OTTAWA PRESBYTERY MEETING, JANUARY 13, 2015

The Ottawa Presbytery was called by the Chair, David Lee, to meet on Tuesday, January 13, 2015 at Orleans United Church, Orleans. Committees of the Presbytery met before the dinner. The Rev. David Sherwin asked the blessing and the Rev. Anne Montgomery offered thanks to those in the kitchen.

THE FOLLOWING REGISTERED THEIR ATTENDANCE:


Lay Minister: (including the categories of DLM, DLM Applicant, DLM not recognized, Retired DLM, Retained DLM, Student Intern and Student Supply): Melodee Lovering, Ruth Sword.

Corresponding: Wendy Mather


Guests: Al Bowker, Derek Carlisle, Lorena Duncan, Bob Richards

CALL TO ORDER
David Lee, Chair of the Ottawa Presbytery, called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm with a call to order and to worship. Quorum was met.
ADOPTION OF AGENDA
Motion: (Teresa Burnett-Cole/Barbara Reynolds) that the agenda be approved as distributed.

Carried

WELCOME TO MEMBERS OF THE COURT & GUESTS
David Lee welcomed the court and guests to the first meeting of the New Year. The following guests were introduced:

Al Bowker, Chair of Council at Mackay United Church
Rev. Camille Lipsett (returning to Ottawa from Upper Valley Presbytery)
Rev. Dianne Cardin (returning to Ottawa from Seaway Valley Presbytery)
Derek Carlisle from St. Paul’s-Eastern United Church
Bob Richards, EDGE Consultant
Lorena Duncan, providing musical accompaniment

Motion: (Charles Knight/Norma McCord) that guests be made corresponding members.

Carried

WORDS OF WELCOME FROM HOST CONGREGATION, ORLEANS
Don Mumby, Chair of Council, welcomed the presbytery on behalf of the Council, congregation and clergy of Orleans United Church (OUC). He stated that he hoped that everyone enjoyed the rush hour commute to Orleans and noted that, like a church service, at a Presbytery meeting the back seats also fill up first. Don said that the congregation of OUC likes to think of itself as a forward-looking one and that he hopes this continues. He wished the court all the best in its deliberations.

WORSHIP

He then prayed for all those in need, including those in France following the events in the past week, those in Haiti still suffering five years after the devastating earthquake, and reaffirmed our inter-faith relationship. Before, during and after the prayer, presbyters sang Don’t Be Afraid, MV #90 in English and French.

The worship service concluded with the singing of Long Before the Night, VU #282.

CHAIR’S UPDATE
Chair David acknowledged the hard work of Bruce Peterkin as Presbytery Secretary during November and December and Rev. David Sherwin who began as Presbytery Minister on January 1, 2015. He thanked Rev. Anne Montgomery, Vice Chair and Wendy Mather, Administrative Assistant for their work arranging 11 covenanting services since October. The Executive has been trying its new model this fall. He reviewed the Presbytery meetings to date – covenanting in September, de-covenanting with the Presbytery Minister in October, regular business at most meetings, lamenting in November and reflection in December. Coming up are the Montreal & Ottawa Conference AGM from May 29-31, 2015, the winding up of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission with several activities in Ottawa from May 31-June 3, 2015, and General Conference 42 in Newfoundland in August. At the March 10th program meeting Presbytery will
look outward. Other congregational members are invited to attend this meeting, as well as presbyters.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**Motion:** (Barbara Reynolds/Norma McCord) that in one action the Ottawa Presbytery receives and approves, each and every as appropriate, the following minutes: Presbytery meetings November 11, 2014 and December 9, 2014 for approval; Covenanting Services November 2, 9, 16, 23 (two services), 30, December 7 and 14, 2014 approval; Executive October 23, 2014 and November 27, 2014 for information.  

**Carried**

**PACKET 2**

**Motion:** (Rick Balson/Myles Frosst) that having been assured that all the movers and seconders of motions contained in the Consensus Packet #2 are present in the Court, the Ottawa Presbytery adopts the motions, each and every, as part of this single action.

**PASTORAL RELATIONS MINISTRY TEAM**

**Rev. Dr. Karen Boivin: Request to Be Retained**
**Motion:** (Barbara Reynolds/Betty Giffin) that the Ottawa Presbytery notes and transmits with approval to the Montreal and Ottawa Conference the request of the Rev. Dr. Karen Boivin to be retained on the roll of the Ottawa Presbytery while in search of an appointment or call.

