

**ALGOMA PRESBYTERY
THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA**

APRIL 18 & 19, 2008

PRESBYTERY MEETING

2007-08

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The full court of Algoma Presbytery met on Friday, April 18 and Saturday, April 19, 2008 at Zion United Church, Thessalon, beginning at 1 p.m. Chairperson Doreen Sproule led the meeting and a quorum was present.

ATTENDANCE:

Order of Ministry: Norine St. Jean, Betty Pretty, Rolly MacLean, Nancy Ferguson, Thom McDonough, Doreen Sproule, Marilyn Billings, Phil Miller, Eun-Joo Park, John Porter, Helen Smith, Don White, Bruce McLeish.

Laity: Anne Jones, Joyce Mertes, Sandy Fulcher, Nancy Rouble, Verna Lapish, Linda Hedderson, Leone Hamilton, Betty Mills, Bonnie Beaupre, Lavine Livesey, Harry Stewart, Brian Mundell, Mary McCormick, Sharon Lane, Wilma Oliver, Elaine Craig, Norma Orr, Nancy Mundell, Rob McCutcheon, Doug Heggart, Heddys Stevenson, Clare Walker, Tom Orr, Kim Evoy, Judith Rose, Janet Jones, Rhea McAdam.

Guests: Marnie McDonough, Treasurer, Camp McDougall,

Regrets: Larry Burton, Aileen Hadden

Opening: Rev. Norine St. Jean introduced Doug Heggart, who is a new representative for St. Andrews United Church, Blind River. Doug has taken on the job of Chair of Property for Camp McDougall.

MINUTES: The revised Minutes of November 16 & 17, 2007 meeting were approved as circulated. Minutes of March 20, 2007 executive meeting will be completed and distributed with April 2008 minutes.

EDUCATION AND STUDENTS: Wilma Oliver

Students:

Jana Howson has successfully transferred to Emmanuel College in Toronto and will take two and perhaps three first year courses during the summer this year. Over the winter she took a course in "Philosophy of Religion" and is enjoying it very much. She is planning to attend Kairos at Five Oaks in August. She is busy working with youth in the Lutheran Church, which she and her husband attend in Illinois. She will be home in June briefly and the E&S committee hopes she will have time to work in our annual interview at that time.

Admissions:

Rev. Dr John Porter and his Appointment Advisory committee are just wrapping up step four of the Admissions Process. The E&S committee will meet with John in the near future.

Rev. Eun-Joo Park and her Appointment Advisory Committee have completed step four of the admissions process. The E&S committee reviewed their report and met with Eun-Joo today. It is the recommendation of the E&S committee to Algoma Presbytery that Rev. Eun-Joo Park continues in the Admissions process.

Moved, seconded and carried: that Algoma Presbytery approves the recommendation of the E & S Committee that Rev. Eun-Joo Park continues in the admissions process.

FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE REPORT: Norine St. Jean

The F & A committee received a letter from the Thessalon pastoral charge, letting Presbytery know that they wish to sell their manse. While several presbyters said they were not opposed to the sale of the manse, much discussion surrounded the issue of protocol for this procedure.

Moved, seconded and carried: Having reviewed the correspondence of April 10, 2008, Algoma Presbytery consents to Thessalon pastoral charge's request to sell the manse.

Treasurer's Report: Phil Miller

Algoma Presbytery is in "good shape" financially at this time with a surplus of \$8,582.59.

PASTORAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT - Leone Hamilton

- ▶ All clergy who have not already shown their police checks to Marilyn Billings and Betty Mills should do so today or tomorrow.
- ▶ Rev. Betty Pretty will be the supervisor for the search committee for Central United Church, SSM.
- ▶ Much of the Pastoral Relations' work is done behind the scenes and can be time consuming. We appreciate those members of Presbytery who give their time and talent to assist. Currently, we have one pastoral charge working with a special agreement, one in the JNAC process, one hoping for settlement, two with ministers in the process of transferring into the United Church and those in the city are wondering which buildings will be retained.

