

Presbytery of Waterloo-Wellington,
 Regular Meeting, June 18, 2013
 Knox Presbyterian Church, Elora, Ontario,

DATE AND PLACE:

The Presbytery of Waterloo-Wellington met in regular session at Knox Presbyterian Church, Elora on Tuesday, June 18, 2013 at 5:30 p.m. with dinner. The presbytery began its meeting at 7:00 p.m. with the Rev. Andrew Song leading in worship.

ATTENDANCE:

Ministers: Rev. Linda Ashfield (Moderator), Rev. Brooke Ashfield, Rev. John Borthwick, Rev. Dr. Aubrey Botha, Rev. Calvin Brown, Rev. Michael Burns, Rev. Chris Ji Hoon Cho, Rev. Janice Hamalainen, Rev. Mark Lewis, Rev. Dr. Herb Gale, Rev. Mark Gaskin, Rev. Alex MacLeod, Rev. Scott McAndless, Rev. Marty Molengraaf, Rev. Kathy Morden, Rev. Johan Olivier, Rev. Dr. Mark Richardson, Rev. Glen Soderholm, Rev. Karla Wübbenhorst

Representative Elders: Junghee Ahn, Jim Akerstream, Janet deGroot, Jean Godin, Pauline Hall, Hazel Hislop, Isabel Howell, Marion Hunter, Alan Israel, Gwen MacRobbie, David Ogram, Bert Perriman, Bob Renton, Ross Rowat, Liz Samis, Neil Stewart, Earl Suggitt, Don Vickers, Jim Zaryski and Wilma Welsh (Clerk).

Ministers on the Appendix to the Roll: Rev. Dr. Arnold Bethune, Rev. Dr. Wayne Dawes, Rev. Penny Garrison, Rev. Dr. Brice Martin, Rev. Linda Paquette, Rev. Nan St. Louis, Rev. Robert Sinasac, Rev. Dr. Robert Spencer, Rev. Mary Whitson.

Alternate Representative Elders: Lenore Arbuckle, Helen Cleghorn, George Forsyth, Peter Goudy, Frances Hill, Aileen Isaac, Robert Seim

Women's Missionary Society Presbyterial: Jean Godin, Phyllis Stewart, Donna Henry

Treasurer: Mary Ann Koeslag

Visitors: Betty Jane Rose, David Mitchell, Frank "Thompson from Calvin Church, Kitchener

REGRETS:

Ministers: Rev. Aubrey Botha, Rev. Ed Charlton, Rev. John Paeng, Rev. Jeff L. Smith, Rev. David Whitecross.

Representative Elders: Johan DeSchiffart, Judith Harrison, Maria Liston, Lydia Maitland, Grant Scott

Ministers on the Appendix to the Roll: Rev. Robert Duncanson, Rev. Jeffrey E. Smith, Rev. Angus Sutherland

Alternate Representative Elders: Reg. Samis

Others: Rev. Frank Szatmari

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WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS AND CONSITUTION OF THE COURT:

The Rev. Linda Ashfield, Moderator, opened the meeting with prayer and constituted the court. She welcomed all in attendance and expressed appreciation to Knox Elora for their kind hospitality in hosting the Presbytery dinner.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:

Moved by Wilma Welsh/John Borthwick that the Proposed Agenda be adopted. CARRIED.

MINUTES:

Moved by Wilma Welsh/Mark Richardson that the minutes of May 14, 2013, and the Emergent meeting of May 22, 2013 re the sale of the St. Giles Galt Cambridge Property be adopted as circulated. CARRIED

STATED HOUR

CALL FROM CALVIN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH TO REV. FRANK SZATMARI

The Clerk reported that she had examined the Call to the Rev. Frank Szatmari and the Moderator invited the Rev. Mark Lewis to report on the fulfillment of his duties and to narrate the steps leading up to the Call being received.

Narration of Steps – reported by Mark Lewis

Narrating the Steps / Reasons for Translation – Calvin Presbyterian Church, Kitchener

- 1) The Rev. Mark Gedke preached his last Sunday at Calvin on September 30, 2012.
- 2) The pulpit was preached vacant by the Rev. Angus Sutherland on Sunday October 7, 2012.
- 3) The Interim-Moderator met with the Session firstly as a guest on Tuesday September 5, 2012.
- 4) The Interim-Moderator first moderated the Session on Tuesday October 3, and at that meeting, among other things, the Session agreed to ask permission of the Presbytery to begin the necessary steps to fill the pulpit, and the make-up of the Search Committee was determined.
- 5) At its November 13, 2012 meeting the Presbytery of Waterloo-Wellington gave permission for the Search Committee to begin the process to fill the vacancy.

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- 6) The Search Committee advertised the vacancy on the PCC website and in the Presbyterian Record.
- 7) Over the next several weeks the Search Committee received approximately 20 applications. The committee would eventually receive approximately 24 applications
- 8) On the basis of information from the applications and audio or video samples of preaching and worship the Search Committee on January 16, 2013 came to a short list of six candidates and on January 31, 2013 reduced that a list of three.
- 9) In the month of February the Search Committee began the process of interviewing candidates and going out to hear candidates conduct worship.
- 10) In addition to hearing candidates preach and conducting extensive interviews the Search Committee also seriously considered the congregational profile and the congregational pastoral skills and interests inventory in the discernment process
- 11) On Sunday April 28, 2013 after a great deal of diligent work and fervent prayer the Search Committee met and voted unanimously to present the name of the Rev. Dr. Frank Szatmari to the Session.
- 12) On Wednesday May 1, 2013 the Session of Calvin, at its regular meeting, adopted a motion to invite the Rev. Dr. Frank Szatmari to preach for the call on Sunday June 9, 2013.
- 13) On Saturday June 8, 2013 from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. the congregation hosted a Meet and Greet event in order to allow the congregation to meet with the candidate and his family. The event was attended by approximately 100 people.
- 14) On Sunday June 9, 2013 the Rev. Dr. Frank Szatmari preached for the call at Calvin. The congregation met in a duly called congregational meeting immediately following the worship and voted unanimously to extend a call to the candidate.
- 15) The congregation is well convinced that the Rev. Dr. Frank Szatmari has been blessed by God with all the gifts required to bring a faithful, loving, effective and energetic ministry to Calvin Presbyterian Church.

Moved by Wilma Welsh/Marty Molengraaf that the action of the Interim Moderator be approved.
CARRIED

The Presbytery Clerk presented the Call including the guarantee of stipend and the number of signatures supporting the call as follows,

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The Presbytery of Waterloo-Wellington
The Presbyterian Church in Canada
Call to the Rev. Dr. Frank Szatmari

Attestation of Call by Officiating minister

I hereby certify that in pursuance of appointment of the Presbytery of Waterloo-Wellington, this call has been moderated in, and that out of a total number of 225 professing members, 113 have themselves subscribed and 91 have requested an elder to subscribe to same.

_____ signed Mark Lewis
The Rev. J. Mark Lewis, Interim Moderator
_____ Kitchener, June 14, 2013
Place and Date

Attestation of Concurrence by Officiating Minister

I hereby certify that 23 adherents of the congregation of Calvin Presbyterian Church, Kitchener have this day signed this concurrence to the call in favour of the Rev. Dr. Frank Szatmari.

