

OTTAWA PRESBYTERY MEETING, FEBRUARY 13, 2018

The Ottawa Presbytery was called by the Chair, Rev. Steve Clifton, to meet on Tuesday, February 13, 2018 at Glebe-St. James United Church, Ottawa.

THE FOLLOWING REGISTERED THEIR ATTENDANCE:

Order of Ministry: Elizabeth Bryce, Teresa Burnett-Cole, Susan Butler-Jones, George Clifford, Steve Clifton, Nancy Colton, Ted Colwell, Brian Copeland, Grant Dillenbeck, Boyd Drake, Daniel Gilroy, Ed Gratton, Stewart Hewlett, Carolyn Insley, Andrew Jensen, Jack Lovering, Laurie McKnight, Grant McNeil, Hilary Merritt, Robert Merritt, Anne Montgomery, Steve Moore, Janet Nield, Ken Robinson, Debbie Roi, Jamie Scott, David Sherwin, Whit Strong, Carla Van Delen, Neil Wallace, Bob Williams (31)

Lay: Margaret Armstrong, Eileen Ball, Nicole Beaudry, Janice Burroughs, Derek Carlisle, Carolyn Clark, Malcolm Collins, Molly Colwell, John Douglas, Cindy Duncan-MacMillan, Alyce Dunnewold, Marg Eddy, Elise Farrell, Dietlind Gardell, Beth Gutsell, Patricia Hassard, Joan Heyland, Jamie Hill, Brian Irvine, Marilyn Joseph, Jackie Kearns, Charles Knight, Kimberly Lavoie, David Lee, Lorrie Lowes, Don MacArtney, Phyllis MacRae, Norma McCord, Sue Morrison, Janice Péron, Kay Porteous, Al Quirt, Barbara Reynolds, Doug Robinson, David Rockwell, Ron Scharfe, Wendy Snelgrove, Cathy Stewart, Desna Sulway, Tom Tanner, Margaret Torrance, Keith Vodden, Joan Wyatt, Ev Zytveld (44)

Lay Ministers: (including the categories of DLM, DLM Applicant, DLM not recognized, Retired DLM, Retained DLM, Student Intern and Student Supply): Natalie Istead

Corresponding Members: Rev. Ed Barbazat, Wendy Mather

Guests: Rev. Tony Boonstra, Yosief Araya, Henri Lecot, Odette Saro, Gustav Tinfa

Regrets: John Benson, Rev. Isabel Black, Rev. Karen Boivin, Rev. Erin Burns, Rev. Dianne Cardin, Rev. Gail Christy, Rev. Brian Cornelius, Rev. Paul Dillman, Jodi Fisher, Bryan Giffin, Rev. Christine Gross, Caroline Harry, Rev. Christine Johnson, Marilyn Joseph, Peggy Kinsley, Gail Kirkconnell, Mary Laidlaw, Rev. Jenni Leslie, Melodee Lovering, Rev. Eric Lukacs, Rev. Stanley Parkhouse, Rev. Kathryn Peate, Rev. Caroline Penhale, Rev. Stanley Ralph, Joy Ruttan, Rev. Arlyce Schiebout, Heather Smith, Jeffrey Smith, David Stafford, Sandra Tompkins, Rev. Kim Vidal, Ron Walsh, Joyce Williams, Rev. Peter Woods

CALL TO ORDER

Rev. Steve Clifton, Chair of the Ottawa Presbytery, called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm. Rev. Grant Dillenbeck was parliamentarian and quorum was met.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion: (Malcolm Collins/Nicole Beaudry) that the agenda be adopted as distributed. **Carried**

WELCOME TO MEMBERS OF THE COURT & GUESTS

David Lee welcomed Rev. Ed Barbezat, Henri Lecot, Odette Sarr and Gustav Tinfa from Église St. Marc. In the Interim Report of the Boundaries Commission, Église St. Marc was included in Region 13 (the same region as Ottawa Presbytery), although the congregation had the option of remaining with le Consistoire Laurentien in Region 14. Église St. Marc has chosen to be in the same region as Ottawa Presbytery.

Motion: (David Lee/Andrew Jensen) that Henri Lecot, Odette Sarr and Gustav Tinfa be corresponding members for this meeting. **Carried**

Norma McCord introduced Yosief Araya, Director of the Refugee Sponsorship Training Program.

