

**ALGOMA PRESBYTERY
THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA**

NOVEMBER 16 & 17, 2007

PRESBYTERY MEETING 2007-08

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The full court of Algoma Presbytery met on Friday, November 16 and Saturday, November 17 at John Wesley United Church, beginning at 1 p.m. Chairperson Doreen Sproule led the meeting and a quorum was present.

ATTENDANCE:

Order of Ministry: Norine St. Jean, Janet Schenell, Laurie Milito, Joy McPhee, Betty Pretty, Rolly MacLean, Nancy Ferguson, Thom McDonough, Larry Burton, Doreen Sproule, Marilyn Billings, Janet Norman, Phil Miller, Eun-Joo Park, John Porter, Helen Smith, Bruce McLeish.

Laity: Nancy Beilhartz, Anne Jones, Joyce Mertes, Sandy Fulcher, Nancy Rouble, Fred Bright, Verna Lapish, Ruby Vaughan, Joyce Biggs, Sharon Lane, Leone Hamilton, Judith Rose, Betty Mills, Heddys Stevenson, Clare Walker, Bonnie Beaupre, Brian Mundell, Mary McCormick, Wilma Oliver, Elaine Craig, Norma Orr, Nancy Mundell, Rob McCutcheon, Don White, Kim Evoy, Tom Orr, Rhea McAdam.

Guests: Marnie McDonough, Treasurer, Camp McDougall; Peter Kingsbury, London Conference

Regrets: Erin Todd, Aileen Hadden, Jane Graham, Diane Marshall, Janet Jones.

Opening: Rev. Doreen Sproule, Chair of Algoma Presbytery, introduced Peter Kingsbury to the court, and new representatives Fred Bright from Echo Bay and Elaine Craig from Willowgrove were introduced.

MINUTES: Moved, seconded and carried: to approve the Minutes of September 21 & 22, 2007 meeting as amended. Minutes of executive meeting on August 16, 2007 were received.

FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE REPORT: Norine St. Jean

Treasurer's Report: Phil Miller - Phil reviewed the proposed format for determining assessments, using contributing households instead of the roll. It was agreed that this system seems to be fairer. It was agreed by consensus that this format will be used starting next year.

Moved, seconded and carried: that Algoma Presbytery accepts the Treasurer's report.

EDUCATION AND STUDENTS: Wilma Oliver**Students:**

- a) **Jana Howson** is waiting for one last reference to come in for acceptance at Emmanuel College. She will then see what is available to her for first year courses this winter. She continues to be actively involved in the Lutheran Church, which she and her husband attend. She is still teaching her Jr. High Sunday school class, and working with the youth. She is completing her “Comparative Religions” course as well.

Moved, seconded and carried: that Algoma Presbytery approved the completion of FFE 206 confirming Jana Howson as a candidate for Ordained Ministry in the United Church of Canada.

Admissions:

- a) **Rev. Eun-Joo Park**, currently serving the St Joeseph Island Pastoral Charge has met with her Appointment Advisory Team three times. They report that the meetings are progressing well, and the discussions have been productive and informative. They have further meetings scheduled for December, February and April.

- b) **Rev. Dr. John Porter**, presently serving in Thessalon Pastoral Charge has met with his Appointment Advisory Team twice and also report that the sessions are going well.

Moved, seconded and carried: The Algoma Presbytery E&S committee recommends that the Licenses of the following LLWLs be renewed for the year 2008:

Desmond Beck, Margaret Cameron, Joyce Fielder, Barb Frazier, Jane Graham, Marnie Mc Donough, Joy Mc Phee, Brian Mundell, Nancy Mundell, Wilda Ryckman, Gordon Stone and Margaret Tait. Also Nan Cressman pending the completion of an interview with the E&S committee.