FAITH FORMATION/ COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT: Thom McDonough

Communication: Norma Orr presented treasurer Phil Miller with an envelope containing a cheque for \$10,199.12 from the closure of the ARC. Discussion took place as to possible uses of that money. Thom will come back at the September meeting with information on possible technology that could be utilized to make better presentations and therefore better communications.

Website: Harry Stewart introduced the new website to all in attendance. He has done an excellent job compiling incoming documents into a useful network of information. It was noted that although there are a few people who don't use the computer for Presbytery information, they gain access if they wish. Discussions indicated that the majority of presbyters want to move ahead with the development of the website. Harry would like to set up a system whereby everyone will get e-mailed with event information.

Moved, seconded and carried: that Harry be empowered by Algoma Presbytery to get the most cost effective hosting site suitable for our purposes.

Moved, seconded and carried: that Algoma Presbytery apply for a domain for the website.

Visioning:

- ▶ Chris Tossell, architect, has visited all the city church buildings plus Goulais River, and will deliver a draft report on April 28. A joint congregational meeting will take place on May 14 at Central Church, beginning at 7:15 p.m. to hear which buildings he recommends should remain open.
- ▶ A joint service will take place April 20 at John Wesley -- hymn sing at 6:45 p.m. followed by the service of worship at 7 p.m. Rev. Phil Miller will speak. Proceeds will go to A.R.C.H.

Christian development report: Nancy Mundell

- ▶ Executive for 2008 is unchanged: Chair is Nancy Mundell; secretary is Helen Smith; treasurer is Norma Orr.
- ▶ CD has provided monetary support for 2 people to attend continuing educational events.
- ▶ CD has provided information for the website.
- ▶ CD is planning a senior's day to be held in the fall
- ▶ There is money available to assist children, youth or young adults who wish to attend London Conference.

Camp McDougall report: Robert McCutcheon**Camp McDougall 50th anniversary**

Planning for this celebration, taking place from July 2-4, 2010, is proceeding well. Those who are interested in being involved, or with stories/ideas/pictures to contribute, please speak with Nancy Ferguson or Thom McDonough.

Camp McDougall Work Week

We are looking to recruit groups of friends of the camp to come out during the week of June 1-8, 2008. Each interested group will choose a task/tasks from the list of our spring projects including porch repairs, brushing, and beach improvements. If you or someone in your congregation is interested, please contact Doug Heggart, Chair of Property, at heggartlaptop@hotmail.com.

Pasta Dinner

Our last pasta dinner at St. Andrew's, SSM was a big success, raising \$1,207. Thank you to all who came and supported the camp. The next one will be November 7.

T-Shirt Campaign

This new initiative was designed to provide T shirts to all campers and staff this summer. Packages have been distributed so each congregation can be part of this innovative project.

Visioning

Our process of board improvement and visioning continues. Board members gathered again on April 12th to revisit our mission. A good day of discussions was fruitful, though we have nothing to report at this time.

Donations from individuals, congregations and fundraising events are arriving. This is all greatly appreciated.

SUMMER 2008

Our staff is mostly in place for the upcoming camping season. We have retained Drew Beaumont as director once again and look forward to another great summer. Camp registrations are only beginning to arrive. They are being printed off the website as well as from our bright yellow distributed forms. To date we have 8 registrations, although it is early to judge how numbers will look this year. May is usually the time when registrations come in.

Moved, seconded and carried: that Algoma Presbytery accepts Ken Lane and Ken McLeod as Camp board members. John Porter has agreed to take the position of Chair. Jan Schenell has volunteered to be the liaison representative for Presbytery.

Moved, seconded and carried: that Algoma Presbytery agrees to subsidize the balance of any outstanding cost for 350 tee shirts for Camp McDougall for 2008.

