

Presbytery of Waterloo-Wellington  
 Regular Meeting, February 2, 2016,  
 Westside Presbyterian Church, Cambridge

The Presbytery of Waterloo-Wellington met at Westside Presbyterian Church, Cambridge, on Tuesday, February 2, 2016 for the regular meeting of Presbytery. Refreshments were served at 6:30 p.m. The regular meeting was scheduled for January 12<sup>th</sup>, postponed to January 19<sup>th</sup> and then postponed again due to weather conditions.

Worship was conducted by the host Minister, the Rev. Mark Gaskin.

### **CONSTITUTION OF THE COURT AND WELCOME**

The Rev. Brooke Ashfield, Moderator, opened the meeting with prayer and constituted the court. He welcomed all visitors in attendance,.

He expressed appreciation to the congregation of Westside, Cambridge for their welcome and hospitality.

### **ATTENDANCE:**

**Ministers:** Rev. Brooke Ashfield (Moderator), Rev. Linda Ashfield, Rev. John Borthwick, Rev. Dr. Aubrey Botha, Rev. William Bynum, Rev. Darrell Clarke, Rev. Susan Clarke, Rev. Mark Gaskin, Rev. Dr Mark Lewis, Rev. Dr. Herb Gale, Rev. Alex MacLeod, Rev. Johan Olivier, Rev. John Paeng, Rev. Dr. Mark Richardson, Rev. Karla Wübbenhorst

**Representative Elders:** Lenore Arbuckle, Andrew Foster, Peter Graham, Judith Harrison, Isabel Howell, Marion Hunter, Alan Israel, Frank Kivell, Walter MacNeil, Gib McIlwrath, Linda Palmer, Bert Perriman, Bob Renton, Ross Rowat, Grant Scott, Robert Seim, Jim Zaryski

**Alternate Representative Elders:** Helen Cleghorn, Candace Delane, Doug Gilmour, Peter Goudy, Erik Kabbes, Rick Thomas

**Appendix to the Roll:** Rev. Calvin Brown

**W.M.S:** Jean Godin

**Treasurer:** Allan Stewart

**Clerk:** Dr. Wilma Welsh

**Graduate Students:** Greg Smith

**Students:** Lisa Brimblecome

**Visitors:** Liz Taylor-Samis, J. P. Smit, John Ridsdale, Sharon Agler, Sandra Ridsdale, Kathy Gaskin, David Ridsdale, Cheryl Amy

### **REGRETS:**

**Ministers:** Rev. Michael Burns, Rev. Ed Charlton, Rev. Chris Ji Hoon Cho, Rev. Scott McAndless, Rev. Cathy Kay, Rev. Kathy Morden, Rev. Scott Sinclair, Rev. Glen Soderholm, Rev. Frank Sztatmari

**Representative Elders:** Lydia Maitland, Peggy Lennox, Janet de Groot, David Ogram

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**Alternate Representative Elders:** Gaston St. Louis

**Ministers on the Appendix to the Roll:** Rev. Dr. Linda Bell, Rev. Dr. Walter McLean, Rev. Angus Sutherland

### **APPROVAL OF THE PROPOSED AGENDA**

Moved by John Paeng/Gib McIlwrath that the proposed agenda be adopted. CARRIED.

### **MINUTES**

Moved by Mark Richardson/Andrew Foster that the minutes of the regular meeting held November 10, 201 be adopted as circulated. CARRIED

**BUSINESS COMMITTEE** – presented by Wilma Welsh, Clerk – see Appendix “A”

### **Correspondence – November 10, 2015 to January 12, 2016**

Moved Mark Gaskin/John Paeng that the actions of the Business Committee in assigning the correspondence be homologated. CARRIED

### **Nominations**

- a) Chief Financial Officer of the PCC – none received
- b) Nominations for delegates to General Council of the World Communion of Reformed Churches in 2017, to be held in Germany  
Recommendation – that Greg Smith be nominated to be a delegate to the General Council of the World Communion of Reformed Churches to be held in Germany in 2017.
- c) Nominations for General Assembly 2016 Committees  
Recommendation - that Dr. Wilma Welsh be nominated to the Pension and Benefits Board; the Rev. Alex MacLeod to the Life and Mission Agency, the Rev. John Paeng to Education and Reception, and the Rev. Dr. Aubrey Botha to the Assembly Council.

Moved by Mark Richardson/Darrell Clarke that the nominations presented be submitted to the Assembly Office. CARRIED

### **Cooke’s Fund Application from Doon Church**

The grant is for the establishment of a congregational ministry designed to expand Doon’s outreach effort by creating the position of Community Outreach and Mission Director. This role will focus on leveraging existing Doon ministries and community relationship and resources.

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Moved by Mark Richardson/Darrell Clarke that the application to the Cooke's Fund from Doon Presbyterian Church for an annual grant of \$10,000 be approved by the Presbytery of Waterloo-Wellington and forwarded to the Cooke's Fund for consideration. CARRIED

### **Presbytery Roll**

- a) Presbytery of Paris request to transfer the Rev. D. Ketchen (living in Guelph) to Waterloo-Wellington Presbytery  
Recommendation  
 That at the request of the Presbytery of Paris that the Rev. D. Ketchen be placed on the appendix to the roll of the Presbytery of Waterloo-Wellington.
- b) Transfer the Rev. Calvin Brown from the Constituent Roll to the Appendix to the Roll  
Recommendation  
 That the name of the Rev. Calvin Brown be transferred from the Constituent Roll to the Appendix to the Roll of the Presbytery of Waterloo-Wellington, effective immediately.
- c) Transfer the Rev. Cathy Kay from the Constituent Roll to the Appendix to the Roll  
Recommendation  
 That the Rev. Cathy Kay be transferred from the Constituent Roll to the Appendix to the Roll, effective February 16, 2016
- d) Transfer the Rev. Dr. Herb Gale from the Constituent Roll to the Appendix to the Roll  
Recommendation  
 That the Rev. Dr. Herb Gale be transferred from the Constituent Roll to the Appendix to the Roll, effective March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2016.

Moved by Mark Gaskin/Aubrey Botha that the recommendations presented concerning the Roll changes be approved. CARRIED

### **In Memoriam**

Rev. Dr. Walter Roland Allum

With deep sorrow but thanksgiving for a life given to service, the family of the Rev. Dr. Walter Allum announces his passing on Monday, November 2, 2015 in Kitchener, ON in his 94th year. Born and raised in Ottawa, ON, Dad was a graduate of McMaster University and Knox College. Ordained by the Presbyterian Church in Canada in 1951, he faithfully ministered for over 60 years to congregations in Brantford, Renfrew and Dundas, ON and in later years to the charges of Milverton/North Mornington and Arthur/Gordonville. Dad was a true shepherd to his flock. To

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him, his congregations were truly 'my dear people.' Dad was a powerful and inspirational preacher, compassionate pastor and mentor to young men and women, especially those seeking to answer the call to ministry. In recognition of his service to his church and its people, Knox College conferred upon him the degree Doctor of Divinity in 1977.

For our family he was simply 'Dad'. From him we received unconditional love and through his example we were privileged to learn our faith, the importance of family and friends and a deep appreciation of education and learning along with a real zest for life. Dearly loved father and father-in-law of Nancy (Rick Frost), Mary (Bill Nunn), John (Suzanne), Peter (Barbara) and James (Susan McMurrich). Proud and loving grandfather of Carolyn Frost (Jeff Palmer), Jonathan Frost (Ashley McKague), Rebecca Dowson (Gavin), Scott Nunn, Stephen Allum, Christopher Allum (Liz Goheen), Liam and Martin Allum, Sarah Jean, Hilary and Donovan Allum. Dad delighted in his great-grandchildren, Heidi and Bridget Palmer and Brendan and Ryan Allum.

Loving brother of Robert Allum (Lorene). Uncle Wally will be remembered with love and affection by his many nieces and nephews and their families.

