

ALGOMA PRESBYTERY
of The United Church of Canada

February 18 and 19, 2011

PRESBYTERY MEETING

2010-11

22

The full court of Algoma Presbytery met on Friday, February 18 and Saturday, February 19, 2011 at East Korah Maxwell United Church, Sault Ste. Marie, beginning at 5:30 p.m. on Friday. Chair Nancy Ferguson led the meeting and a quorum was present.

ATTENDANCE

Order of Ministry: Larry Burton, Nancy Ferguson, Rolly MacLean, Thom McDonough, Bruce McLeish, Phil Miller, Laurie Milito, Janet Norman, Eun-Joo Park, John Porter, Betty Pretty, Jan Schenell, Helen Smith, Doreen Sproule, Don White

Laity: Bonnie Beaupré, Joyce Biggs, Fred Bright, Kim Evoy, Jane Graham, Leone Hamilton, Janet Jones, Sharon Lane, Verna Lapish, Wayne MacLean, Robin MacLeod, Marnie McDonough, Rhona McLarty, Betty Mills, Brian Mundell, Nancy Mundell, Wilma Oliver, Norma Orr, Tom Orr, David Root, Heddys Stevenson, Clare Weatherby, Ailsa Hanson

Regrets: Betty Allen, Lorna Chiupka, Barb Frasier, Sandy Fulcher, Linda Hedderson, Lavine Livesey, Diane Marshall, Bonnie Rayner, Linda Stemp, Paul Stemp, Clare Walker

Guests: Rev. Judith Gilliland, Congregational Futures Development Minister, London Conference; Frances Glover; Jan Miller

WELCOME

At 5:30 p.m., Chair Nancy Ferguson welcomed everyone to the meeting. Helen Smith added her words of welcome to East Korah Maxwell and Judith Gilliland brought greetings from her colleagues in the London Conference Office. Helen asked the court to “let go of cares and concerns” and led in prayer. After dinner (during which Phil Miller was ‘roasted’), the Chair recognized Fran Glover as a guest, and welcomed new Presbyter Clare Weatherby from Central United. Nancy then called the meeting to order with the following words: *“In the name of Jesus Christ, the one true Head of the Church, and by the authority vested in me as Algoma Presbytery Chair, I now declare this meeting constituted for the transaction of such business as may properly come before it.”*

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

There was consensus that the agenda be adopted as amended. (The Finance report was moved to Friday evening; 2011 Conference Local Arrangements Report and Camp McDougall Update were moved to Saturday morning. The date on the agenda was changed from 2010 to 2011 and several items were added under New Business: the Assessment proposal, accessibility training, the February meeting schedule, updates from the Conference Executive meeting.)

MINUTES

Moved, seconded and carried that the Presbytery minutes of November 19 and 20, 2010 be approved, and the Presbytery Executive minutes of October 21, 2010 be received for information.

CORRESPONDENCE

In accordance with the requirements of the new “Admission to the Order of Ministry” Policy, page 15 of the Handbook of Procedures, the following names were read to the court:

Ministers to be recommended by Admission:

Name	Denomination	Recommending Presbytery
Basil Coward	Moravian Church	Toronto Southeast
Chang Han Kim	Presbyterian Church in the Republic of Korea	Calgary
Craig Stephen Miller	Presbyterian Church USA	Assiniboine
Douglas Du Charme	Presbyterian Church in Canada	Toronto Southeast
Erasmus Johannes Van Zyl	Presbyterian/Congregational Church of South Africa	South Alberta
Eun-Joo Park	Presbyterian Church in Canada	London Conference
John E. Porter	United Church of Christ USA	London Conference
Kathleen Ann Petrie	Baptist Convention of Ontario & Quebec	Seaway Valley
LeAnn Blackert	The United Church of Christ USA	Kamloops-Okanagan
Margaret Roberts	Evangelical Lutheran Church of Guyana	Toronto Southwest
Mathias M. Ross	Church of North India	Saskatchewan Conference
Rose Ann Vita	Evangelical Lutheran Church in America	Niagara
Scott Douglas Gale	Roman Catholic Church	Cambrian
Therese Descamp	The United Church of Christ	Kootenay

Minister to be recommended for Re-admission:

Name	Recommending Presbytery
Edward Firmin Barbezat	Montreal

Moved, seconded and carried that the correspondence be accepted as dealt with. (See Appendix A.)