LLWL: The Education and Students Committee have wrapped up their interviews with all but one of the Licensed Lay Worship Leaders just this week. As in the past the interviews took place in a group round table discussion format which the LLWL like as they get to share helpful information among themselves as well as with the E&S committee. The committee has several concerns as a result of these interviews:

- We'd like the sanction of Presbytery to initiate some requirement attached to their annual re-licensing.
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- We will be sending out a letter to each Pastoral Charge containing the names, phone numbers and e-mail addresses of ALL LICENSED LAY WORSHIP LEADERS and will encourage you all to enlist the services of those you have not perhaps had the opportunity to hear from in the past, so that all the LLWLs get some experience over the course of the year.
- The committee also felt it would be advisable to interview each LLWL individually in the intervening year between the round table group interviews. This will be initiated next October 2008 with the group interviews being held October 2009.

PASTORAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT - Leone Hamilton

Discussion took place regarding the difference between "settlement" and "appointment". The difference revolves around the issue of time limits of the position -- there is no time limit for settlement but there is for appointments. It was noted that this is not fair to clergy. This motion was presented:

Whereas East Korah Maxwell pastoral charge is seriously exploring the issue of applying for settlement;

Whereas previous submissions have been denied consideration by the Transfer Committee while Algoma Presbytery is in the visioning process;

Whereas London Conference Settlement Committee has expressed its support for Algoma Presbytery's inclusion in the settlement process;

Be it resolved that Algoma Presbytery request clarification on its eligibility for consideration in the settlement process. **Moved, seconded and defeated:** (5 approved, 12 opposed, 11 abstained)

All Presbytery representatives are requested to remind the Treasurer and the Chair of M & P of their pastoral charge that the 2008 salary and benefit schedule is available now. It comes into effect on January 1, 2008. The housing allowance minimum is now \$12,000.

Police checks are to be seen in February for Rydal Bank, East Korah Maxwell, Emmanuel and John Wesley.

Moved, seconded and carried: to accept the Pastoral Relations Committee report.

FAITH FORMATION/ COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT: Larry Burton

Camp McDougall report: Please see Appendix.

UCW report: Please see Appendix.

Christian Development report: Please see Appendix.

Moved, seconded and carried: to accept the Faith Formation Committee report.

WORLD OUTREACH REPORT: Heddys Stevenson

Heddys presented an informative newsletter with updates about a number of ongoing missions. She reported that the Waki Tiyo project needs help. The village is doing well but is having trouble managing equipment and large expenditures that are vital to the success of the village. The pump has been repaired thanks to private donations from a congregation in southern Ontario but issues with electricity and the school are much bigger problems. The electricity is paid for by the sugar plantation by taking the unpaid portion out of the salary of the villagers working there. They have set up an office and are tapping the line (free electricity), then charging the village. The government has closed the school and withdrawn the 3 teachers until they get a new building, which must meet the standards they require. This puts about 50 children and 25 adults out of the system. A request to include them in the Gifts of Hope catalogue was endorsed by the DWO. Any funds would be welcomed. Presbyters wish to revitalize the commitment to education.

An exposure trip to Mozambique at the request of the CCM has been arranged. Bruce Whitmore has already made arrangements for accommodation, transport and food with the CCM and Bill Butt. The trip will take place in August of 2008. Information will be out shortly. All expenses, about \$4,500, will be incurred by each traveller. Presbyters decided that it is important to recommit to education in the world.

She also spoke about gift giving and bequests, as presented to the executive in October by Heather McLean.

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

ARC: Any equipment and furniture from the ARC will be dispersed. The PCOC is looking for expressions of interest, with first right of refusal from churches.

Pastoral visits: The PCOC met via conference call on October 4 and reviewed a package of templates used by Manitou Conference for their triennial visits to pastoral charges. The templates were reviewed and changed to fit the circumstances of Algoma Presbytery and our structure. Included in the package of templates was a manse review – this should be passed on to the Manse Committee of Presbytery as it looks to be a useful document.

As well, there was a requirement regarding the review of the status of the police checks – this currently sits in the purview of the Pastoral Relations Committee. It is clear to the PCOC that there will have to be communications with both the Manse Committee (part of Finance and Administration) and with Pastoral Relations, given the crossover that can take place while determining whether or not the Pastoral charge is adhering to the policies of the United Church of Canada. The templates reviewed and revised were as follows:

- * Review of Annual Reports and a review checklist, including a letter to be sent to all charges, explaining how they can put together their annual reports for a more thorough understanding by Presbytery.

