

Emergent Presbytery Meeting  
Call to Rev. Amanda Wickenheiser  
to Rockwood and Eden Mills Pastoral Charge,  
St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Kitchener,  
October 8, 2014

**DATE AND PLACE:**

The Presbytery of Waterloo-Wellington met in Emergent Session within St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Kitchener on Wednesday, October 8, 2014 at 3:00 p.m. for the sole purpose of receiving the Call from Rockwood and Eden Mills Pastoral Charge to Amanda Wickenheiser of the Presbytery of Perth.

**ATTENDANCE:**

**Ministers:** Rev. Scott McAndless (Moderator), Rev. Brooke Ashfield, Rev. Linda Ashfield, Rev. Calvin Brown, Rev. Chris Ji Hoon Cho, Rev. Mark Gaskin, Rev. Janice Hamalainen, Rev. Dr. Mark Lewis, Rev. Alex MacLeod, Rev. John Paeng, Rev. Scott Sinclair, Rev. Glen Soderholm

**Representative Elders:** Johan DeSchiffart, Andrew Foster, Marion Hunter, Gib McIlwrath, Bert Perriman, Grant Scott, Earl Suggitt

**Treasurer:** Allan Stewart

**Clerk:** Dr. Wilma Welsh

**REGRETS:**

**Ministers:** - Rev. John Borthwick, Rev. Dr. Aubrey Botha, Rev. Darrell Clarke, Rev. Marty Molengraaf, Rev. Kathy Morden, Rev. Johan Olivier

**Representative Elders:** Judith Harrison, Ross Rowat, Jim Zaryski

**Alternate Representative Elders:** Donna Harvey

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

**WMS:** Phyllis Stewart, Jean Godin

**CONSTITUTION:**

The Moderator, the Rev. Scott McAndless, constituted the Court with prayer.

**WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS:**

The Moderator warmly welcomed all and called for introductions. The two Clerks of Session from Rockwood, Betty Post and Eden Mills, Eloise Gardiner were welcomed.

**CALL TO AMANDA WICKENHEISER**

**To the Rockwood and Eden Mills Pastoral Charge**

The Moderator advised that the Clerk had examined the Call and ensured that it is in proper form.

Emergent Presbytery Meeting  
 Call to Rev. Amanda Wickenheiser  
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 St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Kitchener,  
 October 8, 2014

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

We, the professing members of the pastoral charge of Rockwood Presbyterian Church, Rockwood, Ontario, and Eden Mills Presbyterian Church, Eden Mills, Ontario, being well satisfied with your faithfulness to the Gospel and your qualifications for the ministry of Word and Sacraments and confident that the Holy Spirit has led us to you, earnestly and solemnly call you, Amanda Wickenheiser, to become the minister of this pastoral charge. In calling you we promise you all due respect, encouragement, and allegiance in the Lord as, together, we seek to use our gifts in the church and in the world to the glory of God.

In order that you, Amanda Wickenheiser, may be free to devote yourself to ministry of Word and Sacraments among us, we, professing members of the pastoral charge of Rockwood Presbyterian Church and Eden Mills Presbyterian Church, hereby guarantee to the Presbytery of Waterloo-Wellington, of The Presbyterian Church in Canada, that out of our estimated annual revenue of \$80,000 we promise and obligate ourselves to provide you, as a first charge thereon, the following annually:

Annual Stipend (inclusive of travel allowance)	\$35,884
Housing allowance (inclusive of utilities)	\$15,600
Total	\$51,484

We agree to make payments of the above amounts on the first day of each month and agree to review the stipend and allowances annually in view of any changes in the cost of living or the needs of our minister.

We agree further:

1. To provide two weeks for continuing education annually and a continuing education allowance of \$600 each year (as set by the General Assembly).
2. That the benefits of number 1 above shall be cumulative up to five years.
3. To provide five weeks holiday annually.
4. To pay supply during the periods of continuing education and holidays.
5. To pay an annual multi-charge travel allowance of \$300.
6. In case of disability or extended illness, to continue to provide stipend, accommodation and allowances for a period not less than that set by the General Assembly, and to pay the cost of pulpit supply.

Wilma Welsh, Clerk ([clerkwatwell@gmail.com](mailto:clerkwatwell@gmail.com))

Emergent Presbytery Meeting  
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October 8, 2014

- 7. To pay for Medical and Dental Insurance as provided through the Pensions and Benefits Board of the General Assembly and to make contributions to the Pension Plan in compliance with the terms of the plan.
- 8. To pay necessary moving expenses.
- 9. To provide an annual book allowance of \$200.

September 14, 2014 \_\_\_\_\_  
(Place and date)

Rev. Alex MacLeod, Interim Moderator\_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature of Presiding Minister)

September 14, 2014 \_\_\_\_\_  
(Place and date)

Eloise Gardiner \_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature of Meeting Secretary)

**Attestation of the Call by the Interim Moderator**

I hereby certify that in pursuance of appointment of the Presbytery of Waterloo-Wellington, this call has been moderated in, and that out of a total number of 40 professing members at Rockwood Presbyterian Church, 36 have themselves subscribed and 2 have requested an elder to subscribe to same. (95%) 4 adherents concurred to the Call.

