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Presbytery of Essex-Kent
The Presbyterian Church in Canada
Special ZOOM Meeting,
Thursday, October 17, 2024, at 6:30pm.

The Presbytery of Essex-Kent was called to meet in SPECIAL SESSION on Thursday, October 17, 2024, at 6:30pm, at the call of the Moderator Rev. Lisa Aide.

Call to Order: Barb Sargent acted as Moderator, since Rev. Aide's prior meeting was running late.

Prayer and Constitution: Barb Sargent led in prayer and constituted the Court willing and able to deal with any matter that properly came before it.

ROLL CALL: Rev. Lisa Aide, Rev. Shirley Carleton, Rev. Andy Cornell, Rev. Mike Maroney, Rev. Brian McGuffin, Rev. Shirley Murdock, Rev. Tim Reddish, and Rev. John Zondag. Jayne Broughton, Alison Brown, Mark Labadie, Jane Lung, Barb Sargent, and Sarah Stockford.

REGRETS: Rev. Olwyn Coughlin, Rev. Shalini Rajack-Sankarlal, Robert Ivison, Carolyn Reid, Sandra Smith, and Bryan Stirling.

WELCOME GUESTS: Rev. Jim Young (Interim Moderator and from the Presbytery of Barrie).

PURPOSE OF MEETING:

To process the Call for Sarah Stockford as Minister of Word and Sacraments.

MOTION: That the Call of Sarah Stockford to Knox Church, Alliston, and St. Andrew's Church, Mansfield, in the Presbytery of Barrie, be received and considered and that Rev. Jim Young (the representative from the Presbytery of Barrie) be heard.

MOVED by Cornell and Maroney. MOTION CARRIED.

Report from M & D Committee

The Ministry and Doctrine Committee met on Friday, October 11, 2024, at 11:00 am via Zoom. Present at the meeting were Rev. M. Maroney, Rev. S. Carleton, and M. Labadie.

Call Documents for Sarah Stockford.

The committee read and discussed the *Call and Concurrence* documents for Sarah Stockford (*attached to the Docket and presented below*), and found them to be in good order, and no questions were raised concerning them.

Rev. Jim Young read the details of the Call document, including the stipend, and the Attestation of the Call.

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Rev. Jim Young then read the following affirmation of Sarah Stockford by Lynn Murphy-Greer, Clerk of Session of Mansfield Presbyterian Church.

As outlined in the search process, on Saturday, September 14, 2024, an informal Meet and Greet was held at Knox Presbyterian Church from 2:00 to 4:00 pm, at which time members from both Knox and St. Andrew's were given the opportunity to meet Sarah and her boyfriend, Cameron. From the outset, it was apparent that Sarah (and Cameron) was very comfortable meeting new people. They stood together in the room in a spot that clearly indicated they were eager to make their personal introductions to individual members and exchange pleasantries. When meeting Sarah, you received a firm handshake, a pleasant smile, direct eye contact and she made it a point to get your complete name. She spoke very candidly about both her excitement and nervousness of potentially being the successful candidate for our dual charge, the prospect of moving to a smaller urban area and ministering to both a town and country church, and her keen desire to share her walk of faith with young and old, Members and Adherents and any and all newcomers to our respective parishes. After making herself available for formal introductions, Sarah circulated throughout the room, chatting and sharing a time of fellowship with all those in attendance.

The following day, September 15th, Sarah Preached for the Call at both St. Andrew's and Knox. Sarah conducted the Service with a sense of ease and confidence and a manner of delivery that belied her young age. She adhered to our usual order of service, which was so reassuring and appreciated by all those in attendance. Sarah's Sermon, which centered on the gospel of John 4, Jesus talks with a Samaritan Woman, was clear, concise and very thought provoking. She was able to stress through her message and the reading of a poem centered on Jesus' encounter with the woman at the well that in our everyday lives, Jesus brings us Salvation, He is not fazed by our sin, He is our Savior and we should all aim to serve him through our thoughts, words and deeds. When I reflected back on Sarah's sermon, it actually helped me Prepare my Reasons for Translation.

To begin, during conversations with Sarah it was apparent that her faith in Jesus Christ, the way she feels called to live her life in response to that as well as her compassion, commitment and confidence in difficult circumstances will enable her to become a valued leader in both congregations.

Sarah is a firm believer that her actions speak louder than words to demonstrate her walk of faith. I think this is a direct reflection of our beliefs at St. Andrew's. We are a small congregation, but we all wear many hats and are committed to our church and each other. We come together in times of joy, happiness and celebration but also support and uplift each other in times of tragedy, sorrow and unhappiness. We support community organizations such as the Local Food Bank and Elementary School Breakfast Programs. We own and maintain a beautiful cemetery. We all value our family, friends, neighbors and local community.