_____ signed Mark Lewis
The Rev. J. Mark Lewis, Interim Moderator
_____ Kitchener, June 14, 2013
Place and Date

204 signed out of 225 – Call signed by 90.6%

A Call to the Rev. Dr. Frank Szatmari from the Congregation of Calvin Presbyterian Church, Kitchener, Ontario

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

In order that you, the Rev. Dr. Frank Szatmari, may be free to devote yourself to ministry of Word and Sacraments among us we, the congregation of Calvin Presbyterian Church, Kitchener, hereby guarantee to the Presbytery of Waterloo-Wellington, of The Presbyterian Church in Canada, that out of our estimated annual revenue of two-hundred and sixty-five thousand dollars

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we promise and obligate ourselves to provide you, as a first charge thereon, the following annually:

Stipend - \$49,000 (inclusive of travel)
Housing Allowance - \$20,000 (inclusive of utilities)
Total - \$69,000

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

We agree further:

1. To provide two weeks for continuing education annually and \$1,000 annually as a continuing education allowance.
2. That the benefits of number 1 above shall be cumulative up to five years.
3. To provide five weeks holiday annually.
4. To pay supply during the periods of continuing education and holidays.
5. In case of disability or extended illness, to continue to provide stipend, accommodation and allowances for a period not less than that set by the General Assembly, and to pay the cost of pulpit supply.
6. To pay for Medical and Dental Insurance as provided through the Pension and Benefits Board of the General Assembly and to make contributions to the Pension Plan in compliance with the terms of the plan.
7. To enrol the minister in the Presbytery's Group Insurance Plan for long term disability and accidental death.
8. To pay necessary moving expenses.
9. To enroll the minister in the Presbytery's Group Insurance Plan for long term disability and accidental death.

June 9, 2013 at Calvin Presbyterian Church, Kitchener, Ontario

Signed by

The Rev. J. Mark Lewis
Interim-Moderator

Jack Nanson
Clerk of Session

Bonnie Street
Meeting Secretary

Moved by Wilma Welsh/David Ogram that the call to the Rev. Dr. Frank Szatmari from the congregation of Calvin Presbyterian Church, Delhi, Presbytery of Paris be received and considered, and that representatives of Calvin Presbyterian Church, Paris, the congregation to which the Rev. Dr. Frank Szatmari is being call, be heard. CARRIED

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David Mitchell and Isabel Howell, representatives from Calvin Presbyterian Church were invited to speak on behalf of the Call.

Moved by Wilma Welsh/Mark Gaskin that the guarantee of stipend and the number of signatures supporting the Call is acceptable. CARRIED

Moved by Wilma Welsh/Mark Richardson that the Call be sustained as a Gospel call and transmitted to the Presbytery of Paris, the presbytery from which the minister is being called. CARRIED

Moved by Wilma Welsh/Bert Perriman that the Clerk request the Clerk of the Presbytery of Paris to represent the Presbytery of Waterloo-Wellington when the call is being considered by the Presbytery of Paris tonight.

Moved Wilma Welsh/Mark Richardson that if the call is sustained by the Presbytery of Paris and accepted by the Rev. Dr. Frank Szatmari the arrangements for the induction service be left in the hands of the moderator, clerk, and interim moderator. The suggested date is September 8, 2013 at 3p.m. with Presbytery meeting at 2:30 at Calvin Presbyterian Church.

The court adjourned briefly to allow the Clerk to send a text to the Presbytery of Paris, also meeting, that the Call was sustained by the Presbytery of Waterloo-Wellington and they could proceed with presenting the Call to the Presbytery of Paris.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

BUSINESS COMMITTEE REPORT: Clerk, Wilma Welsh reported.

Moved Wilma Welsh/John Borthwick that the Report of the Business Committee be received and the recommendations considered. CARRIED

CORRESPONDENCE – May 14, 2013 to June 17, 2013

13-070	WMS re National Women's Gathering, May 16-19, 2014	to all congregations
13-071	Elizabeth Bartlett – request for changes to roll	to clerk
13-072	Mission Moments – June 2013	to all congregations
13-073	2014 Canadian Ministries Grants	to Cong. Affairs
13-074	Canadian Ministries – acknowledging report re Two Rivers	file
13-075	Brooke Ashfield – accepting Synod Commission 2013	file
13-076	Mark Lewis – accepting Synod Commission 2013	file
13-077	Mark Lewis – re Johan DeSchiffart accepting commission – 2013	file
13-078	Rev. Mark Gaskin – news that St. Giles Cambridge sold	file
13-079	Re: Jeffrey L. Smith requiring three months sick leave	file
13-080	Brenda Calder – request circulating info re Foodgrains fundraiser	to all congregations

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13-081	PCC Connect – June Edition	to all congregations
13-082	J. Borthwick – request circulating info re Bridges Flyer Workshop	to all congregations
13-083	Rev. Nan St. Louis – address change	to all congregations
13-084	Kees Vandermeij – IM report re Palmerston/Drayton/Doon	to Cong. Affairs
13-085	Heather Chappell – Presbyterians Sharing Report – May 2013	to all congregations

Recommendations:

1. Correspondence

Moved by Wilma Welsh/John Borthwick that the actions of The Business Committee in assigning the correspondence be homologated. CARRIED

2. Commissioners to 2013 Synod of Central, Northeastern Ontario and Bermuda

Moved by Wilma Welsh, Mark Gaskin that the following named be the Presbytery of Waterloo-Wellington Commissioners to the Oct. 22nd, 2013 meeting of the Synod of Central, Northeastern Ontario and Bermuda be -
 Ministers – Rev. Brooke Ashfield, Rev. Mark Lewis
 Elders – St. Andrew’s, Kitchener (Johan DeSchiffart), Duff’s Puslinch (to be named)
 CARRIED

3. Call(s) received during the summer months

Moved by Wilma Welsh/Johan Olivier, that if it is necessary to process any Calls before the regular meeting of Presbytery in September, that that a commission consisting of the Business Committee members and the Interim Moderator be named with power to issue.
 CARRIED

4. Treasurer’s position report

On Monday, June 17th, 2013, the Interview team consisting of the Moderator, Linda Ashfield, the Clerk Wilma Welsh and elder Helen Cleghorn spent the day interviewing the five applicants for the position of Treasurer of the Presbytery. It was agreed that the name of Allan Stewart of Guelph, be presented to the Presbytery as the nomination for Treasurer. Moved by Wilma Welsh/Helen Cleghorn that Allan Stewart be appointed Treasurer of the Presbytery of Waterloo-Wellington for a three year term (renewable to six years) beginning on August 1st, 2013 to July 31, 2016. CARRIED

5. General Assembly 2014 – Location - Laurier University

It was announced that the General Assembly of 2014, being hosted by the Presbytery of

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Waterloo-Wellington will be held a Laurier University in Waterloo. Received for information

6. Waterloo North Update

Recommendation

As the Presbytery is unable to make an offer to purchase the Anglican share of the Waterloo North property or assist a congregation to do so, that the whole matter be turned over to the Trustee Board of the Presbyterian Church in Canada.

Moved by Wilma Welsh/John Borthwick that the above recommendation re Waterloo North be approved.

