

The Presbytery of Waterloo Wellington met via Zoom meeting, on Tuesday, June 15th, 2021; at 7pm. The Moderator, Rev. Peter Bush led the Presbytery in worship. After worship, the moderator constituted the Presbytery and opened in prayer.

### **Attendance and Regrets**

#### **Ministers**

Rev. John Borthwick, Rev. Dr. Aubrey Botha, Rev. Diane Boyd, Rev. Peter Bush (Moderator), Rev. Susan Clarke, Rev. Courtney Crawford, Rev. Hugh Donnelly, Rev. Dr. Herb Gale, Rev. Mark Gaskin, Rev. Scott McAndless, Rev. Alex Macleod, Rev. Kathy Morden, Rev. Johan Olivier, Rev. Nick Pavel, Rev. Megan Penfold, Rev. Scott Sinclair, Rev. Dr. Frank Szatmari, , Rev. Michelle Yoon

#### **Representative Elders**

Jeanette Bomhoff, Todd Cowan, Janet de Groot, Peter DeVries, George Forsyth, Andrew Foster, Pauline Hall, Frank Kivell, Werner Kuemmling, Peggy Lennox, Dave Mallet, Doug McCaig, Gib McIlwrath, Vern Platt, Sue Senior, Louise Sharpe-Berge, Bonnie Street, Dr. Wilma Welsh,

**Alt. Rep Elders:** Ann Wilson **WMS:** Jean Godin

**Appendix:** Rev. Arnold Bethune, Rev. Darrell Clarke (Clerk),

**Treasurer:** George Myers;

#### **Regrets:**

**Ministers:** Rev. Dr. Kristine O'Brien, Rev. Glen Soderholm, Rev. Ed Charlton.

**Rep. Elders:** Daewon Lee, Lydia Maitland,

**Appendix:** Rev. Walter Maclean, Revs. Brooke and Linda Ashfield

The Moderator welcomed the Presbytery and guests and informed the Presbytery of changes to the roll:

#### **Changes to the Presbytery Roll:**

- Rev. Greg Smith, transferred to Calgary Macleod, May 21, 2021
- Rev. Jane Swatridge, transferred to London, June 1, 2021
- Candace Delane, Rep. Elder, Knox Preston. Resigned.

#### **Adoption of Proposed Agenda**

Moved by Peter DeVries/Doug McCaig that the agenda as presented/amended be approved.

#### **Approval of the Minutes**

Moved by Susan Clarke/Sue Senior that the minutes of May 11, 2021 regular meeting of Presbytery, May 18 and May 27, 2021 Emergent Meetings, be approved as presented. Carried.

**STATED HOUR 7:30PM :** Amalgamation of the Congregations of Westminster-St. Paul's, St. Andrew's and Knox, Guelph – See Appendix "A"

The report of the Presbytery Oversight Committee was presented by Peter Bush, Interim Moderator of Westminster-St. Paul's. (see "Appendix "A")

The Moderator was recused and the past moderator, Gib McIlwrath, assumed the chair.

Moved and duly seconded that the moderator of Presbytery be recused, and that the past Moderator take the chair. Carried

Moved and duly seconded that the Report of the Oversight Committee with the proposed Amalgamation Plan be received and considered. Carried

*As the Property and Finance Committee provides oversight over the finances and property of the Presbytery (held in trust by the congregations), and make recommendations to Presbytery, as per the Terms of Reference: Provide Advice and Recommendations on the Disposition of Property (by the Presbytery)*

Moved by Peter deVries/Todd Cowan that as per the Terms of Reference 7.8 of the Standing Committees on Property and Finance (as found in the Standing Orders of the Presbytery and extract provided above) it is moved that the Property and Finance committee appoint a representative to Oversight Committee.

Moved by Peter deVries/Todd Cowan that the Presbytery of Waterloo-Wellington approve the Amalgamation Plan of Westminster-St. Paul with the effective date of Amalgamation set at October 3, 2021.

Moved by Peter deVries/Todd Cowan that the Board of Trustees of Westminster St. Paul's, with the supervision of the Oversight Committee be given approval to conduct an appraisal of the building and property, providing a copy to the business committee, Session and Board of Westminster-St. Paul's, the Sessions of Knox and St. Andrew's.

Moved by Peter deVries/Todd Cowan That the distribution of assets, with the amalgamation plan, be forwarded immediately by the Oversight Committee, to the Commission on Assets.

Moved by Peter deVries/Todd Cowan that an emergent meeting of the Presbytery be held, ten days from the receipt of the Commission on Assets approval, to give permission to the Trustees of Westminster-St. Paul to list the building and property for sale under the supervision of the Oversight committee.

Moved by Peter deVries/Todd Cowan that a Citation to appear before Presbytery, for each congregation affected, be sent by the Clerk of Presbytery, with the citation being read before the congregations at least two Sundays within ten days of receipt of the Committee on Assets approval; to appear at the emergent meeting, and that the congregations choose representatives, to speak on their behalf.

*Note: We are hopeful that the Commission on Assets approves the amalgamation plan. However, if the Commission does not approve and makes recommendations to the Presbytery; the plan, and the committee's comments, will be returned to the presbytery for its consideration and resubmission.*

Moved by Peter deVries/Todd Cowan that one of the conditions of the sale will be the Business Committee's review and approval, taking into account the amount of the offer and the person/organization offering to purchase it.

Moved by Peter deVries/Todd Cowan that the amalgamation date be set at October 3rd, 2021, with a service of amalgamation held on Sunday, October 3rd at Westminster-St. Paul, led by the Revs. John Borthwick of St. Andrew's and the Rev. Johan Olivier of Knox. The Presbytery will assemble at 2:30pm and the service starting at 3pm.

#### **STATED HOUR 8:00 PM: Report on New Committee System – See Appendix “B”**

Moved by Peter Bush and duly seconded that the report of the Special Committee on the Standing Committee restricting “New Committee System”, be received and considered. Carried.

Rev. Peter Bush presented the report on New Standing Committee System. This report had been made available in March for comments and changes. Notice of motion was provided at the May meeting.

Moved by Peter Bush and duly seconded that the report of the committee serves as the recommendation to Presbytery. To amend the Standing Orders, as per section 14, a 2/3 majority of the Presbytery in attendance at a regular meeting, is required. **Carried.**

#### **During the discussion it was noted that Nominations would be in September and November**

Moved by Ed Charlton and duly seconded that the report of the special committee on the new committee system for the Presbytery of Waterloo-Wellington be approved with the following sections of the Standing Orders of the Presbytery of Waterloo-Wellington being amended:

Subsection 1.1.2.1 Strike “will reflect the quadrants”.

Section 1.1.2.3 Stricken and Section 1.4.3 Stricken

Section 7.2 ff (for greater clarity: secs. 7.2, 7.3, 7.4, 7.5, 7.6, 7.7, 7.8) be stricken and replaced with the committee nomination process, procedures and responsibilities described in the approved report. And all committee names currently in the Standing Orders be updated, to reflect the committee naming protocol in the approved report. Carried.

**STATED HOUR 8:30 PM: Reports of General Assembly Commissioners (see Appendix “H”)**

Moved by That the General Assembly Commissioners be invited to present their reports to Presbytery.

Three commissioners provided reports from General Assembly 2021. Rev. Kathy Morden provided an overall summary of the assembly, its major decisions and online format. Sue Senior provided a report on the Rainbow Committee. Rev. Frank Szatmari provided a written report to the Presbytery.

Moved by John Borthwick/Andrew Foster that the General Assembly Commissioners receive the thanks of the Presbytery of Waterloo-Wellington for their service and representation of the Presbytery and that their reports be accepted and included in the minutes of this meeting. Carried.

The moderator thanked the commissioners on behalf of the Presbytery for their commitment to General Assembly this year.

It was noted by Peter deVries that Rev. Peter Bush was called out at General Assembly for his continuing dedication to Presbyterian History.

**Other Reports**

- a. Business Committee – Darrell Clarke - See Appendix “C” p. 10

Recommendation

Moved and duly seconded that the report of the Business Committee be received and considered.

Recommendation

Moved and duly seconded that the decision of the Business Committee in the distribution of correspondence be homologated.

