

St. Giles Presbyterian Church
Cambridge Ontario
March 10th, 2009

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DATE AND PLACE:

The Presbytery of Waterloo-Wellington met in Regular Session on Tuesday, March 10th, 2009 within St. Giles Presbyterian Church, Cambridge Ontario. Refreshments were served prior to the meeting.

ATTENDANCE:

Ministers: B. Ashfield, J. Borthwick, C. Brown, W. Dawes, P. Garrison, B. Martin (Moderator), M. Molengraaf, L. Paquette, M. Richardson, R. Sinasac, J. Smit, T. Smit, N. St. Louis, A. Sutherland, K. Vandermey, D. Wright, K. Wübbenhorst

Representative Elders: L. Arbuckle, G. Cober, J. Crane, J. deGroot, J. DeSchiffart, G. Forsyth, A. Foster, S. Grimwood, I. Howell, D. Kim, M. Koeslag, G. MacRobbie, J. McDougall, L. Moir, J. Patterson, R. Renton, D. Rickers, R. Rowat, G. Schieven, Glennys Stewart, Neil Stewart, E. Suggit, W. Welsh, J. Zaryski

Ministers on the Appendix to the Roll: J. Smith, M. Whitson

Alternate Representative Elders: H. Cleghorn, E. Fairbairn, M. Hunter, A. Isaac, J. MacDowell (Clerk), J. Marfleet, W. Turner

Observers and Committee Members: L. Pentelow, M. Pentelow

W.M.S.: J. Godin, Phyllis Stewart

Guests: Eun-Ju Chung, Martin Van Dam

REGRETS:

Ministers: L. Ashfield, L. Bell, M. Gedcke, J. Hamalainen, M. Lewis, S. Ma, D. McCallum

Representative Elders: M. Blake, B. Bonner, L. Samis, G. Scott

Retired Missionaries: B. Geddes, J. Geddes

WORSHIP AND CONSTITUTION:

The Moderator, The Rev. Dr. Brice Martin conducted the worship service. Hymns included 'Be Thou My Vision; and 'All Hail The Power of Jesus' Name'. The Message was titled 'God's Dwelling Place' with the Scripture text taken from John 2:13-22. The Moderator Constituted the Court with prayer.

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS:

All were warmly welcomed and introduction were called for. Robert Sinasac introduced Martin VanDam. He is an Assessor Elder at Waterloo North and has been a trustee for the Presbytery. Kees Vandermey introduced Jim Marfleet – Alternate Elder from Knox-Elora.

DOCKET:

J. MacDowell/A. Foster moved that the Docket be accepted as printed. *CARRIED.*

MINUTES:

J. MacDowell/R. Rowat moved that the Minutes of January 11th, 2009, January 13th, 2009 and February 10th, 2009 be accepted as printed. *CARRIED.*

Janet MacDowell, Clerk

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BUSINESS COMMITTEE REPORT:

Janet MacDowell, Clerk, reported for the committee.

**Business Committee Report
January, February, March 2009**

1. Correspondence:

09-001	From Elizabeth Bartlett, Assembly Office, with Changes to the Roll	Clerk
09-002	From Rick Fee, Life and Mission Agency, requesting nominations from Presbyteries, for the position of Executive Position of Associate Secretary, The Vine	Business Committee
09-003	From Barbara Nawratil, Assistant to The CFO and Treasurer, with the invoice and information for General Liability and Directors and Officers Liability Insurance	Treasurer and Clerk
09-004	From Jessie Bush, Session Clerk Knox Guelph, with notification that Tori Smit's intention to participate in further studies and that Knox Guelph have no hesitation	Ministry
09-005	From Katherine Allen, Administrative Assistant W.M.S. with information for Mission Awareness Sunday, April 26 th , 2009	Outreach
09-006	From Reuben St. Louis with an update on the upcoming events for CY09	Education, Issues and Fellowship
09-007	From J. Mark Lewis, with a flyer on Public Panel including Christian, Muslims and Jews – Wednesday, March 11 th , 2009	Outreach
09-008	From John Deyarmond, stating that The Wilmot Historical Society has approached Livingston Baden about being designated an historical site.	Congregational Affairs
09-009	From Elders Institute with this month's tip for ruling elders	Education, Issues and Fellowship
09-010	From Reuben St. Louis with information on CY09 and a Taiwan/Canada Youth Exchange	Education, Issues and Fellowship
09-011	From Beth Allison, Cairn Camp with information on this summer's camping	Education, Issues and Fellowship
09-012	From Kees Vandermeij stating that Marty Molengraaf will be the Interim Moderator effective February 1 st , 2009	Congregational Affairs

