

**MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
Presbytery of Grey Bruce Maitland**

Knox PC, Stokes Bay, June 18, 2019

The Presbytery of Grey-Bruce-Maitland, of the Presbyterian Church in Canada, met in regular session on June 19, in the year of our Lord two thousand and nineteen, at Knox PC, Stokes Bay, at 6:30 pm for the meeting, and 5:30 for supper.

Opening Worship

Presbytery was led in Opening Worship by Megan Penfold, with worship music support from Bonnie Sutherland, Larry Skinner and Owen Kim.

Constitution

After the worship service, Moderator Rev. Larry Skinner constituted the Presbytery of Grey-Bruce-Maitland a court of the Church with prayer.

Traditional Territories Recognition

Moderator Larry Skinner preceded opening of the meeting by acknowledging the traditional territories of the First Nations land upon which we were meeting.

Attendance

Ministers: Randy Benson, David Chang, Jim Johnson, Anne-Marie Jones, Owen Kim, Peggy Kipfer, Megan Penfold, Larry Skinner, Bonnie Sutherland.

Elders: Andy Burgess, Donna Clark, Doug Conley, Grant Dexter, Walter Dickie, Willa Faust, Fay Harrison, Gordon Hedges, Wray Lamont, Don Leatham, Carol Mackowski, Cathy Messer, Jan Middelkoop, Ray Mills, Eleanor Thompson, Lesley Weiler.

Appendix: Ted Creen, Doug Lennox, Ruth MacLean, James Wyllie

Others: Brenda Calder, John Gilbert

Adoption of Docket

The docket was presented to the court. **Moved** by Andy Burgess and seconded by Megan Penfold, that the docket be adopted as presented with permission to deviate. Carried.

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Regrets

Diana Simpson, Bob Reich, Peggy Kinsman, Carel Grundlingh, Elizabeth Lamont.
Kathy Fraser, Bob Reich, Chuck Moon, Susie Furlong, Dana Benson

Permission to Withdraw

Anne-Marie by 8:30, Owen after stated hour, Walter and Laurie Raymond at 8:30,
Cathy Messer 9 pm

Visitors

Gord Thomson, Lillian Glammis, Lillian Leggett, Lianne McNulty, Don Leatham
Loree Raymond, Bryan Kenwell, Eleanor Thomson, Arnold Taylor; HF staff Justine
Lodder, Isabelle (Bella) Moyono, Tenisha Witter.

Commissioning of Huron Feather's Staff

Moderator Larry introduced Ted, who shared that HF is celebrating its 50th anniversary this year. Ted acknowledged Doug Lennox, present at Presbytery, the one pioneer still with us who was there in 1969, and had the foresight to create this unique ministry. Ted gave a brief history of the Centre, leading up to what it is today. Ted also outlined the plans for special services, celebrations, performers / concerts during the coming summer and then introduced the staff, Justine Lodder, Isabelle (Bella) Moyono, Tenisha Witter.

Rev. Larry then led the Court, and the staff of Huron Feathers in an informal service of Commissioning to their positions, ending in prayer.

Stated Hour 7:15

St. Paul's Glammis and Knox Tiverton Amalgamation

Speaking to the Call: Stan Eby began by giving some background to the work that was undertaken. He also outlined the various transition plans. Also noted that tomorrow night St. Paul's hosting a Strawberry Social (and invited everyone to attend). Stan was joined by Eileen Simpson (Glammis), Gord Thompson (Glammis) and Lillian Leggett (Tiverton).

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Bonnie thanked Stan for sharing the details of their plans, and the others, and also shared some background of how we arrived where we are today. Bonnie also noted that eventually there will have to be a change to David's Call, which will be dealt with at a subsequent meeting. Bonnie also confirmed that Care of Congregations have reviewed amalgamation and approve, support and recommend the same to Presbytery.

Moved by Bonnie Sutherland and seconded by Megan Penfold that Presbytery support and approve the request for amalgamation by Knox Tiverton and St. Paul's Glamis; that the same be effective as at Jan. 1 2020; that the amalgamation plan be approved; and that the plan for the distribution of assets be forwarded to the Commission on Assets for its approval. Carried

**Stated Hour 7:45
Lucknow and South Kinloss Call to Rev. Paul Sakasov**

Peggy Kipfer reporting on behalf of Transitions Committee (given that Owen Kim is also serving as the IM).

Peggy reported that Transitions Committee has reviewed the Call to Rev. Paul Sakasov and has found the Call to be in order, and asked Owen to come forward and read the narration of steps.

Consideration of the Call

Interim Moderator, Rev. Owen Kim, proceeded with the Narration of the Steps, reporting the search process leading up to the call extended to Rev. Sakasov, by Lucknow and South Kinloss Presbyterian Churches. He also extended thanks for the support of the Presbytery and the search committee.

Peggy advised the Transitions Committee found the Call to be in order and found it to be a true gospel call.

The terms of the Call were read to the Court by the Clerk, as follows:

Guarantee of Stipend

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We, the professing members of Lucknow Presbyterian Church in Lucknow & South Kinloss Presbyterian Church in Lucknow, being well satisfied with your faithfulness to the Gospel and your qualifications for the ministry of Word and Sacraments and confident that the Holy Spirit has led us to you, earnestly and solemnly call you, Rev. Paul Sakasov, to become the minister of this congregation. In calling you we promise you all due respect, encouragement, and allegiance in the Lord as, together, we seek to use our gifts in the church and in the world to the glory of God.