I hereby certify that in pursuance of appointment of the Presbytery of Waterloo-Wellington, this call has been moderated in, and that out of a total number of 48 professing members at Eden Mills Presbyterian Church, 38 have themselves subscribed and 6 have requested an elder to subscribe to same. (92%) 3 adherents concurred to the Call.

signed Alex MacLeod \_\_\_\_\_  
The Rev. Alex MacLeod, Interim Moderator  
Rockwood, September 14, 2014

**NARRATION OF STEPS AND REASON FOR TRANSLATION**  
**Rev. Alex MacLeod, Interim Moderator**

The Rev. Linda Paquette, minister of Rockwood and Eden Mills, notified the Presbytery of Waterloo-Wellington at its meeting on November 13, 2012, of her intention to retire effective Jan.31, 2013.

Wilma Welsh, Clerk ([clerkwatwell@gmail.com](mailto:clerkwatwell@gmail.com))

Emergent Presbytery Meeting  
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October 8, 2014

The Presbytery of Waterloo-Wellington appointed the Rev. Alex MacLeod, Interim Moderator at its meeting of Nov.13, 2012. He conducted the required exit interview with the Rev. Linda Paquette on Jan.15, 2013.

At their meeting on Mar.22, 2013, the Sessions appointed the search committee which then set about holding a series of meetings that spring to reflect upon ministry in the 21<sup>st</sup> century and also to reflect upon the particular identity of Rockwood and Eden Mills.

Later in the year, as part of our process of self-reflection as a search committee and as two congregations, a Congregational Meeting for Visioning was held on Oct.22, 2013, with an attendance of 70 persons. With the feedback from that meeting and surveys which went out in the fall to every member and adherent, the search committee finalized the congregational profile. It was subsequently approved by the Sessions of Rockwood and Eden Mills Churches on Dec.4, 2013 and the vacancy was advertised on the Presbytery Church in Canada website. The profile was also placed on file with Ministry and Church Vocations.

Upon agreement at the meeting of the Rockwood and Eden Mills sessions meeting on Dec.4, 2013, the Rev. Alex MacLeod corresponded with the clerk of Presbytery requesting permission to proceed with the necessary steps to call a minister. Permission was granted by the Presbytery at its meeting on January14, 2014.

36 applications were received following the advertisement of the vacancy. The search committee met a number of times in the winter and spring to review these applications and listening to and watching sermons in digital format (one applicant sent a cassette tape), and then in April and May began going out to hear candidates lead worship in a live congregational setting.

In June, the committee arrived at a short list of 3 candidates whom it wanted to interview. Initially, a first round of interviews was held online using Skype. Then the committee conducted interviews in person with all 3 finalists.

At a search committee meeting held on June 29, 2014, the decision was made to recommend that Amanda Wickenheiser be invited to preach for the call. At a meeting held the same day, the Sessions adopted a motion to invite Amanda Wickenheiser to preach for the call on Sunday, September14, 2014. This decision was immediately communicated by the Interim Moderator to the Clerk of Presbytery and the convener of the Congregational Affairs committee, as well as to

Emergent Presbytery Meeting  
Call to Rev. Amanda Wickenheiser  
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St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Kitchener,  
October 8, 2014

Amanda Wickenheiser herself. Advertising was removed and the Ministry and Church Vocations office notified.

On Sunday Sept. 14, 2014, Amanda Wickenheiser preached for the call at Rockwood and Eden Mills. An attendance of approximately 80 professing members plus adherents attended the worship services. The congregation met in a duly called congregational meeting immediately following the worship service held at Rockwood Church and voted unanimously to extend a call to Amanda Wickenheiser.

Both the sessions and the congregations, having met the candidate and experienced her ministry, are well convinced that Amanda Wickenheiser possesses all the classical competencies of Presbyterian ministry (especially preaching and the conduct of worship, congregational leadership and pastoral care) together with a deep spirituality and ability to build a rapport with youth and those outside the church, which are gifts that will bless and will serve Rockwood and Eden Mills well in its vision for mission and ministry.

The search committee, session and congregation of Rockwood and Eden Mills believe this to be a call from God upon the life of Amanda Wickenheiser.

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

### **Presentation of the Call**

The Presbytery Clerk presented the call including the guarantee of stipend and the number of signatures supporting the call.

Moved by Mark Richardson/Andrew Foster that the call to Amanda Wickenheiser from the Presbytery of Huron Perth, be received and considered, and that representatives of Rockwood and Eden Mills, the two congregation in the pastoral charge to which Amanda Wickenheiser is being called, be heard. CARRIED

### **Representative from Rockwood Presbyterian Church – Betty Post**

When hastily asked to be ready to say a few words to support the Call for Amanda Wickenheiser to become the minister at Rockwood Presbyterian Church, several things came to mind.