COMMITTEE REPORTS AND MOTIONS FOR ACTION**Finance and Administration: Fred Bright**

- Fred distributed and reviewed with the Court the Treasurer’s year-end financial statement (Appendix B).

- There was discussion on the issue of the request by the Welcome Friend Association for Presbytery sponsorship of the “Focus on the Gay Family” 2011 Conference, first brought to the November 2010 Presbytery. It was agreed that Algoma Presbytery will not allow Welcome Friend to use Presbytery’s charitable tax number as they requested. Second, while Presbytery is supportive of the conference, further consideration and decisions were tabled until the following morning as to the level of financial support, and what “sponsorship” actually entails.

PRESENTATION BY JUDITH GILLILAND

Judith described her background and talked about the work she is doing and her areas of responsibility in the Conference Office. She spoke of alternate ways of being and doing ‘church’ and brought us finally to the important questions that need to be considered if in our faith communities we want different results than we’re currently getting: Who is God calling us to be? What is God calling us to do? How do we respond to God’s call? She reminded us that within the Presbytery we have gifts and skills that can be shared, e.g. we have at least four clergy with Interim training (Larry Burton, Phil Miller, Betty Pretty, Paul Stemp). And she suggested that we could spend more time in meditation, and devote more time and energy developing and sharing our faith.

WORSHIP AND COMMUNION (Saturday)

Able assisted by her choir and their director, Helen Smith led the court in worship using hymns and a series of readings and scripture from “This is the Day” (Wild Goose Press). Helen and Judith Gilliland presided in a celebration of communion.

Two new Presbyters were introduced to the Court: Wayne MacLean from Goulais River and Rhona McLarty from Central United in Sault Ste. Marie.

COMMITTEE REPORTS AND MOTIONS FOR ACTION (Continued)

Outreach: Heddys Stevenson

- Rev. Deborah Elliott and Donald Gibson, who have been serving The Moravian Church of Nicaragua since 2009, will be returning home to London Conference for a Mission Interpretation Tour following this year’s Annual Meeting. They will be in Algoma for two days only: May 30th and 31st. John Wesley offered to host them on Monday the 30th, and Echo Bay on Tuesday the 31st.
- The Hope Book is available for gifting all year, not just at Christmas, and can be downloaded by going to the London Conference website.
- Heddys and her team gave the court an overview of KAIROS and the work it does at home and around the world, and for more information regarding The United Church of Canada’s involvement with KAIROS, they referred us to the UCC’s website.
- London Conference M&S givings totalled \$2,829,458 in 2010, of which \$181,424 was sent from Algoma. \$12,700 was raised by the UCW units of Algoma Presbyterial.
- Heddys asked for the Court’s assistance in identifying Algoma’s three most important social issues for a national social justice survey. While there are many, the three listed were poverty and lack of affordable housing, health care, and cost of fuel.

Pastoral Care and Oversight: Rolly MacLean

Because of the inclement weather, the Committee was unable to meet or bring a report. Rolly will be consulting with Judith Gilliland.

Pastoral Relations: Leone Hamilton

- Eun-Joo Park and Kim Evoy are the two Presbytery representatives on the Joint Needs Assessment Committee for Willowgrove United Church.
- **Moved, seconded and carried** that Algoma Presbytery accept the report of the Joint Needs Assessment Committee for the Bellingham/Iron Bridge Pastoral Charge.
- **Moved, seconded and carried** that Algoma Presbytery declare a vacancy at Bellingham/Iron Bridge Pastoral Charge for the purpose of calling a part-time (20 hours/week) ordained, diaconal or designated lay minister, effective July 1, 2011.
- **Moved, seconded and carried** that Algoma Presbytery accept the report of the Joint Needs Assessment Committee for the Blind River Pastoral Charge.
- **Moved, seconded and carried** that Algoma Presbytery declare a vacancy at Blind River Pastoral Charge for the purpose of calling a part-time (27 hours/week) ordained or diaconal minister, effective July 1, 2011.
- **Moved, seconded and carried** that Algoma Presbytery recommend the re-appointment of Helen Smith, DLM, to the East Korah Maxwell Pastoral Charge from July 1, 2011 to June 30, 2012 under the following conditions:

Salary	\$18,420.50
Housing	6,000.00
Telephone	600.00
Continuing Education	<u>625.00</u>
Total	\$25,645.50

Travel @ 41¢ per km as logged
 Vacation per United Church policy
 (There was one declaration of conflict.)
- A request was made that part-time ministry and its affect on clergy be studied and discussed at a future meeting.

