

Presbytery of Waterloo-Wellington,
Regular Meeting, March 10, 2015,
Knox Presbyterian Church, Waterloo

DATE AND PLACE:

The Presbytery of Waterloo-Wellington met in regular session at Knox Presbyterian Church, Waterloo, on Tuesday, March 10, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. for the regular meeting of Presbytery. Refreshments were served at 6:30 p.m.

OPENING WORSHIP

The opening worship was conducted by the Revs. Linda and Brooke Ashfield. They shared a video prepared by Knox Waterloo's Logos group.

ATTENDANCE:

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

Representative Elders: Junghee Ahn, Allison Cann, Johan DeSchiffart, Andrew Foster, Peter Graham, Pauline Hall, Isabel Howell, Marion Hunter, David Ogram, Linda Palmer, Bert Perriman, Bob Renton, Robert Seim, Neil Stewart, Earl Suggitt, Liz Taylor-Samis, Jim Zaryski

Alternate Representative Elders: George Forsyth, Donna Harvey, Frank Kivell, Jim Patterson

Ministers on the Appendix to the Roll: Rev. Angus Sutherland, Rev. Mary Whitson

W.M.S: - Jean Godin, Phyllis Stewart

Treasurer: Allan Stewart

Clerk: Dr. Wilma Welsh

Visitors: (re retirement of the Rev. Janice Hamalainen) Janet MacDowell, Kathy MacDonald, Bruce Hymmen, Catherine Hertel

REGRETS:

Ministers: Rev. Ed Charlton, Rev. Mark Gaskin, Rev. Johan Olivier, Rev. Scott Sinclair, Rev. Frank Sztatmari, Rev. David Whitecross

Representative Elders: Jim Akerstream, Judith Harrison, Gib McIlwrath, Ross Rowat, Gaston St. Louis

Ministers on the Appendix to the Roll: Rev. Linda Bell, Rev. Dr. Walter McLean, Rev. Dr. Robert Spencer

WMS – Phyllis Stewart

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CONSTITUTION OF THE COURT:

The Rev. Scott McAndless, Moderator, opened the meeting with prayer and constituted the court.

WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS

The Moderator welcomed all in attendance and expressed appreciation to Knox, Waterloo for hosting the meeting and providing hospitality as presbyters arrived. Visitors and new members of the court were introduced and welcomed, especially those attending to speak to the retirement of the Rev. Janice Hamalainen.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Moved by David Ogden/John Borthwick that the proposed agenda be adopted. CARRIED.

MINUTES

Moved by Mark Lewis/Mark Richardson that the minutes of the regular presbytery meeting of January 13, 2015 be adopted as circulated. CARRIED

MINISTRY COMMITTEE REPORT – see Appendix “A”

Moved by John Paeng/Andrew Foster that the report of the Ministry Committee be received and that the recommendation re the retirement of the Rev. Janice Hamalainen be considered at the stated hour and the balance of the report when the Ministry Committee report is received. CARRIED

Recommendation 2:

Moved by John Paeng/Andrew Foster that the presbytery approve the request of the Rev Janice Hamalainen to retire from ministry at St Andrew’s Presbyterian Church, Kitchener, on 30th May 2015, her last working day to be 26th April 2015. Subject to approval of this recommendation the Rev. Janice Hamalainen may apply for her pension to begin immediately following the retirement date. CARRIED

The following representatives from St. Andrew’s Kitchener spoke of the faithful service of the Rev. Janice Hamalainen at St Andrew’s, Kitchener - Janet MacDowell, Kathy MacDonald, Bruce Hymmen, and Catherine Hertel. Members of the court were also invited to speak to Janice’s retirement.

BUSINESS COMMITTEE REPORT – presented by Wilma Welsh, Clerk

CORRESPONDENCE – January 7 – February 3, 2015

15 -008	M. Molengraaf – Overture	Business Committee
15-009	T. Hamilton – Acknowledgement of Remits 2014	Clerk
15-010	K. Plater – WW 2014 Pres. Sharing Report	Congregational Affairs
15-011	J. Borthwick Singing Priest Event – April 19	All Presbyters

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15-012	Min & Church Vocations – increase in cost for Psychological Testing	Treasurer
15-013	T. Hamilton – Acknowledgement of Presbytery Overture Re LGBT	Clerk
15-014	T. Hamilton – Acknowledgement of Optional Elimination of Synods	Clerk
15-015	T. Hamilton – Acknowledgement of St. Andrew's, Kitchener Overture	Clerk
15-016	T. Hamilton – Acknowledgement of Knox's Galt Cambridge Overture re Diaconal Order	Clerk
15-017	J. Vissers – Acknowledgement of Greg Smiths certification	Clerk
15-018	L. Brewer – acknowledgement presbytery's recommendation Re Cheryl D'Angelo	Clerk
15-019	Dorcas Gordon, Knox College – advising that Greg Smith has Successfully completed requirements for the Diploma of the College – he is able to accept a Call	Ministry Committee
15-020	Pres. of Lambton-West Middlesex – Historical Certificates To R. Hodgson and Joyce Hodgson at their request	All Presbyters
15-021	MacLeod – Event with Dr. John Bowen	All Presbyters
15-022	ESC News	All Presbyters
15-023	J. Hamalainen – requesting permission to retire	Ministry & CA
15-024	St. Andrew's, Kitchener Session – re J. Hamalainen retirement	Cong. Affairs
15-025	TL Hamilton – acknowledging overtures	Clerk's files
15-026	Call for Papers – Presbyterian History	All Presbyters
15-027	TL Hamilton – acknowledging commissioners list	Clerk's files
15-028	Bill Harrison – Renewal Conference in Barrie	All Presbyters
15-029	Knox College Registrar – re C. D'Angelo's completed courses	Treasurer
15-030	E. Bartlett – Roll Changes – 4 th change	All Presbyters
15-031	S. Shaffer – acknowledgment of presbytery action re C. D'Angelo	Clerk's files
15-032	Food Grains Bank – recruiting for ON Regional Rep	All Presbyters
15-033	H. Hilder – re Family Ministries job description help	All Presbyters
15-034	J. Smith – prayers for Jeff Veenstra	All Presbyters
15-035	PCT – Invitation for youth to attend I love Taiwan	All Presbyters
15-036	Linda Bell – change in name of Clerk of Session for Elora	Webmaster
15-037	Ecumenical Stewardship Centre – Stewardship resources	To all Presbyters
15-038	Clerk, Pres. of Hamilton – transfer of Rev. Cathy Kay	Business Committee
15-039	Knox, Ottawa – re LF Scholarship	To all Presbyters
15-040	Westside – Declaration of Trust for approval	Business Committee
15-041	Presbyterian College – courses completed by D. Sturtevant	Treasurer
15-042	APCE – what every leader needs to know	To all Presbyters
15-043	G. Soderholm expressing appreciation for support of Two Rivers	Clerk's files

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Recommendations:

1. Correspondence

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

2. Unreferred Overture from Duff's, Puslinch – see Appendix "B"

Moved by Marty Molengraaf/Andrew Foster that the Overture be forwarded as an Unreferred overture without comment. CARRIED

3. Doon request to Cooke's Fund – see Appendix "C"

- Approval of action taken by Business Committee because of deadline for applications.