Moved by Herb Gale/Brooke Ashfield that the above motion be tabled until clarity is received in writing from All Saints Anglican Church. CARRIED

7. Presbytery Meeting Dates – 2013-14 (invitations invited) – received for information

September 10, 2013 – St. Andrew's, Kitchener (location of Moderator for 2013-2014)

November 12, 2013

January 14, 2014

March 11, 2014

May 13, 2014

June 17, 2014

September 9, 2014

8. Business Committee Meetings 9:30 a.m. at St. Andrew's, Kitchener – for information

Wednesday, September 4, 2013

October 2, 2013

November 6, 2013

December 4, 2013

January 8, 2014

February 5, 2014

March 5, 2014

April 2, 2014

May 7, 2014

June 11, 2014

September 3, 2014

Report as a Whole

Moved by Wilma Welsh/Mark Gaskin that the report as a whole of the Business Committee be approved. CARRIED

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TREASURERS REPORT – See Appendix “A”
(see Appendix “D” for the Auditor’s Report for the year ending December 31, 2012) – note that the full copy is included with the master copy of the minutes due to the page size of the report.
(see Appendix B for May 31, 2013 statement) – received for information

Moved by John Borthwick/Mark Gaskin that the Auditor’s Report be approved. CARRIED

Moved Calvin Brown/John Borthwick that the Treasurer’s Report as a whole be adopted.
CARRIED

CONGREGATIONAL AFFAIRS – See Appendix “C” -
Report presented by Calvin Brown
Moved by Calvin Brown/Andrew Song that the Report of the Congregational Affairs Committee be received and considered. CARRIED

Recommendations

1: The Visitation Schedule as presented be approved.
Moved by Calvin Brown/Liz Samis that the Five Year Visitation schedule be approved.
Several corrections were noted so it was agreed on motion of Peter Goudy/Andrew Song that the report be referred back to Congregational Affairs for correction and reporting back in September.
Corrections are to be given to either of the conveners as soon as possible. CARRIED

The report as a whole was adopted on motion of Calvin Brown/Andrew Song. CARRIED

MISSION AND OUTREACH COMMITTEE
– verbal report presented by Rev. Alex MacLeod
Moved by Alex MacLeod/John Borthwick that the report of the Mission and Outreach Committee be received and considered. CARRIED

Alex MacLeod reported on the exchange visit in April to the Bunun Presbytery in Taiwan. He mentioned three h’s – hospitality, heritage and hilarity. Linda Ashfield also was given the opportunity to share a few comments. A return visit is anticipated in October of 2013.

Budget re Return Visit

Moved by Glen Soderholm/Alex MacLeod that the Presbytery release funds as needed (estimated at \$1,500) from the Development Fund in order to provide hospitality for the delegates visiting us from the Bunun Presbytery of the Presbyterian Church in Taiwan during October 2013.
CARRIED

Moved by Glen Soderholm/Alex MacLeod that the report as a whole of the Mission and Outreach Committee be adopted. CARRIED

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MINISTRY COMMITTEE – no report

EIF COMMITTEE – no report

GENERAL ASSEMBLY COMMISSIONERS REPORT – see Appendix “D”

- Report given by Karla Wübbenhorst

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Recommendations:

1. That the Presbytery undertake to respond to all remits sent down to it this year
 Moved by Karla Wübbenhorst/Hazel Hislop that the above be approved. CARRIED

AND that the Presbytery assign to a person or small committee the task of preparing a report with our reasons for or against a move to biennial assemblies -- this report to become the basis of our discussion of the matter at Presbytery within the report of the committee on Education, Issues and Fellowship, and, incorporating the feedback received in that discussion, our position paper to the clerks of assembly and Assembly Council.
 Moved by Karla Wübbenhorst/Hazel Hislop that the above be approved. CARRIED

2. That the Presbytery of Waterloo Wellington assign a person to frame an overture re: the making available of Assembly's worship as a media file for use in PCC congregations on the first Sunday of June (withdrawn)

AND that, until the granting of this prayer Presbytery include in its budget the sum of \$750 which can be claimed by clergy commissioners to the Assembly, thus freeing them to fulfill their commission at Assembly whether or not congregations are able to afford an 8th Sunday of preaching supply.
 Moved by Karla Wübbenhorst/Hazel Hislop that the above be approved. CARRIED

3. That the Presbytery urge congregations within its bounds to support the Presbyterian History Museum with a \$50 gift this year,
 Moved by Karla Wübbenhorst/Hazel Hislop that congregations be encouraged to support the Museum in this way.. CARRIED

AND to send from its own youth one representative, or to sponsor from another congregation one youth to attend CY2014 -- this urging to take the form of a request for response from congregations to the Congregational Affairs committee in much the same way that CA oversees congregations' response to Presbyterians Sharing...
 Moved by Karla Wübbenhorst/Hazel Hislop that the above be approved. CARRIED

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Notice of Motion – John Borthwick reported that he will move or cause to be moved at a future meeting that the Presbytery match funds sent by congregations.

4. That the Presbytery, through its committee on Education, Issues and Fellowship host a half day of learning within the coming year on what our church has said re: Israel/Palestine.

Moved by Karla Wübbenhorst/Hazel Hislop that the above be approved. CARRIED

That the Presbytery, through its ministry committee, call together ministers under 45 for a discussion of the pension plan, and communicate an account of its discussion to the PCC Pension Board.

Moved by Karla Wübbenhorst/Hazel Hislop that the above be approved. CARRIED

5. That when the commissioners to next year's assembly are named, and the binders arrive, a "walk-through" of the binder and of the procedures whereby Assembly does its business, be offered to first-time commissioners by a veteran Assembly attender within the Presbytery.

Moved by Karla Wübbenhorst/Hazel Hislop that the above be approved. CARRIED

The commissioners to the 139th General Assembly, namely Brooke Ashfield (T.E.), Peter Goudy (R.E.), Murray Hamalainen (YAR), Judith Harrison (R.E.), Hazel Hislop (R.E.), Marty Molengraaf (T.E.), Andrew Song (T.E.), Ross Rowat (R.E.), Jeff L. Smith (T.E., who had to resign his commission for health reasons) and Karla Wübbenhorst (T.E.; commissioners' convener) wish to thank the Presbytery for the privilege of going to General Assembly (and for 4 days of free grub which we enjoyed at Presbytery's expense).

6. That with the adoption of this report as a whole, the above-named commissioners be officially discharged of their commission with the thanks of the Presbytery.

Moved by Karla Wübbenhorst/Hazel Hislop that the above be approved. CARRIED

REPORT ON THE ST. GILES GALT CAMBRIDGE SALE

– see **Emergent Meeting May 22nd, 2013 minutes**

- Mark Gaskin reported on the narrative leading up to and the sale of the property.

THANKS TO MARY ANN KOESLAG, TREASURER

The Moderator expressed the appreciation of the court to Mary Ann Koeslag as she completes her three year term as Treasurer of the Presbytery. She has been a very faithful and diligent treasurer and the Presbytery has appreciated very much her thoroughness and competence. A small gift was presented to Mary Ann.

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CALL TO REV. FRANK SZATMARI

The Clerk announced that a text message had just been received from Paris Presbytery indicating that the Rev. Frank Szatmari had accepted the Call to Calvin Kitchener.

