefits – Reminder of LSA arrears \$131,570.74

GA- Ian Ross MacDonald – items for attention of Presbytery

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- four pieces of correspondence for the Presbytery concerning:
- a PCC youth and leaders conference to be held from July 3-7, 2023
 - the Fund for Ministerial Assistance, \$15,000.00 above minimum stipend
 - benevolence funds available to provide financial assistance for accessing psychotherapy or counseling to support healing for those who have experienced harm by racist and marginalizing actions, words and attitudes in the church.

 - benevolence funds available to provide financial assistance for accessing psychotherapy or counseling to support healing for those who have experienced harm caused by homophobia, hypocrisy, transphobia and heterosexism in the church.

Synod Clerk – seeking nominations of commissioners for 2023 Synod, October 20, 2023 at 1:00pm

Rev. Andrew Cornell – seeking financial assistance for new sound board at Dresden. Referred to Administration Committee.

Knox, Wallaceburg – names of Rep. Elder, Alternate Elder and Trustees

Rev. Tim Reddish – new phone number – 519-967-1144

Rev. Chris Little – Agreement of Employment for Brian McGuffin, Refer to M&D

UCC – Police Screening Reports for Rev. Shalini and Alison Brown

BUSINESS FROM CORRESPONDENCE

A) REPRESENTATIVE AND ALTERNATE ELDERS

RECOMMENDATION 3: That the following be named as Representative and Alternate Elders effecting September 19, 2023.

Paulin Memorial – Carla Johnson-Hicks and Audrey Landon

UCC – Alison Brown and Catherine Romiens

Knox Wallaceburg – Jayne Burritt – Alternate Elder

Moved and Carried.

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CLERK'S NOTE – Moderator to send Thank You to Bonnie Pittock for her many years as Representative Elder of Paulin Memorial.

- B) SYNOD COMMISSIONERS – Rev. Lisa Aide and Elder from Paulin Memorial
RECOMMENDATION 4: That Rev. Lisa Aide and an Elder from Paulin Memorial be named as Commissioners to the 2023 Synod of Southwestern Ontario to be held Friday, October 20, 2023 via ZOOM beginning at 1:00pm and continuing no later than 4:00pm with reports to be received at the November meeting of Presbytery.
Moved and Carried

Clerk's Note: The Clerk received the name of Audrey Landon from Paulin Memorial as the Elder Commissioner to Synod 2023. The above information was forwarded to the Synod Clerk Rev. Mark MacLennan.

- C) Nomination for INTERCULTURAL LIAISON

The Intercultural Liaison will collaborate with and assist congregations, courts and committees of The Presbyterian Church in Canada to **be welcoming and inclusive of all God's people**. The work of the Intercultural Liaison will be to act as **an advocate of the diverse communities of World Christianity**, both to The Presbyterian Church in Canada and from within it to the outside church. The position will focus on serving as a catalyst for the growing ethnic/cultural nature of the denomination resulting from migration patterns of World Christianity and how those patterns may help to shape and guide the denomination going forward. The Intercultural Liaison will also be engaged in the active advocacy against systemic racism in all aspects of the denomination.

NO NOMINATIONS WERE PRESENTED.

- D) Nomination for MODERATOR of 2024 General Assembly. Due January 31, 2024
a. NO NOMINATIONS WERE PRESENTED.

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- E) PWS&D CHAMPION in each congregation and Presbytery
 - a. Each Congregation was encouraged to name a Champion to receive and share updated information on PWS&D
The Life and Mission Committee becomes the Champion for Presbytery.

- F) Request from St. Andrew's, Dresden

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church

Box 93, Dresden, Ontario N0P 1M0 519-683-2442 standrewspcdresden@gmail.com Rev. Andy Cornell

This past summer, our mixer/sound board started to act up; it would suddenly stop working in the midst of worship, requiring a restart. We arranged for a third party tech consultant (the same person who installed our livestream system recently) to check it out. His assessment was that it needed replacing. This does not come as a surprise because the hardware has been in our possession for more than 10 years and it was used when we purchased it. We have a quote for a new board for \$2,705.21 for a new board, plus installation and training. We are in the midst of getting additional quotes for comparison.