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09-013	From Dennis Wright with an update from The Interim Moderator for Palmerston/Drayton	Congregational Affairs
09-014	From Heather Chappel, with a year end report on Presbyterians Sharing	Congregational Affairs
09-015	From Marty Molengraaf, with a request by the congregation that the manse funds totaling \$145,000 be released by Presbytery for capital improvements to the Duff's Church building	Congregational Affairs
09-016	From Elizabeth Bartlett, Assembly Office, with changes to the Roll	Clerk
09-017	From John A. Vissers, Principal, The Presbyterian College, with a thank you for the nomination of The Rev. Glynis Williams for the degree of DD – YES APPROVED	General
09-018	From Terrie-Lee Hamilton, Assembly Office with acknowledgement of Memorial Minute for Dorothy McCombie	Clerk
09-019	From Peggy Kipfer with a thank you for on-going support	General
09-020	From Stephen Allen, Justice Ministries with information on an upcoming workshop – May 25/26 titled Crossing Cultures Together	Mission and Outreach
09-021	From John-Peter Smit, Synod Consultant with information on Eldership Workshops	Education, Issues and Fellowship
09-022	From Terrie-Lee Hamilton, Assembly Office, with acknowledgement of commissioners to General Assembly	Clerk
09-023	From Terrie-Lee Hamilton, Assembly Office with acknowledgement of YAR to General Assembly	Clerk
09-024	From Terrie-Lee Hamilton, Assembly Office with acknowledgement of 17 Moderator Ballots	Clerk
09-025	From Terrie-Lee Hamilton, Assembly Office requesting information on Academic Degrees, Clerks and Convenors and Memorials	Clerk
09-026	From Colin Carmichael, Associate Secretary, Communications, requesting Presbytery Minutes, and upcoming events	General
09-027	From Mark Gedcke regarding support for the Lennikov family	Mission and Outreach

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09-028	From Katherine Masterton, Justice Ministries, with information on an Ecology Workshop	Mission and Outreach
09-029	From Clergy Care with information on workshops for Starting Well and Making the Most of Retirement – both at Crieff	Ministry
09-030	From Mark Gedcke with information on “Lenten Carbon Fest”	Mission and Outreach
09-031	From Terrie-Lee Hamilton, Assembly Office with acknowledgement change of commissioner	Clerk
09-032	From Reuben St. Louis with applications and flyer for CY09	Education, Issues and Fellowship
09-033	From Don Muir, Assembly Office, with information on National Planning Conference for our Denomination	Business Committee
09-034	From Chantal Jackson, Cairn Camping with March update	Education, Issues and Fellowship
09-035	From John Borthwick, with information on Matthew Fox speaking about The Reinvention of Work and The Hidden Spirituality of Men	Outreach
09-036	From Terrie-Lee Hamilton, Assembly Office, requesting changes to degrees	Clerk

2. Matters to Note:

- a) The Business Committee will meet on **Thursday, April 2nd**, 2009 within Westminster-St. Paul’s Presbyterian Church, Guelph. Congregational Affairs to provide refreshments.
- b) **Changes:** *Jennifer McDougall*, 220 Egremont St. S., Mount Forest, ON N0G 2L2 *Rev. Helen Ruth Allum* Columbia Forest LTC, Rm 2116-650 Mountain Maple Ave. Waterloo N2V 2P7 519-743-4807 revsallum@sympatico.ca *Rev. Dr. Walter Allum* Parkwood Suites, Suite 401-720 New Hampshire St. Waterloo N2K 0A3 519-747-5807 revallums@sympatico.ca *Jim Wyllie* 519-986-7497
- c) **Ballots for Moderator** of the 135th General Assembly due **no later than** March 20th, 2009
- d) The **Statistical Reports** along with a copy of The Annual Report are due from Knox’s Galt, St. Andrew’s Hespeler, St. Giles, Gale Elmira, Knox-Elora, Kortright, St. Andrew’s Guelph, Knox-Calvin Harriston, Doon, Church of the Lord, Conn, Knox Palmerston, Knox Drayton, Duff’s Puslinch, Waterloo North and Chalmers Winterbourne
- e) The following congregations have had their **Minutes attested** as neatly and correctly kept:
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Westminster-St. Paul, Guelph
Eden Mills
Rockwood
Knox Crieff

Attested with notes:
St. Andrew's Guelph

Kortright will provide their Minutes at the March meeting.

