

**PRESBYTERY: HURON-PERTH EXECUTIVE
CONFERENCE: LONDON
LOCATION: CENTRAL UNITED, STRATFORD**

PG 2011-80

October 18, 2011

CONSTITUTION OF THE COURT: a quorum being present, the Chairperson of Huron-Perth Presbytery declared the October 18, 2011 meeting of the Executive of Huron-Perth Presbytery to order at 9:35am for the purpose of transacting such business as may be brought before it.

IN ATTENDANCE: Tom Murray, Emily Phillips, Harry Disher, Paul Ross, Betty Graber Watson, Brent Caslick, Pirie Mitchell, Winston Jibb, Avaline Wandel, Margaret Hern, Cheryl Ann Stadelbauer, Margaret Bakker

Corresponding:

Regrets: Heather McLean, Ron Skinner, Flo Cartwright, Krista Vandarsar,

Absent:

OPENING DEVOTIONS: Tom Murray welcomed everyone and opened the meeting by lighting a candle and the lit candle represents the presence of Christ with us and among us. Devotions were based on 2nd Corinthians 6: 1-13 and closed with prayer. Tom Murray told us of his meeting with Kathy Douglas and the BANG – Build A New Generation youth group. This was followed by a reading from “The Reign of the One Percenters” by Christopher Ketchum in an issue of the Orion magazine and a discussion on the Occupy movement that is taking place in many major cities in North America and what can the church do.

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE OF HURON-PERTH
PRESBYTERY OF September 20, 2011**

Motion: Moved by Betty Graber Watson and seconded by Winston Jebb that Huron-Perth Presbytery Executive approve the minutes of their meeting of September 20, 2011.

CARRIED

REPORTS:

FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION: Brent Caslick

- 76% of allotments have arrived and have been able to send money to London Conference
- on November 3 there will be a meeting at Benmiller to discuss closure
- Blyth is looking into possibly selling their manse
- money from Holmsville has arrived

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PASTORAL CARE AND OVERSIGHT: Betty Graber Watson

- fall visits are on going
- plan to offer evaluation sheets at each meeting so those attending can give their thoughts on the meetings to the visiting committee
- will be attending a rebirthing meeting in Dungannon on October 18, 2011
- will be meeting with Victoria Street Church
- hope to create a booklet to assist churches that are going through major changes
- Pirie Mitchell gave a report on his visit to Gorrie Wroxeter and a congregational meeting has been set up for Wednesday October 26 to assist Gorrie Wroxeter Charge to establish a functioning Church Board, as per previous motions.

ARCHIVES: Avaline Wandel

No report

PASTORAL RELATIONS: Cheryl-Ann Stadelbauer-Sampa,

Motion: Moved by Cheryl-Ann Stadelbauer-Sampa and seconded by Brent Caslick that Huron Perth Presbytery approve the transfer of **Rev. Marybeth Wilson** to Calvin Pembroke Pastoral Charge in Renfren Presbytery in Bay of Quinte Conference effective November 1, 2011. Carried.

- people working on JNAC and search committees may be asked if they have looked into working with neighbouring churches

EDUCATION & STUDENTS: Pirie Mitchell

No Report

UCW: Margaret Hern

- would like some time to address Presbytery at the next meeting
- had a very successful fall rally in Exeter
- requires more support as a number of executive positions are not filled
- next year is the 50th anniversary hope to celebrate it with a National convention to be held at Redeemer College in Ancaster on July 23-27
- hope to celebrate the anniversary locally with an event in the Varna complex in mid May

DIVISION OF WORLD OUTREACH: Winston Jibb

- hope to do a work shop in the New Year

AOTS:

No report

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PRESBYTERY REPRESENTATIVE TO THE EXECUTIVE OF LONDON

CONFERENCE: Paul Ross

- next meeting will be in November
- interviews are taking place for the position of executive secretary and hope to make an announcement in late November.

FUTURES COMMITTEE: Tom Murray

No report

CHAIRPERSONS REPORT: Tom Murray

- a discussion was held on the responses to the question 'What is the first and primary purpose of Presbytery as you see it?' A copy of responses has been added to the minutes on pages 84-86.
- in 1925 people had a clear understanding of the governances of the Church but today people do not have that understanding and many do not realize that the congregations have the ultimate authority as they vote in trustees, official boards, presbytery reps, etc. to represent them

NEW BUSINESS:

- Paul Ross made a request for time at next presbytery to present information on a continuing education program
- the committee assisting Gorrie Wroxeter requested and was given permission to call London Conference on clarification of half time ministry, housing allowance and ownership of manse.

