

MIDDLESEX PRESBYTERY**THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA**

The second regular meeting of Middlesex Presbytery for 2010-2011 was held by call of the executive at First St. Andrew's United Church, 350 Queens Ave., London, Ont. on Tuesday, September 27, 2011. The meeting was chaired by Edward Avey. There was a quorum of members present.

ATTENDANCE:

Ministry Personnel: Anne Beattie-Stokes, Gregory Brawn, Paul Browning, Susan Cameron, David Carrothers, Marilyn Carter, Barbara Clark, Kate Crawford, Tracy Crick-Butler, Jeff Crittenden, Mary Dillon, Janet Fradette, Judith Gilliland, Richard Golden, Tom Hiscock, Val Hodgins, Karen Low, Sheila Macgregor, Kenji Marui, Catherine Moore, Phil Newman, Wendy Noble, Di Pratt, Lorenzo Ramirez, Irene Richardson, Doug Ross, Charles Scott, Julia Sinclair, Marjorie Smith, Mary Stewart, Jock Tolmay, Pam Tolmay, Catherine Tovell, Janelle Towle, Paul Vollick, Kathryn Wreford, Colin Zavitz.

Lay Representatives: Lynn Ardiel, Charlie Arnott, Sharon Ashton, Edward Avey, Linda Badke, Janice Barnwell, Linda Britton, Steve Britton, Barbara Cartwright, Mary Coad, Bob Coates, Hugh John Cook, Sydney Ann Davidson, Ruth Dean, Gerald Drodge, Sheila Duffin, Dorothy Ann Foster, Gerry Fradette, Wallis Hammond, Marilyn Hart, Anne Hebden, Elmore Hill, Isabel Hill, Nancy Hind, Linda Hoover, Irene Janes, Debbi Jarvis, Betty Jenkins, Lily Johnson, Anne Kidd, Bill Knowles, Jean Knowles, Lise Landsborough, Mary Lee, Jan Lillie, Shirley Morris, Margaret Nelson, Joyce Payne, Norma Potter, Anne Ramey, Flora Rath, Marion Reith, Bonnie Rudd, Gail Schnarr, Donald Sutherland, Linda Sutherland, Patsy Switzer, Bob Vosper, Alex Walker, David Whiting, Linda Wilcox, Jim Wilkie, Jo-Anne Windover, Rick Young.

Alternate Lay Representatives: Jeanette Jenkins, Bruce Lambert, Marjorie MacMillan, Grace McGuffin, Jack Scott, Alistair Weir, Helen White.

REGRETS: Maurice Bell, John Bowman, Pete Brennan, Morley Clarke, Art Hiley, Ralph Johnson, Ruth-Anne Johnston, Mary Kaiser, Don Keenlside, Christian Kraatz, Mary Leard, Derek McClary, David Mitchell, Joyce Pederson, Matthew Penny, Marilyn Arthur

GUESTS: Kathy Barber, Debbie Betchen, Helen Ruth Brown, Darlene Burnett, Gord Burnett, Mary Dame, Bonnie Galloway, George Jolink, Jannie Law, Ross Mason, Joanne Mason, Dyane Matthews, Brad McMurray, Art Raty, Dirk Van Vrouwerff, Jay Whistlecraft

WORKSHOP: Rev. Karen Low conducted a workshop on Creating Safe / Positive Spaces, in particular within our churches and places of gathering. This was an extremely informative workshop on how to "be who we say we are" in being safe spaces for *all*

humans, but in particular welcoming and safe for the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Trans-Identified and Two Spirited community. Our thanks to Karen Low for providing this workshop and to two guest presenters, Laurie Ward, parent of a lesbian teen and Meredith Fraser, program coordinator with the Anti-Hate and Anti-Bias Program at LUSO (London Urban Services Organization).

DINNER was delicious, prepared and served by the women of First St. Andrew's.