The Clerk updated the following correspondence items:

21-104 should read: Non-Receipt of Presbytery approved funds of March regular meeting, 2019 and update on previously committed second year funding. As well 21-112 June 11,2021 – Letter Rev Scott Sinclair – confirming the funding agreement between the Presbytery and Gale Elmira (dated Dec/March 2019)

Covid Congregational Grant Applications were received from three congregations.

Moved by That the applications for a grant from the Congregational Covid Fund, received from the Sessions of Knox Crieff, PC, Knox PC, Elora and Doon PC, be approved. Carried.

**One application for the Congregational Renewal Fund was received.**

Moved by Ed Charlton and duly seconded that the application for a grant from the Congregational Renewal Fund in the amount of \$12,000, received from the Session of St. Andrew's Guelph, be approved. Carried.

**Transfer of the Rev. Scott Sinclair to the Presbytery of Grey Bruce Maitland**

Move by Peter Bush and duly seconded that the Rev. Scott Sinclair be transferred to the care of the Presbytery of Bruce-Grey-Maitland, and with regret, his name be removed the roll of the Presbytery of Waterloo-Wellington, effective July 1, 2021; with a certificate of Transfer from the clerk of this Presbytery. Carried.

#### **Election of Moderator for 2021-2022**

Moved by Gib McIlwrath and duly seconded that the Rev. William Bynum be nominated as the Moderator of the Presbytery of Waterloo-Wellington for the year 2021-2022. Carried.

#### **The clerk provided a brief update on the progress of the closure of Livingston, Baden.**

The process is moving forward as planned, starting with the Board of Trustees being notified of the dissolution of Livingston Presbyterian Church, on May 22, 2021. PCC CFO, Oliver Ing, suggested that the buildings be placed under the national insurance program as the church would have difficulty in meeting its next policy payment. This has been done. Rev. Linda Ashfield, interim moderator of Livingston is leading in the challenging job of cleaning out the church, locating key documents and supporting the congregation through this difficult time. Other parties that have been using the space have been contacted and notified that if there is any remaining materials that they should retrieve them otherwise they will remain with the building as of June 30, 2021.

#### **The COVID Congregational Fund of the Development Fund Reports**

The clerk will send out a schedule for congregations receiving the grants to report back to Presbytery at November and January's meetings.

Moved by Ed Charlton/Gib McIlwrath that the report of the Business Committee as a whole, be approved. Carried

#### **Treasurer's Report, George Myers (4 pdf attachments), See Appendix "D"**

Moved by Gib McIlwrath and duly seconded that the Treasurer's Report be received and considered. Carried.

The Presbytery treasurer, George Myers, provided an update on the performance of the consolidated fund. He also updated the Presbytery on the state of the budget YTD and the Development Fund. He noted that congregations with outstanding Presbytery assessments are preparing to pay what is owed year to date.

Moved by Gib McIlwrath/Vern Platt seconded that the financial statements of the Presbytery, dated May 31, 2021, be accepted, Carried

Moved by Gib McIlwrath/Vern Platt that the report of the Treasurer as a whole, be approved. Carried

#### **Property and Finance Report, Gib McIlwrath', see Appendix "E"**

Moved by Gib McIlwrath/Vern Platt that the report of the Property and Finance Committee be received for consideration. Carried.

Gib McIlwrath, convener of the Property and Finance committee presented the report of the committee. We reviewed various requests from congregations for grants from the Renewal/Implementation Ready Fund

In consideration of at least two congregations requesting additional grants from the Renewal/Implementation Ready Projects Fund, we will make the following Recommendation(s):

#### **Recommendation #1**

Moved by Gib McIlwrath/Vern Platt that the deadline for first requests from the Renewal/Implementation Ready Projects will be September 1, 2021.

Friendly Amendment: September 1 become October 1, 2021.

Revised Recommendation

Moved by Gib McIlwrath/Vern Platt that the deadline for first requests from the Renewal/Implementation Ready Projects will be October 1, 2021. Carried.

## **Recommendation #2**

Moved by Gib McIlwrath/Vern Platt that depending on the availability of funds, Congregations may submit requests for grants of up to \$6,000 from the Renewal/Implementation Ready Fund. Carried.

## **Future Meetings**

The clerk presented the dates for meetings for the 2021-2022 term of the Presbytery. It was noted by the moderator that the question of requiring presbyters to be fully vaccinated if they are attending a meeting in-person. As this time there is no requirement for presbyters to be vaccinated in order to attend presbytery. The Bus. Comm. leaves open the question of whether only those who are fully vaccinated should be allowed to attend, for the Presbytery to discuss if they wish to.

### **Recommendation:**

That the Pres. of WW return to in-person meetings, barring changes in public health guidelines which prevent such gatherings."

Gib McIlwrath motioned that the discussion be tabled. No seconder.

The original motion was amended as follows:

Moved by John Borthwick/Janet DeGroot that the Presbytery of Waterloo-wellington return to in person meetings for September 2021 and June 2022, barring changes in public health guidelines which prevent such gatherings, with all other regular and emergent meetings, with the exception of inductions, amalgamations and ordinations.

Reasons for and against the amended recommendation were heard. Dissent was recorded from G. McIlwrath, G. Forsyth, T. Cowan, M. Richardson).

Dissent of Todd Cowan, rep. elder: As an elder and a Presbytery Representative for Doon Presbyterian Church, I register my no vote from recommendation 15 on meeting in person. The motion was that we would only meet in person September 2021, and June 2022. I strongly oppose this motion. As a new member of Presbytery I feel it is paramount for all members have an opportunity to bond through fellowship. I have been a board member of many public and private boards. The strength of each board is the fellowship and personal contact with others. During a global pandemic we have been able to conduct business via zoom. Now that we are coming out of the pandemic, it will soon be time to meet again. To address the statement of efficiency and reduced drive time is a valid point when the meeting is expected to be brief. For regular meetings I believe it is imperative to meet in person.

Additional Recommendation was made:

Moved by John Borthwick/Vern Platt that those attending in person meetings of the presbytery, it is strognyl recommended that you be vaccinated. Carried.

### **Below is the revised list of meetings and formats.**

**June 27, 2021: 2:00 PM:** Service of Dissolution, Livingston PC, Baden,

**September 14, 2021**, 7PM: Regular Meeting at the home church of the moderator elect..

**September 26:** Induction of Rev. Marty Molengraaf at St. Andrew's, Kitchener (Presbytery 2:30PM, Service begins at 3:00PM)

**Regular Meetings all at 7PM via zoom:**

Nov. 9, 2021; Jan. 11, 2022; Mar. 8, 2022 ; May 9, 2022; and Jun. 21, 2022 Hybrid/Loc. TBD.

**Business Committee (as necessary in July and August via zoom).**

Sept. 7 Zoom; Oct. 5, 2021, (w New Committee chairs and moderator elect and former moderator).

Nov. 2, 2021, Dec 7, 2021, Jan 4, Feb.1, Mar. 1, Apr. 5, May 3, Jun.14, 2022.

## **Adjournment**

**Moved by Sue Senior/Megan Penfold that the meeting be adjourned. Carried.**

**Appendix "A"**- Amalgamation Plan Westminster-St. Paul's Presbyterian Church, Guelph with St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Guelph and Knox Presbyterian Church, Guelph

### **Amalgamation Plan Westminster-St. Paul's Presbyterian Church, Guelph with St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Guelph and Knox Presbyterian Church, Guelph Dated – June 2, 2021**

The Congregation of Westminster-St. Paul's Presbyterian Church, Guelph, Ontario is the result of an amalgamation of two congregations: St. Paul's Presbyterian Church a congregation on the east side of the downtown area and Westminster Presbyterian Church a church extension work in the north-east part of Guelph. The newly amalgamated congregation was supported by Knox Presbyterian Church, Guelph and St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Guelph by prayer, by people from those congregations who lived in the north-east part of Guelph joining the Westminster-St. Paul's, and through significant financial support.