CLOSING: Tom Murray closed with the meeting with prayer.

ADJOURNMENT: A joint motion by Pirie Mitchell and Paul Ross to adjourn was made at 11:15.

Tom Murray, Chair

Margaret Bakker, Secretary

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**HURON PERTH PRESBYTERY
TREASURER'S REPORT
for the period ending September 15, 2011
with prior year's comparison**

	2011 BUDGET	MEMBER		2011 ACTUAL	2010 ACTUAL
RECEIPTS:					
GROSS ASSESSMENTS - (\$32.70 per Resident Member)	\$ 318,302	\$ 32.70	62.8%	\$ 199,768	\$ 192,866
LESS: Assessment Amount (\$.20) transferred to the reserve	\$ (1,947)				
MISCELLANEOUS	100			8,421	2,741
YOUTH MINISTRY GRANT from Conference	-			-	2,500
SUMMER CAMP PROGRAM	-			9,125	10,581
BUS RECEIPTS TO CONFERENCE	-			1,950	-
CONTINGENCY RECOVERY	-			-	-
INTEREST	200			342	202
COVENANTS	300			364	513
DRAW FROM ACCUMULATED RESERVE	4,500			-	-
TOTAL RECEIPTS	\$ 321,455	\$ 33.02		\$ 219,970	\$ 209,403

EXPENSES:					
LONDON CONFERENCE ALLOCATIONS	\$ 144,063	\$ 14.80		\$ 75,000	\$ 74,450
PRESBYTERY ADMINISTRATION:					
EXECUTIVE EXPENSES	500	\$ 0.05		-	78
NET - ANNUAL MEETING OF CONFERENCE - Collected to date \$1,950.	2,500	\$ 0.26		5,189	-
OFFICE OF SECRETARY	400	\$ 0.04		-	127
OFFICE OF TREASURER	400	\$ 0.04		-	114
HONORARIA - SECRETARY	2,600	\$ 0.27		1,300	1,517
- E-MAIL NETWORK CO-ORDINATOR	500	\$ 0.05		250	250
- TREASURER	800	\$ 0.08		-	-
DIVISIONS AND COMMITTEES:					
MANSE	50	\$ 0.01		-	-
PENSIONS	50	\$ 0.01		-	-
PASTORAL RELATIONS	1,500	\$ 0.15		952	609
PASTORAL CARE & OVERSIGHT	600	\$ 0.06		53	627
EDUCATION & STUDENTS	2,200	\$ 0.23		723	528
- CONTINUING EDUCATION SUPPORT	1,000	\$ 0.10		-	-
COMMUNICATIONS	200	\$ 0.02		3	42
MISSION IN CANADA	500	\$ 0.05		-	319
YOUTH	1,000	\$ 0.10		522	408
WORLD OUTREACH	200	\$ 0.02		-	40
FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION	450	\$ 0.05		353	171
STEWARDSHIP	100	\$ 0.01		-	-
PRESBYTERY PROJECTS, GRANTS:					
RESOURCE CENTRE	21,000	\$ 2.16		15,000	15,000
CAMP BIMINI	12,000	\$ 1.23		12,000	12,000
CAMP MENESETUNG	12,000	\$ 1.23		12,000	12,000
MEALS - Unpaid	-	\$ -		113	-
SUMMER CAMP PROGRAM	-	\$ -		16,582	12,356
CONTINGENCY	2,000	\$ 0.21		447	818
PASTORAL SUPPORT MINISTER	49,000	\$ 5.03		32,179	34,700
YOUTH MINISTER	65,600	\$ 6.74		45,639	46,383
	\$ 321,213	\$ 33		\$ 218,304	\$ 212,537

(DEFICIT) BALANCE \$ 242 \$ 0 \$ 1,666 -\$ 3,134

	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011			
MEMBERSHIP	10,998	10,613	10,321	10,236	9,826	9,734	Bank Balance	-Sep 15/11	\$ 231 \$ 6,678
							Savings Account		\$ 4,905 \$ 9,888
							Special Reserve Savings Account		\$ 24,125 \$ 21,892
							Membership Shares-Cr Union		\$ 50 \$ -
							Visioning Fund		\$ 41,800 \$ -

