

ALGOMA PRESBYTERY
of The United Church of Canada

February 19 and 20, 2010

PRESBYTERY MEETING

2009-10

23

The full court of Algoma Presbytery met on Friday, February 19 and Saturday, February 20, 2010 at St. Andrew's 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, Phil Miller, Janet Norman, Eun-Joo Park, John Porter, Betty Pretty, Jan Schenell, Helen Smith, Doreen Sproule, Don White

Laity: Betty Allen, Bonnie Beaupre, Joyce Biggs, Fred Bright, Lorna Chipuka, Kim Evoy, Barbara Frasier, Sandy Fulcher, Jane Graham, Leone Hamilton, Anne Jones, Verna Lapish, Bonnie Lavoie, Lavine Livesey, Robin MacLeod, Diane Marshall, Marnie McDonough, Betty Mills, Brian Mundell, Nancy Mundell, Wilma Oliver, Norma Orr, Tom Orr, Heddys Stevenson, Harry Stewart, Clare Walker, Ailsa Hanson

Regrets: Linda Hedderson, Janet Jones, Sharon Lane, Bruce McLeish, Laurie Milito, Bonnie Rayner, Judith Rose

Guest: Betty Young (Saturday morning)

WELCOME AND GATHERING PRAYER:

Chair Nancy Ferguson called the court to order with words of welcome. Pastoral charges were reminded that they are entitled to one Presbytery representative per 100 members on the roll, to a maximum of four reps. New Presbyters Joyce Biggs from Emmanuel United Church, Sault Ste. Marie, and Robin MacLeod from Northland Central United Church in the Rydal Bank Pastoral Charge were introduced and welcomed to the court. Phil Miller led in an opening prayer and grace.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA: There was consensus that the agenda be adopted as amended. (Two items were added under "New Business" – Observer Mailing Lists and the 2011 AGM.)

MINUTES: **Moved, seconded and carried** that the Presbytery minutes of November 20 and 21, 2009 be approved, and the Presbytery Executive minutes of October 15, 2009 and January 7, 2010 be received for information.

CORRESPONDENCE:

- In accordance with the requirements of *The Manual 2007* section 031(w), the following names were read to the court:

Ministers to be recommended for Admission:

Name	Denomination	Recommending Presbytery
Bentham, Deborah Susan	The Anglican Church of Canada	Cariboo
Coward, Basil	Moravian Church	Toronto Southeast
Doucet, Marc Gerard	Roman Catholic Church	Toronto Southeast
Dyke, David	Disciples of Christ	Waterloo
Gonese, Wilson	Dutch Reformed Church of Botswana	West District
Kang, Min Goo	Presbyterian Church in the Republic of Korea	Westminster
Kihara, Yoko	The United Church of Christ in Japan	Fraser
Steele, David Anthony	Salvation Army	Seaway Valley
Szemók, Alice	Reformed Church (Hungarian)	Winnipeg
van Arragon, Willeminah	Baptist Convention	Waterloo
Wright, Nathan William	The United Church of Christ	Vancouver Burrard

Ministers to be recommended for Re-admission:

Name	Recommending Presbytery
Hall, Patricia Anne	Selkirk
Palmer, Susan Mary	Agassiz
MacLeod, Christine	Sherbrooke

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

REMIT #3: Doreen Sproule and Marnie McDonough

Doreen and Marnie reviewed the background of this remit, and briefly presented some of the discussion that took place at General Council 40 around this issue. After time for group reflection and questions, a ballot vote was requested and the votes were counted and recorded. To the question “Transfer and Settlement to be Optional”, 23 voted ‘yes’ and 15 voted ‘no.’

- **Moved, seconded and carried** that the ballots be destroyed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS AND MOTIONS FOR ACTION**Outreach: Heddys Stevenson**

- The Mozambique project has been completed, although money earmarked for the project will continue to be directed to it. Overseas personnel Karen and Bill Butt will stay to the end of their term to supervise the final installation of all the gardens.
- Funding for KAIROS has been cut off by CIDA.
- If Mission and Service funding remains as it is, by 2014 there will be a \$6 million difference between what is received and what is given out, so something must change.

