

Knox Presbyterian Church,  
Waterloo, Ontario  
June 19, 2012

**DATE AND PLACE:**

The Presbytery of Waterloo-Wellington met in regular session at Knox Presbyterian Church, Waterloo, on Tuesday, June 19<sup>th</sup>, 2012. The Presbytery gathered for a delicious dinner at 5:45 and then proceeded to the sanctuary at 7:00 p.m. for worship and the presbytery meeting.

**ATTENDANCE:**

**Ministers:** Rev. John Borthwick (Moderator), Rev. Brooke Ashfield, Rev. Linda Ashfield, Rev. Dr. Linda Bell, Rev. Aubry Botha, Rev. Ed Charlton, Rev. Calvin Brown, Rev. Mark Gaskin, Rev. Janice Hammalainen, Rev. Mark Lewis, Rev. Dr. Herb Gale, Rev. Alex MacLeod, Rev. Scott McAndless, Rev. Marty Molengraaf, Rev. Kathy Morden, Rev. Johan Olivier, Rev. Mark Richardson, Rev. Linda Paquette, Rev. Jeff L. Smith, Rev. Andrew Song, Rev. Nan St. Louis, Rev. Angus Sutherland, Rev. David Whitecross, Rev. Karla Wübbenhorst

**Representative Elders:** Barb Bonner, Lisa Brimblecome, Helen Cleghorn, Janet deGroot, Johan DeSchiffart, Andrew Foster, Peter Goudy, Hazel Hislop, Isabel Howell, Frank Kivell, Gib McIlwrath, Lydia Maitland, Gwen MacRobbie, Gib McIlwrath, Dale McKee, David Ogram, Bert Perriman, Bob Renton, Ross Rowat, Liz Samis, Neil Stewart, Earl Suggitt, Wilma Welsh, Jim Zaryski

**Ministers on the Appendix to the Roll:** Rev. Dr. Arnold Bethune, Rev. Dr. Wayne Dawes, Rev. Dr. Brice Martin, Rev. Dr. Shirley Gale, Rev. Dr. Walter McLean, Rev. Mary Whitson

**Alternate Representative Elders:** George Forsyth, Donna Tebow, Rick Thomas, Mary Rogers

**Students for Ministry:** Reuben St. Louis, Rev. Chris Ji Hoon Cho, G. C. Smith,

**Certified for Ordination:** Richard Warne

**WMS:** Phyllis Stewart

**Treasurer:** Mary Ann Koeslag

**Visitors:** Bev Wiens (Doon), Clare McKee (Waterloo North), Junghee Ahn (Joonim)

St. Giles, Galt Cambridge - Scott King, Janice Hamill, Sandy Grimwood, Mary & Howard DeBrask

St. Andrew's, Galt Cambridge – Rick Thomas, Kathy Gaskin, Doug Kelly, Darlene Robinson, Sandra Ridsdale, Kim Coldham, Lorne Moir, Jim O'Connor

**REGRETS:**

**Ministers:** Rev. William Bynum, Rev. Mark Gedcke, Rev. Robert Sinasac

**Representative Elders:** Deb Coutts, Jean Godin, Marion Hunter, Maria Liston, Jennifer McDougall,

**Ministers on the Appendix to the Roll:** Rev. Robert Duncanson, Rev. Penny Garrison, Rev. Angus McGillivray, Rev. Jeffrey E. Smith

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**WORSHIP** – Reuben St. Louis, student for the Ministry, led the court in worship with Brian Johnston, missionary to Romania, playing the piano.

**WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS AND CONSITUTION OF THE COURT:**

The Rev. John Borthwick, Moderator opened the meeting with prayer and constituted the court.

The Moderator welcomed visitors in the court from St. Andrew's and St. Giles, Galt, Cambridge, and Joonim Church.

The Moderator welcomed and expressed thanks to Brian Johnston for playing the piano for worship. He also expressed to Knox Waterloo the thanks of the court for their kind hospitality and delicious dinner.

**APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:**

Moved by Wilma Welsh/Gib McIlwrath that the Proposed Agenda be adopted with additions. CARRIED.

**MINUTES:**

Moved by Wilma Welsh/Angus Sutherland that the minutes of May 8, 2012 be adopted as circulated. CARRIED.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**BUSINESS COMMITTEE REPORT:** Clerk, Wilma Welsh reported.

Moved Wilma Welsh/Jeff L. Smith that the Report of the Business Committee be received and the recommendations considered. CARRIED

**1. CORRESPONDENCE – May 8 – June 18, 2012**

12-084	Liz Brewer, advising that Guidance Conf report has been sent to Ministry Committee – re Margaret Evans	Rec'd for info
12-085	E. Bartlett – requesting updated info re ministers & cong for A&P	Clerk
12-086	Session, Knox Waterloo inviting the 2014 Assembly main worship to be held at Knox, Waterloo	to GA 2014 Committee
12-087	Presbytery of Westminster – requesting transfer of Sidney Chang to Pres. Of Westminster	Ministry Committee
12-088	Angus Sutherland update on Joonim Church	Business Committee
12-089	Presbytery of Montreal – letter of Standing for Rev. Dr. Hui-Chi Tai – no longer a minister of the PCC	Ministry Committee

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12-090	J. Borthwick – visitation Report	Cong. Affairs
12-091	D. Phillips – re Leading With Care – Police Checks	Clerk
12-092	Angus Sutherland – funding for Museum from Winterbourne sale of property	Special Committee
12-093	Mark Gaskin – re St.Giles/St. Andrew’s Amalgamation Plan	Cong. Affairs
12-094	S. Shafer – re Rev. Chris Ji Hoon Cho’s approval by General Assembly	Clerk & Ministry Committee

Moved by Wilma Welsh/Gib McIlwrath that the actions of the Business Committee in assigning the correspondence be homologated. CARRIED

## 2. **MODERATOR – 2012-2013**

Moved by Wilma Welsh/Bert Perriman that the Rev. Linda Ashfield be the Moderator of the Presbytery of Waterloo-Wellington from September 2012 to September 2013. CARRIED

## 3. **DEDICATION OF GALE CHURCH, ELMIRA**

Moved by Wilma Welsh/Linda Bell that a Service of Dedication for the new church building at Gale Presbyterian Church, Elmira be held on Sunday, October 21<sup>st</sup>, 2012 at 3:00 p.m.  
CARRIED

## **STATED HOUR – 7:45**

### **TO RECEIVE THE CALL TO THE REV. CHRIS JI HOON CHO TO JOONIM (CHURCH OF THE LORD) PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, WATERLOO**

The Clerk examined the call and ensured that it is in proper form. It was noted that the Rev. Chris Ji Hoon Cho was approved as a minister of the Presbyterian Church in Canada at the 138<sup>th</sup> General Assembly (see Correspondence 12-094).

The Moderator invited the Interim Moderator, the Rev. Angus Sutherland to report his diligence and narrate the steps that brings the Call to the Presbytery of Waterloo-Wellington at this time.

