

ALGOMA PRESBYTERY
of The United Church of Canada

April 20 and 21, 2012

PRESBYTERY MEETING

2011-2012

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The full court of Algoma Presbytery met on Friday, April 20 and Saturday, April 21, 2012 at Bar River United Church and Bar River Community Hall, beginning at 5:00 p.m. on Friday. Chair Thom McDonough led the meeting and a quorum was present.

ATTENDANCE

Order of Ministry: Larry Burton (Sat.), Nancy Ferguson (Sat.), Rolly MacLean, Thom McDonough, Bruce McLeish (Sat.), Janet Norman, Eun-Joo Park, John Porter, Betty Pretty, Bonnie Rayner, Jan Schenell, Helen Smith, Doreen Sproule, Don White, David Zub

Laity: Betty Allen, Joyce Biggs, Kim Evoy, Jane Graham, Bonnie Johnson, Nancy Juby (Sat.), Bonnie Kirk, Sharon Lane, Verna Lapish, Lavine Livesey, Robin MacLeod, Diane Marshall, Marnie McDonough, Shirley Meeks, Betty Mills, Brian Mundell, Tom Orr, Susan Ralph, David Root, Wilda Ryckman, Heddys Stevenson, Bill Walker, Clare Walker, Clare Weatherby (Sat.), Ailsa Hanson

Regrets: Fred Bright, Lorna Chiupka, Sandy Fulcher, Aileen Hadden, Leone Hamilton, Linda Hedderson, Laurie Milito, Norma Orr, Linda Stemp, Paul Stemp

Guests: Cheryl-Ann Stadelbauer-Sampa, Executive Secretary, London Conference; Brenda Cooper, Family Outreach Coordinator, Habitat for Humanity (Friday evening); Jim Robinson, Chair, Church Extension Council (Friday evening); John Shannon, member of Board of Directors of Camp McDougall (Saturday)

At 5:05 p.m., Chair Thom McDonough welcomed the Court to Bar River, and introduced Cheryl-Ann Stadelbauer-Sampa. David Root introduced David Zub, newly called to Willowgrove United Church, and Eun-Joo Park confirmed Shirley Meeks as the Grace United Presbytery Representative. Thom then introduced Brenda Cooper, who spoke of the work of Habitat for Humanity in Sault Ste. Marie and area during the past ten years. She responded to questions and advised that she would be willing to speak to any groups who wished to know more. At 5:35, Thom offered grace, and Presbyters enjoyed a wonderful meal and time of fellowship.

At 6:20 p.m., the Court was called back for a brief meeting of the Church Extension Council. Thom introduced Jim Robinson, the new Chair of the Council, who named the members of the Board of Directors. Financial statements will be presented to Presbytery in September.

At 6:55 p.m., Thom lit the Christ candle as he formally constituted the meeting of Algoma Presbytery 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.”* He

offered a prayer, thanking God for the opportunity to come together to share the work of the church, remembering Donna Woodall and family, and asking for God's guidance.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Moved, seconded and carried that the agenda be adopted as printed and amended. (The word "Annual" was removed from the item "Church Extension Council Report and Meeting".)

MINUTES

Moved, seconded and carried that the Presbytery minutes of February 24 & 25, 2012 be approved, and that the Presbytery Executive minutes of January 19, 2012 be received for information.

CORRESPONDENCE

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

PASTORAL CARE AND OVERSIGHT MOVING FORWARD: Thom McDonough

Thom advised the court that the Committee met this evening and is still looking for a Chair. He took us through the PowerPoint presentation that he'd made to the Presbytery Executive in March, and reminded us of the objectives and process of the triennial visits.

Thom's goal is to have Algoma Presbytery take pastoral care and pastoral oversight to heart, and because change occurs best in an environment of support and tolerance of risk, he would like us together to create a supportive environment for pastoral charges in transition (as are most in the Presbytery), to truly share our celebrations and challenges, and to provide tools to address the challenges. To that end, he would like each full Presbytery meeting to have an educational component, and he asked folks to think about whether the September meeting could focus on training our members to participate in pastoral care and pastoral oversight visits.