Reunited now with those he loved most; his wives, our beloved mother Jean (Barclay) (1973) and the Rev. Helen Ruth (Oliver) (2011); cherished eldest grandson, Matthew Frost; his parents, William and Rosa (Spraggin) Allum; his brothers and their wives, Bill (Dorothy), Frank (Edie), Fred (Klela); and his sisters and their husbands, Margaret (Dolly) (Ernie Rodney) and Hilda (Les Hibbert and Ken Chapelle); and sisters-in-law, Muriel Drew and Mary Ann Allum. Also predeceased by brothers and sister-in-law, Arthur Barclay, Vivian (Lloyd) Ludgate, Foster (Eleanor) Barclay and Hawley (Lila) Barclay.

Funeral service was held at Knox Presbyterian Church, Dundas ON on Friday, November 6, 2015 at 11:30 a.m. with visitation 1 hour before the service. Interment in Grove Cemetery, Dundas.

#### Recommendation

Moved by Mark Richardson/Mark Gaskin that the memorial minute be forwarded to the General Assembly Office for inclusion in the Acts and Proceedings 2016 and that the Moderator offer a prayer for the colleagues and family of the Rev. Dr. Walter Allum. CARRIED  
 The court was led in prayer by the Moderator, the Rev. Brooke Ashfield.

#### **Future Presbytery Meetings – for information**

March 8, 2016 – St. Andrew's, Kitchener  
 May 10, 2016 –Mount Forest – dinner (time to be announced)  
 June 21, 2016 –Kortright Guelph  
 September 13, 2016 (new Moderator's church)

Wilma Welsh, Clerk ([clerkwatwell@gmail.com](mailto:clerkwatwell@gmail.com))

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### **Commissioners to 2016 General Assembly**

#### **Ministers -**

Rev. Mark Gaskin (leader), Rev. Chris Ji Hoon Cho, Rev. John Paeng, Rev. Kathy Morden, Rev. David Whitecross

#### **Elders**

Candace Delane (Knox Preston, Cambridge); David Ogram (Knox, Waterloo); Sarah Bradshaw (Gale, Elmira); Janet MacDowell (St. Andrew's, Kitchener);

#### One Alternate required

Doon, Kitchener; St. Andrew's, Guelph; St. Andrew's, Alma

**Business Committee meetings**– Knox, Waterloo – 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of each month at 10:30 a.m.

Moved by Andrew Foster/Mark Gaskin that the report as a whole of the Business Committee be adopted. CARRIED

### **Overture from the Session of Westminster-St. Paul's Presbyterian Church**

– see Appendix “H”

An unsigned Overture received by the Clerk on Sunday, January 31, 2016, approved by the Session at a special Session meeting held after worship on Sunday, January 31, 2016.

The Session requested that the Overture be submitted as a referred overture without comment.

Moved by Grant Scott/Johan Olivier that the Overture be received.

Amendment

Moved by John Borthwick/Mark Lewis that the motion be amended to read - That the overture “not be received”.

Amendment Carried

Motion as Amended – CARRIED

Dissent recorded – Rev. Karla Wübbenhorst

Dissent received on February 12, 2016

When, at its meeting of February 2, 2016, the Presbytery of Waterloo Wellington adopted an amended motion that an overture re: Indigenous Spirituality from the session of Westminster-St. Paul's church, Guelph, be **not** received and considered, I asked that my dissent be recorded. The follow are my reasons:

1. I protest strenuously against the apparent grounds of the Presbytery's refusal to receive and consider the overture; namely that it was not in respectful language.

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- a. In the first place the "respectful language" spoken of in *The Book of Forms* 77, for which quality the Presbytery has a right to inspect overtures that are presented to it for transmission, is probably intended to mean respect toward the court being overtured (ie. the General Assembly).
  - b. In the second place, even if we take a broader interpretation of the term "respectful language" and understand it vis-a-vis Indigenous Peoples directly, the overture expresses that it is fully on board with everything our denomination has confessed both to God and to our First Nations brothers and sisters concerning the misbegotten missiology which informed the Churches' participation in residential schools. The overture also concurs with everything our subordinate standards have confessed, regarding the merits of other faiths and the compulsion for Christians, nonetheless, and in an attitude of gentleness and respect, to commend Christ, in our cultural context of religious pluralism. The colonial model of faith-imposition upon peoples who were regarded as infantile, is vastly different than the model of two venerable faith traditions sitting around a table saying "this is the distance I can go toward agreement with your worldview; this is where, with respect, I cannot go, because my theological commitment to the distinctives of my own tradition restrain me." The overture speaks out of the latter model and certainly knows the difference! The honesty and clarity of the latter model, I believe, confers respect on the conversation partner rather than denying it. Indeed the report of the Conversation Circle (2013), referenced in the overture, includes areas where Aboriginal elders would name their boundaries in occasions of shared worship with Christians – so the question arises as to why it is theologically or pastorally problematic for the Christian tradition to name its own boundaries in the same way.
2. This is a matter which touches upon natural justice (procedural fairness) and which affects the pastoral relationship between a session and its Presbytery. Given that no other overture from a session has ever been handled thus by the Presbytery in my 10 years in Waterloo Wellington, one is left with the distinct impression that the Session of Westminster-St. Paul's is being treated exceptionally by the Presbytery. There were certainly options open to the Presbytery which would have gestured to the session of Westminster-St. Paul's a generous spaciousness for its traditional theological outlook, and a respect for the rights and the voice of the lower court. The Presbytery could have transmitted the overture with disapproval. This also has never been done with any session overture in my memory (usually we just transmit them "without comment" if unsure about their merits), but if the Presbytery felt strongly that it would be "embarrassed" by the knowledgeable, well-supported, ably articulated, albeit theologically traditional words which the session of Westminster-St. Paul's wanted to communicate to the Assembly, Presbytery might have used the "with disapproval" option. Instead Presbytery chose high-handedly to suppress the voice of this lower, but fully competent court entirely, and to impede its access to Assembly, an action which I would consider unwise, just from a

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pastoral point of view (Particularly in this highly politicized time in our denomination, one would have expected a Presbytery to go to some lengths to avoid alienating the local leadership of a congregation under its care.)

Thus my reasons for dissent from the action of the Presbytery are two-fold: I contest the judgment of the Presbytery that the language of the overture was in any way disrespectful, and I contest the high-handed way in which this session overture was dealt with (exceptionally in my experience), and in a way that denied to a lower court any generous spaciousness in a case where its theological outlook differed from that of its bishop.

With respect,  
The Rev. Karla Wübbenhorst

Moved by Aubry Botha/Mark Richardson that the Report as a whole of the Business Committee be received. CARRIED

**TREASURER'S REPORT** – presented by Treasurer, Allan Stewart - see Appendix “B”

Moved by Gib McIlwrath/Ross Rowat that the report of the treasurer be received and accepted for information. CARRIED

**EIF COMMITTEE** – See Appendix “C”

Presbyters were reminded of the Kennon Callahan event on April 2<sup>nd</sup> – see Appendix

Moved by John Borthwick/Mark Lewis that the report of the Education, Information and Fellowship (EIF) Committee be received for information. CARRIED

**CONGREGATIONAL AFFAIRS REPORT** – presented by Johan Olivier – see Appendix “D”

Moved by Johan Olivier/John Borthwick that the report of the Congregational Affairs Committee be received and considered. CARRIED

Knox Crieff

Moved by Johan Olivier/Mark Richardson that Knox Church Crieff be granted permission to begin their search for a new minister. CARRIED

Moved by Johan Olivier/Mark Richardson that the Report as a whole be approved. CARRIED

**MISSION AND OUTREACH COMMITTEE** –report presented by interim convener Andrew Foster – see Appendix “E”

It was noted that Mark Gaskin will be the new convener.