Emergent Presbytery Meeting  
Call to Rev. Amanda Wickenheiser  
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St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Kitchener,  
October 8, 2014

My first introduction to Amanda came through the name on her profile. Wickenheiser: followed by Women's Olympic Hockey, decorated player – a relative??. What a coincidence.

As I read further, I was impressed with her listed experience, especially in dealing with Seniors. What a benefit Amanda would be for our congregation, many of whom are seniors. Another strong coincidence.

Then I met Amanda. She comes from a rural background that suited her I believe to the environment and community of Rockwood.

Amanda is young, energetic, well educated, very versed in her Christian theology and possesses a kind, yet energetic and sensitive spirit that can motivate the young and comfort those in their senior years.

I believe the faces I saw when Amanda led our September 14<sup>th</sup> service of worship. Whose faces spoke volumes as to the acceptance of and the support for Amanda within our congregation as we move forward on our faith journey together.

That was followed when the Rockwood members voted 95% in favour of Amanda's coming.

We at Rockwood are in total support of Amanda as our minister at Rockwood Presbyterian Church.

**Representative from Eden Mills Presbyterian Church – Eloise Gardiner**

Thank you for the opportunity to speak today.

I was part of the Search Committee for Eden Mills and participated in the two interviews with Amanda. She was self-assured and confident then but I was most impressed when she preached for the call. She again showed a high level of maturity. She was at ease and comfortable in what must have been a wee bit of a stressful situation. She shared personal stories, was humorous and conducted a flawless, meaningful service. Amanda was very open to our questions as well. After the service the person in front of me said that she was so touched she was close to tears. Other comments from people revealed a lot of excitement and hope at the prospect of a new beginning with Amanda as our new minister.

I was impressed with her education and experience in working with seniors in long-term and palliative care. We are an aging congregation. She indicated that Pastoral Care and support are at

Emergent Presbytery Meeting  
Call to Rev. Amanda Wickenheiser  
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St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Kitchener,  
October 8, 2014

the core of her ministry. Home and Crisis Visiting were at the top of her list and they were also at the top of our list of requirement

For one summer Amanda was a student minister in a rural congregation in Cape Breton and just this summer was youth minister at Knox, Goderich.

Two more pluses: Amanda has said that she has excellent organizational skills and is a huge animal lover. Those are A pluses for me.

We would look forward to welcoming Amanda into our congregation as she guides, nurtures and walks with us in our journeys of faith and shares the Good News of the Gospel.

#### **Guarantee of Stipend**

Moved by Glen Soderholm/Gib McIlwrath that the guarantee of stipend be deemed acceptable.  
CARRIED

#### **Sustaining the Call**

Moved by Scott Sinclair/Mark Gaskin that the call be sustained as a Gospel call and transmitted to the Presbytery of Huron Perth, the presbytery from which the minister is being called. CARRIED

#### **Presentation of Call to the Presbytery of Huron Perth**

Moved by Brooke Ashfield/Johan DeSchiffart that in the event that the Clerk of Waterloo-Wellington is unable to attend the meeting of the Presbytery of Huron Perth that we request the Clerk of Huron Perth to represent the Presbytery of Waterloo-Wellington. CARRIED

#### **Induction**

Moved by Mark Richardson/Calvin Brown that if the call is sustained by the Presbytery of Huron Perth and accepted by Amanda Wickenheiser that the arrangements for the induction service be left in the hands of the moderator, clerk, and interim moderator. CARRIED  
As per standing orders the last minister inducted will preach (Rev. Scott Sinclair)

#### **Ordination of Amanda Wickenheiser**

Moved Mark Lewis/Scott Sinclair that as requested by the Presbytery of Huron Perth that the Presbytery of Huron Perth be given permission to ordain Amanda Wickenheiser in her home congregation of Knox Mitchell CARRIED

Emergent Presbytery Meeting  
Call to Rev. Amanda Wickenheiser  
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St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Kitchener,  
October 8, 2014

**Edict of Induction**

The Edict of Induction is read in the calling congregation two weeks prior to the induction. It will be prepared by the Clerk and a signed copy of the edict be returned to the Clerk before the Induction Service.

**Offering at Induction**

As per the standing orders of presbytery the offering received at the induction service will be used for the ongoing work of the presbytery.

**NEXT MEETING**

The Moderator announced that the regular meeting of the Presbytery of Waterloo-Wellington will be held as scheduled on Tuesday, November 11, 2013 at Knox Church, Conn.

**ADJOURNMENT AND BENEDICTION**

The meeting adjourned on motion of Calvin Brown. The Moderator closed with a special prayer and the laying on of hands for the upcoming surgery of the Clerk. He then pronounced the Benediction.

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Moderator

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Clerk