Nominations: Helen Smith

- Thom McDonough was acclaimed Chair-Elect for Algoma Presbytery at the rise of Conference 2011. It was noted that Wilda Ryckman, who will be coming to Presbytery as of this September, has expressed a willingness to let her name stand for Chair-Elect in 2012.
- Helen reported that she still has no nominations for the vacant Treasurer's position, and if the court is unable to fill the vacancy, a bookkeeper may be hired. It was suggested that perhaps we should have position descriptions.
- Helen is still trying to track down the bylaws for the Church Extension Council.

2011 Conference Local Arrangements Report: Janet Norman

Arrangements are well in hand for the Conference in May. The Committee is made of Janet Norman, Chair; Bruce McLeish, Treasurer; Joyce Biggs; and Marnie McDonough, UCW Rep. Janet advised that she would need people to help set up the ballroom at the hotel, and to greet the buses as they arrive. She will also need meal ticket checkers, and roving hospitality folk. She made a request for bunches of 10 crayons in elastics to be brought to the next Presbytery meeting.

Camp McDougall Update: John Porter

The 2010 camping year ended 'in the black.' Staff has been hired for this coming season, with the exception of a cook. Advocates are still needed in all preaching points. Four communities have 'adopted' cabins: Thessalon, Iron Bridge, Elliott Lake and Emmanuel United in Sault Ste. Marie. John offered copies of a PowerPoint presentation, which shows the cabins and describes the maintenance needs. John again made a plea for people to fill the various vacancies on the Camp Board and on committees.

Faith Formation and Communications: Eun-Joo Park

Eun-Joo is still working on the "Covenanting for Life in Creation" program. She reminded the court of the Children At Conference program, and urged Presbyters to encourage the children of their congregations to register. She also reminded Presbyters to get their church profile updates in to Nancy Mundell by the end of February.

Education and Students: Helen Smith

- Interviews have been completed for the Licensed Lay Worship Leaders. **Moved, seconded and carried** that the following be approved as Licensed Lay Worship Leaders for the year 2011: Jane Graham, Marnie McDonough, Brian Mundell, Nancy Mundell, Gordon Stone, Margaret Tait, and Wilda Ryckman.
- Apologies were extended to Fran Glover, who has been attending the LLWL training and whose name and contact information should have been on the list of trainees that was circulated around the Presbytery. Fran also needs opportunities to preach, particularly before the next training session in April.

Moved, seconded and carried that Algoma Presbytery accept all Committee reports.

CONFERENCE BOUNDARIES REPORT

On behalf of the Ad Hoc Committee, Marnie McDonough gave an introductory overview and the Chair suggested that the court break into small groups to discuss the draft report. When the court reconvened, a wide-ranging discussion about the issue followed. Although some Presbyters felt that we have already done an assessment of who we are as a Presbytery and what makes us unique, others felt that in the same way congregations are encouraged to review their ministries and missions every five to seven years using a joint needs assessment process, it would be worthwhile for Presbytery to follow the report's suggested process.

- **Moved, seconded and carried** that Algoma Presbytery receive the Interim Report of the Ad Hoc Conference Boundaries Committee. (There was one opposed.)

Having received the report and thanked the Ad Hoc Committee for all their work, it was suggested that the court take some time to brainstorm the Presbytery's strengths and challenges. (See Appendix C.)

These lists will be circulated to all Presbyters to review as individuals and with their congregations to decide what we need to work on and what we believe are our priorities. These will be brought back to the next full court meeting. Judith Gilliland suggested that we could use some of the questions from the Congregational Renewal Document (found on The United Church website) as conversation starters: “What are our values?” and “What is our vision?” In the meantime, it was also suggested that Presbyters review *The Manual* to read up on the points listed in Step One of the “New Approach.”

NEW BUSINESS

London Conference Assessment Formula Proposal

Chair Nancy Ferguson reviewed the Notice of Motion proposing a change of the assessment formula from the London Conference Executive meeting of February 16. There was concern expressed that a percentage increase would be crippling for small congregations already struggling. There was also a concern that the Executive rather than the full court of London Conference will be making this decision. A request was made of the Finance and Administration Committee for the current amount of the Conference Assessment for each congregation within the Presbytery. Nancy will forward Algoma’s concerns to the Conference Executive.