This is an urgent situation for the simple reason that this equipment is an integral part of our livestream operation, which lately has been attracting as many people online as we have in person. An added concern is that we need the system to be working for our anniversary service on Oct. 29, where we will have a guest preacher and musicians.

We are told that there is a supply issue with such equipment and it's possible we may only have this one quote. We realize that this request does not follow usual procedure and was not delivered to you in time for committee consideration. However, this is an emergent issue and time is a factor. Session at its Sept. 11, 2023 meeting, approved a motion to ask presbytery for a \$2,000 grant.

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In faith

Rev. Andy Cornell, Mark Labadie, Minister, Clerk of session



MUSICAL STRINGS 'N' THINGS

QUOTE

HST No. R103811675

519-354-0111

Brett@musicalstringsnthings.com

542 Grand Ave. E Chatham On
N7L 3Z3

PreSonus Studio Live Classic Digital Mixer Labour For Instal and Training

Attention: Andy Cornell
Phone: C (226)229-1695 P (519)683-2442 Email: standrewspcdresden@gmail.com Institution: St.
Andrews Presbyterian Church Address: P.O. Box 93, St. George St. N. City: Dresden ON, N
Date: Aug 24, 2023

Project Title: New Mixer Project Description: Install Quote Number: BQ230824-01

PreSonus Studio Live Classic Digital Mixer \$1799.99

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Labour for instal and training	\$594.00
	\$2393.99
HST 13%	\$311.22
Total	\$2705.21

If this quote is approved adequate notice is required to order product not in stock depending on availability installation will be scheduled after stock is received.

All products carry a minimum one year warranty (parts and labour). If you should require service during this period, we will provide similar equipment free of charge while yours is in for service.

If you have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to contact me.

Brett Sansom

This request was received on Thursday, September 14. It was forwarded to Andrew Templer as Convenor of Congregational Support Team. Andrew advised the Clerk he would be away for the weekend, unable to discuss with his committee and requested Administration Committee to consider the request and make a recommendation.

**RECOMMENDATION: That St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Dresden be granted \$1,800.00 toward the cost of a new sound board. From Congregational Support Fund.
Moved and Carried.**

Clerk's Note: This Recommendation came from Administration Committee after the Docket was sent to Presbyters and is part of the Amended Docket.

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EMERGENT MEETING OF ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

The Administration Committee met in an Emergent Meeting on Thursday, July 6, 2023 via Zoom in response to a directive from Presbytery to receive and consider a request from Mt. Zion Presbyterian Church for funding of a new church sign. Power to Issue was granted to the Committee. After due consideration, it was agreed to offer Mt. Zion \$4,500.00 from the Congregational Support Fund. Total cost was noted at \$5,525.92.

RECOMMENDATION 5: That the Court sustain the action of the Administration Committee as noted above.

Moved and Carried.

GENERAL PRESBYTER

In June, presbytery appointed a Special Committee to propose financial details and oversee the Search Process for a General Presbyter and report to subsequent meetings of Presbytery: Convenor Rev. Andy Cornell, Sandra Smith, Vic Beacock, Revs. Shalini Rajack-Sankarlal and Chuck Congram. We have yet to meet. Our task is to 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.) Andy, as convenor, will get this rolling.

REVIEW OF STANDING ORDERS

A special meeting was held on Aug. 24 to review all sections except Appendix 4 (Interim Moderators).

It was agreed that the proposed changes be sent to all members for consideration and comment with the final draft being received at the November meeting of Presbytery.

RECOMMENDATION 6: That the final draft of proposed changes to the Standing Orders (including Duties of IM) be received and considered at the Regular Meeting on November 21, 2023.

Moved and Carried.

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EXAMINATION OF SESSION MINUTES

Session Minutes for First Church, Chatham were examined by Rev. Lisa Aide, Alison Brown and Bob MacVicar.

RECOMMENDATION 7: That Session Minutes from First Presbyterian Church, Chatham be attested as neatly and correctly kept.

Moved by Aide and Brown.

Motion Carried.