Moved by Darrell Clarke/Janice Hamalainen that the Presbytery approve the actions of the Business Committee in granting approval to Doon Church to make an application for a grant from the Cooke's Fund for a program aimed at young families, children and youth. CARRIED

Darrell Clarke reported that the grant had been approved.

4. Declaration of Trust – Westside Church, Cambridge

Moved by Darrell Clarke/Janice Hamalainen that the Clerk be authorized to sign the declaration of Trust on behalf of the Presbytery. CARRIED

The Declaration of Trust was signed by the Clerk, two copies returned to the Representative Elder and the third retained for the Clerk's files.

5. Transfer of the Rev. Cathy Kay to Constituent Roll of Waterloo-Wellington

Moved by Mark Richardson/Kathy Morden that the Rev. Cathy Kay be added to the Constituent Roll of the Presbytery immediately. She is 75% Stated Supply at Knox, Crieff. CARRIED

6. St. Andrew's Guelph – lease of land for affordable housing project – see Appendix "D"

Moved by Marty Molengraaf/Herb Gale that if the request for Presbytery approval be required between meetings that the Business Committee be authorized to consider the request. CARRIED

7. Attestation of Minutes – for Information

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All Ministers and those serving as Interim Moderators have been notified.

Session minutes due for attestation **May** presbytery meeting

Livingston Baden, Knox Crieff, Gale Elmira, Knox Elora, Alma, St. Andrew's Fergus,
Knox-Calvin Harriston, St. Andrews Mount Forest, Knox Conn, Kitchener Calvin,
Kitchener St. Andrew's.

Session minutes due for attestation **June** presbytery meeting

Duffs Puslinch, Rockwood, Eden Mills, Central Cambridge, Knox Preston Cambridge,
Westside

Cambridge, Knox Guelph, Kortright Guelph, Westminster-St. Paul's Guelph, Knox
Waterloo, Joonim Kitchener- Waterloo

Session minutes due to attestation **September** presbytery meeting

St. Andrew's Arthur, Gordonville, Palmerston, Drayton, Knox's Galt Cambridge, St.
Andrew's Hespeler Cambridge, St. Andrew's Guelph, Doon Kitchener, Kitchener East

8. General Assembly Commissioners – 2015 – final – **Commissioning – May 12th meeting**

Presbytery of Westminster, British Columbia. Friday June 5 to Monday June 8, 2015

Ministers - Linda Ashfield (leader), Alex MacLeod, John Borthwick, William Bynum,
Scott McAndless

Elders - Knox Conn (Howard Widdis), Eden Mills (Jim Akerstream), St. Andrew's
Hespeler (David Krueger), Knox Guelph (Karen Duffield), Kortright Guelph (Joan
Knox)

YAR – Holly Boyne, Gale Elmira

9. Reminder - Moderator's Ballots – due to Clerk no later than March 15th.

10. **Presbytery Meetings**

March 10, 2015 – Knox, Waterloo

May 12, 2015 – Knox, Crieff (note change of venue)

June 16, 2015 - Calvin, Kitchener (note change of venue)

September 8, 2015 – New Moderator's Church

TREASURER'S REPORT – see Appendix “E” – presented by Treasurer Allan Stewart

Treasurer's Report adopted on motion of Brooke Ashfield/Bert Perriman. **CARRIED**

CONGREGATIONAL AFFAIRS REPORT – see Appendix “F” – report presented by Rev.
Calvin Brown, Co-Convener

Moved by Calvin Brown/Mike Burns that the report of the Congregational Affairs Committee be
received and considered. **CARRIED**

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Recommendation 1 re: the Appointment of an IM for St Andrew's Kitchener.

Moved by Calvin Brown/Mike Burns that Rev Angus Sutherland be appointed Interim Moderator at St Andrew's, Kitchener upon the departure of Janice Hamalainen on May 1 with the following terms:

As it is a multiple pastoral charge, the IM responsibilities would be limited to working with the search committee. Consequently, the stipend for the IM would be 5%, rather than 10%.

You will note that Janice's official date is June 1st but her last Sunday will be the end of April. The Session is asking for an interim moderator to be appointed beginning May 1st. There would be no responsibilities for pastoral care, pulpit supply or moderating Session.

CARRIED

Recommendation 2

Moved by Calvin Brown/Mike Burns that the Rev. Brooke Ashfield and Monica Blake, an elder at Knox Waterloo, be appointed as the Advisory Committee. CARRIED

Recommendation 3

Moved by Calvin Brown/Mike Burns that working with the Interim-Moderator and Advisory Committee appointed, that St Andrew's, Kitchener be given permission to take the necessary steps to fill the vacancy left by Janis Hamalainen. CARRIED

Interim Moderator Reports – received for information

Alma and Elora

Linda Bell reported that there is nothing new. They are getting a search committee together; profiles are printed and ready for all eager candidates; annual meetings are scheduled for February 15 (Alma) and March 1 (Elora); speakers lined up through the end of April.

Visitation Schedule – see appendix “F”

Recommendation 4

Moved by Calvin Brown/Mike Burns that Presbytery approve the attached Visitation Schedule from now through to the spring of 2016. CARRIED

EIF COMMITTEE – See Appendix “G”, report presented by Rev. Janice Hamalainen

Moved by Janice Hamalainen/Linda Ashfield that the Report of the EIF Committee be received for information. CARRIED

MISSION AND OUTREACH COMMITTEE – report presented by Rev. Alex MacLeod – see Appendix “H”

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Recommendation

Moved by Alex MacLeod/Karla Wübbenhorst that the presbytery approve the Two Rivers Church 2014 year-end financial statement and 2015 budget. Please find the Financial Reports and the Narrative Report of the Two Rivers Sub-Committee attached as appendices. CARRIED

MINISTRY COMMITTEE – continued – see Appendix “A”

Angus Sutherland, Convener of the Students’ Committee reported on the progress of current students and new candidates.

David Sturtevant

David Sturtevant, a candidate of our Presbytery studying at Presbyterian College in Montreal, was interviewed on Monday, February 23rd via Skype (with intermittent difficulties) by Ed Charlton, Mark Gaskin, and Angus Sutherland. Following the interview, which was guided by Appendix J-8 of the Book of Forms, the interview team is in agreement in recommending that certification be granted for the current year.

It was our pleasure to interview and get to know Dave Sturtevant. He is a student from St. Andrew’s Presbyterian Church in Kitchener and is in his second year at Presbyterian College in Montreal.

We met via Skype. There were some difficulties with the technology, but we managed the interview despite them. We used the guidance of Appendix J-8 in the Book of Forms as we talked with him.

As Dave had been previously certified by the Presbytery, our focus was on his development as a student and the changes that may have taken place affecting his faith, his call to ministry, and his life goals.

We found that his sense of call has only been strengthened by the experience in theological studies, and he enjoys the connections with students of other denominational and faith backgrounds. He has experienced a summer ministry position in Beaconsfield which he enjoyed very much, learning from the minister and the congregation. He is very much in tune with the standards of our church and our theology.