Rev. Anne Montgomery introduced Rev. Tony Boonstra, a minister of the Presbyterian Church of Canada, who was recently recommended by the Conference Interview Board for admission to the Order of Ministry of the United Church of Canada. Rev. Boonstra is being appointed as Ordained Supply to Ashton-Munster Pastoral Charge.

Motion - (Norma McCord/Anne Montgomery) that Yosief Araya and Rev. Tony Boonstra be corresponding members for this meeting. **Carried**

Eileen Ball introduced Jamie Hill, a new presbyter from Britannia United Church.

WORDS OF WELCOME

Marilyn Hamilton and Tom Tanner welcomed the court to Glebe-St. James United Church. They highlighted several outreach activities of the congregation, including refugee sponsorship.

WORSHIP

Rev. Teresa Burnett-Cole, minister at Glebe-St. James, led worship. The court sang *This is the Day that God has Made*, MV 122. Rev. Teresa led a unison prayer. Dietlind Gardell read Luke 21: 25-28. Rev. Teresa spoke of her experiences over the years "Fasting for Lent".

She outlined the Citizens for Public Justice (CPJ) *Give It Up for the Earth!* campaign, now in its second year, in which participants are encouraged to write pledge cards saying what they are giving up for Lent. Examples include driving less, investing in renewable energy instead of companies with poor environmental records, or eating food grown locally. Participants are invited to post selfies with the campaign's information on social media. They can also host awareness events. Participants are also invited to sign postcards asking the government to stop subsidizing the fossil fuel industry. The postcards are mailed to CPJ, who will deliver them to the Minister of Environment and Climate Change, Catherine McKenna. Glebe-St. James is challenging other congregations to participate in the campaign. Information packages for each congregation are available following the meeting.

Rev. Teresa Burnett-Cole led a responsive prayer. Presbyters sang *We Praise You, Creator*, VU 293 in English and French. Worship concluded with a unison prayer. [Rev. Teresa noted that all prayers and hymns used in the worship can be found on the CPJ website, www.cpj.ca.]

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion: (Charles Knight/David Lee) that the minutes of the January 9, 2018 meeting of Ottawa Presbytery be approved as circulated, and the minutes of the January 4, 9 and 12, 2018 meetings of the Executive be received for information. **Carried**

CORRESPONDENCE/INFORMATION TO SHARE

The Chair noted that Rev. Laurie McKnight's brother, Robert, died on February 9th and the memorial service will be held in Kingston on February 15th. Rev. Laurie has asked that her mother, a lifelong member of the United Church, be kept in prayer. Rev. Debbie Roi's brother died suddenly around New Years. Sympathy cards are available for presbyters to sign and presbyters were asked to keep both families in prayer.

PASTORAL RELATIONS MINISTRY TEAM

The following motions were passed by the Pastoral Relations Ministry Team, acting as a commission, on Wednesday, February 7, 2018.

Return to Work – Rev. David Sherwin

That the Ottawa Presbytery takes note that the Rev. David Sherwin will start a graduated return to work beginning the week of January 29-February 2, 2018 and lasting for five weeks.

Glebe-St. James Pastoral Charge – Appointee for Quorum

That the Ottawa Presbytery takes note that Barbara Reynolds was appointed as the presbytery representative for a quorum for a meeting of the Council of Glebe St. James Pastoral Charge on January 17, 2018.

St. Andrews Metcalfe – Appointee for Quorum

That the Ottawa Presbytery takes note that Barbara Reynolds was appointed as the presbytery representative for a quorum for a meeting of the Official Board of St. Andrews Metcalfe Pastoral Charge on January 28, 2018.

Trinity United Church, Aylwin Pastoral Charge – Presbytery Appointee

That the Ottawa Presbytery takes note that the Rev. Dianne Cardin was appointed as the presbytery representative for the Annual General Meeting of Trinity United Church, Aylwin Pastoral Charge on February 4, 2018. Note – that meeting did NOT happen but was postponed due to weather; it will take place at a later date.

St. Paul's Richmond Pastoral Charge – Appointee for Quorum

That the Ottawa Presbytery takes note that Beth Sweetnam was appointed as the presbytery representative for a quorum for a meeting of the Council of St. Paul's Richmond Pastoral Charge on January 17, 2018.

St. Paul's Richmond Pastoral Charge – Appointee for Quorum

That the Ottawa Presbytery takes note that David Stafford is appointed as the presbytery representative for a quorum for a meeting of the Council of St. Paul's Richmond Pastoral Charge on March 21, 2018.

