

Page 4991
Presbytery of Essex-Kent
The Presbyterian Church in Canada
Regular Meeting,
Tuesday, September 24, 2024
Paulin Memorial Presbyterian Church, Windsor
5:30pm

The Presbytery of Essex-Kent was called to meet in REGULAR SESSION on Tuesday, September 24, 2024, within Paulin Memorial Presbyterian Church, Windsor, at 5:30pm, at the call of the Moderator Rev. Shalini Rajack-Sankarlal.

Worship Led by Rev. Lisa Aide – 5:30pm.

Call to Order

Prayer and Constitution: Moderator Rev. Shalini Rajack-Sankarlal led in prayer and constituted the Court willing and able to deal with any matter that properly comes before it.

Installation of the New Moderator

Rev. Lisa Aide was then Installed as Moderator of the Presbytery of Essex-Kent for the 2024-2026 two-year term.

ROLL CALL: Rev. Lisa Aide, Rev. Shirley Carleton, Rev. Chuck Congram, Rev. Andy Cornell, Rev. Brian McGuffin, Rev. Shirley Murdock, Rev. Shalini Rajack-Sankarlal, Rev. Tim Reddish, Jayne Burritt, Kathy Dupuis, Kathrine Knott, Mark Labadie, Audrey Landon, Bob MacVicar, Kathy Parks, Carolyn Reid, Barb Sargent, Bryan Stirling, and Sarah Stockford.

REGRETS: Rev. Nancy Carle, Rev. Olwyn Coughlin, Rev. Mike Maroney, Rev. Lillian Wilton, Jayne Broughton, Alison Brown, Robert Ivison, Jane Lung, and Sandra Smith.

Welcome Guests: Rev. John Zondag, Jane Burritt (Wallaceburg Alt. Rep. Elder), Kathy Dupuis (Valetta Alt. Rep Elder).

FYI: Rev. John Zondag graduated from Knox College graduate in 1984 and was ordained by the Presbytery of Waterloo-Wellington the same year. He served three congregations during his working years:

Faith, Fort McMurray, AB. (O.M. appointment) (1984-88)

Knox, Listowel, ON. (assistant minister) (1988-2009)

First, Portage la Prairie, MB. (2010-2022)

He also served as treasurer of the Presbytery of Huron-Perth for a few years in the 90s, as clerk of the Presbytery of Brandon from 2011 to 2022, and as treasurer of the Presbytery of Brandon for the last two or three years he was there.

Rev. Tim Reddish – Clerk

Page 4992
Presbytery of Essex-Kent
Regular Meeting, September 24, 2024 – Paulin Memorial Presbyterian Church, Windsor

Now retired, he recently moved to Windsor so resides within the bounds of the Presbytery of Essex-Kent.

Changes to the Roll

MOTION: That Rev. John Zondag be placed on the Appendix of the Roll of the Presbytery of Essex-Kent.

MOVED by Cornell and Rajack-Sankarlal. MOTION CARRIED.

Good News Moments and Prayer Requests

- Rev. Olwyn Coughlin's son, Jason, died unexpectedly this last weekend in Napanee. She and her family need our prayers and support.
- Kathy Parks asked for prayer for 13-year-old Ben (and his family) who is on life support.
- Barb Sargent spoke of First Church Chatham's Saturday (eat-in) Breakfast program and that the numbers being fed has risen to 160, such is the need. She also mentioned Knox Wallaceburg's Soup Cellar (on Wednesdays) has also been serving 145 lunches. We thank God that these churches (and their volunteers) are able to sustain these ministries, and we pray for the recipients.
- Barb Sargent also mentioned that attendance at Knox Wallaceburg has doubled in recent months, and nine people were baptised last week. Thanks be to God.
- Rev. Shalini Rajack-Sankarlal spoke of her recent and growing involvement in the University of Windsor's Chaplaincy, including being invited to an Interfaith event in the CAW center. There will be a Blessing Service at UCC this Sunday for academics and students; the principal of Assumption College will also be there. We give thanks for the new connections being made.
- Bob MacVicar shared that Paulin is presently in negotiations with another church congregation – the Vietnamese Alliance Church - with the view to share Paulin's space. This is an exciting opportunity, and we pray for a successful outcome.
- Andy Cornell shared that Rev. Thomas Kay will be the speaker at Dresden's forthcoming Anniversary Service.