- f) **Assessments** for the first quarter not paid by:
Doon Kitchener, Church of the Lord Waterloo, Kortright Guelph, Knox Guelph,
Chalmers Winterbourne, Rockwood, St. Andrew's Arthur, Knox Crieff, Knox-
Calvin Harriston, Knox Drayton, Duff's Puslinch, Knox Conn
- g) **Commissioners to Synod** at Crieff – October 19th/20th, 2009
Ministers: Nan St. Louis and Brice Martin
Alternates: Jeff Veenstra and David Whitecross
Representative Elders: Kortright Guelph and St. Andrew's Guelph X
Alternates: Westminster-St. Paul's and Knox-Calvin Harriston.

X = acceptance

- h) **Representative Elder/Alternate** and Equalizing Representative Elder forms
due to the Clerk by May 12th, 2009

3. **Recommendations:**

- A) That the actions of The Business Committee in assigning correspondence be homologated.
- B) That the Commissioners to General Assembly from The Presbytery of Waterloo-Wellington are:
Ministers: Don McCallum (Convenor), Penny Garrison, Karla Wübbenhorst, Brooke Ashfield, Mark Gedcke, Sungho (John) Ma
Elders: Gwen MacRobbie (Knox Crieff), Mary Ann Koeslag (Waterloo North), Eloise Gardiner (Eden Mills), Margaret McKenzie-Leighton (St. Andrew's Hespeler), Lloyd Weeks (Kitchener East), Frank Thompson (Calvin Kitchener)
YAR David Sturtevant (St. Andrew's Kitchener)
- C) That The Presbytery of Waterloo-Wellington nominate Tori Smit for the position of Associate Secretary, The Vine.

- B. Ashfield/A. Foster moved that the report be received and considered. *CARRIED.*
B. Ashfield/A. Foster moved Recommendation A. *CARRIED.*
B. Ashfield/A. Foster moved Recommendation B. *CARRIED.*
B. Ashfield/A. Foster moved Recommendation C. *CARRIED.*

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Report as a Whole:

B. Ashfield/A. Foster moved the adoption of the report as a whole. *CARRIED.*

STATED HOUR:

Chantal Jackson, Co-Director, Cairn Presbyterian Camping spoke to the Court of the importance of camping in today's society. The importance of one on conversation and personal interaction.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

SPECIAL COMMITTEE – WATERLOO NORTH

John-Peter Smit, Convenor, reported for the committee.

J. Smit/A. Foster moved that the report be received and considered. *CARRIED.* The report had been previously circulated.

Report of the Special Committee to Waterloo North Presbyterian Church

February 10, 2009

Preamble

At the November 11, 2008 meeting of the Presbytery of Waterloo-Wellington, the following motion was made:

That the Moderator appoint a Special Committee charged with discerning the viability of all aspects of the life, ministry, leadership and stewardship of Waterloo North congregation: to review its findings with the Congregational Affairs Committee at its February 2009 meeting; and to present its final report no later than the March 2009 meeting of the Presbytery.

This committee was named as follows; the Rev. John-Peter Smit (convener), the Rev. Dr. Linda Bell, the Rev. Dr. Arnold Bethune, elder Liz Samis and elder Jim Zaryski. The committee has met and report diligence in their task.

Research

In its work, the committee reviewed documents including ten years of Session, Presbytery and congregational minutes. We also reviewed minutes and reports from other committees of Presbytery as well as submissions from the minister of Waterloo North church. We interviewed some from Presbytery who had been connected with the life of the congregation in the past, as well as the current Assessor Elders. A Natural Church Development survey was conducted and

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interpreted by a third party. As well current research on church health was used to focus our findings. Finally, the members of the committee attended a number of events at Waterloo North Church including worship, Sunday Night Concerts and an all day planning event led by the Leadership Roundtable.

