

Westminster Presbytery **Regular Meeting Held at Como Lake United Church Tues. February 6, 2007**

Present: (lay) Rob Berkowski, Louise Best, Lois Brown, Carole Cox, Donna Dawson, Ralph Danbert, Ross Dunning, Marian Elliott, Fred Nienaber, Pamela Jeffery, Sue Kellas, Sue Leest, Jean MacLeod, Sheila McCall, Marilyn McCutcheon, Trudy Mile, Leanne Mill, Doug Miller, Cattarina Patrice, Marie Paul, Leenane Shiels, Jo Shearer, Angela Stevens

(Ministry personnel) Charles Ahn, Richard Bott, Bruce Cowburn, Mary Duncan, Brenda Faust, Kevin Hegseth, Helen Hobbs, Kim Horwood, Ian Macdonald, Rick Newbury, Paulette Phillips, Ernie Roberts, Bethan Theunissen, Barbara Tunnicliffe, Ria Van Holten, Frank Ward, Maggie Watts-Hammond

(Visitors): Sandra Dunning, Brenda Biggs, Muriel Cook,

Regrets: Dave Anderson, Janet Babey, Carole Finch, Kimiko Karpoff, Scott Turnbrook,

Dinner: Grace was offered and dinner served. Jean thanked the ladies for the delicious meal.

Authority: The meeting of Westminster Presbytery of the United Church of Canada was convened at the call of the chair Jean McLeod at Como Lake United Church, Coquitlam B. C. at 6:20 p.m. A Quorum was present.

Worship Paulette Phillips and Bruce Cowburn conducted a meaningful worship that focused on the women who lost their lives in the downtown East Side.

Corresponding Privileges: Visitors were introduced.

Motion 11/2007 Moved and Seconded (Ralph Danbert/Mary Duncan) That corresponding privileges be granted to visitors. **Carried**

Agenda

Motion 12/2007 Moved and Seconded (Ross Dunning/Doug Throop) That we adopt the agenda as amended. **Carried**

Minutes

Motion 13/2007 Moved and Seconded (Richard Bott/Donna Dawson) That we approve the minutes of the regular meeting of December 5, 2006 noting a correction page 43/2006 **Chaplaincy** The building plans for SFU have been approved by the SFU Community Trust. An application has been made to Burnaby for a building permit. **Carried**

Motion 14/2007 Moved and Seconded (Jo Shearer/Doug Throop) That we receive the executive minutes of January 17, 2007 for information. **Carried**

Joys and Concerns: Joys, concerns and various announcements were made.

Correspondence:

- 1) 2006 Statistical and Information Forms
- 2) B. C. Conference - completed forms for Jim Love - voluntary discontinued service list
- 3) B. C. Conference - Team Ministry Event March 13-15 Naramata
- 4) Request from United Church of Canada foundation for copies of presbytery minutes (fwd Fred Nienaber)
- 5) Keith Howard - Emerging Spirit Briefing
- 6) General Council Office - Foresight, the Pension Newsletter of the United Church of Canada Issue 4, 2007 available online
- 7) Advocacy and Outreach, a Research paper for Vancouver South Presbytery 2006
- 8) Ethnic Ministries Newsletter

Business Arising

Emerging Spirit Advertising campaign seems to have been responsible for an increase in requests for wedding at Hammond and an increase in requests for funerals at St. Andrew's Haney.

The Welcoming Congregations event held at Eagle Ridge Feb.3/07 was informative and well attended.

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Division and Committees

Children and Youth

Barb Tunnicliffe spoke enthusiastically about a number of upcoming events which will be posted on the web site. She thanked all those who have helped make the upcoming children's retreat a success.

Nominations

A request for a person to serve on the board of Fair Haven was made and Rick Newbury offered his name.

Motion 15/2007 Moved and seconded (Maggie Watts-Hammond/Barb Tunnicliffe) That Rick Newbury represent Westminster Presbytery on the Board of Fair Haven Homes. **Carried**

Pastoral Relations Richard Bott reporting

Motion 16/2007 Moved and seconded (Richard Bott/Fred Nienaber) That Westminster Presbytery recommend to B. C. Conference, at the request of Como Lake United Church that George Elstrand, and at the request of Shiloh-sixth Avenue United Church that Pamela Jeffery and Judy Dixon, and at the request of St. Andrew's Haney that Graham Dickie, Tineke Rijzinga, Carole Finch and Shannon Tennant, be given permission to solemnize marriages in the year 2007. **Carried**

Pastoral charges must have all applications to solemnize marriages to Presbytery by March 20/07 in order to meet Conference's March 31/07 deadline.