Moved by Mark Gaskin/Calvin Brown that the actions of the Interim Moderator be approved.  
CARRIED

The Clerk, Wilma Welsh presented the Call from Joonim Presbyterian Church to the Rev. Chris Ji Hoon Cho

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**Call to a minister of Word and Sacraments and guarantee to presbytery of stipend**

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

In order that you, Rev. Chris Jihoon Cho, may be free to devote yourself to ministry of Word and Sacraments among us, we the congregation of Joonim's Presbyterian Church hereby guarantee to the Presbytery of Waterloo Wellington, of The Presbyterian Church in Canada, that out of our estimated annual revenue of **\$210,000.00** we promise and obligate ourselves to provide you, as a first charge thereon, the following annually:

Annual Stipend

*Option A* (inclusive of travel allowance) **\$40,209.00**

Housing/Rental allowance **\$14,400.00** per year

Cost of utilities: ***Church pays all utilities***

We agree to make payments of the above amounts on the first day of each 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 (minimum is \$600.00)
2. That the benefits of number 1 above shall be cumulative up to five years.
3. To provide five weeks holiday annually.
4. To pay supply during the periods of continuing education and holidays.
5. In case of disability or extended illness, to continue to provide stipend, accommodation and allowances for a period not less than that set by the General Assembly, and to pay the cost of pulpit supply.
6. To pay for Medical and Dental Insurance as provided through the Pensions and Benefits Board of the General Assembly and to make contributions to the Pension Plan in compliance with the terms of the plan.
7. To enroll the minister in the Presbytery's Group Insurance Plan for long term disability and accidental death.

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8. To pay any necessary moving expenses.
9. Optional (book allowance, internet, cell phone, etc.). **\$2,815.00** per year

At Joonim's Church, June 10th, 2012

Presiding Minister: Reverend Angus Sutherland \_\_\_\_\_ (signed) \_\_\_\_\_,  
Meeting Secretary: Elder Kwangyeol Lee \_\_\_\_\_ (signed) \_\_\_\_\_,

Moved by Wilma Welsh/Lisa Brimblecome that the Call to the Rev. Ji Hoon Cho be received and considered, and that the representative from Joonim Presbyterian Church be heard.

CARRIED

The Moderator invited Ms. Junghee Ahn to speak on behalf of the Call

Moved by Ed Charlton/Mark Richardson that the guarantee of stipend is deemed acceptable.  
CARRIED

Moved Mark Richardson/Gib McIlwrath that the Call be sustained as a Gospel Call by the Presbytery of Waterloo-Wellington. CARRIED

The Clerk, Wilma Welsh presented the Call to the Rev. Chris Ji Hoon Cho and he indicated his acceptance of the Call.

Moved Wilma Welsh/Andrew Song that a Service of Induction be held at Emmanuel United Church, Waterloo (the current worshipping home of the Joonim congregation) on Sunday, September 16<sup>th</sup>, 2012 at 5:00 p.m. followed by dinner. The details of the induction are left in the hands of the Moderator, Clerk and Interim Moderator. CARRIED

It was noted that the Edict of Induction will be read on the following Sundays – September 2<sup>nd</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> and returned to the Clerk before the Induction Service.

It was also noted that it is the custom for all induction services that the offering be used for the ongoing work of the presbytery.

**CONGREGATIONAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE** – reported by Convener Johan DeSchiffart  
Moved by Johan DeSchiffart/Helen Cleghorn that the report of the Congregational Affairs Committee be approved. CARRIED (See Appendix A for report and complete amalgamation plan)

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STATED HOUR – Amalgamation Plan for St. Andrew’s and St. Giles Presbyterian Churches,  
Galt, Cambridge)

**Amalgamation Process St. Giles and St. Andrew’s:**

A delegation from St. Giles and St. Andrew’s Galt was present for the discussion of the Amalgamation Plan. This plan was approved by the Sessions of both congregations and subsequently at the congregational meetings held by each individual congregation, where it was approved unanimously at both.

The Congregational Affairs Committee adopted the plan, also unanimously, and praised the Committee that has worked so hard to bring this about. The final Amalgamation Plan is attached to the agenda.

The Committee makes the following motion:

That the Amalgamation Plan be presented to Presbytery for approval.

Moved by Johan DeSchiffart/Linda Ashfield that the Amalgamation Plan be presented to the Presbytery for approval. CARRIED

Motion to Defer –

Herb Gale shared with the court his many concerns and moved by Herb Gale/Bob Renton that the approval of the plan be deferred until additional information is available. DEFEATED.

The Clerk asked if it was the wish of Dr. Gale to have his comments minutes recorded and he declined.

Discussion continued with many speaking positively about the plan.

Approval of the Amalgamation Plan

Moved by Johan DeSchiffart/Linda Ashfield that the Amalgamation Plan as presented by adopted. CARRIED

Appreciation was expressed to all who had worked hard with the two congregations in developing this plan.

**BUSINESS COMMITTEE REPORT – cont’d**  
**COMMISSIONERS TO THE 2012 MEETING OF THE SYNOD OF CENTRAL,**  
**NORTHEASTERN ONTARIO AND BERMUDA**

Moved by Wilma Welsh/Linda Bell that the following be our commissioners to the 2012 meeting of the Synod of Central, Northeastern Ontario and Bermuda

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Ministers – Rev. Linda Ashfield, Rev. Karla Wübbenhorst  
Elders – Aileen Isaac (Calvin, Kitchener) and Junghee Ahn (Joonim Church, Waterloo)  
CARRIED

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2014 STEERING COMMITTEE**

Moved by Wilma Welsh/Ross Rowat that the following persons be named to the 2014 General Assembly Planning Committee – Scott McAndless (Convener), Linda Ashfield, Johan DeSchiffart, Gib McIlwrath, plus one from Knox's Galt Cambridge with the Clerk ex-officio.  
CARRIED

**REPRESENTATIVE ELDERS TO PRESBYTERY**

Sessions were reminded that the names of their Representative Elder/Alternate are now due. The Clerk encouraged Sessions to send them in as quickly as possible.

**ROTATION OF PRESBYTERY COMMITTEES**

The Clerk advised that according to the Standing Orders the committees will rotate in September 2012. The following is the rotation -  
Kitchener-Waterloo area – from Congregational Affairs to EIF  
Cambridge area – from EIF to Ministry  
Guelph area – from Ministry to Mission & Outreach  
Northern Kingdom – from Mission & Outreach to Congregational Affairs

**2012-2013 MEETING DATES AND PLACES** (invitations welcomed)

September 11, 2012 – Knox, Waterloo (Installation of Moderator & Communion)  
November 13, 2012  
January 8, 2013  
March 12, 2013  
May 14, 2013  
June 18, 2013 – Opening of 2013 General Assembly is May 31  
September 10, 2013 – location of Moderator for 2013-2014

**SPECIAL MEETING OF PRESBYTERY**

The court was advised that the Presbytery will be called to meet in a special meeting on Tuesday, July 17<sup>th</sup>, 2012 to process two calls.

Moved Wilma Welsh/Ed Charlton that the Report as a Whole of the Business Committee be adopted. CARRIED

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**Extension of Presbytery Meeting**

Moved by Mark Lewis/Jeff L. Smith, that the Presbytery extend its meeting time to 10:00 p.m.  
CARRIED

**CONGREGATIONAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE - cont'd (see Appendix "A")**

**VISITATION REPORTS**

**Rockwood** (see Appendix B)

Moved by Johan DeSchiffart/Helen Cleghorn that the report be received and approved, including the recommendations.

