

**ALGOMA PRESBYTERY  
THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA**

**SEPTEMBER 19 & 20, 2008      PRESBYTERY MEETING      2007-08**

The full court of Algoma Presbytery met on Friday, September 19 and Saturday, September 20, 2008 at Willowgrove United Church, Sault Ste. Marie. 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, Phil Miller, Eun-Joo Park, John Porter, Helen Smith, Don White, Bruce McLeish, Janet Norman, Jan Schnell.

**Laity:** Anne Jones, Nancy Rouble, Verna Lapish, Linda Hedderson, Leone Hamilton, Bonnie Beaupre, Lavine Livesey, Fred Bright, Harry Stewart, Mary McCormick, Sharon Lane, Wilma Oliver, Elaine Craig, Norma Orr, Heddys Stevenson, Tom Orr, Kim Evoy, Judith Rose, Janet Jones, Aileen Hadden, Rhea McAdam.

**Guests:** Marnie McDonough, Treasurer, Camp McDougall; Therese Samuel, intern at St. John's in Marathon; Bev Robinson, London Conference; Joyce Mertes, retired Stewardship chair and Heather McLean, financial stewardship, General Council; visioning volunteers.

**Regrets:** Larry Burton, Sandy Fulcher, Nancy Beilhartz, Brian and Nancy Mundell, Clare Walker, Diane Marshall

**Opening:** Rev. Doreen Sproule read the opening devotions.

**MINUTES:** The revised minutes of April 18 & 19, 2008 meeting were approved as amended. Minutes of Aug. 14, 2008 executive meeting were accepted.

**EDUCATION AND STUDENTS: Wilma Oliver**

**Jana Howson:** (ordination- year one)

Jana has successfully transferred from St Andrews in Saskatchewan to Emmanuel College in Toronto. She took three intensive courses this summer and has only two courses left to complete year one. She currently is working with Emmanuel to see if there is anything she can take by distance Ed this winter. She expects to finish year one before next Sept.2009

Jana and her husband plan to move back to Canada from Peoria Ill. next summer and she will enroll full time at Emmanuel next year, 2009. Jana took in Kairos this summer and is

back to the fall term teaching Sunday school in the Lutheran church she and her husband attend in Peoria.

#### **Admissions:**

**Rev. Eun-Joo Park** is serving the St Joseph Island pastoral charge and is at step five of the admission process. To this point she has not begun any of the required courses. Her Educational Supervisor is Leone Hamilton and her Education Supervision team has been assembled.

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**Rev. John Porter** is serving in the Thessalon/Little Rapids pastoral charge and is at step five of the Admissions process. He has not begun his required courses as yet. Jane Graham is John's Education Supervisor and his Education Supervision team has been assembled. Janet Norman conducted a workshop today for members of both Education Supervision teams, and the E&S committee as well.

The new program for lay members of the United Church of Canada wishing to serve in paid accountable leadership for worship, pastoral care education and service (DLM) is being revamped and we will hear more about it in the months ahead. The last of the students in the current program will finish in 2010.

**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.

- Helen Smith is the new chair of E&S committee.
- I have received a resignation from Licensed Lay Worship leader Barb Frasier of Little Rapids. We will hold interviews with all LLWLs in October 2008.
- Peter Kingsbury sent along a message that attempts are again being made to hold a Ministry of Supervision course at Dr. Jessie Saulteaux Center from Feb.3-12, 2009 if anyone is interested. The registration form is to be released the week of Sept.15, 2008

#### **FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE REPORT: Norine St. Jean**

**Mission support:** Manitouwadge & Wawa – F&S to send requests for \$9,500 for Manitouwadge (total budget \$78,178) and \$7,293 for Wawa (total budget \$75,696). Wawa is suffering due to exodus due to economic downturn.