Examination of Session Records:

For Information: Committee to Examine currently consists of: Rev. Lisa Aide, Alison Brown, and Bob MacVicar.

MOTION: That Rev. Shalini Rajack-Sankarlal and Rev. Andy Cornell be added to the above committee.

MOVED by Sargent and Reddish. MOTION CARRIED.

Due at this meeting are the Session Records (i.e., The Roll of Professing Members, Registers for Marriages, Baptisms, and Deaths/Funerals) of UCC, Valetta, and Ridgetown.

(Amherstburg's Session Records need bringing to Presbytery to be officially 'stamped.')

Adoption of Agenda

MOTION: That the Agenda be adopted as presented/amended.

MOVED by Reddish and Cornell. MOTION CARRIED

MINUTES: (These were circulated via email earlier.)

Regular Meeting, June 25, 2024 - pages 4958-4988.

Special Meeting, July 14, 2024 - pages 4989-4990.

MOTION – To adopt as presented

MOVED by Reddish and Cornell. MOTION CARRIED

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

The committee met at UCC on September 10, 2024, at 10:30am. Present were Rev. Andy Cornell (convenor), Rev. Chuck Congram (treasurer), Rev. Shalini Rajack-Sankarlal (moderator and assistant treasurer), Rev. Tim Reddish (clerk), and Rev. Lisa Aide (incoming moderator of presbytery). We opened in prayer.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

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

MOVED by Cornell and Rajack-Sankarlal. MOTION CARRIED

CORRESPONDENCE

- UCC is seeking an update on its Trust Deed Update. **Rev. Chuck Congram to respond.**

- Marjorie Copeland and Kathryn Muir (of Wynford Drive) have been updated by the Clerk on changes to the roll.
- Rev. Shirley Carleton has contacted David Phillips (of Wynford Drive) and he has graciously offered to provide a hybrid *Leading with Care* training session for our Presbytery. St. Andrew's Amherstburg will host the in-person training on Saturday, September 28, from 9:30 am to noon. Those wishing to join via Zoom are most welcome to do so. We kindly ask those planning to attend in person to RSVP to shirley.carleton@gmail.com. (This will help prepare attendance numbers and ensure everyone is included in a light lunch.) Those attending virtually, please provide your email address so we can send you the meeting link closer to the date.

Rev. Andy Cornell encouraged every congregation to be represented.

- Deborah Wilson-Safa, former Treasurer of Knox Leamington, expressed her surprise that thanks for the honorarium received from Presbytery for her work on the financial closure of Knox.
- Call for nominations for Moderator of 2025 GA. **The Clerk forwarded this news (and links) to presbyters.**
- Deadlines to submit Memorials, Overtures, and Petitions to 2025 GA. **The Clerk forwarded this news (and links) to presbyters.**
- Referrals for presbyteries arising from the 2024 GA. **The Clerk forwarded this news (and links) to Admin and will be addressed below.**
- From Adrian Langdon, Director of Programs for the Leadership Centre at The Presbyterian College in Montreal, concerning new mentoring groups. **Forwarded to presbyters via email.**
- From Ross Lockhart concerning the *Centre for Missional Leadership certificate program*. **Forwarded to presbyters.**
- Tim Purvis requested a copy of our presbytery's policy on remuneration for interim moderators for a research project being conducted by Ministry and Church Vocations. **The Clerk responded with the relevant section from our standing orders.**
- Kathryn Muir sent the PCC's Revised Stipend and Allowance Schedule. **The Clerk forwarded this news (and links) to presbyters. (Please pass this information on to your church treasurers.)**
- Rev. Dr. Kristine O'Brien wrote on behalf of Crieff Hills seeking for an opportunity to come and speak to the presbytery about their work. **Forwarded to Admin Committee and returned to the Clerk.**