In order that you, Rev. Paul Sakasov, may be free to devote yourself to ministry of Word and Sacraments among us, we, professing members of the pastoral charge of Lucknow Presbyterian Church & South Kinloss Presbyterian Church hereby guarantee to the Presbytery of the Presbytery of Grey-Bruce-Maitland, of The Presbyterian Church in Canada, that out of our estimated annual revenue of \$102,932.17 (\$63,804.75 at Lucknow & \$39,127.42 at South Kinloss), we promise and obligate ourselves to provide You, as a first charge thereon, the following annually:

Annual Stipend	\$45,783.00
Housing Allowance	\$13,500.00
Utilities Allowance	\$ 4,500.00
Total	\$63,783.00

We agree to make payments of the above amounts on the first day of each month and agree to review the stipend and allowances annually in view of any changes in the cost of living or the needs of our minister.

We agree further:

1. To provide two weeks for continuing education annually and at least the minimum allowance as set by the General Assembly (\$600.00 per year).
2. That the benefits of number 1 above shall be cumulative up to five years.
3. To provide five weeks holiday annually.
4. To pay supply during the periods of continuing education and holidays.
5. In case of disability or extended illness, to continue to provide stipend, accommodation and allowances for a period not less than that set by the General Assembly, and to pay the cost of pulpit supply.
6. To pay for Medical and Dental Insurance as provided through the Pensions and Benefits Board of the General Assembly and to make

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contributions to the Pension Plan in compliance with the terms of the plan.

7. To pay necessary moving expenses.

May 26, 2019

Signed by Rev. Owen Kim
Mae Raynard
Walter Dickie

Peggy next called on Walter and Laurie to speak to the call.

**Congregational Representatives from Lucknow and South Kinloss
To Speak to the Call**

Walter noted a combined ministry between the two churches, totalling over 300 years. He said they believe the spirit told them, when Paul visited, that this was the right person. Walter listed off the numerous things that attracted them to Paul, including the fact that he is originally rooted in the area. When the membership came to vote, not only were all those in attendance unanimous in their support, but so too were all those contacted who could not be in attendance.

Loree also shared that Lucknow were also all enthusiastic about Paul and the many gifts he is bringing with him. She said they believe he will also be a great asset to their Messy Church program.

Moved by Jan Middelkoop and seconded by Carol Mackowski, that Presbytery accept the Call as being in order and sustained as a true Gospel Call. Carried

Moved by Doug Conley and seconded Jan Middelkoop that our Presbytery's support of the call be communicated to the Clerk of the Presbytery of Barrie and that an Extract be sent to the Clerk of Barrie. Carried

Moved by Carol Mackowski and seconded by Doug Conley, that Interim Moderator, Owen Kim make arrangements to have the Call supported in the Presbytery of Barrie, and that if sustained, arrangements for Induction be made by the Moderator, Interim Moderator, and the Clerk, for induction hopefully sometime possibly in September. Carried

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Larry thanked Owen for all the work he took on in helping Lucknow and South Kinloss in this process. Walter Dickie also thanked Owen for his assistance

Minutes

Minutes for the Regular Meeting May 14, 2019, were considered. **Moved** by Jim Johnson and seconded by David Chang, that the Minutes be accepted, as presented. Carried

Correspondence

The following correspondence was presented to the court and directed as indicated:

1. May 10, 2019: Email from Diana Simpson, Rep. Elder, St. Andrew's Hanover, inquiring about the methods of payment of Presbytery and Synod congregational dues assessments. Directed to Treasurer Bruce Price for response (already forwarded by email).
2. May 15, 2019: Email from Kathryn Muir PCC, seeking review and submission of changes to Presbytery Listings for A&P. Directed to Clerk for review and response.
3. May 16, 2019: Email from Jacqueline Czegledi, PCC, regarding candidates who have recently applied to the Education and Reception Committee seeking any information relating to the candidates' professional or personal conduct which the committee may not currently be aware of. Directed to Clerk for general distribution (already forwarded by email).
4. May 17, 2019: Email from Kathryn Muir PCC, forward the Changes to the Rolls for May 2019. Directed to Clerk for general distribution (already forwarded by email).
5. May 21, 2019: Email from Phyllis Seeley, Erskine PC, inquiring about how long they can have an open bank account after the church is closed. Directed to Clerk for reply and investigation.

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6. May 29, 2019: Email from Bonnie Sutherland, requesting circulation of a Job Description for an Organist / Pianist to members of Presbytery. Directed to Clerk for distribution (already forwarded by email).
7. May 29, 2019: Email and attachment from Dewald Delport , Clerk of the Presbytery of Calgary-Macleod, regarding two Ministry Opportunities in their Presbytery, General Presbyter (GP) and Director of the Calgary-Macleod Cyclical Network. Directed to Clerk for general distribution (already forwarded by email).
8. May 29, 2019: Email from Grey Bruce and Healthcare Chaplaincy Council regarding Spiritual Care Provider Employment Opportunity (forwarded by Huron Feathers, as received by them). Directed to Clerk for general distribution (already forwarded by email).
9. May 29, 2019: Email and attachment from Rev. David Moody, with regard to the "Big God Project." Directed to Clerk for general distribution (already forwarded by email).
10. June 2, 2019: Email and attachment from John Henderson, Outgoing Clerk of Synod, announcing the appointment of a new Clerk (Rev. Mark McLennan, Knox Woodstock) and Treasurer (Brad Knight, Representative, Knox Mitchell), elected at their meeting held May 28, 2019. Directed to Clerk for general distribution (already forwarded by email).
11. June 3, 2019: Email and attachment from John Henderson, Outgoing Clerk of Synod, advising that Synod will be on October 18th 2019 in St. Lawrence Presbyterian Church London ON, and reminding Presbyteries of the transition to a Commissioned Synod and the need for appointment of Commissioners ("the ratio being the same as General Assembly, 1 in 6 ministers on the constituent roll and an equalizing elder for each minister commissioner with no less than 2 ministers and 2 elder commissioners from each Presbytery"). Directed to Admin. Committee, and copied to All Presbytery to ascertain if there are volunteers to stand as initial Commissioners.