Thom emphasized the importance of clear communication and the difficulties associated with that; he and Marnie gave us a clear illustration in a take-off of the Abbott and Costello routine "Who's on first?" He asked us to break into groups of about five and discuss the challenges of and impediments to good communication, and asked us also to think about the ways we communicate well. (See Appendix B.) After hearing back from the groups, he proposed that in September, there be a workshop with Erin Greeno on archives and record-keeping, and our duty of care documents. Then there would be a session on pastoral care and oversight, and training in how to conduct oversight visits. After the training, Thom proposed that there would be three visits done with reports back to the November meeting, and an assessment made of how well those went.

Theological Reflection: Cheryl-Ann Stadelbauer-Sampa

Before the meeting began, Thom had been setting up the front table, and the beautiful glass bowl that held the polished stones broke. Thom arranged the stones around the Christ candle without the container. Cheryl-Ann reflected that like Thom's container, our pastoral care and oversight process was "broken" but that the contents were still important and of value. She left us with the thought that "Jesus is the rock of our salvation and his banner over me is love."

WORSHIP AND COMMUNION (Saturday)

With assistance from Verna Lapish, Rolly MacLean led us in worship, the theme of which was Earth Day and the environment. She showed a slide presentation of Guatemala from a visit she had made some years before, and we celebrated the sacrament of communion.

COMMITTEE REPORTS**Education and Students: Helen Smith**

- The Committee is still waiting for the final report from Andrew Muncaster's discernment process.
- The Committee will be encouraging the Licensed Lay Worship Leaders to attend the Kempton Hewitt event.

Faith Formation and Communications: Eun-Joo Park

- The Kempton Hewitt workshop on the Gospel of Luke is scheduled for June 26, 2012 at 9:30 a.m. at Desbarats United Church. Applications have been circulated and are also available at this meeting. The \$50 registration fee includes lunch. Three participants have already signed up.
- The June 10 Presbytery-wide Anniversary Picnic is coming together. David Root asked that he be given the names of the representatives from each pastoral charge who would be contacts for planning.

Finance and Administration**Treasurer's Report: Bill Walker**

- A copy of the Financial Report to March 31, 2012 was circulated. (See Appendix C.)
- Bill advised that he had attended the Conference Budget Forum electronically, and that our assessment for next year will be similar to this year's. He has been able to provide some assistance in drawing up a new policy for the investment of Conference reserve funds.
- Committee Chairs were reminded that budget requests must be in by September so that our 2013 budget can be presented at the November full court meeting. If a committee does not submit anything, their allocation will be the same as last year's.

Nominations: Helen Smith – No report.**Outreach: Heddys Stevenson**

Heddys shared correspondence from both the Witmers in Japan and Deborah Elliot in Nicaragua. She reminded folks of the Palestine/Israel conflict, and the Proposal sent out by the Social Justice Committee, which will be discussed at Conference.

Pastoral Care and Oversight

Robin MacLeod advised that the existing Committee is reviewing all the Annual Reports that have been submitted, and named the Pastoral Charges that have not yet brought theirs.

Pastoral Relations: Brian Mundell

- Brian mentioned that Algoma has received the Warrant to Covenant for Willowgrove United Church, David Zub and the Presbytery.

- The 400 series of forms are under review; some changes have already been incorporated to make them more user-friendly.
- The Settlement Committee will be meeting April 25 in London, but Brian is unable to attend.
- Brian noted that Algoma is not experiencing the problems filling pulpits that other Presbyteries are currently encountering.

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

Report from London Conference: Cheryl-Ann Stadelbauer-Sampa

- Cheryl-Ann encouraged Conference Committee representatives to attend meetings if at all possible, even electronically. Use of Skype continues to improve.
- There is much work being done in preparation for the Annual Meeting of London Conference. The Report Book went up on the website on Thursday, and the Delegate Handbook will be posted next week, including the proposal of which Heddys spoke. Cheryl-Ann mentioned that we would be electing Commissioners to General Council. She encouraged Presbyters to think of someone who might consider standing as President-Elect of London Conference as it has been some time since there was a President from Algoma Presbytery.
- Friday is the deadline for applications for the Personnel positions. It is hoped to have staff in place by September 1.
- *The Manual* is being simplified; the material is being presented in much simpler, tighter language. When posted on the website, all the various related documents will be linked to the appropriate sections, e.g. if a pastoral charge is embarking on a joint needs assessment process, they will find all the forms and handbook material they need at hand.
- Youth Forum met last week.
- The goal of Conference Staff is to be available and supportive to us.

