

ALGOMA PRESBYTERY

THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA

August 20, 2009

EXECUTIVE MEETING

2009-10

4

Algoma Presbytery Executive met at 12 noon on Thursday, August 20, 2009 at Bruce Mines United Church, Bruce Mines, Ontario. The meeting was led by Chair Rev. Nancy Ferguson and a quorum was present.

ATTENDANCE:

Ordered Ministry: Larry Burton, Nancy Ferguson, Helen Smith

Laity: Leone Hamilton, Ailsa Hanson, Norma Orr, Heddys Stevenson, Harry Stewart

Regrets: Thom McDonough, Phil Miller, Betty Pretty, Doreen Sproule, Clare Walker

OPENING DEVOTIONS: After a brief time of check-in, Nancy called the meeting to order with a reading from Jeremiah and an explanation of how we as a Presbytery are being 'wedged' – a term that comes from the process of potting – or pounded into a new shape. She then offered a prayer that had been used at General Council.

PREVIOUS MINUTES: Moved, seconded and carried that the Presbytery Executive approves the minutes of June 4, 2009 as corrected. (Note: The motion on page 1 under "Minutes" should read "...that Presbytery Executive approves the minutes of March 19, 2009 as corrected.")

CORRESPONDENCE: Moved, seconded and carried that the correspondence be accepted. See Appendix A.

COMMITTEE REPORTS AND MOTIONS FOR ACTION

Outreach: Heddys Stevenson

The Outreach Committee has received a Mission Support Grant application from Manitouwadge, which it will review and present to the September meeting of the full Court for recommendation to London Conference.

Education and Students: Helen Smith

- **Moved, seconded and carried** that the Observer subscriptions for Algoma Presbytery be renewed.

United Church Women: Norma Orr

On Saturday May 2, 2009 we held our General Gathering at Echo Bay United Church with 23 women attending. Our guest speaker was Mary Eaton who told us many interesting things about bees and beekeeping. Clare Walker gave us highlights of the Conference Annual United Church Women meeting held in St. Paul's United Church, Sarnia on April 19-20. Norma Orr was presented with a Life Membership from Algoma Presbyterial United Church Women.

An Executive meeting was held on May 4, 2009 at Willowgrove United Church. Norma and Clare reported on a visit they made to Harmony St. Marks United Church Women on the 21st of April, 2009. Plans were made for the next General Gathering to be held Wednesday, September 23, 2009 from 3:30 until 8:30 pm at Bruce Mines United Church. Commissioners to General Council are being invited to come and share their experiences as Commissioners.

Pastoral Relations: Leone Hamilton

East Korah Maxwell continues their search; a congregational meeting will be held there following worship on August 30.

Faith Formation/Communications: Larry Burton

A letter will be going out soon to the participants of the Lay Worship Leaders course outlining the agenda and the required homework for the session scheduled the first weekend in November.

Finance and Administration

- **Treasurer's Report: Phil Miller** (by e-mail)
Algoma Presbytery finances are in good order.

FOLLOW UP ON JUNE 4 ACTION PLAN: All items completed or in process.

OLD BUSINESS

- **Focus on the Gay Family Conference** – Harry Stewart provided an update on the conference registration, publicity and funding to date.
Moved, seconded and carried that Algoma Presbytery Executive approve the application for funding in the amount of \$10,000 from Westminster College Foundation.

NEW BUSINESS

- **Status of Appeals** – The status of the two appeals filed by Rev. Norine St. Jean were shared. The Presbytery Chair and Chair of Pastoral Relations will draft a response to the notice of appeal from Conference. **Presbytery Executive will meet at noon on Thursday, September 3 at Emmanuel United Church to review the draft.** Algoma Presbytery's response must be received by Conference by September 10.
- **September Presbytery Meeting** – A draft agenda was reviewed for the September meeting and approximate times allocated. Committees are requested to have motions to the Presbytery Secretary at least a week in advance of the meeting so that they can be prepared for projection.
- **November Presbytery Meeting** – Program ideas included Joint Needs Assessment Committee and/or Ministry and Personnel workshops; reports from General Council Commissioners; and some discernment work as a follow-up to the visioning done in the Presbytery.

ADJOURNMENT: Larry Burton led the group in an embodied prayer and the meeting adjourned at 3:40 p.m.

NEXT EXECUTIVE MEETING: 12 noon, September 3, 2009 at Emmanuel United Church.

APPENDIX A

CORRESPONDENCE

Received since June 4, 2009

1. E-mail from Doug Heggart dated **June 11, 2009** re: St. Andrew's United Church, Blind River addressed to the Chair. Replied on June 26, 2009. *Response on file.*
2. Registered mail from London Conference dated **July 6, 2009** re: Notice of Appeal – N. St. Jean vs. Algoma Presbytery. *On file.*
3. E-mail from Doug Heggart dated **July 7, 2009** re: St. Andrew's United Church, Blind River addressed to the Chair. Replied on July 15, 2009. *Response on file.*
4. Human Rights Tribunal Notice of Application re: File No. 2009-02712-I, Rev. Norine St. Jean vs. St. Andrew's United Church (Blind River), Algoma Presbytery, and London Conference dated **July 14, 2009**. *On file.*
5. Nora Sanders, General Secretary, General Council dated **July 22, 2009** re: UC08 Annual Report. *On file.*
6. E-mail from Doug Heggart dated **July 22, 2009** re: St. Andrew's United Church, Blind River. *On file.*
7. Copies of London Conference “*Bridge*”, *for distribution at September Presbytery.*
8. Rev. Heather McLean, Acting Executive Secretary, London Conference dated **July 24, 2009** re: Appellant's Statement in the matter of Rev. Norine St. Jean vs. Algoma Presbytery. *On file.*
9. E-mail from Hicks Morley Hamilton Stewart Storie LLP dated **August 18, 2009** and attached copy of the respondents' Response to an Application under Section 34, File No. 2009-02712-I (The United Church et al and N. St. Jean). *On file.*