The Congregation of Westminster-St. Paul's desires to amalgamate with both St. Andrew's Church, Guelph and Knox Church, Guelph. That is, congregation members will be free to join either Knox or St. Andrew's and the congregational assets from Westminster-St. Paul's will be divided between the two congregations. While such multilateral amalgamations (in this case involving three parties) are not common in The Presbyterian Church in Canada, a multilateral amalgamation took place among four Presbyterian congregations in Guelph in 1882. That year, First Presbyterian Church, Guelph amalgamated with St. Andrew's, Knox, and Chalmers

Presbyterian Church (later Chalmers United Church). Thus, Presbyterians in Guelph have a long history of using amalgamations for the advancement of the reign of God and in ways that support the spiritual hopes of congregants.

A number of the items that take up substantial space in most amalgamation plans are not relevant in this context.

## **PASTORAL LEADERSHIP**

Westminster-St. Paul's has no pastoral leadership beyond supply preachers and an interim moderator. Their involvement with Westminster-St. Paul's will end when the amalgamation is completed, no transition allowance will be required. The Transition Allowance for the Rev. Karla Wuebbenhorst continues until Nov. 2021.

Westminster-St. Paul's will provide termination allowances to the Church Secretary, Custodian, and Treasurer. There is no expectation of the amalgamated congregations providing allowances or employment to these part-time staff persons.

## **GOVERNANCE**

None of the presently serving elders at Westminster-St. Paul's desires to serve on a Session of the amalgamated congregations. The elders are unanimous in desiring a break from leadership as the last three plus years have been exhausting.

#### INFRASTRUCTURE

The Property and Finance Committee of Session at Westminster-St. Paul's will dissolve with the sale of the building and the distribution of the assets. The Trustees Board will dissolve with the sale of the building.

#### ASSETS

By the time the amalgamation is enacted Westminster-St. Paul's will have used all of its cash, bequests, and reserve funds. It will have a debt to The Presbytery of Waterloo-Wellington for a loan, which by that time will be in the \$100,000 range. This will be the only debt on the books.

The sale of the building will produce the funds needed to pay the loan and the costs related to the sale of the building.

The congregation designates \$200,000 to the Kenora Fellowship Centre (this fulfills the goal established in the Amalgamation Guidelines of giving 10-15% of the net proceeds to a ministry(ies) of The Presbyterian Church in Canada outside the bounds of the presbytery).

Further designates \$20,000 each to the 6 congregations of: Eden Mills Church, Rockwood Church, Crieff Church, Duff's Church (Puslinch), Two Rivers Church (Guelph), and Kortright Church (Guelph). That is a total of \$120,000.

The remainder will be divided equally between St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Guelph and Knox Presbyterian Church, Guelph.

#### CRA CHARITABLE NUMBER

Westminster-St. Paul's charitable number will be the one being revoked. There is no name change happening to the other two congregations. The process of revoking the charitable number will be managed by the congregational treasurers.

#### CHATELS

A number of things that Westminster-St. Paul's possesses have been marked to be kept, specifically the contents of the Heritage cabinet, photos of past ministers, and some pen-line drawings of the church buildings leading to Westminster-St. Paul's present structure. Conversations about the preservation of these items are well underway.

Congregations in the presbytery will be given an opportunity to acquire some items that they may find useful in their ministry. A list of those items will be circulated once it is known what items the purchaser wants to keep.

It is hoped that the purchaser will be interested in a number of the items in the building from appliances to tables and chairs to desks and the furniture in the lounge.

Items like communion ware and baptismal font will be treated with respect when seeking a place for them to go.

#### ARCHIVAL RECORDS

The Congregational Archivist from St. Andrew's Church, Guelph will play a lead role in this process which will follow the pattern outlined in the Amalgamation Guidelines prepared by the General Assembly Office.

#### \SPACE IN AMALGAMATED CONGREGATIONS

Named Space

Both Knox and St. Andrew's have indicated that they will be naming space inside their buildings for Westminster-St. Paul's as a way to keep the memory of the congregation alive. To be clear there is no expectation that either congregation will change their name as a result of this amalgamation.

### **Pastoral Care**

While a number of members of Westminster-St. Paul's will be physically attending services in the amalgamated congregations, others who are in nursing homes will not be able to indicate which congregation they wish to be part of. St. Andrew's and Knox have undertaken, in conversation with the present Session of WSP, to add these persons to the visiting lists of one of the amalgamated congregations.

The people of WSP have a connection to the north-east part of Guelph, and Knox and St. Andrew's through their pastoral assistants will facilitate opportunities for neighbour gatherings in ways and at times deemed appropriate.

### **Membership**

Given the present COVID moment meaning that it is difficult and even impossible for congregations to meet in person, members of Westminster-St. Paul's will be given time to select which of St. Andrew's and Knox they wish to join. The choice of membership will be understood to be fluid, open to change.

### **Final service at WSP**

The final service at WSP, when that occurs, will be at WSP led in person by the ministers of Knox and St. Andrew's. Joining the ministers will a small group of members from each of those congregations who will join with the people of WSP in the worship gathering. The worship gathering will be broadcast on both St. Andrew's and Knox's websites.

## **Appendix "B" - Presentation of The Report on New Committee System**

Report on New Committee System  
The Presbytery of Waterloo-Wellington

### **BACKGROUND**

The present Committee structure is: Business Comm.; Education, Issues, and Fellowship; Mission; Ministry; Congregational Affairs; and Property and Finance. The Business Comm. which is made up of Moderator, Past Moderator, Clerk, Treasurer, and the convenors of the other 5 committees. Property and Finance is named by the Presbytery. The other four rotate every three years among the four quadrants of the Presbytery.

A Task Group was drawn together of those who volunteered to be on the group: Diane Boyd, Johan Olivier, Megan Penfold, Scott Sinclair, Glen Soderholm, and Peter Bush (Convenor). We also received input from presbyters and one Session who responded to the study document that was circulated.

We wish to make the following disclaimer: It is not the task of this group, nor do we have the ability, to fix the Presbytery of Waterloo-Wellington, whatever that might mean. We have sought to remain focussed on the Committee system.

If the changes are adopted to become effective Sept. 2021, the Task Group will remain in place until the Nov. 2021 meeting of Presbytery to facilitate the transition.

The process with this document will be:

- a. Introduced to the May meeting with discussion around questions of clarity and understanding. There will also be an opportunity after those questions have been responded to, to debate the document. Including amendments to its shape and scope.
- b. Notice of motion will be given at the May meeting for a vote at the June meeting.

- c. The detailed motion changing the standing orders will be introduced at the June meeting for debate. It will be introduced as one motion, not in pieces.
- d. If the motion passes it will be implemented in Sept. 2021.

## PREAMBLE

Ephesians 4 states that Christ has given distinct roles to the church “to prepare God’s people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up” (Eph. 4:12). Those roles are: Apostles (joining the Holy Spirit in calling into being and renewing congregations), Prophets (proclaiming, as the Holy Spirit guides, “Thus saith the Lord.”), Evangelists (through words and actions and led by the Holy Spirit pointing people to Jesus Christ), Shepherds (Pastors) (through the work of the Holy Spirit offer comfort to the hurting and discomfort to the comfortable), and Teachers (as gifted by the Holy Spirit, help people both individually and as congregations into a deeper following of Jesus). If those five roles are needed so God’s people are enabled to do the work of ministry, then it is worth Presbyterians reflecting on how Presbytery’s involvement with congregations fits within those roles.

A second way of thinking about the Presbytery’s calling to assist congregations in the building up the body of Christ, is to ask how do congregations grow. The Alban Institute has suggested that growth can be measured in four ways: Metrics (numbers of members, financial resources); Spiritual growth as people deepen their spiritual life; Systemic growth which identifies the health of an organization's self-understanding and communication of said understanding; Incarnational as people live into their communities more deeply with the love of Jesus.

In addition to those understandings two values have informed our work:

- a. No system will work if there is no collegiality within Presbytery. The heart of the Presbyterian system is a commitment to being in community. Therefore, the Presbytery as a whole must be committed to living into patterns of relationship building and collegiality.
- b. The Presbytery needs to build as lean and as simple scaffolding as possible in its task of supporting congregations in their work.

