

Calvin Presbyterian Church,
Kitchener, Ontario,
March 13, 2012

DATE AND PLACE:

The Presbytery of Waterloo-Wellington met in regular session at Calvin Presbyterian Church, Kitchener, on Tuesday, March 13, 2012. The Presbytery gathered for refreshments at 6:30 p.m. and the presbytery meeting began at 7:00 p.m.

ATTENDANCE:

Ministers: Rev. John Borthwick (Moderator), Rev. Linda Ashfield, Rev. Brooke Ashfield, Rev. Dr. Linda Bell, Rev. Calvin Brown, Rev. William Bynum, Rev. Edward Charlton, Rev. Penny Garrison, Rev. Mark Gaskin, Rev. Mark Gedcke, Rev. Janice Hammalainen, Rev. Dr. Herb Gale, Rev. Alex MacLeod, Rev. Scott McAndless, Rev. Kathy Morden, Rev. Johan Olivier, Rev. Linda Paquette, Rev. Robert Sinasac, Rev. Jeff L. Smith, Rev. Andrew Song, Rev. Angus Sutherland, Rev. Nan St. Louis, Rev. Karla Wübbenhorst,

Representative Elders: Lenore Arbuckle, Lisa Brimblecome, Gil Cha, Maria Liston, Janet deGroot, Johan DeSchiffart, Andrew Foster, Jean Godin, Peter Graham, Pauline Hall, Hazel Hislop, Isabel Howell, Marion Hunter, Alan Israel, Frank Kivell, Gwen MacRobbie, Gib McIlwrath, Dale McKee, David Ogram, Bert Perriman, Bob Renton, Ross Rowat, Liz Samis, Grant Scott, Neil Stewart, Earl Suggitt, Wilma Welsh, Jim Zaryski

Ministers on the Appendix to the Roll: Rev. Dr. Wayne Dawes, Rev. Robert Duncanson, Rev. Dr. Brice Martin, Rev. Jeffrey E. Smith, Rev. Glen Soderholm

Alternate Representative Elders:– Donna Tebow, Rick Thomas, Reg Samis

Students for Ministry: Reuben St. Louis, Richard Warne

WMS:

Treasurer: Dr. Mary Ann Koeslag

Clerk: Dr. Wilma Welsh

Others: Lawrence Pentelow

Visitors: Dale McKee, Clara McKee, Tom McBride, Don McLeod, Jane McLeod, Sandra Burns, Marlene Kivell, Sandy Grimwood, Scott King, Janice Hamill, Janelle Doer, Kyle Doer, Steve Carron, Donna Tebow

REGRETS:

Ministers: Rev. Dr. Aubrey Botha, Rev. David Whitecross

Representative Elders: Jim Akerstream, Helen Cleghorn, Deb Coutts, Peter Goudy,

Alternate Representative Elders: Mary Rogers

Ministers on the Appendix to the Roll: Rev. Dr. Walter McLean

Women's Missionary Society: Donna Henry, Phyllis Stewart

Calvin Presbyterian Church,
Kitchener, Ontario,
March 13, 2012

WORSHIP: - Richard Warne, Candidate for Ministry Student at Knox College, led the court in worship, with Johan DeShiffart, accompanying the singing on the piano. The Scripture reading was from Luke 110: 38-42 and Rick's message was entitled "Busy".

WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS AND CONSITUTION OF THE COURT:

The Moderator opened the meeting with prayer, noting the death of John Moir of Brantford. He then constituted the court.

The Moderator welcomed the new representative elders for Waterloo North, Dale McKee and Gale , Elmira, Maria Liston.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:

Moved by Wilma Welsh/Ed Charlton that the Proposed Agenda be adopted as printed.

CARRIED.

MINUTES:

Moved by Wilma Welsh/Ed Charlton that the minutes of January 10, 2012 be approved as corrected – it was noted on page 4192 under Mission and Outreach that the \$800 approved is not only for the speaker's honorarium and travel but is the total amount authorized for the Rural Ministry Conference. *CARRIED.*

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

BUSINESS COMMITTEE REPORT: Clerk, Wilma Welsh reported.

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

1. CORRESPONDENCE – January 10 – March 12, 2012

12-003	Don Muir – re Clerk's Consultation – April 20-24 th , 2012	To Clerk
12-004	Penny Garrison – correcting information re St. Giles, Cambridge, Finances	Sent to all
12005	Johan Olivier re Glen Soderholm Workshop at Knox Guelph Feb. 25 th – Deadline for registration is Feb. 24 th .	Sent to all
12-006	John Borthwick – advising that Westminster-St. Paul's Guelph has not received their Visitation Report yet.	Cong. Affairs & Clerk
12-007	Sheilah Alyea – requesting Presbytery to send two reps for round table to discuss the future of the PCC – Feb. 16 – 1:30-3:30	Business Com
12-008	Sean Foster, Clerk, Pres of Brampton requesting Rev. Dr. R. Spencer be transferred to Brampton presbytery while serving	

Calvin Presbyterian Church,
Kitchener, Ontario,
March 13, 2012

	As interim minister at St. Andrew's Brampton	Ministry Com
	Transfer of Rev. Glen Soderholm to Waterloo-Wellington	
12-009	Jo Morris, Canada Youth 2012 Coordinator with attachments Re Canada Youth 2012	Sent to all
12-010	Linda Bell – with name of new rep Elder – Maria Liston	Clerk
12-011	Angus Sutherland – requesting the naming of an Interim Moderator for Doon now	Cong. Affairs
12-012	Elders' Institute newsletter	Sent to all
12-013	Don Muir – forwarding information re Heritage Sunday	Sent to all
12-014	Matthew Foxall – Re LIFE seminar by CC Forum March 10-11	Sent to all
12-015-	Linda J. Bell – letter of appreciation for nomination for DD Presbytery advised that Linda will be conferred with a DD	Sent to all
12-016	Barbara Nawratil – Moldy records from Winterbourne	Business Com
12-017	Terrie-Lee Hamilton – re Assembly 2014	Business Com
12-018	Kees Vandermeij – re Presbytery Recognition service for The Rev. Calvin Brown, Palmerston/Drayton	Business Com
12-019	Joel Sherbino – re Prepare & Enrich training wksp Mar. 26	Sent to all
12-020	Peter DeVries – change of email to padevries@ieeee.org	Clerk
12-021	Terrie-Lee Hamilton – re Committee to Nominate	Sent to all
12-022	Heather Vais – re publication “Equipping for..”	Sent to all
12-023	Glennys Stewart – re actions of Duff's Session	Cong Affairs/ Ministry Com
12-024	Heather Chappel – Presbyterians Sharing – Year End Financial reports for Presbytery of WW	Cong Affairs
12-025	Cairn Camp – requesting time at future Presbytery Meeting (arranged for May Presbytery Meeting)	Clerk
12-026	Elders' Institute – Pilgrimage 2012	Sent to all
12-027	Elizabeth Bartlett – Changes to the Roll – January 2012	Sent to all
12-028	Andrew Foster – re AODA Workshop Central Church, Cambridge, March 31	Further info to follow
12-029	Terrie-Lee Hamilton – acknowledging unrefereed overture Re Eligibility requirements for the Fund for Ministerial Assist.	Filed
12-030	Rev. Ibu Kanbudan, Bunan Presbytery, Taiwan asking for Update on their request to twin with WW Presbytery	Mission & Outreach
12-031	Don Muir, Committee on Church Architecture – Advising that new secretary is the Rev. Don Muir	Rec. for Info.
12-032	St. Giles Cambridge Session – advising that their Session & Bd of Managers recommends entering into negotiations with St. Andrew's Galt to amalgamate the two congregations	Cong Affairs

Calvin Presbyterian Church,
Kitchener, Ontario,
March 13, 2012

12-033	Lenora Arbuckle – requesting funding for Ray of Hope Ministries, March 23-25 th	EIFCommittee
12-034	Nomination – of Dennis Mercier to GA Standing Committee To Church Doctrine	Business Com
12-035	Mark Gedcke – Vistation Report for Westminster-St. Paul’s	Cong. Affairs
12-036	Elders Institute – e-News February 2012	To all cong
12-037	Report from Rev. L. Ashfield/Rev. Jeffrey Smith – presbytery Support to St. Giles	Cong. Affairs
12-038	Report from Session of St. Andrew’s, Galt, Cambridge Re amalgamation with St.Giles Galt, Cambridge	Cong. Affairs
12-039	Terrie-Lee Hamilton – Presbytery Statistical Information	Clerk – sent to all cong
12-040	Clergy Care – Starting Well 2012	To all Clergy
12-041	Elders Institute – re PAW 2012	To all Cong.
12-042	Terrie-Lee Hamilton – Ramification of church office move	Business com
12-043	Mark Gedcke – re Nomination of Mark Godin to Church “Doctrine Committee by correspondence	Business Com
12-044	David Brisbin, Knox Elora– application to Experimental Fund & Creative Fund	Business Com
12-045	D. Kelly, St. Andrew’s, Galt – requesting Presbytery to enter into Negotiations with St. Giles to amalgamate the two congregations	Cong Affairs
12-046	Terrie-Lee Hamilton –acknowledging list of Commissioners	Clerk
12-047	Don Muir – International Ministries L&M appointment – Rev. Dr. Glynis R. Williams	for info
12-048	E. Barlett – changes to the Roll February 12, 2012	Sent to cong
12-049	Rev. Susan Shaffer – requesting list of pulpit vacancies	Clerk
12-050	Terrie-Lee Hamilton - Reminder to all Clerks re reports due	Clerk
12-051	Sandy Grimwood – Dissolution of Pastoral Tie, St. Giles, Galt	Ministry Com
12-052	Ian McDonald – Changes to Canada Ministries policies re Grants Committee Policy 2012	Sent to Cong.
12-053	Klara Ankueza, Clerk of Session of Waterloo-Wellington Hungarian Presbyterian Worship Group – request to be recognized as a congregation of WW Presbytery	Cong. Affairs

Moved by Wilma Welsh/Jeff L. Smith that the actions of the Business Committee in assigning the correspondence be homologated. CARRIED

Calvin Presbyterian Church,
Kitchener, Ontario,
March 13, 2012

2. COMMISSIONERS TO THE 138TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Teaching Elder Commissioners to 138th General Assembly (6 required)

Rev. John Borthwick (X), Rev. Mark Richardson (declined), Rev. Penny Garrison (not eligible), Rev. Linda Paquette (X), Rev. Johan Olivier (X), Rev. Robert Sinasac (X),
Alternates - Rev. Mark Gaskin (X), Rev. Jeff L. Smith, Rev. Alex MacLeod

Ruling Elder Commissioners to 138th General Assembly (6 required)

St. Andrew's, Kitchener (Johan DeShiffart) ; St. Andrew's, Arthur (declined); St. Andrew's, Fergus (declined); St. Giles, Cambridge (declined); Knox, Waterloo (David Ogram), Gordonville (declined); Rockwood (declined) ;
Alternate - Duff's, Puslinch; Doon (declined)

Moved by Wilma Welsh/Johan DeShiffart that the completion of the list of Commissioners to the 138th General Assembly be assigned to the Clerk and Moderator of Presbytery. CARRIED.

3. GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2014

The Business Committee discussed the request of the General Assembly Office to hold the General Assembly within the bounds of the Presbytery of Waterloo-Wellington in the year 2014. The Business Committee in recognizing that very few Presbyteries have the facilities for hosting the GA agreed that we would arrange a meeting with Terrie-Lee Hamilton to discuss the responsibilities, cost, etc. The last Assembly was held in 2007 within the bounds of Waterloo-Wellington Presbytery.

The Moderator, Past Moderator, and Clerk representing the Business Committee, met with Terrie-Lee Hamilton and agreed that it be recommended to the Presbytery on March 13th, 2012, that the Presbytery invite the General Assembly to meet in 2014 within the bounds of the Presbytery of Waterloo-Wellington, with Presbytery being the host. This would not limit the Presbytery from inviting smaller Presbyteries in the vicinity to share in some of the responsibilities; for example, morning worship.

The Moderator shared information of our findings from Terrie-Lee Hamilton and what our responsibilities would be. Financially it is expected to cost approximately \$25,000 and this amount will depend on the venue for the Assembly banquet and the location of the opening worship.

Recommendation

That the Presbytery of Waterloo-Wellington invite the General Assembly of 2014 to meet within the bounds of the Presbytery of Waterloo-Wellington and that the Presbytery of

Calvin Presbyterian Church,
Kitchener, Ontario,
March 13, 2012

Waterloo-Wellington be the host. Details to be left with the Business Committee to set up a Steering Committee.

Moved by Wilma Welsh/Andrew Song that the recommendation re General Assembly 2014 be approved. CARRIED.

4. Committee to Nominate request for Nominations

It was noted that completed nomination forms are to be sent to the Clerk no later than March 23rd for submission to the Assembly Office.

Nominations received will be sent.

5. Moderator Ballots must be received by the Clerk no later than March 23rd for sending to the GA office by March 30th.

6. Statistical Reports are due no later than March 20th for submission to Financial Services – please remember to add two copies of the report plus two copies of your Session’s or annual meetings acceptance of the financial reports for 2011.

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

MINISTRY COMMITTEE – reported by Jeff L. Smith, Convener

- See Appendix “A”

Moved by Jeff L. Smith/Karla Wübbenhorst that the report of the Ministry Committee be received for information. CARRIED

Motion 1. That the Presbytery of Waterloo-Wellington receive the transfer of the Rev. Glen Soderholm from the Presbytery of Brampton.

Moved by Jeff L. Smith/Karla Wübbenhorst that recommendation #1 be approved. CARRIED
The Moderator welcomed Glen Soderholm to the Presbytery of Waterloo-Wellington.

Motion 2. That the Presbytery of Waterloo-Wellington grant the Rev. Marty Molengraaf a three month leave of absence retroactive to January 9th, 2012.

Moved by Jeff L. Smith/Karla Wübbenhorst that recommendation #2 be approved. CARRIED

Motion 3. That the Presbytery of Waterloo-Wellington approve the details of the Covenant for Interim Ministry between St. Andrew’s Brampton and the Rev. Dr. Bob Spencer.

Moved by Jeff L. Smith/Karla Wübbenhorst that recommendation #3 be approved. CARRIED

Calvin Presbyterian Church,
Kitchener, Ontario,
March 13, 2012

Motion 4. That the Presbytery of Waterloo-Wellington approve the transfer of the Rev. Dr. Bob Spencer to the care of the Presbytery of Brampton.

Moved by Jeff L. Smith/Karla Wübbenhorst that recommendation #4 be approved. CARRIED

Reported by Karla Wübbenhorst

Motion 5. That the Rev. Herb Gale be designated to offer the Rev. Penny Garrison and her family pastoral support and care during this time of transition.

Moved by Jeff L. Smith/Karla Wübbenhorst that recommendation #5 be approved. CARRIED

Motion 6. That the pastoral ties between the Rev. Penny Garrison and St. Giles Presbyterian Church be dissolved on Sunday, April 22nd, 2012 with the pronouncement of the benediction. This dissolution is based on Category 3, financial constraints, of the “Policy for the Dissolution of Pastoral Ties” of the Presbyterian Church in Canada

Moved by Jeff L. Smith/Karla Wübbenhorst that recommendation #6 be approved. CARRIED

Members of St. Giles and the Presbytery were invited to speak to the faithfulness of the ministry of the Rev. Penny Garrison during the past ten years.

From the Presbytery – Mark Gedcke, Linda Ashfield, Jeff L. Smith, Herb Gale

From St. Giles congregation – Frank Kivell, Don McLeod

Penny Garrison was also invited to respond.

The Moderator expressed the appreciation of the court and wishing Penny the blessings of the court as she moves ahead in her ministry.

Motion 7. That the terms of the Transition Allowance for the Rev. Penny Garrison be approved.

Moved by Jeff L. Smith/Karla Wübbenhorst that recommendation #7 be approved. CARRIED

See Appendix “A” for the terms of the Transition Allowance as approved and signed March 18, 2014.

In an email received March 12th the Session of St. Giles made the following requests,

1. To request the Presbytery of Waterloo-Wellington to allow St. Giles Presbyterian Church to use its manse fund to provide the transitional allowance for the Rev. Penny Garrison if needed.

Moved Wilma Welsh/Jeff L. Smith that this request be granted. CARRIED

2. Noting that the Session of St. Giles passed the following motion “that St. Giles will be suspending services at St Giles Presbyterian Church as of May 6, 2012 and from May 13th on, St. Giles and St. Andrew’s will be worshipping jointly at St. Andrew’s Galt Presbyterian Church”.

Calvin Presbyterian Church,
Kitchener, Ontario,
March 13, 2012

Moved Wilma Welsh/Jeff L. Smith that this motion will be considered with in the Congregational Affairs report. CARRIED

Students Report by Johan Olivier –received for information

1. The Certification for Ordination Interview with Richard Warne will take place on Monday, March 19th from 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon at Knox Church, Guelph.
2. Re-certification interviews have been set up for Greg Smith, Lisa Brimblecome, and Reuben St. Louis for May 28th at Knox Church, Guelph.
3. Margaret Evans will be back in Ontario in early May and the committee will be setting up an interview for her during her visit.

The Moderator expressed the appreciation of the court to Richard Warne for his well prepared and delivered worship at the opening of Presbytery.

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

CONGREGATIONAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE –reported by Johan DeSchiffart

- _see Appendix”B”

Moved by Johan DeSchiffart/Mark Lewis that the report of the Congregational Affairs Committee be received and considered. CARRIED

Visitation Report and recommendations for Westminster-St. Paul’s, Guelph

Moved by Johan DeSchiffart/Mark Gedcke that the Visitation Report and its recommendations for Westminster-St. Paul’s be approved as printed. CARRIED

Recommendations from the Visitation Report for Westminster-St. Paul’s, Guelph:

1. That the Presbytery commend the Session, Board and Congregation of Westminster-St. Paul’s for their compassion and grace in engaging each other and their community in the furtherance of the Gospel.
2. That Karla be commended for her provision of high-quality, Christ-centred worship, and excellent pastoral care to the people of Westminster-St. Paul’s and to the wider community, and be commended to the prayers of the Presbytery amid the leadership challenges that continue for her.
3. That the elders and other leaders in the congregation be commended for their part in creating a warm, welcoming and loving community, in which both members and strangers experience the care and invitation of Jesus Christ.

Calvin Presbyterian Church,
Kitchener, Ontario,
March 13, 2012

4. That the minister and the ruling elders of Westminster-St. Paul's engage in a dialogue (in a format of their choosing) that addresses the concerns of their working relationship, with the goal of improving that relationship; and, that the minister and ruling elders begin that dialogue with this imperative: Seek first to understand, then to be understood.
5. That whereas term service for elders has been instituted at Westminster-St. Paul's; but, does not result in leadership renewal (elders having served their term are re-nominated and re-admitted to the session without sabbatical), the session look at implementing a local policy which provides for true leadership rotation.
6. That the Visitation Team be dismissed with the court's thanks. (The Visitation Team is: Bert Perriman, Doug Kelly, Mark Gaskin - convener.)

Interim Moderator, Doon Church

Moved by Johan DeSchiffart/Mark Gedcke that the Rev. Kees Vandermeij be appointed Interim Moderator to Doon Presbyterian Church, Kitchener, with the understanding that he will work solely with the Search Committee until September 1, 2012. CARRIED

A presbyter reminded the court that it is the responsibility of the court through the Congregational Affairs Committee to name interim-moderators, not the congregation.