NEXT MEETING

The Presbytery of Waterloo-Wellington will meet in regular session on Tuesday, September

ADJOURNMENT

The business being completed, the Presbytery adjourned on motion of John Borthwick. The Moderator, the Rev. Linda Ashfield pronounced the Benediction and announced that the Presbytery will meet again on Tuesday, September 10th, 2013 at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Kitchener. (Communion)

Moderator

Clerk

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Appendix "A"

Treasurer's Report to May 31, 2013

<u>Item</u>	<u>reconciled to May 31</u>	<u>Budget 2013</u>	
office-general	392.48	2,500.00	
office-telecommunications	743.12	1,500.00	
office- interest & s/c	86.76	150.00	
office-total	1,222.36	4,150.00	
travel-mileage	2,627.41	7,500.00	
travel-meals,etc.	119.48	200.00	
travel-total	2,746.89	7,700.00	
grants - U of G chaplaincy	6,000.00	6,000.00	
grants - donations		400.00	
grants - New Life			
Counselling	1,500.00	1,500.00	
grants-total	7,500.00	7,900.00	
Clerk's honorarium	4,946.25	11,871.00	
Treasurer's honorarium	2,697.90	6,475.00	
CPP/EI	262.53	600.00	
audit fee			
Commissioner's Expenses	175.00	3,000.00	
EIF Moderator's Visit		600.00	
Student Certification		500.00	
Liability Ins	2,965.61	3,500.00	
Conference Funds	2,488.11	2,500.00	
Visitors		300.00	
Misc/Sundry			
Gifts	217.80	1,000.00	
Pulpit Supply for Visitation		1,500.00	
Christian Education		1,000.00	
Student Grants	1,000.00	5,000.00	
Legal Fees		1,000.00	
Student Psych/Assess.		2,000.00	
Expenses - St Giles	11,873.60		
Subtotal - General	38,096.05	60,596.00	
special projects-grants	25,000.00	45,000.00	Two Rivers
	20,000.00		Crieff Hills

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special projects-lay educ		5,000.00
special projects-total	45,000.00	50,000.00
Synod Assessment	27,961.00	55,922.00
Total	111,057.05	166,518.00
Total Assessment Income	79,173.06	-
Other income - services	1,304.05	
Other income - interest	1,064.75	
Total Income	81,541.86	
Deficit	(31,883.99)	(166,518.00)

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Appendix "B"

Congregational Affairs Committee - June 2013

Hungarian Preaching Point

A sub-Committee of CA consisting of chair- Calvin Brown, Mark Lewis and elder Liz Samis attended a Hungarian service on Pentecost Sunday. The Chair brought greetings from the Presbytery and the Moderator nominee Mark Lewis assisted the pastor in celebrating the Lord's Supper. Afterwards we had conversations with several members of the congregation.

On May 30th we met with the pastor and some of the elders to discuss plans to help the charge grow and develop into a full-fledged congregation. They agreed to develop a budget and a future growth plan and we all brainstormed with possible ideas of how that could develop. There is a possibility the current pastor may receive a call and so the situation may change. They suggested a Hungarian-speaking student from a non-Presbyterian College may be a candidate to supply the pulpit and they were told that any change in pastoral care would involve Presbytery participation in the decision. Mark Lewis was also asked if he would approach St. Andrew's, Kitchener to ask if they might be willing to connect to this work in such a way that donations to the work could be receipted through St. Andrew's. We may in the future have a recommendation that the preaching point and St Andrew's develop a more formal connection. But at present there is no recommendation concerning that until we see their proposed plan.

Matters Related to Laurel Church Centre referred to the Business Committee. – May 2013

Presbytery at the January 8 meeting of Presbytery passed Recommendation 4 of the CA Committee Report that said "Moved by Calvin Brown/David Whitecross that the Congregational Affairs Committee work with the Business Committee and as needed the Presbyterian, Members of the Laurel Church Centre Committee to deal with matters concerning the use and future involvement of Presbytery at the Laurel Church Centre. CARRIED.

The Committee worked diligently and reported our work as it progressed to Presbytery. The Committee had promised a final report for this matter at the June meeting. However, the Committee was unable to complete it work because at the May meeting of Presbytery all matters relating to Laurel Church Centre were referred to the Business Committee.

In response to Presbyteries direction at the May meeting that all matters related to the Laurel church centre should be referred to the Business Committee the following is a list of unfinished matters referred to them by the CA Committee.

- 1) **Contact Joonim Congregation** to share with them where the Presbytery is in terms of assisting them to explore if there are funds at National, Presbytery, and congregational levels to purchase the Laurel Church Centre in whole for their use.
- 2) **Respond to the PCCC National Trustee Board re: the Memorandum of Understanding.** The CA had concerns about the Memorandum as proposed. We shared

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with the Business Committee that the basic premise of the Memorandum was that the original agreement prevented the congregation from selling the property until the loan was repaid. The Presbytery however repaid the loan to the National Office and so the congregation with Presbyteries permission would be allowed to dispense with the property as they see fit. This would make the transfer of the assets to the Presbytery before dissolution of the congregation allowable. The memorandum based on that false premise treats the property as a typical asset and not the special case that it is in terms of being part of the Laurel Church Centre. Our concern is not that Presbytery might choose to treat the property as the asset of a dissolved congregation subject to the usual terms of property being turned over to the PCCC Trustee Board but that the memorandum assumed we would do that and that that was the only way to look at the situation.

- 3) **Respond to Walter McLean's concerns concern raised at the dissolution service for Waterloo North.**
- 4) **Contact the Anglicans** including the Rector at All Saints and the Regional Dean to let them know Presbytery's decision about whether we are planning on buying them out or if we will let them buy us out or agree to put it up for sale to a third party. At the informal meeting we held at their request in May they made it clear that sharing the building was no longer an option they would entertain and that by the end of June they would take formal steps to invoke the Arbitration Clause in the Laurel Church Centre to lead to immediate action before the beginning of summer.

Visitation Report

Visitation of St. Andrew's Arthur and St. Andrew's Gordonville. Visit with Rev. Ed Charlton
 Rev. Andrew Song met with Rev. Ed Charlton on February 28th, 2013 at the office of Knox-Elora
 Condition of Employment

Ed has been serving at the current ministry for one and three quarter years. He enjoys the people of his two congregations and the people really are fond of him and his family. His stipend meets and exceeds the minimum set by the General Assembly. The manse in which Ed and his family are now living was repaired with new flooring and repainted before his arrival. Some new windows and doors have been put in since his arrival. An adequate office space and equipment has been provided in St. Andrew's Arthur.

Ed continues to try to balance his family's needs with the needs of the people in the two churches and community. Ed is learning Karate at the dojo in Arthur and has been trying to learn how to play the guitar. While Ed has not taken all of his holiday time, he did take six weeks of parental leave when their sixth child was born last year.

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As for study leave, Ed has gone to the Rural Ministry Symposium offered partly through our national church at Jackson's Point, Ontario last October. In the past he has attended the Leadership Summit, or would do some self directed readings. He has also made use of DVD's from different conferences.

Ed actively attends the local ministerial meetings and activities. He is interested in the "Youth for Christ" ministries in Arthur. During the summer he helps out with SU Sports Camp in Arthur and with an Ecumenical VBS in Arthur.

At Presbytery, Ed was the convener of Mission and Outreach Committee in our Presbytery last year and currently remains in that Committee as a resource person and will return to his own quadrant in September.