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12. June 2, 2019: Email and letter from Stan Eby, regarding forward the plan for joining St. Paul's Glammis and Knox Tiverton, as passed at their congregational meetings; seeking a time to make a presentation to Presbytery at our June 18th Meeting in Stokes Bay. Directed to Admin. Committee (already forwarded by email).
13. June 4, 2018: Email from Walter Dickie, Rep. Elder for Lucknow. South Kinloss, requesting consideration of a Call to Paul Sakasov at the Presbytery Meeting of June 18, 2019. Directed to Admin. Committee (already forwarded by email).
14. June 4, 2019: PCConnect Newsletter, June 2019 edition. Directed to Clerk for general distribution (already forwarded by email).
15. June 7, 2019: Email from Terri-Lee Hamilton PCC GA to Clerks, seeking submission of Memorials. Directed to Clerk for response if required.
16. June 7, 2019: Email from Maggie Leung, PCC, forwarding Presbyterians Sharing reports for our Congregations to the end of May 2019. Directed to Clerk for general distribution (already forwarded by email).
17. June 10, 2019: Email from Terri-Lee Hamilton PCC GA, enclosing a letter from Stephen Kendall and Don Muir, providing a summary of the considerations regarding sexuality dealt with at General Assembly. Directed to Clerk for general distribution (already forwarded by email).
18. June 10, 2019: Email from Katheryn Muir, PCC, seeking updates to the A&P listings for our Presbytery. Directed to Clerk for review and response; sent out to all Presbyters seeking input).
19. June 11, 2019: Email from Terri-Lee Hamilton, PCC GA, forwarding link to provisional minutes of the sederunts of the General Assembly online. Directed to Clerk for general distribution (already forwarded by email).

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20. June 12, 2019: Email from Camp Kintail – Kin Tails newsletter for June 2019. Directed to Clerk for general distribution (already forwarded by email).

21. June 17, 2019: Email from Florence Hellyer, Cooke's PC, Markdale, inquiring regarding status of Rev. Jim Wyllie. Directed to Admin. Committee for consideration at September meeting (already forwarded by email).

Moved by Megan Penfold and seconded by Jan Middelkoop, that the correspondence be distributed as indicated. Carried

Committee Reports

Administration Committee

Reported by Rev. Megan Penfold.

Southampton Ad Hoc Committee

Megan gave the background and history of the work by the Committee and the resulting report.

Moved by Megan Penfold and seconded by Lesley Weiler that the following recommendations be approved:

1. That our resolve as a Presbytery to visit congregations on a regular basis be reaffirmed, and that we become more intentional about ensuring it takes place.
2. That following visits where serious concerns are made, we ensure that follow up happens in a timely and consistent manner, and do not assume that the congregation will contact us if more assistance is needed.
3. That we find ways as a Presbytery to more clearly communicate to congregations the conditions under which a pastoral tie can be dissolved and the process by which this is done.

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4. That we more clearly communicate both the function and the authority of the Presbytery as it relates to the local congregation.
5. That an apology be made to the Session of St. Andrew's Southampton for the lack of follow up and the ensuing frustration and impression that they did not have the support of Presbytery during a difficult time.

Carried

Standing Orders

Moved by Megan Penfold and seconded by Brenda Calder that the draft corrections and revisions made to the Standing Orders, as circulated by Clerk, John Gilbert, be approved. Carried

Megan thanked Brenda for her excellent help.

Policy on Dissolution of Assets

Moved by Megan Penfold and seconded by Bonnie Sutherland that that Presbytery adopt and include in its' Standing Orders the following as a new Appendix:

A Policy Regarding Congregational Disposition of Assets and Capital

1. Congregations having and wishing to use money from a manse fund or other investments are required to request Presbytery's prior consent and approval, before making commitments or disbursements of any monies, in order to ensure that the same are consistent with the overall mission of the Presbyterian Church in Canada.
2. The requirement to seek Presbytery approval under Number 1 above is waived, if the funds will be used or disbursed for the following purposes:
 - a. to contribute to the housing allowance for the minister;
 - b. for use to repair and maintain the church building; or
 - c. to support Camp Kintail or other ministries of the Presbytery of Grey Bruce Maitland, the Synod of Southwestern Ontario, or the Presbyterian Church in Canada.

Moved by Andy and seconded by Carol that the motion be tabled. Carried

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New Committee Structure

On behalf of Chuck Moon, Megan Penfold circulated the new Committee Structure for Sept. 2019-Sept. 2021 on behalf of Chuck Moon. The new Committee Structure was available at the front of the sanctuary.

Moderator of Presbytery

Megan also, on behalf of Chuck Moon, announced that the Rev. Dr. Randy Benson has been elected and has agreed to serve as the Moderator of the Presbytery of Grey Bruce Maitland from September 2019 to August 2020. Megan thanked Randy.

Synod Commissioners

Beginning in 2019 the Synod of Southwestern Ontario has become a commissioned court. This means that we are required as a Presbytery to send 2 ministers and 2 elders as commissioners to the Synod meeting held in October. Last year Kathy Fraser, Megan Penfold, Gord Hedges and Jan Middelkoop attended on our behalf. Those willing to attend this 1 day meeting this year are asked to speak to Chuck Moon.