EXAMINATION OF SESSION RECORDS – FYI

Registers for Baptism, Marriages and Deaths

Roll of Professing Members

Current List of Adherents

The following list was adopted at the June meeting of Presbytery

November 2023 – Wallaceburg and Paulin – name someone to help Alison and Mike

February 2024 – Amherstburg and Dresden

April 2024 – Dover and LSA

June 2024 – Chatham and UCC

September 2024 – Valetta and Ridgetown

EXAMINERS: Rev. Lisa Aide, Bob MacVicar and Alison Brown.

From the PCC Website

OBITUARY – Rev. Evelyn Carpenter, former minister of First Church, Chatham, died August 24, 2023. Rev. Evelyn retired from First Church in 2002 and spent the next four years in Dover Centre. She returned “home” to PEI in 2006. A funeral was held in Alberton, PEI on August 29, 2023.

TREASURER’S REPORT – Rev. Chuck Congram

REPORT OF INVESTED FUNDS

Background.

In 2017 following the directions of the Presbytery and investment of \$400,000 was made with the Presbyterian Church in Canada. This money came from three sources:

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1. Congregational Support Funds-\$216,402.58 representing monies from the sale of Riverside and Forest Glade congregations-54.1% of the investment.
2. Bursary Funds-\$114,141.43 representing monies from an original Presbytery fund plus the Paulin fund from St. Andrews, Windsor-28.5% of the investment.
3. Duart Funds-\$69,455.97 representing monies received from the closure of the Duart congregation-17.4% of the investment.

Interest received on the investment.

The investment return has varied greatly over the years as seen in the following:

2017-\$11,007.56.

2018-\$9217.81.

2019-\$35,910.97.

2020-\$13,950.01.

2021-\$22,201.75.

2022-\$21,692.65.

Total-\$113,980.75.

Interest allotted to the various funds.

Congregational Support Fund-\$55,708.50.

Bursary Fund-\$29,347.37.

Duart Fund-\$17,917.32.

Monies allocated to these funds during these years.

Note: This amount includes expenditures in 2023 during which time no interest been received.

Congregational Support Fund-\$75,709.28.

Bursary Funds-\$12,750.

Duart Fund-\$1400.

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Additional note-Emergent Fund.

In 2022 the Presbytery received a residual amount of \$165,287.43 from the sale of the Hungarian church. Since that time this money has remained in the general fund and a total of \$22,700 in grants have been made from this fund. Presbytery will need to make a decision on whether or not all or a portion of this money should be added to the investment fund. Balance is \$142,587.43.

Upcoming-Leamington monies.

The Presbytery is still awaiting receipt of monies from the sale of the Leamington church at which time a further decision about investing all or a portion of those monies should be made.

CLERK'S NOTE: *Email from Jane Toppi (Trustee) states that 2 GIC's will mature in September - \$16,000.00 Sept 8 and \$80,000.00 Sept 14. Both will be transferred to the General Fund by September 21, 2023.*

Additional funds.

Since receipt of the funds from the Paulin monies from St. Andrews church, Windsor the Presbytery has continued to receive a monthly mortgage payment of \$506.12 from Paulin Memorial Church. These monies continue to remain in the general fund and total an amount of \$29,354.96 to the end of 2022.

The Treasurer reported that the Administration Committee, through proposed changes to the Standing Orders, are working to design a new committee of Finance and Funds that will combine the various funds.

The Treasurer also reported that all 2023 Synod Dues have been paid in full.

**RECOMMENDATION 8. THAT THE TREASURER'S REPORT BE ADOPTED AS PRESENTED
Moved and Carried**

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RECOMMENDATION 9: REPORT AS A WHOLE
Moved and Carried

Ministry and Doctrine Report – Rev. Mike Maroney

M & D met via Zoom on September 1, 2023, at 12:30pm via Zoom. Present at the meeting were Rev. M. Maroney and Wendy Skreptak. We had regrets from Jane Lung. Rev. Tim Reddish has stepped down from the committee.

1. **Contract for Brian McGuffin:** Rev. Chris Little, IM for Lakeshore St. Andrew's reports that the session approved a 3.2% increase in both stipend and housing allowance. The figure was rounded up to \$62,000 and \$25,000 respectively. This was the only change to his contract.
2. **Update on Brian McGuffin's studies:** Rev. Chris Little reports that Brian McGuffin is on track to finish his studies by the end of the year. This is within the time frame stipulated by the Education & Reception Committee of the Presbyterian Church in Canada.