GATHERING / HYMN SING

OPENING AND CONSTITUTION OF THE MEETING: At 7:00 p.m., chairperson Edward Avey called the meeting to order and constituted the meeting with these words: "In the name of Jesus Christ, the one true head of the church, and by the authority vested in me as chair of Middlesex Presbytery, I now declare this meeting constituted for the transaction of such business that shall properly come before it." The Christ Candle was lit.

Rev. Dr. Anne Beattie-Stokes spoke in memory of Rev. Lloyd Smith, who passed away July 6th. A minute's silence was held.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA: It was moved and seconded that the Agenda be accepted as printed. Carried

WELCOME TO FIRST ST. ANDREW'S UNITED CHURCH George Jolink, Chair of the Board of First St. Andrew's greeted us and extended a welcome. "Thank you to Presbytery for doing what you do, so we can continue with what we do."

INTRODUCTION OF NEW MEMBERS AND VISITORS Irene Richardson introduced Bonnie Rudd as a new Presbytery representative for Wellburn Pastoral Charge. Val Hodgins called our attention to several members of Rowntree Memorial who were present this evening. **It was moved and seconded that all visitors be made corresponding members. Carried.**

WELCOME TO GARY CLARK, President of London Conference. Edward Avey introduced Garry Clark, welcoming him to Middlesex Presbytery. We were given some biographical information on Rev. Clark, who is in ministry at Blyth United Church. **It was moved and seconded to make Gary Clark a corresponding member. Carried.**

WORSHIP We were led in worship by Kate Crawford and Tom Hiscock, both in ministry at First St. Andrew's and by Gary Clark who spoke on his theme for the year "Where Are You On the Wave".

Following worship, Edward Avey carried the Christ Candle from the Sanctuary down to the Lower Hall where Gary Clark continued with his message, having us break into small groups to discuss what we would change in the church if we could. Each group presented their three top ideas and we were invited to go and stand with whatever proposal we felt we could best get involved in. Once we were all "behind an idea" we were invited to

discuss our particular idea amongst ourselves and come up with implementation plans to take the idea through to fruition.

ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES:

It was moved and seconded that the minutes of June 14, 2011 as prepared and distributed be approved. Carried

It was moved and seconded that the minutes of the Executive meeting of July 6, 2011 as prepared and distributed be received for information. Carried.

It was moved and seconded that the minutes of the Executive meeting of September 6, 2011 as prepared and distributed, with the correction of adding Susan Cameron as an attendee be received for information. Carried.

Although they have yet to be printed for distribution, the motions which were passed at a conference call meeting of the executive on September 19, 2011 were read aloud by the Secretary. **It was moved and seconded that the minutes of the Executive meeting of September 19, 2011, be received for information. Carried** The September 19th minutes will be distributed along with the minutes from this meeting.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

1. Mardi Tindal, Moderator will visit Middlesex and Elgin Presbyteries on October 20th. The Moderator's theme is "Responding with Hope to Climate and Ocean Change". From 9:30 – 11:00 a.m. at Richards Memorial United Church we are invited to a Town Hall conversation on how we can come together for the healing of soul, community and creation. We are asked to bring our stories and symbols, such as an object, poem or image to represent environmental distress and hope. Elgin Presbytery will be hosting the evening at Lambeth United Church for a 6:00 p.m. pot luck supper, where "The State of the Church Today" will be the focus of discussion at 7:00 p.m. If anyone can help with arrangements for the pot luck supper, please contact Val Hodgins. There will be a flyer coming out with more about the entire day's events.
2. Nancy Hind reported that the new web-site should be up by the end of October, or at least a bare bones site is anticipated in mid-to-late October. Once the site is developed, it will take some time for the Secretary to upload everything so please continue being patient.
3. **Moved and seconded that Middlesex Presbytery October 25, 2011, 7:00 p.m. at 75 Blackfriars St., London for a business only meeting, The main pieces of business will be the 2012 Budget and possible change in the funding formulae, and Remits 4, 5A and 5B. Carried.** Copies of the Remits are on the information table and are also available through The United Church's website or via Presbytery e-mail. Let Nancy Hind know if you want copies and can't get them otherwise.