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Moved by Andrew Foster/John Borthwick that the report of the Mission and Outreach Committee be received for information. CARRIED

**VISION TEAM REPORT** – presented by Mark Gaskin – see Appendix “F”  
It was agreed to receive the report.

The November 10<sup>th</sup> recommendations of the Vision Team were renumbered,

### **Recommendations**

- 1: That the Presbytery approve a request, from the Presbytery of Waterloo-Wellington, to the Commission on Assets of Dissolved or Amalgamated Congregations of the Trustee Board of the Presbyterian Church in Canada, that \$200,000 be released to the Presbytery, in support of the development of a Presbytery Strategic Plan; and, to fund the two year contract position of the Future Directions Facilitator; and, that such funds be placed in the Presbytery’s Development Fund for such purpose; in accordance with the Standing Orders of the Presbytery. Should, any portion of the amount transferred, not be used in the development of a Strategic Plan or the funding of the Future Directions facilitator, such amount will remain in the Presbytery Development Fund for use as described by the Standing Orders of the Presbytery.
- 2: That the Presbytery of Waterloo-Wellington hire a full-time Future Directions Facilitator on a two year contract to help the Presbytery further clarify and implement its roadmap for congregational and Presbytery renewal.
- 3: That the salary of the Future Directions Facilitator be up to \$70,000 annually; and, the expenses of the Future Directions Facilitator be covered up to \$15,000 annually.
- 4: That the terms of the contract for the Future Directions Facilitator (based on the Position Description and the above recommendations) be the responsibility of the Business Committee.
- 5: That a FDF Hiring Committee be formed, consisting of the the Moderator, 2 members of the Visioning Team and one representative from each Quadrant of the Presbytery.

Note to Recommendation 5: The "representative from each Quadrant" need not be a minister or representative elder. It is hoped each Quadrant would appoint someone with the necessary interviewing skills and experience, who would serve on this one-task committee for this short-term period.



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**Committee of the Whole**

Moved by Mark Lewis/Mark Gaskin that the Presbytery go into a Committee of the Whole.  
CARRIED

**Motion re time to adjourn**

It was noted that it was probable that the Presbytery would go over the time to adjourn so it was moved by Mark Lewis/John Borthwick that the presbytery continue in session if necessary to 10:00 p.m. CARRIED

**Convener named was the Rev. Dr. J. P. Smit**

**Secretary named was the Rev. Mark Gaskin**

**Report from Committee of the Whole**

Convener: John Peter Smit  
Secretary: Mark B. Gaskin

JP Smit outlined the differences between the procedures of a Presbytery meeting and the procedures followed in a meeting of the Committee of the Whole.

Darrell Clarke provided an overview of the rationale for the Vision Team's recommendations to the November 10, 2015, Presbytery meeting.

There was discussion for approximately forty minutes.

Liz Samis provided a summary report of the process that had led to the Vision Team's recommendations.

JP Smit provided an opportunity for those present at the Committee of the Whole meeting to participate in a "straw vote."

Results of the straw vote -

1. The straw vote indicated there was support for the direction the Vision Team was heading.
2. The straw vote indicated there was a desire for more work to be done by the Vision Team.
3. It was agreed there were no recommendations to be reported back to the Presbytery meeting, but that the results of the straw vote would be shared.

The Convener of the Committee of the Whole asked the Moderator of the Presbytery to resume the Presbytery meeting.

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**Return to the sitting of the court**

Moved by John Borthwick/Darrell Clarke that the court return to the sitting as a presbytery.  
CARRIED

**Motion**

Moved by Linda Ashfield/Aubrey Botha that the people of the presbytery be encouraged to send their concerns, comments, and questions about the Vision Committee's Report as soon as possible. CARRIED

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Alex MacLeod announced that a time of prayer will be held at 6:00 p.m. prior to the March 8<sup>th</sup> presbytery meeting. All are invited.

**NEXT MEETING**

The Ordination and Induction of Gregory C. Smith will be held on Sunday, April 14<sup>th</sup>, 2016 - presbytery will meet at 2:30 and the service will begin at 3:00.

The next regular meeting of Presbytery will be held at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Kitchener on Tuesday, March 8<sup>th</sup>, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. (refreshments at 6:30 p.m.)

**ADJOURNMENT**

The business being completed, the Presbytery adjourned on motion of John Borthwick. AGREED

The Moderator closed the meeting with prayer and pronounced the Benediction.

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Rev. Brooke Ashfield, Moderator

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Dr. Wilma Welsh, Clerk

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Appendix "A"

**BUSINESS COMMITTEE REPORT**

**CORRESPONDENCE – November 10/15 - January 12, 2016**

15-217	H. Chappell – WW2016 Expected Allocations	Cong. Affairs
15-218	K. Wübbenhorst – Human Sexuality forum – Hamilton Presbytery	All Presbyters
15-219	J. Paeng – notice of Christmas Unplugged event	All Presbyters
15-220	T.L. Hamilton – LMA Announcement re Assoc. Sec. for Can. Ministries	All Presbyters
15-221	Liz Brewer – Starting Well (first year in Ministry)	All new clergy
15-222	A. Saunders – 2-16 Grant for Two Rivers – approved 2016 for \$28,000	Mission & Outreach
15-223	T.L. Hamilton – nominations requested for the World Communion of Reformed Churches Council (2017)	All Presbyters
15-224	Presbytery of Paris – transferring Rev. David Ketchen to WW Pres.	Business Committee
15-225	S. Shaffer, soliciting any information they may not have relating to the applicants being considered by Education & Reception	All Presbyters
15-226	Karen Plater – invitation to Herb Gale’s Retirement party	All Presbyters
15-227	K. Wübbenhorst – re organ available to a congregation	All Presbyters
15-228	Andrew Foster – re Herb Gale’s retirement	Business Committee
15-229	Susan Clarke – Benefit Concert re Syrian Refugees	All Presbyters
15-230	Knox College – advising L. Brimblecombe has completed requirements for graduation	Ministry Committee
15-231	St. Andrew’s Kitchener – Heather and Holly Bazaar	All Presbyters
15-232	L. Bell – information re Guelph Quadrant sponsorship seminar	All Presbyters
15-233	R. Song – poster re Longest Night Service, Dec. 21 <sup>st</sup>	All Presbyters
15-234	EXC News – Dec. 2015 newsletter	All Presbyters
15-235	T. L. Hamilton – General Assembly 2016 Nominations	All Presbyters
15-236	J. Henderson – Ewart Lay Education Programs	All Presbyters
15-237	Knox College – Connexions – Winter 2015	All Presbyters
15-238	Katherine Masterson – Justice Ministries – Project Ploughshares	EIF Committee
15-239	H. Chappell – Presbyterians Sharing November 2015 report	All Presbyters
15-240	PCC – Gifts of Change	All Presbyters
15-241	David Sturtevant – re Certification for Ordination	Ministry Committee
15-242	D. Clarke – Doon Issue – flooding	Treasurer
15-243	B. Nawratil – Statistical Report information for congregations	All Presbyters
15-244	Request for 2017 Inter-Mission – Rev. Scott Sinclair	Ministry Committee
15-245	I. McDonald/Jen de Come – re funding for sexuality study	EIF Committee
15-246	Synod Camp Board – announcement re new Exec. Director David Scott	All Presbyters
16-001	KWCF – Storytelling and Video Creation Workshop	All Presbyters
16-002	John Henderson – New Blog at Presbyterian Record	All Presbyters
16-003	St. Andrew’s Hall – on line course for Clerks	All Presbyters
16-004	A. Foster – Service for Ecumenical Campus Ministries	All Presbyters

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## 1. **Correspondence**

### Recommendation

That the actions of The Business Committee in assigning the correspondence be homologated.

