

Westminster Presbytery Retreat Meeting Held At CNIB Lodge, Bowen Island, September 4 & 5, 2008

Present: Dave Anderson, Gerhard Bihl, Jan Bihl, Richard Bott, Lois Brown, Bruce Cameron, Bruce Cowburn, Carol Cox, Donna Dawson, Ross Dunning, Kathleen Edmunds, Brenda Faust, Carole Finch, Kevin Hegseth, Kim Horwood, Ralph Johnston, Eileen Karyula, Sue Kellas, Julie Lebrun, Sue Leest, Jean MacLeod, Marilyn McCutcheon, Becca Moughtin, Fred Nienaber, Ernie Roberts, Jo Shearer, Davie Vervaet, Ann White

Regrets: Charles Ahn, Ian Macdonald, Rick Newbury, Doug Throop, Barb. Tunnicliffe, Scott Turnbrook, Jong-Chul Woo,

Visitors: Kim McMillan

Quorum present

Chairperson: Dave Anderson Secretary: Sue Kellas

Authority: The executive meeting of Westminster Presbytery of The United Church of Canada was convened by Dave Anderson at CNIB Lodge, Bowen Island on September 4, 2008.

Call to Order: Dave Anderson called the meeting to order on Thursday September 4, 2008 at 4:45 pm.

Opening: Following an icebreaker activity on the lawn, those present broke into small groups for a time of Biblical reflection and prayer.

Dinner: A delicious meal was served by the staff of the CNIB Lodge.

First Working Session - Thursday

Outcomes and Agenda

A show of hand indicated consensus on the document circulated outlining desired outcomes and the schedule for the two day retreat.

Purpose Statement

We reviewed the Purpose Statement, Assumptions and Philosophy of Ministry document that was accepted December 4, 2007 (Motion 165/2007 page 56, 2007) It was agreed to revise the statement by adding the word "oversee" so that "The purpose of Westminster Presbytery is to empower, support and oversee congregations, ministry personnel and special ministries, as they raise up disciples of Jesus Christ."

Restructuring Proposal

Dave Anderson presented a restructuring model proposal for Westminster Presbytery (Appendix A). It was agreed to consider this model that divides the work of presbytery into the following categories: Pastoral Relations, Oversight, Spiritual Care Network, Congregational Support (formerly Vision), Education and Students, Communications and Executive.

Second Working Session - Friday AM

Small Group Reflection

The morning began with a time of Biblical reflection and prayer in small groups.

Purpose Statements for each proposed committee

Participants worked in small groups to design purpose statements for each proposed committee under the new Presbytery structure.

Third Working Session - Friday PM

Following the lunch break, the proposed model, with purpose statements was presented. It was agreed to move forward using the new purpose statements.

Development of Terms of Reference

Participants were asked to select a committee to serve on and then work with the chair of the committee to develop terms of reference, responsibilities and tasks for that committee.

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Following the dinner break, each committee presented their terms of reference, responsibilities and tasks.

A show of hands indicated consensus to proceed with this new format for doing the work of Presbytery. Dave Anderson will compile the information into a policy book.

Frequency and length of Presbytery meeting

Under the new model, committees can proceed to do most of their work without permission from presbytery. It was agreed to hold a regular presbytery meeting on October 7. The new model will be presented to those unable to attend the retreat at 5:30 pm. Dinner will be at 6:30 pm and then the new committees will meet. The committees were reminded that they must keep minutes and prepare a budget.

Those presbyters who did not attend the meeting should be prepared to sign up for a committee. The current committee membership is as follows:

Pastoral Relations: Chair: Richard Bott Members: Sue Kellas, Sue Leest

Congregational Oversight: Chair: Jan Bihl Members: Jo Shearer, Lois Brown, Carole Finch

Congregational Support: Chair: Ian Macdonald Members: Ernie Roberts, David Vervae, Ralph Johnston, Eileen Karyula, Marilyn McCutcheon, Donna Dawson, Bruce Cameron, Sue Leest

Spiritual Care Network: Brenda Faust, Ann White, Julie Lebrun, Richard Bott

Education and Students: Chairs: Carol Cox & Ruth Stebbing Members: Kevin Hegseth, Kim Horwood, Jean MacLeod

Communications: Chair: Fred Nienaber Web Person: Ross Dunning

The next regularly scheduled meeting of presbytery will be in December to pass the budget for 2009.

Announcements

Dave Anderson thanked Kim McMillan for facilitating our retreat. He thanked the participants for sharing their gifts and keeping to the task.

Richard Bott reported that the mediation commissions working with Queens Avenue United Church have reached an agreement that will allow the ministry at Queens to continue under the supervision of presbytery. The decision to disband the congregation has been rescinded and the appeal set aside. Hold Queens in prayer.

Brenda Faust has announced her retirement. She will be married January 10th. Watch for more details.

Donna Dawson announced that Gabrielle McLarty has been appointed to the part time position of Children, Youth and Family Ministry at Ellesmere.

Donna Dawson invited all women in the presbytery to attend the Welcome Back Lunch at South Burnaby United Church on Saturday September 20th at noon.

Motion 120/2008 Moved and seconded (Richard Bott/Jean MacLeod) That Carol Cox, Bruce Cowburn, Barb Tunnicliffe and Becca Moughtin serve on the Presbytery Youth Ministry Needs Assessment Committee.

Carried

Adjournment The meeting adjourned on September 5/08 at 9:20 pm

Chair

Secretary

**Next Regular Meeting Tuesday October 7/08 Trinity United Church
2211 Prairie, Port Coquitlam 604 942-0022**