LONDON CONFERENCE REPORT

Judith Gilliland called our attention to the September mail-out (*attached Page 2011-108*) and we are asked to make sure that people get to see it. Particular notice should be given to the Hope Book, which can be found on their web-site or copies are available at the Conference office. Matthew Stevens is in Japan with the Witmers, so we are reminded to hold them in your prayers.

Sharon Ashton and Jo-Anne Windover told us of workshops "Famine, Food Banks, and YOU!", a unique opportunity to connect to the world on November 5, 2011 2:00 – 5:00 p.m. at Thamesville United Church and also on November 6, 2011 at Siloam United Church from 2:00 – 5:00 p.m. Register (\$5 to cover costs including snacks) through the London Conference office by phone or through their website or at the door. Flyers are available on the information table this evening.

75 BLACKFRIARS VISIONING COMMITTEE

Tracy Crick-Butler reported that after a lengthy process of determining possible Ministry Potential for the property at 75 Blackfriars and taking into consideration: the physical structure of the property itself; the needs of Middlesex Presbytery; the availability of resources (including people, finances, energy) and the guidelines regarding property in the United Church of Canada, the 75 Blackfriars Visioning group recommends that Middlesex Presbytery not go forward with seeding a ministry at 75 Blackfriars and puts forward the following motion:

Moved and seconded that the property and building known as 75 Blackfriars not be used to establish a new ministry at that location and that the property is recommended to be sold under the direction of the United Church Council of Middlesex Presbytery and its' supervising bodies.

In response to what will be done with the funds, we were reminded that the original agreement stated that the building would be held by the United Church Council of Middlesex Presbytery (U.C. Council). People of Colborne St. and Empress United Churches had asked informally that should the building be sold that some of the funds be returned to them. We are not able to direct the U.C. Council nor tell them what to do. U.C. Council's recommendation also goes to Conference and General Council. The amalgamated congregation is welcome to take any request for funds to the United Church Council. The beneficial owner of 75 Blackfriars is The United Church of Canada.

Richard Golden, speaking as chair of U.C. Council stated that if Presbytery makes a recommendation to U.C. Council, while they are not bound to recommendations of Presbytery, they would take it seriously, U.C. Council are bound to take it to their governing body, London Conference, who would then take it to National. The U.C. Council is being well supervised by Incorporated Ministries of General Council.

In response to a question of whether it would be appropriate to make a motion that some of the money go back to the original congregation, Tracy Crick-Butler responded that we cannot determine at this level anything past this motion.

The motion was re-read by Tracy so that we were all very clear. **Carried**, with the noted abstention of Nancy Hind.

Tracy Crick-Butler thanked those who worked so very hard for so long

It was moved and seconded that the 75 Blackfriars Visioning Committee be dissolved. Carried.

Kate Crawford asked for our appreciation to be expressed to Tracy Crick-Butler for all of her hard work leading to this moment.

UNITED CHURCH COUNCIL

Richard Golden reported for information only on the proposal for the Gethsemane property. The London Affordable Housing Foundation (LAHF) has sent in an offer to purchase the property for \$200,000. The complex will contain twenty-three affordable housing units, including some for families and some fully handicapped accessible units. LAHF is looking to seek re-zoning, at an estimated cost of \$12,000. In the agreement, they are asking for United Church Council support and UCC is willing to pay half. For this to happen, the agreement has to go to the Incorporated Ministries committee of London Conference, then London Conference executive to list and then General Council to sell the property. This will all take time, but the hope is to have the deal close at end of June 2012. Some may notice that the property's price dropped from two years ago. This is because originally it was more units in the complex which would all have been for seniors only. United Church Council is still in conversation for the final price. We should also note that this is a different organization than what they worked with two years ago under the leadership of Susan Eagle.