Visit to St. Andrew's Gordonville

On March 17th, 2013, the visitation committee provided the worship service. On visiting St. Andrew's Gordonville, we had a very warm and friendly reception. Worship was attended by a great balance of the generations including about 20 adults and 14 children. Many in the congregation are related to each other and there is a real family feeling to the congregation and support for their church and for each other. The congregation is very thankful for having their minister Rev. Ed Charlton, with one comment being, "never heard a negative word about Rev Ed." The congregation at Gordonville welcomes the opportunity to participate in Monday Sports Night held in Arthur.

The congregation's finances are in the black and in the past 6 years many projects have been completed to the aged church, including washroom, new windows, furnace and carpeting. At the Annual meeting in 2012 it was decided to merge the Board of Managers into the Session, due to the fact most members of the Board of Managers were on the Session also. Although amalgamation was mentioned, we felt that this church is destined to retain its autonomous status, far into the future.

Our only concern is that Leading With Care has not been implemented.

Recommendation: That the Presbytery provide resources and initiatives to move St. Andrew's, Gordonville towards compliance of the Leading with Care Policy.

Visit with St. Andrew's Arthur

The Visitation committee provided the March 17th, worship service. The congregation paused briefly following the benediction to voice the contentment and pleasures of their church family and minister, Rev Ed Charlton. A more in depth meeting, with the Elders and Board of Managers, was held in the sanctuary after a fellowship luncheon in the basement.

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Congregation

There were around 55 people in attendance at worship, which is about average. Six to ten children left the service to attend Sunday school. There are 142 members and approximately 80 adherents. The roll was purged two years ago. Led by Joyce McKee, there is a choir of talent and she is an organist to match. The representative adult number that stayed after the service indicated both an attachment to their “amazing” fellow church members and to their minister. “It is such a welcoming community.” They expressed an appreciation for the minister’s caring and fun nature and his ability to relate to families and young people. “Our community needs this church.”

Board of Managers

There are nine members with the normal term of service being 3 years. They meet once a month. The minister does not attend as a general rule. Session member Frank Cunningham is the liaison between Board and Session.

Buildings: The manse is reported to be in good repair. The church will need some repairs to its stain glass windows. Some drainage issues are also going to require a solution to keep the basement dry. The brick exterior is in need of timely repair and spot replacement. All facilities meet accessibility and fire safety requirements. The office space is sufficient and adequately equipped. There is a combination Fellowship hall/Sunday School, kitchen, nursery and library. The parking lot has unmarked, but acknowledged, handicap parking at the door.

Finances; The church’s financial records are in order and are audited yearly. All obligations are fulfilled in a timely manner to Presbyterian Sharing. All expenses are being met. It was indicated that resources are donated with willing and eager hearts if required.

Session

There are 10 active plus 2-3 supportive Elders on Session. The life service model is used and is organized by districts. Some visitation is combined with working alongside the minister. The Session meets on a monthly basis. The “Leading with Care” guidelines are followed when recruiting and orientating leaders. (Bonnie M oversees Police Record Checks and has records secured in the vault). There appear to be plans toward the election of some new Elders later in the spring.

Ministries

The congregation votes on its Presbyterian Sharing allocation. It supports PWS&D on a regular basis. Monday night youth are encouraged to attend a sports night with other local churches at a local gymnasium. Caring Hands Meals, Sports Camp, and Men’s breakfast were also mentioned. This church has sent several mission teams to Nicaragua with PAN. Foster Child and Food Bank support was briefly relayed to us. Both adult and youth bible studies are held by Rev. Charlton. Community VBS and Sunday school (with curriculum) are in place for the children.

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The Women of St. Andrew's are instrumental in bonding the congregation in causes such as two major fund raising events.

Request of Presbytery by members of St. Andrew's (to better support and encourage this church's growth and development)

- 1) Provide some expert guidance or consultative recommendations on financial budgeting toward structural repairs
- 2) Letters of encouragement and acknowledgement.
- 3) To share ideas for reducing the average age of congregation, "our core of enthusiasts are starting to grey", "few 25-40 year olds"
- 4) To provide newsletters to communicate who presbytery and why should we be supporting them."
- 5) "Support our Elders and our Minister. . . They deserve and need encouragement

Recommendations

St. Andrew's Arthur as observed by the visitation committee

- 1) That Session members consider the benefits of attending Elder workshops and also taking advantage of resources from Presbytery and the Elders' Institute.
- 2) That they continue to foster good communication between Board of Managers and Session and with St. Andrew's Gordonville.
- 3) That Session is encouraged to find additional means of keeping congregation informed of initiatives, events and challenges and . . . to support congregation's existing engagement to the St. Andrew's church's family and events with more advanced notification.
- 4) That Re. Charlton should continue to be accessible to as many of the congregation as required and to be recognized for his "open doors" welcome and his published available hours.
- 5) To provide support to your Choir and your music director wherever possible.

Please accept this report as an accurate representation of the written responses to the questionnaire. Hopefully it also emits the positive emotional undercurrents that were felt by our committee. The congregations face the same challenges as many of our Presbytery Churches and appears to be successfully accepting their responsibilities in the Lord's call for worship.

The Visitation Committee respectfully request that the Presbytery thank the congregations for their warm hospitality and straightforward participation in the visitation and that the visitation team be dismissed with the court's thanks.

In Christ's favour we remain.
 Rev. Andrew Song

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Alan Israel and Janet de Groot

Interim-Moderator's Reports

The following is my report on Palmerson/Drayton Pastoral Charge and Doon, Kitchener.

Palmerston/Drayton Pastoral Charge:

The following motion was presented at both congregations.

"That the congregation of Knox Presbyterian Church (Palmerston/Drayton) request that the Presbytery of Waterloo/Wellington extend the appointment of Rev. Calvin Brown, as Stated Supply, from January 1, 2014 to December 31, 2014. The terms of the appointment being the same as 2013, plus cost of living increase and increasing the weeks of holidays from five to seven weeks."

On Sunday, May 5 following the worship service the congregation of Knox Drayton passed the above motion unanimously.

On Wednesday, June 5, following a lengthy discussion at Knox Palmerston, the above motion passed, by secret vote, 12 Yes and 8 No.

As a result of only 60 per cent in favour at Palmerston I would like to continue discussions with Rev. Brown and the congregation at Palmerston to see if we can get a great 'yes' vote.

It is my prayer that the Presbytery of Waterloo/Wellington will permit me to work with the congregation and Rev. Brown and report back before the end of September, 2013, at which time the Presbytery will have to approve or reject the above motion.

Respectfully yours,
Kees Vandermeij
Interim Moderator

Report on Doon Presbyterian Church, Kitchener

The Session and Search Committee are entering the final stages of filling the vacancy at Doon.

We hope to have someone preach for the 'Call' before the end of June. At this point I'm not sure if we will approach Presbytery with a 'Call' during the summer or wait till September. This will depend on the needs of the Candidate.

The congregation is very excited about its future.

Respectfully yours,
Kees Vandermeij
Interim Moderator

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Recommendations

- 1: The Visitation Schedule as presented be approved.
- 2: The Report as a whole be adopted.

Respectfully submitted
Calvin Brown and David Whitecross
Co-Chairs

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Appendix "C"

Report of the Commissioners to the Venerable, the 139th General Assembly

In order to reduce redundancy with the material available online, which makes it possible for non-commissioners to follow the actions of assembly, report by report, the commissioners from Waterloo Wellington held a debriefing at the conclusion of assembly to record our impressions in 6 topical areas. We present this report as a reflection of that conversation:

Our thoughts on the weekend format and consent agenda.