Recommendation: Given that Brian McGuffin is on track to finish his required courses, that his agreement of employment be renewed.

It was noted that the submitted Agreement shows Brian McGuffin's address as being Manitoba and lists the Presbytery address as that of the former Clerk Ann Boden. Missing from the Agreement were Schedules A, B and C.

MOTION: That the Agreement of Employment for Brian McGuffin and Lakeshore St. Andrew's be accepted in theory but that it be corrected and forwarded to the Clerk, promptly.

Moved by Maroney and Lung. MOTION CARRIED.

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3. **Bursaries:**

Rev. Andy Cornell has asked for a bursary to cover the cost of the practicum he is taking: He is continuing work on his Master's in Pastoral studies/Psychotherapy certificate program. He is registered in a fall practicum with Community Counselling Centre of London, which is subject to the same tuition fees as all other courses.

Brian McGuffin is taking two courses: SAH-DS515D: PCC Creeds and Confessions and TFE-FC: Field Education: Leadership in Faith Community.

Sarah Stockford is taking four courses: EMT 2902 Christian Ethics in Context, KNH 3571 Presbyterian Tradition, KNP 8732 Congregational Leadership, KNT 3271 Doctrines of Reconciliation.

Recommendation: That Presbytery approve Rev. A. Cornell, Brian McGuffin and Sarah Stockford's bursary applications at \$650 per course.

Moved by Maroney and Lung. MOTION CARRIED.

4. **Study leaves:**

Rev. M. Maroney requested to go on study leave to Crieff Hills, Oct 23-29, 2023. He will be reading the book *St. Francis and the Foolishness of God; Dennis, Moe-Lobeda, Nangle and Taylor*. He will also spend time planning for winter/spring message series at FPC.

Recommendation: That Presbytery approve Rev. M. Maroney's study leave.

Moved by Lung and Brown. MOTION CARRIED

5. **Study leave report:**

Rev. A. Cornell's study leave report was received and is included in this document.

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6. **Mentor for Shirley Carleton:**

Rev. M. Maroney has agreed to serve as mentor to Shirley Carleton.

Recommendation: That Presbytery appoint Rev. M. Maroney as mentor to Shirley Carleton.

Moved by Lung and Brown.

MOTION CARRIED.

7. **IM for Lakeshore St. Andrew's:**

Rev. Chris Little has asked that his status as IM be extended for six months. He will review the situation after that. This was not discussed at our committee meeting, but I am happy to make the recommendation all the same.

Recommendation: That Presbytery extend Rev. Chris Little's term as Interim Moderator at Lakeshore St. Andrew's for another six months. (December 2023 – June 2024)

Moved by Maroney and Lung. MOTION CARRIED.

CLERK'S NOTE – An extract of Minutes was sent to Synod Clerk Rev. Mark MacLennan, requesting Synod to sustain the action of Presbytery.

We note that our committee needs more members.

Rev. Maroney advised the Court he will invite Mark Labadie to join the Committee.

Study Leave report for September 2023 Presbytery – Rev. A. Cornell

Work continued during the early summer in Knox College's Master of Pastoral Studies/Psychotherapy program with successful completion of two additional online courses: "narrative therapy" and "aging and spiritually-integrated psychotherapy." I begin a two-semester placement at the Community Counselling Centre of London, where I will be seeing clients one day a week and taking online training on another day. I was accepted into the spiritual care and psychotherapy certificate stream, which leads to certification with the College

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of Psychotherapists of Ontario. My goal is to complete all MPS requirements by December 2024 or winter 2025.

I banked the maximum 10 weeks of study leave. So far, I've found that I've been able to handle the course load without taking much advantage of the study leave – only one week was taken last fall and one week in the winter. That may change in the fall of 2023 with the two day per week practicum. Time is available if I need it. If not, I may use this in its entirety if I opt for a spring/summer intensive 13-week full time practicum this time next year.

Recommendation: Report as a Whole
Moved by Maroney and Lung. MOTION CARRIED.