In response to a question about the fair market value of the Gethsemane property, Paul Vollick answered that it was in the \$250,000 to \$300,000 range, but this is going to London Affordable Housing. The United Church will have a presence with ELUCO continuing to be housed there and we will have access to a large meeting/common space within the property, with the length of time for that provision to be negotiated.

DIVISION REPORTS:

DIVISION OF FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION:

1. Jim Wilkie reported that at the September 6, 2011 executive Presbytery meeting, Finance and Administration recommended to the executive that they accept the Wellington Street United Church/Rowntree Memorial United Church covenanting agreement. The executive as directed by Presbytery moved and seconded that Draft E, with the revised Appendix F of the Covenanting Agreement between

Wellington Street United Church and Rowntree Memorial United Church be taken to the floor of Presbytery.

Moved and seconded that Middlesex Presbytery approve the above referred to covenanting agreement. For information, both of the covenanting congregations have approved this agreement.

Following some questions and comments about the funds realized from the sale of the Wellington St. United Church property, there was an **Amendment to the Motion: Moved and seconded that clause 5 of the covenant agreement be removed and be brought back to the floor of Presbytery after a policy is in place to address the selling of properties and direction of funds.**

Questions and Comments on the Amendment from the floor included:

Lorenzo Ramirez spoke against the amendment. He feels so unjustly treated that the congregation he served (Empress) and the congregation he is now serving (Colborne) were unjustly treated in that the Blackfriars property was the exception.

Paul Browning spoke for the amendment. He thinks we've finally go to the heart of the matter. For two years he's been coming to Presbytery asking for a policy. Do we as Presbytery decide? Until we are consulted as Presbytery and come to a fundamental decision on how we're going to proceed we'll continue to get into these discussions which is not good for Presbytery.

Jay Whistlecraft, Chair of the Rowntree Memorial Coming Together Committee spoke against the amendment. The covenanting agreement was originally hoped to be finalized in June and they lost a sale in the meantime. It comes down to timing. They've come so far and now would have to wait again, which only does damage. If we want to change the policy, then do it but not when an agreement is 90% of the way through the process. There is some recognition in their agreement for funds to Presbytery. Wellington St.'s cash is already down to about half, while the process has been dragged out.

Kate Crawford spoke against the amendment. She recommends we take the initiative and establish a policy, but not change the rules partway through the process for Rowntree/Wellington

Debbie Betchen, Chair of Wellington St. UC Trustees spoke against the amendment. Wellington St. cash is now down to \$13,000. Because the building is empty insurance costs \$19,000 a year. But with that and utilities they'll struggle financially to get to the end of the year.

Jim Wilkie spoke against the amendment. He had told both the executive & Wellington/Rowntree that this was not going to be a precedent setting agreement. They felt this should go through as a grandfathering type agreement, following the pattern of the last few agreements.

The question was called and the **amendment to the motion was defeated.**

A vote on the original motion (to approve the Covenanting Agreement between Wellington Street United Church and Rowntree Memorial United Church, Draft E, with the revised Appendix F) **was called and the motion was Carried.**

2. Jim Wilkie then presented the following motion:

WHEREAS at the Wellington Street United Church Council meeting, 16th of May 2011, a motion was passed directing the Trustees to sell the real property: 156 Wellington Street fronting on the East Side of Wellington Street in the City of London and having a frontage of 85 more or less by a depth of 176 more or less and legally described as PT LTS 1 & 2 , S/E GREY STREET, PART 1 & 2, 33R3717, ST & T/W 552289; LONDON

AND WHEREAS, 17th of May 2011, Wellington Street United Church's chair of Council requested Presbytery's permission to put their building on the market as soon as possible

AND WHEREAS, 25th of Sept 2011, the Trustees of Wellington Street United Church requested permission from Middlesex Presbytery to list the Church property

AND WHEREAS, they acknowledged at their annual meeting 6th of February 2011 that only after the amalgamation (covenanting agreement) was approved by all parties, could the trustees take over and start to sell the property and having been further advised by the Finance & Administration division of Middlesex Presbytery, May 17th 2011 and again June 21st 2011 of this policy