He feels strongly supported by his peers and teachers at the college as well as by his new wife. He continues to enjoy the experience of living and studying in Montréal. Life in a cosmopolitan centre only enhances his understanding of what ministry is all about.

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The interviewers are in agreement that Dave is growing in faith and in understanding, and we recommend David to the Presbytery for certification.

Recommendation 1:

Moved by John Paeng/Andrew Foster that David Sturtevant be granted certification to Presbyterian College, Montréal, for the current year. CARRIED

Cheryl D'Angelo

The Clerk has received acknowledgement of the letter sent last month to E&R expressing our concerns about the handling of Cheryl D'Angelo's case. The ad hoc committee chaired by Rev Aubrey Botha has been active and will continue to support her for as long as needed. This group is not part of the Ministry Committee and will not be affected by the committee rotation in September.

Gregory C. Smith

The Clerk has received a letter from Knox College advising that Greg Smith has completed all course requirements, and is now free to seek a Call and proceed to ordination.

Pulpit Exchange

Reminder of proposed presbytery-wide pulpit exchange in April.

Nicolae Pavel

Angus Sutherland arranged an interview with Nicolae Pavel on 26 February at Calvin Church, Kitchener resulting in the following recommendation.

Interviewers: Andrew Foster, John Paeng, Angus Sutherland

It was our pleasure to interview and get to know Nic Pavel. He was recommended by the Session of Calvin Presbyterian Church in Kitchener and it was at that building that we met.

We asked about his background in ministry and we used the guidance of Appendix J in the Book of Forms as we talked with him.

Nic spoke of his experience as a minister of the Baptist Church during the Ceaucescu Regime in post-Communist Romania. We sensed a deep faith and a very strong call to ministry. We asked about why he left the Baptist Church and found that his support of women in ministry and the baptism of children were some of the reasons for his parting ways with that denomination. These comments cleared away two immediate questions that we had. We noted that his post-secondary education was a four year bachelor of theology.

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He appears to have a good grasp of reformed theology, and told us that he had been very impressed by John Knox. We spoke of the various views that he might encounter among Presbyterians and the opinions he expressed gave us the sense that he would be a good fit in The Presbyterian Church in Canada.

Above all, as we spoke about his ministry and his call, we were very impressed and encouraged by his passion for preaching and leadership. In our discussion following the meeting, one member of the committee spoke of a minister of the Presbyterian Church who had said one should only go into ministry if it is the only call on one's life. We all had come to the conclusion that this is true for Nic.

Along with these notes, we believe that Nic has a good grasp of the English language and he indicates that he and his family are adjusting well to life in Canada. We believe he has a willingness and ability to learn and adapt.

Our final question to each other was whether we would be willing to participate in worship led by this candidate, and the answer was an unqualified 'yes'.

We recommend Nic to the Presbytery and to The Presbyterian Church in Canada as a candidate for ministry.

Recommendation 3:

Moved by John Paeng/Andrew Foster that following an interview and examination of the relevant documents by members of the Ministry Committee, the Rev Nicolae Pavel, ordained in December 1998 by the Baptist Church in Romania, be certified by the Presbytery of Waterloo Wellington to the Committee on Education and Reception. CARRIED

VISIONING COMMITTEE REPORT – presented by Darrell Clarke – See Appendix “I”
Recommendations

1. Notice of Motion given at January 13, 2015 Presbytery meeting
Moved by Darrell Clarke/Bob Seim that the Visioning Team be granted a preliminary budget of \$10,000 – which is inclusive of the \$5,000 approved at the November 2014 presbytery meeting. CARRIED
2. (Revised)
Moved by Darrell Clarke/Bob Seim that the ministers, sessions and congregations of the Presbytery be invited to offer intentional prayer for the Visioning process including the Visioning Day event. CARRIED

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3. Moved by Darrell Clarke/Bob Seim that the Rev. Peter Coutts be retained as the facilitator for the May 2nd Day of Visioning. CARRIED.
4. Moved by Darrell Clarke/Bob Seim that the Presbytery cover the cost of catering the May 2nd event, and, that this expenses be charged to the Vision Team's budget. CARRIED
5. Moved by Darrell Clarke/Bob Seim that the Presbytery arrange a follow-up/accountability event in the fall of 2015 and that the Rev. Peter Coutts be retained as the facilitator; and, that the Vision Team be responsible for arranging this event. CARRIED
6. Moved by Darrell Clarke/Bob Seim that the minister (or interim moderator) and the representative elder of each congregation be responsible for ensuring the completion of the Request for Data from the congregations of Waterloo-Wellington document; and that the data be compiled and returned to Darrell Clarke by April 15th. CARRIED

Moved by Darrell Clarke/Bob Seim that the report as a whole of the Visioning Committee be adopted. CARRIED

ADJOURNMENT

The business being completed, the Presbytery adjourned on motion of John Borthwick. The Moderator, the Rev. Scott McAndless invited the presbyters to join in a circle for special prayers for the Rev. Dr. Tony Plomp and the Rev. Jeff Veenstra and others mentioned, and then he pronounced the Benediction.

The Presbytery will meet again on Tuesday, May 12, 2015 at Knox Church Crieff (note change in venue). Refreshments will be served at 6:30 and the Presbytery will be constituted at 7:00 p.m. for the Recognition Service for the Rev. Cathy Kay.

Moderator

Clerk

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Appendix "A"

**Presbytery of Waterloo-Wellington
 Ministry Committee Report for March 10, 2015**

The committee discussed a number of items via e-mail during the week before the appointed meeting date, as there did not appear to be anything likely to require in depth or protracted discussion at a meeting.

1. Angus reported diligence in keeping track of the students. David Sturtevant, a candidate of our Presbytery studying at Presbyterian College in Montreal, was interviewed on Monday, February 23rd via Skype (with intermittent difficulties) by Ed Charlton, Mark Gaskin, and Angus Sutherland. Following the interview, which was guided by Appendix J-8 of the Book of Forms, the interview team is in agreement in recommending that certification be granted for the current year.

Recommendation 1: That David Sturtevant be granted certification to Presbyterian College, Montréal, for the current year.

1. The Clerk has received acknowledgement of the letter sent last month to E&R expressing our concerns about the handling of Cheryl D'Angelo's case. The ad hoc committee chaired by Rev Aubrey Botha has been active and will continue to support her for as long as needed. This group is not part of the Ministry Committee and will not be affected by the committee rotation in September.

The Clerk has received a letter from Knox College advising that Greg Smith has completed all course requirements, and is now free to seek a Call and proceed to ordination.

2. Reminder of proposed presbytery-wide pulpit exchange in April.
3. Janice Hamalainen retirement: having received formal notice from the Session of St Andrew's, Kitchener, we have the follow recommendation:

Recommendation 2: That the presbytery approve the request of the Rev Janice Hamalainen to retire from ministry at St Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Kitchener, on 30th May 2015, her last working day to be 26th April 2015. Subject to approval of this recommendation, Rev Janice Hamalainen may apply for her pension to begin immediately following the retirement date.