## TEAM/COMMITTEE STRUCTURE

There will be four standing teams and one committee:

### **Congregational Response Team (Shepherding and Prophetic Role)**

- Seeks to deepen the resilience and improve the health of congregational systems
- Supports congregations in ministry transitions
  - Interim Moderators nominated and supported
  - Exit Interviews
- Supports congregations in conflict
- Manages questions of Boundaries
- Supports congregations exploring closure/amalgamation/dissolution
  - Does this work in liaison with the Property and Finance Team
- Working group on Pastoral Care:
  - each September the Team shall nominate a sub-committee (at least 3 ministers and 2 elders) to give pastoral support and/or counselling to professional Church Workers and Presbyters within the bounds. This sub-committee is responsible to the Presbytery as a whole, through the Congregational Response Team.
- Sub-Committee on Sexual Abuse and/or Harassment

### **Renewal Team (Apostolic and Evangelist Roles)**

- Seeks to deepen the incarnational lives of congregations
- Nurtures an atmosphere of hopeful renewal with the Presbytery

- Facilitating events, contexts and appropriate mentoring/coaching for congregations desiring renewal
- Development of New Worshipping Communities
  - Including (but not limited to) paying attention to areas of residential development within the Presbytery
  - Nurturing leaders for New Worshipping Communities
- Specialized ministries including institutional ministries
- Chaplaincies

### **Equipping Leadership Team (Teaching and Prophetic Roles)**

- Seeks to deepen the spiritual resources of leaders in the presbytery
- Supporting the development of leaders (lay and clergy) within the Presbytery
- Organizing training for clergy and lay leaders
- Orienting new Representative Elders and Ministers of Word and Sacrament to the Presbytery system and ethos
- Recruitment and Certification of students to the Colleges of the Presbyterian Church in Canada.
  - Including the support of students
  - Process for Certification – see Appendix J (Book of Forms).
- Continuing Education, approval for professional Church Workers to be in attendance at continuing education events.
  - Ensuring that those who have taken study leave provide a brief report of their leave.
  - Encouraging Sabbaticals for professional Church Workers
  -

### **Property and Finance Team (Shepherding Role)**

- Reflects on the financial metrics at play in the life of the Presbytery
- Acts as resource to congregational Treasurers and Finance Teams/Boards of Managers within the Presbytery
- The Property and Finance Committee provides oversight over the finances and property of the Presbytery (held in trust by the congregations), and make recommendations to Presbytery, as per the Terms of Reference:
  - Establish the annual budget of Presbytery in consultation with the Treasurer
  - Provide Financial Updates in consultation with the Treasurer
  - Grants and Loans from the Development and Other Funds
  - Requests for funding (in consultation with the specific committees of Presbytery)
  - Recommend approval of Congregation loans (third party, including lines of Credit)
  - Will liaise with Congregational Response Team regarding supports to congregations in financial difficulty
  - Will liaise with Congregational Response Team on the Disposition of Property
  - Use of Property (All Leases, and any rental greater than 1 year)
  - Review of existing loans to Mission and Extension Charges

### **Business Committee**

- The Business Committee is responsible for developing the docket/agenda for each meeting of Presbytery. To that end, it co-ordinates committees' reports to reduce overlap and potential conflict.
- The Business Committee does not evaluate the work that other Teams and Committees bring to the Presbytery. The Business Committee does not manage what the other Teams and Committees bring to the Presbytery other than co-ordination and to ensure that Committees with overlapping interests have communicated with each other.
- The Business Committee manages all correspondence from Assembly Council, Life and Mission Agency, and Financial Services. Included in this is:
  - Letters of acceptance of ministers trained outside of Canada.
  - Presbyterians Sharing
- The Business Committee assists the Moderator of Presbytery as a Committee to Advise regarding Ecumenical presence, the writing of pastoral letters and the like.

## MEMBERSHIP OF TEAMS AND COMMITTEES

Presbyters will sign up for teams on a rotating two-year basis (two-year terms).

In Sept. of each year one half of the presbyters (those whose 2-year terms are ending) will order their top three choices of Teams. The Presbytery will do its best to honour the ordering of choices presbyters make.

Presbyters can choose to remain on the same Team if they wish. Presbyters can serve up to 6 consecutive years on a team, after which they need to join another team for at least one term, before they can return.

At the June meeting of any given team, the team will select its Convenor for the next year.

The Business Committee will be made up of: Moderator, Past Moderator, Clerk, Treasurer, the convenors of each of the 4 teams, and at least 2 and no more than 5 other presbyters, as at-large members.

Presbyters may sign up for more than 1 team or committee.

Over the course of a year, team meetings will circulate so that each member spends approximately the same amount of time travelling to meetings.

The Presbytery will purchase a ZOOM key (or equivalent) for each team or committee.

All presbyters are expected to serve on a team or committee. Clergy presbyters are to fulfill their obligations in presbytery and the wider denomination by serving as an active member of a team or committee; or being an Interim Moderator; or serving on a Synod or National Committee; or doing work for a higher court of the church. It is reasonable for presbyters to spend 100 hours a year on the work of presbytery – that is an average of two hours a week. That time is not equally distributed through the year. If presbyters are balancing a number of denominational responsibilities, they may ask permission to not serve on a presbytery team or committee.

**Business Committee “Appendix C” – Rev. Darrell Clarke**

**Recommendation #1:** That the report of the Business Committee be received and considered.

**a. Correspondence:**

#	Received/Sent	Topic	Referred to:
21	89 Rev. Herb Gale	Reply re Report of the Cong. Health Comm. St. Andrew's, Kit.	Bus .Committee
21	90 Rev. Herb Gale	Translation and Terms of the Call for Rev. Marty Molegraaf	Clerk
21	91 Margie Warren	Signatures of Suscription and Concurrence	Clerk
21	92 Rev. Darrell Clarke (OB)	Inform Trustee Board of Closure of Livingston PC, Baden	CFO, PCC
21	93 Rev. Darrell Clarke (OB)	Overature of Knox, Conn Session to GAO	Secretary. GAO
21	94 Terrie-Lee Hamilton	Receipt of Overture and scheduling for June 2022 Assembly	Clerk
21	95 Warren MacEachren	Request of the Session of Knox, Palmerston to sell manse	Bus. Committee
21	96 Mavis Currie	Offer of Appointment of Rev. Jane Swatridge	Bus. Committee
21	97 Marjorie Copeland	Changes affecting ministers, Church Statistics . A and P	Clerk
21	98 Rev. Darrell Clarke (OB)	Completiton of Changes Affectcring Ministers	GAO
21	99 Kathryn Muir	Review of Church Informatin in A and P	Clerk
21	100 Walter MacNeil	Application for Covid Fund Grant (Crieff)	Bus. Committee
	Carrie Thornton	Interim Ministry Agreement, J Swatridge	Clerk
21	101 Rev John Borthwick		Clerk
21	102 Theresa MacDonald	Kintail Newsletter and Summer program announcement	Presbytery
21	103 Rev. Peter Bush	Latest ed. Presbyterian History	Presbytery
21	104 Rev. Scott Sinclair	Funding for position update and request	Clerk, CFO PCC
21	105 Lisa Drover, Public Guardians Office	Appointment of Presbytery as Estate Trustee, Knox's Galt	Clerk
21	106 Jennifer de Combe	Cyclical Program Survey	Clerk
21	107 Rev. Megan Penfold	Application for Covid Fund Grant (Doon)	Bus. Comm.
21	108 Rev. Peter Bush	WSP Amalgamation Plan	Bus. Comm.
21	109 Rev. Ross Lockhart	Certificate in Missional Leadership program	Presbytery
21	110 Rev. John Borthwick	Application for Cong. Ren. Grant, St. Andrew's, Guelph	Bus. Comm
21	111 Joni Smith	\$215 Challenge to all Presbytery Sunday Schools re fundraising for WICM in recognition of the Kamloops resiidential school discovery.	Presbytery

**Recommendation #2**

That the decision of the Business Committee in the distribution of correspondence be homologated.

**Update on Correspondence:**

21-104 Non-Receipt of Presbytery approved funds of March regular meeting, 2019 and update on previously committed second year funding.