**Rev. Gordon Roberts: Request for Transfer**
**Motion:** (Barbara Reynolds/Bryan Giffin) that Pastoral Relations transmits with approval the request for the Rev. Gordon Roberts, Ordained Minister (retired) for transfer from Ottawa Presbytery, Montreal & Ottawa Conference to North Bay Presbytery, Manitou Conference, effective January 1, 2015.

**Rev. Dianne Cardin: Request for Transfer**
**Motion:** (Barbara Reynolds/Bryan Giffin) that Pastoral Relations transmits with approval the request for the Rev. Dianne Cardin, Ordained Minister retired for transfer from Seaway Valley, Montreal & Ottawa Conference to Ottawa Presbytery, Montreal & Ottawa Conference, effective January 1, 2015.

**South Gloucester Pastoral Charge: Pastoral Charge Supervisor**
**Motion:** (Betty Giffin/Bryan Giffin) that the Rev. Don Maclean be appointed pastoral charge supervisor to the South Gloucester Pastoral Charge for January 1 to March 14, 2015.

**Johanne Gendron: Recognition as Designated Lay Minister (DLM)**
**Motion:** (Jodi Fisher/Barbara Reynolds) that Ottawa Presbytery recognizes the status of Johanne Gendron as “Designated Lay Minister (Recognized)” as conferred on her by the Montreal Presbytery February 22, 2014.
**Eglise Grace United: Appointment to Johanne Gendron, DLM (Recognised)**

**Motion:** (Jodi Fisher/Barbara Reynolds) that Ottawa Presbytery transmits with approval the request of Église Grace United for the appointment of Johanne Gendron as a Designated Lay Minister (Recognized) part-time (20 hours per week) as Associate Minister effective January 15, 2015 to June 30, 2016 with the following terms (prorated): base salary of $18255 plus 0% [total salary $18255], housing allowance of $7800; financial support for continuing education to be reimbursed to maximum of $666; three weeks continuing education leave (21 days) within each Pastoral Year; vacation of minimum one month within each Pastoral Year; participation in the Centralized Payroll Service; pension and group insurance payments as assessed; adequate secretarial assistance; sabbatical policy provision, provision of a cell phone and Internet service; and travel expense reimbursement as logged based on 41 cents per kilometer. Category C.

**Johanne Gendron: Corresponding Member**

**Motion:** (Jodi Fisher/Barbara Reynolds) that Johanne Gendron, DLM (Recognized), be made a corresponding member of Ottawa Presbytery.

**Johanne Gendron: Accountability**

**Motion:** (Jodi Fisher/Barbara Reynolds) that Ottawa Presbytery recognizes that due to the primary membership as a DLM (Recognized) rests with Montreal Presbytery, accountability of Johanne Gendron DLM (Recognised) remains with Montreal Presbytery, and for purposes of transparency, a letter be sent to Montreal Presbytery that contains all the motions relating to the appointment of Johanne Gendron to Église Grace United.

**Sabbatical Leaves**

**Rev. Laurie McKnight-Walker: Sabbatical Leave**

**Motion:** (Barbara Reynolds/Betty Giffin) that Ottawa Presbytery takes note of the intention of the Rev. Laurie McKnight-Walker, St Paul’s Eastern Pastoral Charge, to take sabbatical leave from April 27 to August 24, 2015 (including vacation) and that arrangements for the well being of the St Paul’s Pastoral Charge during her absence are in place.

**Rev. Ellie Barrington: Sabbatical Leave**

**Motion:** (Barbara Reynolds/Betty Giffin) that Ottawa Presbytery takes note of the intention of the Rev. Ellie Barrington, Trinity Pastoral Charge, to take sabbatical leave from April 27 to August 24, 2015 (including vacation) and that arrangements for the well being of the Trinity Pastoral Charge during her absence are in place.

**Rev. Andrew Jensen: Sabbatical Leave**

**Motion:** (Barbara Reynolds/Betty Giffin) that Ottawa Presbytery takes note of the intention of the Rev. Andrew Jensen, Knox (Nepean) Pastoral Charge, to take sabbatical leave from May 1 to August 14, 2015 (including vacation) and that arrangements for the well-being of the Knox Pastoral Charge during his absence are in place.
Rev. Grant Dillenbeck: Sabbatical Leave
Motion: (Barbara Reynolds/Betty Giffin) that Ottawa Presbytery takes note of the intention of the Rev. Grant Dillenbeck, Stittsville Pastoral Charge, to take sabbatical leave from May 1 to August 31, 2015 (including vacation) and that arrangements for the well-being of the Stittsville Pastoral Charge during his absence are in place.