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4. Angus Sutherland arranged an interview with Nicolae Pavel on 26 February at Calvin Church, Kitchener resulting in the following recommendation:

Recommendation 3: That following an interview and examination of the relevant documents by members of the Ministry Committee, the Rev Nicolae Pavel, ordained in December 1998 by the Baptist Church in Romania, be certified by the Presbytery of Waterloo Wellington to the Committee on Education and Reception.

Andrew Foster (deputy convener) on behalf of Rev John Paeng (Convener)

Dr. Wilma Welsh, Clerk of Presbytery
The Presbytery of Waterloo-Wellington

Dear Wilma:

I am writing to inform you that I would like the permission of Presbytery to retire from active ministry effective June 1, 2015. As the Minister of Pastoral Care in Team Ministry at St. Andrew's Kitchener there have been some challenges but overall some wonderful ministry. I have been impressed by the congregation's commitment to pastoral care, expressed in active service through Stephen Ministry, Visitors in the Parish, the Prayer Group, the Prayer Shawl Knitting Group and Parish Nursing. I have worked with individuals in all of these pastoral care groups and committees and continue to be warmed by the loving compassion expressed by the congregants involved. I have also overseen Christian Education and Camp Kummoniwanago, which are part of the Pastoral Care Council and have been impressed by the dedication of the committees who support these ministries.

During my years at St. Andrew's I have had the privilege of working with the Rev. Dr. Mark Lewis, Minister of Preaching and Worship, Lauren Wasyluk, the Christian Education Co-ordinator, Mike Wasyluk, the Youth Leader and Gerti Emslie, the Parish Nurse. My thanksgiving is extended to each and every one for their dedication to their areas of ministry.

I have calculated vacation time and study leave as follows: 1 week of vacation time carried over from 2014 plus two weeks of vacation time (out of a total of 5 weeks) earned from January to June. I have 9 days of study leave carried over from 2014 and 6 days (out of a total of 15 days) from January to June. I humbly request that my actually leaving date be April 27, 2015. The calculation is made using three weeks of holiday time and two weeks of study leave time.

My husband Peter and I thank the congregation for the time we have spent at St. Andrew's.

In Christ's love ,
Rev. Janice Hamalainen
Minister of Pastoral Care, St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Kitchener

Wilma Welsh, Clerk (clerkwatwell@gmail.com)

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Appendix "B"

**OVERTURE FROM DUFF'S PUSLINCH, PRESBYTERY OF WATERLOO-
WELLINGTON**

WHEREAS, it is twenty years since The Presbyterian Church in Canada (PCC) adopted a statement on Human Sexuality in 1994, and

WHEREAS, it has been ten years since the 2003 reception and adoption of the report of the Special Committee re Sexual Orientation (A&P 2003 pp 526ff), and

WHEREAS, the Special Committee on Sexual Orientation's recommendation that the Life and Mission Agency and the Colleges of the Church continue to study questions of human sexuality was adopted in 2003, and

WHEREAS, knowledge and the study of issues of human sexuality, both scripturally and scientifically, has changed significantly over the last twenty years, and

WHEREAS, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgendered (LGBT)* people are fully included in our Canadian society and discrimination based on real or perceived sexual orientation and gender identity is prohibited throughout Canada in private and public sector employment, marriage, housing, services provided to the public and publicity, and

WHEREAS, ecumenical partners of The PCC such as The Presbyterian Church: USA, The Anglican Church of Canada, The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada, The United Church of Canada and The Church of Scotland have developed nuanced and affirming theological positions on matters of human sexuality over this period, and

WHEREAS, more and more congregations of The PCC recognize and celebrate the diversity of their membership with the inclusion of LGBT people in full participation in congregational activities and leadership, and

WHEREAS, many LGBT people within The PCC struggle with the ambiguity of their position within the Church and the lack of pastoral affirmation and hospitality they experience in light of the 1994 Report on Human Sexuality and its interpretation, and

WHEREAS, those who are living in, or who may live in a committed same sex relationship, feel called by God to serve as ordained ministers of The PCC, and

WHEREAS, Christian organizations that used to seek to change people's sexual orientation such as Exodus International and New Direction Ministries have recognized

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and apologized for deep spiritual harm and psychological damage done to LGBT people by not affirming their innate sexuality, sexual orientation and gender identity, and

WHEREAS, in the residential school apology we confessed the "sin of trying to change someone's fundamental nature," and

WHEREAS, the assessment of the scientific and medical communities is that largely sexual orientation and gender identity is not a matter of choice or lifestyle, but a factor in place prior to birth, and

WHEREAS, our Leading with Care policy ensures that congregations, groups and organizations within The PCC will ensure "a safe place for all," and

WHEREAS, the anti-LGBT stance of the Christian church in its many worldwide forms has resulted in approval of, or collaboration in, the persecution of LGBT persons, leading to verbal, psychological and physical assaults and killings, and

WHEREAS, the teachings of Jesus require that acceptance and inclusiveness of oppressed or persecuted minorities is central to the Gospel message,

THEREFORE, the Session of Duff's Presbyterian Church, Puslinch humbly overtures the Venerable, the 141st General Assembly, to affirm that The Presbyterian Church in Canada is fully inclusive of every person regardless of sexual orientation and gender identity in all aspects of church life, calling and relationship as a matter of justice and hospitality; or to do otherwise as the General Assembly, in its wisdom, deems best.

* The term 'LGBT' is an acronym currently used to refer to people whose sexual orientation is not heterosexual and/or whose gender identity does not conform either to binary male/female categories or the 'assigned' gender at birth. While variations of the acronym exist to emphasize the spectrum that exists with respect to sexual orientation and gender identity, LGBT will be used for the purpose of this overture.

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Appendix "C"

February 8, 2015

Trustees of Cooke's Church, Toronto,
Cooke's Fund,

Dear Trustees,

Over the last couple of years, Doon Presbyterian Church has been involved in a period of renewal and re-focus. Part of this renewal is a reorienting of the churches role in the local community from a place to go to – but also a place to go from – out into the community. In support of this renewed vision Doon Presbyterian Church is embarking on an aggressive outreach program aimed at young families, children and youth. Doon is fortunate to have a church community which includes census tract 1.04, an area which has the highest percentage of residents under the age of 24 in the Kitchener Waterloo Region. Additionally, within the church's community are the rapidly growing 2.1 and 2.11 census tracts with the second and third highest percentage of people under the age of 24 in the city of Kitchener. (see attached for additional information.)

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

Last year we initiated an outreach ministry to the students of Conestoga College which is adjacent our church. With funding help from the congregation and the Presbytery we have committed \$4000 annually to this outreach. In partnership with Power2 Change ministries we assist in three weekly bible and faith events at the College, provide monthly dinners to the International student body, supply the local college food bank, provide transportation for students into the city, provide Christmas gifts to 25 student families annually, among other projects. This winter we have also established a warm winter clothing program for students which we plan to locate at the college in the fall of 2015.

Our Session and Board of Managers recognize that now is the time to go further into our community and have committed funds to hire a CE/Outreach Director for 20 hours a week. Additionally, we have recommitted existing funds in the amount of \$7500 for community outreach programs. This has been made possible by reallocating existing resources.