Cumberland Pastoral Charge – Joint Needs Assessment Report and declaration of vacancy

Motion: *(David Bell/Dianne Cardin) that the Ottawa Presbytery approves the Joint Needs Assessment Report of the Cumberland Pastoral Charge, and authorizes a Vacancy for full-time (40 hours per week), Category D-F, Ordained Minister, effective July 1, 2018. Carried.*

Cumberland Pastoral Charge – Joint Search Committee

Motion: *(David Stafford/Beth Sweetnam) that Ottawa Presbytery authorizes a Joint Search Committee with the Cumberland Pastoral Charge and appoints David Bell as the Pastoral Relations representative(s). Carried.*

Metcalfe St. Andrews Pastoral Charge – Joint Needs Assessment Report and declaration of vacancy

Motion: *(David Stafford/Beth Sweetnam) that the Ottawa Presbytery approves the Joint Needs Assessment Report of the Metcalfe St. Andrews Pastoral Charge, and authorizes a Vacancy for part-time (20 hours per week) Category A-C, Ordained Minister, effective immediately. Carried.*

Metcalfe St. Andrews Pastoral Charge – Joint Search Committee

Motion: *(David Stafford/Beth Sweetnam) that Ottawa Presbytery authorizes a Joint Search Committee with the Metcalfe St. Andrews Pastoral Charge and appoints Barbara Reynolds and Jodi Fisher as the Pastoral Relations representative(s). Carried.*

St. Paul's Richmond Pastoral Charge – Joint Needs Assessment Report and declaration of vacancy

Motion: *(David Stafford/Dianne Cardin) that the Ottawa Presbytery approves the Joint Needs Assessment Report of the St. Paul's Richmond Pastoral Charge, and authorizes a Vacancy for full-time, Category A-C, Order of Ministry, effective July 1, 2018. Carried.*

St. Paul's Richmond Pastoral Charge – Joint Search Committee

Motion: *(Dianne Cardin/David Bell) that Ottawa Presbytery authorizes a Joint Search Committee with the St. Paul's Richmond Pastoral Charge and appoints David Stafford as the Pastoral Relations representative(s). Carried*

Bethany Pastoral Charge – Pastoral Charge Supervisor

Motion: *(Dianne Cardin/Beth Sweetnam) that Ottawa Presbytery appoints the Rev. Ed Gratton as the pastoral charge supervisor for the Bethany Pastoral Charge. Carried*

Knox Edwards Pastoral Charge – Pastoral Charge Supervisor

Motion: (David Bell/David Stafford) that Ottawa Presbytery appoints the Rev. Jack Lovering as the pastoral charge supervisor for the Knox Edwards Pastoral Charge. Carried

Volunteer Associate Minister (Recognition)

Motion: (David Bell/Beth Sweetnam) that the Ottawa Presbytery transmit with approval the applications of the following persons to be recognized as a Voluntary Associate Minister:

Marilyn Richardson – Glen Cairn United Church

Arlyce Schiebout – Glen Cairn United Church

Whitman Strong – Glen Cairn United Church

Dianne Cardin – Barrhaven United Church

Martin Carnahan – Barrhaven United Church

Don MacLean – Barrhaven United Church

Angela Bailey – Bells Corners United Church

Stewart Hewlett – Emmanuel United Church

Carried (Dianne Cardin abstained)

The following motion was passed by the Pastoral Relations Ministry Team, acting as a commission, on Monday, February 12, 2018.

Bristol Pastoral Charge – Jessica Hetherington – Change of terms of appointment

Motion: (Jodi Fisher/David Stafford) that the Ottawa Presbytery transmits with approval to the Montreal and Ottawa Conference the request of the Bristol Pastoral Charge to change the terms of the appointment of Jessica Hetherington, Candidate, as a Supervised Ministry Placement effective February 5, 2018 until April 30, 2018 with the following terms: full-time (40 hrs/week) with an annual salary of \$34,251 plus 0% (total salary \$34,251); a Manse; telephone allowance of \$600.00 per annum; continuing education expenses reimbursed at a minimum \$1393 per pastoral year; minimum three weeks study leave, including Sundays in each pastoral year; minimum one month (five Sundays) annual vacation in each pastoral year; participation in the Centralized Payroll Service; pension and group insurance payments as assessed; office assistance described as 2 hours per week for bulletins; travel expense reimbursement as logged based on the minimum General Council rate (currently \$0.39/km). For the period May 1 to June 30, 2018 the appointment will revert back to the original appointment of part-time (28 hours per week) as per the motion of Ottawa Presbytery on June 19, 2017. Student Category 1, COL 2. Carried.

