

ALGOMA PRESBYTERY
of The United Church of Canada

September 17 and 18, 2010

PRESBYTERY MEETING

2010-11

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The full court of Algoma Presbytery met on Friday, September 17 and Saturday, September 18, 2010 at Central United Church, Sault Ste. Marie, beginning at 4:30 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, Laurie Milito, Janet Norman, Eun-Joo Park, John Porter, Bonnie Rayner, Jan Schenell, Helen Smith, Doreen Sproule, Linda Stemp, Paul Stemp, Don White

Laity: Joyce Biggs, Fred Bright, Bonnie Beaupre, Lorna Chipuka, Kim Evoy, Leone Hamilton, Bonnie Johnson, Verna Lapish, Lavine Livesey, Robin MacLeod, Marnie McDonough, Betty Miller, Wilma Oliver, Norma Orr, Tom Orr, David Root, Heddys Stevenson, Clare Walker, Ailsa Hanson

Regrets: Betty Allen, Barb Frasier, Sandy Fulcher, Jane Graham, Linda Hedderson, Janet Jones, Sharon Lane, Diane Marshall, Phil Miller, Brian Mundell, Nancy Mundell, Betty Pretty

Guest: Rev. Maya Landell, President, London Conference

WELCOME AND GATHERING PRAYER

At 4:30 p.m., Chair Nancy Ferguson invited Laurie Milito to welcome the Court to Central United and lead us in gathering worship. Laurie read Jeremiah 23:16-18 and a prayer by Walter Brueggemann. The Chair then opened the meeting 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."* Introductions were made of new Presbyters Linda Stemp and Paul Stemp, and of our guest, Maya Landell, President of London Conference. Nancy Ferguson alerted the Court that she would be excusing herself from the Chair at 7:00 p.m. on Friday to attend a funeral visitation and again at 11:00 a.m. on Saturday to preside at a funeral. Past Chair Doreen Sproule agreed to chair the meetings at those times.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

There was consensus that the agenda be adopted as amended. (John Porter's request that the start time for Saturday's portion of the meeting be changed to 10 a.m. was added to New Business.)

MINUTES

Moved, seconded and carried that the Presbytery minutes of April 16 and 17, 2010 be approved, and the Presbytery Executive minutes of March 18, 2010 and May 6, 2010 be received for information.

CORRESPONDENCE

- **Moved, seconded and carried** that the roll of names from the September 16, 2010 Racial Justice Workshop be included in the minutes of this meeting. The following were awarded certificates of completion of the Racial Justice training, held at St. Andrew's United Church, and facilitated by Kenji Marui and Evelyn Mayo:

Rev. Larry Burton	Rev. Laurie Milito	Rev. Jan Schenell
Rev. Nancy Ferguson	Rev. Phil Miller	Helen Smith, DLM
Rolly MacLean, DM	Janet Norman, DM	Rev. Doreen Sproule
Marnie McDonough, LLWL	Rev. Eun-Joo Park	Rev. Faye Stevens
Thom McDonough, DLM	Rev. John Porter	Heddys Stevenson
Rev. Bruce McLeish	Rev. Bonnie Rayner	Gordon Stone, LLWL
- The Court requested clarity around the issue of recording names of movers and seconders of motions, as was directed by letter after review of our records, and the Secretary will follow up with the Acting Executive Secretary of London Conference. *(NB The secretary received clarity and the Minutes of September 17&18, 2010 reflect the direction given.)*
- **Moved, seconded and carried** that the correspondence be accepted as dealt with. (See Appendix A.)

COMMITTEE REPORTS AND MOTIONS FOR ACTION**Education and Students: Helen Smith**

- In July 2010, Education and Students received a letter from Jana Howson, requesting that her candidacy be discontinued. The Chair of the Committee met with Jana and spoke with her at length about her future. Jana is currently enrolled in a Lutheran Seminary in Chicago, where all her credits from Emmanuel College have been accepted.
- **Moved, seconded and carried** that, at the request of Jana Howson, her candidacy for ordained ministry in The United Church of Canada be discontinued.
- There has been a request from St. Andrew's United Church in Sault Ste. Marie to set up a Discernment Committee for Dr. Andrew Muncaster, who has a Ph.D. in Religious Studies, and who is currently teaching at Laurentian University. George Benson and Brenda Wystma will serve from St. Andrew's, and Larry Burton and David Root will serve as Presbytery Representatives to the Committee. A member of Dr. Muncaster's choice has yet to be named. Forms and handbooks are available for the Committee.
- Nine Licensed Lay Worship Leaders will be interviewed October 4.