Amalgamation of St. Giles and St. Andrew's Cambridge

The court encouraged the leaders to try to keep the spirit of St. Giles alive during these discussions.

Moved by Johan DeSchiffart/Mark Gedcke that the Rev. Jeff L. Smith of Crieff Church be appointed Interim Moderator to St. Giles, Cambridge as of April 23rd, 2012. CARRIED

Moved by Johan DeSchiffart/Mark Gedcke that permission be given to St. Giles and St. Andrew's to discuss the possibilities of amalgamation. CARRIED

Motion

Moved by Karla Wübbenhorst/Andrew Foster that the Presbytery of Waterloo-Wellington strike a task force to be named by the Moderator and to include the Rev. John-Peter Smit to evaluate a variety of alternatives including but not limited to amalgamation for the Presbyterian witness in East Galt, to report to the Presbytery meeting in May.

After considerable discussion, the motion was DEFEATED

Hour of Adjournment

The hour of adjournment having arrived, it was moved by Nan St. Louis/Jeff L. Smith that the Presbytery continue to meet until 10:00 p.m. CARRIED

Calvin Presbyterian Church,
Kitchener, Ontario,
March 13, 2012

Motion in Ministry Report re closure dates was considered and moved by Wilma Welsh/Nan St. Louis was voted on and CARRIED

Herb Gale requested to go on record as a concerned presbyter. He prepared the following statement and forwarded it to the Clerk within the required time,

The two areas of additional information that I think the presbytery needs to be provided are:

1. **A detailed analysis of the financial viability of St. Giles.** The only information the presbytery has ever received is the statement that St. Giles is facing “grave financial challenges” and has had operating deficits the last two to three years (no mention of the size of the deficits). I have included as an attachment (see Appendix “C”) to help analyze the financial health of the congregation and the long-term viability of the congregation. I would be happy to help the congregation fill out the information, which would be helpful information if St. Giles decides to proceed with amalgamation with St. Andrew’s or decides not to. It would also be helpful for St Andrew’s to provide the same information even though they have not expressed concerns regarding their financial viability.
2. **A more exact estimate of the numbers of people planning to move from St. Giles to St. Andrew’s if the amalgamation becomes reality.** At this point, both St. Giles and St. Andrews have indicated that they would like to “enter into negotiations to amalgamate the two congregations.” But there is a big difference between voting to discuss amalgamation and actually moving to a new location for worship in the case of St. Giles.

Upcoming Visitations:

The following visitations will occur in 2012:

Eden Mills, Rockwood –	Linda Ashfield (spring 2012)
Knox, Guelph -	Bill Bynum (spring 2012)
Knox, Crieff -	Janice Hamalainen (fall 2012)
Duff’s, Puslinch -	John Borthwick (fall 2012) – they have requested that this happen in the spring of 2012

Moved (Johan DeShiffart/Karla Wübbenhorst that the report as a whole of the Congregational Affairs Committee be adopted. CARRIED

MISSION AND OUTREACH COMMITTEE – reported by Ed Charlton, Convenor (see Appendix “D”)

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

Calvin Presbyterian Church,
Kitchener, Ontario,
March 13, 2012

Due to the shortage of time, recommendation was considered first.

Recommendations

3) That the discussion time be set for 2pm on June 19 at Knox Waterloo.

Moved by Ed Charlton/Earl Suggitt, that recommendation #3 be approved. CARRIED

1) That we as the Presbytery of Waterloo/Wellington proceed with the twinning with the Bunun Presbytery in Taiwan and see where this God leads us.

Moved by Ed Charlton/Earl Suggitt, that recommendation #1 be approved. CARRIED

2) That we strike this committee and give them the power to meet/create guidelines/request suggestions/and develop the Action Plan for the presbytery and bring this before the Presbytery for approval.

Moved by Ed Charlton/Earl Suggitt, that recommendation #2 be approved. CARRIED

Moved by Ed Charlton/Earl Suggitt, that the report as a whole with its recommendations be approved. CARRIED

EIF COMMITTEE

No report

PRESBYTERIANS SHARING

Grant Scott presented the report of the statement of givings to Presbyterians Sharing to the end of February. This report was sent to all congregations by the Clerk.

CANADA YOUTH 2012

Reuben St. Louis introduced and showed the video announcing Canada Youth 2012.

Congregations are encouraged to promote this event and to make it possible for youth to attend this life-changing program which will be held the first week in July 2012. For further information or application forms contact Reuben or the Clerk. Information was previously sent to all members of Presbytery by the Clerk.

NEW BUSINESS – no new business

UPDATE ON GALE CHURCH, ELMIRA

The Moderator extended congratulations to Linda Bell on the news that she will be granted a Doctor of Divinity (honoris causa) at Presbyterian College.

Dates to note -

April 15, 2012 - final service of worship at 2 Cross Street - 10:30 a.m.

Calvin Presbyterian Church,
Kitchener, Ontario,
March 13, 2012

April 22, 2012 - first service of worship at 10 Barnswallow - 10:30 a.m.

June 10, 2012 - a drop in party to celebrate the DD, at 10 Barnswallow, Elmira - 1:00-4:00 p.m.

Convocation for Presbyterian College is on May 10th, at St. Andrew-St. Paul Presbyterian, Montcalm - in the evening

ST. GILES/ST. ANDREW'S GALT DATES TO REMEMBER

Sunday, April 22 Rev. Penny's last service @ St. Giles

Sunday, April 29 The St. Andrew's Congregation **will not** have a worship service in their Church, Instead the St. Andrew's congregation will worship with the St Giles congregation at the St. Giles Building.

Sunday, May 6 Last Sunday morning Worship Service @ St Giles

Sunday, May 13 1st Sunday Service Together @ the St Andrew's Building

ADJOURNMENT

The Presbytery was adjourned on motion of Linda Bell to meet in regular session on Tuesday, May 8th, 2012 at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Kitchener at 6:30 for refreshments and 7:00 p.m. for meeting. The Moderator pronounced the Benediction.

Moderator

Clerk

Calvin Presbyterian Church,
Kitchener, Ontario,
March 13, 2012

Appendix "A"

**Committee on Ministry
The Presbytery of Waterloo-Wellington**

Motions and For Information

Tuesday, March 13th, 2012

Reported by Jeff Smith

Motion 1. That the Presbytery of Waterloo-Wellington receive the transfer of the Rev. Glen Soderholm from the Presbytery of Brampton.

Motion 2. That the Presbytery of Waterloo-Wellington grant the Rev. Marty Molengraaf a three month leave of absence retroactive to January 9th, 2012.

Motion 3. That the Presbytery of Waterloo-Wellington approve the details of the Covenant for Interim Ministry between St. Andrew's Brampton and the Rev. Dr. Bob Spencer.

Motion 4. That the Presbytery of Waterloo-Wellington approve the transfer of the Rev. Dr. Bob Spencer to the care of the Presbytery of Brampton.

Reported by Karla Wubbenhorst

Motion 5. That the Rev. Herb Gale be designated to offer the Rev. Penny Garrison and her family pastoral support and care during this time of transition.

Motion 6. That the pastoral ties between the Rev. Penny Garrison and St. Giles Presbyterian Church be dissolved on Sunday, April 22nd, 2012 with the pronouncement of the benediction. This dissolution is based on Category 3, financial constraints, of the "Policy for the Dissolution of Pastoral Ties" of the Presbyterian Church in Canada

Motion 7. That the terms of the Transition Allowance for the Rev. Penny Garrison be approved.

Students Report by Johan Olivier

For Information 1. The Certification for Ordination Interview with Richard Warne will take place on Monday, March 19th from 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon at Knox Church, Guelph.

For Information 2. Re-certification interviews have been set up for Greg Smith, Lisa Brimblecome, and Reuben St. Louis for May 28th at Knox Church, Guelph.

Margaret Evans will be back in Ontario in early May and the committee will be setting up an interview for her during her visit.

Calvin Presbyterian Church,
Kitchener, Ontario,
March 13, 2012

Email received March 11th – also noted in Congregational Affairs reports

From: Grimwood, Sandra [mailto:Sandra.Grimwood@gowlings.com]

Sent: March-12-12 8:49 AM

To: Presbytery Clerk

Subject: Dissolution of the Pastoral tie

Good morning Wilma. Our Session met yesterday after our worship service and a couple of motion's were passed. I believe that these will be required for tomorrow night's Presbytery meeting.

The first one is "the Presbytery of Waterloo-Wellington allow St. Giles Presbyterian Church to use its manse fund to provide the transitional allowance for the Rev. Penny Garrison, if needed".

This is changed a bit from the one I sent you on Friday. Please amend.

Also, Session also passed a motion that "St. Giles will be suspending its services at St. Giles Presbyterian Church as of May 6, 2012 and from May 13th on, St. Giles and St. Andrew's will be worshipping jointly at St. Andrew's Galt Presbyterian Church".