**Additional Correspondence:**

112 June 11 – Letter Rev Scott Sinclair – confirming the funding agreement between the Presbytery and Gale Elmira (dated Dec/March 2019)

113 June 11 – Two Rivers Canoe the Grand –

114 June 13 – Congregational Covid Grant Request – Knox PC, Elora

115 June 14 – Rev. Dr. Frank Sztamari – GA commissioner report

**c. Covid19 Congregational Fund Applications:**

**#C21-17: Knox PC, Crieff**

At our recent Zoom Session meeting the topic of requesting a grant was on the agenda. At the beginning of the pandemic Rev Michelle shared God's message through email. It then progressed to a YouTube and Facebook Service presentations. Over the last while we have seen a rise in viewership on those two (2) platforms as comparable to our pre pandemic Sunday Service attendance.

Since no one knows what the post pandemic scene for in person services will be, we would like to keep using those two (2) platforms to spread God's message and Jesus's teachings. In order to assist us in keeping those

goals we request a grant of \$7950. This will be used to cover the costs of equipment such as a laptop and accessories (\$2365), camera (\$3000) and taxes, misc connections/cords, installation and technical support (\$2585), Thank you and we appreciate your consideration on this matter.

**“Moved by Walter Mac Neil and seconded by Linda Markle that we would apply for the Covid Congregational Fund offered by the Presbytery of Waterloo Region. Note: Walter Mac Neil will research and submit the proposal to the Business Committee of the Presbytery “**

### **#C21-18: Doon PC**

Application the Presbytery of Waterloo Wellington Covid Fund  
Doon Presbyterian Church

Since October of 2020, Doon has been pre-recording worship services and broadcasting them on YouTube. They have been circulated via our online newsletter and the congregation’s Facebook page. All services since January 2021 are also fully searchable on YouTube. This has enabled the congregation to feel a continued connection to one another, and it has enabled us to reach a broader congregation than would normally be possible as we have people joining us from across Canada and around the world. As we consider a return to in-person worship the Session have determined that it would be beneficial to begin livestreaming our worship services using YouTube live. We recognize that there will be some who will be hesitant to return to church right away, there will be others who simply cannot attend regularly because of health or distance, and still others who might simply benefit from coming across our service online by happenstance.

Currently we are recording everything on the iPhone of a member of our congregation who then edits, renders, and uploads everything at home on his personal computer. This is very limiting in what kind of shots we can include, and it places a heavy workload on one individual. It is not sustainable for the future. Therefore, we would like to use the bulk of our allotted Covid 19 Fund grant to upgrade our technical capacity.

We intend to use the funds in the following way:

#### Tech Upgrade

New laptop in order to accommodate livestreaming and future video editing: \$2500

Video camera: \$3000

Purchase of a higher quality microphone: \$400

Purchase an access point to provide wifi internet signal outside to live stream outdoor worship \$250

Purchase of additional cables and cords required to connect everything \$300

#### Neighbourhood Outreach

In the past Doon has done some excellent work in beginning to reach out to the neighbourhood around it. We are blessed to be in a mixed residential area and would like to continue reaching out. Therefore, we also plan to use some of the Covid 19 Funds available to us to host neighbourhood celebrations once the restrictions are adequately lifted, including a Parking Lot Party and an event during Advent for families. These events would include games, food, music and opportunities to build relationships and would be offered at no cost to the neighbours: \$2000 Total request: **\$8,450**

#### **Extract of Minute supporting this plan:**

**Moved by: Bob Galbraith/Seconded by: Todd Cowan. Carried. Tuesday June 1, 2021**

### **#C21-19: Knox PC, Elora,**

To: Darrell Clarke, Clerk of Waterloo Wellington Presbytery

From: Knox Presbyterian Church, Elora June 12, 2021.

Thank you to the Presbytery of Waterloo Wellington for the foresight in setting up the Congregational Covid Fund. Like many congregations, prior to March of 2020 our only presence on the internet was our website and

Facebook page. Within a week of ceasing in person services, we began offering online services for St. Andrew's, Alma and Knox, Elora through Knox's Facebook page using what equipment we had. Aside from the purchase of editing software little has changed since then. We would like to make an initial application for \$4000 for equipment upgrades including a new laptop computer, camera and tripod.

We are also aware that our virtual presence does not reach anyone who does not have internet or online (this includes many of our seniors). We are asking for a \$1000 for a pilot project to distribute digital picture frames and memory sticks with our services and other programming recorded at Knox. So far, we have invested \$400 and would use the additional funds to expand the program.

At our June 2, 2021, meeting of session we passed the following request for half (\$5000) the grant money allowed for each congregation under the terms of the Congregational Covid Fund.

***A Motion was made by Sylvia Renshaw that we request some of the Congregational Covid Fund money to purchase the existing photo frames and memory sticks as well as purchased additional units, seconded by Alan Israel. Carried.***

***A Motion was made by Jim Marfleet that we ask Presbytery for \$5,000.00 from the Congregational Covid Fund to cover both purchase requests, seconded by Jean Jackson. Carried.***

Shelley Maitland, Clerk of Session, Knox Presbyterian Church, Elora

### **Recommendation #3**

That the applications for a grant from the Congregational Covid Fund, received from the Sessions of Knox Crieff, PC, Knox PC, Elora and Doon PC, be approved.

## **b. Congregational Renewal Fund Applications**

### **#R21-05: Application to the Congregational Renewal Fund St. Andrew's Guelph**

Application to Congregational Renewal Fund - The Abbey; St. Andrew's Guelph, June 9, 2021

As a response to the post-pandemic reality of Church, St. Andrew's Guelph is creating "The Abbey" - A safe space to nurture spiritual things and to care for those who tend to all things spiritual.

Why this idea? The pandemic has shown us that there is an interest in and curiosity for spiritual things but not in the traditional packaging. Rev. John Borthwick recently completed a course called Hybrid Ministry: Post-Pandemic Church with Ryan Panzer in partnership with Luther Seminary. In the course, Ryan Panzer ([www.ryanpanzer.com](http://www.ryanpanzer.com)) referenced, not surprisingly, that daily online engagement (Netflix, YouTube, Facebook) has risen dramatically since March 2020. Studies from the Barna Group indicate that those who have no religious affiliation, often called the "Nones", have felt their faith strengthened since the Spring of 2020 by seeking out spaces where they could ask questions and explore their spirituality. Google trends indicate that there has been a sustained increase in searches related to religion and spirituality (previously it was stagnant or more often declining). As Ryan Panzer, author of *Grace and Gigabytes*, says: "The Church needs to find a way to show up in those spaces." Another thinker in this area, Casper ter Kuile and author of *The Power of Ritual*, has said: "The distribution systems [of Church] are becoming obsolete... but not the practices or the wisdom itself... and the spiritual longing is as strong as ever."

The pandemic has also taken a toll on clergy and church leaders. Many are burnt out and struggling in the contexts that they find themselves. So many feel alone. They are searching for safe spaces to share their struggles and find support and encouragement for this challenging re-entry and future ahead.

The authors of *Being the Church in a Post-Pandemic World: Game Changers for the Post-Pandemic Church* express it succinctly:

*"The post-pandemic church must be a digital church. Whether this is a both/and approach (on-site and online) [hybrid] or only online, we must be a digital church. We must offer online ministry, not just online worship."*

The Abbey is our answer to a part of this longing and St. Andrew's engagement in this area. The Abbey will be a virtual space that will seek to provide what monasteries sought to offer. This will be a safe space for: learning, rest and healing, practicing spirituality, and nourishing one's body and soul. It was open to strangers and travellers as well as church leaders and members.

To support The Abbey's mission we will explore the following under two pillars:

#### Nurturing Spiritual Things

- Sharable, short content of a spiritual nature (prayer and worship, inspirational, questions and dialogue) that will seek to appeal to all ages
- Webinars, ZOOMerviews
- Mediated Virtual Pilgrimages and Retreats
- Occasional Meetups (in-person) with virtual community
- Spiritual Direction (offered in partnership with others)

#### Care For Those Who Tend To All Things Spiritual

- Webinars to support church leaders
- Hosting guest presentations
- Facilitated discussion groups
- Workshops for congregations
- Coaching and spiritual direction (offered in partnership with others)

And finally, in the "spirit of a monastery", we will seek collaborations with businesses both locally (and potentially beyond) to provide "bread, beer, and books".

We are requesting a \$12,000 Renewal Grant to support the implementation of this project by the Fall/Winter of 2021.