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I feel that Sarah, too will value, support and nurture the pragmatic and spiritual health of our church community through her thoughts, words and deeds, her ability to convey sometimes difficult faith concepts in a relatable manner and her sense of calm and reassurance. Together with Sarah we can remain a vibrant, warm and welcoming country church.

1. **MOTION: That the guarantee of stipend be deemed acceptable.**

MOVED by Cornell and Maroney. MOTION CARRIED.

2. **MOTION: That the Call be sustained as a Gospel Call.**

MOVED by Cornell and Maroney. MOTION CARRIED.

3. **MOTION: That the Court concurs with the findings of M & D (and the Presbytery of Barrie), namely that the call and concurrence documents were found to be in good order, and consequently the Presbytery of Essex-Kent should proceed with the ordination of Sarah Stockford.**

MOVED by Cornell and Maroney. MOTION CARRIED. (*Congratulations to Sarah then followed.*)

Rev. Shirley Murdock spoke on behalf of Valetta Presbyterian Church of their joy for Sarah and of their sorrow, as Sarah has a very special place in the heart of the congregation.

As approved and announced at the last Regular Presbytery meeting, that subject to the approval of the above motions, we hold a Special Meeting of Presbytery at Paulin Memorial Church on Oct 27th at 2:30pm, with Presbytery meeting first at 2pm, to ordain Sarah Stockford.

4. **MOTION: That Rev. Dr. Sarah Travis preaches, and Rev. Mike Maroney gives the Charge at Sarah's ordination.**

MOVED by Cornell and Murdock. MOTION CARRIED

5. **MOTION: That the offering be designated to go the Camp Kintail Campership Fund, as requested by Sarah.**

MOVED by Cornell and Maroney. MOTION CARRIED

6. **MOTION: That the remaining details of the Service of Ordination be arranged by the Moderator and Clerk of Presbytery, in consultation with the music director of Paulin Memorial Church and Sarah Stockford.**

MOVED by Cornell and Maroney. MOTION CARRIED

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Adjournment of M & D followed as no other business was before the committee.

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. M. Maroney
Convener, Ministry and Doctrine Committee

Edict of Ordination (Word and Sacraments) – Sarah Stockford (BoF A-17)

“The Presbytery of Essex-Kent, having completed the necessary steps for the ordination of Sarah Stockford, called to be minister of Knox Church, Alliston and St. Andrew’s Church, Mansfield, in the Presbytery of Barrie, notice is hereby given that the said Presbytery of Essex-Kent will meet in Paulin Memorial Church on the 27th day of October in the year 2024, at 2pm, for the purpose of ordaining the said Sarah Stockford to the Holy ministry and notice is hereby given to all concerned that if any of them have any objection to offer to the life or doctrine of the said Sarah Stockford, they may repair to the Presbytery of Essex-Kent, which is to meet at the time and place aforesaid, with certification that if no valid objection be then made, the presbytery shall proceed without further delay.”

By order of the Presbytery of Essex-Kent.

(Dated and signed by the Clerk.)

MOTION: That the above Edict of Ordination be read from the pulpit of Paulin Memorial Presbyterian Church, Windsor, two consecutive Sundays prior to service of ordination (i.e., Oct 20th and 27th), signed and returned to the Clerk of Presbytery before the service of ordination. The Clerk of Presbytery will read the Edict again just prior to the Ordination Service.

MOVED by Cornell and Maroney. MOTION CARRIED.

Note: Any costs associated with the Service of Ordination will be covered by Presbytery.

For Information:

If the above call is sustained by the Presbytery of Essex Kent and accepted by Sarah Stockford, the arrangements for the Induction Service be left in the hands of the Moderator and Clerk of the Presbytery of Barrie, and Interim Moderator Rev. Jim Young.

The proposed date for the Induction Service is Sunday, November 3rd, 2024, with the Edict of Induction to be read to both congregations on Sunday, October 27th and November 3rd, 2024.

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MOTION TO ADJOURN

MOVED by Brown and Labadie. MOTION CARRIED.

NOTE THAT THERE WILL BE ANOTHER SPECIAL PRESBYTERY MEETING ON OCTOBER 27TH AT 2PM AT PAULIN MEMORIAL CHURCH, WINDSOR, WITH SARAH STOCKFORD'S ORDINATION SERVICE BEGINNING AT 2:30PM.

DISMISSAL PRAYER AND BENEDICTION – THE MODERATOR at 8pm

Rev. Lisa Aide, Moderator

Rev. Tim Reddish, Clerk