This was the first year for Assembly to be held from Friday afternoon to Monday afternoon, a move made to encourage a younger court (participation by non-retired elders who might otherwise find it difficult to arrange a full week off work). The format for the weekend assembly was radically different with the main communion service taking place two thirds of the way through the Assembly (Sun. night) instead of at the opening, and the full day formerly devoted to briefing groups being condensed to a two hour Q&A on Fri. afternoon, where commissioners could roam between display tables manned by representatives of the various groups and committees. The Sunday morning was spent sharing "good news in the church" as opposed to sitting as a court for regular business.

Despite the alteration of the format, the number of hours available to complete the business was not greatly less than in previous years. The business was also expedited by use of the consent agenda.

This was the second Assembly since the introduction of the consent agenda. Committees decide which of their recommendations they feel will be non-controversial and present a "consent recommendation" as the second recommendation of their report (after "receive and consider") eg. "That recommendations 1, 2, 5, 8 and 12 be handled by consent." At this point a commissioner may ask for a particular recommendation (eg. recommendation 8) to be taken out of the bloc of consent recommendations and put before the assembly in the usual way (with time for discussion). If no such request is heard, the full bloc of consent recommendations are voted on at once. This means that commissioners have to be diligent in doing their reading beforehand as the consent agenda chews through a lot of business very quickly.

Two thumbs up: A majority of our commissioners said that they liked the consent agenda. There was less unanimity on the weekend format, but a majority (5 out of 8 present at our meeting) also said that they thought the weekend assembly worked well. The break-down of opinion over this was not clearly teaching vs. ruling elders, but in general the weekend format was conceived to serve ruling elders better, and, since clergy cannot expense their preaching supply to assembly office (congregations are expected to bear the cost) it does force clergy in strapped congregations

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and living within commuting distance of the Assembly to make a choice: either to be at assembly or to be with their congregations on the Sunday morning. One commissioner suggested making the worship of Assembly available to congregations across the nation as the Sunday morning worship on Assembly weekend. This could be done by holding the Assembly worship on Saturday night and making it available as a downloadable media file which could then be played on Sunday morning in local churches. This suggestion was favourably received among our group of commissioners. Our recommendation 2 will test whether it is favourably received by the Presbytery.

Our thoughts on what were the main issues of this assembly.

At every assembly there are a small number of issues which stand out as the most memorable, controversial, or weighty among all the business discussed. Your commissioners this year would flag the following:

-- the discussion on biennial assemblies probably generated the lengthiest debate. The Assembly Council has been placing this issue before the church in various ways for several years, and clearly still covets the cost saving of the \$130 000.00, out of their 8 million dollar budget, which a move to biennial assemblies would bring. Their report contained a recommendation that this assembly approve such a move in principle before sending it down to Presbyteries and synods for ratification. That recommendation was amended so that the proposal will be sent down to Presbyteries and synods for comment without any "in principle" decision of the Assembly overshadowing the discussion. This is a "heads up" to our Presbytery that there will be a fairly important remit to respond to on biennial assemblies this year (see our recommendation 1). Our YAR noted that in general the YARs do not favour a move to biennial assemblies since it would reduce the number of opportunities for youth to experience an assembly. There was some talk about a possible broad-based regional event, perhaps even a national "youth assembly" to occur in the non-assembly year under this proposal, but the report elsewhere stated that since the motivation behind Assembly Council's recommendation was cost-driven, there is no budget for creating an alternative national event in the off year.

-- the International Affairs committee presented 6 recommendations concerning Israel/Palestine. They are pro-Palestinian in flavour, urging the Canadian government and companies to withdraw their support (direct or indirect) of Israel's activities in the West Bank. These recommendations were hotly debated and eventually approved with some commissioners asking for their dissents to be recorded. The presenter of the recommendations drew attention to the actions of this and past assemblies which place this word from the IA committee in context (ie. this work of the IA committee follows upon recommendations passed by the 2009 assembly, and other arms of the assembly eg. the committee on church doctrine's recommendations of 2010 and the commissioner's overture passed earlier at this assembly, provide balance by placing our denomination on record as supporting the right of the state of Israel to exist and as deploring anti-semitism in all its forms). An additional motion was passed, arising from this report which asks

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for assembly to draw together all its statements on Israel/Palestine so that they might be made available to the church in one place. One of our commissioners expressed a desire to explore this issue further within our presbytery, and another commissioner noted that if we did want to undertake such a study, we have exceptional human resources among us with which to do it. See our recommendation 4.

-- the WMS report (found in the supplemental reports) generated considerable debate. The society wished to reorganize, by coming under a wider, re-named umbrella organization (the new name proposed was PCCW: Presbyterian Church in Canada Women, and it would include together with the WMS, also the Women's gathering and "new groups with new names"). The proposed vision for this new umbrella organisation would be to celebrate and nurture Christian living for all women of the PCC. The recommendations were referred back to the WMS for rethinking and presentation to a future assembly.

-- the pension fund had a very good year this year, but is still under pressure to make up the 51 million dollar solvency shortfall that the province insists we make up within 10 years. The shortfall was created by the market downturn in 2008 combined with demographic realities such as the shrinking pool of contributors as more clergy draw pension and churches close, meaning less working ministers paying into the plan. The pension board wants to engage clergy under 45 (of whom there were only 18 commissioned to this assembly) re: how to ensure the plan meets the needs of this group in the future. See our recommendation 5. There are decisions to be taken: Would this cohort be willing to work longer (to 67 or 70) to ensure that the pension earned will definitely be there? Are we willing to move well paid senior ministers to a contribution level of over 9%, so that we can ease the burden on younger, more poorly paid ministers? Are we wedded to a defined benefits plan, or would we entertain a move to defined contribution? Are we willing to pool our pension plan with that of another denomination or company? Are we willing to devote a portion of our real estate sales to the pension fund shortfall, or would that be stealing from the church's resources for mission? How can we nurture younger vocations and therefore more people who will contribute for a long period before they draw? How can we get the message across to younger clergy that their PCC pension will NOT be enough to live on; they need to invest for retirement using other vehicles (RRSPs, TFSAs)?

-- 2014 will mark the end of our formal process of truth and reconciliation with Canada's First Peoples and the 20th anniversary of our 1994 Confession. As at many assemblies in recent years the work of our denomination in this area has been heavily featured. This Assembly saw a report from a "Conversation Circle" which was formed in response to Overture 19, 2011 (the overture requested "a theological framework for Aboriginal Spirituality.") As commissioners we would commend the report of the Conversation Circle to the Presbytery with the question: "is this an adequate response to the desire for a theological framework"? How might we take this "conversation" further, and how can we ensure that the emphasis of the past 20 years and the gains made toward better mutual understanding are not lost? A DVD resource "It matters to me"

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and a print resource "Becoming neighbours" are commended to the Presbytery as a record of the work done in this area over the past 20 years and the impact it has had.

-- On the first night of assembly the clerks' report granted the prayer of Overture 3, 2013, the end result of which will be to create a PCC polity which has synods in some regions and eliminates synods in others. There was not extensive debate on this recommendation but it does signify a far-reaching change to our denominational structure. This is another "heads up" to our Presbytery to determine our mind about this in advance of being asked for an opinion when it comes before us via barrier act.