We will use these funds in the following ways:

- Investment in equipment to build our "The Abbey Studio" space;
- Costs for subscriptions to online platforms (discussion space, networking space, reservation system, seminar hosting platform);
- Software for video production and graphic design;
- Cost to equip "mobile virtual kiosk" for use in hybrid gatherings;
- Seed money to support the initial contracting of professional assistance in the areas of social media, video production, web and graphic design;
- Consulting services for designing an effective virtual community.

Under the leadership of our minister, Tech Team, and Session, St. Andrew's Guelph will seek to engage partners for this innovative ministry from among our congregation, other ministry leaders, local community, and beyond.

At the Session meeting on Tuesday June 8, 2021, the following motion was passed.

**That the Session of St. Andrew's Guelph apply to the Presbytery for a Renewal Grant of \$12,000 to launch The Abbey in the Fall/Winter of 2021. Carried.**

Respectfully submitted, The Session of St. Andrew's Guelph

#### **Recommendation #4**

That the application for a grant from the Congregational Renewal Fund in the amount of \$12,000, received from the Session of St. Andrew's Guelph, be approved.

**c. Transfer of the Rev. Scott Sinclair to the Presbytery of Grey Bruce Maitland NEW**

**Recommendation #5**

That the Rev. Scott Sinclair be transferred to the care of the Presbytery of Bruce-Grey-Maitland, and with regret, his name be removed the roll of the Presbytery of Waterloo-Wellington, effective July 1, 2021; with a certificate of Transfer from the clerk of this Presbytery.

**d. Election of Moderator for 2021-2022**

**Recommendation #6**

That the Rev. William Bynum be nominated as the Moderator of the Presbytery of Waterloo-Wellington for the year 2021-2022.

**For Information only:**

**e. Dissolution of Livingston, Baden Update – Key Points** Linda Ashfield and Darrell Clarke

- On May 22, the clerk informed the Board of Trustees of the dissolution of Livingston Presbyterian Church, effective June 30, 2021.
- The CFO of the PCC, Oliver Ing, then suggested that the buildings be placed under the national insurance program as the church would have difficulty in meeting its next policy payment.
- He also requested that any drawings of the building and the lot survey be sent to his attention as soon as possible so as to conduct a property appraisal.
- Linda Ashfield is leading in the challenging job of cleaning out the church, locating key documents and supporting the congregation through this difficult time.
- One interested party has inquired as to the sale of the property. This information was forwarded to Oliver Ing.
- A list of possible other parties is being compiled.
- Documentation for archives is proving challenging to locate.
- The township archivist has been informed that certain artifacts and related materials are available to the Township museum.
- Other parties that have been using the space have been contacted and notified that if there is any remaining materials that they should retrieve them otherwise they will remain with the building as of June 30, 2021.
- The treasurer of the Presbytery will work with the church treasurer to close the church's books immediately.

**f. The COVID Congregational Fund of the Development Fund Reports**

As per the terms of reference of the The Covid Congregational Fund

*g. Six months after receiving a grant Sessions will be asked to submit a one paragraph report of what happened. (Failure of a plan to work is an acceptable response in the midst of experimentation.)*

With most grants approved in May and June, reports to Presbytery will be required for November and January's meeting's by November 1, 2021 and January 1, 2022 – further communication will be forthcoming.

**Recommendation #6**

That the report of the Business Committee as a whole, be accepted.

**Appendix "D" – Report of the Treasurer**

**TREASURER'S REPORT TO WATERLOO-WELLINGTON PRESBYTERY JUNE 2021**

**with financial statements attached**

### **Interim Financial Report to May 31, 2021**

The monthly financial reports, to May 31, 2021, are attached. The General Fund operations are very much in line with budget. This report also shows the operations of the other funds, including the recently set up Congregational Covid Fund, which many congregations have used, leaving a balance of \$125,070, which needs to be applied for by the remaining congregations by the end of the year. The Budget for 2021 is being covered in part by the Reserve Fund. Congregations will pay only 50% of their Assessments.

### **PCC Consolidated Fund Investment**

There was a strong positive market revaluation at the end of 2020, despite the overall Covid-19 market scare, as reflected in the Q4-2020 report from the PCC Consolidated Fund. After a gain of 8.1% for the three quarters, there was a further 4<sup>th</sup> quarter gain of 8.5% for a total of **16.6%** for the 2020 year. This was followed by a positive return of .58% in the first quarter. Market losses and gains may prevent the presbytery from using these gains until the market again settles into a steady growth pattern.

Respectfully submitted, George L Myers, Treasurer

Recommendation #1 Receive the Treasurer's Reports.

Recommendation #2 Accept the Financial Statements to May 31, 2021

Recommendation #3 Approve the report as a whole.

### **Appendix "E" – Report of the Finance and Property Committee**

#### **WATERLOO-WELLINGTON PRESBYTERY JUNE 2021**

#### **FINANCE AND PROPERTY REPORT JUNE 08, 2021**

The Property and Finance committee met on June 07, 2021 on Zoom.

We reviewed various requests from congregations for grants from the Renewal/Implementation Ready Fund

In consideration of at least two congregations requesting additional grants from the Renewal/Implementation Ready Projects Fund, we will make the following Recommendation(s):

#### **Recommendation #1**

The deadline for first requests from the Renewal/Implementation Ready Projects will be September 1, 2021.

#### **Recommendation #2**

Depending on the availability of funds, Congregations may submit requests for grants of up to \$6,000 from the Renewal/Implementation Ready Fund.

Submitted by George Myers, Treasurer

## Appendix “G” - Deferred Items of Previous Agendas

### May 11, 2021, Regular Meeting: Congregational Renewal Fund Application from Knox PC, Palmerston

#### #R21-04A: Knox PC, Palmerston

Dear Members of the Business Committee,

We would like you to consider the following:

#### Updated Application to the Business Committee of W-W P

The session of KPC proposes a new design for the front of the Sanctuary space, improvements including a sound and IT platform.

The goal of this project is to create a more relevant, open, and connected worship environment inside the Church building showing acceptance, love towards everyone, and for all generations.

We are looking to create: a physical and spiritual space where worship is accessible to people of all abilities, creating opportunities for individuals to respond to God in a variety of multi-sensory ways, including sights and sounds. In accessible worship, we engage with God and with one another. In our days, audio and video systems, and physical settings are becoming more and more prevalent in the worship environment as a way of engaging the worshipers more than just the auditory system.

A new design of the front part of the sanctuary and the support of the technologies will eliminate the invisible line that exists between the front edge of the stage and the rest of the room by engaging everyone in the whole experience of worship and fellowship.

That the application for 40% or \$5000 (“Phase One”) of a Congregational Renewal Fund Grant, received from the Session of Knox PC, Palmerston in the amount of \$5,000; be approved.

We request **40% of the \$12,000** Renewal Grant at this time (Phase 1) and that Knox Palmerston will request as well, the balance of the grant once the Session has had time to see how the new worship space works out and determines additional needs.(Phase 2)

We anticipate that Phase 1 will cost \$5,000 and will consist of the following: removing the existing structure and redesigning the stage, carpeting, paint and build the sound desk, the IT platform. We estimated the cost for this to be \$3,000, and for stage lights, LED strip lighting, connection cables and camera slider will cost \$2,000. The renovation work and the updating design in the front part of the Sanctuary will be done by a couple of professionals as well as members of KPC.

We will begin in the second part of May 2021 and to finish in the first part of June 2021. By that time, we hope to have our new cross finished and installed on the church building and to have a special service for the cross’ dedication and the front part of the Sanctuary’s renovation.

The estimate expected costs is about \$ 6,500.

Knox church Palmerston will contribute \$1,500 towards the Sanctuary space, and the IT and sound platform.

#### **Extraction from the Session meeting May 4, 2021.**

**Motion made by Betty Lambier and seconded by Christy White that the Session of Knox Palmerston requests 40% of the \$12,000 Renewal Fund grant at this time (Phase 1) and that Knox Palmerston will request as well, the balance of the grant once the Session has had time to see how the new worship space works out and determines additional needs.(Phase 2)**

**All in favor – carried.**

Trusting God, we count on your understanding and financial support praying for God’s guidance in all your and our decisions and steps to improve and to facilitate the ministry at Knox Palmerston.