## 2. **Nominations and Recommendations**

- a) Chief Financial Officer of the PCC – no nomination
- b) Nominations for delegates to General Council of the World Communion of Reformed Churches in 2017, to be held in Germany

Recommendation – that Greg Smith be nominated to be a delegate to the General Council

of the World Communion of Reformed Churches to be held in Germany in 2017

- c) Nominations for General Assembly 2016 Committees

Recommendation - That Dr. Wilma Welsh be nominated to the Pension and Benefits Board and the Rev. Alex MacLeod to the Life and Mission Agency

- d) Application to Cooke's Fund from Doon Church

Recommendation – That the application to the Cooke's Fund be approved by the Presbytery of Waterloo-Wellington (see below)

- e) **Upcoming Meetings** –

- Emergent Presbytery Meeting - January 26, 2016 – 4:00 p.m. at Knox Waterloo, to consider the Call to Greg Smith to St. Andrew's, Kitchener
- Presbytery Meeting, Tuesday, March 8, 2016 – St. Andrew's, Kitchener

## 3. **Presbytery Roll**

- a) Presbytery of Paris request to transfer the Rev. D. Ketchen (living in Guelph) to Waterloo-Wellington Presbytery

### Recommendation

That at the request of the Presbytery of Paris that the Rev. D. Ketchen be placed on the appendix to the roll of the Presbytery of Waterloo-Wellington.

- b) Transfer the Rev. Calvin Brown from the Constituent Roll to the Appendix to the Roll

### Recommendation

That the name of the Rev. Calvin Brow be transferred from the Constituent Roll to the Appendix to the Roll of the Presbytery of Waterloo-Wellington, effective immediately.

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#### 4. **In Memoriam**

##### **Rev. Dr. Walter Roland Allum**

With deep sorrow but thanksgiving for a life given to service, the family of the Rev. Dr. Walter Allum announces his passing on Monday, November 2, 2015 in Kitchener, ON in his 94th year.

Born and raised in Ottawa, ON, Dad was a graduate of McMaster University and Knox College. Ordained by the Presbyterian Church in Canada in 1951, he faithfully ministered for over 60 years to congregations in Brantford, Renfrew and Dundas, ON and in later years to the charges of Milverton/North Mornington and Arthur/Gordonville. Dad was a true shepherd to his flock. To him, his congregations were truly 'my dear people.' Dad was a powerful and inspirational preacher, compassionate pastor and mentor to young men and women, especially those seeking to answer the call to ministry. In recognition of his service to his church and its people, Knox College conferred upon him the degree Doctor of Divinity in 1977.

For our family he was simply 'Dad'. From him we received unconditional love and through his example we were privileged to learn our faith, the importance of family and friends and a deep appreciation of education and learning along with a real zest for life. Dearly loved father and father-in-law of Nancy (Rick Frost), Mary (Bill Nunn), John (Suzanne), Peter (Barbara) and James (Susan McMurrich). Proud and loving grandfather of Carolyn Frost (Jeff Palmer), Jonathan Frost (Ashley McKague), Rebecca Dowson (Gavin), Scott Nunn, Stephen Allum, Christopher Allum (Liz Goheen), Liam and Martin Allum, Sarah Jean, Hilary and Donovan Allum. Dad delighted in his great-grandchildren, Heidi and Bridget Palmer and Brendan and Ryan Allum.

Loving brother of Robert Allum (Lorene). Uncle Wally will be remembered with love and affection by his many nieces and nephews and their families.

Reunited now with those he loved most; his wives, our beloved mother Jean (Barclay) (1973) and the Rev. Helen Ruth (Oliver) (2011); cherished eldest grandson, Matthew Frost; his parents, William and Rosa (Spraggin) Allum; his brothers and their wives, Bill (Dorothy), Frank (Edie), Fred (Klela); and his sisters and their husbands, Margaret (Dolly) (Ernie Rodney) and Hilda (Les Hibbert and Ken Chapelle); and sisters-in-law, Muriel Drew and Mary Ann Allum. Also predeceased by brothers and sister-in-law, Arthur Barclay, Vivian (Lloyd) Ludgate, Foster (Eleanor) Barclay and Hawley (Lila) Barclay.

Funeral service was held at Knox Presbyterian Church, Dundas ON on Friday, November 6, 2015 at 11:30 a.m. with visitation 1 hour before the service. Interment in Grove Cemetery, Dundas.

Wilma Welsh, Clerk ([clerkwatwell@gmail.com](mailto:clerkwatwell@gmail.com))

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Recommendation

That the memorial minute be forwarded to the General Assembly Office for inclusion in the Acts and Proceedings 2016 and that the Moderator offer a prayer for the colleagues and family of the Rev. Dr. Walter Allum.

**5. Moderator's Ballot** – available for pick up tonight

If Presbyters have an opportunity to complete their ballot during the Presbytery meeting, please return it to the Clerk.

**6. Minutes due for attestation**

Joonim, Kitchener-Waterloo

**7. Future Presbytery Meetings – for information**

March 8, 2016 – St. Andrew's, Kitchener

May 10, 2016 –Mount Forest - dinner

June 21, 2016 –Kortright Guelph

September 13, 2016 (new Moderator's church)

**8. Commissioners to 2016 General Assembly**

**- replies to emails requested**

**Ministers -**

Rev. Mark Gaskin (leader) (yes), Rev. Chris Ji Hoon Cho, Rev. John Paeng (yes), Rev. Kathy Morden (yes), Rev. David Whitecross

Alternates

Rev. Glen Soderholm, Rev. Johan Olivier, Rev. Frank Szatmari (no)

**Elders**

Candace Delane (Knox Preston, Cambridge); Knox, Waterloo (David Ogram); Gale, Elmira (Darlene Vandermey); St. Andrew's, Kitchener (Janet McDowell); St. Andrew's, Mount Forest

Alternates

Doon, Kitchener; St. Andrew's, Guelph; St. Andrew's, Alma

Wilma Welsh, Clerk

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 Westside Presbyterian Church, Cambridge

January 3, 2016  
 Trustees of Cooke's Church, Toronto,  
 Cooke's Fund, Presbytery of East Toronto

Dear Trustees,

We would like to begin by thanking you again for your confidence in our outreach efforts in 2015. Last year we applied and received a grant of \$3200 in support of a paid outreach coordinator position. This was the result of Doon Presbyterian Church's strategic plan to reorient its role in the local community from a place to go to for worship and fellowship to a place for the local community to belong and for Doon to go from – out into the community.

This role included providing safe play day camps is a key part of this ministry. Approximately a dozen day camps and a weeklong VBS were held as part of this ministry to the community. As well we held our first ever Father's Day Fun Fair on the church grounds as well as summer movie nights. Another key component was Tuesday night in the Park where we hosted games for neighborhood children at a local park. We estimate that around 200 children were part of at least one of these activities. Many of these children and their families continue to be connected with us today.

The success of the position and program, led the Session of Doon to make this position a contracted permanent part-time position. This position is currently held by a M.Div. student from McMaster. The position has been fine-tuned to focus on youth outreach, family ministry and Christian Education leadership. The position is now fully funded from the resources of Doon Presbyterian Church.

**Objective:**

In support of this renewed vision Doon Presbyterian Church is deepening its outreach efforts aimed at young families, children and youth. Our objective is to develop the position and program of Director: Outreach and Mission.

**This application** is to ask for an annual grant of \$10,000 for the establishment of a congregational ministry designed to expand our outreach effort by creating the position of Community Outreach and Mission Director. This role will focus on leveraging existing Doon ministries and community relationships and resources to:

- Enhance the worship and fellowship experience for the growing number of young families in our congregation and community. This will include oversight of Sunday Night Live, a Sunday evening worship experience for millennials and new Christians; and to develop a program of fellowship and discipleship for this demographic.
- Development of our ministry partnership with The Rock through joint youth and after school

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programs, men's and other ministries as Doon and the Rock find necessary and appropriate.

☐ Strengthening and expanding Afterschool day programs at Doon PC and our partner church The Rock; and in local community settings in support with local churches in the Doon area.