The intent of our application is to hire a student from Conestoga College and to provide matching funds of \$3200 to support our outreach effort between mid-May to mid - September. The total

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commitment is 16 weeks. We would greatly appreciate the assistance of the Cooke's Fund to fund 50% of this effort or \$3200.

The duties of this student would include:

- Developing the Conestoga outreach program for 2015-2016 in conjunction with our Conestoga Partners (the CSI – students union, P2C Ministries and the Aboriginal Students Office) (3 weeks)
- Support our Outreach Committee in the development and execution of local outreach campaigns and a series of summer community events. (8 weeks)
- Co-ordinate our June Community Open House (1 week)
- Assisting in the implementation of an expanded VBS program for first two weeks in August. (2 weeks)
- Assisting with CE program coordination over the July August period during times of vacation. (2 weeks)

Attached is a schedule indicating the dates and a budget of the costs associated with the full outreach program. We hope that our proposal meets with the funds guidelines and the trustees satisfaction. Should you have any questions or clarification, please do not hesitate to contact us.

We appreciate your time and consideration of our request.

Peace and Blessings,
Pastor Darrell Clarke
Doon Presbyterian Church Kitchener.

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Appendix "D"

From: John Borthwick [mailto:seventytimes7@rogers.com]
Sent: February-24-15 12:22 PM
To: Presbytery Clerk
Cc: John Borthwick
Subject: St. Andrew's Guelph has a land project in the works

Hi Wilma,

I'm just giving you a heads up as Clerk and looking for direction on Presbytery approval for something that St. Andrew's Guelph is working on. I've attached the information that has been shared with the congregation to give you an idea of what I'm talking about.

We had our congregational meeting yesterday. The motion was changed from 'continue the conversation' to 'negotiate a land lease'... that motion was approved by the congregation by a 77% majority.

We are now in the very early stages of beginning the process of negotiating a land lease with the partner named in the information package.

It is my understanding from Don Muir that we need to ensure that Presbytery has the opportunity to approve the land lease/project. He has also said that the actual legal land lease document will need to be vetted by the PCC Trustee Board legal counsel prior to being approved by the Presbytery or our congregation.

I have two questions:

1. Due to timing issues, it may be that we will need a quick turnaround on Presbytery approval. Would you see this as something that could be vetted by the Business Committee and homologated by the Presbytery?
2. What kind of information would need to be presented to the Presbytery? I'm assuming that the Presbytery would not benefit from the full legal document – but could be provided with an executive summary highlighting the project itself and the details of the negotiated land lease. What do you think?

Thanks for your help on this, Wilma. If you have further questions, please let me know.

Take care,

John.

Rev. John Borthwick
Minister, St. Andrew's Guelph

Wilma Welsh, Clerk (clerkwatwell@gmail.com)

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TREASURER'S REPORT Appendix "E"
REPORT TO WATERLOO-WELLINGTON PRESBYTERY AS AT FEBRUARY 28, 2015

	<u>to Feb. 2015</u>	<u>Budget 2015</u>	<u>Amount remaining</u>
INCOME			
Assessment Income	37,219	148,875	111,656
Income from services	-	1,000	1,000
Other income - interest	390	4,211	3,821
Total Income	37,609	154,086	116,477
EXPENSES			
Synod Assessment	12,733	50,931	38,198
Special project - Two Rivers Church	25,000	25,000	-
Special project - Post Sec. student grants	-	12,500	12,500
Special project - Bunun Exchange	-	6,000	6,000
Special projects - total	25,000	43,500	18,500
Clerk's honorarium	2,025	12,149	10,124
Treasurer's honorarium	1,104	6,626	5,522
CPP/EI	82	500	418
Liability Insurance	-	3,500	3,500
General and office supplies	-	2,500	2,500
Telecommunications	440	1,600	1,160
Audit and legal fees	-	500	500
Bank interest and service charges	4	280	276
Office expenses - total	3,656	27,655	23,999
Travel and mileage	114	7,000	6,886
Meals and hospitality	-	500	500
Travel - total	114	7,500	7,386
Grants - U of G chaplaincy	-	9,000	9,000
Grants - Students for Ministry	400	4,000	3,600
Grants - New Life Counselling	1,500	1,500	-
Grants - donations	-	-	-
Grants - total	1,900	14,500	12,600
Commissioner's Expenses	-	2,000	2,000
Conference Funds	-	2,500	2,500
Student Psych. assessments/counselling	-	2,000	2,000
Pulpit supply for visitation	-	1,000	1,000
Visitors and Gifts	-	1,000	1,000
Christian education	-	1,000	1,000
Student certification	-	500	500
General expense - Total	-	10,000	10,000

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Total All Expenses	43,403	154,086	110,683
Surplus/(Deficit)	(5,795)	0	5,795

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Appendix "F"

Congregational Affairs Report – March 10, 2015

Interim-Moderators Reports

Recommendation 1 re: the Appointment of an IM for St Andrew's Kitchener.
 That Rev Angus Sutherland be appointed IM at St Andrew's, Kitchener upon the departure of Janice Hamalainen on May 1 with the following terms:

As it is a multiple pastoral charge, the IM responsibilities would be limited to working with the search committee. Consequently, the stipend for the IM would be 5%, rather than 10%.

You will note that Janice's official date is June 1st but her last Sunday will be the end of April. The Session is asking for an interim moderator to be appointed beginning May 1st. There would be no responsibilities for pastoral care, pulpit supply or moderating Session.

Recommendation 2

Rev. Brooke Ashfield and Monica Blake, an elder at Knox Waterloo, be appointed as the Advisory Committee.

Recommendation 3

That working with the Interim-Moderator and Advisory Committee appointed that St Andrew's, Kitchener be given permission to take the necessary steps to fill the vacancy left by Janis Hamalainen.

IM Reports

Alma and Elora

Linda Bell reported that there is nothing new. They are getting a search committee together; profiles are printed and ready for all eager candidates; annual meetings are scheduled for February 15 (Alma) and March 1 (Elora); speakers lined up through the end of April.

Recommendation 4

Presbytery approve the attached Visitation Schedule from now through to the spring of 2016.

The revised visitation Schedule is attached.

Respectfully submitted

Rev Calvin Brown, Co-Chair CA Committee

Ed Charlton, Co-chair

Wilma Welsh, Clerk (clerkwatwell@gmail.com)

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Presbytery Visitation Schedule for Congregations

Please Note –

- 1) We are on a five year Rotation Schedule for all congregations.
- 2) 1 minister and two elders shall conduct a visitation for the congregations as outlined below
- 3) The minister convenes the Presbytery Visitation Team.
- 4) Guidelines for conducting a congregational visitation are found in the Presbytery standing orders – Appendix 1
- 5) Congregations should not be visited in the first year of a new pastor's settlement so times of visitation may need to be adjusted.
- 6) The Interim Moderator of a congregation will act as pastor when there is a vacancy.
- 7) Multipoint charges will be visited by the same Presbytery visitation team in the same time frame.