AND WHEREAS, both of the covenanting Churches and Presbytery have now approved the agreement

I hereby move that Presbytery give written approval to the Trustees of Wellington Street United Church to list the property, described in paragraph 1 above for sale. The motion was seconded. Carried

Jim Wilkie clarified that the conditions of the final sale would again have to come back to the floor of Presbytery for approval. As a result, upon receipt of a firm offer for the Wellington Street Property by the Wellington Street UC Trustees, that an emergent meeting of Middlesex Presbytery will be called by the Chair. Edward Avey reminded us that it was a decision of this court that all items of this nature come before the full court, so all would be expected to attend with due notice.

3. Jim Wilkie reported for information concerning the Kare for Kids project, as directed Finance and Administration looked into the legitimacy of the Kare for Kids project. The details of the project were forwarded to Erik Mathieson of General Council, who felt that it was a sound project and that it would stand up to CRA criteria. He said that it was one of the best agreements that he had seen.

David Carrothers requested to speak on Point of Personal Privilege: At Colborne they can certainly relate to the length of time it takes for these agreements to go through. At Empress and Colborne there is a sense of injustice. They never felt included in a decision that was made for them, but not by them. They had eight drafts for their covenanting

agreement. The amount of time that we are able to give it at Presbytery is negligible. They want to see the work and witness of the church go forward and can see Blackfriars once again being caught by a policy change.

DIVISION OF COMMUNICATION: Art Hiley sent his regrets and there was no report.

RESOURCE CENTRE:

Marilyn Hart reported the copies of "Ramblings" were e-mailed out but a few copies are available on the literature table. An open house is planned for Saturday, November 5th. There is a new consignment of books and the store area has a new look, so drop in! The hours are Tuesdays Noon – 5:00 p.m.; Wednesdays and Thursdays 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Phone messages will be answered.

Naturally, there will be concern about the future of the Resource Centre with tonight's decision that the building being sold.

DIVISION OF MISSION IN CANADA:

- 1) Isabel Hill presented a **motion, which was seconded that Mission Support Grants be given to Limberlost in the amount of \$7,000, to ELUCO in the amount of \$12,000, and Southdale Chaplaincy in the amount of \$15,000. Carried.**
- 2) Karen Low advised us of "Let Your Voice Be Heard" on Sat. Oct, 22 10:00 a.m. at 75 Blackfriars. This is a forum and a safe place for people to tell their stories, thoughts and observations about the attitudes toward homophobia and heterosexism in the United Church. All are welcome and encouraged to attend. Contact Karen Low for registration information.
- 3) Tracy Crick-Butler expressed thanks to all who helped to organize and who took part in the Pride Parade, especially to Janet and Gerry Fradette for making the banner. It was a great success and a wonderful turn-out.
- 4) The Division of Mission in Canada is looking for a Green Convenor for the Presbytery. This is someone who has a passion for environmental concerns and faith. If you are someone or know someone in your congregation who would find this an exciting opportunity – please contact Tracy Crick-Butler.
- 5) The next Youth Games Night will take place on Fri. Oct. 21 7-9:30 at 75 Blackfriars.

U.C.W: Flora Rath reported that the 50th anniversary is coming up next year. To commemorate the occasion Middlesex Conference UCW will make a block of a quilt, using a tree pattern. There's a book being made with submissions of women in Presbytery and a pin is also being developed. They are taking orders now.

The Fall Event is being held October 29th from 9:00 a.m. to noon at White Oaks United Church. The guest speaker is Susan McPhail, Director of My Sisters' Place and special music will be by dynamic quintet The Empey Sisters. Proceeds from the event will go

half to the county and half to London. Please see the printed notices for details on the special fall outreach project.

The Annual Meeting will be held on February 15, 2012 at Richards Memorial. The guest speaker is Betty Turcott, National President of the U.C.W.