Findings

At first glance, this congregation is no different from many of the congregations of the Presbytery in that it is in decline, struggling financially and living without a clear sense of purpose or mission. Some of these congregations have also had conflict and certainly all are facing questions of survival. This begs the question, why Waterloo North?

We find at least four answers to this question.

1. **The congregation of Waterloo North, has had a persistent and enduring history of conflict and strife.** As we searched the records of the congregation, we noted that the situation of the congregation was described as “severely strained and deeply conflicted. Trust and morale levels are very low.” Sadly this description was provided almost a decade ago in a report penned in 1999. This pattern of mistrust and conflict appears to be a deeply rooted and ongoing characteristic of this congregation. While reviewing the records of the congregation, we noted a number of patterns; a lack of discernment when choosing leaders, a general lack of confidence or trust in those leaders, a disregard for confidentiality, authority and a delight in gossip. We also recognized that hurt egos take precedence over the congregation’s Christian witness to the extent that wronged members even continue to meet to nurse their wounds - even after they have requested their membership be removed.
2. **The location of the congregation.** Of all of the congregations in the Presbytery, this congregation is one of the most strategic. It has a large and useful facility, ample parking, good visibility, and is located in the midst of a fast growing area. While we realize that in recent memory, the congregation was much larger than it currently is, still, it defies logic that the congregation should be as small as it is given the resources it has. Also, the congregation does not reflect the community it serves in worship style, age and especially racial and ethnic diversity. As one of the most recent church extension efforts of this Presbytery, it is a cause for profound regret to realize that this congregation’s potential has not been realized.
3. **The partnership with the Anglican Church in Canada.** This relationship has both blessed and complicated the life of this congregation. At this point in the life of the congregation, these are two unequally yoked congregations with All Saint’s Anglican growing at a much faster pace than Waterloo North. This has led to numerous

complications both financially and in the availability of the building. In fact, there is a growing feeling that the building and the current ministry arrangement may be a liability to the congregation.

Financially, the congregation has incurred debt from a larger sanctuary addition. The division of costs remains a source of friction. At the same time two things must be acknowledged. First, the Anglican congregation has been more than gracious and patient in their willingness to accommodate the circumstances of Waterloo North. They have paid off the mortgage and have granted a no-interest loan to the Presbyterians to be paid off as they are able. While the Presbyterian congregation has managed to keep their payments of this debt current, we are embarrassed to note that it is our impression that we have violated the spirit if not the letter of this financial arrangement.

Secondly, in terms of building use issues, there are issues to be negotiated. One area of primary concern is the worship times for both congregations which rotate every year. We do not believe this arrangement can be healthy for either community.

4. **The ongoing involvement of the Presbytery.** We have the distinct impression that Waterloo North congregation has consumed an excessive amount of Presbytery's time, energy and resources. As we reviewed the life of the congregation, we discovered many interventions on the Presbytery's behalf. These have included committees, mentors, consultants and interim moderators. As well, the congregation has received at least \$57,390 from the Presbytery in loans, grants, payment and for the financial audit. This does not include an appeal made directly to congregations of the Presbytery (i.e. Friends of Waterloo North.) neither does it include travel expenses for the many Presbyters who have served in an effort to assist and support this congregation during its relatively short history.

One characteristic of this congregation is that it seems to come, with some regularity, to the Presbytery asking for things and then it feels abandoned and let down if any part is denied. There also seems to be an addiction to outside resources. The records of the church indicate a continual cycle of workshops and programs to help them thrive and grow, without much or any follow through.

It must also be noted with sadness that the Presbytery has not been a good bishop to the congregation of Waterloo North Church. Over the years, a number of the issues facing the congregation could have been avoided and/or resolved had the Presbytery and its appointees been diligent in their oversight. Likewise, it appears as though there have been times when the Presbytery has not asked tough questions, made hard decisions or communicated clearly for fear of offending others.

