

Westminster Presbytery Regular Meeting Held at Ellesmere United Church, Burnaby Tuesday May 6, 2008

Present: (lay) Lois Brown, Janet Babey, Rob Berkowski, Louise Best, Barbara Copan, Carol Cox, Ross Dunning, Carole Finch, Jean Johnson, Ralph Johnston, Eileen Karyula, Sue Kellas, Marilyn McCutcheon, Doug Miller, Roger Nelson, Marj Parker, Marie Paul, Jo Shearer, David Vervaeet,

(Ministry personnel) Charles Ahn, Jan Bihl, Richard Bott, Dave Anderson, Bruce Cameron, Bruce Cowburn, Mary Duncan, Helen Hobbs, Tim Lissimore, Ian Macdonald, Rick Newbury, Bethan Theunissen, Doug Throop, Barb Tunnicliffe, Scott Turnbrook, Ria Van Holten, Ann White, Jong Chul Woo

(Visitors): Donald Copan, Kathleen Edmunds, Betty Anne Dempsey, Brian Jacinto Baybay, Becca Moughtin

Regrets: Donna Dawson, Diane Green, Jean MacLeod, Fred Nienaber, Angela Stevens, Jenna Wray, Brenda Faust, Kim Horwood, Kimiko Karpoff, Ernie Roberts,

Authority: The meeting of Westminster Presbytery of the United Church of Canada was convened at the call of the chair Mary Duncan at Ellesmere United Church, Burnaby, B. C. at 5:30 p.m. A Quorum was present.

Welcome and Dinner

Doug Throop and Eleanor Lidiard, Chair of the Board welcomed us to Ellesmere's new home. Dave Anderson said grace and a delicious meal was served. Mary Duncan thanked the people of Ellesmere for their hospitality.

Worship

Doug Throop led worship that included Communion.

Agenda

Motion 84/2008 Moved and seconded (Ross Dunning/Rob Berkowski) That we adopt the agenda as circulated. **Carried**

Corresponding Privileges

Motion 85/2008 Moved and seconded (Carole Finch/Barb. Copan) That corresponding privileges be granted to visitors. **Carried**

Joys and Sorrows were shared. Prayers were offered by Tim Lissimore.

Minutes

Motion 86/2008 Moved and seconded (Jo Shearer/Ria Van Holten) That we approve the minutes of the meeting of Westminster Presbytery held April 1, 2008. **Carried**

Motion 87/2008 Moved and seconded (Ann White/Ian Macdonald) That we receive the executive minutes of March 31, April 1 and April 18, 2008 for information. **Carried**

Business Arising from Minutes

Task Group on Budgeting

Carol Cox and Jan Bihl distributed a report of the work completed to date (Appendix A). Time for discussion and feedback was provided. Work will continue at the September meeting on how we budget.

Queens Avenue

Richard Bott reported that a Presbytery Commission consisting of Richard Bott, Mary Duncan, Sue Kellas, Jean Macleod and Bruce Cowburn (alternate) will be meeting with a mediator commencing May 12/2008 to discuss the disbanding of Queens Avenue. It was also reported that Queens Avenue has made the final payment of the termination agreement to Wendy Read.

Business Arising from Minutes (cont'd)Ellesmere's financial situation

A written report from Bruce Cowburn was received and referred to the executive. No irregularities were found in Ellesmere's financial records and copies of the pastoral charge minutes provide information about the construction over runs.

Treasurer/Trustees Workshop

85 people attended the recent workshop. Information was shared on a variety of topics including the centralized payroll system.

Correspondence**Correspondence**

1. National Office re Statistical Forms not received - action by secretary
2. Completed transfer for Wendy Read - file
3. Residential Schools newsletter UPDATE - file
4. Wendy Read, repayment of loan - to Treasurer
5. Bethan Theunissen re Remits - distributed
6. Dal McCrindle, correction to Executive minutes re Marriage Register requirements - read
7. VST Summer lecture series - distributed
8. Bruce Cowburn, financial review of Ellesmere United Church - executive
9. South Burnaby United, not using centralized payroll - file
10. Deer Lake United, not using centralized payroll - file

Announcements

An opportunity was provided for members to announce coming events in their congregations.

Remits

General Council Commissioners Bethan Theunissen and Jo Shearer presented six remits for the Presbytery's consideration.