Calvin Presbyterian Church,
Kitchener, Ontario,
March 13, 2012

Terms of the Transition Allowance for the Reverend Penny Garrison

AGREEMENT BETWEEN:

The Presbytery of Waterloo-Wellington, the Presbyterian Church in Canada (hereinafter, the "Presbytery", which term includes officers, directors, agents, employees, members, successors and assigns and all related and affiliated organizations and their officers, directors, agents, employees members, successors and assigns)

OF THE FIRST PART

-- and --

The Congregation of St. Giles' Presbyterian, Galt, (hereinafter, the "Congregation", which term includes officers, directors, agents, employees, members, successors and assigns and all related and affiliated organizations and their officers, directors, agents, employees, members, successors, and assigns)

OF THE SECOND PART

-- and --

The Reverend Penny Garrison (hereinafter, the "Minister")

OF THE THIRD PART

PREAMBLE

WHEREAS the Minister was appointed by Canada Ministries and served as minister of the Congregation from June 2, 2002, and was subsequently called by the Congregation as minister of the Congregation. A Recognition Service was held within the Ordination Service on June 9, 2002, and an induction service on May 4, 2008, and

WHEREAS the Minister was and continues to be in good standing as a minister of Word and Sacraments within the government of The Presbyterian Church in Canada, and

WHEREAS at a regular meeting of the Presbytery held on March 13, 2012, wherein representatives from the Congregation, representative elders and other ministers were present (the "Meeting"), a resolution was adopted which dissolved the pastoral tie between the Minister and Congregation effective Sunday April 22, 2012, and

WHEREAS the parties hereto wish to set out their obligations to each other as a result of the dissolution of the pastoral tie;

THEREFORE, in consideration of the obligations, covenants and agreements contained herein, and other good and valuable consideration, the receipt and sufficiency of which is hereby acknowledged, the parties agree as follows:

Wilma Welsh, Clerk - watwell@rogers.com

Calvin Presbyterian Church,
Kitchener, Ontario,
March 13, 2012

1. The parties acknowledge, confirm and agree that the foregoing recitals are true.

GENERAL

2. The parties hereto confirm that sufficient notice of the Meeting was provided and that each person in attendance had sufficient opportunity to express his or her opinions and all procedures adopted at such Meeting were proper.
3. The parties further acknowledge and confirm that each party shall continue to be bound by the "Policy of the Dissolution of Pastoral Ties" published in the Acts and Proceedings of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Canada, 1998, as may be amended from time to time.
4. The parties confirm that the minutes of the Meeting attached hereto as Schedule "A" are an accurate record of the decision of the Presbytery which confirmed the dissolution of the pastoral tie between the Congregation and the Minister.
5. The parties confirm that the Ministry Committee of the Presbytery was under authority to prepare this agreement.

RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS OF THE MINISTER

6. The Minister shall receive the following benefits for the period commencing May 1, 2012 and terminating not earlier than April 30, 2013 (the "Transition Period"):
 - (a) Subject to the terms set out in this paragraph and in paragraph 8, the stipend which the Minister has received on a monthly basis during the 2012 calendar year shall continue until the end of the Transition Period.
 - (b) The Minister shall continue to be paid her stipend and benefits by the Congregation on a monthly basis, on the first day of the month for that month. The Congregation will assume responsibility for financing 10 months of the Transition Period, and the Presbytery will assume responsibility for 2 months, which amount may be claimed from the \$30 000.00 already committed by the Presbytery to the Congregation. In the event that the Congregation discontinues life in its present form, the treasurer of the Congregation, who will be deemed to have resigned her office, may remit a lump sum comprising all the congregation's financial responsibilities during the transition period, to the Presbytery treasurer in trust, who will then become the administer of the transition allowance.
 - (c) There shall be deducted from the Minister's stipend all standard deductions and remittances in the ordinary course.
 - (d) The minister shall continue to be paid her housing allowance by the congregation.
 - (e) The Minister and her dependants shall continue to be eligible to receive medical and dental insurance coverage issued through the Presbyterian Church in Canada, subject to any changes which may arise under such plan.

Calvin Presbyterian Church,
Kitchener, Ontario,
March 13, 2012

- (f) The Minister shall continue to receive long-term disability coverage, pension and life insurance issued through the Presbyterian Church in Canada, subject to the usual deduction from her stipend.
 - (g) Pursuant to the regulations of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Canada for the portability of continuing education allowances, the Minister shall be granted \$1000.00, which represents 50% of her unused, accumulated study leave. To obtain this benefit, the Minister must provide a continuing education proposal for use of the funds to the Presbytery through the Ministry committee convener, which proposal has must also be approved by the Presbytery, by April 22, 2012 (the date when the pastoral tie is dissolved). If these conditions are met, the benefit would be included in the May 1, 2012 transition allowance cheque.
 - (h) The Minister shall remove all personal effects from church premises and return any church property in the Minister's possession to the church by April 29, 2012.
7. It is understood and agreed that during the Transition Period, the Minister will exercise all diligence in obtaining another Call within the Presbyterian Church in Canada, or such other ministerial calling as she may choose, or a non-ministerial position. The Minister agrees immediately to notify the Presbytery in the event that she secures another position, ministerial or non-ministerial.
 8. If, during the Transition Period, the Minister secures another position in which she receives remuneration, or benefits in lieu of employment, OR which remuneration is the same as or exceeds the remuneration set out in paragraph 6 herein, the Minister agrees to notify immediately the Presbytery and all remuneration and benefits hereunder shall cease at the end of the month in which such other position commences, but in no case shall the remuneration and benefits outlined in this agreement be provided for less than two (2) months. In no event shall the remuneration and benefits outlined in this agreement continue beyond the end of the Transition Period.
 9. Upon receipt of a written request by the Presbytery, the Minister agrees to provide to the Presbytery an accounting of all amounts or benefits received by the Minister from ministerial or non-ministerial functions during the Transition Period. Such written request shall be given to the Minister by personal delivery, or by registered mail. The Minister agrees to provide such accounting within five (5) days following notification by the Presbytery to the Minister.
 10. During the Transition period, the Minister shall not be required to perform any ministerial functions within the Presbytery, nor on behalf of the Congregation.
 11. During the Transition Period, the Minister shall continue to be a member of the Presbytery and will be listed on the Appendix to the Roll of Presbytery.
 12. The parties hereto agree to co-operate with each other in fulfilling their respective obligations herein.

Calvin Presbyterian Church,
Kitchener, Ontario,
March 13, 2012

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT AND RELEASE BY THE MINISTER

13. The Minister acknowledges and confirms the following:
 - a. This agreement has been prepared in accordance with the decisions made at the Meeting;
 - b. She accepts the terms of this agreement and in consideration of the payments and benefits provided herein, she hereby releases and forever discharges the Presbytery and the Congregation jointly and severally from and against any and all manner of claims, demands, actions, causes of action, liabilities, complaints, damages and otherwise which she had, now has, or hereafter may have, arising from, out of, or in connection with her ministry to the Congregation or the dissolution of the pastoral tie, including without limiting the generality of the foregoing, any remedies which may subsist in law, equity or under legislation, including *The Workplace Safety and Insurance Act*, *the Ontario Human Rights Code*, *the Employment Standards Act 2000* and in particular payments for "severance", "notice" and "termination pay" under that Act's sections 57 and 64;
 - c. She understands that if she should make any further claim or demand or commence or threaten to commence any action, proceeding or make any claim against the Presbytery and/or the Congregation in respect of any matter contemplated by this agreement, this document may be raised as an estoppel and complete bar to any such claim, demand, action, proceeding or complaint;
 - d. She will not appeal to the Synod of Central, Northeastern Ontario and Bermuda within the Presbyterian Church in Canada, nor to the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Canada, nor to any branch of the Synod of Central, Northeastern Ontario and Bermuda within the Presbyterian Church in Canada or the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Canada;
 - e. She has been given an opportunity to obtain independent legal advice with respect to the contents of this agreement and has done so or failed to do so of her own volition; and
 - f. She acknowledges having read and understood the terms of this agreement, and she is signing this agreement freely, voluntarily, and without duress.

MISCELLANEOUS

14. Any notices or demands hereunder shall be deemed to be received on the date of personal delivery or facsimile transmission, or five (5) business days following the date of mailing.
15. This agreement constitutes the entire agreement between the Minister, the Presbytery and the Congregation with respect to the subject matter of this agreement.
16. This agreement may not be amended except by a written instrument signed by all parties hereto.

Wilma Welsh, Clerk - watwell@rogers.com

Calvin Presbyterian Church,
Kitchener, Ontario,
March 13, 2012

17. This agreement shall be binding upon all parties hereto, and shall enure to the benefit of each of the parties, and their respective heirs, executors, administrators, trustees, successors and assigns.
18. This agreement shall be construed in accordance with and governed by the laws of the Province of Ontario.

Signed and Witnessed by

Minister – Rev. Penny Garrison
St. Giles Trustee member – David William McLeod
Moderator – Rev. John Borthwick
Clerk Dr. M. Wilma Welsh

Calvin Presbyterian Church,
Kitchener, Ontario,
March 13, 2012

Appendix "B"

**Report of the Congregational Affairs Committee
Of the Presbytery of Waterloo Wellington
March 13, 2012**

Items to be approved by Presbytery:

1. The Visitation Report for Westminster-St. Paul's, Guelph was brought to the June 2011 meeting of Presbytery. It was not reflected in the minutes so it is important that it be shared again. The report itself was distributed to the Presbytery by email. (The motions are shared at the end of this report.)

Motion: That the Visitation Report and its recommendations for Westminster-St. Paul's, Guelph, be approved as printed.

2. The Rev. Angus Sutherland is retiring from being a Minister of Word and Sacraments at the end of August 2012. The Session of Doon Presbyterian Church has requested that the Rev. Kees Vandermay be their interim moderator for the upcoming vacancy. Rev. Vandermay has graciously agreed to serve in this role.

Motion: That the Rev. Kees Vandermay be appointed Interim Moderator to Doon Presbyterian Church, Kitchener, with the understanding that he will work solely with the Search Committee until September 1, 2012.

3. On Tuesday, February 21st, representatives from St. Giles Presbyterian Church, Cambridge, and St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Cambridge, came to the Congregational Affairs Committee at Calvin Presbyterian Church, Kitchener. Both churches have had congregational meetings that show a strong mandate for exploring a plan for amalgamation. St. Giles congregation had taken the initiative in this matter because they had realized that they could not continue on in their present circumstances.

The Rev Mark Gedcke, acting chair, had sought the advice of Don Muir, one of the clerks of General Assembly, about the committee's ability to approve this initial important step, and this was affirmed. The committee heard from the two congregations' representatives and also sought the advice of the Rev. John Peter Smit, who was present at the meeting. The committee then approved the following two motions:

1/ that the Congregational Affairs Committee of Waterloo-Wellington Presbytery give permission to St. Andrew's, Galt and St. Giles, Cambridge to negotiate an amalgamation plan with the understanding that the details of the plan may continue to be developed beyond the date when the two congregations begin to worship together; and that Jeff

Calvin Presbyterian Church,
Kitchener, Ontario,
March 13, 2012

Smith, Linda Ashfield and Johan De Schiffart be confirmed to walk alongside the negotiation process.