- Eun-Joo Park and John Porter have successfully completed their final courses at Queen's University, and Conference interviews have been requested so that they might be considered for admission to The United Church of Canada at the 2011 Annual Meeting of London Conference to be held in Sault Ste. Marie.
- Education and Students has available the new Policies and Procedures handbooks for Designated Lay Ministers and for Congregational Designated Ministers.

Faith Formation and Communication: Jan Schenell

- Rev. Dr. Kempton Hewitt, who conducted a very successful workshop on July 8, 2010 on the Gospel of Matthew, has offered to come back next summer to lead another session. This event generated an income of \$900, with a net profit of \$461 after expenses.
- **Moved, seconded and carried** that the net revenue generated by the Kempton Hewitt learning event be designated as seed money for Presbytery-sponsored continuing education events.
- The Presbytery-wide Bible Camp Day, "Walking With Jesus", is scheduled for October 1, and folks were asked to phone Wilma Oliver to let her know how many children will be attending from each congregation. Registration forms are available at the Presbytery meeting and on the website.
- Wilma Oliver also reported that the Observer subscriptions paid for by Presbytery and placed in nursing homes, hospitals etc. are up for renewal. After discussion about the disbursement of Observer copies, it was suggested that the list be reviewed and revised by the Committee and brought to the Executive meeting on October 21.
- On behalf of the Court, Presbytery Chair Nancy Ferguson thanked Jan Schenell for her tenure as Chair of the Faith Formation and Communication Committee.

Outreach: Heddys Stevenson

- **Moved, seconded and carried** that Algoma Presbytery approve the 2011 Mission and Support Grant request from First United Church, Wawa, for \$12,900, and forward it to London Conference for consideration. (There was one declaration of conflict.)
- **Moved, seconded and carried** that Algoma Presbytery approve the 2011 Mission and Support Grant request from St. Paul's United Church, Manitouwadge, for \$11,000, and forward it to London Conference for consideration. (There was one declaration of conflict.)
- Schedules for the two visits by overseas personnel were made available.

Pastoral Care and Oversight: Rolly MacLean

- Three pastoral charges have been visited this year to date – Central United, St. Joseph Island, and Echo Bay – and reports have been drafted. There was discussion about the disposition of the reports; follow-up will be done to ensure that they are sent back to the

pastoral charges for review and comment before they are filed. The process will be clarified for the next meeting of the Court.

- Visits with Emmanuel United in Sault Ste. Marie and Zion United in Thessalon will be scheduled before December, plus one other congregation in Sault Ste. Marie.
- Requests were made for outstanding annual reports and for additional committee members.

PRESENTATION BY CONFERENCE PRESIDENT, MAYA LANDELL

After telling the Court a little about herself, Maya reminded us that her theme for the year is “Wonder and Joy”. She did a check-in with each member of the Court, and then having described Godly Play, gave us a practical demonstration by telling the creation story. She reminded us that God is present in joy, and asked us what brings us real joy. As a group, we affirmed that play brings life, and that playing is important for us all.

CAMP MCDOUGALL TESTIMONIES

Janet Norman invited John Porter to frame the remainder of the evening. John did and introduced Camp McDougall Director Michelle Clarke. Michelle in turn told us a little about the past camping season and turned the microphone over to several young people, who each spoke for a few moments about what Camp means to them and the impact that it has had on their lives. They told us that attending camp has been a highlight of their year, and that attending camp has allowed them to play, to grow, to learn who they are, to build relationships, to learn life and leadership skills. Janet Norman read testimonies from folks who had attended camp in previous years, and reminded us that on Saturday, we would be considering the question “Are we going to continue to fund Camp McDougall?”

WORSHIP AND COMMUNION (Saturday)

Maya Landell and Laurie Milito led the court in a celebration of communion, incorporating embodied prayer and several hymns.

COMMITTEE REPORTS AND MOTIONS FOR ACTION (Continued)

Finance and Administration: Fred Bright

- The financial statement and Treasurer’s Report were reviewed. Committees are to submit their budget requests; the 2011 budget will be presented at the November meeting of Presbytery.

Pastoral Relations: Leone Hamilton

Leone reviewed the motions that had been made, seconded and carried at the June Presbytery Executive meeting, i.e. re-appointment of Thom McDonough, DLM, to Goulais Pastoral Charge; appointment of Dr. Paul Stemp to Blind River Pastoral Charge; appointment of Linda Stemp to

Iron Bridge Pastoral Charge; approval of Bruce McLeish's call as sole Minister at Willowgrove United Church.

