

Induction Service,
Rev. Susan V. Clarke to Knox Elora and St. Andrew's Alma,
Knox, Elora,
November 1, 2015

DATE AND PLACE:

The Presbytery of Waterloo-Wellington within Knox Presbyterian Church, Elora on Sunday, November 1st, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. solely for the purpose of inducting the Rev. Susan V. Clarke to the pastoral charge of Knox, Elora and St. Andrew's, Alma.

ATTENDANCE:

Ministers: Rev. Brooke Ashfield (Moderator), Rev. John Borthwick, Rev. Michael Burns, Rev. Mark Gaskin, Rev. Dr. Mark Richardson, Rev. Scott Sinclair

Representative Elders: Lenore Arbuckle, Andrew Foster, Judith Harrison, Frank Kivell, Gib McIlwrath, Jim Zaryski

Alternate Representative Elders: Aileen Isaac, Erik Kabbes, Rick Thomas

Appendix to the Roll: Rev. Dr. Linda Bell, Rev. Linda Paquette, Rev. Angus Sutherland

Clerk: Dr. Wilma Welsh

Minister to be Inducted: Rev. Susan V. Clarke

REGRETS:

Ministers: Rev. Dr. Aubrey Botha, Rev. Kathy Morden, Rev. Johan Olivier, Rev. Chris Ji Hoon Cho

Representative Elders: Junghee Ahn, Marion Hunter, Linda Palmer

CONSTITUTION:

The Moderator, the Rev. Brooke Ashfield, constituted the Court with prayer noting that adjournment would be following the pronouncing of the Benediction after the Service of Induction.

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS:

The Moderator warmly welcomed all and called for introductions. Agreed on motion of Michael Burns/Linda Ashfield that anyone in attendance from another Presbytery be invited to sit and correspond.

ORDER OF WORSHIP:

The Interim Moderator Linda Bell and the Moderator Brooke Ashfield, walked the Court through the Order of Worship. It was agreed on motion of Mark Gaskin/Scott Sinclair that the Order of Worship be adopted as printed. The presbyters will recess during the singing of the last hymn and stand at the back of the church for the Benediction. CARRIED

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PENSION AND BENEFITS:

The Moderator asked The Rev. Susan Clarke if she is a member of the Pension and Dental Plan. She answered 'yes'.

STIPEND:

The Moderator asked The Rev. Susan Clarke if her first month's stipend has been paid. The reply was 'yes'.

ADDITION TO CONSTITUENT ROLL:

It was agreed that the Rev. Susan V. Clarke be added to the Constituent Roll of The Presbytery of Waterloo-Wellington at the conclusion of the service.

DISCHARGE OF INTERIM MODERATOR:

It was agreed that the Interim Moderator, the Rev. Dr. Linda Bell be dismissed with the thanks of the Court but remain on as mentor to the Rev. Susan Clarke for a minimum of one year.

CARRIED

BENEDICTION:

It was agreed that the Presbytery would adjourn when the Benediction is pronounced at the end of the service.

EDICT:

The Clerk, Wilma Welsh, entered the Sanctuary and read the Edict. The Edict was also read on October 25th, 2015 and November 1st, 2015 at both Alma and Elora congregations. A signed copy of the Edict signed by the Clerks of Session of each congregations was returned to the Clerk.

The Court entered the sanctuary and the service was led by The Rev. Dr. Linda Bell.

NARRATION OF STEPS – presented by Wilma Welsh, Clerk

Following The Rev. Andrew [Apack] Song's request to the Presbytery of Waterloo-Wellington for permission to retire from active ministry, the Rev. Dr. Linda Bell was appointed interim moderator, with The Rev. Kathy Morden and Elder Jim Zaryski serving as the presbytery named support committee.

On June 11th, the interim moderator and the support committee met with the Rev. Andrew Song for the required exit interview.

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The pulpits were preached vacant by the interim moderator on September 7th, 2014.

In Mid-September, an outline of the next steps for the congregations during the vacancy was printed and distributed through the weekly bulletin and placed on their website.

Taking the concerns raised by the retiring minister seriously, a number of events and conversations were scheduled beginning in September, 2014. In October, both congregations were invited to a workshop led by Synod Consultant the Rev. Dr. John Peter Smit, with a focus on congregational planning, going forward, including things that could begin and/or be accomplished during the vacancy.

In November, one Elora elder attended the Bowen workshop at Kortright Presbyterian, Guelph and came back to share with the whole session.

There was a "Planning for the Future" afternoon on January 18th, led by the interim moderator. Well over 50 people from both congregations worked hard on the tasks at hand.