It was requested that recommendation #2 be removed from this recommendation and discussed further. Agreed

MOTION - CARRIED

Recommendation #2

Moved by Karla Wübbenhorst/duly seconded that recommendation #2 be referred to the Business Committee for implementation. CARRIED

**Eden Mills** (see Appendix C)

Moved by Johan DeSchiffart/Helen Cleghorn that the report be received and approved, including the recommendations.

It was requested that recommendation #3 be removed from this recommendation and discussed further. Agreed

MOTION - CARRIED

Recommendation #3

Moved by Karla Wübbenhorst/duly seconded that recommendation #3 be referred to the Business Committee for implementation. CARRIED

**Knox, Guelph** – see Appendix D

Moved by Johan DeSchiffart/Helen Cleghorn that the report be received and approved, including the recommendation. CARRIED

**Duff's, Puslinch** – see Appendix E

Moved by Johan DeSchiffart/Helen Cleghorn that the report be received and approved, including the recommendations. CARRIED

**FINAL REPORT FROM REV. DR. J. P. SMIT**

The courts attention was drawn to the final report from John Peter Smith (see appendix F)



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**HUNGARIAN MISSION, KITCHENER**

It was noted that the Presbytery is in correspondence with both the Mission and the Presbytery of Paris. A report will be received by the Presbytery hopefully at the September Presbytery meeting.

**WATERLOO NORTH SPECIAL COMMITTEE**

Received for information (see Appendix G)

Moved Johan DeSchiffart/Helen Cleghorn that the report as a whole of the Congregational Affairs Committee be adopted. CARRIED

**NOTICE OF MOTION RE QUADRANT SYSTEM**

A special committee representing the quadrants was struck in May to report in June, to discuss the quadrant system. The following Notice of Motion was sent out to all presbyters two weeks prior to the this meeting of Presbytery.

**Notice of Motion**

The committee charged with the task of studying the quadrant system met and makes the following notice of motion to the meeting of the Presbytery of Waterloo-Wellington at its regular meeting on June 19th, 2012

- 1) That each quadrant choose their convener at their June meeting and that the new and the old convener attend the September Business Committee meeting.
- 2) That the old convener move with the committee to the new quadrant meeting for one year for continuity as a full committee member.
- 3) That notices and agendas for all quadrant meetings be copied to the Clerk along with minutes of all meetings. These will be emailed to all presbyters. Presbyters are invited to sit and correspond at any quadrant meeting if there is an agenda item they would like to be part of

Moved Johan DeSchiffart/Helen Cleghorn that the Notice of Motion be adopted and the Standing Orders be amended recognizing this change. CARRIED

**MISSION AND OUTREACH COMMITTEE (see Appendix H)**

The report was presented by the Convener, Ed Charlton

Moved by Ed Charlton/Kathy Morden that the report of the Mission and Outreach Committee be received and considered. CARRIED

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Recommendations 1-4

The Committee met with the Rev. Glen Soderholm to discuss with him his vision for a missional church in downtown Guelph.

- 1) .That the Presbytery of Waterloo-Wellington recognize and encourage Rev. Glen Soderholm's new ministry and embrace this ministry as a ministry of the Presbyterian Church in Canada as he starts and continues this ministry in the Missional Church model, in the downtown area of Guelph.

Moved by Ed Charlton/Kathy Morden that recommendation #1 be approved. CARRIED

- 2) That we the Presbytery of Waterloo-Wellington move to start a new congregation through this ministry that Rev. Glen Soderholm is beginning.

Moved by Ed Charlton/Kathy Morden that recommendation #2 be approved.

Amendment – Moved by Calvin Brown/Gil McIlwrath that the motion be amended to read until we receive an additional proposal. DEFEATED

Motion - CARRIED

- 3) That the Presbytery of Waterloo-Wellington provide seed money of \$7000, from the Development fund, to this new Ministry to help with the cost that Glen Soderholm is incurring.

**Notice of Motion**

After considerable discussion it was moved by Ed Charlton that he would move or cause to be moved at a future sederunt this recommendation as per standing orders. (during this time the Business Committee will review and be prepared to comment on this matter).

- 4) That Rev. Glen Soderholm be accountable to the Mission and Outreach Committee

Moved by Ed Charlton/Kathy Morden that recommendation #4 be approved. CARRIED

- 5) That the Presbytery of Waterloo-Wellington provide funding of \$2500 for Miss Debbie Song to partake in this mission trip to Taiwan. (this is the full funding for the trip not including personal purchases) and that this money would come the Youth work and Christian education budget line.

Moved by Ed. Charlton/Kathy Morden that recommendation #5 be approved. CARRIED

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Moved by Ed Charlton/Kathy Morden that the report as a whole be adopted as amended.  
CARRIED

**Extension of meeting**

Moved by Mark Gaskin/Nan St. Louis that the hour of adjournment be extended to 10:30.  
CARRIED unanimously.

**MINISTRY COMMITTEE**

Moved by Jeff L. Smith/Johan Olivier that the report of the Ministry Committee be received and the recommendations considered. CARRIED

Recommendations

1. That the Presbytery Certificate of the Rev. Sidney Chang be transferred to the Presbytery of Westminster. The Rev. Chang will be the transitional minister to Burnaby Presbyterian Church (Burnaby Taiwanese Church).

Moved by Jeff L. Smith/Johan Olivier that recommendation #1 be approved. CARRIED

2. That the Rev. Ed Charlton's request to take parental from leave be granted. The Ministry Committee encourages Rev. Charlton to take more time. Time requested is July 21 - August 31, 2012.

Moved by Jeff L. Smith/Johan Olivier that recommendation #2 be approved. CARRIED

3. That: Whereas the congregation of Duff's Church and the Rev. Marty Molengraaf have consented to continue for another year in their relationship with the Ecumenical Campus Ministry at the University of Guelph, the Ministry Committee continue its oversight and support of the Rev. Marty Molengraaf in this ministry.

Moved by Jeff L. Smith/Johan Olivier that recommendation #3 be approved. CARRIED

**For Information:**

Exit Interview with the Rev. Penny Garrison:

The Ministry Committee has appointed Johan Olivier and Linda Paquette to serve on a joint committee with Congregational Affairs to conduct an exit interview with the Rev. Penny Garrison and with the Session of St. Giles Church.

From the Presbytery of Montreal – letter of standing for the Rev. Dr. Hui-Chi Tai. He will no longer be a minister of the PCC.

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The Rev. Chris Cho has been received into the Ministry of the Presbyterian Church in Canada at the 138th General Assembly.

### **Students Reports**

1. Moved by Jeff L. Smith/Johan Olivier that Gregory Smith be re-certified to theological studies. CARRIED
2. Moved by Jeff L. Smith/Johan Olivier that Lisa Brimblecome be re-certified to theological studies. CARRIED
3. Moved by Jeff L. Smith/Johan Olivier that Margaret Evans be re-certified to theological studies. CARRIED
4. For Information: On July 2<sup>nd</sup> there will be a Certification for Ordination interview with Reuben St. Louis and Lunch with all our students: Place: Knox Church, Guelph. Time: 10: a.m. The Interview team will be Johan Olivier, Karla Wübbenhorst, Alex MacLeod, and Jeff Smith

### **Notice of Motion**

Moved by Jeff L. Smith that the Committee on Ministry will move or cause to be moved amendments to section 7.5 of the Presbytery's Standing Orders and his addition of an "appendix I", providing further clarification as to the terms of reference for the Pastoral Care sub-committee.