<u>Congregations to be visited to visit</u>	<u>Minister and Elder to Visit</u>	<u>Second elder</u>
SPRING 2015		
Calvin, Kitchener Joonim, Waterloo	Westminster-St. Paul's, Guelph Knox, Waterloo	Knox, Crieff Knox, Guelph
FALL 2015		
Gale, Elmira, Arthur St. Andrew's, Kitchener	Knox Preston, Cambridge Kitchener East, Kitchener	St. Andrew's, St. Andrew's, Gordonville
Central, Cambridge	Knox, Guelph	Knox-Calvin, Harriston
SPRING 2016		
Doon, Kitchener	Duff's, Puslinch	Westside, Cambridge
St. Andrew's, Fergus	Kortright, Guelph	St. Andrew's, Guelph
Westminster-St. Paul's, Guelph	Rockwood and Eden Mills	Knox's, Galt

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Appendix "G"

**EIF COMMITTEE REPORT TO PRESBYTERY
MARCH 10, 2015
DAY OF REFLECTION – APRIL 11, 2015**

Time – 9:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Place – Calvin Presbyterian Church, Kitchener.

Lunch – will be served following Closing Worship. Lunch will be provided by Calvin Presbyterian Church and will be paid for by the Presbytery

Purpose – To draw the Presbytery together in worship, fellowship, grace and healing. It will be a time to fully listen to one another, recognizing that although we disagree on how Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender individuals are welcomed into the church we strive to treat one another and all people as we would treat Christ.

We will not rehash or debate the Overtures forwarded by the Presbytery to Assembly Office since it is not the intent of the day to prove one position as right. We will gather to listen fully to one another, offering each person respect and care as they speak.

To this end:

The day will begin with opening worship.

Definitions will be given re: Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender to ensure we are all speaking about the same thing.

Ground rules will be given to ensure dialogue takes place with care and respect and everyone is fully heard.

Stories will be told – these stories are taken from 'Listening', a study document produced and made available by the national church in 2003.

With each story one or two open-ended questions will be asked. These questions will provide a lubricant for respectful and compassionate dialogue. These questions will not have a right or wrong answer. The purpose of these questions is to begin dialogue. Each of us has their own stories and these stories will be welcomed as part of our dialogue.

Closing worship – closing worship which will include the Sacrament of Communion.

The day will end with a time of fellowship over lunch. Lunch will be served directly following closing worship.

Janice Hamalainen,
Convener

Wilma Welsh, Clerk (clerkwatwell@gmail.com)

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Appendix "H"

MISSION AND OUTREACH REPORT

March 10th, 2015, meeting of the Presbytery of Waterloo-Wellington

Our Committee met on February 11th.

We have one recommendation:

2. That the presbytery approve the Two Rivers Church 2014 year-end financial statement and 2015 budget. Please find the Financial Reports and the Narrative Report of the Two Rivers Sub-Committee attached as appendices.

Rev. Alex MacLeod, Co-Conveners
Rev. Glen Soderholm

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Two Rivers Subcommittee Report to Mission and Outreach Committee

The small group appointed to represent a Presbytery/M&O committee presence with Glen re: Two Rivers met with him on Friday, Feb 6. Johan Olivier, Bob Seim, Karla Wübbenhorst and Glen Soderholm (the full complement) were present. Glen noted several important developments within the life at Two Rivers, and presented the 2014 financial statements and the 2015 budget.

What's been happening

Two Rivers has now grown to some **30 core members** (those who *regularly* attend activities), with a dozen or so more being part of the community in some way (on the update list and attending *some* events), (i.e. a total of 40-50). There is a still wider circle of people with whom Two Rivers is connecting through faithful local presence (community garden, movie club, Downtown Neighbourhood Association etc.) and intentional hospitality. The demographic is mainly professional downtown dwellers (80% of the core members live either right in, or within a 10 minute walk of Two Rivers' downtown base). The **average age is 40**, and about half the group is single. There are a number who are new to faith, others who are wrestling with lack of faith and doubt, as well as some who have a well-established Christian background and faith commitment.

The increase in people has precipitated a time of transition, as Two Rivers has begun (as of Feb 1) to explore new rhythms of meeting together. There are **4 'monthly pillars' of gathering** which include 2 Sunday **Evening Liturgies** (Knox), and 2 bi-weekly **Living Rooms** (mid-week house groups, meeting concurrently at Glen's place on Cardigan Street and Steve's place on Audrey Ave in the Ward. Steve's group is new and has about 10 members committed to supporting it). There are also a number of other **regularly featured events**, born of people's different interests and joys, that Two Rivers is building into its activity calendar (e.g. Theology in the Dark (movies and discussion), Knit Happens (knitting and friendship), Kitchen Party (pot-luck, music and singing), Theology on Tap (beverages and discussion), as well as a monthly Sunday morning prayer exercise. Intentional space is also left in the monthly calendar so that people can come together in "**micro-friendship happenings**" (any event where two or three friends

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meet to pay attention to what God is up to in their lives -- it could centre around participating together in a service event in the community or around an occasion where hospitality is offered to neighbours).

Especially given the varied levels of faith commitment and church enculturation among members, it is encouraging that there is a deep desire to **worship**. Worship has a unique quality at Two Rivers in that it is always done "face to face" in a circle, with the Table of the Lord at the centre or in close proximity. It is casual but also quite liturgical with litanies, responses, and a variety of symbolic actions which include the Eucharist. Often there is dialogue after the sermon as people respond to the Word. Spontaneous prayer and sharing is invited, and people participate readily. A recurrent conversational theme has been what it means to "grow up into the full measure of Christ" (Ephesians 4). Central to the **vision** of Two Rivers is **attentiveness to what God is doing in members' daily lives** (attention is given to this in an organized way through the regular "Sacrament of the Ordinary" sharing time), and the idea of **faithful, incarnational presence in the local neighbourhood** (for this reason Two Rivers is especially gratified by the 80% downtown demographic figure, and by the fact that micro-friendship happenings are on the increase). The **seven core "practices": storytelling, friendship, culture-making, generosity, spiritual formation, celebration and invitation** remain the "charter" of the community's life together.

Two Rivers ended the year with a **small budget deficit of around \$1600**. They have **increased their revenues by approximately 50% over the previous year** (\$14270 in 2013 vs. \$22091 in 2014), and spent less than was budgeted on several line items. The increase in givings is both very commendable and very necessary as the Canada Ministry grant is scaled back. A well-attended **Town Hall meeting** (AGM) showed a high level of support for the shifts Two Rivers is making and good emergent leadership/member-investment in visioning for the community. A new leader has been elected onto the **Leadership Team**, for a total of 4, all of whom are gifted and mature. The **website**, tworiverschurch.ca, has been updated and gives a clear and inviting picture of the community's life and vision.

Commentary

A few talking points as the Presbytery relationship with Two Rivers church moves into its third year:

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- Admiration, commendation and support are expressed to Glen as he continues to build this unique community with rich theological thoughtfulness and intention, and with responsiveness to changes that have arisen and will arise in the process of growth and maturation. Two Rivers seems to be delivering on its promise of reaching a group of people who are not being reached with the gospel by any of the other Presbyterian churches in Guelph, and our most fervent hope is that this ministry will continue to grow and be sustainable into the future.