☐ Developing Doon PC as a community resource centre in support of our Let's Listen mental health awareness program, welcoming new Canadians, supporting young families, and supporting families with teen challenges. To this end specific programs will be developed in cooperation with the ministries of Doon PC and community agencies.

☐ Intensifying our effort to center Doon PC as arts and music centre, to demonstrate our creative gifts from God; for the Conestoga college community and South West Kitchener children and families. This will include overseeing our partnership with First Light Theatre, an acclaimed Junior Training Theatre Program for Ages 8-14 starting January 5th, 2016. It will also include identifying and working with local musical groups to provide rehearsal space and to provide space for local artists to display and sell their work.

Doon's equal portion of \$10,000 for this position will be funded through the re allocation of current outreach, advertising and worship program expenditures within the congregation (\$5000), third party funding, congregational pledges and fundraising efforts (\$5000). A breakdown of this is provided in the attached draft 2016 General operating budget of Doon PC. **Doon will evaluate the effectiveness of this program at the end of its first year.**

**Note: Doon is open to the guidance of the Trustees as to a lesser amount from the fund towards our efforts in keeping with the Trustees experience for similar congregational outreach members.**

The successful applicant for this position will have church outreach experience to young families, the greater Kitchener community, and be a well-respected leader in the Christian community. A passion for reaching those outside of the church will be a core requirement. (Please see the job description for more detail.)

Attached is a schedule indicating the dates and a budget of the costs associated with this position and its responsibilities, as well as the sources of revenue for the position. We hope that our proposal meets with the funds guidelines and the trustee's satisfaction. Should you have any questions or clarification, please do not hesitate to contact us.

We appreciate your time and support of our efforts at Doon to reach out in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and to be a light in our community.

Blessings,  
Pastor Darrell Clarke  
Doon Presbyterian Church  
Kitchener

Wilma Welsh, Clerk ([clerkwatwell@gmail.com](mailto:clerkwatwell@gmail.com))



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**Addenda 1:**

Extract from Cooke's Trust Fund Guidelines

(C) Congregational Ministries - a maximum annual grant of \$20,000 for a new ministry, with priority given to outreach, to be reviewed annually, to be matched by at least an equivalent amount from other sources. A self-supporting congregation shall be eligible to apply for 50% of the maximum.

**Addenda 2: Supplemental Information:**

□□ The ROCK (Reach-Out Church Kitchener): In 2015 Doon developed a partnership with Rosebank Brethren in Christ church in a new Friday Night Church worship and fellowship experience in East Kitchener. This unique multi-denominational approach to a weeknight worship and fellowship, provides a base for our youth outreach, community after-school outreach as well as anchoring our shared men's group 'ManCave' (with an average monthly attendance of 25). Worship attendance has been as high as 60 with an average of 40 each Friday. Doon and the Rock work together this year on our annual community Christmas concert and a joint Christmas Eve Service. In 2016 we will work to develop our partnership through more effective community outreach.

□□ Doon is fortunate to have a church community which includes census tract 1.04, an area which has the highest percentage of residents under the age of 24 in the Kitchener Waterloo Region.

Additionally, within the church's community are the rapidly growing 2.1 and 2.11 census tracts with the second and third highest percentage of people under the age of 24 in the city of Kitchener.

□□ To meet this growing need for youth based programs and outreach to young families, Doon established a Community Sharing program a couple of years ago. This program assists low income families in the Doon – Pioneer Park - Huron Heights neighborhoods (Kitchener South), and continues to support this program faithfully and financially.

□□ In 2014, we initiated an outreach ministry to the students of Conestoga College which is adjacent our church. In partnership with Power2Change ministries, The Rock and Pathway churches we assist in three weekly bible and faith events at the College, provide monthly dinners to the International student body, supply the local college food bank, provide transportation for students into the city, provide Christmas gifts to 25 student families annually, among other projects. Students from West Africa, Korea, China, and India are part of our fellowship and worship at Doon.

□□ In the winter of 2015 – Doon launched the Let's Listen program – a series of community conversations and lectures focused on mental health awareness in our community.

Partnership groups included HERE24/7, CMHA WWD (Canadian Mental Health Association – Waterloo Wellington Dufferin, Safe TALK, ASIST, Frontdoor, Lutherwood Waterloo Region Suicide Prevention Council, and Parents for Children's Mental Health.

□□ In the spring 2015, Doon created the position of Outreach and Christian Education coordinator seeded with funds from the Cooke's fund.

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- In May 2015 Doon became a partner with The Rock outreach church. In addition to joint worship opportunities, Doon hopes to develop an afterschool program in cooperation with The Rock as part of this year's Cooke's funding.
- In September 2015, Doon partnered with Pathway church in its Conestoga ministry.
- In November 2015 we launched the Angel Fund, a community oriented fundraising program designed to collect monies for less fortunate members of the Doon community. Funds are raised through the sale of designer glass angels and the funding is focused on covering supplemental health care costs for local families and individuals. To date approximately \$2000 has been raised for this initiative.
- In January 2016, Doon will finalize a long term licensing agreement with the City of Kitchener for a gravel lot west of the church currently used for parking. Under the agreement we will be able to upgrade and pave the lot to incorporate the space in our day camp program and other community focused events. We will also have access to the property of the city-operated Homer Watson gallery adjacent our boundary for additional outdoor play space or parking for an additional 18 cars for community events.
- In January 2016, Doon will launch a community theatre program for kids in cooperation with First Light Theatre.
- In spring 2016, Doon will become a partner with Youth for Christ in their re-launched Kitchener High School outreach program

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Appendix "B"

**Treasurer's report to Presbytery - Jan. 12, 2016**

A draft report of budgeted financial activity for the year ended December 31, 2015 follows. Below that is the budget for the year 2016 with a comparison to the 2015 budget. This 2016 budget is for information only, as it was approved at the November 2015 Presbytery meeting.

Full audited departmental (general, development, trust and reserve) financial statements will be provided at a later date, after all investment results are known and the audit has been completed.

**FINANCIAL REPORT TO WATERLOO-WELLINGTON PRESBYTERY AS AT DECEMBER 31, 2015**

	<u>to Dec. 2015</u>	<u>Budget 2015</u>	<u>Amount remaining</u>
<b>INCOME</b>			
Assessment Income	148,875	148,875	0
Income from services	350	1,000	650
Other income - interest	2,284	4,211	1,927
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>151,508</b>	<b>154,086</b>	<b>2,578</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>			
Synod Assessment	50,931	50,931	0
Special project - Two Rivers Church	25,000	25,000	-
Special project - Post Sec. students	15,050	12,500	(2,550)
Special project - Bunun Exchange	-	6,000	6,000
<b>Special projects - total</b>	<b>40,050</b>	<b>43,500</b>	<b>3,450</b>
Clerk's honorarium	12,149	12,149	-
Treasurer's honorarium	6,626	6,626	-
CPP/EI	494	500	6
Liability Insurance	2,635	3,500	865
General and office supplies	1,954	2,500	546
Telecommunications	1,802	1,600	(202)
Audit and legal fees	400	500	100
Bank interest and service charges	117	280	164
<b>Office expenses - total</b>	<b>26,177</b>	<b>27,655</b>	<b>1,478</b>
Travel and mileage	5,591	7,000	1,409
Meals and hospitality	142	500	358
<b>Travel - total</b>	<b>5,733</b>	<b>7,500</b>	<b>1,767</b>
Grants - U of G chaplaincy	9,000	9,000	-
Grants - Students for Ministry	2,600	4,000	1,400
Grants - New Life Counselling	1,500	1,500	-
<b>Grants - total</b>	<b>13,100</b>	<b>14,500</b>	<b>1,400</b>
Commissioner's Expenses (GA 2015)	2,232	2,000	(232)
Conference Funds (*incl. 7K Visioning)	9,180	2,500	(6,680)
Student Psych. assessment/counselling	-	2,000	2,000