- * Meeting With The Congregation(s) In The Pastoral Charge includes a template showing the structure of a visit and the questions that will be asked. This is flexible and can be amended to fit

congregational circumstance.

* Follow-Up Letter is a template of a letter regarding the implementation of recommendations made in the visit report.

* Template For Meeting With Ministry and Personnel Committee includes questions specifically directed to the M&P Committee of the Pastoral Charge.

* Template For Meeting With Minister Or Worship Leader includes a template that is used when meeting with the Minister or worship leader alone.

* Procedure To Set Up Pastoral Care And Oversight Triennial Visitations is a guideline showing the steps to be taken in the setting up of the visits

The process is based on the selection of a team leader and the members of the visiting team – at least three people in total. Members of the team may have to come from Presbytery at large with the team leader coming from PCOC. This process includes template of letter to the Pastoral Charges initiating the process, a listing of 9 important things to remember during the visit, and signs of a healthy congregation.

The PCOC believes that these templates place us well on the road to re-introducing the triennial visits to our own pastoral charges. Given this progress, the PCOC has selected the following churches to be the first to receive such a visit -- target dates will be in late January to February -- Goulais River, John Wesley United Church, Central United Church, Echo Bay United Church. The PCOC will do some training of team leaders and will also provide an orientation session for those who will be members of the visiting team.

The PCOC will continue to liaise with other Committees to discuss the cross-over of certain aspects of the oversight work.

As part of our report today, we would like to share with Presbytery, a listing that came from Manitou Conference. This listing contains what they felt to be the signs of a healthy congregation. The PCOC invites comments on this listing from Presbytery members and members of our pastoral charges.

SIGNS OF A HEALTHY CONGREGATION

Balanced finances including Mission and Service

Activities – a variety to meet needs of the congregation

Ownership and empowerment of worship by people

Atmosphere of energy – functionally connected

Openness – welcoming, communication, community spirited

Good self-esteem

Addressing concerns and decisions of the wider church

Ability to look inward and outward. Goals – why are we here?

Ability to manage conflict

sense of control over differences – way to resolve differences

continue to relate even if there are differences

agree to disagree

Acceptance of who you are as a congregation and working with who you have.

How members of a congregation care for each other.

Goals – alive with plans for the future.

“What season is your garden in?”

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- 1) Discussion took place as to whether East Korah Maxwell should apply to the Transfer Committee.
- 2) **Visioning process:** Janet Norman gave an update on the visioning process. The Central Algoma Visioning cluster has decided to meet informally, keep each other up to date as to what is happening in each charge and to support each other where possible. Their first activity will be a community breakfast, to be put on in the spring in the Desbarats arena, for the benefit of Camp McDougall. Thessalon pastoral charge supports a fund for Camp McDougall as well. The City cluster has decided to have discussions between charges, with no particular focus other than to keep talking and generating ideas. They have decided that they wish to exist independently, regardless of where they may be housed in the future.
- 3) **Trillium issue:** There was a question as to whether the Church has a policy regarding the use of Trillium funds for church projects as this money comes from gambling. It was reported from previous discussions in 1977 that the Church has indicated that, while it is up to individual charges/conferences, it was to be avoided. It was noted that if Camp McDougall, which is viewed as a effective outreach vehicle for children and youth, can't apply for these funds, the congregations may need to come up with additional funds as this facility needs significant upgrades. **Moved, seconded and carried:** that Algoma Presbytery permit the Camp McDougall Board to access Trillium funding for capital projects. (21 approved, 15 opposed)
- 4) **London Conference AGM** will take place on May 23, 24, 25, 2008.

CLOSING: Courtesies were made by Helen Smith.

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

NEXT MEETING: The Executive will meet January 17, 2008 at Willowgrove United Church, SSM at noon. The next Presbytery meeting will take place on February 22 & 23, 2008 at East Korah Maxwell United Church, SSM.