Paid in Full: Bayfield, Bluevale, Centralia-Zion West, Crediton, Grand Bend, Hensall, Londesborough, Parkview-Stratford, Varna-Goshen, & Wingham

Paid in Part: Atwood, Auburn, Belgrave, Blyth, Brucefield-Kippen, Brussels-Ethel, Clinton, Dashwood-Zurich, Dungannon-Union, Egmondville, Exeter, Fordwich, Gorrie-Wroxeter, Benmiller/Victoria St. & North Street-Goderich, Hibbert (Staffa), Kirkton-Woodham, Trinity-Listowel, Millbank-Hampstead, Milverton, Mitchell, Monkton, Northside-Cavan (Seaforth), St. Marys, Sebringville-Rostock, Central & St. John's-Stratford, Tavistock, Thames-Road-Elimville, Thamesview-Fullarton & Walton

October 18, 2011

Responses to **“What is the first and primary purpose of Presbytery as you see it?”**

1. I must say that Presbytery meetings are not my favourite things. I like standing in line, grocery shopping, paying income tax much better. But Presbytery is a necessary part of the church that ALL of us in ministry need to pay attention to. In my view the primary purpose of Presbytery should be in a helping role; helping congregations meet their objectives in a Christ filled mission. Now I know we need a Manual with its rules and regulations to govern ourselves and we need to invoke rules to keep our congregations within the boundaries of what the church has deemed appropriate. But we need to do it in a helpful manner.
Congregations often believe that Presbytery is disconnected from them and they generally have a negative view of the body. At times there is outright animosity directed toward Presbytery and often the Presbytery personnel earn that. Let me return to the Presbytery meetings themselves. We meet as committees which is OK. Then supper where we can enjoy the company of our friends in ministry and that's OK. Then a time of worship which is better than OK. Then things turn ugly. The agenda holds me hostage for an hour for a time of church nonsense. I sit and suffer usually as we listen to all sorts of items others think I need to know. Finally we get to the time where we approve the stuff decided in the committee stage. Then we drag ourselves home. You would be my new best friend if you didn't hold me hostage between worship and the general business of Presbytery and held the program items until after the general business and allow those of us who feel our time better spent in other things go home. How am I doing?
2. Together with love. - Regards
3. I must say that the WAVES of change is a call to us the Presbyteries to become the church in the Market Place. To be present where we are most comfortable in doing the things we are good at. I am not saying Pastoral Relations business should not be important at the Presbytery level, but if it's carried out by paid staff then we would be freed up to do more deeper and meaningful educational things within our presbyteries. i.e. workshops, retreats, study groups etc. Presbyteries will now have the time and energy to work even closer with the local congregations in a more supportive role.
4. My response to what is my insight as to where God is leading us, together with local congregations in mission and ministry. The smaller churches have been **"riding the wave"** until now but now are caught in an undertow. Wanting to still keep afloat and still ride the wave, and still work and do for others, they find themselves going further under, some even drowning. Death by drowning is not pleasant and they want God to show them that there is life after death that in the dark underwater currents light can be found. They want a lifeline but in reality know they are already sunk.
5. I am not sure I can capsize a response with a definitive action suggestion, but I've been a PCO member for over 8 years and see that the present times are causing much more consideration for my group and the whole committee to try to respond to feedback to our visits. Our last meeting of PCO has resulted in sub meetings to try to make our visits more productive and meaningful to these times. At our last church board meeting, I used your words, **"supportive and facilitating"** during my Presbytery report. Re: PCO becoming part of Conference is a **"bigger and better"** philosophy, but rarely is.
6. I believe the primary responsibility of Presbytery is, and always has been, to provide support and oversight of the ministries taking place within its boundaries.