Pastoral Care and Oversight: Rolly MacLean

- Under Rolly's leadership, the Committee met for the first time today. The group is small and an invitation was extended to anyone looking for a committee to join.
- Two copies of pastoral charge annual reports are to be submitted to Pastoral Care and Oversight.
- Cloudslee was visited recently, and visits will be made to both Central United in Sault Ste. Marie and Echo Bay United over the next few weeks.

Pastoral Relations: Leone Hamilton

- Two Sault Ste. Marie congregations are beginning Joint Needs Assessment processes. Rev. Betty Pretty and Joyce Biggs are the Presbytery representatives on the St. Andrews Joint Needs Assessment Committee, and Janet Norman and Kim Evoy are serving with the Willowgrove Committee.
- Those clergy whose appointments are due for renewal in 2010 are asked to submit their appointment forms as soon as possible after their annual congregational meetings.
- **Moved, seconded and carried** that Algoma Presbytery renew the appointment of Rev. Dr. John Porter, Ordained Supply (Non-United), full time, to the Thessalon Pastoral Charge from July 1, 2010 to June 30, 2011 under the following conditions:

Salary	\$39,401
Housing	\$12,000
Telephone	\$ 1,200
Study	<u>\$ 1,250</u>
Total	\$53,851
Travel	41¢ per km. as logged
Vacation	one month (five Sundays)

(There was one declaration of a conflict.)

- A proposal to serve the needs of the Rydal Bank Pastoral Charge was brought to the Court for consideration and discussion. A ballot vote was called.

Moved, seconded and carried that Algoma Presbytery approve the irregular engagement of Fran Glover as Pulpit Supply up to three Sundays per month at the Rydal Bank Pastoral Charge, and that this engagement be accountable to Presbytery through the Pastoral Care and Oversight and Education and Students Committees, and be reviewed not less frequently than September 1 and February 1 of each year.

Moved, seconded and carried that the ballots be destroyed.
- The Canadian Police Information Centre has changed its policy regarding the Vulnerable Sector Check concerning "Back Check." To meet *The Manual 2007* requirements that ministry personnel obtain a level 2 vulnerable sector check, Back Check will no longer be

accepted. For further information, please contact Abiel Khalema by phone at 1-416-231-7680 or via e-mail at akhalema@united-church.ca.

- Work continues (slowly) on the Personnel Mentoring Program.

OPENING WORSHIP AND COMMUNION (Saturday)

Janice Christian gave a presentation on the situation in Haiti. Phil Miller led the Court in a celebration of communion, reflection and prayer based on Micah 6:6-8, and the singing of Hymn 701 in *Voices United*.

COMMITTEE REPORTS AND MOTIONS FOR ACTION (continued)

Education and Students Committee: Helen Smith

- At the end of January, Education and Students received a report from Rev. Eun-Joo Park's Educational Advisory Committee, which is meeting on a regular basis. In 2009, Eun-Joo completed the course in United Church Polity through Queen's Theological Seminary, and is preparing to take by distance education the United Church History course, also through Queen's, beginning in May of this year. A copy of a letter from Dr. John Young at Queen's to Phil Miller regarding Eun-Joo's Christian Education credit will be followed up with Dr. Young.
- Rev. John Porter's Educational Advisory Committee met Friday; Larry Burton is the Chair and Jane Graham the Secretary. The Committee has some questions about John's course work and will be in touch with Education and Students about that in the near future.
- The Education and Students Committee reviewed the new policy book for Admissions to the United Church of Canada from other denominations. The major changes tend to take this process away from Education and Students Committees and put more emphasis on the Human Resources Unit of General Council. Initial interviews will be done by the Conference Interview Board. These new policies will take place 90 days after the publication of the General Council Record of Proceedings sometime in the spring of 2010. The new process is to be fully implemented by July 1, 2010. It is unclear how this might impact those people already in the process and Helen will contact Abiel Khalema at General Council about this.

Faith Formation and Communications: Jan Schenell

- Further to the Court's decision in November 2009 to invite Kempton Hewitt to do some continuing education work with Algoma, Jan and Kempton have been in dialogue about topics and time-frame. The suggestion has been made that Kempton lead a workshop on the Friday evening of the September 2010 Presbytery meeting.
- The Committee is doing some work around defining their role and mandate, and want to concentrate efforts on faith development and Christian Education. An invitation was extended and an appeal made for new members.