- We affirm Glen's vision of "small is beautiful" and ask him to keep thinking about this ministry in terms of a 10-15 year horizon. A network of co-ordinated house-churches may be the model to aim at as opposed to growing into a larger monistic entity, but if that is to happen, how will the centrality of Christian identity be maintained when leaders of other Living Rooms lack Glen's 24 year experience in the ministry and explicit commitment to the Presbyterian Church? How is cohesion of program and identity to be maintained? We note that it is a positive development that other leadership is stepping forward from within the community itself. It signals investment of the people in the vision that is being cast by Glen, and ultimately will ensure a future which is not dependent upon Glen as the central figure without whom this ministry could not exist.

- We note that it is a desideratum in all our congregations to move people from the position of "consumer" to the position of "stake-holder/member." Consumers receive; members sacrifice, so that others may receive. Consumers enjoy what is being offered in the community, sometimes so much that the danger is of becoming ingrown. Members of Christ are obsessively missional and outward-looking. We encourage Glen in his efforts to teach stewardship, and to structure the community life and core practices of Two Rivers around a missional consciousness. These two parts of the foundation it seems to us are essential to ensure the health and sustainability of the community into the future. Many of us in inherited churches wish that these patterns had been established with the DNA. As baptism is the mark of membership in Christ, we long for stories in which seekers are moved intentionally toward baptismal commitment/profession of Christian faith.

- While we in no way wish to detract from the congregation's achievement in increasing its revenues from givings (receipted + loose) from \$14079 in 2013 to \$18315 in

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2014,¹ we also acknowledge the role of Glen's personal sacrifice in arriving at a nearly balanced budget for 2014 (namely his stipend decrease and his underspending on the "study leave, education and training" line). Additionally we wish to acknowledge the sacrifice that is entailed for Glen and his family in putting their private home at the disposal of Two Rivers. Sacrifice to an extent goes with the territory of Christian discipleship and ministerial calling, but it is not our desire to see such sacrifices become destructive to Glen's personal well-being or to the harmony of his home-life. We invite Glen to approach us if there are ways, through the Presbytery, that we can offer support. We also encourage frank discussion on these matters between Glen and the Leadership Team at Two Rivers, so that the sacrifices involved in starting up a new ministry, can at least be borne together. The minister is a valuable asset in any congregation, and it is in the congregation's best interest if they steward that asset well.

Recommendations to Mission and Outreach Committee (for information of Presbytery)

1. That a pattern of reporting be regularized such that the subcommittee meets with Glen semi-annually: i. in time to prepare a report (including financials) for the February M&O meeting, and M&O in turn for the March meeting of Presbytery, and ii. in time to prepare an update report for the October meeting of M&O, it being left at M&O's discretion whether to report on TRC to the November meeting of Presbytery.
2. That the 2014 year-end financial statement and 2015 budget for Two Rivers Church be received with the support of the quadrant.
3. That the section labeled "Commentary," above, remain as talking points between, on the one hand, Glen and the Leadership Team at Two Rivers, and on the other hand, between Glen and the subcommittee

¹ Based on statements circulated via email on April 15, 2014 and shared Feb 6, 2015 with the subcommittee.

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Proposed Two Rivers Budget - 2015			
	2014 Budget	2014 Actual To Date	2015 Budget
Revenue			
Overage/(Shortfall)	\$ (5,130.10)	\$ (5,130.10)	\$ (1,964.13)
Presbyterian Church in Canada	\$ 25,000.00	\$ 25,000.00	\$ 25,000.00
Canadian Ministries	\$ 38,000.00	\$ 38,000.00	\$ 28,000.00
Givings (Receipted)	\$ 30,150.06	\$ 18,135.00	\$ 28,714.13
Canada Helps Donations	\$ -	\$ 1,921.50	\$ 2,500.00
Fundraising	\$ -	\$ 1,850.00	\$ 2,500.00
Givings (Loose)	\$ 500.00	\$ 185.00	\$ 250.00
Total	\$ 88,519.96	\$ 79,961.40	\$ 85,000.00
Expenses			
Minister Stipend and Car Allowance	\$ 40,000.00	\$ 40,000.00	\$ 40,000.00
Minister Housing Allowance & Utilities	\$ 21,500.00	\$ 21,500.00	\$ 21,500.00
Medical/Dental	\$ 4,520.00	\$ 4,516.56	\$ 4,520.00
El Expense	\$ 1,300.00	\$ 1,292.84	\$ 1,500.00
CPP Expense	\$ 1,800.00	\$ 1,842.77	\$ 2,000.00
CRA Credit	\$ -	\$ (1,000.00)	\$ -
Pension & Group Insurance	\$ 4,400.00	\$ 5,760.00	\$ 5,800.00

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Study Leave, Education & Training	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 50.26	\$ 1,000.00
Travel & Vehicle	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Insurance	\$ -	\$ 81.00	\$ 200.00
Licenses, Memberships and Dues	\$ -	\$ 25.00	\$ 50.00
Ministry Resources	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 752.08	\$ 1,500.00
Hall Rental & Incidentals (barrista/musicians)	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 691.96	\$ 1,000.00
Mission (to Presbyterians Sharing)	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,160.00	\$ 2,000.00
Secretary/Treasurer	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 2,699.98	\$ 1,200.00
Professional & Consulting Fees	\$ 500.00	\$ -	\$ 100.00
Communications (Internet, Phone, Web Hosting)	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 228.32	\$ 500.00
Office Supplies & Postage	\$ 500.00	\$ 171.95	\$ 300.00
Interest & Bank Charges	\$ 100.00	\$ 201.28	\$ 200.00
Marketing & Printing	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 26.15	\$ 230.00
Christian Education Materials	\$ 500.00	\$ 144.24	\$ 500.00
Website Development	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Photocopier/Printer	\$ 200.00	\$ -	\$ 100.00
Projector/Screen	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Computer	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
HST/GST/PST Paid	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -

Wilma Welsh, Clerk (clerkwatwell@gmail.com)

4990

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	-	87.45	100.00
Liturgical Supplies	\$ 500.00	\$ 693.73	\$ 700.00
Total	\$ 88,520.00	\$ 81,925.57	\$ 85,000.00

Wilma Welsh, Clerk (clerkwatwell@gmail.com)

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Appendix "I"

Visioning Team Report to Presbytery of Waterloo-Wellington

Tuesday, March 10, 2015

Wouldn't it be wonderful if they all showed up! All **10,086*** of them. This is the total number of members on the communicant rolls, and adherents under pastoral care, in this Presbytery. We don't know if they are all coming – and if they do we certainly hope they register – but they **ARE ALL INVITED!**

(*2014 A&P, p 678)

The Presbytery wisely included, in its Terms of Reference for the Visioning Team, “that the process be understood as a discernment process which would be undergirded with prayer and include ways to be responsive to the movement and guidance of the Holy Spirit.” (page 3) To that end the Team is preparing prayers that could be used by congregations during March and April.

Given the tight time frame outlined in the Visioning Process Proposal (Approved Nov 11, 2014) the Team felt it was imperative to secure an excellent facilitator for the Day for Visioning (May 2) event as soon as possible. We have “booked” the Rev. Peter Coutts.