- The Court was reminded that payment of clergy through ADP is now mandatory.
- There is no information yet on the transfer of Pastoral Relations responsibilities from Presbytery to Conference.
- There was an enquiry about the process for Admission to The United Church of Canada, and the enquirer was referred to the Education and Students Committee.

Nominations: Helen Smith

The following positions are vacant: Presbytery Chair-Elect, Presbytery Treasurer, Chair of Faith Formation and Communication, lay representative to the Executive, Chair of the Extension Council.

- **Moved, seconded and carried** that Clare Walker be named, by acclamation, as lay representative to the Executive. (There was one declaration of conflict.)
- **Moved, seconded and carried** that Eun-Joo Park be named, by acclamation, as incoming Chair of the Faith Formation and Communication Committee.
- Further work is required regarding the position of Chair of the Extension Council. If there is no position description, one will be prepared. It was agreed that there will be a meeting of the Church Extension Council prior to the next Presbytery Meeting in November.

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

REPORT FROM CONFERENCE BOUNDARIES AD HOC GROUP

The draft report from the Conference Boundaries Ad Hoc Group had been circulated prior to the meeting. It was clear from discussion that the Court had not given the ad hoc team clarity on the information required. Requests were made for further data on the following:

- stronger pros and cons of moving, i.e. what are the real strengths and weakness of staying or going
- would Manitou and/or London be willing to relocate Conference Office?
- comparison of strengths/activities in both conferences related to youth, lay worship leadership, UCW
- comparison of business conferences and learning events in the two conferences
- Resource Centres
- what we as Algoma Presbyters would be willing to do for whatever Conference we are part of, and what gifts we can bring
- past history: why did we decide not to move in the past? what has changed to make us reconsider?
- what has London Conference done for us; what would they be willing to do?

The Chair confirmed that Presbytery is not the final decision-maker on the issue. After we have done all our work, including taking a remit to each congregation if we decide we want to consider moving, Algoma can send a request to General Council who will set up a Committee, including members of the two Conferences, which will review the information and make a

decision. With thanks to the Ad Hoc group for their work to date, the Chair suggested that a more detailed preliminary report come to the Presbytery Executive in January 2011 for a review before it is presented to the full Court in February. This will allow time to organize a celebration of whatever decision is made for the Annual Meeting of London Conference in May.

THE FUTURE OF OUTDOOR MINISTRY/CAMP MCDUGALL

Janet Norman led the discussion about Camp. She began by asking what questions the Court had about the answers that had been given in the report prepared by the Camp Ad Hoc group. With those resolved, discussion moved to affirm that mission, not money, must be the foremost consideration in our decision-making, and that Camp McDougall is Algoma Presbytery's primary outreach ministry. Accordingly, a notice of motion was written, to be brought to the November meeting of Presbytery for further discussion: "Whereas Algoma Presbytery chooses Camp McDougall and its camping ministry as its primary mission and outreach ministry, therefore be it resolved that Algoma Presbytery work cooperatively with the Camp McDougall Board to explore all avenues that will ensure the future of this ministry and mission."

NEW BUSINESS

- Following discussion, it was agreed that the Saturday morning start time for Presbytery meetings will continue to be 9 a.m.
- The Presbytery laptop, projector and portable sound system will continue to reside at St. Andrew's for the time being.

CLOSING

- **Moved, seconded and carried** that the powers of Presbytery be extended to the Executive until the next full meeting.
- **Moved and carried** that the meeting of Algoma Presbytery adjourn at 12:30 p.m.

Acting Chair Doreen Sproule thanked Maya Landell, Janet Norman and John Porter for their leadership of various portions of the morning, Laurie Milito for her worship leadership, the folks at Central United who welcomed and hosted Presbytery, and all who brought reports and participated in the work done. Laurie Milito offered grace.

Thanks were extended to the two women's groups at Central who had provided such wonderful meals over the two days.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of Algoma Presbytery will take place November 19 and 20, 2010 at Willowgrove United Church, Sault Ste. Marie.

Nancy Ferguson, Chair

Ailsa Hanson, Secretary

Appendix A
CORRESPONDENCE
Received since June 24, 2010

From	Topic	Action
Anne Jones, Presbytery Rep., Desbarats United Church	Resignation as Presbytery Representative	Records amended; to file
Rev. Heather McLean, Acting Executive Secretary, London Conference	Presbytery Minutes	To file
Rev. Phil Miller	Resignation as Presbytery Treasurer and Chair, Church Extension Council	To Nominations Committee
Bill Walker, Moderator of Session, St. Andrew's UC	Establishment of Discernment Committee for Dr. Andrew Muncaster	To Education and Students Committee
Rev. Jan Schenell	Resignation as Chair, Faith Formation & Communications Committee	To Nominations Committee