United Church Women: Clare Walker and Norma Orr (written report)

- Twenty-nine ladies met at East Korah Maxwell United Church on Saturday, January 16, 2010 for our winter gathering. We enjoyed the warm welcome, excellent lunch, meaningful worship and upbeat music. Helen Smith led us in an excellent presentation on the miracles. Did you know there are 75 miracles in the Old Testament and 45 in the New Testament?
- We have donated \$1,000 to the Haiti Appeal.
- We are now looking forward to our Annual Gathering on March 6 at Central United Church. We will have Diane Marshall speak to us on her working trip to Honduras. Our theme is "Where in the World are We @?"

Finance and Administration: Phil Miller

- As Chair of the Church Extension Council, Phil presented the report for the year ending January 31, 2010 and responded to questions regarding the Council's mandate. (See Appendix B.)
- As Presbytery Treasurer, Phil presented the 2009 Statement of Income and Expenses which shows a deficit, and answered related questions. (See Appendix C.) He advised the Court of upcoming expenses related to the Blind River Pastoral Charge including legal fees, and the increase in the London Conference assessment.

Nominations: Helen Smith

- The following Presbyters were asked to consider which Committee would best fit their gifts and skills: Betty Allen, Lorna Chiupka, Linda Hedderson, Robin MacLeod, Laurie Milito.
- Helen reminded the Court that there is a vacancy for Chair-Elect.
- A Short Spiritual Gift Inventory was distributed for completion and return during the morning.

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

THE FUTURE OF OUTDOOR MINISTRY/CAMP MCDOUGALL: Janet Norman

Janet explained that what we were about to do was the first step in a process which would take several months, and would begin with the consideration of how we would make our decision.

- **Moved, seconded and carried** that Algoma Presbytery use the consensus model when we come to deciding the future of Camp McDougall.

She then gave us some facts and figures about the camp, and the group was asked to think about the question: “Does Presbytery have the passion to maintain funding and support for Camp McDougall?” We placed red dots on a line somewhere between and ‘yes’ and a ‘no’ answer to that question, and then, looking at the placement of those dots, we were asked, “What do you see?” “How do you feel about it?” and “What does the line of red dots mean?” (or “How do you interpret what you see?”) Folks were then asked to discuss the issue in their table groups, to write ten words that express where the group is on the line, and to post a green dot on the continuum representing the group’s response to the question. (See Appendix D.) The Court was then asked to analyze whether or not there was a shift from the individual to the group response. Homework was assigned; Presbyters were asked to conduct a similar workshop in their home congregations and bring back the responses to the April Presbytery meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

- **The “Spiritual” Gift Inventories** were completed and returned to the Nominations Committee Chair for analysis and consideration of the question “What might Presbytery look like if people used the gifts they’d self-identified on the committee needing those gifts?” This will be presented at the April meeting for consideration.
- **Anglican/United Church Dialogue:** There was no immediate response from the Court about this issue, so Chair Nancy Ferguson asked people to review the material and submit their responses individually on-line.
- **Sale of Mailing List by United Church Observer:** A letter to the Editor of the Observer had been drafted and circulated to all Presbyters by one of our members, objecting to the sale of the Observer mailing list to third parties. After discussion, it was agreed that individual subscribers be encouraged to voice their objections directly to the magazine and Presbyters were encouraged to share this information with their congregations.

Moved, seconded and carried that Algoma Presbytery send a letter to the United Church Observer objecting to the practice of selling their mailing list to third parties, and noting our concerns.

- **AGM 2011:** Presbytery was advised that Janet Norman had volunteered to chair the Local Arrangements Committee for next year’s annual meeting of London Conference, which will be held in Algoma. Work has already begun; contracts have been submitted to Conference for the use of the Great Northern Hotel & Conference Centre (formerly the Ramada Inn) – the only facility large enough to accommodate the requirements of such a large group.