2/ that the above subcommittee report to the Presbytery on behalf of the CA committee, to update the Presbytery, making any specific requests that need to be made at that time.

It was noted that the Ministry Committee is caring for and making arrangements for the Rev. Penny Garrison as the pastoral tie with St. Giles Church gets dissolved. It is based on the discussions between the Rev. Garrison and the Ministry Committee that the subcommittee of the Congregational Affairs Committee shares this motion:

That the Rev. Jeff Smith, Crieff, be appointed Interim Moderator to St. Giles, Cambridge as of April 23rd, 2012.

Item for Information:

1. Upcoming Visitations:

The following visitations will occur in 2012:

Eden Mills, Rockwood –	Linda Ashfield (spring 2012)
Knox, Guelph -	Bill Bynum (spring 2012)
Knox, Crieff -	Janice Hamalainen (fall 2012)
Duff's, Puslinch -	John Borthwick (fall 2012)

Respectfully submitted by Johan DeSchiffart, Convener

Recommendations from the Visitation Report for Westminster-St. Paul's, Guelph:

That the Presbytery commend the Session, Board and Congregation of Westminster-St. Paul's for their compassion and grace in engaging each other and their community in the furtherance of the Gospel.

1. That Karla be commended for her provision of high-quality, Christ-centred worship, and excellent pastoral care to the people of Westminster-St. Paul's and to the wider community, and be commended to the prayers of the Presbytery amid the leadership challenges that continue for her.
2. That the elders and other leaders in the congregation be commended for their part in creating a warm, welcoming and loving community, in which both members and strangers experience the care and invitation of Jesus Christ.
3. That the minister and the ruling elders of Westminster-St. Paul's engage in a dialogue (in a format of their choosing) that addresses the concerns of their working relationship, with the goal of improving that relationship; and, that the minister and ruling elders begin that dialogue with this imperative: Seek first to understand, then to be understood.

Calvin Presbyterian Church,
Kitchener, Ontario,
March 13, 2012

4. That whereas term service for elders has been instituted at Westminster-St. Paul's; but, does not result in leadership renewal (elders having served their term are re-nominated and re-admitted to the session without sabbatical), the session look at implementing a local policy which provides for true leadership rotation.
5. That the Visitation Team be dismissed with the court's thanks. (The Visitation Team is: Bert Perriman, Doug Kelly, Mark Gaskin - convener.)

Calvin Presbyterian Church,
Kitchener, Ontario,
March 13, 2012

**Minutes of the Congregational Affairs Committee
Waterloo-Wellington Presbytery
Feb. 21, 2012**

Present: Lisa Brimblecombe, Jeff Smith, Fran Hill, Hazel Hislop, David Ogram, Grant Scott, Robert Sinasac, Angus Sutherland, Brooke Ashfield, Mark Gedcke [acting chair], Helen Cleghorn, George Musgrave, and Linda Bell [acting secretary]

Guests: John-Peter Smit [Synod]; Doug Kelly, Bert Perriman, Rick Thomas [all St. Andrew's Galt]; and Sandy Grimwood, Marlene Kivell, Donna Tebow, Frank Kivell, Penny Garrison [all from St. Giles].

Regrets: Linda Ashfield, Gil Cha, Mark Richardson, Janice Hamalainen and Mark Lewis.

Mark opened the meeting with prayer and the assembled agreed to the appointment of Linda Bell as secretary for the meeting.

Mark presented the visitation report for Westminster-St. Paul's, Guelph and read a letter that John Borthwick had sent to the Clerk of Session of Westminster-St. Paul's. The Congregational Affairs committee considered the 6 recommendations in the report, with some discussion on #4, i.e. trusting Karla and the Session to do the work of dialoguing with a view to improving the relationship between teaching and ruling elders.

CA committee agreed to present this report to the Presbytery, with the six recommendations as they are.

1. Mark presented the following information:
 - visitation to Kortright has been done by Marty Molengraaf and team
 - Aubrey Botha and team have made a visitation to Kitchener East [Nov/Dec], there being some delay in completing this because of Mark Richardson's study leave to complete his D. Min.

Other Upcoming Visitations: (the person in bold is chair of the team, and will get two elders to join with him or her.)

Eden Mills, Rockwood – **Linda Ashfield** (spring 2012)

Knox, Guelph – **Bill Bynum** (spring 2012)

Knox, Crieff – **Janice Hamalainen** (fall 2012)

Duff's, Puslinch - **John Borthwick** (fall 2012)

3. Interim Moderator for Doon, Kitchener – Mark read an email from Angus with an update on the preparations underway for Angus' retirement, with a request that Kees Vandermeij be appointed interim moderator to work solely with the search committee until September 1, 2012.

Moved by Lisa Brimblecombe, seconded by Helen Cleghorn that Kees Vandermeij be appointed interim moderator to Doon, Kitchener, with the above understanding. Carried [Kees is aware of the conditions and has agreed to the appointment]

Calvin Presbyterian Church,
Kitchener, Ontario,
March 13, 2012

4. Mark welcomed the representatives from St. Andrew's Galt who had arrived for the portion of the meeting concerning St. Giles and St. Andrew's
5. Mark shared an email from Ed Charlton requesting that each quadrant name 2 people to sit on a committee to create an action plan that would later be submitted to the Trustee Board of the Presbyterian Church in Canada, with a view to requesting the return of 70% of the funds realized from any sale of the church and property of Chalmers, Winterbourne. The CA committee felt this to be premature and will await further guidance and/or direction from Presbytery
6. At Mark's request, Linda gave an update on Gale, Elmira. The closing date for the sale of the property at 2 Cross Street is April 30th, 2012 and the congregation anticipates relocating to 10 Barnswallow and its new facilities prior to this date. The date for the Presbytery dedication service will need to be in the early autumn – firm date to be named by Presbytery and Gale, later.
7. At 7:30, with the arrival of representatives from St. Giles, Mark welcomed all of the guests from both St. Giles and St. Andrew's, Galt.
8. Mark referred to the reports from both St. Giles and St. Andrew's, and invited Jeff Smith [Presbytery appointed] to speak to the process at St. Giles; and Bert Perriman [ruling elder], at St. Andrew's.
Discussion followed. Some highlights include the comfort level with each other between the members of the congregations; the heightened enthusiasm both groups felt through their dialogue. St. Andrew's spoke of their reaction to the dialogue as "pleased and excited, feeling that both congregations are working on similar challenges and dreams." The members from St. Giles concurred.
Mark Gedcke talked then about process from here, indicating that the CA committee does have the authority to give the congregations permission to begin negotiations toward amalgamation [double checked with and confirmed by Clerks of the Assembly].
9. After expressing appreciation for the work done and for their attendance at our meeting, the delegations from St. Giles and St. Andrew's were invited to leave, that the CA committee could continue discussions.
Moved by Angus Sutherland, seconded by Grant Scott that the Congregational Affairs Committee of Waterloo-Wellington Presbytery give permission to St. Andrew's, Galt and St. Giles, Cambridge to negotiate an amalgamation plan with the understanding that the details of the plan may continue to be developed beyond the date when the two congregations begin to worship together; and that Jeff Smith, Linda Ashfield and Johann DeSchiffart be confirmed to walk alongside the negotiation process. Carried.
Moved by Grant Scott and seconded by Hazel Hislop that the above subcommittee report to the Presbytery on behalf of the CA committee, to update the Presbytery, making any specific requests that need to be made at that time. Carried.

Calvin Presbyterian Church,
Kitchener, Ontario,
March 13, 2012

It was noted that the Ministry Committee is caring for and making arrangements for Penny as the pastoral tie gets dissolved.

10. John-Peter Smit was invited to share in light of the task given him at our previous Presbytery meeting. J-P said he has more questions than answers ... like: what does Presbytery want him to do, specifically? What are Presbytery's expectations. He shared that the Boyer and Spencer reports have been done in the past – both good and valuable reports – and been ignored/filed. So, how does Presbytery want J-P to proceed?
Moved by Angus Sutherland and seconded by Lisa Brimblecombe that CA ask John Peter to meet with Knox, Galt to investigate who they are and to bring some of what he's shared with CA to Knox, Galt; and to bring a report back to CA, through Angus, as soon as possible. Carried.
11. **Motion to adjourn by Brooke Ashfield.**

Mark Gedcke, acting chair, dismissed us with prayer and blessings.

Note added as per email received March 11, 2012.

From: Grimwood, Sandra [mailto:Sandra.Grimwood@gowlings.com]

Sent: March-12-12 8:49 AM

To: Presbytery Clerk

Subject: Dissolution of the Pastoral tie

Good morning Wilma. Our Session met yesterday after our worship service and a couple of motion's were passed. I believe that these will be required for tomorrow night's Presbytery meeting.

The first one is "the Presbytery of Waterloo-Wellington allow St. Giles Presbyterian Church to use its manse fund to provide the transitional allowance for the Rev. Penny Garrison, if needed".

This is changed a bit from the one I sent you on Friday. Please amend.

Also, Session also passed a motion that "St. Giles will be suspending its services at St. Giles Presbyterian Church as of May 6, 2012 and from May 13th on, St. Giles and St. Andrew's will be worshipping jointly at St. Andrew's Galt Presbyterian Church".

Calvin Presbyterian Church,
Kitchener, Ontario,
March 13, 2012

Presbytery Visitation Report

Congregation: Westminster - St. Paul's Church, Guelph ON

Team: Bert Perriman, Doug Kelly and Mark B. Gaskin (Convener)

Preamble

On Sunday, March 20th, 2011, the team conducted a Presbytery Visitation at Westminster - St. Paul's Presbyterian Church in Guelph, Ontario. The team did its best to follow the standing orders of the Presbytery with regard to visitations, especially the guiding principle that states "...presbytery visitation should be pastoral in their intent and conduct."