REPORT OF PASTORAL RELATIONS COMMISSION
Under the direction of the Executive at its meeting held November 27, 2014, the Pastoral Relations Ministry Team acted as a Commission on December 3, 2014 to approve the following motions:

Rothwell Pastoral Charge: Housing
Motion: (Barbara Reynolds/Gordon Roberts) that Ottawa Presbytery grants approval to the Rothwell Pastoral Charge to maintain their housing allowance of $19,500 based on the fair rental value of suitable accommodation comparable to that which would have been provided as a manse in the area, effective 1 January 2015.

Carried (Phil Fay abstained)

Rev. Stephane Vermette: Return to Work
Motion: (Gordon Roberts/Barbara Reynolds) that Ottawa Presbytery take note that the Rev. Stephane Vermette has been cleared to return to work with the Kanata Pastoral Charge, and will do so on a graduated basis, until he is back to full time work by January 1, 2015.

Carried

Ashton-Munster Pastoral Charge: Approval of Joint Needs Assessment
Motion: (Barbara Reynolds/Robert Merritt) that the Ottawa Presbytery approves the joint needs assessment report of Ashton-Munster Pastoral charge as approved by the congregation on November 23, 2014.

Carried

Ashton-Munster Pastoral Charge: Declaration of Vacancy
Motion: (Barbara Reynolds/Gordon Roberts) that the Ottawa Presbytery declares a vacancy for 26.6 hours/week at the Ashton-Munster Pastoral charge effective July 1, 2015.

Carried

Ashton-Munster Pastoral Charge: Appointment of Representatives to the Joint Search Committee
Motion: (Gordon Roberts/Robert Merritt) that the Ottawa Presbytery appoints Betty Giffin and Barbara Reynolds as the presbytery representatives to the Joint Search Committee with Ashton-Munster Pastoral Charge.

Carried

Appointment of Pastoral Charge Supervisors
Motion: (Barbara Reynolds/Gordon Roberts) that the Rev. Jacques deReland be appointed Pastoral Charge supervisor to the Thurso Pastoral Charge for the church year 2014-2015.

Carried

Vernon Pastoral Charge Supervisor
Motion: (Barbara Reynolds/Gordon Roberts) that the Rev. Janet Thompson be appointed as Pastoral Charge supervisor to the Vernon Pastoral Charge for the church year 2014-2015.

Carried
**Motion:** (David Stafford, Barbara Reynolds) that the Ottawa Presbytery takes note of the decisions taken by the Pastoral Relations Ministry Team acting as a Commission on December 3, 2014.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

**GENERAL COUNCIL - ADMISSION LIST**
The list of ministers seeking admission from other denominations to the Order of Ministry in The United Church of Canada was read into the record.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Denomination</th>
<th>Recommending Conference</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Marlene Britton Walford</td>
<td>Methodist Church of Caribbean and the Americas</td>
<td>ANWC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>David M. Crawford</td>
<td>Presbyterian Church in Canada</td>
<td>ANWC</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Anyone wishing to raise an objection should communicate any concerns about any individual directly to that person’s recommending conference. The objection must be in writing and include supporting documentation and be sent to the Executive Secretary of the Conference.

**RECOGNITION OF RETIREMENT - Rev. Dr. John Montgomery**
Al Bowker thanked Presbytery for inviting him to say a few words about Rev. Dr. John Montgomery on his retirement. Dr. John arrived at Mackay United ten years ago as a breath of fresh air – an experienced minister but a little unconventional (e.g., use of a Buddhist prayer gong, African drumming). He noted that during John’s tenure at Mackay United the congregation confronted many challenges and changes: a congregation in transition; the inevitable doctrinal and personal conflicts; the development of a new governance structure and the defining vision for the church; the selling of the manse and forging a partnership with a community group with which the congregation shares its hall; and the challenge of maintaining a century-old building with diminishing resources. Dr. John’s sense of humour, his deep compassion, his curiosity and his tolerance won him wide friendship. His devotion to his church, his deep scholarship and his willingness to embrace change won him great respect. Al noted that perhaps the best tribute to Dr. John came during a series of focus group that were held as part of the JNAP to define what the congregation wanted in a new minister. More than one person said that the congregation needed to clone John. He concluded by wishing John and his wife, Jane well as they continue on their journey together.