Page 4995
Presbytery of Essex-Kent
Regular Meeting, September 24, 2024 – Paulin Memorial Presbyterian Church, Windsor

- We were informed that the new 2024 Acts and Proceeding and the Book of Forms is now available! **The Clerk forwarded this news (and links) to presbyters.**
- We were informed of the 49th Annual Conference, Canadian Society of Presbyterian History, which meets on Saturday, September 28, 2024, both in-person & online. **The Clerk forwarded this news (and links) to presbyters.**
- The Clerk of the Presbytery of Brandon has written with a Certificate of Transfer for Rev. John Zondag. He commends John to our care, and writes: “John’s knowledge, leadership skills and loving care for the members of Brandon Presbytery were highly valued and will be lovingly remembered.” **The Clerk forwarded this request to Admin; the matter was addressed above.**
- Correspondence has been received from Rev. Jim Young from the Presbytery of Barrie concerning a Gospel Call for Sarah Stockford. **To be addressed under Admin New Business.**

Recommendation: That the above correspondence be received for information and referred as indicated.

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

MOVED by Cornell and Rajack-Sankarlal. MOTION CARRIED

Matters arising from Correspondence.

1. Rev. Dr. Kristine O’Brien will be addressing the November Presbytery meeting about the work of Crieff Hills.
2. Concerning “*Referrals to Presbyteries from GA*”, Admin Committee recommends that:
 - a) Report 1 be forwarded to the Admin Committee for discussion at its November meeting.
 - b) Report 2 be forwarded to the M & D Committee for discussion at its November meeting.
 - c) Sessions take care to review *all* reports.

MOTION: That the above recommendations of the Admin Committee are approved.

MOVED by Cornell and Rajack-Sankarlal. MOTION CARRIED

3. A further reminder was given for the *Leading with Care* Workshop on Saturday, September 28 from 9:30 am to noon. The Zoom Meeting link is:

<https://presbyterian-ca.zoom.us/j/82694435364?pwd=PDKUOCVhyoE7m4WRqFouDPmzuShdlf.1>,

Page 4996
Presbytery of Essex-Kent
Regular Meeting, September 24, 2024 – Paulin Memorial Presbyterian Church, Windsor

Meeting ID: 826 9443 5364; Passcode: 838398.

Please forward this link to interested parties in your church.

Admin Committee Matters – updates:

1. For Information - General Presbyter Position – The position was posted in the spring of 2024. There were a few expressions of interest, and one application was received but it was quickly withdrawn. In June 2024, Presbytery directed the committee to delve into the experiences of other presbyteries hiring similar positions. The Admin committee convenor sent inquiries to Calgary-MacLeod, Paris, Seaway-Glengarry/Ottawa (shared), Niagara, London, West Toronto and to the office of Ministry and Church Vocations (Marjorie Copeland, Tim Purvis). Here's a summary of the responses.

- Calgary-MacLeod – appears to be “in about the same boat” as Essex-Kent according to clerk Sandra Cameron Evans. They had two people express interest in their current job posting but neither worked out. They refined the job description and will be reposting it soon – no significant changes, more “a refocus of the role.” Among the things Calgary-Macleod is dealing with is the challenge of attracting people West, especially for a part-time position. In their review, they couldn't see making it full-time – not for lack of funds but not enough work. Their past two GPs were teaching elders (local retirees Peter Coutts and Jean Morris) but they are open to lay people, not that it's expanded their pool of candidates.
- Paris – general presbyter position ended when incumbent Chris Little retired. The 10-month position was created for that minister's unique gift sets, to offer pastoral care to clergy and guidance to congregations and sessions in regard to strategic and future planning.
- Niagara – from Clerk Wally Hong: “Currently we do not have a GP. We have been planning for one since 2020. However, we have not advertised the position yet. We were slower in getting off the ground on forming a job description. We also became very busy with other matters. We will be reconsidering how to move forward this Fall.”
- London – from Clerk Carrie Thornton: “London still has a General Presbyter. The current contract will finish on Aug 31st and the current GP wasn't interested in renewing. The position description was circulated to the neighbouring presbyteries and posted on the PCC website. There was a tight deadline – only three weeks - and only one application was received. The applicant was interviewed by the search committee and ultimately accepted the position. Several people expressed interest after the deadline and their applications weren't considered. Both times the GP has been a minister on the appendix but the other interested applicants in both 2021 and 2024 were from outside the Presbytery of London.”