Accessibility Training

March 23 is the date of the Accessibility Train the Trainer event in Algoma. Two people will be invited from each preaching point (or three from each multi-point charge) along with the clergy. Each congregation must have a written policy in place by the end of 2011, and a template for that policy will be provided. Registration forms will be sent out. There is no cost to individuals or congregations; Presbytery is paying \$200 for the trainer. Each congregation should have received a “Welcoming Community” package that was mailed out from the Conference Office at the end of January.

Other Items from Conference Executive Meeting February 16

1. London Conference is looking for nominations for President-Elect.
2. A new governance model has been endorsed; London Conference Executive is changing its presbytery membership from the chair of presbytery to one representative from each presbytery who will serve for a three-year term, starting at the rise of conference 2011.
3. According to section 384 of *The Manual*, an audit and not just a review is required of Presbytery financial records.

Focus on the Gay Family Conference

- There was further discussion on support for the Conference, and a ballot vote was requested.
- **Moved, seconded and carried** that Algoma Presbytery make a financial contribution in the amount of \$5,000 to the Focus on the Gay Family Conference 2011.
- Of the 26 votes cast, 15 were in favour of the motion and 11 were opposed.
- **Moved, seconded and carried** that the ballots be destroyed.

Scheduling of February Presbytery Meeting

- **Moved, seconded and carried** that the February meeting of Algoma Presbytery be held one week later so that it does not conflict with the Family Day holiday.

Chaplaincy at the New Sault Area Hospital

Larry Burton spoke eloquently and with great concern about the new hospital's decision to close the chaplaincy department. As of April 1, clergy will no longer be advised when their congregants enter the hospital, and Presbyters were asked to tell their communities that they need to keep the lines of communication open and tell their ministers when family members/neighbours go into hospital. Leaders of local faith communities have requested a meeting with hospital officials. The court was asked to consider ways that appeals could be made for a reconsideration of this decision, and the issue will be put on our agenda for the next Presbytery meeting.

CLOSING

- **Moved, seconded and carried** that the powers of Presbytery be extended to the Executive until the next full meeting.
- **Moved, seconded and carried** that the meeting of Algoma Presbytery adjourn at 12:53 p.m.

Thanks were extended to the folks of East Korah Maxwell who provided such gracious hospitality and delicious meals and snacks over the two days.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of Algoma Presbytery will take place at Goulais River United Church April 15 and 16, 2011.

Nancy Ferguson, Chair

Ailsa Hanson, Secretary

Appendix A
CORRESPONDENCE

Received since January 21, 2011

From	Topic	Action
London Conference Office	London Conference Bridge December 2010	To February Full Court
Tom Broadhurst	Extra sets of 2010 Statistical and Information Forms	To February Full Court
Abiel Khalema	Admissions and Re-Admissions Circulation List	To February Full Court

Appendix C

Algoma Presbytery Strengths

- Licensed Lay Worship Leaders
- Courage to think outside the box and follow through
- Great leadership – focus on detail
- Proximity to higher educational facilities
- Diversity – urban and rural, aboriginal community
- Different culture – border town
- Strong UCW
- Survival skills
- Creativity and adaptability – ability to take what we have and put things together locally
- Small size (both a strength and a challenge)
- Strong M&S support
- Active ministerial
- Friendliness/cohesiveness/caring
- Collegial and liberal theology
- Proven track record for success under adverse conditions
- Mile hill(?)
- Resident technocrats

Algoma Presbytery Challenges

- Demographics – we're all getting older and more tired
- Communication
- Lack a common enterprise
- Pastoral care and oversight
- Gambling
- Weather and geography
- Lack an identity
- Poverty
- As a group, don't understand business processes and procedures
- Presbyters and congregation members don't understand UCC polity
- Tend to act (and react) emotionally rather than rationally
- Relationship between Presbytery and individual churches lacking
- Small size (both a strength and a challenge)
- Geographical shape of Presbytery
- Limited access to resources
- Lack of awareness of website, and not everyone has access to high speed or any technology

****Where is God in all this? What is God's will for Algoma?**