Motion: (Barbara Reynolds/Al Quirt) that Ottawa Presbytery receive the report of the Pastoral Relations Ministry Team working as a Commission from January 10 – February 13, 2018.

Carried

WELCOME BACK TO PRESBYTERY MINISTER, REV. DAVID SHERWIN

The Chair welcomed Rev. David Sherwin, back to his work at Ottawa Presbytery following his joint replacement surgery and recovery. Presbyters greeted David with a round of applause.

MONTREAL & OTTAWA CONFERENCE POLICY ON MINISTRY PERSONNEL INVOLVEMENT IN A FORMER PASTORAL CHARGE

Rev. Steve Clifton reminded the court that this item had been brought as a notice of motion to the January 9, 2018 presbytery meeting. Montreal & Ottawa Conference Executive adopted the policy statement “Ministry Personnel Involvement in a Former Pastoral Charge” and has asked presbyteries to ratify it. Rev. Whit Strong, Conference Personnel Minister, noted that the presbytery cannot amend this policy. Presbytery can vote whether or not to approve it and comment on it. The other presbyteries in the Conference have already approved the policy statement. Rev. Strong outlined the reasons that this policy was developed. Presbyters then gathered in small groups to discuss it.

The Chair then invited questions and comments on the policy from the court. Concerns expressed included:

- The effect of such a policy on youth and young adult children of a former minister, or a ministry couple where one partner is retiring and the other is not.
- Guidelines rather than a policy statement would be more useful.
- Was research on the number of years in the policy adequately explained?
- Who is accountable for this policy and what are the implications for volunteers in implementing it?
- It assumes all situations are the same, rather than unique.
- This is not a welcoming policy.
- There may be negative impacts on a new minister.

A comment in favour of the policy statement was that having such a policy would provide guidance in these situations. It was suggested that the policy be referred back to Montreal & Ottawa Conference for further work.

Motion: (David Lee/Brian Irvine) that the policy statement “Ministry Personnel Involvement in a Former Pastoral Charge” be referred back to Montreal & Ottawa Conference for further work.

Defeated

Motion: (Dietlind Gardell/Nancy Colton) that Ottawa Presbytery ratify the Montreal & Ottawa Conference policy statement “Ministry Personnel Involvement in a Formal Pastoral Charge”.

Defeated

REFUGEE SPONSORSHIP TRAINING PROGRAM

Norma McCord welcomed Yosief Araya, Director of the Refugee Sponsorship Training Program (RSTP), a national agency that provides training and information to sponsoring groups in different regions of Canada and is committed to building the capacity of the diverse sponsoring community. RSTP’s website is www.rstp.ca. Yosief spoke about the need for sponsors of BVOR (Blended Visa Office-Referred) cases and the federal funding that accompanies these cases. He mentioned the issue of single male refugees being deported by Israel to Rwanda and Uganda and how a sponsorship to Canada can prevent the deportation. He announced that there would be new application forms for sponsoring refugees to Canada and that training for

completing these will be offered in Ottawa in mid-March. Applications that have been filled in using forms available before March 2018 will be accepted as long as the barcodes are legible.

Norma McCord highlighted some of the sponsorship activities and current needs in Ottawa. Chair Steve Clifton thanked Norma and Yosief for their presentation.

FAREWELL TO REV. NANCY COLTON AND REV. BROCK SHAVER

Barbara Reynolds noted that this would be Rev. Nancy Colton's last Ottawa Presbytery meeting. Nancy has accepted a call to St. Andrew's United Church, Lacombe, Alberta effective March 1, 2018. Rev. Brock Shaver has accepted a call to a pastoral charge in the Maritimes. Barbara wished Nancy and Brock all the best; Ottawa Presbytery is sending them with love and prayers to their new pastoral charges. Presbyters showed their support with applause.

IN MEMORIAM – RICK BALSON

Rev. Andrew Jensen led in a remembrance of the life of Rick Balson.

See Appendix 1

BOUNDARIES COMMISSION INTERIM REPORT

Phyllis MacRae, Chair, and the members Regional Boundaries Working Group were thanked for all their work on behalf of Ottawa Presbytery. Nicole Beaudry reported that the Boundaries Commission Final Report is being translated and will be released earlier than the original date of March 15, 2018.