- Ottawa/Seaway-Glengarry – From Ottawa clerk James Hurd and S-G clerk Donna McAlveen: the two presbyteries employ a half-time “Presbytery Ministry Animator” (PMA) which in Ottawa is to foster youth ministry, supporting youth leaders in congregations and arranging presbytery-wide youth activities, and, in Seaway-Glengarry, to provide educational support and events for lay leaders, including training for elders. The PMA also works as Family Ministry Coordinator for Knox Manotick. (He is a graduate of Tyndale with both a B. A. in Religious Studies and an M. Div., former youth pastor in a Baptist church in Flushing, New York.) It was advertised locally in the two presbyteries of Ottawa and Seaway-Glengarry, nationally on the PCC website, and with an ad in the Presbyterian Connection newspaper. The search process took a few months which included establishing a job description, obtaining presbytery approval, advertising, interviewing and final approval by both presbyteries. The applications received by the search committee were from people who live within the bounds of the presbyteries.

Based on this feedback, the convenor offered the following thoughts:

- a. Amend the job description to allow non-ministers to apply. The downside is that it would no longer be a presbyter/minister peer who could counsel/support existing clergy, which seemed to be the primary responsibility. I’m intrigued by the Ottawa-area position which is focused on lay training/youth.
- b. See if London or Lambton-West Middlesex presbyteries want to partner with us and make it a full-time call?
- c. Presbyteries seem to call retirees from their midst; shall we consider approaching some of those on our appendix personally?

The committee discussed the matter. Upon reflection, the Essex Kent job description may come across as too “austere.” Additionally, it feels like the court is dumping onto the GP the things we don’t want to do. We wondered if it could be amended to invite creativity.

For information: Revs. Shalini Rajack-Sankarlal and Tim Reddish offered to bring an amended job description to a future committee meeting.

2. For Information - Dresden/Rutherford amalgamation (2015) update. The plan is finally in the midst of completion. Session recently approved the hiring of a listing agent for the Prescott Farm. In consultation with the Clerks of Assembly, we are finalizing a trust agreement that will protect and guide disbursement of the net proceeds. Rather than a traditional trust, at the suggestion of the Clerks (and approval of our legal counsel) we are establishing a “designated fund” which will be managed by Session. Our prayer is that the trust will provide financial viability for the congregation for many years. ***Of note, item 13 of the Amalgamation Plan states that five-per-***

cent of the funds received from the sale of the farm will be directed to presbytery's Congregational Support Fund. (The delay in completing the plan was due to two factors: successful transfer of title to the property to the congregation and the completion of the current five-year lease with a local farmer.)

Administrative Committee New Business:

1. Representative elders – We are aware that congregations are sometimes challenged to find elders to fill this role. We discussed some possible solutions. Rev. Shalini Rajack-Sankarlal volunteered to consult with the Clerks of Assembly and at the possibility of appointing more than one rep elder per congregation. Don Muir and Victor Kim determined that while the Book of Forms says the session will appoint one of its members, they do not see it as necessarily being the *same* person (BoF 114.7). However, with more than one person representing the congregation, they wanted to *ensure we knew this meant each congregation only had one vote*. They also expressed a concern about the effectiveness of decision making and continuity if the rep elder changed every month, but then conceded that reading the minutes and other communication would lessen that.

MOTION: That Sessions be invited to appoint more than one representative elder to serve on a rotating or alternating basis with the understanding that each congregation has only one elder representative vote.

MOVED by Cornell and Rajack-Sankarlal. MOTION CARRIED.

2. Presbytery Committee membership.

MOTION: That Rev. Brian McGuffin be added to Life & Mission and Rev. Shirley Carleton be added to M&D.

