

**ALGOMA PRESBYTERY**  
*of The United Church of Canada*

**September 18, 2009**

**PRESBYTERY MEETING**

**2009-10**

**7**

The full court of Algoma Presbytery met on Friday, September 18, 2009 at St. Andrews United Church, Sault St. Marie, at 1:00 p.m. Chair Nancy Ferguson led the meeting and a quorum was present.

**ATTENDANCE:**

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

**Laity:** Sandy Fulcher, Diane Marshall, Fred Bright, Tom Orr, Norma Orr, Linda Hedderson, Betty Mills, Heddys Stevenson, Clare Walker, Lavine Livesey, Bonnie Beaupre, Brian Mundell, Lorna Chiupka, Janet Jones, Wilma Oliver, Ailsa Hanson

**Regrets:** Harry Stewart, Thom McDonough, Jane Graham, Judith Rose, Kim Evoy, Leone Hamilton, Anne Jones, Barb Frasier

**Guests:** Bev Robinson, London Conference Office; Doug Wright, London Conference President; Joyce Biggs, GC 40 Commissioner; Rhea McAdam, outgoing Secretary

**WELCOME:**

Chair Nancy Ferguson called the meeting to order with words of welcome, and invited each person present to introduce themselves. Bev Robinson brought greetings from London Conference and told the group about an exciting training opportunity available the second week of June 2010. Ken Callahan, a consultant and author from the U.S., will be doing some work with Presbytery teams around the issues of transition and change. Congregations in Algoma are invited to call or e-mail Bev if interested; there is some financial assistance available. This Presbytery will be hosting Conference in 2011, and pastoral charges are encouraged to identify participants for the Youth Forum Planning Team.

**INSTALLATION OF CHAIR & SECRETARY AND GATHERING WORSHIP:**

Past Chair of Algoma Presbytery Doreen Sproule led a service of covenanting with the new Chair and Secretary, and the Presbytery. Worship continued as Janet Norman and Phil Miller celebrated communion, read scripture, presented a brief homily and led in prayer.

**ADOPTION OF AGENDA:** There was consensus that the agenda be adopted as amended. (The order of Committee Reports was changed, and discussion of two remits was added under New Business.)

**MINUTES:** **Moved, seconded and carried** that the Presbytery minutes of April 17 and 18, 2009 be approved, and that the Presbytery Executive minutes of June 4, 2009 be received for information, as amended.

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

### COMMITTEE REPORTS AND MOTIONS FOR ACITON:

#### Pastoral Relations: Betty Pretty

- **Moved, seconded and carried** that Algoma Presbytery accept the request of Helen Smith DLM for a change in pastoral relations effective November 30, 2009.
- **Moved, seconded and carried** that Algoma Presbytery approve the appointment of Helen Smith DLM to East Korah Maxwell United Church effective December 1, 2009 to June 30, 2011 with the following conditions:

Time:	20 hours/week (1/2 time)
Salary:	\$18,365.50 (category E)
Housing Allowance:	6,000.00
Telephone:	600.00
Study/books:	600.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$25,565.50</b>

Notes: Mileage at \$0.41 per km as logged and vacation as per United Church policy.

- **Moved, seconded and carried** that Algoma Presbytery request London Conference to grant Helen Smith DLM the Right of Sacraments for East Korah Maxwell United Church effective December 1, 2009 as per the request of the East Korah Maxwell Pastoral Charge.