By way of preparing for the visit the team reviewed the congregation's 2010 Annual Report, recent worship bulletins, the congregation's website (westminsterstpauls.ca), and 23 General Questionnaires completed by members, managers and elders. The team also reviewed the report of the last Presbytery Visitation Team. That visit took place in October of 2006.

On March 20th two members of the team attended the worship service. A light lunch was provided afterward and then the complete team of three members met with the congregation.

Following the general meeting in the sanctuary the team met with the ruling elders.

Our meeting with Karla Wübbenhorst took place on Tuesday, March 29th, 2011.

In accordance with the Standing Orders the Visitation Team forwarded a draft copy of our report to the Westminster-St Paul's Session for study and comment on April 28th, 2011.

The Session of Westminster-St. Paul's returned the draft copy of the report with suggestions and clarifications. The Visitation Team considered the suggestions and on May 13th, 2011 forwarded a final copy to the Congregational Affairs Committee and the Presbytery.

Observations

The congregation was asked 4 questions during the open general meeting:

1. Why do you attend this church rather than another?

The answers can be summarized as follows:

- Recent members felt 'welcomed'
- There is an 'inviting' atmosphere - everyone took an interest in you.
- One who moved from another town, *shopped* 3 other churches and felt it was a great experience coming here compared to others.
- A member of 33 years originally came for the children and felt they have grown with the congregation, know each other and enjoy each other.
- One member liked the 'intimacy', felt lost in the big churches - has friends.
- One long time member came because his mother told him and stays because the people care.
- One family member for 4 years-raised kids in another church-had a difficult time and was invited by a neighbor-they were visited by the minister and felt her caring-they are growing in faith as a result.

Calvin Presbyterian Church,
Kitchener, Ontario,
March 13, 2012

- Welcoming, warm and caring church Family. Members spoke positively of Karla's worship services and pastoral care.

2. What does your congregation do very well?

The answers can be summarized as follows:

- our minister delivers good pastoral care
- we recognize issues and problems and are honest with one another
- we make our senior people comfortable
- one little girl there just said "she loves to come"
- the fellowship of the meals leads to a feeling you are a family
- good atmosphere
- Special Days Ministry-this is a big program for the church, a long-standing mission - 3rd week each month at noon 100 people come, mostly from the community.
- acceptance people of differing backgrounds, cultures, etc / avoidance of stereotyping
- good parking

3. What does your congregation not do so well?

The answers can be summarized as follows:

- need for a new outdoor sign to be visible to the community; we do not advertise ourselves enough, but the new sign which is in the works should help with that.
- website needs to be updated to give directions to the church
- VBS only ½ day so problem for parents with daycare planning
- Sunday School attendance is low
- need more events to attract new people
- children's stories are considered by some to be too involved / complex for the age group (Note: recent children's stories have been directly scripted from Young Children and Worship)
- lots of comments about needing to attract youth, young families
- the feeling is that the minister thinks the congregation needs to be more spiritually focused (i.e. more appetite for activities focused on spiritual development rather than for meeting merely for social/fund-raising purposes).
- an information pamphlet for visitors & follow up visit by elder/minister would be helpful (Note: there is a pamphlet available that interprets the service to newcomers, and another pamphlet introduces the church and its programmes. A "welcome visit" is given to those who are new to the church by two of the elders).
- early planning for vacation bible school and other programs is needed
- too many long-term leaders; and, the long-time leadership does not rotate out or readily hand over control to others; therefore, the growth of the congregation's abilities and succession is limited

Calvin Presbyterian Church,
Kitchener, Ontario,
March 13, 2012

4. Are there things you would like the presbytery to know about?

The answers can be summarized as follows:

Some of the things for presbytery expressed by the members and adherents were similar to the items in #3 above. There was a general recognition that Presbytery is itself limited as to solutions and responses to such concerns.

The elders: The Team intended to use the Presbytery's *Guided Conversations* and the Book of Forms' *Appendixes A-72 and A-73* for our meeting. To some degree that was followed; but, we also encouraged the Session to share concerns not covered by the "scripted" questions.

The visitation team was very surprised by the negativity of our meeting with the session, since the congregational interview had such a positive tone; and, the atmosphere of the worship service, as experienced by the two elders who attended it, was very positive and uplifting.

We have summarized the concerns in our Findings.

Findings

Congregation: As a whole, generally happy with what is happening within their church. Many of the concerns raised by the members and adherents of Westminster-St Paul are endemic to many mainline congregations; and the congregation appears to be cognizant that there are no quick and easy solutions to the demographics and trends facing the Presbyterian Church in Canada.

Session: As a group, feel not much has changed since the last Presbytery involvement in 2006 with interaction between session and the minister and may have "resigned itself to the feeling that the situation is not likely to change." They are aware and acknowledge Karla is very competent, yet appears to be unreceptive to concerns raised around such things as appropriate lead time for planning and organizing events and services; punctuality for meetings and lay involvement in worship services. There is also a feeling there are matters that should be discussed and decided by the whole session, not the minister alone. As a result there is some discontent within the session.

Minister: Karla's feeling is that the church has moved into a more positive phase since the early days of her ministry and celebrates the many positive things happening at WSP – she wonders if the session has the eyes to see these things, beyond their fear and disappointment at their "declining" church, and their need to find a scapegoat for this demographic reality.

Karla thought she was winning the battle for the trust and affection of the session, as she has done with the congregation, and was extremely disappointed to learn there were elders still holding onto old grievances when significant work had been put in on her part to address these matters. Karla feels dogged by past perceptions which bear little relation to present reality.

Karla is very aware and respectful of the contribution which her elders' gifts make to the overall ministry of the church, and of the way in which her own gifts work in a complementary and inter-dependent way with theirs. She does note that past unreceptivity toward her and her ideas,

Calvin Presbyterian Church,
Kitchener, Ontario,
March 13, 2012

has made it difficult to raise the prospect of any new directions with the session, and feels that while she has honoured and enabled every suggestion close to their hearts, many of her own passions and suggestions have been denied at the session level.

If session “has resigned itself to the feeling that the situation is not likely to change,” she also has become timid of bringing any visionary suggestions to the session, out of a belief that her lead will not be followed, and has found ways of working at certain ministry goals that are not session-dependent. In spite of this less than ideal situation, she expresses deep love for the congregation and deep satisfaction at the signs of spiritual growth which she sees at Westminster-St. Paul’s.

Visitation Team’s analysis: The Visitation team believes Minister and Session have been forthright and honest, and seeks to express appreciation for this honesty, not impose a penalty because of it. Despite the rather negative tone of the interview with the session, the visitation team discerns a strong bond of love does exist between minister and elders individually and certainly between minister and congregation.

Concerns raised by the ruling elders specific to the relationship between minister and elders at Westminster-St. Paul’s were clearly spelled out to the Visitation Team. After careful consideration we believe the pastoral relationship between minister and elders is viable. Indeed, all the tools are there to make this a very fruitful long-term partnership; yet, the conversation has to change.

We believe the solutions lie within the Session itself. We do not believe further intervention by the Presbytery is necessary. To put it plainly – the problems facing this session have to be dealt with – and we believe the session is capable of dealing with them. Our recommendations reflect these beliefs.

Recommendations:

1. That the Presbytery commend the Session, Board and Congregation of Westminster-St. Paul’s for their compassion and grace in engaging each other and their community in the furtherance of the Gospel.
2. That Karla be commended for her provision of high-quality, Christ-centred worship, and excellent pastoral care to the people of Westminster-St. Paul’s and to the wider community, and be commended to the prayers of the Presbytery amid the leadership challenges that continue for her.
3. That the elders and other leaders in the congregation be commended for their part in creating a warm, welcoming and loving community, in which both members and strangers experience the care and invitation of Jesus Christ.
4. That the minister and the ruling elders of Westminster-St. Paul’s engage in a dialogue (in a format of their choosing) that addresses the concerns of their working relationship, with the

Calvin Presbyterian Church,
Kitchener, Ontario,
March 13, 2012

goal of improving that relationship; and, that the minister and ruling elders begin that dialogue with this imperative: Seek first to understand, then to be understood.

5. That whereas term service for elders has been instituted at Westminster-St. Paul's; but, does not result in leadership renewal (elders having served their term are re-nominated and re-admitted to the session without sabbatical), the session look at implementing a local policy which provides for true leadership rotation.
6. That the Visitation Team be dismissed with the court's thanks.

Respectfully submitted,

Bert Perriman

Doug Kelly

Mark B. Gaskin

Calvin Presbyterian Church,
Kitchener, Ontario,
March 13, 2012

**Report to the Congregational Affairs Committee
From the Session of St. Andrew's Church (Galt), Cambridge
Tuesday, February 21, 2012**

At the regular meeting of St. Andrew's Session on January 18th, as part of the usual agenda, we received a report of the January 10th meeting of the Presbytery of Waterloo-Wellington. Among the items brought to the Session's attention it was noted that the St. Giles' Session might request that the congregation be dissolved.

On January 19th Mark B. Gaskin received a phone call from Jeffrey Smith.¹ Mr. Smith indicated that upon more reflection, other meetings and advice from denominational staff, the St. Giles' Session and Board were looking at the possibility of amalgamating with another congregation in Galt.

Mr. Smith indicated that the St. Giles' Session and Board had agreed to arrange two informal meetings, one with Central and the other with St. Andrews. They had agreed that at those meetings four of their members would explore the possibility of an amalgamation. Mr. Smith and Mr. Gaskin arranged for a meeting at St. Andrew's on January 25th.