Moved by Jeff L. Smith/Johan Oliver that the report as a whole of the Ministry Committee be adopted. CARRIED

### **EDUCATION, ISSUES AND FELLOWSHIP (EIF) - No Report**

### **TREASURER'S REPORT**

(see Appendix I for the Auditor's Report for the year ending December 31, 2012)

A correction was noted in that the Development Grant listed for Knox Crieff Hills should be shown as Crieff Hills Community Centre.

Moved by Calvin Brown/Angus Sutherland that the Auditor's Report be approved and accepted with the above correction re Knox Crieff. CARRIED

### **RETIRING REPRESENTATIVE AND ALTERNATE ELDERS**

The Moderator expressed appreciation to the Representative Elders that are retiring.

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**NEXT MEETING**

The Presbytery will meet as scheduled at Knox Presbyterian Church, Waterloo, on Tuesday, September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2012 at 6:30 for refreshments. The Presbytery will meet at 7:00 p.m.

It was noted that there is a Special meeting called for Tuesday, July 17<sup>th</sup> to received two calls.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no new or further business the court adjourned on motion of Janice Hamalainen. The Moderator closed the meeting with Prayer.

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Moderator

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Clerk

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Appendix "A"

## **Congregational Affairs Committee June 19, 2012**

The Congregational Affairs Committee met on June 12, 2012 at St. Andrew's Kitchener.

**A Amalgamation Process St. Giles and St. Andrew's:**

A delegation from St. Giles and St. Andrew's Galt was present for the discussion of the Amalgamation Plan. This plan was approved by the Sessions of both congregations and subsequently at the congregational meetings held by each individual congregation, where it was approved unanimously at both.

The Congregational Affairs Committee adopted the plan, also unanimously, and praised the Committee that has worked so hard to bring this about. The final Amalgamation Plan is attached to the agenda.

The Committee makes the following motion:

That the Amalgamation Plan be presented to Presbytery for approval.

**Further motions to be approved by Presbytery:**

1. That Presbytery approves the Rockwood visitation report and its recommendations.
2. That Presbytery approves the Eden Mills visitation report and its recommendations.
3. That Presbytery approves the Knox Guelph visitation report and its recommendations.
4. That Presbytery approves the Duff's visitation report and its recommendations.

**B Other:**

- The final report from The Rev. J. P. Smit is attached for information.
- Correspondence with the Hungarian Reformed Church is continuing. They have been asked to make a presentation to the Presbytery on the goals and vision of their ministry in the near future.
- The Convener of the Special Committee for Waterloo North, The Rev. Dr. Herb Gale, sent the report of the initial meeting.

Respectfully submitted by Johan DeSchiffart, Convener

Wilma Welsh, Clerk - watwell@rogers.com

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Appendix “B”

**Presbytery Visitation  
Rockwood Church Report  
Sunday, April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2012.**

**Visitation Team:** Rev. Linda Ashfield, Elder Lawrie Carter, Elder Dave Ogram (Knox Waterloo)(

**Preamble:**

The team began the day by worshipping with Eden Mills, followed by a brief coffee break. Met with the congregation (including the board of managers) in the sanctuary and then with the Session. At noon we drove to Rockwood Church where we had lunch. We met with the congregation (including only 2 elders who were also on the board of managers) and then afterwards with the session. We then had a meeting with the minister, Rev. Linda Paquette.

**Observations and Findings:**

Rockwood Church is situated on the main road through town. While the church itself is quite old, they have recently put on an addition to the front of the building which includes a bathroom, a small meeting room with kitchenette and a small classroom; all now accessible. The new addition is all paid for except \$5,000. The congregation is proud of the addition as it provides good space for programming as well as a positive look on the street as well. (The basement is no longer used for programming and some decisions need to be made about its upkeep as well as a process regarding the next phase of refurbishing.) Quite a few people commented on not being able to hear during the worship service.

The village of Rockwood itself has seen a lot of growth in the last few years – with many new homes and businesses. It is largely a bedroom community for Guelph and Toronto and continues to be drawing new people. There are a few young families connected to Rockwood and the Church School teacher is doing a tremendous job of outreach as well as providing programming to the young children who attend the church.

Rockwood is celebrating its 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary this year and is planning a special service on Sunday, September 9<sup>th</sup> with guest preacher, the Rev. John-Peter Smit, our Synod Consultant.

The majority of the membership at Rockwood grew up in the church and have been a part of the congregation for 5, 6 and 7 generations. While this is a positive thing for those who are a part of the fellowship, they admitted it can be daunting for a new person and while visitors come, it is difficult to integrate and keep them. It is clear however, that there is a lot of potential for growth in this community.

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Although we arrived only ten minutes after worship, at least one half of the congregation did not stay for lunch or the visitation. In fact no members of the board of managers were present (other than those who were also elders). While the fourteen there, welcomed us with great hospitality it was disappointing that many members did not choose to join us. Those present did not express any concerns over their finances or the future viability of their congregation.

The congregation expressed appreciation and thankfulness for their minister and her leadership; especially in the last couple of years with her husband's sickness and passing a year ago.

**Recommendations:**

That the Presbytery congratulate Rockwood on its 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and commend them for their faithful witness.

That the Presbytery create a team (perhaps one/two people from each quadrant) who will look at and study the trends of decline in the churches within the bounds of our Presbytery and gather resources (information and people) that can assist congregations make decisions about the options that are available to them.

That the Presbytery webmaster update the format of the Congregational Questionnaires online in our Standing Orders (they are in different fonts and sizes and are not presented clearly) in order to make them user friendly and ready to print.

That the congregation be thanked for their hospitality (lunch was wonderful – thank you) and to those who stayed – for their participation.

That the visitation team be dismissed.



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Appendix "C"

**Presbytery Visitation  
Eden Mills Report  
Sunday, April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2012.**

**Visitation Team:**

Rev. Linda Ashfield, Elder Lawrie Carter, Elder Dave Ogram (Knox Waterloo)

**Preamble:**

The team began the day by worshipping with Eden Mills, followed by a brief coffee break. Met with the congregation (including the board of managers) in the sanctuary and then with the Session. At noon we drove to Rockwood Church where we had lunch. We met with the congregation (including only 2 elders who were also on the board of managers) and then afterwards with the session. We then had a meeting with the minister, Rev. Linda Paquette.

**Observations & Findings:**

Eden Mills church is situated on the edge of the village of Eden Mills. The village consists of many new comers who are highly committed to the life of the community and are involved in various projects; however only 1 member of the church comes from the village. The members commute from as far away as Stratford and Toronto every week in order to attend their home church. The village has no zoning for new housing and both churches connected to it (Presbyterian and United) are small. While the recent breakfast drew people from the village, in general there doesn't seem to be a connection between the church and the village. There are no children/youth or young families and therefore no Church School program. There are a couple of young adults who sing with the choir.