Receiving Reports from General Assembly

Megan introduced the Commissioners, herself, Bonnie David, Eleanor, Don and our YAR Bryan. They each provided brief verbal reports, and their full written reports are set out below.

Report by Megan Penfold:

Attending the 145th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Canada was a far more moving experience than I expected. It was many things; exhausting, overwhelming at times, emotional, a time of great seeking and prayer, rewarding, an opportunity to reconnect with friends and colleagues from across Canada, and an excellent opportunity to learn about the great work and ministry our denomination is doing.

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The presbytery of Grey Bruce Maitland was well represented by myself, Rev. Bonnie Sutherland, Rev. David Chang and elders Don Leatham and Eleanor Thomson. We also were privileged to have an excellent and very engaging young man, Bryan Kenwell, attend as our Young Adult Representative. Bryan spoke at the mic several times and was chosen by the YARs to serve on the Implications Committee that was struck during General Assembly to deal with the implications of the decision made regarding human sexuality. Bryan was a great asset to the Assembly, and we were glad to have him there with us.

As I left Assembly I was struck by the following thought: There is so much more going on in our denomination than just ongoing and difficult discussions about human sexuality. So, this report is going to focus on many of those other factors.

Justice Ministries:

During the Justice Ministries report the General Assembly made some very significant decisions that will go a long way in our endeavours towards Truth and Reconciliation with our Indigenous brothers and sisters. Here is a summary:

1. The PCC repudiated the concepts used to justify European sovereignty over Indigenous lands and peoples, such as the Doctrine of Discovery and terra nullius.
2. We clearly affirmed that all doctrines, policies and practices based on or advocating for superiority of peoples or individuals on the basis of national origin or racial, religious, ethnic or cultural differences are morally condemnable and socially unjust.
3. Justice Ministries was asked to produce a resource that reflects on the history and ongoing legacy of the Doctrine of Discovery, including suggested actions for the courts of the church to take as we repudiate these policies.

At the time when these decisions were made by the Assembly there were 5 survivors of Presbyterian run residential schools present. They were very emotional in thanking us for this act of reconciliation.

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Life and Mission Agency:

The work of the Life and Mission Agency within our denomination is quite extensive. Below are a few highlights from their report:

1. The Assembly endorsed a Joint Statement on Physical Punishment of Children and Youth, joining many other denominations and organizations like the Canadian Medical Association and the Reformed Church of Canada.
2. In line with the previous decision and in response to No. 6 in the Calls to Action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, the Moderator has been instructed to write to the Prime Minister and the Minister of Justice advocating for the full protection of children.

There are an incredible amount of very useful resources available through Canadian Ministries that would benefit many congregations in our denomination.

There are resources in the areas of: evangelism, discipleship, outreach, indigenous ministry, inner city ministry, sustaining ministry, resourcing grants etc. These resources can be found at: <https://presbyterian.ca/canadian-ministries/>

Rainbow Communion:

The Rainbow Communion is the Special Committee re: Listening (to LGBTQI individuals) established by the 2017 General Assembly.

They:

- are not a group that discerns the answer to questions of LGBTQI inclusion in the church
- are not a counselling team
- are not a lobby group
- are a place to safely share stories of experiences of hurt and encouragement experienced by LGBTQI individuals within the PCC

This was an interim report. The final report of the Rainbow Communion will be presented in 2020. So far, the Rainbow Communion has heard over 100

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stories from people in all provinces, of diverse orientations, and covering a large age span.

Two primary themes have emerged in their listening:
Gratitude for having been given a space to share their stories that is safe.
Many also expressed gratitude for the love and support that they have received from some within their faith communities and families.

The dual reality of church as both an important and painful place. Many expressed the deep importance of their faith and yet also communicated the pain that has been caused to them on a deep level by the actions, words, and opinions of many in their faith communities.

Based on their listening the Rainbow Communion brought forward, and the Assembly passed, the following:

1. That congregations, sessions, presbyteries, synods and all other bodies of the church be urged to publicly read the Moderator's Letter of Repentance, which deals with the pain caused and spiritual damage done, written in 2018.
2. That the Life and Mission Agency develop and gather resources to strengthen our ability to provide appropriate support to congregations, sessions, presbyteries, synods and other bodies in the church in developing models of pastoral care when dealing with LGBTQI individuals.

25th Anniversary of Confession to Indigenous Peoples

As I bring this report to a close, I would like to share a bit about the ceremony to mark the 25th Anniversary of The Confession of the Presbyterian Church in Canada to our indigenous brothers and sisters. To mark this important milestone, we heard from Ms. Terry Brown, a survivor of the Residential Schools who was taken at age 10. We reflected on the release that same day of the report of the commission on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls. Our YAR, Bryan, took part in the public reading of the confession and ceremony. It was a very moving time: both for our friends on the Indigenous Ministries Council and for those in attendance

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as commissioners to the Assembly. As a further sign of reconciliation, the Indigenous Ministries Council was made an official committee of our denomination and will be given autonomy to oversee their own finances. Another act of de-colonialization.

I would like to thank the Presbytery for giving me the privilege of attending what was, in many ways, an historic General Assembly. I would urge each of us to continue to pray for our church.
Respectfully submitted,
Rev. Megan Penfold

Report by Rev. Bonnie Sutherland:

Committee on Bills and Overtures (un-referred overtures)

- There was an overture requesting that a Presbytery would be able to dissent (and record dissent) if absent from a meeting to which they give their regrets. This was referred to the clerks of assembly.
- An overture asking the Life and Mission Agency with Theological Colleges to enable the creation of a network of voluntary student charges or placements. Many people spoke for this and the request was referred to the LMA to consult with the theological colleges.
- Because other conversations took a long time some of the (not urgent) recommendations were left for next year.