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Pulpit supply for visitation	-	1,000	1,000
Visitors and Gifts	450	1,000	550
Christian education	100	1,000	900
Student certification	-	500	500
<b>General expense - Total</b>	<b>11,962</b>	<b>10,000</b>	<b>(1,962)</b>
<b>Total All Expenses</b>	<b>147,953</b>	<b>154,086</b>	<b>6,132</b>
<b>Surplus/(Deficit)</b>	<b>3,555</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>(3,555)</b>

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**2016 BUDGET - WATERLOO-WELLINGTON PRESBYTERY**

	<b>Budget 2016</b>	<b>Budget 2015</b>	<b>\$ change</b>	<b>% change</b>
<b>INCOME</b>				
Assessment Income	<b>143,257</b>	148,875	(5,618)	-3.8%
Income from services	<b>1,000</b>	1,000	-	0.0%
Other income - interest	<b>2,961</b>	4,211	(1,250)	-29.7%
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>147,218</b>	<b>154,086</b>	<b>(6,868)</b>	<b>-4.5%</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>				
Synod Assessment	<b>49,010</b>	50,931	(1,921)	-3.8%
Special project - Two Rivers Church	<b>22,000</b>	25,000	(3,000)	-12.0%
Special project - Post Sec. students	<b>15,050</b>	12,500	2,550	20.4%
Special project - Bunun Exchange	<b>6,000</b>	6,000	-	0.0%
Special project - Canada Youth (2016)	<b>3,500</b>	-	3,500	
<b>Special projects - total</b>	<b>46,550</b>	<b>43,500</b>	<b>3,050</b>	<b>7.0%</b>
Clerk's honorarium	<b>12,755</b>	12,148	607	5.0%
Treasurer's honorarium	<b>6,733</b>	6,627	106	1.6%
CPP/EI	<b>520</b>	500	20	4.0%
Liability Insurance	<b>3,500</b>	3,500	-	0.0%
General and office supplies	<b>2,500</b>	2,500	-	0.0%
Telecommunications	<b>1,900</b>	1,600	300	18.8%
Audit and legal fees	<b>500</b>	500	-	0.0%
Bank interest and service charges	<b>300</b>	280	20	7.1%
<b>Office expenses - total</b>	<b>28,708</b>	<b>27,655</b>	<b>1,053</b>	<b>3.8%</b>
Travel and mileage	<b>7,000</b>	7,000	-	0.0%
Meals and hospitality	<b>500</b>	500	-	0.0%
<b>Travel - total</b>	<b>7,500</b>	<b>7,500</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>0.0%</b>
Grants - U of G chaplaincy	<b>6,000</b>	9,000	(3,000)	-33.3%
Grants - Students for Ministry	<b>4,000</b>	4,000	-	0.0%
Grants - New Life Counselling	<b>1,500</b>	1,500	-	0.0%
<b>Grants - total</b>	<b>11,500</b>	<b>14,500</b>	<b>(3,000)</b>	<b>-20.7%</b>
Commissioner's Expenses	<b>2,350</b>	2,000	350	17.5%
Conference Funds	<b>4,000</b>	2,500	1,500	60.0%

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Student Psych. Assessments	<b>2,000</b>	2,000	-	0.0%
Pulpit supply for visitation	<b>1,000</b>	1,000	-	0.0%
Visitors, Donations and Gifts	<b>1,000</b>	1,000	-	0.0%
Christian education (Lay Grants)	<b>1,000</b>	1,000	-	0.0%
Clerk's consultation (2016)	<b>600</b>	-	600	
Student certification	<b>500</b>	500	-	0.0%
<b>General expense - Total</b>	<b>12,450</b>	<b>10,000</b>	<b>2,450</b>	<b>24.5%</b>
<b>Total All Expenses</b>	<b>155,718</b>	<b>154,086</b>	<b>1,632</b>	<b>1.1%</b>
<b>Surplus/(Deficit)</b>	<b>(8,500)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(8,500)</b>	

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Appendix "C"

EIF Report for January Presbytery Meeting

This report is for information.

The EIF Committee is working on organizing the April 2 2016 Kennon Callahan event. The cost for attendees is set to be \$20. Registration will be online through the Knox Waterloo Website with a cut off date of March 19<sup>th</sup>. Posters will be distributed as soon as we have them. The time on the day of the event will roughly be:

8:30am Registration

9am Begin

4pm ending

snack breaks and lunch are included in the cost, exact times still to be determined.

We are still fine tuning some of the logistical details.

EIF is also working through some of the GA Recommendations, specifically 1.4 Living in God's Mission Today. We will be bringing a recommendation to the March Meeting.

Respectfully submitted by  
Rev. Edward Charlton

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Appendix "D"

**Congregational Affairs Committee Report for January 12, 2016**

The congregational affairs committee (Guelph Quadrant) met at 10am December 16, 2015 at Knox Presbyterian Church Guelph.

There are no recommendations and the following is for Presbytery's information:

**Syrian Refugee Sponsorship: Guelph Quadrant**

The members of the quadrant present discussed the progress and development of what is happening in relation to: Sponsoring a Syrian Refugee family.

Two Rivers Congregation has partnered with a community partner and are in the process of welcoming a family to the area soon.

It was reported that St. Andrew's Guelph is leading a sponsorship initiative as well. Knox Guelph and First Baptist Guelph have also partnered with St. Andrew's on this. Other congregations were encouraged to consider either supporting the joint venture, Two Rivers sponsorship or partnering with others to sponsor a family in addition to these ongoing sponsorships.

The vision is that as more congregations work together more money and volunteers might become available which would lead to the potential of our Presbyterian Churches sponsoring more than one family in Guelph.

It was also identified there are a number of congregations within the quadrant bounds wishing to help and take on a role. However, large monetary contributions may not be possible, but the potential with helping meet the needs within other areas is highly probable. This will ensure all congregations will be able to help in whatever way God has equipped them.

We are all incredibly excited by the progress being made and foresee great opportunities being formed.

It seems that the timing of identifying and the subsequent arrival of sponsored refugees may be longer than the media is currently portraying it. Some groups, like Two Rivers, may have their family fairly soon as they responded, in partnership with their neighbourhood, quickly to the crisis. The St. Andrew's/Knox/First Baptist group working with PWS&D have yet to complete their application as further available refugees have yet to be identified.

As sponsorship initiatives become more clearly defined, the Guelph Quadrant will seek to access the \$10,000.00 from the Presbytery in due course.

Respectfully submitted  
Rev Johan Olivier  
Convener CA

Wilma Welsh, Clerk ([clerkwatwell@gmail.com](mailto:clerkwatwell@gmail.com))



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Appendix "E"

**Mission and Outreach Committee report  
January 2016**

1. We have had no volunteers to participate in planning the Bunun exchange. The Clerk has agreed to help us do this.
2. The Two Rivers grant application has been approved by Canadian Ministries for \$18,000 (Letter 4<sup>th</sup> December 2015).
3. We have been contacted by Andrew Hyde, the new Ecumenical Campus Minister at the University of Guelph, and I have met him on behalf of the Missions and Outreach Committee. We hope to be able to introduce him to the presbytery at an upcoming meeting and have him address the court on his ministry among the students. Everyone is welcome to attend his Covenanting Service on 7<sup>th</sup> February at the University Centre, 3:00 pm.
4. We are in the process of arranging rotating conveners for the Missions and Outreach Committee and hope to have this done in the next few days.

Andrew Foster  
9<sup>th</sup> January 2016

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Appendix "F"

**Presbytery of Waterloo-Wellington  
Committee on Ministry  
Report to Presbytery, January 12<sup>th</sup>, 2016**

The Committee on Ministry (CoM) met on December 8<sup>th</sup>, 2015.