The congregation expressed appreciation and thankfulness for their minister and her leadership; especially in the last couple of years with her husband's sickness and passing a year ago. Many mentioned that it is sometimes hard for a church to know how to support their own minister in a time of grief.

It is clear that the people of Eden Mills care deeply and passionately about their church. They are highly committed – not only driving the distances they do each Sunday, but also in their stewardship as well. While they are meeting their finances, it is clear that the trend over the past five years is troubling:

	Average attendance	income	building costs
2007	44	65K	11K
2008	40	68K	11K
2009	35	65K	11K

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2010	28	62K	10K
2011	24	63K	14K

The congregation should be commended for their stewardship – while their attendance has dropped 50%, the overall givings have kept pace and the average per capita givings have doubled in the past five years. However, the financial struggles are real and it is the story of a declining congregation with two few people being asked to cover the costs that include a church building becoming too expensive to heat and keep up.

The music ministry is an important element to the worship experience at Eden Mills and the congregation has been served by vibrant leadership from one person for 46 years. There is a strong group of singers who enjoy leading the congregation in music and many who commute are involved in the choir. However, the music director is retiring at the end of June and there is some concern about the future of the music program.

Eden Mills is celebrating its 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and has an event planned for each month of this year, including inviting their former minister, Rev. Carrie Doehring (now Associate Professor of Pastoral Care and Counseling at Iliff School of Theology in Denver, Colorado) to preach on May 27<sup>th</sup>. These monthly events is quite an undertaking for a small church.

Along with the obvious financial issues, the same people end up being called upon to do things and many are feeling tired and discouraged. The congregation is deeply concerned about its future viability and keeping things going is becoming a strain. While the board and the session are highly committed, they speak frankly about seeing the inevitable end in sight and are feeling grief.

While they are proud of their history, they are realistic about their present reality and are open to thinking strategically about their future. The minister and members of Eden Mills recently attended the Rural Church workshop in the Presbytery.

Twenty-one people stayed for conversation after worship, and we are grateful for their open and candid approach as they shared with the team their joys and frustrations. There is a critical year or two ahead for this congregation, as they discern their future and where God is calling them.

**Recommendations:**

That the Presbytery congratulate Eden Mills on its 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and commend them for their faithful witness and high level of commitment as they celebrate throughout the year.

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That the Congregational Affairs Committee follow up with the minister and Session at Eden Mills in the next few months regarding ways in which the congregation could be assisted as they begin to look at the options available and make decisions about their future.

That the Presbytery create a team (perhaps one/two people from each quadrant) who will look at and study the trends of decline in the churches within the bounds of our Presbytery and gather resources (information and people) that can assist congregations make decisions about the options that are available to them.

That the congregation be thanked for their hospitality and participation.

That the visitation team be dismissed.

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Appendix "D"

### Knox Guelph Visitation

On the evening of May 1'12 two Elders of Knox Preston and I had the pleasure of visiting Knox Guelph as part of Presbytery's ongoing oversight of the congregations within it's bounds. We were very warmly received and enjoyed our discussions with the Minister, congregation and Elders.

Knox Guelph is a lovely church in excellent condition, well situated for expanding outreach and mission. As with many Presbyterian congregations Knox Guelph is well into the process of analyzing their current gifts, strengths and weaknesses; planning for future ministry; and moving into that future. As with all congregations an influx of new, young, energetic people would be a blessing, however Knox is blessed with excellent leadership, energetic volunteers, friendly members, and a genuine desire to answer God's call upon them. As God opens new doors and presents new opportunities for ministry and mission, some surge forward eagerly, some follow energetically, some move forward more slowly and a few resist. With any change there is some confusion, uncertainty, conflict and fear, however the congregation, committees and Session openly discuss these issues and are strengthened by the process.

The City of Guelph's inner core is rapidly changing and Knox Guelph is well positioned for those changes. Their pastoral care groups are proactive and communicate well with each other and the minister. Their popular Logos program continues to grow and will continue to provide a good entry point for new families into the community and the congregation. Knox Guelph is blessed with an excellent music program under the masterful leadership of their Music Co-ordinator. This music ministry will continue as a strength that will enrich worship and attract new members. The minister's open, supporting, caring, joyful approach to life and ministry makes it easy for members to approach him, and new people to find a home at Knox Guelph.

We found Knox Guelph to be a vibrant, loving congregation who truly waits upon God's Word for their strength and direction. Perhaps Knox Guelph might document their journey, its struggles and victories, so that other congregations who find themselves moving and changing might learn from their experiences. Our thanks to the Knox Guelph for a great night of open, honest and loving conversation.

God bless!

Respectfully submitted by Isabel Howell, Gwen Brennan, Rev. Bill Bynum

Recommendation: that Knox Guelph be commended for, and encourage to continue, their faithful worship, service and witness.

Recommendation: that this report be adopted as printed.

Respectfully submitted by Isabel Howell, Gwen Brennan, Rev. Bill Bynum

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Appendix "E"

**Visitation to Duff's Presbyterian Church, Puslinch  
May 6th, 2012**

The Rev. John Borthwick (convener), Ross Rowat and Peter Devries (elders of St. Andrew's, Guelph)

**Preamble**

The Clerk advised the convener and the congregation of the upcoming visitation. Unfortunately, the Clerk was unable to provide our team with past statistical or visitation reports as they could not be found.

The congregational survey was distributed and available for several weeks prior to our arrival. We received 31 surveys including one from the minister, music director and parish nurse. The visitation was set for Thursday May 3rd. We met with the Session at 6pm and were graciously hosted. We then met with members of the Board of Managers and congregation until approximately 9pm. Finally, we met with The Rev. Marty Molengraaf and concluded our time at just before 10pm.

The convener connected with Karen Harding, Parish Nurse and Katie Stewart, Youth Engagement Worker as well.

The convener and Mr. Rowat attended worship at Duff's on Sunday May 6th where the convener had the honour of participating in the congregation's memorial dedication service as Moderator of the Presbytery. It was pointed out to us that the chancel has been renovated with a platform and lectern replacing the central pulpit and choir loft, creating a more flexible worship space.

**Observations**

From responses to the questionnaire:

Key Words and phrases:

Here is just a sampling: "fellowship is strong", "dedication and commitment of people and leaders", "good idea having a parish nurse... great benefit to the congregation", "warm and welcoming congregation", "Music is varied and nice to listen to", "caring community", "major achievements/successes over the last year – Parish Nursing, Youth Engagement and work with First Nations community", "strong group of volunteers", and "impressive renovations"

A number of comments related directly to the Minister, Marty: "Marty is doing a terrific job", "Sermons are stirring and thought-provoking", "He leads by example... is everything and more"

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than you could want in a minister.”, “The minister is the best I think that Duff’s has ever had – warm, loving, and inclusive of all”

When asked about suggestions for the future, the respondents said the following:

- “People need to be more open to new programs and give them a chance. The ministry is changing and Marty cannot do ‘everything’ without help.”
- “Keep doing what we’re doing” (local, university, northern aboriginal and international)
- Start a Ladies only bible study
- Continue to bring in guest speakers
- Experiment with different programs
- Direct Debit (PAR) should be encouraged more
- Empowering our volunteers and not burdening our administrator so much