-- On the first night of assembly there was also a speech by a commissioner, not followed up with any motion, but which we, as a Presbytery delegation, felt was a word worthy of remembrance. The commissioner expressed concern that so many of the recommendations from the clerks' report, passing changes to our doctrine or procedure into law after the requisite period of consultation with the lower courts of the church had expired, did not reflect true engagement of those lower courts. The number of Presbyteries responding to remits is too low to be truly indicative of the broad-based will of our church. Our take-away from this is that we, as a Presbytery, need to take remits more seriously, and do our part in responding if we value participatory governance. See our recommendation 1.

Our interactions as a Presbytery with this Assembly:

As a Waterloo-Wellington delegation we thought we should include a report on how our overtures fared, and what, if anything, we see as the ways our Presbytery should interact with Assembly coming out of the business arising this year: Our Presbytery was responsible for Overtures 5, 2012 (re: eligibility requirements for the fund for ministerial assistance) 6, 2013 (re: equalizing minister) and 2, 2013 (re: including First Nations in loyal addresses).

-- Overture 5, 2012 was dealt with under the report of the Fund for Ministerial Assistance -- its prayer was not granted, because the committee did not buy our position that the financial stresses upon single people in ministry are equal to those upon ministers with children. The overture might have been entertained more seriously had the fund for ministerial assistance not also been making an appeal for cash, without which it will not be able to support even that group of ministers it does support at current levels.

-- Overture 6, 2013 was dealt with under the clerk's report -- its prayer was not granted because the clerks felt that giving retired ministers status on the constituent roll of Presbyteries was a direction with far-reaching consequences, in which they did not wish to go. A similar overture re: granting constituent roll status to lay missionaries was also denied for a similar reason.

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-- Overture 2, 2013 was referred to Justice Ministries in consultation with the clerks of assembly (see recommendation 2 of the report of the committee on bills and overtures in the supplemental material). It will receive an answer in a future year.

Our commissioners participated in the work of this assembly by diligently fulfilling their commission. Andrew Song was drafted onto the business committee for the duration of the proceedings and also posed a question to the Sunday afternoon panelists, Marty Molengraaf spoke within debate on the Assembly Council's budget, Brooke Ashfield within debate on Israel/Palestine and Murray Hamalainen took part in the close-of-Assembly presentation by the YARs. But by and large we were engaged with the business passively and did not emerge as "movers and shakers" at this assembly. A motion which passed uncontroversially but which will need to be communicated to every congregation in our bounds is the one which approved \$50 to be found within every congregation's budget for the support of the Presbyterian History Museum. The outgoing moderator John Vissers, also posed a challenge that should be relayed to all the congregations, which is either to send or to sponsor one youth to attend CY2014. See our recommendation 3.

Our gleanings amid the non-business:

At every assembly there is considerable time given to non-business (i.e. worship, round-table discussion exercises, speeches from ecumenical visitors and the past year's moderator). This year something called "Good news in the church: vibrant connections" dominated the non-business. The idea of sharing what was going on in congregations (which arose spontaneously out of last year's assembly in response to the speech by Clyde Ervine about the priority that ought to be placed upon congregational ministry), was made a formal part of the assembly this year. The experience of different forms of renewal in 7 diverse congregations from coast to coast was shared and discerning the good news within our own congregational stories became the focus for Sunday morning worship.

On Sunday evening the 7 featured ministers were invited to engage with commissioners in a panel discussion. During this time commissioner Kent Burdett from the Presbytery of New Brunswick gave a "word" to the assembly which many of us valued about the need to shift our focus from the church growth onus to the loving-our-neighbour onus. Do the mission, and results will ensue (or not, as God wills).

This Assembly was the first hosted jointly by two Presbyteries, Eastern HanCa and Oakridges, and many of us also valued the way in which "the Korean witness" was more to the fore in this Assembly than in some others. Paul Han, minister of Vaughn Community Church which beautifully and memorably hosted the Assembly banquet and communion service, was one of the 7 ministers with good news stories that were featured. His emphasis upon renewal of the church through small groups, biblical formation for disciples, and second mile hospitality/intentional witness-bearing, stood out as a "word" to many of us.

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Equally appreciated was the address by the past moderator, John Vissers, which this year's moderator, David Sutherland, described as "a word of prophetic power." Dr. Vissers reflected upon his experience with the truth and reconciliation process, with Canada Youth, with our partner churches during his trip to Ghana, and with Presbyterian congregations across the country. He reflected upon the contrast we see between our own struggling church and the "Acts 2 churches" of the global south." He said we must realize that it is "not about us": either the guilt for attrition (for this is an experience that is shared among churches in the West and is a function of the moment at which we exist in history), or the glory that attaches to congregations that have turned the corner and won the struggle to survive. It is not about our institutional survival but about bearing witness to Christ and carrying forward his mission in the world. Congregations that have done this are characterized by a culture of discipleship, are engaged in mission and are connected with their communities.

In our post-assembly conversation one commissioner said that he was struck by the sense that our church is evolving and there is a deepening spirituality at the General Assembly. Another said that she felt the impact of the YAR presence at every moment of the assembly even though the advisory vote was used on only a couple of occasions. Another reflected that she would call a moratorium on the way so many ministers and elders grouse about having to attend meetings of the church courts. Why the negativity? If you feel that way as a ruling elder, step aside and make room for someone who will value the experience. For her this privilege of attending General Assembly gave her a "big-picture" understanding of what our work in sessions and presbyteries is all about. Two commissioners agreed that the word of Clyde Ervine to the last assembly permeated this assembly at every point. We were not only meeting as a court of the church but as a think tank in some sense: as a gathering of Presbyterians sitting down to think creatively about our ministry at this point in time in order to have something to take back to our Presbyteries and congregations, where the heart of ministry is. These round-table discussion exercises, and the times when the Assembly stood together in praise are an instance of Assembly speaking and listening in a different way -- a way that transcends the dialectical posturing that our church court system cultivates (and which also has its uses for clarifying thought around the issues). Sitting as a court the Assembly serves debate and exalts the gift of prophecy. Sitting as a think tank or as a worshipping congregation, the Assembly serves the glory of God which is seen in unity and in the gift of love, both for God and for one another. Being able to shift back and forth between these two postures seemed to us the value of the "non-business" at Assembly.

Our impressions from the perspective of "the rookie" and "the retread"

Some of us had been to too many Assemblies to count. Others within our delegation were attending the assembly for the first time. We thought we would bring a lens onto this assembly by asking the "retreads" how it stacked up against others they had experienced, and by asking the "rookies" about their experience: the good and the bad.

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--Our "retreads" responded that they liked it: that the good news stories were a welcome addition, that there was a "good feel" throughout the Assembly, contributed to by the moderator's "lovely, pastoral tone," and that the consent agenda cut down on those moments when the rest of the court felt wearied by commissioners who felt the need to speak to every recommendation, momentous or not. The only negative thing was that the Q&A did not really achieve what the briefing groups used to, but still took 2 hours out of Friday afternoon when we could have been getting down to business.

-- Our "rookies" responded that they had had a really good experience: one said he was "impressed by how differences came to conclusion." Another said that the good organization of the written material helped rookies to get a grasp. Initially it had been overwhelming to get the binder, but luckily they had a veteran WW commissioner seated at their table who walked them through how the presenters would use the volume of reports in presenting their recommendations. This orientation made it possible to follow the business and for that big book to lose some of its intimidation factor. See our recommendation 6 which arises out of this comment.