**Subcommittee on Students** – There are 2 students due for re-certification and 1 for Certification for Ordination. Arrangements are being made to conduct interviews for these students. The interviews for Certification for Ordination will require the candidates to submit two essays and to preach to an upcoming meeting of Presbytery.

**Pulpit Exchange** – We remind the Presbytery that The Presbytery Pulpit Exchange will take place on April 3, 2016. This has been a very enjoyable experience for the past years and we encourage congregations to participate in this. Deadline for signing up is March 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2016. Please inform Rev. Scott Sinclair if your congregation will be participating this year.

**Refugee Sponsorship** – A joint committee including a few of the churches in the Kitchener-Waterloo-ELMIRA quadrant continue to work towards refugee sponsorship and expect to access the money set aside by The Presbytery for this purpose.

**Continuing Education Courses and Training** – The Standing Orders of Presbytery require the CoM to oversee approval for professional church workers to be in attendance at continuing education events. The CoM will compile a catalogue of experiences clergy have used as part of their continuing education. This list would be for information only. Clergy are asked to contact Rev. Scott Sinclair and indicate what courses they have taken. These will be shared with Presbytery so others can use them as a resource.

**Ministers on the Appendix – Ministers in Association** – The CoM is considering ways to enhance the participation and contact with ministers in these categories.

Respectfully Submitted  
Scott Sinclair – convener

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Appendix "G"

**Vision Team Report to Presbytery of  
Waterloo-Wellington  
Tuesday, January 12, 2016**

**Background**

Sections 60 and 61 of Book of Forms:

60. In order to allow greater freedom in discussion, the court, when considering any particular matter, may, on motion duly seconded, resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole. On motion duly made, a convener is appointed and the moderator leaves the chair.

61. While the court is in committee, the motions considered are not recorded in the minutes, and members are at liberty to speak more than once on any motion. A separate minute of the proceedings is taken. When the committee rises, its convener presents a report to the court embodying the result of the committee's deliberations, or he/she reports progress and asks leave to sit again.

**NOTES:**

The Committee of the Whole will deal with the first 5 of the November 10 Recommendations. The Recommendation 6 - on the investment fund - will be handled by the presbytery treasurer.

The meeting will be held in the Westside Church sanctuary.

With permission of the Presbytery the Rev. John Borthwick will serve as Convener of the Committee of the Whole. Also, with permission of the Presbytery the Rev. Mark B. Gaskin will service as Secretary for the Committee of the Whole.

The Convener will encourage all to participate; at the same time it is the Convener's responsibility to moderate the discussion. We hope to hear the Presbytery's many voices; acknowledging this is a bottom-up conversation from the congregations and not a top-down attempt at renewal.

All who participated in congregational focus groups and the Day of Visioning event will be invited to attend, through the Clerk of Presbytery.

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**Schedule for Committee of the Whole:**

STATED HOUR: 8:15 pm

1 MINUTE: Outline of the process of the Committee of the Whole  
and encourage everyone to participate. (J. Borthwick)

5 MINUTES: An overview of the November 10 recommendations. (D. Clarke)

30 MINUTES: Discussion and deliberation.

5 MINUTES: A summary response from the Visioning Team. (L. Samis)

The Convener of the Committee of the Whole will ask the gathering for a straw poll (consensus building) on the following question:

*With the information we have received in preparation and the conversation we have had tonight, do you feel sufficiently equipped to make a decision on these motions after we come out of the Committee of the Whole?*

**Note:** The recommendations have been re-ordered.

**Recommendations**

1: That the Presbytery approve a request, from the Presbytery of Waterloo-Wellington, to the Commission on Assets of Dissolved or Amalgamated Congregations of the Trustee Board of the Presbyterian Church in Canada, that \$200,000 be released to the Presbytery, in support of the development of a Presbytery Strategic Plan; and, to fund the two year contract position of the Future Directions Facilitator; and, that such funds be placed in the Presbytery's Development Fund for such purpose; in accordance with the Standing Orders of the Presbytery. Should, any portion of the amount transferred, not be used in the development of a Strategic Plan or the funding of the Future Directions facilitator, such amount will remain in the Presbytery Development Fund for use as described by the Standing Orders of the Presbytery.

2: That the Presbytery of Waterloo-Wellington hire a full-time Future Directions Facilitator on a two year contract to help the Presbytery further clarify and implement its roadmap for congregational and Presbytery renewal.

3: That the salary of the Future Directions Facilitator be up to \$70,000 annually; and, the expenses of the Future Directions Facilitator be covered up to \$15,000 annually.

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4: That the terms of the contract for the Future Directions Facilitator (based on the Position Description and the above recommendations) be the responsibility of the Business Committee.

5: That a FDF Hiring Committee be formed, consisting of the Moderator, 2 members of the Visioning Team and one representative from each Quadrant of the Presbytery.

Note to Recommendation 5: The "representative from each Quadrant" need not be a minister or representative elder. It is hoped each Quadrant would appoint someone with the necessary interviewing skills and experience, who would serve on this one-task committee for this short-term period.

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Appendix "H"

**OVERTURE TO THE 142ND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
 IN CANADA**

At 206 Victoria Rd. N., Guelph, Ontario, the thirty-first day of January in the year 2016:  
 Which day the Session of Westminster-St. Paul's Presbyterian Church met and was constituted  
 with prayer.

Among other matters addressed, the Session agreed to overture the General Assembly and to ask  
 the Presbytery of Waterloo Wellington to transmit the overture to the General Assembly without  
 comment:

To the Venerable the General Assembly:

WHEREAS God is revealed in Scripture as the one God, beside whom is no other, and demands  
 from the people of faith their exclusive worship (Ex. 20: 1-6, Deut. 6.4, Is. 40.25, 45.18, I Cor.  
 8.4-6); and

WHEREAS the temptation to syncretize the faith with other faiths is a perennial one for God's  
 people, described throughout the Scriptures, together with the serious consequences this incurs  
 (Lev. 10: 1-2, Deut. 6: 10-15, I Kings 19: 15-18, II Kings 17:7-17, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Hosea, I  
 Cor. 10:14-22; Rev. 14: 9-11), and

WHEREAS the revelation of God in Jesus Christ, and the salvation of God provided to us  
 through the reconciling ministry of Jesus is held in Scripture to be unique (John 6: 53-68, John  
 14: 6, Acts 4: 10-12, Col. 1: 15-23, Heb. 1: 1-4), and

WHEREAS the subordinate standards of our church enshrine this understanding of the  
 uniqueness of God and of Jesus: eg. *"There is one true God whom to know is life eternal, whom  
 to serve is joy and peace.*

*God has created all that is (LF 1.1). Jesus is the Mediator through whom God has come to us  
 and through whom we come to God (LF 3.4.1). Salvation comes from God's grace alone received  
 through faith in Christ (3.6.1). Faith is...trust in God, involves personal repentance of sin,  
 acceptance of Jesus Christ as Saviour and commitment to him as Lord. It includes assent to the  
 truth of the Gospel (LF 6.1.1)." See also WCF II.1-2, VIII.2, XXI.1,2 and 6), and*

WHEREAS the pluralistic religious context in which we live, and our recognition of the manifold  
 evidences of the common grace of God in peoples of other faiths and of none, by no means  
 detracts from the fact we are "compelled" to bear witness to Christ, as it says in our subordinate  
 standard Living Faith *"Some whom we encounter belong to other religions and already have a  
 faith....We recognize that truth and goodness in them are the work of God's Spirit, the author of  
 all truth. We should not address others in a spirit of arrogance...[Yet] we witness to God in*

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*Christ as the Way, the Truth, the Life, and invite others to accept from him the forgiveness of God. We are compelled to share this good news"* (9.2.1-2), and