When asked about support from Presbytery, the responses were as follows:

- “I think MONEY is always helpful.”
- Advertising of churches to local schools and subdivisions
- Presbytery needs to support University ECM programs
- Draw out more youth involvement
- Use of website or social media to put Marty’s sermons on-line to be shared with Duff’s members who are unable to attend but also the on-line community
- Someone from Presbytery to spend a Sunday service at the church
- Provide more information regarding aging congregations and participation of youth
- Share struggles and strengths of other congregations in the Presbytery

**From our conversation with the Session:**

The committee met with a good representation of the Session. It was obvious that the members of Session were well prepared for our visit and shared openly about their successes and challenges. Duff’s is an active and caring community of people who are celebrating their 175th Anniversary under the theme – “Proud Past, Promising Future”. From the surveys and from our conversation with the Session, we were impressed with the positive attitude of Duff’s at this time in its history. They are deeply appreciative of the hard work and creativity of their minister, Marty, their Parish Nurse, Karen, and their youth engagement worker, Katie as well as their music director, Susan, and administrator, Wendy including their other staff and dedicated volunteers. The Session seems to work well together with a good spirit of cooperation as well as a willingness to engage in hard decisions and do so with honesty and forthrightness.

They raised similar challenges to those likely found in many of our congregations today: the desire for more members especially younger ones and the need for more financial resources to ensure a stable future. They continue to encourage their elders to visit among their districts

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regularly. They are using the Pre Authorized Remittance system and are working on seeing it used by more of their membership. They have participated in the Stewards by Design conference and are looking forward to seeing how they might implement more of the wisdom from that event into their congregational life and work. They admitted that they have been slow adopters of "Leading with Care" but have taken many of the important steps such as ensuring ratios of adults to children are met, the building is as accessible as it can be, windows have been placed in doors, etc. They are continuing to work with their Board and their insurance providers to meet the other recommendations of the policy as soon as possible. The Visitation Team would encourage that they continue in this work in order to not only satisfy the policy of our denomination but the safety of our children and vulnerable adults as well as those who lead and offer care to them.

A couple of the unique areas in the life of Duff's in the past year are: Marty's leave of absence and the congregation's relationship with the Ecumenical Campus Ministry at the University of Guelph.

The Visitation Team did offer praise to the Session for their boldness in offering care to their minister when family needs became pressing. We did note, on behalf of the Presbytery, that the order of events may have been out of step (in that Presbytery should have been the body to offer such a leave to one of their ministers) but the Session's primary concern for their minister clearly outweighed such strict adherence to polity. We affirmed them in that. Marty has been back from his leave for about a month now and is finding his rhythm again. The Session spoke positively about their experience during Marty's absence and praised those who stepped up among the congregation and from the Presbytery during this time. They are certainly pleased to have Marty back with them but remain concerned for his own health and well-being as well as his family. The comment was that Marty "can't say no" and that often leads to Marty saying yes too many times and stretching himself too far. The Visitation Team would encourage the Session to work with Marty to help him say no more often. We sense and trust that your mutual relationship over the last ten years is open to this kind of honest support.

As the Presbytery is aware, the congregation of Duff's and Marty have entered into a relationship with the Ecumenical Campus Ministry (ECM) at the University of Guelph. The congregation continues to pay Marty full time and contracts his services for a portion of his time along with some other congregational services to ECM. For this work, ECM pays Duff's a fixed sum which in turn is the equivalent of about half of Marty's remuneration. The Session notes that this arrangement has allowed them to move forward with hiring a part-time Parish Nurse a part-time Youth Engagement worker in addition to having funds to support other congregational/ community initiatives. They spoke very highly of the benefits that these two positions have brought to their congregation and the community at large. Some members of Session spoke quite strongly with regard to their perception of Presbytery's lack of support of the ECM and in

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particular Marty's role as chaplain. They expressed disappointment that from their perspective any criticism of their minister was also a criticism of them in their support of ECM. One member said "Love one another, isn't that what we have been taught?" They shared how their own members interaction with ECM has been meaningful and has brought a richness of appreciation of diversity to the congregation at large. They look forward to continuing with this relationship in the future and deeply appreciate their minister's courage and graciousness in providing leadership in this area. In an overall sense, the new ministry initiatives have made the congregation more outward looking, and at the same time more inward looking through paying more attention to the importance of having good facilities and sound operating practices, including Leading with Care compliance. The Visitation Team would encourage the Session to develop and communicate to the congregation their process for making a decision to continue with this relationship with ECM as well as their Parish Nurse and Youth Engagement worker as soon as possible.

**From our conversation with the congregation:**

Our meeting with representatives of the congregation followed the Session. The congregation echoed much of what was highlighted at our meeting with the elders.

They deeply appreciate the work of their staff and dedicated volunteers. They express the warmth and care of their congregation towards each other, newcomers and the community at large. We certainly experienced that kind of welcome as a Visitation Team. They value the 'connectedness' that they share as a church community. There is also an opportunity for individual prayer following worship that is led by a member of the congregation. Some spoke with gratitude about a multi-faith service that was held at Duff's in the past year. They love their minister and have seen how his work with the University has given him a renewed enthusiasm for ministry. They have also appreciated the peak into campus life that participating in this ministry has given them as a congregation.

They spoke about their issue of high volumes of traffic around their church building due to close proximity to the 401 and the strange contradiction of more homes being built in their area but the unlikelihood of it resulting in new members. One person described the phenomenon as "the garage door people" – "the garage door goes up in the morning and a car leaves, at night the garage door goes up and then closes again on the same car and then the process repeats." This is obviously a concern for many of our congregations who are on the edge or are surrounded by new development but struggle to find new members among "this bountiful field."

**From our conversation with the board of managers:**

We met with some representatives of the Board of Managers following our meeting with the congregation. The Board meets quarterly and spoke well of their financial position. They are



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working hard to update and in some cases create policies and procedures for the congregation, their Human Resources, the finances and the ongoing maintenance of their facility. Leading with Care has been a priority of late and they will continue to work through compliance over the coming year. They have a new secretary/treasurer is updating their systems for recording, receipting and report their finances. The Visitation Team wants to report on behalf of the Board of Duff's that "the Presbytery Treasurer is amazing!" The Board has regularly sought advice from our Presbytery treasurer as well as members of the National Office ("We are on a first name basis with some of them now" – they commented). They are making progress in simplifying their financial reports and budget information. Recently they have made the change from a budget meeting in February to holding such a meeting in November. This way they can move forward into the New Year with an approved budget as opposed to waiting until the first quarter is past to approve it. The Board members did note that their next capital project would be to repair/replace the floor in the Church Hall. The theme of our meeting with the Board was that they have made a lot of changes over the past few years and are continuing to make changes. The Visitation Team wants to commend the Board for their hard work and diligence in body of work that they have undertaken over the last few years.