Our greatest "hurt and hope" coming away from this Assembly

Attending Assembly performs the same function as a state of the union address: it allows one to get new eyes on how our church stands at this moment in its life. Sometimes that perspective leaves one with a abiding sense of deep concern (the hurt); at other times, or for other people it may lead to a renewed sense of hope. As this is an "impressionistic" report, we thought it worthwhile to talk about the feeling that this assembly left in our guts.

Several commissioners agreed that the hurt and the hope went hand in hand at this assembly. The concern is that our denomination is fading into insignificance: numerically declining, demographically aging, financially struggling. The confidence with which we once bore witness to the Presbyterian vision of God in Canadian society has all disappeared, and we are more of a voice crying in the wilderness. But what is hopeful is that, acknowledging this reality at long last, we have the opportunity to remake ourselves, to ask foundational questions about what being faithful to Christ means in our new reality. Hearing from congregations who are actively engaged in this process or who have found some sort of future on the other side of "the death sentence" which hangs collectively over all of us, is the source of the hope.

Another commissioner said that he saw last assembly and this one as "a set of bookends." The last assembly was "business as usual" but took seriously Dr. Ervine's plea to place new priority upon the ministry of congregations. In the interim there was streamlining at the national offices, and a series of articles in the Record which seemed, in terms of our "death sentence" to push past denial to acceptance, to the joyful realization that "we shall not all die, but will all be changed." By the time the church gathered again for this Assembly we were in a whole new place, ready to listen to and serve the ministry of congregations. And they represented the hope among us that comes from God.

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Another commissioner said that she felt great hope at those moments when the unity of leaders in our church transcended the diverse perspectives that were shown in the debate, but that the extreme diversity of those congregations shown us during the "Good News" segments disquieted her. "Back in the day" you could say that a Presbyterian in Canada stood for certain things (e.g. the lordship of Jesus Christ, the call to be and to make disciples, the supremacy of Scripture as a rule for our faith and life, particular values in worship). Today the profile of a Canadian Presbyterian is as variable as the congregation you choose to look at. We are becoming if not congregational, at least regional, even in our policy-making, so that whether a particular congregation allows children at communion is, since 1984, a local decision, and whether a particular congregation allows lay persons to officiate at the Lord's Supper is, since 2009, a regional decision, and now whether a given area of the church will have a synod or not is also a regional decision. Is this identity crisis okay because it reflects the wider identity crisis that Canadians feel amid our multicultural diversity, or does this mean that our unity is all on the surface and illusory? Do we still have that "unity in essentials, liberty in inessentials and charity in all things" that Richard Baxter spoke of? That the church shies away from a conversation about what those essentials are is a hurt felt at this assembly.

Another commissioner remembered the presenter who quoted some recent statistical research which says that the decline in the Presbyterian Church has leveled off, whereas the United Church of Canada is still losing members. "Our hope," he quipped "comes from the United Church."

This concludes our report, one in which we have attempted to capture not only the business of Assembly but also its ethos, of which there are no objective measures. But all who were commissioners to this Assembly concurred in the sense that there was a new willingness to be the Assembly *for the sake of* Presbyteries and congregations. To ensure that Presbytery picks up that ball which Assembly has been tossed it, and as follow-through on our experience at Assembly this year, the commissioners ask that Presbytery commit itself to the following actions:

Recommendations:

(Recommendations 1-3 recommend two separate but related actions. We present them as single motions, but if two Presbyters request, they may be divided at the word "AND"):

1. That the Presbytery undertake to respond to all remits sent down to it this year AND that the Presbytery assign to a person or small committee the task of preparing a report with our reasons for or against a move to biennial assemblies -- this report to become the basis of our discussion of the matter at Presbytery within the report of the committee on Education, Issues and Fellowship, and, incorporating the feedback received in that discussion, our position paper to the clerks of assembly and Assembly Council.

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2. That the Presbytery of Waterloo Wellington assign a person to frame an overture re: the making available of Assembly's worship as a media file for use in PCC congregations on the first Sunday of June AND that, until the granting of this prayer Presbytery include in its budget the sum of \$750 which can be claimed by clergy commissioners to the Assembly, thus freeing them to fulfill their commission at Assembly whether or not congregations are able to afford an 8th Sunday of preaching supply.
3. That the Presbytery urge congregations within its bounds to support the Presbyterian History Museum with a \$50 gift this year, AND to send from its own youth one representative, or to sponsor from another congregation one youth to attend CY2014 -- this urging to take the form of a request for response from congregations to the Congregational Affairs committee in much the same way that CA oversees congregations' response to Presbyterians Sharing....
4. That the Presbytery, through its committee on Education, Issues and Fellowship host a half day of learning within the coming year on what our church has said re: Israel/Palestine.
5. That the Presbytery, through its ministry committee, call together ministers under 45 for a discussion of the pension plan, and communicate an account of its discussion to the PCC Pension Board.
6. That when the commissioners to next year's assembly are named, and the binders arrive, a "walk-through" of the binder and of the procedures whereby Assembly does its business, be offered to first-time commissioners by a veteran Assembly attender within the Presbytery.

The commissioners to the 139th General Assembly, namely Brooke Ashfield (T.E.), Peter Goudy (R.E.), Murray Hamalainen (YAR), Judith Harrison (R.E.), Hazel Hislop (R.E.), Marty Molengraaf (T.E.), Andrew Song (T.E.), Ross Rowat (R.E.), Jeff L. Smith (T.E., who had to resign his commission for health reasons) and Karla Wübbenhorst (T.E.; commissioners' convener) wish to thank the Presbytery for the privilege of going to General Assembly (and for 4 days of free grub which we enjoyed at Presbytery's expense).

7. That with the adoption of this report as a whole, the above-named commissioners be officially discharged of their commission with the thanks of the Presbytery.

Presbytery of Waterloo-Wellington,
Regular Meeting, June 18, 2013
Knox Presbyterian Church, Elora, Ontario,

Appendix "D"

PLEASE NOTE

Pages 4652 to 4663 contain the Auditor's Report for the year 2012. The reports were distributed to all presbyters prior to the June 18th meeting.

Wilma Welsh, Clerk

4653

Presbytery of Waterloo-Wellington,
Regular Meeting, June 18, 2013
Knox Presbyterian Church, Elora, Ontario,

Wilma Welsh, Clerk (watwell@rogers.com)

4654

Presbytery of Waterloo-Wellington,
Regular Meeting, June 18, 2013
Knox Presbyterian Church, Elora, Ontario,

Wilma Welsh, Clerk (watwell@rogers.com)

4655

Presbytery of Waterloo-Wellington,
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4656

Presbytery of Waterloo-Wellington,
Regular Meeting, June 18, 2013
Knox Presbyterian Church, Elora, Ontario,

Wilma Welsh, Clerk (watwell@rogers.com)

4657

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Knox Presbyterian Church, Elora, Ontario,

Wilma Welsh, Clerk (watwell@rogers.com)

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Presbytery of Waterloo-Wellington,
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Presbytery of Waterloo-Wellington,
Regular Meeting, June 18, 2013
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Wilma Welsh, Clerk (watwell@rogers.com)

4661

Presbytery of Waterloo-Wellington,
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Wilma Welsh, Clerk (watwell@rogers.com)

4663

Presbytery of Waterloo-Wellington,
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