Camp McDougall Treasurer's Report: Marnie McDonough

Bank Statement to March 31/08	\$5,910.80
Actual Bank Balance to April 14/08	\$8,727.53
Outstanding Cheques	-\$2,104.66
Designated Memorial donation	<u>-\$1,000.00</u>
Accessible Funds	\$5,622.87

Donations received for 2008 Season since Dec.1/07 \$5,731.00

Other Assets:

1. \$5,000 overdraft, secured by same amount GIC
2. \$10,000 bequest for capital projects – GIC

2008 revenue received

- \$550UCC Learning-in-Community Grant for Board Training Event held Jan. 26
- Fundraisers for Camp:

Desbarats Sunday School – pasta dinner profit shared

Echo Bay UC – kitchen party

Central Algoma visioning cluster's upcoming Breakfast Buffet takes place
April 26 at Desbarats Arena

Spring School Program will be relaunched with one confirmed booking to date

Website 2008 schedule and registration form is posted now @ campmcdougall.com

Marnie McDonough, Treasurer

UCW report for April 2008: Norma Orr

- ▶ The Algoma Presbyterial UCW ladies are looking forward to two upcoming events:
- ▶ Five Algoma ladies will attend London Conference's UCW annual meeting is April 27 & 28, 2008 at St. Andrews United Church in Chatham.
- ▶ Four or five carloads of ladies will make their way to Wawa for our UCW general meeting May 3 at First United.
- ▶ Plans are being made for the September meeting, which will take place at Harmony/St. Marks on St. Joseph Island on September 10, 2008.

PASTORAL CARE & OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE REPORT: Thom McDonough

Members of this Committee include Rev. Jan Schnell, Rev. Rolly MacLean, Rev. Bruce McLeish, Rev. Larry Burton and Thom McDonough

- ▶ Resurrection has occurred on this committee and hopefully for the pastoral charges being visited. The first of our visits took place on February 29 at Goulais River. Comments from the church council were very positive; they felt Presbytery is interested in them; it was good to receive affirmation about some of the things being done.
- ▶ John Wesley will be visited on Wednesday, April 23.
- ▶ Central has asked for a delay until September due to their circumstances and they are quite busy with events in April.
- ▶ Arrangements are pending for Echo Bay pastoral charge.
- ▶ Our committee seeks 2 lay and 1 ordered ministry person to assist with this visit. Volunteers were Judith Rose, Heddys Stevenson and Nancy Ferguson.
- ▶ Annual reports have been received from pastoral charges to be reviewed, with comments to be sent back to the charges and to presbytery.
- ▶ PC&O visit to Camp McDougall has been posted on the website.
- ▶ An Archives & Record Keeping Handbook has been compiled and is available.

OUTREACH COMMITTEE REPORT: Heddys Stevenson**Stewardship report: Joyce Mertes**

Celebrating Earth Day April 22: Joyce used excerpts from Chief Seattle's 1854 message to the United States government to mark the takeover of Suquamish lands, exhorting the white man to care for the earth as they had.

World Outreach report: Heddys Stevenson

Mozambique: Ten people from the London Conference are going to Mozambique at the request of the Christian Council of Mozambique. They represent a variety of presbyteries, gender and ages. They will be leaving in August and will be expected to talk about that experience when they return. One of the projects recently started by CCM is the growing of gardens with medicinal plants that help HIV patients. With medicine in short supply, these plants help treat some of the symptoms and treat others. Special education for those dealing with these gardens will be provided. Medications as ointments, lotions, etc. will be prepared. We are asked to help provide funds to support these gardens.

Plastic waste: especially bags: These are causing severe problems in some ocean islands. Much of our waste ends up in the oceans and is washing up on the shores of some smaller island. Not only does this cause unsightly shorelines, it causes problems for birds, seals and other animals who ingest or get caught in the debris.