**From our conversation with the minister:**

We met with the minister, Marty Molengraaf at just before 9pm. Marty had just returned from the hospital with his daughter who was experiencing an allergic reaction to some medication. He was tired but appreciative of the opportunity to meet with us. He noted that since he has been back from his leave that reconnecting with the members at Duff's has been challenging. It can be difficult to get back into the rhythm of congregational ministry after an extended leave. Regardless of this, he loves the people of Duff's and has thoroughly enjoyed his ten years of ministry with them. Marty expressed deep appreciation for the members of Session and congregation who have mentored and supported him throughout the years at Duff's. Marty also spoke of the various mentors and supports that he nurtures outside the congregation within Presbytery and the wider community. We heard of Marty's work with ECM and were stimulated by words like "fun, openness, celebrating diversity". He spoke of the language barrier that one has on campus as a Christian minister and the new insights that he has experienced during this work. When it comes right down to it though, Marty expressed 'loving one another' as the way forward as it relates to engaging in this type of ministry. Marty affirmed that Ubuntu (the other name for the ECM) is an expression of the kingdom of God and it is found in the move from academic acceptance of other faiths to a heart experience of people of faith and no identified faith. He is passionate about his work and celebrates the congregation's commitment and partnership in this wonderful opportunity. When asked, he affirmed the disappointment of the Session regarding the perceived lack of support by the Presbytery for ECM and noted that it felt among members of the congregation as well.

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Marty also wonders about the sustainability of Duff's (as many of us do) and has thought aloud about what that future may look like with other ministers in the area and people in the congregation and community.

Since meeting with Marty was our final act that evening, it needs to be said that it is our feeling that this is a congregation that loves their minister and whose minister loves them. And that is something to celebrate.

### **From conversation with Chair of the Board of the Ecumenical Campus Ministry**

The Chair of the Board of ECM was contacted by the convener to get a sense of his and the Board's experience of this new initiative. He spoke very highly of the work of Marty describing his leadership as exceptional. He noted the student life award that Marty received this year from the University – this award is given to someone who contributes to ‘the betterment of student life’ and was noted in the Presbyterian Record as well. From a board perspective, they have been able to offer the position to a very qualified individual because they remain connected to a congregation. He commented that the congregation of Duff's has gained an insight into the campus, a new focus for outreach and saved some money in order to be able to hire a parish nurse and a youth worker. They have greatly appreciated the level of collaboration with the congregation of Duff's and look forward to continuing this relationship in the future. The Board believes that this model could be an example of a new opportunity for the life of our churches and campus ministries. They strongly encourage the Presbytery and the National Church to consider this innovative model for other campuses throughout the country. This is a unique opportunity to bring Christian dialogue to students at a critical time in their self-discovery. The Board looks forward to the discussion day on June 19th as an opportunity to encourage greater support from the Presbytery and its congregations for ECM as well as improving communication between our organizations.

### **Recommendations**

1. While we acknowledge that the Presbytery will need to make its own decision regarding its financial support of campus ministries, we feel that ‘the Duff's model’ needs to be affirmed and supported by the court and shared widely as an example for other congregations in reaching out to University and college students. Therefore, we would make the following motion:

That the Presbytery affirm and celebrate the creativity, boldness, and dedication of the congregation and minister of Duff's in their partnership with the Ecumenical Campus Ministry at the University of Guelph.

2. Since Marty is still paid fully by Duff's and the ECM is a congregational ministry, it is the view of the Visitation Team that Marty's work at the ECM does not change the terms of his call

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as some have noted in the court. It has been the will of the congregation to release their minister to do this work. The current model of ECM is very clearly a ministry of Duff's that the National Church and Presbytery as well as its ecumenical partners have historically supported. Therefore, we would make the following motion:

That the Session create and communicate a plan for decision making regarding ECM, the parish nurse and youth engagement worker to the congregation and advise the Presbytery of their decision through the Clerk of Presbytery as soon as it has been made.

3. That the Presbytery Committee – Education, Issues and Fellowship (EIF) add the suggestion of sharing stories of success and challenge in our congregations with our congregations to a future agenda of their committee.
4. That the minister, The Rev. Marty Molengraaf be commended for his leadership and dedication among and in partnership with the people of Duff's, the University of Guelph and the community as a whole.
5. That the congregation be thanked for their hospitality and participation.
6. That the visitation team be dismissed with the court's thanks.

Respectfully submitted  
The Rev. John Borthwick, Convener  
Ross Rowat  
Peter Devries

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## Appendix "F"

## REPORT FROM REV. DR. J. P. SMIT

I am writing to you in your capacity as convener of the Congregational Affairs Committee to report on the Presbytery's request that I consult with the congregations of Cambridge. As reported earlier, I have not consulted with the people from St Giles & St Andrews as they were proceeding on their own. I did however meet with the Session of Knox's on April 25th to present a report I had done concerning their current state and future possibilities. While there was no new information - we had a very good conversation that will hopefully lead to some action.

All through this process it has been my impression that Central is in a different category due to their size and thus not necessarily a part of the conversations. I still believe this to be the case. However, I did have a conversation with Aubrey and was encouraged by his imagination around this. One of the issues that concerns me is that there is discussion around the importance of a presence in East Galt. (I think we talked about this at the meeting) While it may be important, unless there is a vision nothing will happen. Penny had a vision but Penny is now gone. My fear is that if the Presbytery were to continue with some work in that area that it would flounder, partly because of a lack of vision but mostly because no one would "own" it. However, Central is large enough that if they had a vision for that part of town, they could also "own" a ministry there - I could even see Central taking on the St Giles building as a satellite. Likewise it may make sense for Central to talk to Knox's as Knox's really does have the better building.

Anyway, Aubrey was very open to these conversations and is imaginative enough to see the possibilities.

All of this does however mean that from my perspective I have completed what the Presbytery has asked. So, I would like you to consider this my final report.

Have a blessed summer

**JP**

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Appendix "G"

**WATERLOO NORTH SPECIAL COMMITTEE – INITIAL REPORT – June 2012**

I thought I should update you on the work of the Special Committee for Waterloo North in order to report to the next meeting of the Congregational Affairs Committee.

1. All of the presbyters appointed by the moderator have agreed to serve: Herb Gale (convener), Mark Gedcke, Andrew Foster, Ed Charlton, and Liz Samis
2. The committee understands that we will be reporting to the presbytery through the Congregational Affairs Committee.
3. We have held an initial orientation meeting of the committee to confirm our understanding of the committee's mandate and a proposed timeline. We hope to complete our work in six months (in order to coincide with the presbytery's decision to allow the congregation to take money out of their manse fund to defray any financial shortfall over the next six months) so that we can submit our report before the end of the calendar year. If we need longer to complete our work, we can, of course, extend our length of service.
4. We have scheduled a meeting with the Waterloo North session for Monday, June 18<sup>th</sup>, from 7:00 to 8:30 at Waterloo North. The purpose of the meeting is to introduce ourselves to each other, clarify our mandate, and get input/feedback from the session regarding their expectations, etc.

Let me know if you need additional information.

Peace,

Herb

**The Rev. Herb Gale**

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Appendix "H"

Revised report for June 19<sup>th</sup>, 2012 Presbytery meeting

Report from the Mission and Outreach Committee from June 12<sup>th</sup>

1. The Committee met on June 12<sup>th</sup> with four main focuses for the meeting hearing from Rev. Glen Soderholm about the starting of a new ministry/possible congregation he feels led to begin in Guelph,
2. Helping fund the Youth in Mission trip "I love Taiwan" for Miss Debbie Song,
3. Discussion on the possible changes to the committees and how that is going to affect us,
4. Update on the Discussion afternoon for ministry to Post-Secondary Students. Out of those four focuses we have four recommendations.