DIVISION OF WORLD OUTREACH:

Pam Tolmay reported that South Africa has just come through the coldest winter in living memory. It snowed twice in Wattville, where there is no heating. Now summer is upon South Africa and the children are at times exposed to the cruel heat of the African sun. We as a Prebytery made a commitment last June 2010 to build the Dare Care and Shelter for the children. In the midst of our debates about how to deal with the literally \$100,000's of money from the sale of our real estate, please give this commitment priority as we give thanks and enter the Advent Season. So far we have raised \$42,000, which is one-third of the way toward our goal.

Moved and seconded to continue the meeting until 10:00 p.m. Carried.

STEWARDSHIP:

Gail Schnarr reminded us that our Mission and Service Fund dollars are spent in the year in which they are received. Thanksgiving is a perfect time to consider the Mission and Service work of the church. A M&S bulletin insert for Thanksgiving has been e-mailed to all the Pastoral Charges. This bulletin insert includes the following prayer:

A Thanksgiving Prayer

For this new day and the opportunities it holds,

We give you thanks.

For your beautiful world that amazes and delights us,

We offer thanks.

For our daily bread and all who work to bring it to us,

We bring you thanks.

For health and security, for family and friends,

We give thanks today.

For the gift of faith, our church, and the service we can offer,

We give you thanks.

(pause)

In the midst of our thanksgiving,

we pray for those whose harvest is poor,

whose water is tainted, whose children are hungry,

whose lives are threatened by disease or war.

Help those who bring relief

and who welcome those seeking refuge.

Bestow on us a thankful generosity

so that all might share in your bountiful gifts

and all might sing your praise. Amen

DIVISION OF MINISTRY PERSONNEL AND EDUCATION:

Pastoral Relations: Susan Cameron presented the following motion:

Moved and seconded we approve the appointment of Rev. Michelle Down to Dundas Street Centre Pastoral charge as United Supply, full time, effective October 1, 2011 to June 30, 2012. All requirements of the Manual have been met. Additionally, the Rev. Down will provide supply ministry until such time as a Recognized Interim minister can be appointed by the Presbytery for an Intentional Interim ministry at Dundas Street Centre Pastoral Charge. Carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Don Sutherland reported on the financial statements as at August 31, 2011 (attached to the minutes from the executive meeting on September 6, 2011). He is needing to follow up on some slow assessments. Interest on investments is "peanuts". The Resource Centre is above budget because the employee has to belong to The United Church's Pension & Health Plan. **Moved and seconded that the Treasurer's report be received for information. Carried.**

NEW & OTHER BUSINESS:

1. Paul Browning presented the following notice of motion, to be brought forth at the November 22, 2011 meeting of Middlesex Presbytery:

Title: Policy on Sale of Surplus Church Property Submitted by: Paul Browning

WHEREAS we believe God calls us to be the church and to be in community with one another for the purpose of worship, education, compassion, justice, and fellowship;

AND WHEREAS the stewardship of previous generations for United Church ministries in Middlesex Presbytery has been a great blessing and has accumulated into the assets of the present generation;

AND WHEREAS it has long been expressed that proceeds from the sale of church property shall be returned to the United Church of Canada "for the benefit of the United Church of Canada" (Trusts of Model Deed #6);

AND WHEREAS the escalating costs of staffing, construction, and real estate make the creation of new ministries prohibitive and act as a disincentive to ministry initiatives;

AND WHEREAS an incorporated body created by Middlesex Presbytery, The United Church Council of Middlesex Presbytery already exists and is equipped to own property and manage funds from the sale of church property and the disbursal of church assets;

AND WHEREAS the United Church Council has been directed by Presbytery to carry on extension work and special ministries as approved by Middlesex Presbytery; to work closely with all committees and commissions of Presbytery especially in such areas as realignment, with a view to strengthening the work and witness of the church; to counsel with charges in financial need and to provide appropriate assistance; and to co-operate fully with other recognized Christian

churches and groups and joint projects of community service or provision of worship opportunities;