General Observations

The congregation of Waterloo North Presbyterian Church is a shadow of its former self. At every level it remains preoccupied with past hurts and injustices, real and perceived. In the Session, we see a frenetic cycle of meeting after meeting with minutiae raised over and over again without resolution. We see minutes that are so detailed as to be almost verbatim accounts, in part out of fear that “anything you say can and will be used against you.” We see leaders resigning or unwilling to serve because of criticism meted out by others. In terms of leadership, it sometimes appears as though only two members; Robert Sinasac, Mary Ann Koeslag, and the four assessor elders have any real interest in accepting responsibility for the work of the congregation. In fact, we are concerned by the amount of work being done by a very few. Finally we see a congregation that is inward focused, not representative of its community and lacking a clear sense of mission or vision.

At the same time, in the midst of what seems to be an irredeemable situation, we see glimpses of what might be significant hope. According to the testimony of the Assessor elders, the congregation has determined to set the past behind it and move on. We honour the perceptions of these elders. The willingness of the congregation and especially Robert Sinasac to be coached and mentored by the leadership roundtable (Rev. Chuck Congram, www.leadershiproundtable.net) is, to us, a sign of the minister and congregation’s willingness to move toward health. We particularly commend Rev. Sinasac for his commitment to this community. Already the congregation has worked on a vision, goals and objectives. We are also encouraged that the congregation is moving their concerts from entertainment to outreach and ministry. Finally, the congregation has put forth a balanced budget for the year 2009. All of these factors suggest to us that the congregation may be able to do what is necessary to move to health and vitality.

Recommendations

The Presbytery of Waterloo-Wellington entrusted this committee with the task of determining the viability of the whole life of the congregation of Waterloo North Presbyterian Church. The church we found was not viable by any measure. The congregation we now see might be viable.

RECOMMENDATION:

The committee recommends that the congregation be left to its own devices to move to recover of health through God’s grace and hard work and the following conditions. *CARRIED.*

1. The committee believes that the congregation should be self sufficient financially and should not receive anymore financial help from the Presbytery. **Rationale:** A healthy congregation needs to be able to create and meet a balanced budget. As well, the Presbytery does not have the financial resources to make up financial shortfalls for congregations.

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2. That should the congregation default on its financial obligation to All Saints Anglican Church; the Presbytery will take immediate steps to meet this obligation and will dissolve the congregation. **Rationale:** Any move to health cannot be made on the back of our Anglican brothers and sisters.
R. Sinasac/A. Sutherland moved that Martin Van Dam be given permission to speak to number 2.
3. That the Rev. Robert Sinasac pursue assertiveness training at the expense of the Presbytery. **Rational:** The committee is of the opinion that Rev. Sinasac's collegial model of ministry is not what is needed at this time and that a more directional form of leadership is warranted. We would also strongly encourage that Rev. Sinasac seek a covenantal, emotional support system outside the congregation - for his well being and health - perhaps from amongst colleagues in ministry and/or counseling and/or spiritual direction professionals.
4. That out of our concern that work be shared and that no one member become burned out, that Ms. Mary Ann Koeslag immediately give up all but the normal work load of a member of a congregation. **Rationale:** While we concur with Waterloo North's goal of enabling Mary Ann Koeslag to retire as Church Treasurer, we recognize that this still leaves Ms. Koeslag bearing a disproportionate level of responsibility. If a congregation does not ensure that leadership is shared equitably by taking responsibility for its own ministry, it cannot live. Often new people do not step forward until a position is vacant.
5. That the Assessor elders be thanked for their work and asked to continue for at least another year with the understanding that they not become the defacto leaders of the congregation. **Rationale:** The committee sees no reason to dissolve the session (A request that in part led to the formation of this committee.) Instead, we see hopeful signs of elders from within the congregation who are willing and able to serve along with the Assessor elders. We believe they must be given this opportunity.
6. That, in addition to financial benchmarks, the congregation continue to use the Natural Church Development process to assess its spiritual health and progress. **Rationale:** While finances are an important measure, it is critical that the congregation have a method for comprehensively assessing their health and for keeping focused on spiritual health.

In addition to the recommendations, the committee offers these suggestions:

1. That the Presbytery direct the congregation to pay off their mortgage and Presbytery loan out of the congregation's manse fund. **Rationale:** While this will lower the congregation's interest income, it will lower their financial obligations even more. It will

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remove an anxious cloud of debt and will improve relations with All Saints Anglican Church and increase the congregation's chances of returning to health. Finally, if things don't work this time, the manse fund won't be needed anyway.