UCW REPORT: Marnie McDonough

- “A Tapestry of Love” is the theme for UCW’s 50th Anniversary, and for the national celebration in July in Ancaster. Marnie illustrated the theme with an eight-minute slideshow of 90 pictures with background music, showing glimpses of familiar UCW faces and activities fulfilling their mandate of witness, study, fellowship and service.
- She gave us more information about the Morogoro Women’s Centre, for which Algoma raised \$4,000.
- She’d brought the 50th anniversary banner which will be on display at the AGM in London and at the event in Ancaster, along with copies of the book entitled “Ordinary Heroes”.
- She spoke of the three Conference UCW events: April AGM, Westminster Weekend in May and the Summer program in London at Siloam United; and of the four Algoma gatherings in January, March, May and September. (A full report is on file.)

CAMP MCDOUGALL REPORT

- John Shannon, from the Board of Directors of Camp McDougall, expressed thanks to Algoma Presbytery for its \$20,000 cheque, and to the UCW for its donation of \$2,400 for capital projects.

- He explained the handouts in the packages that were put together for each Pastoral Charge.
- Camp still needs a Treasurer.
- He described some of the Camp fundraising projects that are happening in the Presbytery, eg. the soup and sandwich luncheon at East Korah Maxwell, the country/gospel concert on the Island on April 28, etc.
- He highlighted the Family Camp weekend June 16 and 17.

NEW BUSINESS

- There will be an Algoma Presbytery M&S Cycling Event on Tuesday, May 1 beginning at 10 a.m. Chair Thom McDonough will be leading a ride from Emmanuel United Church to Echo Bay United and return – 42 kms. Because we are not able to cycle from Algoma to the Annual Meeting in London as some Presbyteries are, this event is intended to show our support of the Conference initiative.
- On behalf of the Welcome Friend Association, Marnie McDonough spoke of the Rainbow Camp being held at Camp McDougall from August 5 to 10, 2012, and of the professional development opportunity May 15 and 16 at the Water Tower Pavilion on “Deconstructing Sexuality”.
- David Root asked Presbyters to submit photographs of our churches (interior and exterior shots) and of our neighbourhoods for the Facebook page. He advised that the search for a webmaster is ongoing.
- Nancy Ferguson advised Ron Klusmeier is doing a retirement tour across the country, and there will be an event at Emmanuel United Church on November 3. More information will follow.

Theological Reflection: Cheryl-Ann Stadelbauer-Sampa

Cheryl-Ann said that this had been a B&B weekend (with thanks to Thom and Marnie for their hospitality). Last evening we'd explored brokenness; today we'd seen beauty – in the countryside and people of Guatemala, in the UCW banner, in Algoma itself, in Camp McDougall and its ministry, in the generosity of spirit as expressed by the support of the Morogoro project, in music. Life contains elements of both brokenness and beauty.

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 11:50 a.m.

Thom led the court in grace. Courtesies were extended to the UCW units (and friends) at Bar River for their wonderful hospitality throughout the two days.

NEXT MEETINGS:

The next meeting of Algoma Presbyter will take place September 21 and 22, 2012 at Camp McDougall.

The next meeting of Presbytery Executive will take place June 21, 2012 at St. Andrew's United Church, Sault Ste. Marie.

Thom McDonough, Chair

Ailsa Hanson, Secretary

Appendix A
CORRESPONDENCE
Received since March 16, 2012

From	Topic	Action
London Conference	Warrant to Covenant – Willowgrove UC	To Pastoral Relations
Tom Broadhurst	Request for Outstanding 2011 Statistical Returns	To Pastoral Charges
Curtis Marwood	Palestine-Israel Proposal	To Presbyters
Matthew Stevens	Outstanding M&S Objective Forms	To Pastoral Charges
Peter Kingsbury	Training in the UCC Sexual Abuse Policy and Procedures	To Presbytery Chair
Heather Brady, Ministry & Employment Unit	Changes to Pastoral Relations (400 Series) Forms	To Presbyters
Official Board, Blyth United Church	Rev. Gary Clark standing for Moderator	To April Presbytery