Communications

- No recommendations

Ministry and Church Vocations

- There was an overture requesting that interim ministry during a pulpit vacancy be REQUIRED for ALL congregations. This was not granted.

Stewardship and Planned Giving

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- Recommendation: that appreciation be expressed to the congregations and individuals who faithfully supported Presbyterians Sharing in 2018. Passed.

Presbyterian Church Building Corporation
(a separate registered corporate charity)

- Offer loans to congregations for renovation projects
- Two loans were approved in 2018 and three loans were retired.
- The corporation currently supports 13 congregations and the Synod of Southwestern Ontario on behalf of Camp Kintail with approved loans of over 5 million buckaroos and assists with housing for ten retired servants of the church
- Recommendations: William B. Collier, General Manager, retired from his position. A minute of appreciation was adopted.

Theological Colleges

A rep from each school (Presbyterian College, Knox College, St. Andrew's Hall, VST) reported sharing good news from the past year and hopes for the future. The reports were positive.

- Presbyterian College - Recommendation: That Dale Woods be reappointed as Principal without term. Passed

Trustee Board

- Finances are in good health
- Committed to ethical investing
- No recommendations

Special Committee of Former Moderators
(On inclusion of LGBTQI+ persons)

- Report Presented - method of voting explained
- Commissioners asked questions about pathways
- Went into Committee of the Whole
- Discussed pathways: commissioners were invited to speak FOR a pathway

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- Ranked ballot vote
- Pathway B chosen and recommended to GA by Committee of the Whole
- Pathway B chosen by 60% as a recommendation to send down through Barrier Act
- Implications Committee Struck (well balanced points of view, and one YAR)
- Listening time to share how we feel
- Implications Committee shared their recommendations to send through Barrier Act
- Amendments were made, and now what was sent to us by John on June 10 will be the recommendations that will come to us through the Barrier Act in the fall. This is a yes/no vote and $\frac{2}{3}$ of all Presbyteries need to say “yes”, and then it comes back to GA 2020 for a final vote (they will take into consideration how the Presbyteries vote)
- This experience was emotional, difficult and tiring for everyone. In our weakness, may God shine through.

Report by Rev. David Chang:

On seeing the 2019 book of reports, my intuition whispered to me that the General Assembly would not be a conference or holiday and it took a short time to confirm that it was right. The first day on Sunday June 2nd was the busiest Sunday that I had never experienced: Sunday worship service (there could be two worship services), a quick lunch, a pastoral visit, 2 hours driving, check-in, unpacking, a half hour dinner, busing to St. Andrew's PC in Kitchener at evening (40 mins. round trip), 2 hours opening service (whatever happened there it was too long), the first sederunt until 11 PM, and reading reports by 2 AM – warning to the next year first-time commissioners: Read the reports in advance; there will be no time for reading from the first day to the last day. Got up at 5:30 AM, attended the orientation breakfast for first-time commissioners and Young Adult Representatives (YARS) from 6:45 AM to 8 AM, and the second sederunt at 8:30 AM. No breaks except meal breaks. Evening sederunts were done around 11 PM and discussions among commissioners continued usually by 2 AM.

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On the fourth day, I heard a commissioner said, "This is crazy, man." Yes, it was crazy. Yet, it was worth to experience: not only good experience but also great privilege for me to participate in the decision-making process during the historic moment when the Presbyterian Church in Canada went one more step forward to be an inclusive, welcoming church for everyone regardless of gender, age, race, language, culture, and even theology.

The most remarkable moment was the silent moment when commissioners, given enough time of prayer, marked and submitted secret ballots for a pathway regarding LGBTQI+ agenda. It was a divine moment for me. I was, and still confident in my decision and I am convinced that the Holy Spirit moved among the commissioners during the entire process and led us to the first step to move forward. Yes, it was not the final decision but the first step.

It was a little shocking that Han-Ca Presbytery withdrew from the General Assembly immediately after Pathway B (inclusion – LGBTQI+) was approved. To listen to their concerns and opinions, the General Assembly called Han-Ca Presbytery back to the Assembly. For about two hours, there was no new, fresh, touching speech from Han-Ca Presbytery and those who hold a traditional view on LGBTQI+. However, it is obvious that Han-Ca's radical reaction gave many commissioners who had chosen Pathway B the opportunity to see an exclusive side of accepting LGBTQI+ agenda and to realize a lack of grace towards those who hold the traditional view.

Throughout discussions on LGBTQI+, I re-confirmed that it is a matter of theological differences not just a matter of love or hatred.

While a Consensus-building Decision -Making process was used throughout the sederunts and worked well in general, it was not used during discussions on Human Sexuality without any reasonable explanation but used once only for determining immediate voting on LGBTQI+ agenda.

The following is my brief report on Assembly Council, Clerks of Assembly, Pension and Benefits, and History. You may enjoy reading the whole report which is downloadable at <https://presbyterian.ca/gao/ga2019/>.

The YARS and student representatives were permitted to participate in the consensus-building decision-making process and the debates of this General Assembly and they were granted an advisory vote.

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In the case of amalgamations of congregations, guidelines regarding the disposition of assets are found at section 200.11 in the Book of Forms. In the case of the dissolution (closure) of a congregation, the assets vest with the Trustee Board and effective June 7, 2017, the current formula for distribution of assets is in place for those congregations that are dissolved after that date:

- 50% to Pension Plan Solvency Fund, up to a maximum of \$2 million;
- 10% to Indigenous Ministry Fund, up to a maximum of \$400,000;
- 40% to presbytery for approved mission initiatives.