#### Education and Students: Helen Smith

- The Education and Students Committee met on September 8, 2009.
- There is a concern that at the present time this committee has no ordered ministry representatives.
- **Licensed Lay Worship Leaders:** Roundtable discussions for the LLWL have been set up for October 5, 2009 at Willowgrove. LLWL are interviewed yearly, one year is in individual interviews and the following year roundtable discussions with four to five LLWL in group.
- **Candidates for Admission:** Eun-Joo Park and John Porter are the two ordained ministers seeking admission to the United Church of Canada. Both have begun the educational process and are working on the courses through Queen's University. John's committee had a few glitches but will begin meeting in the next couple of weeks and reports from both committees are expected prior to the next presbytery meeting. Another inquiry has been made about admission to the UCC but to date nothing has come from the national church confirming the person's ordination credentials. Concerns about the lengthy Admissions process have been expressed to Education and Students, and while the Committee understands the concerns, they feel they must continue to honour the process.
- **Candidate for Ordination:** A letter has been received from Jana Howson about her progress. Jana had hoped to be in Canada at this point unfortunately a down-turn in the economy and her pregnancy has put some of her plans on hold. Jana will meet with the committee and Peter Kingsbury in November to explore possibilities. It is important to note that through all her experiences she is even more convinced of her call to ministry within the United Church of Canada.

- **Discernment Committees:** To date we have one person in discernment. The committee is still meeting; no formal reports have come to the Education and Students committee to this point. We have one other person considering discernment but he cannot begin until he has been a member of the United Church for two years.
- The members of the committee have some concerns about the policies that were brought forward at General Council especially in regard to the discernment process and are awaiting further information and clarification as information from GC40 is distributed.

**Faith Formation: Larry Burton**

- The Hebrew Scripture study of the LLWL program is set for the first week of November at John Wesley United Church.

**Christian Development: Nancy Mundell**

Needs within pastoral charges have changed over the years. This Committee is meeting regularly but less frequently, with next get-togethers scheduled for Christmas 2009 and June 2010 unless there are requests before then for assistance. Each request is handled on an individual basis.

**Camp McDougall: John Porter**

It was a good summer for the camp; a full report will be brought to the Court in November.

**UCW: Clare Walker**

Clare and Norma Orr continue to share responsibilities as Co-Chairs. There will be a gathering at Bruce Mines on September 23 for dinner and a presentation from General Council Commissioners.

**Pastoral Care and Oversight: Thom McDonough – No report.****Outreach: Heddys Stevenson**

- **Moved, seconded and carried** that the 2010 Mission Support Grant application request for \$15,000, received from St. Paul's United Church, Manitouwadge, be approved and forwarded to London Conference for consideration.
- **Moved, seconded and carried** that the 2010 Mission Support Grant application request for \$12,500, received from First United Church, Wawa, be approved pending receipt of the completed application, and forwarded to London Conference for consideration.

**Finance and Administration****Treasurer's Report: Phil Miller**

Phil noted that Focus on the Gay Family conference expenses are not included in the Statement presented, and that application has been made to Westminster College for funding. Conference organizer Harry Stewart has been assured that the money will be forthcoming. In response to a question, Phil advised that Committee budgets should be submitted by November 1.

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

**GUEST SPEAKER REV. DOUG WRIGHT:** The new President of London Conference described his theme for his term, which is “The Church In Exile: Singing the Lord’s Song in a Strange Land.” He spoke of how, in exile, God’s people can faithfully redefine themselves, even flourish where they are planted, knowing that God is traveling with them wherever they go and in whatever circumstances they find themselves. Doug then asked how God’s people in Algoma are faithfully singing the Lord’s song, and responses included the weekend conference “Focus on the Gay Family”, joint ecumenical and various outreach initiatives, new and/or growing ministries (prayer shawls, thrift store, lay preachers, etc.).

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **Report on Nominations: Helen Smith**

Helen brought forward the name of Fred Bright for the position of Chair of Finance and Administration, and asked if there were any other nominations from the floor for the role.

- **Moved, seconded and carried** that nominations be closed.

The community celebrated Fred Bright’s acclamation to the position of Chair of Finance and Administration, Algoma Presbytery.