MOVED by Cornell and Rajack-Sankarlal. MOTION CARRIED.

3. First Presbyterian Church Chatham is seeking permission to begin the search process,

MOTION: That the congregation be allowed to begin the search process.

MOVED by Cornell and Rajack-Sankarlal. MOTION CARRIED.

At this point the meeting paused for dinner with the blessing being given by the Moderator.

The meeting continued at 7:25pm.

4. Sarah Stockford's Call to the two-point charge of Knox Alliston and St Andrew's Mansfield in the Presbytery of Barrie was announced, and Rev. Cornell expressed Presbytery's congratulations to Sarah.

Page 4999
Presbytery of Essex-Kent
Regular Meeting, September 24, 2024 – Paulin Memorial Presbyterian Church, Windsor

Rev. Jim Young, their Interim Moderator, reported (via email) that Sarah conducted the two Worship Services on the 15th of September, and they were very well received by both Congregations. With almost all of the votes on the Call now totalled, the vote represents an approval of the Call by 95% of both Congregations.

They have agreed to a Stipend of \$49,181.00 which is the 3rd level on the 2025 scale from the A & P. Her two-point charge travel allowance is \$4000.00 as against the A & P allowance of \$1800.00. Her Education Allowance, Accommodation, Utilities, Health and Dental, CPP and EI have all been included. Our biggest challenge will be finding the accommodation she has requested as the Housing Market in Alliston is in a ridiculous state though you could argue it's just like the rest of our Country. Sarah did look at a house when she was here on the weekend and was pleased with it. We are still negotiating as the landlord would like us to pay the whole year's rent in advance. While this is not a financial impossibility for the congregations it seems more than a little ridiculous.

In short, Sarah's package is at present valued at \$98,000.00 with permission from the Sessions and Boards in place to exceed that by a few thousand dollars if need be for housing or utilities costs.

It is hoped that Sarah can begin her new charge by the 1st of November and be formally inducted on the 3rd of November.

We note that their presbytery meets on Oct 8 to, among other things, process the Call. The Clerk has been assured that we will receive an electronic copy by Oct 10. This will then be forwarded to M & D to assess before having a *Special Meeting of Presbytery via Zoom* to process the Call.

MOTION: That we hold a Special Meeting of Presbytery *via Zoom* to process Sarah's Call no sooner than October 15. (Date, time, Zoom link to follow.)

MOVED by Cornell and Rajack-Sankarlal. MOTION CARRIED.

Having made consultations, we propose that Sarah Stockford's Ordination Service take place at Paulin Memorial Church, on Oct 27th at 2:30pm (with Presbytery meeting first at 2pm) and followed by refreshments.

MOTION: That 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.

MOVED by Cornell and Rajack-Sankarlal. MOTION CARRIED.

Treasurer's Report:

Financial Report-January 1, 2024 - September 9, 2024.

Page 5000
Presbytery of Essex-Kent
Regular Meeting, September 24, 2024 – Paulin Memorial Presbyterian Church, Windsor

The following details were simply presented for information. Note: The figures in brackets represent budgeted amounts for 2024.

Income

Synod and Presbytery dues	\$28,557.85 (\$33,998)
Paulin mortgage monies	\$3036.72
Investment interest	\$6697.13
Leamington closure monies	\$298,801.11
Amherstburg induction offering (2023)	\$461
Total income	<u>\$337,553.81</u>

Expenses

Synod dues	\$17,128.72 (\$17,123)
Travel	\$2957 (\$6000)
Treasurer expense	\$103.96 (\$150)
Clerk expense	\$292.61 (\$1000)
Admin expense	\$697.32
Bursaries	\$6850
Police checks	\$55 (\$400)
Clerk honorarium	\$2500 (\$5000)
Treasurer honorarium	\$500 (\$1000)
Leamington expense	\$400
Induction preaching at LSA	\$200
Congregational support grants	\$10,100
UCC youth bursaries	\$2500.
Total expenditures	<u>\$28,274.61</u>

Note: The offering from the induction service at LSA was \$1,085.80 and was sent directly to the Downtown Windsor Community Collaborative by LSA.