The Sunday pulpit supply rate, based on the average rate of inflation for the past ten years, should be \$175 in 2019. But, considering that congregations have already completed their budgets for 2019, the change will be effective from January 1, 2020, with earlier adoption encouraged. And this amount will be increased by \$5 per year afterwards.

The Assembly council is “instructed to present to the next General Assembly in 2020 a process and terms of reference to constitute the National Indigenous Ministries Council as a committee of Assembly with the same access as other Assembly committees, and with control of its own budget.”

New and Renewing Ministry Funding: The purpose of the fund is “to aid presbyteries to establish new ministries” and “to renew ministries by providing assistance in the following areas: exploratory ministry, missional engagement and renewal initiatives.”

“Presbytery may consider certifying an employee request by a lay missionary for the Clergy Residence Deduction under the following circumstances:

- Appointed by the presbytery to serve a congregation as a lay missionary.
- Appointed by the Life and Mission Agency or the presbytery to serve a mission of The Presbyterian Church in Canada, provided the individual meets the criteria for and is appointed as a lay missionary.”

I would not go if I knew what the GA was just as I would not be a minister if I knew what ministry was. In conclusion, it was crazy but great. Thank God that Rev. Randy couldn't make this year GA that the chance was given to me. It was God's will, I believe. I became a big fan of the PCC ironically.

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Report by Don Leatham:

Much to our surprise, given the spring we have had, the drive to Waterloo and registration was in glorious sunshine. The Laurier King Residence has a divided residence on the seventh floor – a fact that was not disclosed during registration. I trundled, with all of my worldly possessions, all the way up only to find room 24 was on the other side – not a good start.

The cafeteria – about a 15 min hike from the Residence - was opened for us at 5:30 and we were informed that shuttle buses would be available in front of the Science building at 6:30 to transport us to Saint Andrews for the 7:30 evening Service and first Sederunt. Meals were in general quite adequate despite the long lines.

Rev. Megan and I caught the first bus so we had plenty of time to settle before things got underway. The Lady who sat beside me was originally from Atwood, went to Listowel High School (My Alma Mater) and was a cousin of one of my best school friends – small world. She also had been singing in the ST. Andrews' Choir for over twenty years.

The service was enriching but a tad long – we got back to Laurier at 10:00. The singing, including a 30 voice Children's Choir from across the Presbytery, was magnificent. The high vaulted ceilings of the Grand Old Church welcomed the voices of the cross Canada Congregation. The Chap directly behind me was an excellent bass.

To emphasize the inclusive tone of the Assembly, the Scripture was read in seven different languages. A strong indigenous element within the service included a drum circle which ended with members of the congregation joining in. We were also invited to visit the smudge fire started on the Church grounds.

The Retiring Moderator, Rev. Daniel Cho and recently retired St. Andrews' Minister Rev. Lewis, did an amusing side bar on their Elvis bent which concluded with a fine rendition of Love Me Tender while the 2019 Moderator was robed.

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Although many important items came before the Court such as –

A solid Worship session each morning at 8:30 led by a talented praise team and featuring a challenging message (Our Camp Kintail Director brought the first message)

A long discussion on a recommendation of the removal of the use of any type of force in discipline from the Criminal code

Our apology to the Indigenous community for the legacy left behind from Residential Schools 11 of which were Presbyterian – 25th Anniversary of Truth and Reconciliation

The release of the recent report on the deaths of many indigenous women – our table mate from Winnipeg talked about the inner city problems of his city

The work of our Missionaries

The involvement of our Church in Crisis areas and situations throughout the world

Interesting talks from an eclectic group of visitors such as Rev. Jonghyun Kim -Moderator of the Korean Presbyterian Church in Japan; The Moderator of the American Presbyterian Church; Our YAR representative; The reps from each of our colleges – especially well done by the young lady from Knox; Sheila Watt – Cloutier Cutting Edge Mission Book award recipient who spoke of the tremendous affect climate change was having on her Inuit people.

The Elephant in the room throughout the five day conference, however, was the Report on Human Sexuality brought forward by a committee of eight previous Assembly Moderators. The final compromise took almost a half of the Assembly floor time. Heart wrenching testimony from both sides of the issue were brought forth from all parts of the nation. It was often mentioned that the Divine Spirit was surely present within the group who gathered in the wee hours of Wednesday evening to hammer out the compromise solution.

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Our table of eight included the five from our Presbytery – Rev. Megan, our unofficial team leader, Rev. David Chang, Rev. Bonnie Sutherland, Eleanor Thompson and moi (Don Leatham), Rev. Jeremy Sanderson, Scott Macdonald from PEI and Mat Brough from Winnipeg who was our assigned rep. from the Assembly committee. It was a great group who worked well together and made a challenging Assembly much more enjoyable than it might have been.

My take on the report from the Ecumenical/Interfaith Committee p.135 to 143:

The Committee met twice -Oct. 2018 and Jan. 2019.Its purpose is to facilitate the relationship between our church and several national and international Ecumenical and Interfaith Councils and groups. (It is one of our present Moderators favourite causes). Mission Statement – The Presbyterian Church of Canada is committed to positive Ecumenical and Interfaith Relationships throughout Canada and around the world.

Unity and Diversity – This committee believes that diversity can be a component of unity and not an opposite. Our unity in Christ with all our sisters and brothers is lived primarily for the sake of the world beyond the church not within it. The Presbyterian participation in these bodies throughout Canada and globally shows positive signs of diversity within unity.