2. That, the congregation be given the option of returning to Church Extension status. This could involve the congregation choosing to worship elsewhere. If this is the case, the committee recommends that the Presbyterian share of the building be sold or rented to the Church of the Lord Korean Church. This might even allow the congregation to continue using the Waterloo North location as renters rather than owners. **Rationale:** The rationale for this is twofold. First, no congregation should be encumbered by a building or working arrangement that doesn't suit them. At the same time, this location is strategic in the community Waterloo and deserves to be used.

Conclusion

From the very beginning of the committee's deliberations, a question was revisited over and over again. This question was, "What Bible story are we seeing here?" The story that most deeply resonated with the committee is the story of the invalid by the pool of Bethesda. (John 5:1-9) Jesus speaks to the man and asks him this question, "Do you want to get well?" The man's first answer is to explain why he cannot or will not get well. While this report lists things we believe the Presbytery can do to assist the congregation of Waterloo North Presbyterian Church, at the end of the day, only they can answer the question, "Do you want to get well?" If the answer is no, we see no future for this congregation. However, if the answer is yes, we can expect the goodwill and support of the Presbytery but also the presence and power of our living Lord made manifest both in our Saviour Jesus and in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rev. John-Peter Smit, Rev. Dr. Linda Bell, Rev. Dr. Arnold Bethune, Mrs. Liz Samis, Mr. Jim Zaryski

Report as a Whole:

J. Smit/A. Foster moved the adoption of the report as a whole. *CARRIED.*

Congregational Affairs Committee:

Andrew Foster, Convenor, reported for the committee.

Andrew Foster/P. Garrison moved that the report be received and considered. *CARRIED.*

Recommendations:

1. A. Foster/P. Garrison moved that The Rev. John Borthwick be appointed Interim Moderator at Knox Church, Crieff. *CARRIED.*

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2. A. Foster/P. Garrison moved that the congregation of Waterloo North Presbyterian Church be instructed to repay its loans to All Saints Anglican Church and The Presbytery of Waterloo-Wellington from the proceeds of the sale of the manse.
Amended – J. Patterson/P. Garrison - changing the work 'instructed' to 'be permitted'
CARRIED.
Amended motion – that the congregation of Waterloo North Presbyterian Church be permitted to repay its loans to All Saints Anglican Church and The Presbytery of Waterloo-Wellington from the proceeds of the sale of the manse. *CARRIED.*
3. A. Foster/P. Garrison moved that The Revs. Drs. Herb and Shirley Gale be dismissed as Mentors for The Rev. Robert Sinasac, with the thanks of the Court. *CARRIED.*

Amended Report from The Interim Moderator for Knox Palmerston/Knox Drayton.

**Report to the Congregational Affairs Committee from Rev. Dennis Wright,
Interim Moderator for Knox Presbyterian Church, Drayton, and Knox
Presbyterian Church, Palmerston:**

Knox Drayton held their Annual meeting on Feb. 22-09 and Knox Palmerston held their Annual Meeting on Feb. 25-09. Andrew Foster from Congregational Affairs was able to join us at the Palmerston Annual Meeting and was warmly welcomed. After presiding as moderator of both Annual Meetings and reading their financial statements and listening to the discussions about their futures, I concluded that it would be wise and prudent if the Presbytery's Congregational Affairs Committee took a deeper look into the life of these two churches, possibly through a visitation to each. It was evident from the Annual Reports that both churches (together) are not in a financial position to call a minister and they are seeking advice on where they can go from here.

These two churches are in need of some shepherding as far as looking at the future direction of their congregations. They both agreed for me to approach this court of Presbytery to shed some light on their present circumstances and to seek the help and wisdom of the Presbytery in giving them some guidance.

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One of many possibilities I believe would be helpful for them, if at all possible that is, would be to place an Interim Minister for a period of at least a year to observe these two congregations and make any recommendations to the Presbytery which the Interim Minister would deem helpful in assisting them achieve financial viability and thus enabling them to enter into the process of searching for a minister. I also feel it would be beneficial if our Congregational Development Consultant for the Synod, John-Peter Smit, would have a visit with these two congregations. Perhaps he could offer them some helpful suggestions as to courses of action they may want to investigate or pursue.

On a further note: Concerns were raised about who would minister to members of these churches who are presently in nursing homes, retirement homes or living as shut-ins. Some of those people raised questions about who would visit them and who would be there to bury them when the time comes. I feel these are valid concerns which express truthfulness about the needs of their spiritual life and they need to be addressed.