Chuck Congram, Treasurer

Finance and Funding Committee Report

Membership: Chuck Congram, Acting Chair and Treasurer; Robert (Bob) MacVicar (Paulin); Andrew Templer (UCC); Shalini Sankarlal (Assistant Treasurer). (FYI: Rev. Mike Maroney is no longer a member of the committee, at his request.

Page 5001
Presbytery of Essex-Kent
Regular Meeting, September 24, 2024 – Paulin Memorial Presbyterian Church, Windsor

The committee met on September 12, 2024, and after much discussion would recommend the following motions:

MOTION 1: That oversight of regular presbytery financial matters other than special funds remain the responsibility of the Administration committee.

MOVED by Congram and Rajack-Sankarlal. MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION 2: That the Congregational Support, Duart, and Emergent funds be merged into a single fund and oversight of which this committee will be given responsibility.

MOVED by Congram and Rajack-Sankarlal. MOTION CARRIED. It was however recognised that Presbytery would need to consider the necessary changes to the above three funds' Standing Orders at a future meeting. Until that those changes are approved, the current guidelines remain in place.

MOTION 3: That oversight of the bursary fund be given to the Ministry and Doctrine Committee since they are the ones usually tasked with matters such as oversight of ministry students and request for study leaves.

MOVED by Congram and Rajack-Sankarlal. MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION 4: That this committee be renamed "*Ministry Grants*" with a two-pronged focus including facilitating current ministry initiatives as well as visionary new initiatives. The committee will assume responsibility for developing a mandate for this work as well as necessary changes to the standing orders both of which will require presbytery approval.

MOVED by Congram and Rajack-Sankarlal. MOTION CARRIED

Grant Requests.

Recommendation 1: That the request for \$2500 from First Presbyterian Church, Chatham regarding training for their people involved in their Saturday breakfast ministry be approved. This training is intended to help prepare their breakfast team members in coping with individuals suffering from mental health and related crises who may attend. The committee noted the commitment already invested by First Church and the increasing urgency of such training, and so made an exception in recommending full funding of the relatively small funds requested.

MOVED by Congram and Rajack-Sankarlal. MOTION CARRIED

Recommendation 2: That the request for Accessible Original Worship Music Resource from Lakeshore St. Andrew's be given \$4000. This initiative is designed to write, arrange and record new worship songs that are simple to sing and play and will be made available to other churches. Recipients of this grant will be asked to provide a report on the ongoing development of the project and specific details about how the money was spent.

MOVED by Congram and Rajack-Sankarlal. MOTION CARRIED

A request from Lakeshore St. Andrew's for support of their initiative to include *ReAct-Recovery Education for Addictions and Complex Trauma* was looked on with favour by the committee for its focus on some of the same important concerns addressed in the First Church request, but there are some additional matters to be addressed before a final decision is made.

Committee members are excited to undertake this work and will be seeking ways to involve leadership in the congregations of our Presbytery by encouraging them to pursue new and creative opportunities as well as considering partnerships in some forms of shared ministry.

Respectfully submitted,
Chuck Congram, acting chair.

Respectfully submitted,
Andy Cornell, Admin Convenor

MOTION: ADMIN Report as a whole

MOVED by Cornell and Rajack-Sankarlal. MOTION CARRIED

Ministry and Doctrine Report

The Ministry and Doctrine Committee had only two study leave requests to discuss, so the business was handled by email. Responding to the emails were Rev. M. Maroney, Rev. S. Carleton, and Mark Labadie. Regrets were received from J. Lung.

1. Study leaves to be considered:

a) Rev. S. Rajack-Sankarlal:

"I am requesting study leave from October 29 to November 3. I will be doing a self-directed study at Crieff Hills reading the book *Surprised by Jesus Again* by Jason Byassee. I was able to experience some of Jason's approach at the Guder Scholars program in Vancouver.

Please see the description of the book below.