Peter Coutts is the General Presbyter of the Presbytery of Calgary-Macleod — a half-time position helping clergy, sessions and congregations grow in their leadership and future-focus; and, resourcing them for greater health and vitality. Prior to this role Peter served 13 years as Lead Minister at St. Andrew’s Church in Calgary, at Oakridge in London ON (as Associate Minister, 9 years) and was involved in New Church Development near Victoria BC (4 years). In 2013 the Alban Institute published his book *Choosing Change: How to Motivate Churches to Face the Future*.

Registration will enable the Team, the Facilitator and the Gale PC Kitchen Staff to plan the logistics for the day.

Please register at **dayforvisioning.eventbrite.com**

Registration **deadline is April 26.**

When you register please note any special dietary needs by clicking on the:

Contact the Organizer link.

If **you do not have** internet access please call 519-621-3630 to register.

Wilma Welsh, Clerk (clerkwatwell@gmail.com)

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The Gale PC Kitchen Staff will cater the event for a fee of \$12 per person. The Team appreciates the amount of time Presbyters are being asked to devote to Presbytery events this spring. We also want to encourage as many people as possible to attend the Day for Visioning (May 2) event. Therefore, we feel it would be a sign of appreciation if the Presbytery treated the participants to lunch. We are seeking Presbytery's approval for this arrangement.

The Team would like the Presbytery to be aware of the generosity of the Gale Presbyterian Church Session. They are providing the entire facility at no charge. (There is a small honorarium being provided for tech support that day)

The Team continues its data collection that will be part of the final report. To that end we are seeking to provide aggregate congregational demographic information, including a list of postal codes. Other information may include givings by quintile, a cultural and age profile, etc. We are requesting the assistance of ministers and presbytery representative elders in this process.

In addition to the Day for Visioning the Vision Team (in consultation with Peter Coutts) is planning to integrate a congregational-level opinion gathering process into the Day for Visioning process. These focus groups will be self-managed by congregations using a guide provided by Peter Coutts. They will have one month to conduct the focus group and submit their results to Peter Coutts.

Congregations should plan on a single two hour event, which could be held in the evening or on the weekend. The Team believes this will create excitement and engagement in the Visioning process.

Lastly, the Vision Team believes that the Presbytery would be well-served by a follow-up "accountability" event in the fall of 2015. We believe this event should be facilitated by Peter Coutts.

This is not part of the original Visioning Process Proposal (Approved Nov 11, 2014). We are seeking Presbytery's approval for this additional step.

Recommendation #1:

Notice of Motion given at January 13 Presbytery meeting.

"That the Visioning Team be granted a preliminary budget of \$10,000 – which is inclusive of the \$5,000 approved at the November, 2014 presbytery meeting."

Recommendation #2:

That the ministers, sessions and congregations of the Presbytery be invited to offer intentional prayer for the Visioning Day event.

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Recommendation #3:

That the Visioning Day facilitator be the Rev Peter Coutts be retained as the facilitator for the May 2nd Day of Visioning.

Recommendation #4:

That the Presbytery cover the cost of catering the May 2nd event; and, that this expense be charged to the Vision Team's budget.

Recommendation #5:

That the Presbytery arrange a follow-up / accountability event in the fall of 2015 and that the Rev Peter Coutts be retained as the facilitator; and, that the Vision Team be responsible for arranging this event.

Recommendation #6:

The minister (or interim moderator) and the representative elder, of each congregation be responsible for ensuring the completion of the *Request for Data from the congregations of Waterloo Wellington* document; and that the data be compiled and returned to Darrell Clarke by April 15.

Team members are Darrell Clarke, Herb Gale, Liz Samis, Robert Seim and Mark Gaskin.

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SAMPLE (An email compatible format will be available for the Presbytery Meeting)

Request for Data from the congregations of Waterloo Wellington

We are asking for your help to establish a demographic profile of our presbytery and the congregations within it. The data is designed to develop a profile of your congregation and the surrounding neighborhoods. The data collect, in the aggregate, will be a tool to develop the vision of the Presbytery and to assist individual congregations with decisions surrounding ministry and outreach in their communities.

1. What percentage of your congregation would you *estimate* are in each of the following age groups?

0-15

15-24

24-34

35-44

45-54

55-64

65 and above

- A. How would describe the culture of your congregation? Things to consider may include:
1. What values are communicated most strongly when someone approaches your church from the outside?
 2. What would an outsider, after sitting through several worship services, say your church values most?
 3. What are outsiders' two to three leading perceptions of your church?
- B. What secular cultural holiday does your church celebrate? (New Year's Day, Anniversary Sunday, Robbie Burns Night, St. Patrick's Day, Canada Day, Valentine's Day, Remembrance Day, Thanksgiving, Mother's day, Father's Day, Graduation Sunday, Labour Day, National Aboriginal Day, Chinese New Year, Pancake Tuesday, events around back to school/church in September, or other cultural celebrations.)?
- C. How many ministries does your church lead and operate in your local community (outside of the congregation). These are ministries whose focus are not members of the congregations and responding to needs identified in the local community, e.g. Senior's, youth, senior's residence, sports camp, VBS, mental health support, Please list them and if possible please identify the number who participate in these programs.

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- iv. What percentage of your attendance on Sunday morning fall into each one of these groups:
 - 1. Married with children
 - 2. Married without children
 - 3. Single Parent families
 - 4. Young adults living alone
 - 5. Seniors (over 65) living alone
 - 6. Married seniors (over 65) living alone

- D. How many members/adherents attend worship:
 - E. Weekly
 - E. Monthly
 - E. Once or twice a year
 - E. Special events only

- vii. Provide a list of the postal codes on your congregational mailing list. We will use this information to map your congregational neighborhood. Do not include the address, name or other information associated with the postal code.

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Proposed Schedule for Day for Visioning (May 2nd)

8:30 – 9:15 AM	Registration and Pre-event Gathering Time
9:15 – 9:45 AM	Welcome and Opening Devotions
9:45 – 10:15 AM	Context Setting Presentation by Peter Coutts
10:15 – 10:30 AM	Break
10:30 – 11:30 AM	Discussion Groups: Stakeholder Needs in 2025 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Wider society <input type="checkbox"/> Congregation <input type="checkbox"/> Presbytery (the court, not the area)
11:30 – 12:00 Noon	Report Back Session from Discussion Groups
12:00 – 12:45 PM	Lunch
11:30 – 12:45 PM	Group Reports Collated for Distribution for Afternoon Session
12:45 – 1:10 PM	Personal Reflection / Prayer Time: “What do I think the priorities should be?”
1:10 – 2:30 PM	Consensus Building Exercise: World Café
2:30 – 2:45 PM	Feedback: Review Consensus So Far
2:45 – 3:30 PM	(less time if people finish) Consensus Building Exercise: Investing in our Future Combined with Break
3:30 – 4:15 PM	Wrap-up Session: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Acknowledge the current consensus <input type="checkbox"/> Participants will be given an opportunity to propose “what needs to happen next” <input type="checkbox"/> Outline “next steps” for the Vision Team, going forward <input type="checkbox"/> Closing thanks and prayer