Please keep both congregations in your prayers as they are facing some extremely difficult decisions ahead and I would plea on their behalf that we offer them every kind of support possible as they carefully and prayerfully move through the process of discovering God's will for them as part of the body of Christ.

As a final note; it has been agreed that I will preach the pulpits vacant at Knox Drayton and Knox Palmerston on May 10th.

Serving in Christ,
Rev. Dennis D. Wright

Report as a Whole:

A. Foster/P. Garrison moved the adoption of the report as a whole. *CARRIED.*

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Outreach Committee:

Brooke Ashfield, Convenor, reported for the committee. There was no written report as the committee met one week later than the others so that the Convenor could attend his last Pension and Benefits Board meeting.

Ministry Committee:

Nan St. Louis, Convenor, reported for the committee.
N. St. Louis/J. deGroot moved that the report be received and considered.

Notice of Motion:

I move or will cause to be moved at a future meeting, that the following questions be added to the visitation team list.

Leading With Care

Questions for Presbytery Visitation Teams

1. Do all ministry activities have written job descriptions? Please make these available for the Visitation Team.
2. Is risk assessment an integral part of your planning for all ministry activities?
3. Are Covenant of Care forms being used for all ministry activities? Please make these available for the Visitation Team.
4. Do you follow the *Leading With Care* guidelines when recruiting, orienting teachers/leaders?
5. How do you orient and train your teachers/leaders?
6. Who oversees Police Record Checks for all high risk ministries and where is the information stored? (Minister(s) included ?)
7. Are your teacher(s)/leader(s) personally supervised and supported?
8. What have you learned from your annual evaluation?

Report as a Whole:

N. St. Louis/J. deGroot moved the adoption of the report as a whole. *CARRIED.*

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Education, Issues and Fellowship Committee:

Karla Wübbenhorst, Convenor, reported for the committee.

There will be a Moderator's Banquet on Saturday, April 26th, 2009. Venue: Calvin Church Kitchener. Time: Gather at 6:00 p.m. Supper at 6:30. One half of the meal is being catered Korean. The Moderator, The Rev. Cheol Soon Park will speak on 'Change'. Tickets are \$20. This is open to all - please encourage your congregations to purchase tickets.

TIME: The time being 9:30 p.m. a vote was taken to continue the meeting until 10:00 p.m.

AGREED.

CY09: Tori Smit spoke about CY09. The theme this year is 'Rooted. All congregations are to encourage their youth to attend. There are many different sources for grants and monies - ie: W.M.S. and the Presbytery.

IAND Committee:

No report but do hope to have an extensive report available for the May meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

Mary Whitson spoke to the Court regarding the May meeting of Presbytery at Chalmers Church Winterbourne. The congregation is not aware of any other Presbytery meeting having been held there and are looking forward to having all of us. There is no running water, one chemical facility and all food items will need to be brought in.

ADJOURNMENT AND BENEDICTION:

Jim Patterson moved adjournment.

The Moderator adjourned the Court to meet:

1. In **Special Session** on Sunday, **April 19th**, 2009 for the purpose of Induction of The Rev. Mark Gaskin to St. Andrew's Galt Presbyterian Church, Cambridge. Presbytery will meet at 3:00 p.m. with Worship/Induction to begin at 3:30 p.m.
2. In **Regular Session** on Tuesday **May 12th**, 2009 within Chalmers Presbyterian Church, Winterbourne. Refreshments will be at 6:30 p.m. with Worship and Business beginning at 7:00 p.m. **Directions:** From Waterloo, take Northfield to the town of Conestogo, turn right, go through the town and make a sharp left turn at the signs for Winterbourne - it's about 5 to 10 minutes past Northfield. There are flashing lights.

Moderator

Clerk

Janet MacDowell, Clerk

St. Giles Presbyterian Church
Cambridge Ontario
March 10th, 2009

3961

Janet MacDowell, Clerk

St. Giles Presbyterian Church
Cambridge Ontario
March 10th, 2009

3962

B).

CAMP CAIRN:

Chantal Jackson, Co-Director of Camp Cairn spoke to the Court. She let us all know the importance of personal conversation and one to one interaction.