A bold, historical, robust approach to reading Scripture and encountering Jesus anew No one expects to be surprised. Yet biblical interpretation can do exactly that. Christians expect to see Jesus as they read the Bible, but when and how Jesus actually speaks through Scripture can still

Page 5003
Presbytery of Essex-Kent
Regular Meeting, September 24, 2024 – Paulin Memorial Presbyterian Church, Windsor

surprise us! Drawing on the early church's theological giants—Origen, Augustine, Gregory the Great, and more from the historical cloud of witnesses—author Jason Byassee models how we can recover ancient Christians' multiple ways of reading the Bible to our benefit. As Byassee says, God himself is Jewish, Catholic, and Pentecostal—so much larger than our own little corner on the truth—and this book offers readers a refreshingly enhanced vision of the Bible and of Jesus himself."

b) Rev. Andy Cornell

"Study Leave report for September 2024 Presbytery I plan to resume studies this month in the Knox College Master of Psychospiritual Studies/Psychotherapy program. I will be taking a lighter course load (one course per semester) and slower pace toward completion, which is now April 2026. I may be in a position to apply for Registered Practitioner (Qualifying) in the spring of 2025. No need to apply for presbytery bursaries for fall and winter because I still have funds in hand for the two courses I dropped."

MOTION: That the above study leaves be approved.
MOVED by Carleton and Labadie. MOTION CARRIED.

Note: We are thankful that Rev. S. Carleton has joined the M&D committee and look forward to her contribution to the work of this team.

Respectfully submitted,
Rev. M. Maroney, Convener, Ministry and Doctrine Committee.

MOTION: M & D Report as a whole.
MOVED by Carleton and Labadie. MOTION CARRIED.

LIFE and MISSION COMMITTEE

The Committee has nothing to report for September 2024.

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara Sargent, Convenor.

INTERIM MODERATOR REPORTS

Mt. Zion, Ridgetown – Rev. Andrew Cornell

The congregation continues to be well managed by a very capable session, board of managers and an administrative assistant. The Gospel is heard every Sunday from our preaching rotation of retired pastors, a lay preacher, and members of session. Summer was laid back as usual, with the pulpit/sanctuary sharing over 10 weeks with the local United Church congregation. To God be the glory.

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

New St Andrew's has just started back to services after taking the month of August off. Many attended other local churches and a few followed FPC online for the month. There was a good attendance at our first service back and people seemed eager to be back in the house of the Lord.

Pulpit Supply has been filled until the end of December. NSA is very fortunate to have great speakers to lead us in worship every Sunday.

121st Anniversary Service will be held Sunday, September 22nd with Rev. Ken Powell leading us in Worship. Christine Prosser will lead us in Music with a guest musician. There will be a fellowship hour following.

Our fall projects are a Take-out Broasted Chicken Dinner on November 10th and our Sharing Tree Service in early December.

With God's help New St Andrew's will continue to be a pillar in our community.

Knox, Wallaceburg – Rev. Lisa Aide

This past summer has been a great season of celebration at Knox. They joyfully welcomed six new members into their church family and added three new elders to their session. I am happy to share that Jason is back in the pulpit and feeling better. He gives thanks for the countless prayers that held him up during his recovery from surgery. Worship is being carefully planned by both Barb and Jason as they work together to create powerful messages that challenge the members to dive deeper in their relationships with God. I was able to join them for worship during July and, even though it was summer, the number of people in the pews had doubled since my last visit. It is clear to me that God is doing great things in Wallaceburg, and I look forward to continuing to work with the updated session in September and the future.

Valetta – Rev. Shirley Murdock

On July 28, the congregation gathered for worship led by Sarah Stockford and then moved outside for their Annual Church Picnic. We were blessed with a lovely day to sit together to chat, enjoy delicious sausages on buns and play outdoor games of Croquet and lawn Yahtzee.

Page 5005
Presbytery of Essex-Kent
Regular Meeting, September 24, 2024 – Paulin Memorial Presbyterian Church, Windsor

The church was closed for the month of August which has been their custom for many years. The congregation returned to worship Sunday, September 1, 2024. Sarah Stockford led worship and will continue to do so for most Sundays up to the end of December 2024.