Sharbot Lake: The Algonquins have a long-standing land claim in the Ottawa valley, recognized by Ottawa and Queens Park. Frontenac Ventures Corp. has staked a mining claim over more than 12000 hectares of crown and private land in the area north of Sharbot Lake, allowing exploratory drilling. Neither Queens Park nor Frontenac Ventures warned the Algonquins that the land had been staked or that exploration was to start. The Algonquins blocked access to the site; Frontenac Ventures applied and received an injunction; the Algonquins applied and received a reprieve to allow mediation; mediation failed when the province refused to agree that a possible outcome could be no drilling. Christian Peacemakers have asked for support and help in writing the government about this issue.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- 1) **Remit # 6: Ex Officio Commissioners to the General Council:** this vote will be tabled until the September Presbytery meeting until further clarification can be received and made available.
- 2) **Members at large for 2008:** Norma Orr, Tom Orr, Elaine Craig, Verna Lapish, Bonnie Beaupre, Lavine Livesey, Rhea McAdam and Nancy Beilhartz, Rolly MacLean, Ruby Vaughan, Wilma Oliver, Clare Walker, Heddys Stevenson, Janet Jones.
Moved, seconded and carried: that Algoma Presbytery approves the proposed list for members at large with the power to add.
- 3) **Presbytery meetings: the Friday/Saturday dilemma:** Much discussion took place regarding the timing of Presbytery meetings. Ideas/comments brought forth include:
 - ▶ Those people who work on Fridays miss out on critical discussions and have stated that they don't truly feel part of Presbytery
 - ▶ If the meeting started later on Friday (3 or 4 p.m.), maybe more working people could attend, share a meal and continue the meeting portion into the evening and possibly Saturday morning as well.
 - ▶ If the meeting was held on Saturday only, it was mentioned that it would not be beneficial to clergy.
 - ▶ Presbytery does the work of the church; listening to reports of committees that have already taken place seems futile. Committees are important and reports are necessary. Perhaps reports from committees can be posted on the website and each Presbyter would be obligated to read them and be ready for discussion. Reports that aren't submitted to Harry on deadline would not be addressed at the meeting.
 - ▶ More "meat" is needed in discussions during the meeting. We need enrichment. Presbyters need to be "fed" at Presbytery meetings and look forward to meaningful discussions and informative presentations. Educational experiences lead to enrichment.
 - ▶ The national church has spent millions trying to reach 30- to 40-year-olds who work. We need to figure out how to reach this age group as well.
 - ▶ Fellowship is important. Many fruitful discussions take place during a meal.
 - ▶ There's no clear vision of what we're doing and where we're going...no planning for the future. Are we missing opportunities to take part in local initiatives and/or empire projects? It was mentioned that the Outreach committee presentations often offer opportunities that excite presbyters and church committees to get involved.
 - ▶ Congregational churches look beyond administration work of the church. Maybe we need to be working for others in the community. Perhaps we're not actively doing mission and ministry in the world.
 - ▶ Do we see Presbytery as empowering the spirit for mission work or are we just trying to change past policies and procedures that do not work.
 - ▶ Have we learned anything from the visioning process? Now that the process itself is finished, where do we go from here? The process seemed to give a totally different picture of where we might go.
 - ▶ We decided we need to be more welcoming but you can't welcome those that don't attend. We need to more and other things than we're doing now.
 - ▶ By asking why is Algoma Presbytery here, hopefully this will take care of how we will meet
 - ▶ We may need to share the learning from what the national church is doing and we should check out what other conferences are doing.

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

CLOSING: Courtesies were made by Doreen Sproule.

Moved, seconded and carried: to extend the Powers of Presbytery to the Executive until the next full meeting.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at noon after the worship service, followed by lunch.

NEXT MEETING: The next Presbytery meeting will take place on September 19 & 20, 2008 at Willowgrove United Church, SSM.

DOREEN SPROULE, Chair

RHEA McADAM, Secretary

Algoma Presbytery

Meetings: dates/sites

2008

June 26	John Wesley
August 16	Burton cottage, St. Joseph Island
September 19 & 20	Willowgrove
October 16	St. Andrew's, SSM
November 21 & 22	Echo Bay