- **Camp McDougall Board Meeting:** The Court was reminded of the open invitation to attend the Camp McDougall Annual Board Meeting at 7 p.m. on February 24 at Willowgrove UC.
- **Linnea Good:** Linnea will be in the area in April, the same weekend that Presbytery will be meeting, and she has offered to lead a workshop or provide worship leadership in any local pastoral charge.
- **Licensed Lay Worship Leaders:** There was a reminder that the nine Lay Worship Leaders whose names appear on the Presbytery website are available for pulpit supply.
- **Sale of Thessalon Manse:** Thanks were extended to the Chair and Secretary for their assistance in processing the paperwork re. the sale of the manse in Thessalon.
- **Thanks to the Past Chair, Faith Formation and Communications:** A card was hand-delivered to Larry Burton in appreciation of his tenure as Chair of the Faith Formation and Communications Committee.

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 12:47 p.m.

Phil Miller offered a prayer of thanks for the time shared, the meal about to be shared and the people who had prepared it.

Courtesies were extended to the teams of women who had prepared, served and cleared away the meals and snacks over the two days that Presbytery met at St. Andrews.

NEXT MEETING: The next meeting of Algoma Presbytery will take place April 16 and 17, 2010 at Zion United Church in Thessalon.

Nancy Ferguson, Chair

Ailsa Hanson, Secretary

Appendix A
CORRESPONDENCE
Received since January 21, 2010

From	Topic	Action
Gordon Stone	Donations for Haiti	To Presbyters
R. Matthew Stevens	M&S Submissions	To Presbyters
R. Matthew Stevens	Update – UCC’s Response to Haiti’s Crisis	To Presbyters
R. Matthew Stevens	Web Badges for Haiti Appeal	To Presbyters
R. Matthew Stevens	Update on KAIROS Situation	To Presbyters
Tom Broadhurst	Return of 2008 Statistical Forms	To file
Camping Ministries	We Are Camp 2010 Awareness Campaign	To Faith Formation & Communications Committee
London Conference	Ken Callahan Event June 2010	To Presbyters
Tom Broadhurst	2009 Statistical/Info. Forms – Extra Sets	To file
Catherine O’Brien	LLWLs	Response by E&S & Secretary
Rev. Abiel Khalema	Circulation List - Admissions & Re-Admissions; New Admissions Process	Package to Education & Students Committee; list to February Presbytery
The Supreme Master Ching Hai	Save the Planet	To file
General Council Office	Update on CIDA Matching Funds for Haiti Donations	To Presbyters
R. Matthew Stevens	UC Haiti Relief Update	To Presbyters
R. Matthew Stevens	Northern Youth Abroad	To Presbyters
R. Matthew Stevens	KAIROS Funding Cuts	To Presbyters
London Conference	“Freakout” Youth Retreat	To Presbyters
Centre for Clergy Care and Congregational Health	Upcoming Centre Events	To Presbyters
R. Matthew Stevens	Sounding the Bamboo 2010	To Presbyters
Rev. Karen Hilfman Millson	AJ Levine Lecture Series	To Presbyters
Kathy McDonald	Survey – Sexual Abuse Policy	Response by Presbytery Chair
Evelyn Mayo	Racial Justice Workshops	Response by Presbytery Chair
London Conference	Online Weekly Reflections	To Presbyters
Five Oaks Centre	60 th Anniversary Book	To Presbyters
Rev. John Porter	Camp McDougall Annual Meeting	To Presbyters
R. Matthew Stevens	Learning Circle on Church Amalgamations	To Presbyters
R. Matthew Stevens	Haiti Relief Update	To Presbyters
R. Matthew Stevens	Video Link – Haiti crisis	To Presbyters
R. Matthew Stevens	Stewardship Thoughts	To Presbyters
General Council Office	Triennium Planning	To Presbyters
R. Matthew Stevens	Bill Steadman’s Letter	To Presbyters
R. Matthew Stevens	Living the Faith	To Presbyters