On January 20th the Business Committee of the Presbytery met. The Committee was updated as to the St. Giles situation. Mark Gaskin (who was not at the meeting) was told that the wisdom of the Business Committee was to allow St. Giles to proceed toward a proposal on the understanding that at the March 13th Presbytery meeting permission would be sought to formulate an amalgamation plan.

On January 22nd Mark Gaskin met with session of St. Andrew's. He outlined the conversation of January 19th and asked the session if there was support for meeting with representatives from St. Giles. The elders expressed enthusiastic support and choose three ruling elders (Sharon Agler, Doug Kelly and Bert Perriman) to meet with the representatives from St. Giles. The St. Andrew's Session was aware the representatives from St. Giles would have a similar meeting with Central Church.

¹ Jeff Smith (and Linda Ashfield) had been appointed by the Presbytery to "represent the Presbytery in supporting the [St. Giles] congregation and the minister."

Calvin Presbyterian Church,
Kitchener, Ontario,
March 13, 2012

On January 25th the three elders from St. Andrews, four members from St. Giles, Jeff Smith and Mark Gaskin met. There was an open and honest discussion about the possibility of an amalgamation. The representatives from St. Giles said there was a meeting of the Board and Session the following week; and it was expected that meeting would decide on a recommendation to take to their February 12th Annual Meeting.

On January 29th the St. Andrew's elders gathered and were updated with regard to the January 25th meeting.

On February 2nd Jeff Smith phoned Mark Gaskin to inform him that the St. Giles' Session and Board had agreed to recommend to their Annual Meeting that St. Giles explore the possibility of an amalgamation with St. Andrews (Galt).

On February 5th the St. Andrew's Session met and was updated with regard to the decision of the St. Giles' Session and Board; and, their subsequent recommendation to their February 12th Annual Meeting. Copies of the 24 page booklet *Guidelines for the Dissolution or Amalgamation of Congregations* had been distributed to the elders prior to the meeting – and Part Three of the booklet was reviewed.

There was a very healthy and helpful discussion; and, again, the elders expressed enthusiastic support for the possibility of amalgamation. The Session agreed to take an Amalgamation Recommendation to the St. Andrew's Annual Meeting (scheduled for February 12th). The intent of this recommendation was announced at the worship services on February 5th and February 12th.

At St. Andrew's Annual Meeting the congregation considered the following motion: *that St. Andrews enter into negotiations with St. Giles to amalgamate the two congregations.*

A one-page summary of *Part Three – Amalgamation of Congregations (pages 16 – 19)* was distributed at the St. Andrew's annual meeting.

It was made clear, at the St. Andrew's annual meeting, that the congregations of St. Giles and St. Andrew's would need permission from the Presbytery for negotiations to proceed; and, that the Presbytery would have to approve any plans for amalgamation.

Calvin Presbyterian Church,
Kitchener, Ontario,
March 13, 2012

There was a very healthy and helpful discussion about the Amalgamation Recommendation. When the vote was taken the over fifty people in attendance voted unanimously in favour of the motion.

The Session of St. Andrew's had its regular meeting on February 15th and approved a letter to the Presbytery of Waterloo-Wellington indicating that the congregation of St. Andrew's has agreed to explore an amalgamation with St. Giles, and requesting Presbytery give permission to prepare an amalgamation plan.

It was mentioned at the February 15th Session meeting that we may be asked to attend the February 21st meeting of the Congregational Affairs Committee and outline, to the committee, our process and how we came to the amalgamation decision. It was agreed that if asked to attend the meeting that Bert Perriman (Representative Elder), Rick Thomas (Alternate Elder) and Doug Kelly (Clerk of Session) would attend on our behalf.

Page 2 of the Guideline booklet notes that "whether considering amalgamation or dissolution, it is hoped sessions, congregations and presbytery will proceed in a prayerful and unhurried manner as they seek to discern the mind of Christ in these important decisions." That is certainly the intent of the St. Andrew's Session.

The St. Andrew's Session recognizes that an amalgamation is not simple. Lyle Schaller long ago pointed out that the result of most amalgamations between congregation "A" and congregation "B" is, within three years, a congregation the size of the larger of A or B. One reason for this is that people who have joined the congregations are comfortable with the size of their congregation - no matter how eloquent their statement - "we want to grow." When growth happens, there are many subtle ways of slowing it down.

The St. Andrew's Session recognizes there are problems an amalgamation does not solve. An amalgamation will not fix financial problems or provide more people to do the work. In fact, an amalgamated congregation may have need of more resources, requiring more money and drawing heavily on the time and skills of the members and adherents.

We do not enter into this amalgamation naively.

However, we believe an amalgamated congregation will allow us to be a stronger presence in the South Cambridge community and we look forward to building on the strengths, values and vision of both congregations by providing ministry and mission that energizes and excites God's people.

Calvin Presbyterian Church,
Kitchener, Ontario,
March 13, 2012

**Report to the Congregational Affairs Committee
from Rev. Linda Ashfield and Rev. Jeffrey Smith
(Presbytery appointed support to St. Giles) - February 21, 2012**

The following report includes summaries of previous reports prepared by the Session of St. Giles as well as the Task Group from St. Giles. In September 2010 the Session and Board of Managers recognized that St. Giles was in a financial downward spiral and that their existence beyond the summer of 2011 was in serious jeopardy. For the better part of their 56 year history St. Giles has been surviving and just making ends meet. The Session and Board recognized that in order to grow and thrive they needed to create a long term plan that could be implemented.

At a congregational meeting on October 24, 2010 the congregation heard the report and concerns of the Session and Board. From that meeting the Task Group was struck. The Task Group met on November 17, December 2, 15, 2010, January 6, 20, February 3, 16, March 3, 16, April 7, 27, May 2, 5, 18, 26, 2011.

During this time the Task Group became aware that not only was St. Giles' struggling financially, but that the issues and concerns go beyond money. They realized that St. Giles is having great difficulty in maintaining its volunteer base. A core group of volunteers has been carrying the load for a number of years in the many and varied aspects of the work of the church and they are now very tired. They also recognized that they were lacking a clear direction and identity as a church and consequently had reached a plateau.

In order to gain further insight into their situation and receive assistance and support in the discernment and planning process the Task Group asked John-Peter Smit, Congregational Development Consultant for our Synod to meet with them. On January 20, 2011 this meeting took place. John- Peter helped the group to understand some of the factors that have led to their situation. These included:

- In the 1950's it was believed that churches should be set back in neighbourhoods rather than locating on main traffic arteries, making them not only invisible to most of the city, but also difficult to find in our present day.
- Churches were built to the wrong scale, with sanctuaries for congregations of 100 – 150 people, a size that makes them financially challenging to sustain.
- Buildings are now 50+ years old; they are not energy efficient and at this stage are requiring significant capital replacement investments (eg. Boilers, roofs)
- As congregations age, more and more of the work gets done by fewer and fewer people. John Peter's assessment was that with effort, St. Giles could survive in its present form, but given that a relatively small number of volunteers would have to "carry" the congregation, his question to the group was, "Do you want to? With this question as a backdrop, the Task

Calvin Presbyterian Church,
Kitchener, Ontario,
March 13, 2012

Group then discussed a number of options and directions involving significant transformation that John Peter felt should be considered.

On Sunday, January 23, 2011 three questions were presented by the Task Group to approximately 34 adults during focus groups held after the worship service and to 12 youth during their Sunday School class time. The questions were aimed at finding out how the congregation would describe their church and what they value, find important at St. Giles and what difference the church makes in their lives.

The Task Group presented two possible “roads” for the congregation of St. Giles to take:

Road #1 To acknowledge that the congregation of St. Giles has come to the end of its lifecycle and choose a closing date and identify ways to celebrate the rich and valuable contribution this church has made during the 56 years of its existence.

OR

Road #2 To commit to transforming St. Giles into a church that is attractive to new generations of members, to redefine itself through a process of discerning God’s call and to renew and establish a vital spiritual mission to their community.

At that time the congregation of St. Giles chose Road #2. Subsequently, the Task Group met with the Chairperson of the Presbytery of Waterloo-Wellington Congregational Affairs Committee (CAC) and then with a sub-committee of CAC for a follow-up meeting to discuss the situation and plans for St. Giles. The Task Group had written a proposal for the Presbytery of Waterloo-Wellington that outlined their needs and goals and requested a grant to assist them to move forward (included money to secure the assistance of a consultant(s), training, and enhancement of communication tools and strategies). The CAC sub-committee submitted the proposal along with a grant request to the Presbytery on May 10, 2011. This proposal was accepted by the Presbytery. Though the initial reaction of the congregation of St. Giles was to choose the second “road”, it became apparent during the summer and fall of 2011 that the fatigue and burnout of volunteers was greater than initially thought. Attempts to revitalize the congregation did not have the hoped for results. Decline in numbers continued and volunteers became harder to find. During this time joint meetings of the Board and Session came to the conclusion that St. Giles has come to the end of its lifecycle. At a congregational meeting held in January 2012 the congregation was informed of the joint Session’s and Board’s unanimous decision to work towards closure. Since the meeting in January, the Board and Session of St. Giles has been working hard to examine what to do next. Many options were considered and many hours spent. Part time ministry was examined, as was obtaining retired or student supply. Neither of these options, as they were explored, took into account the difficulty in getting volunteers or the level of burn out experienced by those who volunteer. After much prayer and thought, the leaders of St. Giles felt that it was not in keeping with St. Giles’ calling as a church of Jesus Christ to be content with mere survival. Perhaps a few extra years could have been

Calvin Presbyterian Church,
Kitchener, Ontario,
March 13, 2012

gained. But they asked themselves, “Would we be faithful ministers of Jesus content with just surviving – or does Jesus want and expect more of us?”