Together in Christ’ service, Rev. Nick Pavel and the Session members of Knox Church - Palmerston

## Appendix H: Reports of the Commissioners of General Assembly

## Report on General Assembly for the Presbytery of Waterloo Wellington.

This report is a compilation of the 10 commissioners who attended. As captain I am grateful for the participation of the commissioners in not only providing a reflection of their experience but also the privilege of getting to know them as they attended a couple zoom meetings set up for our team. Engraved in our collective memory is the instruction: Commissioners you have now been advised, the vote is now on your screen – go ahead and vote!

General Assembly 2021 was a historic event. For the first time, and according to some of the commissioners, hopefully the last time, the court met virtually which means it came with its own set of benefits and challenges and technical issues. For some the virtual format worked well, while for others, it did not. At least it was a way of meeting in this year of pandemic. Necessary church business could be addressed. On speaker view, Zoom platform made possible seeing the Moderator, Rev. Daniel Scott, who by all accounts did an excellent job in keeping decent and good order, of maintaining a calm atmosphere in the midst of much debate and discussion, motions and amendments and all of this being in a room with clerks and technical staff, isolated from commissioners. He was fair in his guidance and gracious in his language and attempted to lighten the seriousness with moments of humor. Does Stephen Kendell really have something to learn about his bowtie collection from one of the visitors who spoke?! The gallery view let us see one another or at least our names. It was disappointing the chat button was not available.

The PC Biz platform made possible the business of the court with such features as getting in line to speak for or against, asking questions, requesting an immediate vote, the voting process was very clear. In less than a minute, the vote was taken and tallied, first the YARS and then, being advised, the commissioners voted. The virtual platform meant voting was not be influenced by ‘reading the room’ in the same way as when gathered in person. With some practice, I found the reports and background for the recommendations were readily available.

PC Bix also made possible the opportunity for commissioners to speak in their first language with interpretation provided. And intertwined throughout the assembly, there was creative, beautiful music contributed by churches across Canada.

Through PC Biz commissioners were given the reports and invited to attend briefings prior to General Assembly. The completing of the recommendations poll prior to Assembly by the commissioners was good preparation and useful to the the Assembly Council in streamlining the business. While the Assembly was able to cover much ground with its omnibus approach, some were saddened that many issues got skimmed over, that some business got left behind, that there was not enough time to properly do the work of the General Assembly. Even though some got in line, it was frustrating they were not named and unmuted to speak. It was impossible to place an amendment and at the same time be in the queue to speak for or against a motion. It was disappointing no contingency plan was in place to extend General Assembly even though it was fairly predicable that two years of business could not be given proper consideration.

On the whole our commissioners were grateful the agenda was amended to consider the Final Report of the Special Listening Committee and Remits B and C early in the Assembly - to do that hard work while we were still fresh and time was not pressed. As one commissioner noted, “While speaking to the recommendations needed to happen, in some ways the discussion was a rehearsal of positions for and against each of the remits – deepening the divide, particularly given that some of the opposition to the remits came from self-described “ethnic congregations.” There were charges of racism leveled formally though a petition brought to the Assembly.”

As co-convenor of the Listening Committee and commissioner, I invite Sue Senior to speak...

Several of our commissioners commented on the excellence of the Special Listening Committee report and the video that was part of it. It is worth our while to learn about the harm the church has caused the LGBTQI community. Check it out – it can be found on the [presbyterian.ca/listening](https://www.presbyterian.ca/listening) webpage.

With the approval of Remits B and C, some were saddened that more time was not taken to consider what going forward looks like for congregations that were not in agreement. Discussion around overtures of gracious dismissal was limited. At the same time it feels to me like this may be a providential thing; it gives a year for the denomination to experience what it means to live with Remits B and C as part of our theology and polity. We may just discover nothing much will change, while for some everything has changed.

The lament voiced by most of us, was the missing of the community aspect of the Assembly – the spontaneous laughter that arises in the moment, in the midst of differences our voices joining together in song and prayer, the late night chats, the visiting over meals, the informal meeting of commissioners across the country.

Making the best of the situation, the staff of the Assembly Council deserves our thanks for the tremendous amount of work organizing material in advance, preparing the commissioners for attending, and keeping it all together.

In Judaism, "Next year in Jerusalem", is an emotionally significant phrase that is often sung at the end of the Passover Seder where the suffering of the past and the present give way to hope for wholeness and freedom in the future. Shall we say, Next year in Person – and hope that next year commissioners will meet again in person to do the business of the PCC.

Grateful for the opportunity to serve as commissioners

Ed Charlton, Janet DeGroot, Ann Wilson, Frank Szmartia, Nick Pavel, Mi Yoon, Sue Seniou, Terri Whiffin, Barb Ferrier, Kathy Morden.

Janet De Groot also requested her reflection be part of the minutes. It is included here.

Report to Presbytery from General Assembly 2021

Thank you for the honour of representing Knox Conn and this Presbytery at the 146th General Assembly held from Sunday June 6 to Wednesday June 9, 2021

This GA was via zoom. This method had advantages and disadvantages being able to stay at home and still meet with so many fellow Presbyterians. It was more relaxing and very enjoyable. But the disadvantages far outnumber the advantages. The fellowship was missing as well as eating together, late-night discussions, not being able to read the room on issues, getting to know fellow Presbyterians. Most importantly the business of our church (our polity dictated by the Book of Forms) was not always followed because PC-Biz and zoom could not support the way things were done at our in-person meetings.

I enjoyed the outgoing Moderator Rev Amanda Currie's opening worship service, good job. The Rev Daniel Dean Scott was nominated and installed as Moderator of the 146th GA. Although the business of the church had never before been done in this manner, Rev Scott did a good job of maintaining a calm atmosphere during a very controversial and divisive first-time meeting.

During the Business Committee Report another new process was adopted, that of the omnibus recommendation. Before GA, a poll taken of all the recommendations. We were not advised how this poll would be used. From this poll the Business Committee made the decision to bundle the motions and move them as one. About 80% of the commissioners returned the poll and Business Committee decided that a 50% agreement would place a recommendation into the omnibus recommendation. I feel this was wrong, because not everyone had their say (in the poll) for each of these individual motions, as 50% of the polls was only 40% of the commissioners. A better average would have been a 2/3's agreement. I feel that these omnibus motions at times hindered the following of the Book of Forms. Although the idea seems good it did not work, because without the discussion and knowledge on each motion, we are just rubber-stamping the recommendations made by the committees, instead of making a competent decision.

The decision to move the remits and corresponding business up on the agenda was a good idea because it was the difficult, and most controversial issue of the GA. The Rainbow Communion report and the Listening Committee report from the LMA brought light to their stories and was well done.

After two Sederunts the vote on Remit B (on marriage), was 136 to 76, and on Remit C (on ordination), was 130 to 83. As a commissioner supporting the traditionalist position or view, I now stand in the minority. Going forward, we must all strive to truly listen to each other and discern where the Holy Spirit and God's word is leading us. I was pleased to hear during GA that a gracious place would be held for those holding other views.

Because my time is short, I will say the rest of the GA moved along very quickly (too quickly for good polity), but with less controversy. Although, we did run out of time to complete motions and requests by many commissioners waiting to be heard. There were many motions in the queue that were not acknowledged. For example the Korean church concerns, overtures and petitions were not debated, because they never came to the floor. Again, the zoom meeting needs to be re-worked to fit the polity of our church. In ending, the stated hour speakers were all excellent. A good job to all those who organized them.. Thank you. Commissioner Janet de Groot, Knox Conn

The reflection Sue Senior provided.