Appendix B

Challenges/Impediments to Communication

- decisions are made by Executive and not brought to full court for discussion
- no guidance given to pastoral charges by Presbytery on which they can do and what they can't do
- ask for help and either don't hear back or it takes way too long for a response
- need more honesty
- erroneous information costs us \$\$ and generates bad feelings
- in pastoral charges without their own minister, people don't go out of their way to provide services at special times, e.g. communion, and decisions are made to have joint services for convenience without first discussing it and getting consent
- important but difficult to keep current

- need better ways to share information
- sometimes too much e-mail
- it's not just the church that's changing; everything's changing
- there are fewer volunteers within the church, fewer within the community
- while social media can be good, eg. Facebook, there are some older members who are not plugged in
- some of the younger members feel bullied; they keep to themselves and don't express their opinions
- reluctance to speak openly, and instead hold 'parking lot meetings'
- political correctness can get in the way
- apathy
- 20/80 rule – 20% of people doing 80% of work
- between Presbytery and congregations, there's a lack of understanding of the different roles, and of the different levels of the church
- Presbytery "telling us"
- lack of knowledge of Manual
- problems with Presbytery's communication with the churches
- people in the pews don't want to hear about Presbytery – what does Presbytery want anyway and why are they here?
- there's resistance to change, and Presbytery will impose change
- we want to protect what we know, protect our history
- it's not that people don't want to communicate – "we're just tired" and old
- there's competition with other churches – "they might close us" – so there's protectiveness and defensiveness
- distrust which grows out of bad experiences
- long memories of people within the churches
- there's a communication problem when we use "church-speak"
- it's so important to be clear about the intent of what we're doing/trying to accomplish
- miscommunication that spreads in the community
- people may not know the channels to use to express their concerns
- is Presbytery there for control or support?
- distance is a problem – we're in separate silos/individual tubes of understanding – we're not as connected as we'd like to be, and we've become more congregational

The good things we do communication-wise:

- use of Facebook, webpage
- our food and fellowship
- bulletins get sent out
- e-mail distribution to congregation members
- representation on official boards

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- combining of pastoral charges
- different kinds of music
- outreach ministry – cards are sent not just to those associated with the congregation, but also community-wide

Algoma Presbytery

Financial Report to March 31 2012

	2012 Budget	To Date
Revenue		
Annual Assessments	\$ 71,799.00	\$ 48,454.35
Legal Fee Reimbursement	\$ -	
Offerings	\$ -	
Camp McDougall - Repayment	\$ -	
Lay Preacher's Course & Workshop	\$ -	
Miscellaneous	\$ -	\$ 2,000.00
Total Revenue	\$ 71,799.00	\$ 50,454.35
Expenses		
Christian Development	\$ 1,000.00	
Communication Observer**	\$ 300.00	
Camp McDougall - Operating	\$ 20,000.00	
Focus On the Gay Family Conference	\$ -	
Total Christian Nurture	\$ 21,300.00	\$ -
London Conference & Hospital Visitor	\$ 36,299.00	\$ 9,074.75
Accessibility Training***	\$ -	
Travel - Presbytery	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 180.40
Meals	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 695.00
Honoraria - Secretary & Treasurer	\$ 2,000.00	
Postage	\$ 100.00	
Telephone	\$ 50.00	
Stationery & Supplies&Copying	\$ 200.00	
Discounts for Early Payments *	\$ 650.00	
Professional Fees	\$ -	
Legal Fees 2010 Cost Funded over 5 years	\$ 1,500.00	
Legal Fees 2011 Cost	\$ -	
Website	\$ 1,500.00	\$ (671.60)
Total Finance & Administration	\$ 49,299.00	\$ 9,278.55
Education & Students	\$ 100.00	\$ 26.68
Continuing Education	\$ 500.00	\$ 100.00
Pastoral Relations - Supervisory Travel		
Pastoral Care & Oversight - Travel	\$ 500.00	
Student Assistance		
Lay Preacher's Course		
Preaching Workshop (Net Costs)		
Total Ministry, Personnel & Education	\$ 1,100.00	\$ 126.68
World Outreach	\$ 100.00	
Church in Society		
Stewardship		
Total Outreach	\$ 100.00	\$ -
Total Expenses	\$ 71,799.00	\$ 9,405.23