LIFE AND MISSION REPORT TO PRESBYTERY

The life and Mission Committee met via Zoom on Saturday September 9, 2023. Members present were Barbara Sargent, Convenor, Jayne Broughton and Sandra Smith. Regrets were received from Carolyn Reid and Rev Lisa Aide. We dealt with Motions referred to us from the June Presbytery Meeting.

1. That the presbytery set up a workshop for treasurers, board and session members going over good practices in regards to dealing with all types of donation that are given to the church, from e-transfers, planned giving and any other changes that have happened in the last five year.

The L& M Convenor will contact 50 Wynford to see if there is someone who could make a presentation for Congregational Treasurers.

2. That part of Presbytery's role in oversight of the congregations in its care should be that at least every five years, there should be a workshop, or

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someone sent to help each congregation understand what Presbytery is and also the roles between the courts and the board and session.

The committee is in agreement that this is being looked after through regular visitations which have been set up by the Presbytery.

3. That Admin Co. send someone to St. Andrew's, Dresden, to meet with leadership team (board, elders and minister) to assist with conflict management

Recommendation 1

That the Presbytery of Essex/Kent engage the services of Grant Fairley to meet with the Leadership Team at St. Andrew's Dresden to resolve the existing conflicts and that the Presbytery pay any expenses that would be involved.

Moved by Sargent and Smith. MOTION CARRIED.

Mr. Fairley will be required to report back to Presbytery.

Recommendation 2

That the revised list of Presbytery Visitations be approved.

Moved by Sargent and Smith. MOTION CARRIED.

Presbytery Visitations

The months of September – October 2023

First Presbyterian Chatham

Team Members: Rev Shirley Murdock, Jayne Broughton, Bryan Stirling

CLERK'S NOTE – Date set for November 5, 2023

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January-2024

Mount Zion, Ridgetown

Team Members – Mike Maroney, Barbara Sargent, Rep Elder from Lakeshore St Andrews (to be named)

Valetta

Team – Andrew Cornell, Jane Lung, Sandra Smith

September – 2024

New St Andrew's Dover

Team Members – Shalini Rajack-Sankarlal, Jayne Broughton, Barbara Sargent

Knox Wallaceburg

Team Members – Brian McGuffin, Mark Labadie, Sandra Smith

2025 – St Andrew's Amherstburg, University Community Church, Paulin Memorial

Team Members to be named

Recommendation 3: Report as a Whole
Moved by Sargent and Smith. MOTION CARRIED.

Congregational Support Fund – A. Templer – No Report

Request from Dresden for funding for new soundboard was referred to Administration Committee and included in their report above.

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Card Ministry – Bonnie Pittock - FYI

- 1 Get Well Card
- 1 Sympathy Card
- 7 Thinking of You Cards

Reports of Interim Moderators

1. Ridgetown Mt. Zion – Rev. Andy Cornell

While attendance continues to decline, strong and faithful leadership continues from the ruling elders: clerk Phyllis May, Bryan Stirling and Renee Geluk. Biblical messages are provided each Sunday from a rotation of gifted pastors: Rev. Colin Paterson, Rev. Lillian Wilton, Rev. Doug and Cathi Cameron, Mary Pat Elliot and members of session. Session met on July 6 and is scheduled to meet next on Sept. 7. A verbal report to September presbytery will be made if necessary.

2. Lakeshore St. Andrew's – Rev. Chris Little

Ministry carries on effectively at LSA. Worship attendance is encouraging, and finances are looking more positive overall. Rental income continues to be a significant help to the congregation.

There has been recent discussion about the hope of budgeting to start repayment of the Pension debt starting in January. There is also the hope to be making a single payment this fall, depending on the financial situation of the congregation.

Another election of Elders is being planned. Several individuals have been identified as good candidates and a nomination process will be initiated when the time is right.

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Committees are formed as is possible at this time, as all interested individuals who are willing to serve have been appointed. Mission, Finance, Property, Strategic Planning, Incorporation and an interim Human Resources committee are all functioning.

Two new ministries are being initiated this fall. Each Friday night there will be a praise service called Flow, to which all are invited, including neighbouring churches. There will also be a new ministry named React which will provide faith based, mental health support for people in the church and community.

A new one-year renewal of the contract for Brian McGuffin has been agreed to and will be presented to Presbytery for approval.