Dr. John admitted that recently his attendance at Presbytery has not been stellar. Although when he first arrived in Ottawa he attended many meetings and was involved in presbytery events, including drumming, he reminded the court that administration was never his forte. He expressed appreciation to presbytery for assistance and support with issues over the years, including governance and crisis management. He expressed hope that the Spirit will continue to guide Presbytery in the good work that it does.
VISIT OF PRESIDENT OF M&O CONFERENCE

Rick Balson, President of M & O Conference, thanked the Presbytery for inviting him to the meeting. He reminded the court that it is expected that the final report of the Comprehensive Review will be posted on the UCC website. Conference is hoping to have comments from all of its presbyteries by May 1st in order to prepare for Conference AGM on May 29-31. The results of discussion at the AGM will be sent to General Council in August.

He encouraged presbyters and congregations to examine the report when it is available. Rick concluded by stating that he, the Presbytery Secretary and the Chair of Presbytery would be meeting to discuss how Ottawa Presbytery can best review the report in preparation for discussion at the April 14th Presbytery meeting.

AFFIRM/S’AFFIRMER - UPDATE

Myles Frosst began the presentation by noting that Rev. Jenni Leslie, Chair of the Diversity Ministry Team, was at home with the flu. He introduced other members of the Team who were present: Rev. Ellie Barrington, Derek Carlisle, Rev. Meg Illman-White, Lorrie Lowes. Nancy Hazen was also unable to attend the Presbytery meeting. Myles led the court in the singing of *Let Us Build a House*, MV #1. In his update he answered the questions “Who are we” and “What have we accomplished?” He gave a few examples of faith communities of Ottawa celebrating God’s creation of diversity and showed an affirming rainbow of certifications / accreditations / commitments. He listed the current Affirming Courts of the United Church of Canada:

Conference of Manitoba and Northwestern Ontario
Cambrian Presbytery
Winnipeg Presbytery
Rainbow Ministry
Saskatchewan Conference
River Bend Presbytery
Bay of Quinte Conference
Shining Waters Presbytery
Upper Valley Presbytery
Truro Presbytery (Maritime Conference)
Ottawa Presbytery (Montreal and Ottawa Conference)

He showed Affirm United’s website listing congregations and courts that have gone through the Affirming process and [www.gaychurch.org](http://www.gaychurch.org) which has information on Christian churches that are "affirming" (small “a”) in the USA and Canada, more specifically churches that have provided details to the organization (GayChurch.org) that maintains the data base and posts the searchable data base on the web. He noted that some Affirming United congregations in Ottawa are not listed on the database and suggested that the Diversity Ministry Team might advise the organization.

He then outlined “Where are we going?”, noting that the Ottawa Presbytery has been asked to host the Affirm United Gathering 2016. He invited presbyters to contact the members of the Diversity Ministry Team with any questions, comments or observations. He concluded by leading the singing of *Let Us Build a House*, MV #1, verse 5.
FINANCIAL REPORT AND THIRD PARTY REVIEW DAY - FEBRUARY 7, 2015

Motion: (Paul Dillman/Brian Irvine) that Ottawa Presbytery receives the summary financial report from January 1, 2014 to end December 31, 2014 (as of January 5, 2015) for information.

Carried

Rev. Paul Dillman reminded the court that last year the Ottawa Presbytery offered an opportunity for the "bartering" of Third Party Independent Review of Financial Records to Congregation; eleven pastoral charges took part. This will be held again on Saturday, February 7, 2015 at Riverside United Church. For more information please speak with either Paul Dillman or Brian Cornelius for more information. He also reminded congregations that two copies of their 2014 annual reports are due to the Presbytery office; these will be used to calculate next year's assessments.

MINISTRIES IN FRENCH

Nicole Beaudry gave an update on Ministries in French, noting that in 2012 the General Secretary, General Council was asked by the Executive to do a consultation with the French Ministry constituency. This broad consultation resulted in a new structure for the Ministries in French working cluster. The team has five members who are linked in various ways to GC staff
and decision-making structures. The goal is to ensure a francophone presence at several levels of the church and in a number of working groups.