THEREFORE WE RESOLVE that Middlesex Presbytery:

Adopt a practice that declares as surplus any building that no longer hosts a United Church worshipping community or a ministry approved by Middlesex Presbytery (sec.334 b);

WE FURTHER RESOLVE that Middlesex Presbytery:

Direct all net proceeds realized from the sale of surplus church property and assets to be disbursed following appropriate consultation with Conference (whose needs may take precedent in accordance with The Manual) according to the following formula:

- 2 % - to the Archives of London Conference
- 3 % - to Middlesex Presbytery to defray transition costs
- 10 % - (a tithe) at the direction of the disbanding or amalgamating congregation
- 10 % - (a tithe) as a thank offering to the Mission and Service Fund
- 75 % - to be held by the United Church Council of Middlesex Presbytery for their work in developing and redeveloping new and existing ministries.

Edward Avey noted that as this is a notice of motion, there is no seconder required and no discussion at this point. Paul Browning stated that if executive and the Division of Finance and Administration can show to Presbytery that they've developed a policy and are dealing with this, he'll withdraw this motion.

2. Lorenzo Ramirez asked to whom a letter for a proposal for funds would go to, specifically for the rights of his congregation that have been set aside or ignored. It was answered that a letter should go to Richard Golden, Chair of United Church Council of Middlesex Presbytery.
3. **It was moved and seconded that Middlesex Presbytery support the Colborne St. congregation's request that a portion of the sale of 75 lackfairs be forwarded to the Colborne St. United Church Pastoral Charge.**

Richard Golden suggested that it would make it easier if a percentage amount being asked for could be included in any letter of request that may be submitted by the Colborne St. pastoral charge. He also requested that a covering copy be submitted to the Secretary of London Conference.

The Question was called and the **Motion Carried**, with the noted abstentions of Richard Golden and Joyce Payne.

4. A draft of the new Manual is on the web. If you have any comments you have until Friday, September 30, 2011 to submit them.
5. Roll of Conference books will be available soon.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 9:59 p.m.

HIGHLIGHTS**LONDON CONFERENCE EXECUTIVE****2011****LAMBETH UNITED CHURCH****SEPTEMBER 21, 2011**

The Moderator's Visit

The Moderator's Visit Task Group for London Conference is pleased to have Moderator Mardi Tindal be in London Conference from October 18th through to Sunday October 23rd. Look for an itinerary of her visit soon on www.londonconference.ca.

Algoma Presbytery is staying!

Algoma has notified us that after study and discussion, they wish to remain a part of London Conference. We are all delighted.

Reactivation of the Communication Division

The Communications Division has been reactivated to strengthen connections between conference, presbyteries and congregations, with focus on www.londonconference.ca, The Bridge, Video Conferencing, Skype, resource centers, print communications, and public relations.

2012 Annual Meeting

The Planning Committee for the 2012 Annual Meeting (May 4-6, 2011) is looking for someone interested in becoming the Head Teller effective 2012, to be mentored at the 2012 meeting by the current Head Teller. Contact Paul Browning for details.

Appeal Committee

An appeal committee has been approved to begin work. Tracy Crick-Butler, Carole Hockey, John Brown and Harry Disher, with Beth Symes as legal counsel, are undertaking this work on our behalf.

Proposal 4 from 2010 Annual Meeting

The Conference Executive is pursuing strategic planning for the conference and our future ministry. We anticipate a more detailed report to the November meeting.

Goderich Tornado Relief

London Conference Executive voted to donate \$5000 to the Goderich Disaster Relief Fund, where it will become \$15,000 thanks to the Government of Ontario's 2:1 matching program.

United Church Annual Report 2010

This annual report presents a snapshot of the United Church and some of its work in 2010. In these pages, you will find exciting stories of how we are living out our faith in diverse ways and contexts. London Conference has had the honour of being quoted throughout the report. Download your copy here: www.united-church.ca/organization/annualreport.