UPDATE ON TRANSITION TO REGION 13

Rev. Steve Clifton stated that Ottawa Presbytery Executive is working on a plan for transitioning the work of Presbytery to Region 13. This includes:

- considering and responding as necessary to information and updates received from General Council Executive, the Boundaries Commission and the Remit Implementation Team;
- connecting with new partners in Region 13; and
- considering regional staffing models.

Rev. David Sherwin and Executive hope to have a timeline and transition plan prior to the March presbytery meeting.

REMIT #6 UPDATE

Barbara Reynolds reported that to date 47 of the 56 pastoral charges have voted on Remit #6. A few more are voting in the coming week.

NEW BUSINESS

Rev. Steve Clifton thanked Rev. Steve Moore for all his work as Acting Presbytery Minister while Rev. David Sherwin was on restorative care. Presbyters expressed their appreciation to Rev. Moore with a round of applause and a standing ovation.

Rev. Laurie McKnight thanked Derek Carlisle, presbyter from St. Paul's-Eastern, for all his work in the choir and congregation of St. Paul's-Eastern, as a presbyter, and as a member of Presbytery's Diversity Ministry Team. Derek is moving back home to Fredericton for a new job; he will be missed.

Rev. Robert Merritt asked for prayer and encouragement as some members of St. Andrew's, Cumberland and surrounding community travel to the Dominican Republic in March to build a house.

MOTION TO GIVE FULL POWERS

Motion: (Brian Irvine/Laurie McKnight) that the Presbytery Executive be given full powers of the Presbytery in all matters including property between the end of this meeting and the next meeting of Presbytery. **Carried**

CLOSING WORSHIP

Rev. Teresa Burnett-Cole led a closing prayer, followed by The Lord's Prayer.

CONCLUSION BY THE CHAIR

Rev. Steve Clifton, Chair, closed the meeting at 8:50 pm.

The next regular meeting of Ottawa Presbytery is called for Tuesday, March 13, 2018 at Glen Cairn United Church; the Executive next meets on Thursday, February 22, 2018.

Rev. Steve Clifton
Chair

Rev. David Sherwin
Presbytery Minister

Wendy Mather
Recording Secretary

Appendix 1

MEMORIES OF RICK BALSON

I think of Rick Balson as the best Ordained Minister the United Church never had. Rick's memorial service was very well attended by people from all levels of the UCC. After the service one of our colleagues said that during one of those long drives out to a Presbytery meeting Rick had told her that when he was younger, he had consulted with a minister to discern whether he had a call to ministry. That minister had suggested to Rick that he would not be a suitable candidate.

It speaks volumes for Rick's personality, for his character, that he didn't get turned off of the church. For a job, he went into a civil service career. Outside of that, Rick volunteered constantly in the church, participating in Kairos, and in countless roles in the local congregations he belonged to.

Rick was ordained as a United Church elder before that system was changed, and he cherished that fact.

He eventually became President of the Montreal and Ottawa Conference, another role he cherished. That position, for most of the church's history, was denied to lay representatives, but the system changed and Rick got in there: first for one year, then his term was extended, then he was past President, and I don't know how long he was a Conference Rep on the GCE.

Rick did good work there. He did good work wherever he was, and he was appreciated by the people he met.

No matter how "exalted" Rick became he did not stop his faithful service as a Lay Rep for Knox until his health problems forced him to. He taught our Council Executive so much about what the Presbytery was doing, taking the time to explain the importance of the work being done. Rick never stopped trying to build connections and grow understanding.

Rick was a gentle man. When you talked to him you knew that he cared about what you were saying. His passion for justice was quiet but deep, and when he reminded you about what should be happening he was never chiding. His words were always skillfully and respectfully phrased so that they were hard to ignore.

Rick loved his family: his wife Judy, his daughters and his grandchildren.

He loved his community, and was always trying to build bridges between the church and community groups.

Rick loved Knox, and the other churches he had volunteered in. He loved the Ottawa Presbytery, the M&O Conference, and the whole United Church. I know it sounds cheesy, but he really did.

And for all that Rick loved what the church is, he also loved what it could become, and he never stopped looking forward with keen interest to see what would come next as we re-shape ourselves. Even when I stopped by for a pastoral visit, he would want to talk about the Remits or something like that.

I admired Rick. Not only did he demonstrate what a powerful force a single lay volunteer can be, but he set an example of how to live and work with other people that I am still trying to learn from.

Rick Balson was a blessing. I wish there were more like him.

Andrew Jensen