2021 General Assembly Report to Presbytery | Sue Senior, Elder Knox Waterloo

I not was not only present at General Assembly as a commissioner, but also as a co-convenor and presenter for the Final Report of the Special Listening Committee re: LGBTQI also known as Rainbow Communion. After four years of this committee's work, the Assembly was able to read and hear examples of the harm that has occurred within and by the church due to homophobia, transphobia, heterosexism and hypocrisy. All 23 recommendations were passed as presented plus an additional motion that a specific apology be sent to the Rev. Darryl Macdonald and to the congregation of St. Andrew's Lachine PC (through Summerlea United) for the tremendous harm they experienced in 1996. That motion received 81% support. The Assembly has committed to a path of ensuring that harm does not continue. The report entitled: NOT ALL ARE WELCOME: A Call to Confession and Healing for Harm Done, is available in many forms: the formal 117-page written report as well as a 32-page summary of work and a 15-minute video that are suitable resources for congregational use – especially as we journey towards repentance and reconciliation. All are available at:

<https://presbyterian.ca/listening/>

The Remits on permission to call and ordain LGBTQI clergy and elders... as well as permission for same-sex marriages to occur in the PCC came to the Assembly for a final vote having gone through the required steps of the Barrier Act. Voting at all levels (2019 GA, Presbyteries & Presbyters, and 2021 GA) consistently averaged out at 2/3 in favour of adopting them. These remits are now included in the Book of Forms.

Additionally, an amendment was adopted regarding Book of Forms 11.2 which was originally written to ensure that the ordination of all persons - and especially women - was protected and supported in polity and in practice. It now clearly states that one can exercise liberty of conscience and action when opting to exclude candidates on the basis of their sexual orientation and gender identity.

Also adopted with well over 90% support are two recommendations that included:

1. Intentional listening and study be completed by 2022 regarding those who are experiencing racism within the denomination, and
2. A response be prepared to address calls for alternative forms of governance in the PCC.

While it will need some tweaks applied, I found that the digital platform used at GA (PC-Biz) was an extremely useful tool and was highly democratic.

I am pleased to acknowledge that while the debate throughout GA was vigorous - and at times lacking in respectful language - that the commissioners from Waterloo-Wellington who spoke were able to express opinions and discernment without using harmful or weaponized language. I am hopeful that this continues in our Presbytery where we can vigorously disagree without stigmatizing or labelling one another.

I have served as an uncloseted gay married woman alongside most of you in this presbytery for the past two years, I have served the national church for the past four years and my own church for much much longer. It is my prayer that we can all come to a place where everyone honours the promises made in the remits that protect

and give explicit permission for all to have space and place in the PCC... just as I have trusted all of you these past years.

Thank you for the honour to represent our Presbytery as a commissioner.

Barbara Ferrier Contribution to a Presbytery report

Thank you for the privilege of representing Waterloo-Wellington as a rookie commissioner to the 146th General Assembly.

Highlights

- getting to know a breadth of fellow Presbyterians across the country
- serving on the Committee to Confer with the Moderator
- debating and settling the question of the remits, which brings clarity for our path forward. I was very pleased that the agenda was adjusted so we dealt with those as early as seemed possible and we did have significant time to discuss those.
- Rainbow Communion which was particularly well done, and LMA Listening Committee reports. I grieve for so much harm done.

A few of the things I've learned about the PCC

- We're wealthy, with over 20 million in investment income this year. This raised a number of questions in my mind about budget and use of those funds - but we were too pressed for time to be able to discuss those things
- We seem to be good at causing harm: to the indigenous community, the LGBTQI community and our ethnic communities. We're getting marginally better at addressing that harm and facilitating healing, and have lots more work to do along those lines.
- Our ideas of justice look an awful lot like those of our culture.
- The International Affairs Committee and Justice Committees drew our attention in well researched reports to some grave injustices in our world. Jesus identifies that evil emanates from hearts which harbour evil thoughts. (Matt 12: 34-35; Matt 15:18-19) It's from unconverted, unsanctified, deeply wounded hearts that the evils outlined in the reports (human trafficking, domestic violence, xenophobia, racism, gun violence, war, etc.) flow.
- However, look at the thrust of motions from the committees.

Committee # of Rec's to write politicians # of Rec's to study/learn # of Rec's to take action of some sort # of Rec's to make disciples/ evangelize

Committee	# of Rec's to write politicians	# of Rec's to study/learn	# or Rec's to take action of some sort	# or Rec's to make disciples / evangelize
International Affairs	10	9	3	0
Justice	8	10	5	0

• It seemed to me that any secular NGO with a passion for social justice could have written these reports and proposed these recommendations. Don't get me wrong - there's a place for study and political activism - although I do wonder to what extent our post-Christian culture or even our government leaders have any interest in hearing what the church has to say on any matter.

- But where were the calls to transform hearts through the gospel and love of Jesus Christ, and thereby to transform the world? Where is the recommendation and call to serious intercessory prayer - which softens hearts to the call of Jesus? We seem to have lost sight of the fact that evils are eradicated not by human efforts alone and that historically great moves of social transformation followed on the heels of Christian revival.
- PC-Biz was a disappointing platform for on online Assembly.

- God willing, we'll never be in the middle of a pandemic again and turn to virtual format to run a GA. We faced limitations imposed by an online platform shaped by PCUSA Book of Forms and protocols. Did we suffer an Americanization of the PCC?
- Although I'm adept at using technology, I experienced significant technical difficulties with PC-Biz and should have saved my chat from the PC-Biz help desk to document those - hung up with the software reset multiple times; impossible to place an amendment in the queue and at the same time be able to be in a queue to speak for or against a motion on the table, voting panel not appearing once so I missed a vote (fortunately on one of the pro-forma items).
- No contingency plan it seems to extend GA - even though it was fairly predictable that two years of business could not be given proper consideration if compressed into 19 hours of sederunt time, (compared to 24 hrs of sederunt time in 2018). I came to GA well prepared to discuss a breadth of issues

### **2021 General Assembly Report to Presbytery | Sue Senior, Elder Knox Waterloo**

I not was not only present at General Assembly as a commissioner, but also as a co-convenor and presenter for the Final Report of the Special Listening Committee re: LGBTQI also known as Rainbow Communion. After four years of this committee's work, the Assembly was able to read and hear examples of the harm that has occurred within and by the church due to homophobia, transphobia, heterosexism and hypocrisy. All 23 recommendations were passed as presented plus an additional motion that a specific apology be sent to the Rev. Darryl Macdonald and to the congregation of St. Andrew's Lachine PC (through Summerlea United) for the tremendous harm they experienced in 1996. That motion received 81% support. The Assembly has committed to a path of ensuring that harm does not continue.

The report entitled: *NOT ALL ARE WELCOME: A Call to Confession and Healing for Harm Done*, is available in many forms: the formal 117-page written report as well as a 32-page summary of work and a 15-minute video that are suitable resources for congregational use – especially as we journey towards repentance and reconciliation. All are available at: <https://presbyterian.ca/listening/>

The Remits on permission to call and ordain LGBTQI clergy and elders... as well as permission for same-sex marriages to occur in the PCC came to the Assembly for a final vote having gone through the required steps of the Barrier Act. Voting at all levels (2019 GA, Presbyteries & Presbyters, and 2021 GA) consistently averaged out at 2/3 in favour of adopting them. These remits are now included in the Book of Forms.

Additionally, an amendment was adopted regarding Book of Forms 11.2 which was originally written to ensure that the ordination of all persons - and especially women - was protected and supported in polity and in practice. It now clearly states that one can exercise liberty of conscience and action **when opting to exclude candidates** on the basis of their sexual orientation and gender identity.

Also adopted with well over 90% support are two recommendations that included:

1. Intentional listening and study be completed by 2022 regarding those who are experiencing racism within the denomination, and
2. A response be prepared to address calls for alternative forms of governance in the PCC.

While it will need some tweaks applied, I found that the digital platform used at GA (PC-Biz) was an extremely useful tool and was highly democratic. I am pleased to acknowledge that while the debate throughout GA was vigorous - and at times lacking in respectful language - that the commissioners from Waterloo-Wellington who spoke were able to express opinions and discernment without using harmful or weaponized language. I am hopeful that this continues in our Presbytery where we can vigorously disagree without stigmatizing or labelling one another. I have served as an uncloseted gay married woman alongside most of you in this presbytery for the past two years, I have served the national church for the past four years and my own church for much much longer. It is my prayer that we can all come to a place where everyone honours the promises made in the remits that protect and give explicit permission for all to have space and place in the PCC... just as I have trusted all of you these past years. Thank you for the honour to represent our Presbytery as a commissioner.