Motion 17/2007 Moved and seconded (Richard Bott, Doug Throop)

WHEREAS Westminster Presbytery has previously passed a motion automatically appointing a congregation's elected presbytery representative as its representative in the Session (or its equivalent) when the duly appointed or settled member of the Order of Ministry, or Lay Pastoral Minister, or Pastoral Charge Supervisor is not present (so the quorum might be met): and

WHEREAS this action allows for meetings of the Session (or its equivalent) without the knowledge of the duly appointed or settled member of the Order of Ministry, or Lay Pastoral Minister, or Pastoral Charge Supervisor, nor the 'arms-length' oversight of the Presbytery; and

WHEREAS it remains important that the Presbytery have an efficient way of appointing its representative when the duly appointed or settled member of the Order of Ministry, or Lay Pastoral Minister, or Pastoral Charge Supervisor is unable to be present -

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Westminster Presbytery allow the automatic appointment of a congregation's elected presbytery representative as its representative to the Session (or its equivalent) when the duly appointed or settled member of the Order of Ministry, or Lay Pastoral Minister, or Pastoral Charge Supervisor is not present, *only with the prior written consent of the duly appointed or settled member of the Order of Ministry, Lay Pastoral Ministry, Pastoral Charge Supervisor or Chairperson of Westminster Presbytery.* **Carried**

Richard Bott is stepping down from Como Lakes Joint Search Committee due to a conflict of interest and he will approach someone to take his place.

Queens Avenue is in transition. Robert Shoenhals, in agreement with the congregation, has left to return to his denomination in the United States. Pulpit supply will continue until an interim minister is found.

Covenanting Service for Richard Bott, St. Andrew's Haney will be held Sunday March 4 at 3:00 p.m..

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Education and Students no report

Women's Ministry Network

Marian Elliott reported that the UCW annual general meeting will be held Feb. 12, 9:30 a.m. at Como lake. Guest speaker is Carolyn Sinclair, forensic Archeologist. The Conference UCW annual meeting will be held May 25 - 27 at The Chehalis Healing Centre in Deroche. Guest Speaker is Betty Turcotte. The 45th anniversary National UCW event is this summer in Corner Brook Newfoundland. This was Marian last meeting as Women's Ministry representative and she was thanked for her contribution. Donna Dawson will take over the position.

Stewardship

Bruce Cowburn announced that M & S goals have been surpassed. Brenda Faust encouraged delegates to ensure that pastoral charge M & S commitment forms are completed on-line by March 31st.

Oversight

Donna Dawson distributed copies of the oversight three-year schedule and request that year two visits be completed by June 2007. Visits might need to be 'tailored' if the pastoral charge is in transition.

Treasurer

Bruce Cowburn listed congregations who have not indicated how they will be making their allocation payments. Monthly post-dated cheques are the preferred method. A monthly update of the budget will be posted on the web site.

Pensions

Bruce reported that the pensioners responded to a recent questionnaire and some indicated that they wished to receive presbytery minutes.

Bruce has information available on a variety of funds that pastoral charges can access. The newest fund is a Church Improvement Fund that is a matching grant of up to \$5,000. The Oxford Fund is also available for music ministry personnel.

Outreach

Doug Throop gave up update on the success of First United's fall fundraising campaign. First United also received two bequests. Bruce Cowburn indicated that the Dug Out is going through growth pains. They will celebrate a 40th Anniversary later this year.

Chaplaincy

Doug Throop reported that the public hearing and city council vote for the rezoning of the Ellesmere property has been held and passed. The congregation is preparing for a moving sale. Work has begun on the Cornerstone Building at SFU and the congregation hopes to be able to worship in their new space by Easter. Discussions are taking place with artisans to make a font and communion table. Plans are being made for a closing funeral and an opening celebration. Future plans include guest speaker Dr. Flora Wilson-Bridges and an art display. All this work has resulted in several meeting a week.

Property

Ralph Danbert indicated that discussions are taking place at Queens Avenue to sell Grace Hall.

Communications

Fred Nienaber distributed a printout of the churches and their presbytery representatives. The list was checked for accuracy and Fred will update the roll. A complete directory as a PDF can be obtained by emailing Fred at westminsterpresbytery@telus.net.

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Visioning

Ian Macdonald read Bishop Ingham's letter on climate change that challenged the Anglican Church to take action.

Motion 18/2007 Moved and seconded (Ian Macdonald/Doug Throop) That Westminster Presbytery (1) write the Premier of British Columbia supporting the request of Bishop Michael Ingham of the Anglican Diocese of New Westminster, asking that the province of British Columbia demonstrate leadership on climate change by setting binding provincial targets to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, developing programs to achieve such reductions and reporting its progress to the legislature annually and (2) That Westminster Presbytery encourage its own congregations to take positive steps to reduce their environmental footprint, reporting on these steps to the June meeting. **Carried**

Bruce Cowburn noted that the national office has an energy audit fund.

Spiritual Care Network

Mary Duncan and Brenda Faust conducted a workshop to gather input from presbyters about the direction spiritual care networking should move in. This information will be forwarded to the Conference Spiritual Care Network.

Motion 19/2007 Moved and seconded (Ross Dunning/Leanne Mills) that Westminster Presbytery' representatives to the April 16 to 18/07 Spiritual Care Network event be Brenda Faust and Doug Throop with Bethan Theunissen as alternate. **Carried**

Adjournment Doug Throop moved adjournment at 8:50 p.m.

Chair

Secretary

Executive meeting Tuesday February 20, 2007 at Deer Lake United - 1:00 pm

Next regular meeting March 6, 2007 - TBA