Remit #1 - Does the Presbytery agree that the Basis of Union sections 5.10.2, 6.4, and 6.4.4 should be amended to reflect the policy adopted by the Thirty-Eighth General Council (2003) whereby those persons serving as Lay Preachers would thenceforward be referred to as Licensed Lay Worship Leaders? **Yes**

Remit #2 - Does the Presbytery agree that Designated Lay Ministers who have been recognized by the Conference should remain members of the Presbytery upon retirement and that the Basis of Union sections 6.0 and 6.2 should be changed and a new section 6.2.4 "who at the time of their retirement were serving as Designated lay Ministers who have been recognized by the Conference" be added? **Yes**

Remit #3 - Does the Presbytery agree that lay Past Presidents or Past Leading Elders of Conferences, whose congregational membership is within the jurisdiction of a Presbytery within the Conference that they served as President or Leading Elder, should be accorded membership in Presbytery, and the Basis of Union section 6.0 and 6.2 should be changed and a new section 6.2.11 "who are Past Presidents or Past Leading Elders of a Conference, whose congregational membership is within the jurisdiction of the Presbytery, and which Presbytery is within the Conference that they served as President or Leading Elder;" be added? **No**

Remit #4 - Does the Presbytery agree that the Basis of Union should be amended to reflect the ruling that the position of Chairperson of a Permanent Committee of the Executive of the General Council is equivalent to that of Chairperson of a former General Council and that the Basis of Union sections 8.0 and 8.3 be changed to reflect this? **Yes**

Remits (cont'd)

Remit #5 - Does the Presbytery agree that the Basis of Union section 8.0 and 8.3 should be amended to reflect the ruling that there is no staff position in the restructured General Council office equivalent to that of any of the former General Council Secretaries that would be appropriately designated to serve as an ex officio commission. **Yes**

Remit #6 - Does the Presbytery agree that the following persons should be made ex officio Commissioners to the General Council: 1) the persons elected by the Conferences to serve on the Executive of the General Council (currently 26 person, two elected by each Conference); 2) the President-Elect or Leading Elder-Elect of each Conference; and 3) ten members elected by the General Council to serve on the Executive of the General Council (other than those elected by the conferences to serve on the Executive of the General Council, or the Chairperson of each General Council Division); and that section 8.0, 8.1, 8.1.1, 8.1.2, 8.2 and 8.3 be amended and a new sections 8.2.3 and 8.3.1 be added? **Yes**

Divisions and Committees

Communications no report

Nominations

Carole Finch read the names of those persons nominated to fill vacancies on the Presbytery Executive. Mary Duncan called for further nominations

Motion 88/2008 Moved and Seconded (Carole Finch/Tim Lissimore) That Jan Bihl chair Oversight, Carol Cox and Ruth Stebbing co-chair Education and Students and Dave Anderson chair Presbytery at the rise of Conference (May 25, 2008). **Carried**

Stewardship

Bruce Cowburn reported that eight pastoral charges have not completed their M & S commitment forms. Stewardship will be reconsidering the use of envelopes for givings to outreach projects as presbytery's response for dinner.

Visioning

Ian Macdonald distributed a report concerning East Burnaby United Churches pending closure.

Motion 89/2008 Moved and seconded (Ian Macdonald/Jo Shearer) 1) That Westminster Presbytery, having accepted the decision in March 2008 of East Burnaby United Church to cease to exist following their final worship service in June 2008, and having received their request to Conference at the April meeting that their lease with the Montessori School be honoured, now forward the congregations requests to B. C. Conference for consideration and action. 2) That along with our support for the congregation's request, we include the Presbytery's hope that Conference will agree to allow Westminster Presbytery to establish a "discernment" group in the fall of 2008 to "re-imagine" the presence of the United Church of Canada in the area of East Burnaby. 3) That, while a determination of East Burnaby's future role is being considered, that monies from rentals pay for property management, East Burnaby's Presbytery allocation and the expenses of the discernment committee. 4) That Westminster Presbytery, through the Vision committee ensure that all requirements of the manual involved in the transfer of trusteeship for the property be completed. **Carried**

Pastoral Relations

Motion 90/2008 Moved and seconded (Richard Bott/Ian Macdonald) That Westminster Presbytery transfer the membership of Paulette Phillips to Halifax Presbytery, Maritime Conference effective immediately.

Carried

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Motion 91/2008 Moved and seconded (Richard Bott/Tim Lissimore) That Westminster Presbytery reappoint Perry Richard Newbury as ordained supply at West Burnaby United Church 40 (forty) hours per week from July 1, 2008 to June 30 2009 with the following terms:

annual salary of \$37,686 (thirty seven thousand, six hundred eighty six dollars)

annual housing allowance of \$24,240 (twenty four thousand, two hundred forty dollars)

annual basic telephone of \$480 (four hundred eighty dollars)

annual financial support for study of \$1,200 (one thousand two hundred dollars)

and all other terms according to the manual.