The pulpits have been supplied each week and the congregations carried on with their mid-week programs. Regular visits were carried out, and care provided for those in hospital or newly bereaved. The interim moderator arranged for the sacraments of Holy Communion and baptism, and for funerals.

Session meetings occurred monthly in Elora and every other month in Alma, moderated by the interim moderator. The interim moderator also attended a couple of Board meetings, as requested/invited. The rolls were reviewed and revised, to a point. In Elora, some elders decided to retire and offer their gifts in other areas of the congregation's life. 3 new elders were elected, ordained and installed.

During October - December, the sessions and the profile committees worked diligently on getting the congregational profiles prepared and approved. At the February presbytery meeting they were given permission to strike a search committee and begin the search process.

A search committee of 12 [5 from Alma and 7 from Elora] was named and began their work. An advertisement was placed in the Presbyterian Record as well as on the Presbyterian Church website. On February 28th, a 2½ hour orientation and training session was held with the search committee.

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The "advertisement" on the Presbyterian Church in Canada's website generated considerable interest almost immediately. 29 profiles were submitted and the committee met several times to sort and sift, to pray and discern. In every case, applicants were notified in a timely manner, whether or not they were being considered.

After detailed discussion and reflection, the numbers were reduced 50%. Applicants were asked to send videos or audios and each was listened to and weighed.

Again, the numbers were reduced and the remaining 6 applicants were invited for interviews. One applicant graciously declined, having decided to accept a Call to another congregation. Members of the search committee travelled to hear candidates in their own pulpits, or in pulpits for which candidates made arrangements.

In June, 2015, having examined their hearts and thoughts, the search committee unanimously determined that they would recommend The Rev. Susan V. Clarke to a joint meeting of the sessions, asking that they invite her to preach for the Call on September 20th, 2015. The meeting took place on June 24th, and the motion to invite Rev. Clarke was passed unanimously. When invited, Rev. Clarke agreed.

Having expressed a desire to live in the manse, Rev. Clarke and her husband Malcolm were shown the manse in July and it was readied to their satisfaction [and the IM's]

On September 18th, the congregations were provided an opportunity to meet Rev. Clarke and her husband at a "Meet and Greet" held in Alma. A second "Meet and Greet" was held for both congregations on September 19th in Elora.

On Sunday September 20th, Rev. Clarke conducted worship in both congregations. The interim moderator moderated a duly called congregational meeting immediately following each worship service. It was determined, unanimously, at each that the congregations were ready to proceed with a Call. The terms of the Call and guarantee of stipend and allowances were approved unanimously. The name of The Rev. Susan V. Clarke was inserted into the Call and voting was done by ballot. The unopened ballots from Alma were transported to Elora so that all ballots could be counted together. Two elders from each congregation joined the IM in opening and counting the ballots. Between the congregations, 99 members voted by ballot, with 98 voting in favour of extending the Call to The Rev. Susan V. Clarke. The vote was announced, persons were named to speak in favour of the Call, the meeting was adjourned and the congregations broke bread with Rev. Clarke, her husband and the IM – over lunch.

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At a meeting of the presbytery on September 27, the Call was sustained and it was sent to the Clerk of the Presbytery of Ottawa. The presbytery of Ottawa met on October 20th and sustained the Call and placed it in the hands of the Rev. Susan Clarke who indicated at that time that it was her desire to accept the Call.

This brings us to the service tonight to induct the Rev. Susan Clarke into the pastoral charge of Knox Elora and St. Andrew's Alma.

SERVICE, INDUCTION AND SIGNING THE FORMULA:

The worship was led by the Interim Moderator, the Rev. Dr. Linda Bell. The Rev. Michael Burns delivered the sermon. "Go...to the land I will show you". The Scripture readings were Psalm 27:1, 4-9 and Genesis 12: 1-4a. The hymns were: We are God's People, To Abraham and Sarah, and Sent forth by your blessing.

At the appropriate time, the Clerk, Wilma Welsh presented the Rev. Susan V. Clarke to the Moderator requesting that she be inducted. With the appointed preamble and questions, the Rev. Brooke Ashfield inducted the Rev. Susan V. Clarke into the pastoral charge of Knox Presbyterian Church, Elora and St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church.

The Presbytery was then called forward to give the right hand of fellowship after which the Formula was signed.

BENEDICTION:

The Presbytery recessed during the last hymn leaving the newly inducted minister, the Rev. Susan V. Clarke to pronounce the Benediction.

REFRESHMENTS:

The congregation provided a time of fellowship and refreshments following the service.

Rev. Brooke Ashfield, Moderator

Dr. Wilma Welsh, Clerk

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