The Session continues to desire to incorporate the church, with a primary focus on preparing for the starting a day care to serve the community. A presentation will be made to Presbytery at a later date.

3. New St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Dover: Rev. Mike Maroney

New St Andrew's will be starting fall Worship Services on September 10th. Rev Ken Powell, Rev Doug and Cathi Cameron, and Rev Paul Shaw leading our services for September and October.

We will be celebrating our 120th Church Anniversary on September 24th and there will be a Quilt Show and Luncheon on September 23rd to celebrate. Congregation remains steady with 15-20 at Sunday morning service.

Please note: Elaine Ross is Clerk of Session with assistance from Carole Sparks.

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4. St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Amherstburg, ON. – Rev. Mike Maroney

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

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

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

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

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

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

Finally, we received an inquiry from Shirley Carleton requesting our congregational profile. After a few days, Shirley submitted her profile and I arranged to for the Search Team to meet with her by Zoom teleconferencing on July 10. After a fruitful meeting, the Search Team voted

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unanimously to recommend to the Session that Shirley Carleton be extended an invitation to preach for a call at St. Andrew's.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Shirley Carleton was due to be ordained on August 30 in British Columbia. A Service of Induction will be held at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Amherstburg, on Sunday, September 24 at 3 p.m.

5. Knox Wallaceburg – Rev. Lisa Aide

The session at Knox's has been hard at work to prepare for this coming September, as this will be the kick off of a new season of worship in Wallaceburg. There are already plans in place to help grow and establish new outreach programs into the community to help meet the needs that they are seeing in the world around them. A decision was made to transform the current young women's ministry into a women ministry where people would be able to gather and learn more about their great creator. There is currently discussion about if Knox's could offer a cancer support group, as there are many in the community who are struggling in their ongoing health battle and could use a place where they are welcomed to share their struggle without judgement.

There is excitement at Knox's as The Underground, a youth group that is run by Jason, will be

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finding a new Home at Knox's, and so the members have been hard at work to prepare a place for them in the church basement. Jason's ministry and outreach to the youth in the community is going well and this past summer Knox was able to witness the baptism of a young man. Thanks to both Jason's and Barb's ministry he felt that he was ready to take the next step in his faith journey.

It is still a great joy to be able to work with the session at Knox and I look forward to seeing the new direction that the Holy Spirit is leading them in the future.

6. Valetta – Rev. Shirley Murdock

Valetta Presbyterian Church gathered regularly for worship with Sarah Stockford leading worship. During the month of July, they welcomed visitors for the United Church while their church was closed for the month. On July 30 they held a congregational picnic on the lawn of the church with a barbeque, games and lots of conversation. They took their annual summer break for the month of August and came back for worship on Sunday, September 3 with Sarah Stockford in the pulpit. Session will meet Sunday, October 1 following worship and monthly lunch. Attendance and Finances remain steady.

Schedule for future meetings

Next Regular Meeting of Admin November 10 in Windsor/Tecumseh

Next meetings of Standing Committees – Week of October 29, 2023

Next regular meetings

November 21, 2023 – First Church, Chatham

FOR INFORMATION

CURRENT COMMITTEE CONVENORS and MEMBERS

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Administration Committee

Convenor Andy Cornell
Moderator Rev. Shalini Rajack-Sankarlal
Past Moderator Barbara Sargent
Treasurer – Rev. Chuck Congram
Assistant Treasurer – Rev. Shalini Rajack-Sankarlal
Clerk – Rev. Shirley Murdock

Ministry and Doctrine Committee

Convenor Rev. Mike Maroney
Wendy Streptak, Jane Lung

Life and Mission Committee

Convenor Barbara Sargent
Jayne Broughton, Carolyn Reid, Sandra Smith, Rev. Lisa Aide

Congregational Support Team

Convenor Andrew Templer
Rev. Mike Maroney, Bob MacVicar

Sexual Abuse and Sexual Harassment Committee

Members suggested by PCC – Clergy, physician, educator, social worker, lawyer.