7. It would be great for our congregations if - - Presbytery would be open to loosening the grip on the congregations... For example: **"it all began with 10 commandments... Now we have the same 10 commandments and a full book of regulations."** Why not have presbytery give assistance when and where needed? Why not have presbytery be the resource instead of the governor? Seems to me that Jesus had things running pretty smooth with only local and limited help.
8. This is the first I have heard of uploading pastoral relations and possibly pastoral oversight to conference level, in a way it makes sense if we are to get rid of Presbytery all together to have all our **"duties taken care of at conference level and therefore get rid of one level of government that may not be needed."** Aside from the Manual our presbytery has some special requirements that are not covered by the manual. I would assume that other presbyteries are the same. So there would have to be discussion and dialog to address these types of issues. I personally do not see any problem with this except that it would cause problems for our northern neighbours to come to meetings and such. I believe a merger between conference and the presbyteries would be beneficial to overall church governance and maybe free up some long time members that are getting burnt out, much like in congregations.
9. The primary purpose of Presbytery, as I view it, is two-fold: a) to provide pastoral and pragmatic supports and resources for ministry in the pastoral charges we serve and for the ministerial leadership in our membership, including those who are preparing for ministry, who are serving in ministry, who are on leave from ministry, and who have retired from ministry; b) to act as a liaison between Pastoral Charges and Conference and General Council. II. Where are we headed? In a word or two, **"trust in the Spirit and lean into the wind."**
10. My idea is for transformation of Pastoral charges from an **"attractional"** model that no longer addresses the questions and needs of younger generations; to that of a **"missional"** based model actively moving out and engaging the world in the places of greatest need rather than marketing the world into the church. I see the church advancing into greater health as we balance three important values in church and faith community life:
1] improving our capacity to be attractive by rediscovering Jesus for ourselves thus allowing Christ's love and grace to be seen and experienced; **2] fulfilling our hunger to grow** in relationship with Jesus and each other through dynamic disciple-making activity that identifies and uses one's gifts and passion for service, **and 3] engaging those gifts and service** in the greatest places of need; places of brokenness, injustice, indifference, and despair. This is two sentences.
11. Presbytery's purpose is to support and maintain the work of congregations and ministry personnel, as well as to inspire ministry as a whole. Should the work of Pastoral Relations and Pastoral Oversight be moved to the Conference level that will free up Presbyteries to delve more deeply into the more spiritual aspects of ministry.
For me, the first purpose of Presbytery is business... necessary issues and motions which should come to the full court. Only emergency issues should be dealt with by the Executive, which is the reason it exists... to deal with emergency issues which have to be addressed between the meetings of the full court of Presbytery. Equal with business would be Worship... about a half an hour. It should not be just 10-15 minutes (to just get it out of the way), as the business of any Christian gathering should be founded on Jesus Christ as our Head and Cornerstone.

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12. Christ is, in fact, the only reason we meet in the first place. (Continued)
I don't believe we need as many theme presentations. To me, they have been far too overdone, and are very time consuming when many have long distances to drive late at night. And Saturday is the day before Sunday worship, with outstanding work to be finished back at home. I also feel that, to make the above possible, the order of the day must be followed... i.e., starting right on time, and referring unfinished matters to the Executive rather than just extending the time. If people are late, they are late... period. And if we have discussed a matter in accordance with the time allowed by those who set the agenda, and in accordance with the full court which approved it, then we need to end discussion and vote... unless under proper procedure by the court's wisdom it is decided to extend the discussion for very important reasons.

13. I don't have a response to your big question- the purpose and mandate of presbytery is defined by the Manual, but I do have a little thought about programming. I am noticing that at our meetings the opening worship is starting to consistently run overtime and we need to watch the order of the day and ensure best use of the whole agenda time.
Also I'm noticing that we've fallen into a pattern of having the host minister lead our opening worship.... AS nice as this may be, it does cut the committees out of a function that they used to use to invite our learning and prayerful concern around issues and work under their mandate: and, this pattern means we hear from a handful of ministers who happen to have churches big enough to host presbytery, while other clergy, on this pattern, will not have a chance to lead worship. I'm not looking for the job but it can be a useful way for all presbyters to get to know the various clergy in the presbytery appreciating various styles of worship etc... I'd suggest we consider using committees or rotating through all clergy taking turns leading our opening worship.
It might also be a good idea for the executive to be a bit more intentional about planning our theme/workshop time. It would be good to know what's on deck before meeting time. When this has been the way of it, we have sometimes been able to invite people in congregations to come along and hear speakers and/or share worship/learning opportunities. Short answers, but thanks for asking.