The first three recommendations are related to our discussion with Rev. Glen Soderholm.

That the Presbytery of Waterloo-Wellington recognize and encourage Rev. Glen Soderholm's new ministry and embrace this ministry as a ministry of the Presbyterian Church in Canada as he starts and continues this ministry in the Missional Church model, in the downtown area of Guelph.

That we the Presbytery of Waterloo-Wellington move to start a new congregation through this ministry that Rev. Glen Soderholm is beginning.

That the Presbytery of Waterloo-Wellington provide seed money of \$7000, from the Development fund, to this new Ministry to help with the cost that Glen is incurring.

That Rev. Glen Soderholm be accountable to the Mission and Outreach Committee.

The last recommendation is in regards to Miss Debbie Song

That the Presbytery of Waterloo-Wellington provide funding of \$2500 for Miss Debbie Song to partake in this mission trip to Taiwan. (this is the full funding for the trip not including personal purchases) and that this money would come the Youth work and Christian education budget line.

Ed Charlton,  
Convener

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### **Mission and Outreach Committee Meeting**

The Mission and Outreach Committee held the Renewing the Rural Church, hosted by the people of St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church in Alma, Ontario. Approximately 35 leaders were challenged and encouraged by the message that (the Rev. Dr.) Christine O'Reilly gave to us. We were challenged to wrestle with the current realities of the cultures around us but to be able to see the opportunities that waiting for us.

In the second half of the workshop she led us through part of the book "Discovering Hope". She took us through some of the key points of the book asking us to look at how our churches allow Prayer to be part of ministry and life, the key needs of discipleship in our churches, along with many other key points to lead our discussions and to help us to be a blessing in our communities.

I would like to thank Christine O'Reilly for an excellent presentation and interaction with the people there. I would also like to thank Nan for leading us in worship and to thank the people of St. Andrew's Alma for hosting us and providing a wonderful meal, and thank-you to the whole of the committee for all their work and prayer for this event. I would encourage us to continue to pray for each other that we would continue to seek Jesus' plans for the ministries we have been blessed with and the people that we have the opportunity to share the hope and love that we have in Jesus.

Update on the Discussion day for ministry to post-secondary students in our bounds

I have sent out invitations to the different groups on the campuses in our bounds and have heard back from some of the groups and there is some interest in taking part in the discussion. However, I have not been able to ascertain whether or not there are any groups on any of the Conestoga College campuses and I was told that there are not any official chaplains on these campuses. I am also hoping to have someone to present different ideas and techniques for congregations to work with. There will be time to hear from the different groups willing to be involved, also a time of discussion and questions. I do not have a hard time table set up yet since I do not have an exact number of groups willing to participate. The suggested time was between ten to 20 minutes depending on if their group was on multiple campuses. I also suggested about 30 minutes for ECM since we have a vested interest already in this ministry. Hopefully this will be a time of ideas and networking that will help us as a presbytery and as congregations connect better with these ministry areas.

(see following from Rev. Glen Soderholm)

Ed Charlton, Convener

Wilma Welsh, Clerk - [watwell@rogers.com](mailto:watwell@rogers.com)

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To the members of the Waterloo-Wellington Presbytery,

Dear friends, as some of you know, I have felt the call to plant a missional church in the downtown community of Guelph. After having served the pastoral charge of St. David's Campbellville & Nassagaweya for thirteen years (91-04), the last eight years have found me directing a cognate ministry of our church called Moveable Feast Resources. But as I explain in the letter below, it feels like time to shift focus. I was able to attend the PCC New Church Development conference in Montreal last month on behalf of our Presbytery, and that experience continued to confirm my passion, and gifting, for this kind of ministry. The teaching at this conference confirmed what many of us know, that we have to try some new models of developing congregations, because the old ones no longer seem effective. I believe that the core issue is learning anew that the church is always being sent by the Holy Spirit to proclaim the good news in the world. This requires fresh ways of incarnational thinking and being in the communities where we live. I am very grateful for the conversations that I have had with our ministers in downtown Guelph, who have been very affirming and supportive of this call, and my hope is that this Presbytery will feel the same way. While this introduction is too short to go into all the details of my call, and strategy going forward, I include a letter which I have sent to the current Moveable Feast Resources support community.

In Christ,  
Glen Soderholm

#### Pentecost 2012

This letter and season mark a significant development in the ministry and call entrusted to me by God. Previously in these letters, I have described myself as a pastor who took on a larger parish in order to *encourage the people of God to participate in vibrant worship*. This remains integral to my identity; my gifts and passions seem to flourish in this calling. That being said, over the last six months I have sensed a call to once again refocus the bulk of my energies within a local parish. This letter does not allow me the space to tell you all the wonderful stories of God's hints, nudges, miracles, and signs pointing this way, but these, and wise counsel from friends, and support of my accountability group, made it clear to Sharon and me, that we should begin planting a new church in downtown Guelph, Ontario.

As one supporter and friend suggested in a conversation, it seems to be a logical extension of what I have been doing for the last eight years. I have had the privilege of not only being a communicator of the gospel through word and song, but also, a listener to that same gospel as it is being enacted in Christ's church around Canada and the world. In that listening, I have discerned the deep need of the church to rethink its way of being in our society. Many lament the



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fact that the contemporary church has lost its way, the result being that many are just giving up. Everywhere I go, hear the same struggles, confusion, and lack of direction. Even though I am a worship teacher, I have come to the conclusion that improving and sprucing up our worship experience is not going to save the church from its dilemma.

So, what I hear God saying is: take all the things that you have learned from your journeys and conversations, take the ideas and practices of worship you have witnessed and offered, take your gifts of connecting and communicating, and refocus these in a local setting once again. In this case, it will be the neighbourhood within which we were planted last summer in downtown Guelph. We have found a deep passion for being the presence of Christ to our neighbours; we want to participate in supporting human flourishing within our neighbourhood, and we want to nurture a community of followers of Jesus committed to the same things. The practicalities and details of this transition are still unfolding, but this much I know:

*First*, I will remain bi-vocational at the start. That is, I will continue to sing, perform, lead worship, teach, and mentor others as part of the Moveable Feast Resources vision, (and doubt that will ever end!). However, these will become more limited in scope as I focus the same gifts into our local setting. For that reason, I will continue to invite people's support of the ministry up until the end of this year.

*Secondly*, I am currently negotiating with my denomination around their endorsement of this new call, and so the timing is not entirely clear around how this will unfold within the PCC.

*Thirdly*, this new community is already in formation and active in some of the practices that support the vision.

Obviously your prayer and friendship will be valued as we go forward. I anticipate sharing more good news around God's work in this ministry

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Knox Presbyterian Church,  
Waterloo, Ontario  
June 19, 2012

Appendix "I"

Presbytery of Waterloo-Wellington

Audited Financial Statements

for the year ended December 31, 2011

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Balance Sheet

Statement of Revenues & Expenditures Statement of Cumulative Surplus (Deficit)

Statement of Cash Flows Notes to the Financial Statements

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