Areas within the Strategic plan now being worked upon include – Racism in the Church and Society, Human Sexuality and Families and the Role of the Church.

The Canadian council of Churches includes 26 denominations and has Stephen Kendall as President.

Five recommendations are listed (p136, 137 and 138) and all seem reasonable.

The International Affairs Committee – p146 to 172 – The goal of the report is to raise awareness about issues that significantly impact communities around the world and look for ways to reduce conflict, inequality and ecological

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harm. It also puts forth specific recommendations to improve the health and wellbeing of both the people and the environment.

This is what the Lord says – Do what is just and right— Jeremiah 22 – 1 to 3
The Living Faith document states – Our care for the world must reflect God's Care.

Hot Spots –

The Rohingya (Muslim) Crisis in Myanmar (Buddhist) – in 1977 - 200,000 forced to flee to Bangladesh and in 2017- 670,000 followed. Three recommendations on p 147

The treatment of Palestine children in the Israeli Court system. Since June 1967 when Martial Law was declared in the West Bank over 750,000 men women and children have been arrested and tried in Israeli Military Courts. Children as young as twelve are often arrested in the middle of the night and detained without benefit of family support. The UN Human Rights Council report states that the negative impact of these practices on the next generation of Palestinians is one of the greatest tragedies of this ongoing occupation. P151 – 4 recommendations.

Anglophone Crisis in Cameroon – Twenty- five million people situated in ten semi-autonomous regions – 8 Francophone and 2 Anglophone. The Anglophone population of approximately 5 million suffers from increasing pressure on their language. Over 160,000 have been displaced internally and over 30,000 have fled to Nigeria. P 153 four recommendations

World Environmental Day and the Plastic Crisis – United Nations declared June 5th – Environment Day; June 6th – clean Air Day and June 8th – Ocean's day. The buildup of waste plastics of all sizes and shapes has become a forefront issue throughout the world. Many of our churches have banned bottled water, use unbleached paper towels; use coffee cups and water glasses rather than Styrofoam; low flush toilets and are looking into community Gardens and solar panels. Page 155 two recommendations

Gov't Climate Change Initiative – one recommendation p156 – appears pretty weak.

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Religious Persecution appears on every Continent. Ensuring the religious freedom of one individual requires the protection of that freedom for all people. P157 – 3 recommendations.

Canadian Official Development Assistance – CODA and Canadian Food Grains Bank – 3 recommendations – p 159

Peace Keeping – p160 – 2 recommendations

The Arms Trade including our London involvement – p162 – 2 recommendations

Treatment of Migrant Workers has become an increasing concern – p165 – one recommendation

Five additional recommendations on the Palestinian situation can be found on p165

The Report of International Ministries – p204 to 212- Good Quote on p205 by Dr. George Sabra from Lebanon. In appointments relationships matter and people matter. People must be found to support studies in Theology, Medicine and Library Sciences. Bible translation continues with the help of Global Partners. Areas such as refugee support, health care, Theological education must be tended to. Grants are provided to enhance the life of children and families.

Appointment Categories – one year to five year renewable terms of service.

Cutting Edge of Mission award for 2019 went to Sheila Watt- Cloutier for her book on the effects of Climate change on her Innu Culture

Respectfully submitted, Don Leatham

Report by Eleanor Thompson:

As a first time commissioner to General Assembly 2019 in Waterloo, I was very humbled to be chosen. It was quite a journey.

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The theme was "Receive the Holy Spirit". This was carried out through all the worship services in words and songs. These were most impressive.

The opening church service at St. Andrew's Church was a very meaningful beginning to the Assembly. A representation of Six Nations Reserve did candle lighting and reflection of sacred teachings. The scriptures were read in seven languages.

The outgoing moderator Rev. Daniel Cho was thanked and along with Rev. Dr. Mark Lewis did an impersonation of Elvis singing "Love Me Tender". The new moderator was conducted to the chair by E. Bissett and Michelle Butterfield-Kocis who was her chaplain for the Assembly. The moderator is Rev. Amanda Currie. She conducted all sederunts with great patience, understanding and great knowledge. All former moderators were introduced. Full communion was observed before closing.

Monday morning session began with early breakfast for new commissioners. We were given instructions to help us enjoy our stay.

Each sederunt began with worship services with excellent calls to worship, prayers and music and were constituted by the moderator.

The Canadian Council of Churches is celebrating its 75th Anniversary. Each congregation is urged to celebrate it on October 26th, 2019.

We enjoyed hearing excellent speakers. One reminding us to learn more about Canadian Indigenous spiritualities. We heard Dr. Sheila Wattolouther, who was born in Inuvik, speak on "Cutting Edge of Mission". Also an excellent one from South Korea who had a translator to English. He praised Canada for the first missionary in 1927. A plaque was presented to the Assembly.

Mrs. Janet Brewer gave a talk on Women's Missionary Society. She encouraged us to attend the Women's Gathering in Richmond Hill in May, 2020.

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We sat at round tables and had discussion on different topics, such as Residential schools and human sexuality. We were asked to express our views. My personal view is that I don't believe in same sex marriage. Marriage is a sacred covenant between a man and a woman as based on biblical scripture.

Rev. Peter Bush gave a summary on Sexuality. A lot of discussion and comments took place. A secret ballot vote was taken on Plans A, B & C. The decision was for Plan B on a count of 126-91. A motion was made to form a committee to make decisions on how to move forward. Wednesday evening session was a very emotional and dramatic time of sharing.

- 2 -

The Knox College report showed 23 graduates in 2019 and celebrated its 75th Anniversary. We are encouraged to keep supporting it and PWS&D.