DOREEN SPROULE, Chair

RHEA McADAM, Secretary

APPENDIX

Camp McDougall Report ~ November 17, 2007

1) Financial: The camp is very close to revenue neutral at this point in time. (Please see the Treasurer's Financial report (following). The \$400 deficit showing will be made up before the end of the fiscal year, returning the camp to operating in the black for the first time in two years. This is in spite of low enrolment numbers and several unexpected expenses incurred for equipment breakdowns this past summer. The camp has requested an increase in our annual allotment for the coming year to reflect our commitment to improving the physical plant of the camp as has been reported previously.

2) Fundraising: The camp pasta dinner, held at St. Andrews Church was a great success, netting over \$1,300 and served a great number of dinners. The Board has decided to formalize a fundraising committee to coordinate fundraising efforts.

3) Property: The MNR has given permission to address the grass and swamp conditions in the beach area in the coming year, although we can use no heavy equipment in the water. Building a dock over the low ground still requires a permit.

The annual report from the Ministry of Environment indicated several concerns regarding signage, training and documentation so the camp has sought the aid of Walker Engineering to assist with these problems. We need a local person dedicated to the spring installation and some interest has been shown.

4) Program: The summer theme for 2008 is "Spirit in Motion". The 2008 schedule is similar to this year and is available at campmcdougall.com.

5) Promotion: We have identified spring/fall programs as an area for further expansion. Discussions have taken place regarding family camps and offering more adult-oriented programs such as retreats in the coming years.

6) Board members are being recruited for the coming year.

7) Chaplain recruitment: Chaplains are needed for next summer.

Robert McCutcheon, Chair

Camp McDougall Treasurer's Report to November. 17/07

2007 revenue to date:	\$112,102.92	
minus Wolgemuth bequest	<u>-10,000.00</u>	(designated project)
2007 operating revenue	\$102,102.92	
2007 expenses to date:	<u>\$102,504.62</u>	
2004 operating deficit	\$401.70	
Outstanding expected revenue:	1 camper fee	\$230
	GST rebates	<u>\$2,408</u>
		\$2,638
Bank statement to Oct. 31/07	\$15,240.80	
Actual bank balance to Nov. 14/07	\$16,832.43	
(includes Wolgemuth bequest)	<u>-10,000.00</u>	(designated for capital project)
	\$6,832.43	

Outstanding cheques	-\$6,064.95
Other designated donations	- \$250.00

Accessible funds to Nov. 17/07 \$517.48

Deficit Coverage:

1. \$5,000 overdraft, secured by same amount GIC
2. \$10,000 Wolgemuth bequest cash flow access
3. Fundraising efforts: Nov. 9/07 Pasta Dinner net profit \$1,164.63

The Board has requested an increase in our assessment for 2008 to a total of \$20,000 which includes \$15,000 for operating budget and \$5,000 for capital improvements as part of a 5-year plan prepared by the building committee.

Marnie McDonough, Treasurer

UCW REPORT: Ruby Vaughan

September started off for our UCW with a well-attended gathering in Bar River United Church. Guest speaker, Anne Jones, shared experiences of her son, Kevin, who travelled to Kenya to share with the less fortunate his skills as an optometrist. Grace United UCW ended the meeting with a worship service celebrating UCW's 45th anniversary.

Many of our UCW members attended Senior's Day on Sept. 19 at Willowgrove United Church, Sault Ste. Marie. The Christian Development Committee planned the event and had, as their guest speaker, Sheila Currie, who told us about her interesting work in the Antarctic. Crafts, singsongs and worship rounded out the day.

Our October Happening was held on Saturday, Oct. 13 at John Wesley United Church. The CD Committee introduced our mission study, entitled Challenging Empire, using the May edition of the Mandate as our main resource. In the afternoon, Rev. Laurie Milito lead our study.

Our groups are gearing up for turkey suppers, Christmas teas and pie baking days. The funds raised are used to support our many local, national and international projects.

CHRISTIAN DEVELOPMENT: Nancy Mundell

The September Senior's Day was informative and fun, with a presentation from Sheila Currie, who shared pictures and stories about her travels to Antarctica. Helen Smith, Nancy Mundell and Bonnie Beaupre attended a meeting in Richards Landing to support development of a children/youth program. The October 13 UCW Presbyterial covered issues arising from the theme "Challenging Empire...A Call to Community". We continue to support the interests of Camp McDougall and other needs for continuing educational events.