#### **Treasurer's Report: Phil Miller**

Phil: same as exec meeting – surplus \$19,000

#### **DISCUSSIONS**

## Mozambique & Medicinal Gardening ~ Heddys Stevenson

16.2 % of population has AIDS

90 % is spread mother to child

Life expectancy is 38 years

The aim of these gardens is to assist AIDS patients by growing medicinal plants that can be made into products that will give comfort, healing, and relief to the pain and discomfort of the symptoms. These plants are grown locally, inexpensively and are sustainable. CCM trains community volunteers to plant, grow and harvest the plants and they also learn how to prepare the healing powders, syrups, and lotions and how to administer to patients.

London Conference is now interested in furthering this endeavour to get more gardens started and train more volunteers in different districts. Because the next gardens are planned for regions that have different climate requirements, some plants will have to be purchased from the Roman Catholic sisters in the region. The project will also introduce a variety of nutritional plants that will grow well in the area. Once these gardens have grown, pharmacies can be self sustaining.

The cost for this project is \$2,000 per new field. Funds received from London Conference to date will fully fund 3 fields.

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**Action:** Heddys challenged Presbyters to raise \$2,000 for this project. Each congregation of Algoma Presbytery is encouraged to send money collected directly to London Conference for this project. Please let Heddys know how much is sent.

## Algoma: A Gay Friendly Presbytery? ~ Harry Stewart

Harry reported that he and Chris went to see “The Bible Tells Me So”, a film that depicted how some interpret the scripture for hate. Afterwards attendees (about 35 people) talked about how people are hurt. Some people have the impression that the United Church is unfriendly.

Movie is fantastic...shows how to deflect bible statements (Amazon.com or Chapters \$25)

Openness is needed. How do we make gay people feel welcome? Education is needed. What’s happening in our congregations?

### **Discussion:**

► Iron Bridge wants a marriage policy. They need information before any vote was taken and need someone to visit their congregation. Presbytery should look at issue and then go to congregations.

► This leads back to the fact of welcoming. Experience says otherwise. Once we’re welcoming, it will be less of an issue.

► Ignorance will be reduced once there is more education. Respect needs to be served.

- ▶ There is a hesitation for parents of gay/lesbian to talk about their child. These people can be hurt by reaction from others.
- ▶ Policy shift is glacial; constant education necessary
- ▶ Policy shift is instant; action is glacial. We're one generation from acceptance.
- ▶ Language reflects reality; the separation is named.

Harry said they would like to have an event (Friday/Saturday) on London Conference weekend – James Loney could come then, as well as Jeremy Diaz (Human Rights Commission- got largest settlement and uses money to support youth) It would be \$52,000 - \$55,000 for kd lang but this may not be feasible. She would only be able to come the Conference weekend...otherwise it could be Sept or Oct...show movie at a hall...open to communities...if in church, just us.

## A Creative Look at Planned Giving ~ Heather McLean

Planned Giving includes how people can make donations to what they lived for, not what they died from. Some considerations:

- 1) **Decide what UC ministry is dearest to their heart** – Camp McDougall, worship, faith/spiritual direction, racial justice, UCW, Foundation, youth ministry, education, mission and outreach, music, support affirmation & community.
- 2) **Leaving a legacy:**
  - Bequests:** 90 % to beneficiaries 10% to church & charities.
  - Annuities:** UC gift annuities from annuity pool...donor gets dividends throughout year & rest goes to UC ministry after he/she dies.
  - Stock:** when stock is transferred to ministry which gets dividend & donor gets receipt and doesn't pay income tax and starts right away.

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## Discerning membership ~ Bev Robinson

**Why are we talking about the subject of “membership” now?** Has church outgrown “membership” or lost its meaning? How is church membership different from joining a service club? Maybe our definition of “membership” is obsolete.

Membership is about ministry, growth as an individual, belonging. Membership should not be passive activity -- renewal needs to happen at church, where we can be recharged and then go out to be active in the community. Church membership is just one piece of the puzzle.

Exclusion turns people off as does a two-tiered system.

Young people don't see the importance of "church". At Youth Forum any kids can come but they can't vote if they're not confirmed. Kids don't want to join an institution. They don't view church membership as being in a club or confined by walls.