Two final options were eventually explored. The Session and Board looked at dissolving the congregation and giving members their transfers and encouraging each individual to choose for themselves where they would live out their calling as disciples of Jesus Christ. The more dissolution was explored, the more the leadership of St. Giles felt that they wanted to keep part of St. Giles alive. There is a wonderful community at St. Giles. For years, people have supported one another and worked together. St. Giles welcomed people into the family of faith through baptism. They have taught children the way of Christ. They have celebrated together at Christ’s table. They have gathered to remember, to seek comfort and to hear again and again that we are people of the resurrection. Many couples have professed their love and made their vows at St. Giles. People have stood within its walls and professed their faith in Christ. Given a desire to keep this community together in some way, the leadership of St. Giles looked at the possibility of amalgamation. A sub-committee of the Session and Board was empowered to begin preliminary conversations with two congregations. It became very apparent that one of these congregations would be a good fit with St. Giles. This sub-committee recommended to a joint meeting of Session and Board on February 1, 2012 that we seek permission of the Presbytery of Waterloo - Wellington to work on an amalgamation plan with St. Andrew’s Galt. This recommendation was carried unanimously by the Session and the Board concurred.

At the Annual Meeting of St. Giles on February 12, 2012 the Session and Board went to the congregation seeking their support in this matter with the following recommendation:
"The St. Giles' Session along with the Board of Managers recommends that St. Giles enters into negotiations with St. Andrew's Galt to amalgamate the two congregations."

65 people were in attendance at this meeting at St. Giles. 59 voted in favour of the recommendation. Two ballots were spoiled. Three were against the motion. Amalgamation has its benefits and is the recommended course of action by the National Church in such situations. From a pastoral point of view, it gives people a place to call home, a place to connect, a place to maintain and enlarge relationships, a place to continue to serve Jesus Christ. From a historical perspective, St. Giles will not cease to exist but continue within St. Andrew’s. There is a possibility that a new name will mark this new combined relationship. The leadership of St. Giles will come together with the leadership of St. Andrew’s. Sunday Schools will be merged and choirs combined. A new congregation will be born.

From a financial point of view, St. Giles may be able to bring its assets with it into the amalgamated congregation thereby creating a stronger church numerically and financially.

Calvin Presbyterian Church,
Kitchener, Ontario,
March 13, 2012

A letter has been sent to the Clerk of the Presbytery of Waterloo-Wellington, Wilma Welsh, from by the Clerk of Session of St. Giles, Sandy Grimwood, on behalf of St. Giles Presbyterian Church informing the Presbytery of this recommendation and requesting permission to begin working on an amalgamation plan. It is our understanding that the Congregational Affairs Committee is able to grant permission to begin work on an amalgamation plan. As we follow the booklet, Guidelines for Dissolution and Amalgamation of Congregations of the Presbyterian Church in Canada, we realize that there are many steps to follow.

As your Presbytery appointed representatives we have been impressed with the leadership of St. Giles and in particular their minister, the Rev. Penny Garrison. This is a difficult time for her and we are suggesting that Penny's pastoral tie be handled by the Committee on Ministry of the Presbytery of Waterloo-Wellington. Herb Gale, a member of the Committee on Ministry has offered to come alongside Penny in this process and we feel this is a positive approach. The people of St. Giles seek the support of Presbytery during this difficult time and are eager to begin negotiations with St. Andrews Galt.

Calvin Presbyterian Church,
Kitchener, Ontario,
March 13, 2012

Appendix "C"

Overview of the Financial Health of the Congregation

To help determine the financial health and long-term viability of the congregation, please provide the following information for the last five year period:

1. Annual reports for each of the last five years (including the financial reports)
2. Year-end surpluses/deficits for each of the last five years
3. Number of envelope givers for each year
4. Number of people on PAR for each year
5. Median gift for envelope/PAR givers for each year
6. Amount given by each of the top five givers over the last five years
7. Financial stewardship appeals and education over the last five years and the results (e.g. annual stewardship campaigns, narrative budgeting, workshops and seminars, etc.)
8. Revenue that comes into the congregation through various revenue streams:
 - offering envelopes and PAR: \$_____ = ___% of total revenue
 - fundraising: \$_____ = ___% of total revenue (did the money raised go to the operating budget, special projects or a combination of the two?)
 - rentals: \$_____ = ___% of total revenue
 - trust funds: \$_____ = ___% of total revenue (how were these funds used?)
 - grants/loans: \$_____ = ___% of total revenue
 - other:
9. Benevolent givings for each year:
 - *Presbyterians Sharing*: \$_____ = ___% of total expenditures
 - PWS&D: \$_____ = ___% of total expenditures
 - Other: \$_____ = ___% of total expenditures
10. What has been done over the last 5 years to open the following "Giving Doors":
 - Spontaneous Giving
 - Major Community Worship Giving
 - Special Planned Offerings
 - Short-Term Major Projects Giving
 - Annual Budget Giving
 - Enduring Giving (Planned Giving)
 - Memorial and Honour Giving
11. Please share how the congregation reports finances to the congregation (please give samples of updates and reports).
12. Does the congregation have a stewardship team or teams in place? If it does, what is their mandate and responsibilities? If it doesn't, who is responsible for nurturing the financial stewardship and spirit of generosity in the congregation?
13. How does the congregation celebrate God's generosity in their midst and thank those who give of their time, talents and treasures to the church's life and ministry?
14. How does the congregation tie their finances to their story of mission and ministry?

Calvin Presbyterian Church,
Kitchener, Ontario,
March 13, 2012

15. Does the congregation have any policies for handling planned gifts? If so, please submit copies of the policies.
16. Bequests and other planned gifts the congregation anticipates receiving in the future.
17. Projected costs for maintaining the facility over the next 5 to 10 years.
18. Debts/mortgages that the congregation owes going forward.

(Special Note: If you need help in compiling this information, Herb Gale, Assoc. Sec. for Planned Giving for The PCC, would be happy to provide his services and expertise.)

Calvin Presbyterian Church,
Kitchener, Ontario,
March 13, 2012

Appendix "D"

Mission and Outreach Committee Report from Feb. 14th 2012

The committee met at St. Andrews in Arthur on the evening of Tuesday February 14th, 2012. The agenda was as follows 1) Partnering with Bunun Presbytery in Taiwan, 2) Striking a committee to develop an action plan regarding possible funds realized from the sale of the Winterbourne property, 3) Update on podcast proposal 4) Update on the discussion for Presbytery ministering to Post-Secondary Students 5) Update on the Renewing the Rural Church Workshop, 6) Update on the New Church Development Group.

1) The Presbytery Clerk received a request from the Bunun Presbytery in Taiwan to twin or partner with our Presbytery. Some of the suggestions on how this would take place is developing a space of sharing between our two presbyteries, sharing prayer requests, culture, expressions of faith, and getting to know each other, with the hope that as this continued that in the future there might even be an exchange of lay people/ministers. The committee talked about this and there was enthusiasm and respect for this request and for the people of the Bunun Presbytery. There was the suggestion that this could start out very much as a pen pal relationship and could grow through mutual encouragement. It was moved by Calvin and seconded by Liz that we bring this to Presbytery and recommend that we proceed with the twinning/partnering and see what this could be.

Recommendation 1) That we as the Presbytery of Waterloo/Wellington proceed with the twinning with the Bunun Presbytery in Taiwan and see where this God leads us.

2) With the dissolutionment of Chalmers Winterbourne, there is the possibility of the property and Chattels being sold and funds being realized after any and all expenses are paid for. As part of the practice of the Presbyterian Church in Canada, the presbytery where the property resides, has the opportunity to request from the Trustee Board of the Presbyterian Church in Canada, who are overseeing the care and possible sale of the property and chattels of Chalmers Winterbourne, to receive back up to 70% of the realized funds. To be able to do this the presbytery must submit an action plan to the Trustee board outlining what the money is going to be used for, this is to make sure that the money is used and not just held in a bank account. A Committee is needed with representatives from each quadrant that will develop guidelines for receiving requests and or ideas from the presbytery on how we might use money the funds. We would then have to receive suggestions and from them develop an action plan that would be submitted to the Business Committee and then brought to the Presbytery.

An email has been sent out to committee heads requesting volunteers to sit on this committee.

Calvin Presbyterian Church,
Kitchener, Ontario,
March 13, 2012

Recommendation 2) That we strike this committee and give them the power to meet/create guidelines/request suggestions/and develop the Action Plan for the presbytery and bring this before the Presbytery for approval.

3) It was reported that requests had been made to people within our denomination to create podcasts about ministering to Post-Secondary Students but at this time there is little interest. This is a continuing work and more requests will be put out.

4) A suggestion was put forward by the business committee that the June Presbytery meeting be extended into the afternoon to provide time for discussion and for how the Presbytery of Waterloo/Wellington can use its resources effectively to minister to Post-Secondary Students.

Recommendation 3) That the discussion time be set for 2pm on June 19 at Knox Waterloo.

5) An update was received about the Renewing of the Rural Church Workshop. A poster had been created and is to be distributed to each of our congregations and to the neighbouring presbyteries. The workshop leader had said that she is bringing one of the members of the churches she serves to give the participants a full view of what has happened. Rev. Dr. O'Reilly had also requested that the stories of the local congregations be shared with her to give her a better idea of the context that she is going to be speaking into.

6) Reuben St. Louis sent in the following report.

New Church Development Team Report

Prior to January I spent time gathering information about the IAND committee from Marty Molengraaf. The information was sent out to the team to familiarize themselves with the IAND committee's work. This past month I have been meeting with team members individually and informally to discuss their ideas and passions. We are hoping to meet at the beginning of March. At this meeting we will be presenting and discussing different models/methods of NCD and considering the Waterloo/Wellington context and resources. Models/methods will be divided amongst the group for further investigation and research to be brought back to at our next meeting.

Team members: Reuben St. Louis, Ed Charlton, Karla Wubbenhorst, Mary and Frank Whitson, Alex Macleod, Gibson McIlwrath, Scott Flemming and Greg Smith.

Submitted by Reuben St. Louis

Mission and Outreach committee report Submitted by Rev. Ed Charlton.