We are mindful that Sarah may soon entertain a Call to Ministry of Word and Sacraments, and we wish her God's blessings on her search, but will always welcome her to the pulpit as long and as often as she is able.

Rev. Shirley Murdock will conduct worship on October 6 and share World Communion Sunday, and again on December 1 for Advent Communion.

Session is scheduled to meet Thursday, September 26 at 10am.

Rev Murdock added to her report Valetta's hearty congratulations to Sarah Stockford and acknowledged that they will miss her dearly.

First Presbyterian Church, Chatham - Rev. Tim Reddish.

Rev. Paul Shaw leads the worship most Sundays, so providing continuity for the congregation. (The IM has preached twice and plans to continue this practice once every two months.) The pastoral work is routinely undertaken by Rev. Paul and Sue Easun, with the IM making himself available in a crisis. We are blessed to have Rev. Paul and Sue Easun leading in this way during this vacancy.

This summer FPC again partnered with First Christian Reformed, Chatham with their joint Backyard Mission Program. The outside of a home (including yard) was given an extensive "makeover" at no cost to the recipient. This amazing community-building project demonstrates grace in action, and we plan to continue it next year.

Our Breakfast Program continues to be very busy and has been serving around 125 guests for the past few weeks and serving 200 meals! More children and families have been attending. Volunteers are trying very hard to keep up with the servings. We now have qualified food handlers present at each of the breakfasts.

Session has formally asked the Presbytery (at this meeting) for permission to start the search process for a new minister.

Church attendance (and giving) continues to be good, regardless of Rev. Mike Maroney's retirement.

Work continues on updating the membership roll.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE TO EXAMINE SESSION RECORDS

MOTION, pending the Committee's findings: That records and registers for Valetta be attested as neatly and correctly kept, with notes.

MOVED by Rajack-Sankarlal and Cornell. MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION, pending the Committee's findings: That records and registers for UCC be attested as neatly and correctly kept, with notes.

MOVED by Rajack-Sankarlal and Burritt. MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION, pending the Committee's findings: That records and registers for Ridgetown be attested as neatly and correctly kept, with notes.

MOVED by Rajack-Sankarlal and Burritt. MOTION CARRIED.

Schedule for Future REGULAR Presbytery Meetings:

November 7 Admin Committee Meeting – First Presbyterian Church Chatham, at 1pm.

November 19, 2024, University Community Church

February 18, 2025, Dresden

April 8, 2025, Chatham Note: a week *earlier* than usual as Easter Sunday is April 20, 2025.

June 17, 2025, LSA (Note: we may need to postpone for a week due to GA.)

Commissioners to 2025 General Assembly

Clergy Commissioner Rev. Andy Cornell

Elder Commissioner New St. Andrew's Dover (*Note: this can be any active elder on Session*)

MOTION: That the above-named commissioners be appointed to represent the Presbytery of Essex-Kent at the 2025 General Assembly.

MOVED by Rajack-Sankarlal and Murdock. MOTION CARRIED.

OTHER BUSINESS

MOTION TO ADJOURN

Page 5007
Presbytery of Essex-Kent
Regular Meeting, September 24, 2024 – Paulin Memorial Presbyterian Church, Windsor

MOVED by Sargent and Rajack-Sankarlal. MOTION CARRIED.

THE PRESBYTERY OF ESSEX-KENT STANDS ADJOURNED UNTIL OUR NEXT SPECIAL PRESBYTERY ZOOM MEETING TO PROCESS SARAH STOCKFORD’S GOSPEL CALL NO SOONER THAN OCTOBER 15TH (Date, time, and Zoom link to follow.)

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.

THE NEXT REGULAR PRESBYTERY MEETING WILL BE ON TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2024, WITHIN UNIVERSITY COMMUNITY CHURCH, BEGINNING AT 5:30PM WITH WORSHIP.

DISMISSAL PRAYER AND BENEDICTION – THE MODERATOR at 7:50pm.

Rev. Lisa Aide, Moderator

Rev. Tim Reddish, Clerk