2024 STIPEND as of January 1, 2024

Minimum \$44,638.00
5% to IM's to be paid monthly or quarterly
Pulpit Supply \$195.00
Mileage \$0.45/km

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POLICE SCREENINGS

Current		Expired	
Leslie Walker – 2023		Mike Maroney 2015	
Shirley Murdock – 2024		Jane Lung 2018	
Andrew Cornell – 2027		Mark Labadie 2019	
Lillian Wilton – 2027		Tim Reddish 2020	
Kathy Parks – 2027		Chuck Congram 2020	
Nancy Carle – 2028		Barb Sargent 2022	
Shalini Rajack-Sankarlal – 2028		Kathy Dupuis 2022	
Alison Brown – 2028			

No reports on file

Lisa Aide	Olwyn Coughllin	Mary Templer
Jason Cartier	Sarah Stockford	Brian McGuffin
Jayne Broughton	Bryan Stirling	Chris Little
Andrew Templer	Sandra Smith	

Police Screening Reports received at Presbytery from Jane Lung (2026), Alison Brown (2028) and Rev. Shalini Rajack-Sankarlei (2028).

If any of this listing is incorrect, please forward a copy of your current report to the Clerk.

TRUSTEES and TRUST DEEDS

To be forwarded to the Clerk, promptly

Deeds received from St. Andrew's, Dover, First Church, Chatham and UCC.

HOSTS FOR REGULAR MEETINGS OF PRESBYTERY

November 21, 2023 – First Church, Chatham
February 20, 2024 – Paulin Memorial
April 16, 2024 – Valetta
June 18, 2024 – St. Andrew's, Amherstburg
September 17, 2024 – Church of new Moderator
November 19, 2024 -UCC

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SCHEDULE FOR EXAMINATION OF SESSION RECORDS

(adopted June 20, 2023)

Baptism, Wedding, Death Registers
Roll of Professing Members
List of Adherents

November 2023 - Wallaceburg and Paulin Memorial
February 2024 – Amherstburg and Dresden
April 2024 – Dover and LSA
June 2024 – Chatham and UCC
September 2024 – Valetta and Ridgetown

CHECK LIST FOR EXAMINATION OF SESSION RECORDS

EXAMINATION OF SESSION RECORDS

Section 32 Book of Forms

Every book enjoined to be kept by any court is ordered to be reviewed and attested yearly by the next higher court, save that a presbytery if it is desired may call for the session records once every two years, for attestation, and in the case of a presbytery where its synod has been dissolved, another presbytery is empowered to attest its records according to the dissolution plan approved by General Assembly.

COMMUNION ROLL (Roll of Professing Members)

1. Names are clearly inscribed in the proper place.
2. An address is provided for each name.
3. The date of enrolment is given.
4. The means of enrolment is included (p - profession of faith; c - transfer of certificate; resolution of Session, written in).

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5. All names added to the Roll have been by resolution, or special resolution of Session, and the names included in the Session Minutes.
6. The dates of removals have been given.
7. The reasons for removal have been included.
8. All names removed from the Roll have been by resolution, or special resolution of the Session, and the names included in the Session Minutes.
9. (Where applicable) Session Minutes show a special revision before moderation in a Call to a Minister.

BAPTISMAL, MARRIAGE, AND BURIAL REGISTERS

BAPTISMAL – All information required is recorded for each entry.

MARRIAGE – All information required is recorded for each entry

BURIALS – All information required is recorded for each entry

LIST OF ADHERENTS

Names and contact information

UCC – FYI

Please find attached our report on the Human Sexuality Seminar. UCC thanks the Congregational Support Fund for the grant that helped make it possible. An article has just been published in Presbyterian Connections about this.

Alison Brown (Clerk)

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**Reflections from
Naked & Unashamed: A Candid Conversation about Sexuality**

Saturday, March 25, 2023 | 9:30am – 4:00pm

On Saturday, March 25, 2023, University Community Church (UCC) in Windsor, Ontario, hosted its very first seminar on Sexuality. The purpose of this seminar was to have open dialogue about sex and sex education. Churches and religious institutions have historically not held positive and healthy views and teachings on sex, with many patrons expressing harm and pain caused in their pursuits for education, awareness, safety, and comfort.

Even in secular society, there are few spaces where we feel comfortable talking openly about sex.

We felt it was important to have an open discussion about sexuality and invite the community into a safe space for honest conversation about our sexuality – our perceptions and sensations, our knowledge, experiences, and/or ignorance, our identities, our worries and expectations, etc.