Carried

Treasurer

Bruce Cowburn distributed the year-end unaudited financial statement for 2007 (Appendix B). It was reported that monthly financial statements are available on the secured portion of the Presbytery Web Site.

Motion 92/2008 Moved and seconded (Bruce Cowburn/Ralph Johnston) That Westminster Presbytery receive the year end Financial Statement for 2007 for information

Carried

Education and Students

Tim Lissimore reported that a covenanting service will be held for Leenane Shiels at Shiloh-sixth Avenue in the near future.

Motion 93/2008 Moved and seconded (Tim Lissimore/Scott Turnbrook) That Westminster Presbytery receive Min-Goo Kang as a candidate for admission into the United Church of Canada.

Carried

Motion 94/2008 Moved and seconded (Tim Lissimore/Scott Turnbrook) That Westminster Presbytery empower the Education and Student's committee to appoint two presbyters to the Appointment Advisory Committee for Min-Goo Kang.

Carried

Oversight

In order to accommodate changes in our presbytery it is necessary to re-configure the zonal clusters for future oversight visits into groups of four.

Proposed Oversight Model 2008 - 2009

West Burnaby	South Burnaby	Korean United	Shiloh-Sixth Avenue
Deer Lake	Ellesmere	Willingdon Heights	Cliff Avenue
IOCO	St. Andrew's Prt. Moody	Como Lake	Eagle Ridge
Trinity	Pitt Meadows	Hammond	St. Andrew's Haney

Oversight is an essential task of presbytery. A visitation handbook is available on the presbytery web site to assist in making the visit productive. The following visits should be completed by June:

Pastoral Charge to be Visited

Trinity, Port Coquitlam
Queens Avenue ?
Cliff Avenue
Eagle Ridge
Shiloh-sixth Avenue

Visiting Team

Hammond and Pitt Meadows
West Burnaby and East Burnaby
Ellesmere and Deer Lake
Como Lake and St. Andrew's Haney
Willingdon Heights and Korean United

Children and Youth

Barb Tunnicliffe welcomed Brian Jacinto Baybay, West Burnaby's interim youth minister. The recent Youth retreat was an amazing event with many spin-offs including a possible trip to Toronto and a joint mission trip to Honduras, Bermuda or Guatemala. Becca Moghtin, Robert Berkowski and Jessie Visser will attend Youth at Conference. More space is available - contact Conference Office. The Young Adults are planning a fall retreat. Fundraisers for Cuba include a chicken sale and a magic show - details on the web site.

Carol Cox and Marie Paul agreed to help interview for the short-term presbytery youth ministry position

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Chaplaincy

Doug Throop reported that the B. C. Conference Chaplains met to look at criteria for their positions. Doug will be attending the National gathering of Chaplains.

Property No report

Outreach

Bruce Cowburn reported that "Our Place Ministry" in Victoria is open. This new facility replaces the Upper Room and Open Door ministries. Read all about it in the Observer.

New Business

B. C. Conference Governance Model

Conference Executive rep Carole Finch distributed information on the review of the Conference Governance Model. She urged presbyters to read the complete report on the Conference web site. The Conference Executive is focusing on being intentional with regard to "encouraging communication from the Presbyteries and the Councils (Native Ministries, Finance, Ministry Personnel, Ethnic, Youth and Young Adults) regarding their vision for the Conference and their particular needs." Carole welcomes feed back on this work prior to the fall meeting of Conference Executive.

Spiritual Care Network

Richard Bott reported on the successful retreat held on Bowen Island. Brenda Faust was thanked for organizing the retreat. The next retreat will be held November 12 to 14, 2008. Ministry personnel are encouraged to consider what they are doing around their own personal spiritual care, who they would turn to in a crisis and what presbytery can do to support spiritual care.

Adjournment The meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m and Tim Lissimore closed with prayer.

Chair

Secretary

Next Regular Meeting: Tuesday June 3, 2008 at 5:30 pm
"A Celebration of Ministries for those leaving Westminster Presbytery"

**St. Andrew's Haney United Church,
22165 Dewdney Trunk Road, Maple Ridge
604 463-9611**

Next Executive Meeting: Tuesday May 20/08 at Eagle Ridge United - 12:30 p.m.