London Conference	Living for the Earth	To Presbyters
Emmanuel College	A Day with Emmanuel	To Presbyters
R. Matthew Stevens	Green Awakening Network Event March 7	To Presbyters
St. Andrew's Church Council, Blind River	Motion	To file
R. Matthew Stevens	Harcourt Memorial UC Job	To Presbyters
R. Matthew Stevens	CTBI Lenten Study Series	To Presbyters
Diane Bosman	General Council Opportunities	To February Presbytery
General Council Office	Record of Proceedings – 40 th General Council	To Presbyters
Kenji Marui	Racial Justice Workshop	To Clergy and LLWLs
General Council Office	Moderator's Ash Wednesday Message	To Presbyters
London Conference Office	National Camping Sunday	To Presbyters
R. Matthew Stevens	Stewardship Material	To Presbytery Executive
London Conference Office	Copies of Bridge	To February Presbytery
R. Matthew Stevens	M&S Fund – Year-end Summary	To February Presbytery
London Conference Office	Registration Forms -2010 Annual Meeting	To February Presbytery
London Conference Office	The Go Project	To Presbyters
R. Matthew Stevens	Stewardship & PAR	To Presbyters
Conference Archives	Making Room for Women Event	To Presbyters
R. Matthew Stevens	Uganda: Rights Not Repression	To Presbyters

Appendix D

THE FUTURE OF OUTDOOR MINISTRY/CAMP MCDOUGALL

Does Presbytery have the passion to maintain funding and support for Camp McDougall?

After placing their dots along a line between “passion” at the left-hand side and “no passion” at the right-hand side, folks were asked, “What do you see?”

Answers included:

- a variety of opinions
- strong feelings
- a 50/50 split
- room for movement
- several undecided – are they lukewarm? not caring?
- mixed feelings
- strong NO passion
- this is a sample at a point in time
- geographical?
- middle – not directly concerned
- no ownership
- gaps
- need more information for passion
- a numbered line might be more clear
- continuum – more than distinct
- decision – movement
- dots mostly above the line
- diverse

In answer to the question, “How do you feel about it?”, there was much discussion around the word “passion.” Is it the right word? Is it the right question?

What does the line of red dots mean? How do you interpret it?

- opportunity for change, learning
- we need to listen
- we need information about what goes on at camp, not just what it costs
- we need to hear from the kids who go to camp
- snapshot coloured by people’s feelings and threats on either side of the issue, in this place at this time
- room for movement
- feel discouraged
- we’ve identified the passion; now we need to identify practicalities
- the status quo has to change – it isn’t enough
- what would the line look like in congregations
- the passion is fractured – not clear

- we are a passionate people; we feel strongly
- what is the passion based on?
- do we need to broaden our view of the mandate of the camp?
- what is the basis of the negative feelings?
- frustration with the question of viability – we can't say where we are at
- what baggage are we bringing?
- are we ready to be open and listen with new ears?
- does this reflect passion in the congregations – do we know how they are feeling?
- is this a common problem across other Presbyteries, Conferences?

After discussing the issue at their tables, groups were invited to come up with a statement or question in ten words that expressed where the group is on the line and to place their statements and green dots somewhere along that line.

The two groups nearest the left-hand side (passion) wrote:

1. How do we transfer our passion into action? This means work. Are we willing to work?
2. New life; opportunity; get real; building bridges; trust; energy; commitment; faith in action; spirit

The next two groups along wrote:

1. Our green dot is here because: - change or no hope; opportunity all kinds; \$ isn't everything; commitment more than passion; I believe; can't measure success – OK!
2. To remain viable, camp must widen its scope. Very mixed feelings re. camp experiences. Do we feel camp is effective outreach?

Very close to the middle:

1. Does Algoma Presbytery understand “mission”? Do we understand “mission” in the context of outdoor ministry?
2. Passion is for youth outreach but not necessarily Camp McDougall.

Very close to right-hand (no passion) side:

1. Is there not another way of offering outreach to our children? Perhaps something that makes better use of our resources.
2. Not good stewardship of our time and money, and not viable as is.

When asked what the group saw looking at the placement of the green dots and statements, responses included:

- these are indicators of head over hearts now
- the question is not just about Camp McDougall now; it's about the broader issue of outreach

Finally, the responses to the process included: this has been a good start to the conversation; it's been honest; we've done things from the heart today – let's do them from the head in April.