### **Report on Projector Sign-out Program: Phil Miller**

There is a sign-out register in place for the use of the Presbytery projector. This equipment, which is housed at St. Andrews, may be used for any Presbytery or Presbytery-related (including congregational) event. Phil will set up a calendar schedule, as the machine will be signed-out on a first-come, first-served basis. Meetings of Presbytery will have first call.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Presentation of Prayer Shawl: Nancy Ferguson**

Chair Nancy Ferguson presented the Algoma Presbytery Prayer Shawl from now Past President of London Conference, Susan Cameron, to Chaplain Larry Burton to use as he sees fit in his ministry among us.

### **Report from GC 40 Commissioners: Joyce Biggs**

- On behalf of Algoma’s representatives to General Council, Joyce Biggs gave an animated overview presentation, complete with props and PowerPoint slide show. She explained the journey that Commissioners embarked on, and told us that five themes had emerged over the week of intense, focused work. Those themes which the Council affirmed and which will guide the Church during the next three years are: emerging church; authentic relations with youth and young adults; care of creation; faith formation; and becoming a whole people.
- Nancy asked people to name topics they would like to hear more about at the November meeting of Presbytery, and those mentioned were: “hot topics” from each Commission (i.e. those issues that evoked the greatest discussion and/or inspired the most emotion); the settlement questions that are being further considered; and the experiences that stood out most vividly for the Commissioners.

### **Remits 1 and 2: Doreen Sproule**

- Doreen reviewed for the group the background and questions posed in the two remits sent from General Council. The questions were put to the group, and the votes counted and entered.

**Honouring Outgoing Chair and Secretary: Jan Schenell**

Jan led us in a service of thanksgiving for the work and gifts of outgoing Chair Doreen Sproule and outgoing Secretary Rhea McAdam. She reminded us that there is “nothing voluntary about discipleship; Jesus calls and sends us; He doesn’t ask us to volunteer.” Cards were presented and thanks expressed for all that these women had contributed through their years of faithful discipleship.

**CLOSING**

Continuing with the theme of gratitude, Nancy asked us to take a moment to centre ourselves, and to share what it is for which we are grateful. Responses included: family, colleagues, those who answer a call, models of authentic spirituality, the passion and compassion of Presbytery, new perspectives, the power of people working alongside one another. Nancy then led us in prayer.

- **Moved, seconded and carried** to extend the powers of Presbytery to the Executive until the next full meeting.
- Moved and carried that the meeting of Algoma Presbytery adjourn at 5 p.m.

**NEXT MEETING:** The next Presbytery meeting will take place November 20 and 21, 2009 at John Wesley United Church

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Nancy Ferguson, Chair

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Ailsa Hanson, Secretary

## Appendix A

### CORRESPONDENCE

*Received since August 20, 2009*

<b>From</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Action</b>
Residential Schools Steering Committee	Residential Schools Update	On file
General Council Office	News Release: Palestinian Community	Forwarded to Presbytery
General Council Office	News Release: No Boycott	Forwarded to Presbytery
East Korah Maxwell UC	Congregational Meeting	On file
East Korah Maxwell UC	Notification of Results	On file
Emmanuel College	Continuing Education	Forwarded to Presbytery
Peter Kingsbury	Clergy Tax	Forwarded to Presbytery
Doug Flanders	News Release: Lisa Di Veto	Forwarded to Presbytery
Heather McLean	Lisa Di Veto	Forwarded to Presbytery
Robin Kerr	Training: Victim Services	Forwarded to Presbytery
London Conference	Church School Teachers	Forwarded to Presbytery
Nora Sanders	Remits 1 and 2	Discussion/vote at Presbytery Meeting
Rev. N. St. Jean	Applicant's Reply	On file
General Council Office	News Release: M. Tindal	Forwarded to Presbytery
London Conference	Rural Ministries Event	Forwarded to Presbytery
Peter Kingsbury	Educational Supervisors	Read at Presbytery Meeting
Hicks Morley	Response	On file
Peter Kingsbury	Pastoral Oversight Resources	Forwarded to Pastoral Relations/Pastoral Oversight Committees
London Conference	Record of Proceedings/Roll of Conference – 85 <sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting May 2009	Distributed at Presbytery Meeting