Rev. David Chang and myself did a call to worship on different days.

The church doctrine "Living in God's Mission Today" is to be recommended to be used for up building and understanding as we embark on and understand God's mission.

We were reminded how important it is to microfilm all church documents and records for safe preservation.

Please mark February 16, 2020 to be celebrated as Heritage Sunday.

It was discussed to reduce the number of the church doctrine committee from 18 to 15.

The recreation of marijuana is to be reported to the 2020 General Assembly.

The 2020 General Assembly will respond to the preamble of ordination and induction of elders.

Congregations are encouraged to reduce the use of all plastics.

The moderator was asked to write many letters to the Prime Minister of Canada regarding many issues, i.e. to place sanctions on seven Myanmar military officials to keep its pledge to aid refugees in Robinja. Also to the

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Government of Bangladesh for their support of refugees. The government to be asked to treat migrants more fairly.

Congregations are encouraged to learn more about Canadian indigenous spirituality by attending public events and organizations of the people.

On Thursday morning recommendations were adopted and with their approval between now and the 2020 General Assembly presbyteries will vote on them and if a majority is reached the 2020 General Assembly may pass the recommendations into the law and policy of the church.

The parts I enjoyed most of my attendance at General Assembly were the worship and music but I certainly learned a lot of the procedures of the Assembly which was very educational.

Respectfully submitted,
Eleanor Thompson
Representative Elder of Knox, Tiverton & St. Paul's, Glammis

Moved by Megan Penfold and seconded by Randy Benson that the verbal and written reports of the Commissioners to General Assembly be received, and included in their entirety within the Minutes of today's meeting. Carried

Rev. Larry thanked the Commissioners and Brian for their service.

Care of Congregations Committee

Bonnie Sutherland reporting.

Congregational Visits

Meaford: postponed, but will happen this calendar year.
Team: Lesley Weiler, Dana Benson etc.

Walkerton: June 16
Team: Larry Skinner, Bonnie Sutherland, Jan Middelkoop

Hanover: TBD

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Team: Kathy Fraser,

Erskine, Dundalk Dissolution

Moved by Bonnie Sutherland and Seconded by Jan Middelkoop, that the Presbytery of Grey Bruce Maitland dissolve the two point charge of Erskine Presbyterian Church, Dundalk and St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Swinton Park, and constitute St. Andrew's Swinton Park as a single charge. Carried

Moved by Bonnie Sutherland and seconded by Andy Burgess that the Presbytery endorse the following Mission Plan, for Erskine Dundalk, subject to the required holdbacks related to new church development, the pension fund and the native ministries fund:

Mission Plan:

- \$40000 be held in trust for the local food bank to be distributed at the rate of \$3000 per year;
- remaining monies be donated to Swinton Park Presbyterian Church;

Carried.

Knox, Ripley Dissolution

Bonnie confirmed that their Committee will be working on a Mission Plan over the summer, with hopes to bring it to Presbytery in September.

Care of Ministers Committee

Donna Clark reporting.

Diligence. Nothing to report.

SPARK Committee

Brenda Calder reporting.

Educational Components:

- June: General Assembly Reports

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- September: Invite any ministers to share study leave highlights, experiences, recommendations from past year. Not a report but a sharing.
- Nov. 12, 2019 Henry Reinders Worship & Ed. Component on CFGB

Workshop Suggestions:

- Leading with Care in the fall – will contact National Office for leader.
- Saturday Workshop in the fall by Rev. Dr. Randy Benson: That'll Preach!: 5 Simple Steps to Your Best Sermon Ever and Say Something!: Simple Ways to Make Your Sermons Matter, both by Charley Reeb.

Note: that there was not enough interest for a Messy Church Workshop this fall at Lucknow.

Transitions Committee

Owen Kim reporting.

Diligence. No Report (other than the Stated Hour)

Worship and Missions Committee

David Chang reporting.

No report, just a thank you to Megan, Owen and Larry

Moved by Jim Johnson and seconded by Donna Clark that Presbytery accept the Committee reports as presented. Carried

Sharing the Good News

David Chang shared that Knox Tiverton will be celebrating its 140th reunion on Sunday June 30th. He also reminded us of the previously mentioned St. Paul's Glammis Strawberry Social.

Andy Burgess noted that Knox Kincardine will be celebrating its 170 anniversary this year. He also noted that they now have their new electronic sign up and running, accessible to the community, complete with a Scottish tartan across the

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top. He last shared that they have completed the install of a new totally electronic, organ, with over 800 pipe voices.

Fay Harrison shared that Knox Normanby will be celebrating their 160th anniversary this Sunday, with Eugene McKinnon returning from the States as their guest speaker.

Brenda Calder shared the creation of the “Holstein Cow Town Lunch Bunch” for hosting seniors who seldom have anyone to share a meal with, noting this is a 3 church charge and community project.

Megan Penfold said Congratulations were also due to Brenda, as she has become a grandmother again.

Jim Johnson, because this will be his last Presbytery meeting, thanked everyone for all the support he has received in his 16 years, adding we were a great group to work with.

Adjournment

On **Motion** of Megan Penfold, Moderator Rev. Larry Skinner adjourned the court with prayer, and prayer requests, and called it to next meet in regular session on September 17, 2019 at St. Andrew’s, Wingham, at 6:30 pm, with supper at 5:30 – **Noting:** that both Admin. and Presbytery will be a week later than normal in September, because Labour Day falls on the 2nd, which would have made Admin. the next day on the 3rd.

Administration to next meet on Tuesday, September 10, 2019, at 10:00 a.m. in Walkerton.

Moderator

Clerk