The seminar was designed around the belief that the ‘dirtiest’ word is SILENCE not sex. Our hope was to dispel some of the discomfort, shame, and fear that surrounds discourse about sexuality and generate curiosity and life-giving ways of thinking about the realities that humans face as sexual beings.

Presentations, conversations and reflections throughout the day were centred around 3 overarching themes:

1. Sexual Health and Education
2. Ethics and Spirituality
3. Emotional & Relational

The day opened with candid sharing from 4 panelists and a moderator. Each panelist responded to the same three questions, offering meaningful insights, experiences, and lessons, based on their unique backgrounds, perspectives, and stories:

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1. What was your sex education experience growing up like? (Church, School, Home)
2. What were your expectations of sex? How did that compare to your actual experience?
3. What would you want the next generation to understand about sex and sex education?

Local organizations were invited to participate, giving presence to available supports and resources in our community, including the Windsor-Essex Health Unit, Pozitive Pathways, Trans Wellness, and the Windsor-Essex Mental Health Association.

In hosting this session and inviting community partners, we aimed to express our desire to offer care and cultivate standing partnerships in the community to promote healthy and safe sex, whether that be in or out of romantic relationships, and acknowledge the various perspectives on sexual ethics and spirituality. Anyone was welcome to attend, regardless of their beliefs or background.

Our goal was not to have all the answers around sex and sexuality, but rather have a safe space to provide love, support, resources, and shared learning.

Following the panel presentation, participants were invited to visit focused table talks, facilitated by experts in the following areas:

1. Sexual Health and Education – A member of the congregation who is a nurse brought resources and materials and answered questions.
2. Ethics & Spirituality – Rev. Shalini Sankarlal and Dr. Wendy VanderWal Martin facilitated story sharing and invited questions.
3. Emotional & Relational - Two psychotherapists presented information and resources, including a robust library of books, and facilitated discussion.
4. Arts & Crafts – A table was set up to allow people to reflect on and express their thoughts and emotions by colouring, drawing or journaling.

A tasty lunch of sandwiches, provided by the café in our lower level, “The Green Bean,” ensured a satisfying break for all.

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After lunch, we had the honour of listening to a keynote presentation by Dr. Wendy VanderWal Martin on Sexual Ethics. Wendy hails from St. Stephen, New Brunswick where she serves a three-point Presbyterian charge. She served as Executive Director of Generous Space Ministries for 20 years where she developed the concept of Centered Set Sexual Ethics. Wendy's passion for cultivating spaces where diverse people can connect and flourish was evident, and she approached dialogue with compassion and thoughtful contemplation of the dignity of each person and their unique lived experiences.

We ended our day with a “fishbowl” question and response period, where participants were welcome to submit anonymous questions, and the experts and panelists offered thoughtful reflections, focusing not on giving a specific answer for all, but exploring possible viewpoints and possibilities and unpacking some of the stigmas of sexuality. One of our experts or the keynote speaker Wendy did their best to respond and engage in sex education and awareness that was free of judgement, affirming, and appreciative of the gifts brought forward by our different identities, experiences, and learning.

Feedback received regarding overall impressions of the day revealed rawness, sharing of emotions, amazing vulnerability of the presenters and participants, and true healing, hope, encouragement and inspiration for ongoing learning and conversations. Following the success of this first candid conversation about sexuality, the positive outcomes suggest that this seminar may not be the last of its kind to be hosted at UCC!

Chad Rollo – elder/organizer



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OTHER BUSINESS

MOTION TO ADJOURN

Moved by Maroney. MOTION CARRIED

The Presbytery of Essex-Kent is called to meet. In SPECIAL SESSION on Sunday, September 24, 2023 within St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Amherstburg at 2:30pm.
A Service of Induction for Rev. Shirley Carleton will be conducted at 3:00pm.
A Reception will follow in the Upper Hall.

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.

PRAYER and BENEDICTION – THE MODERATOR

DISMISSED at 8:28pm.

Rev. Shalini Rajack-Sankarlal, Moderator

Rev. Shirley F. Murdock, Clerk

Rev. Shirley F. Murdock - Clerk