Membership can be described as a double-edged sword – inclusionary (safe) and exclusionary (hurtful) although it's meant to be a commitment (prayer, financial, high calling)

Maybe services need to be scheduled differently – an example might be Sunday is open to the community and perhaps Wednesday could be for members.

Church helps with doubts.

Maybe "membership" doesn't matter. There's lots of skill sets and talents that could be brought back to church from the community.

Membership numbers, at present, may be skewed by statistics that don't reflect that actual picture.

Membership should be fluid, ever-changing. We need to be able to offer something that is life giving.

**Action:** A committee will be struck to continue this discussion, led by Norine St. Jean and Jan Schenell. An e-mail will be sent out seeking other members.

## The Vision – How are we doing? ~ Janet Norman

Janet presented results of an informal survey that attendees participated in: People liked new format, time for discussions, change in schedule, shape of the tables, working people can attend, later start good for travellers coming and going, pre Presbytery meetings can take place beforehand. Additional changes mentioned were: more music, name tags, no handwork, more educational sessions, hearing issues, stand up when speaking.

**Educational opportunities:** Each committee could do one session, chaplain training could be done at Presbytery, training of lay people to do funerals, prayer and spiritual practises, Camp McDougall, the Manual, technology in worship.

**Moved, seconded and carried:** that Algoma Presbytery decommission United Visioning group with gratitude for completing their task of helping Sault area churches move towards a new vision for the United Church in the city.

Camp Board meets next week – numbers up this year but almost 20 campers didn't show up

Camp McDougall Treasurer's Report  
to September 12, 2008

Bank Statement to August 31/08	\$33,855.84
Actual Bank Balance to Sept. 05/08	*\$33,400.67
Designated Memorial donation <i>above)</i>	* <u>\$3,405.00</u> ( <i>included in</i>

Summary:

TOTAL REVENUES TO DATE:	\$108,481.36
OUTSTANDING GRANTS DUE (2)	4,872.00 (HRDC)
	<u>2,320.00 (MNMD)</u>
TOTAL 2008 REVENUE ALL SOURCES	\$115,673.36
TOTAL EXPENSES TO DATE:	\$103,168.08 *NOT FINAL

*Other Assets:*

1. *\$5,000 Overdraft, secured by same amount GIC*
2. *\$10,000 Bequest for Capital Projects – GIC*

Next fundraising event: Pasta Dinner on Friday, Nov. 7 from 5 to 6:30 p.m. at St. Andrew's Church, SSM

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

☐ Susan Cameron, president of Conference, will be there for the Nov 20 & 21 meeting of Presbytery in Echo Bay.

☐ A meeting will take place on Oct. 10 in Wawa with the Anglican Executive Archdeacon Harry Huskin regarding the possibilities of joint ministry. Bonnie Rayner is currently doing pulpit supply and first and third Sundays of the month.

☐ Peter Kingsbury will be here around the time of the executive meeting (Oct 16). Nancy will ask him to consider speaking about community building.

☐ Moderator David Guiliano will be here on Nov. 4 to speak about looking at vision of Presbytery in creative way. He'll speak at Emmanuel on Monday, Nov 3, at 7 p.m. as part of their presentations

on Peace.

☐ **Chair elect:** Helen Smith reported that 4 people had been approached; three said they were excited to be asked but couldn't commit at this time and one person is considering. She reminded all that the chairperson does not have to be clergy so everyone could look outside of Presbytery as well as to members at large for this position. See Helen will suggestions.

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☐ **Covenanting service:** Sunday, Oct 26 is the date for the covenanting service for Laurie Milito at Central Church.

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

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

**CLOSING:** Courtesies were made by Doreen Sproule.

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

**NEXT MEETING:** The next Presbytery meeting will take place on  
November 21 & 22, 2008 at  
Echo Bay United Church, Echo Bay.

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DOREEN SPROULE, Chair

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RHEA McADAM,  
Secretary