WHEREAS the 2008 General Assembly dealt with a recommendation from the Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations Committee which proposed that the prayer of overture no. 3 (2008) requesting reaffirmation of "the exclusiveness and uniqueness of the saving work of Christ" be not granted (p. 260) by adopting this amended motion instead: "That in the interests of clarity the Assembly affirm its commitment to the doctrine of the uniqueness of Jesus Christ and that this be the answer to Overture Nos. 3, 15, 17, 18, 19 and 20 (2008) (p. 22), and

WHEREAS the 2015 General Assembly dealt with a recommendation from the Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations Committee which proposed that the Committee's terms of reference be changed to add the words: "to encourage Presbyterians to acknowledge, understand and appreciate other faith traditions..." (p. 287) by adopting the amended wording "to acknowledge, understand and appreciate *the strengths of* other faith traditions..." (p. 28) after a debate which highlighted the great lack of clarity around what it would mean for Presbyterian Christians to "acknowledge...and appreciate..." other faiths, and

WHEREAS the 2013 General Assembly adopted the Report of the Conversation Circle re: Theological Framework for Aboriginal Spirituality (p. 16), which evinced an awareness that Indigenous Wisdom and Christian faith represent two distinct belief systems and ways of life, with some aspects of fruitful intersection, but also with areas in which the significant differences must be honoured (eg. "...*The Pipe Ceremony, the Sun Dance, the Sweat Lodge and the Medicine Wheel should only be conducted by traditional Indigenous Elders who follow Indigenous Wisdom ways. For others to conduct these ceremonies would mean appropriating the belief systems or changing their meaning to suit the Christian belief system....The Medicine Wheel is...a complete belief system involving a life long journey...[there is] potential of belittling a centuries-old belief system by oversimplifying it*" (pp. 510-511) [One might add that the same is true of the Christian belief system], and

WHEREAS this report of the Conversation Circle constitutes an incomplete answer to the prayer of Overture 19 (2011), since, while illuminating in many respects, it remains unclear in the articulation of any limits for the Church in blending its theology and worship with Indigenous Wisdom and sacred ways, and is more explicit about the problems of appropriating Indigenous Wisdom and rituals in Christian contexts than about the areas in which distinctives of the Christian teaching may be subdued or compromised by framing them within a worldview or worship practice that derives from Aboriginal spirituality, and

WHEREAS most Aboriginal Spiritualities, while having a robust view of God the Creator, and while willing to acknowledge the life-giving help of various Guides, may not pivot, as Christian

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theology does, upon the revelation and incarnation of God in Christ, and the redemptive work he (Christ) objectively, and on our behalf, achieved, and

WHEREAS most Aboriginal Spiritualities, while having a profound respect for the "sacredness" of creation, may challenge the clear dividing line which Genesis, the Nicene Creed and the Reformed theology enshrined in our subordinate standards places between what is God (the Creator) and what is not God (the creation), and in shared ritual may tempt Christians to give worship to what is not God, and

WHEREAS most Aboriginal Spiritualities have an understanding of revealed wisdom and of covenant, these views may be challenging to the view which Christian Scripture advances concerning the particularity/election of Israel as the bearer of God's revelation, the specific terms of the covenant, and the idea of a closed canon, and

WHEREAS most Aboriginal Spiritualities have a respect for elders and for ancestors which connects with the biblical commandment to honour parents and the Old Testament custom of giving forebears a memorial and a name, Christian views of the life to come may be challenged at the point where Aboriginal Spiritualities tend to regard our ancestors as still present/accessible to us, and

WHEREAS most Aboriginal Spiritualities are very alive to the notion of Spirit, Christians are enjoined to discern whenever the spirit realm is invoked "which spirit is this?," our notion of the Holy Spirit, identified with God and with Jesus in Triune relation, being quite specific; and

WHEREAS the commitment of the Presbyterian Church in Canada, both in word and in financial expenditure to the process of Confession/Truth, and Healing/Reconciliation with the First Nations Community has been deep, ministry grants toward work with Aboriginal Peoples constituting between 42 and 46% of all Canadian Ministries grants for the years 2014-16 (LMA revised draft budget 2016); and

WHEREAS the Assembly Council and the LMA are currently considering the three overtures (overtures no. 16, 22 and 36 (2015)) sent to the last Assembly which request the establishment of a Native Ministries Endowment Fund, to ensure that the commitment of our Church to these ministries will continue and deepen; and

WHEREAS the Assembly Council briefing notes from November 2015 intimate that of the 7 areas in which the final report of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission has called churches to action # 6 (referencing #61 of the TRC's calls to action) concerns the provision of "**permanent ongoing funding for projects that promote Indigenous** healing and reconciliation, culture, language and **spirituality**;" (emphasis added) and



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WHEREAS the Assembly Council briefing notes from November 2015 intimate that #3 of these 7 areas (taking up #48, 60 and 61 of the TRC's calls to action) concerns Indigenous Spirituality explicitly, in that the churches are being called upon to "educate clergy, laity and candidates for ministry to respect **in its own right**, Indigenous Spirituality as '**a valid form of worship equal to their own**' (emphasis added); and

WHEREAS such "calls" to regard Indigenous Spirituality as a Way equivalent to the Gospel of Jesus Christ, graciously made known to us as the one Way which has been given under heaven, among mortals, whereby we may have Reconciliation with and know the Truth about God, and moreover to provide "permanent ongoing funding for projects that promote" not the Christian Way, but the Way of "Indigenous....spirituality" as "a valid form of worship equal to [our] own," go a bridge too far in light of the exclusivity of worship and allegiance commanded by the LORD of us, the covenant people; and

WHEREAS the intention of Assembly Council, as intimated in the briefing notes of November 2015, to formulate recommendations on how the Church will implement [the] TRC Calls to Action" by calling on the expertise of "The [Assembly Council] Executive in collaboration with Justice Ministries" woefully underestimates the issues of Doctrine at stake, and the right of Assembly as a whole to have participation as well as the final say in the "planning [of] a way forward," when the issue is as critical as this one,

THEREFORE the Session of Westminster-St. Paul's Presbyterian Church humbly overtures the Venerable, the 142nd General Assembly to

1. refer to the Committee on Church Doctrine the matter of whether Christians can respect Indigenous Spirituality in such a way as to conclude that "in its own right" it is "a valid form of worship, [revelation of God and provision of a path of salvation] equal to [Christians'] own" for report to the 143rd General Assembly,
2. request from this Committee a facilitated table group discussion to take place at the 143rd General Assembly on the content of its paper, with the record of this discussion feeding back to the Committee together with the usually requested feedback from congregations, sessions, presbyteries, synods and national agencies and committees,
3. request from the Committee on Church Doctrine, once it has completed this process, two statements (or a statement in two parts) upon which Assembly will vote:
  - a. a doctrinal statement outlining those areas in which appreciation of Indigenous Spirituality can be articulated from the Christian point of view, and also the limits upon the ability of Christians to affirm Indigenous Wisdom teachings and ways which conflict with our theological affirmations.
  - b. a statement defining the worship practices which Presbyterian members, and ruling and teaching elders may participate in or lead without syncretism, and which practices must be regarded as "strange fire."

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4. provide for the communication of these statements to all congregational and non-congregational ministries and missions of the Presbyterian Church, and for the reflection of their permissions and limits in the Book of Forms.
5. defer any decision upon the creation of an Endowment Fund for Native Ministries until after these matters have been decided by the Assembly
6. communicate to those involved in Native Ministries that this period of reflection on what is and is not sustainable within Christian theological thinking and worship practice by no means detracts from the PCC's commitment to the Confession made in 1994, or its ongoing financial commitment to ministry with Aboriginal Peoples, or to do otherwise, as Assembly in its wisdom, may deem best.

The Session further agreed to request that the overture be referred to the Committee on Church Doctrine.

Extracted from the records of the Session of Westminster-St. Paul's Presbyterian Church by Robert J. Renton, Clerk.

Robert J. Renton  
Clerk of Session

Karla Wübbenhorst  
Moderator of Session