With the new structure there is a Table de Concertation des Ministères en Français at the General Council level that ensures the development and follow-up on a national strategy that is rooted in the regional strategies. The mandate of this table de concertation is to develop a national strategy for MiF and it works in partnership with EDGE and Conferences. Three regional tables de concertation will gather interested parties in each of the particular regions. At its November 2014 meeting, the Executive of GC approved a Strategy that seeks to equip Ministries in French in ways that will enable the United Church to live out a vision of mission based on partnership principles of sharing the church’s resources in ways that support and develop ministries in French. In September 2014, the Permanent Committee on Programs for Mission and Ministry (PCPMM) affirmed the national strategy for Ministries in French, approved its recommendations and forwarded it to the Executive at its November 2014 meeting. The Executive of GC affirmed a practical/functional bilingualism as a character of the United Church and accepted the protocol presented by the PCPMM.

New representatives of the francophone constituency to the Executive of General Council are Rev. Caroline Penhale from Église Unie de la Grâce / Grace United Church and Félix Bigirimana from Église Unie St-Marc. They will both be attending GC42 in Corner Brook.

[See Appendix 1 for detailed presentation – en français.]

For C’est La Vie, Nicole wished everyone a Happy New Year including:

Nos Meilleurs Vœux
Bonne et Heureuse Année
Santé Joie Bonheur Amour Prospérité
Et le paradis à la fin de vos jours!
Que Dieu nous bénisse
Bonne Année 2015

“LOVING YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD”
Bob Richards from EDGE, A Network for New Ministry Development and Ministry Renewal gave a presentation entitled “Loving Your Neighbourhood”. This included:

- why the neighbourhood is used as a lens;
- the approach: loving your neighbourhood;
- ministry renewal;
- community engagement – listen, discern, and act; and
- what does not work.

[See Appendix 2 for detailed presentation.]

TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION COMMISSION
Rev. James Scott, who has been the United Church General Council Officer: Residential Schools for the past 12 years gave a presentation about the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC), in particular upcoming events as the TRC winds down. He noted that the Indian Residential Schools Settlement Agreement was signed in May 2006 and implemented on September 19, 2007. Six major elements of the Act were:
The United Church of Canada
Ottawa Presbytery
Ottawa, Ontario
L’Église Unie du Canada
Consistoire d’Ottawa
January 13, 2015

Common Experience Payment (CEP)
Independent Assessment Process (IAP)
Legal fees
Aboriginal Healing Foundation (AHF)
Commemoration
Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC)

The five-year mandate of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission began July 1, 2009 and has been extended to June 2015. The mandate includes:

Seven national events
Community events
Statement gathering
Document collection
Establishment of National Research Centre
Commemoration projects
Mid-term and final reports

The TRC Closing Event will be held May 31-June 3, 2015 in Ottawa. This includes:

Walk for Reconciliation
Education Day and Learning Centre
Presentation of Final Report and Recommendations
Ceremonial Closing and Public Feast

He reviewed what has happened so far:

Ottawa Right Relations group
Local ecumenical group (November 28th)
Toronto Conference decision
National EWGRS - roundtables for reconciliation
“Reconciliation” flyer in January InfoPac

He invited presbyters to:

Learn

_The Inconvenient Indian_ by Thomas King -
_They Came for the Children_ - TRC Interim Report at www.trc.ca

Educate

Participate

Reschedule or shared services
Offer a billet
Attend the activities
Volunteer

Develop a congregational “reconciliation plan” going forward

Chair David Lee thanked Rev. Jamie Scott for this presentation and invited presbyters to contact the office if they were interested in doing more and to watch for information about ways in which their congregations could participate.
NEW BUSINESS

MOTION TO GIVE FULL POWERS
Motion: (Myles Frosst/Ruth Sword) that the Presbytery Executive be given the full powers of the Presbytery in all matters including property between now and the next meeting of Presbytery. Carried

CLOSING WORSHIP AND THEOLOGICAL REFLECTION
The Chair suggested, due to time constraints, delaying theological reflections on this meeting until the February meeting. He thanked Lorena Duncan for her musical accompaniment throughout the meeting.

CHAIR CLOSES MEETING

Chair declared the meeting closed at 9:00 pm.

The next regular meeting of Ottawa Presbytery is called for Tuesday, February 10, 2015 at Woodroffe United Church; the Executive next meets on January 22, 2015.

____________________  __________________  __________________
David Lee        Rev. David Sherwin       Wendy Mather
Chair            Presbytery Minister     Recording Secretary