

MIDDLESEX PRESBYTERY**THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA**

The third regular meeting of Middlesex Presbytery for 2011-2012 was held by call of the executive at 75 Blackfriars, Ont. on Tuesday, November 22, 2011. The meeting was chaired by Edward Avey. There was a quorum of members present.

ATTENDANCE:

Ministry Personnel: Marilyn Arthur, Anne Beattie-Stokes, Paul Browning, Susan Cameron, David Carrothers, Marilyn Carter, Barbara Clark, Tracy Crick-Butler, Jeff Crittenden, Mary Dillon, Janet Fradette, Richard Golden, Art Hiley, Val Hodgins, Don Keenlside, Mary Leard, Karen Low, Kenji Marui, David Mitchell, Catherine Moore, Phil Newman, Wendy Noble, Matthew Penny, Irene Richardson, Doug Ross, Charles Scott, Marjorie Smith, Lewis Snow, Mary Stewart, Pam Tolmay, Catherine Tovell, Janelle Towle, Paul Vollick, Kathryn Wreford

Lay Representatives: Lynn Ardiel, Charlie Arnott, Edward Avey, Janice Barnwell, Maurice Bell, Pete Brennan, Linda Britton, Steve Britton, Jean Campbell, Barbara Cartwright, Bob Coates, Hugh John Cook, Ruth Dean, Gerald Drodge, Sheila Duffin, Gerry Fradette, Marg Gagan, Wallis Hammond, Marilyn Hart, Anne Hebden, Wayne Hennigar, Elmore Hill, Isabel Hill, Nancy Hind, Linda Hoover, Robert Hunter, Irene Janes, Debbi Jarvis, Betty Jenkins, Bonnie Joynt, Mary Kaiser, Anne Kidd, Bill Knowles, Jean Knowles, Mary Lee, Jan Lillie, Derek McClary, Shirley Morris, Margaret Nelson, Joyce Payne, Norma Potter, Anne Ramey, Bonnie Rudd, Gail Schnarr, Donald Sutherland, Bonnie Twyford, Bob Vosper, David Whiting, Jim Wilkie, Jo-Anne Windover

Alternate Lay Representatives: Rob Hockin, Marjorie MacMillan, Grace McGuffin, Gerry Pickett, Kevin Tate, Alistair Weir

Guests: Dave Burnett, Alan Busche, Betty Crockett, Judy Legg, Marion Weir, Marion Woods.

REGRETS: Stephanie Carruthers, Morley Clarke, Dorothy-Ann Foster, Judith Gilliland, Lily Johnson, Sheila Macgregor, Di Pratt, Marian Reith, Jack Scott, Linda Sutherland, Rick Young

DINNER: A lovely roast beef dinner was catered by Alice Baratta and several other women of First Christian Reformed Church, the congregation currently renting & sharing 75 Blackfriars.

OPENING AND CONSTITUTION OF THE MEETING: At 6:24 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.

Anne Beattie-Stokes spoke in memory of Rev. George Cox, who passed away October 29th. A candle was lit in Rev. Cox's memory and a moment's silence was held, followed by prayer.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA: It was moved and seconded that the Agenda be accepted as printed, with a few additions. There will be a report immediately after the Treasurer's report from the Chaplaincy Committee and the Covenanting Service for Rev. Karen Low as U.W.O. Chaplain. United Church Council of Middlesex Presbytery will have a report as the first item under Business Arising. Due to unforeseen circumstances, the workshop had to be cancelled, so the timing will be adjusted accordingly. Carried It was noted that Strathroy United Church has offered to host the June meeting of Presbytery.

INTRODUCTION OF NEW MEMBERS AND VISITORS

We were introduced to Bonnie Twyford, new Lay Representative from Mt. Brydges and Cooks; Dave Brant, visitor from ELUCO as their Treasurer; Kevin Tate, new Alternate Lay Representative for Browns, Melbourne Pastoral Charge.

WORSHIP: Susan Cameron led us in Worship, which was meant to tie into the Joint Needs Assessment workshop but was timely never-the-less. We were reminded of what it means to be Presbytery and to be part of the work of the Church. Wendy Noble read the scripture, which was followed by a demonstration with wool representing the vine and as the balls were tossed from person to person, we all became connected and were reminded to have fun in our work. Joyce Payne closed the worship portion with prayer.

ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES:

It was moved and seconded that the minutes of September 27, 2011 as prepared and distributed be approved, with a typo corrected on page 2011-107, Item 3 to read "...sale of 75 Blackfriars...". Carried

It was moved and seconded that the minutes of the October 4, 2011 Executive meeting be accepted for information. There are three corrections to be made: on Page 2011-114, third line from the bottom, where "with the noted objection of Pam Tolmay" has been removed; on Page 2011-119, Item 2 at the very end should read "November 1."; on page 2011-120, Item 6, first line the word "mandatory" should read "strongly encouraged". Carried

It was moved and seconded that the minutes of the October 25, 2011 as prepared and distributed be approved. Carried

It was moved and seconded that the minutes of the November 1, 2011 Executive meeting be received for information. Carried

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:

1. Richard Golden, Chair of the United Church Council fro Middlesex Presbytery thanked Susan for the worship, which tied very nicely into what he has to report. There was a meeting yesterday concerning an amicable distribution of funds for Empress/ Colborne. Attending were representatives from the former Empress United Church, Colborne St. United Church, London Conference and United Church Council - four different bodies of the Church. The meeting went well, tensions have eased and barring any glitches, an amicable agreement has been reached. To be finalized it is only needing approval by the Colborne St. Board, Council, Conference Executive and General Council. When we sit down and talk things out in a positive manner, wonderful things can happen.
2. Paul Browning's motion re: Proposed Guidelines on the Sale of Surplus Church Property was postponed until Paul is in the court. It was noted that we had moved the entire agenda forward because of having to cancel the workshop, so would move on with other business and come back to this item.
3. Web Site Update: Nancy Hind reported that the new web-site is now up, but pretty basic for now. Nancy hasn't been trained yet, so updates will take a while. She is making a list of corrections as people bring them up.
4. An Ad-Hoc Committee is being formed to investigate the possibility of a permanent home for Middlesex Presbytery. Anyone interested in joining the committee or with suggestions for exclusive space is asked to contact Nancy Hind.

DIVISION REPORTS:**DIVISION OF FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION:**

Jim Wilkie reported for information that all surplus funds, reserves, etc. are reported in the financial statements as retained earnings. The October 31, 2011 statements reported retained earnings of \$239, 639.16.

Concerning the Purchase of Property by Riverside United Church the Division recommends the following: **Moved and seconded that in accordance with the covenanting agreement between Hyde Park United Church and Riverside United Church that Presbytery approve the purchase of the property known as 675 Riverside Drive PLAN 784 Lot 13 and Part Lot 15. All conditions of the manual have been met and the trustee's motions have been received. Carried** Jim Wilkie noted that the property will produce approximately 35 desperately needed parking spaces.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES, continued with item 2:

Paul Browning presented a motion re: Proposed Guidelines on the Sale of Surplus Church Property, which the Secretary had distributed via e-mail and surface mail and made copies available on the literature table tonight. Paul Browning stated that he was

glad for us to have the opportunity to discuss important issues, which is one of the great gifts of Presbytery - collective decisions, creating more unity and trust. The motion being presented came from a guideline that Winnipeg Presbytery has been using. We are in a confusing time and it's hard to know which way to go. His understanding is that we haven't been deeming property surplus, but have folded properties in with the amalgamation. We need to preserve capital until we see what the spirit is telling us to do.

Moved and seconded: 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 as the Conference may determine "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 disbursement 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:

Establish as a guideline that when pastoral charges amalgamate, any building that no longer hosts a United Church worshipping community or a ministry approved by Middlesex Presbytery will be deemed surplus to the needs of the amalgamated pastoral charge (sec.334 b);

WE FURTHER RESOLVE that Middlesex Presbytery:

Establish the following formula as a guideline for the recommendation that Middlesex Presbytery will make to the Conference on the disbursement of the net proceeds realized from the sale of surplus church property and assets:

- 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.**

The Chair, Edward Avey thanked Paul Browning for taking the time to revise the motion from the one presented in September and for seeking legal counsel from General Council. Discussion for and against the motion followed:

Richard Golden spoke as Chair of the United Church Council to say that Council had no part in the writing of this. While he is very happy that this is putting a good deal of trust in the Council, and although the funds would help in the work of Council developing and redeveloping of ministries, they are not seeking funds. They have had no part in this motion and it wasn't Council making a cash grab – Not council driven, completely separate. This would not apply to anything to do with the Empress/Colborne amalgamation. Richard believes that it would only apply to any new amalgamations coming forward.

Pam Tolmay asked for clarification because it was her understanding that property was only deemed surplus if a church closes without amalgamating. Edward Avey said, no but it is the only option for a closing church. It is the prerogative of the Court of Presbytery to declare properties surplus, at which time it becomes something for Conference to deal with. Pam asked, does this motion imply that whenever a church building ceases to become a place of worship, that that property would be declared surplus? Edward answered yes and said that we can only establish a "guideline" so that any particular instances could be considered on their own merits if that is the will of the Court but this guideline would be the usual procedure.

Joyce Payne expressed concern that over many decades, we have not done an adequate job of educating our congregations about ownership of property. Nearly all believe that they own the building in which they sit. It's their home. She is concerned that many conversations going on now may grind to a halt as Pastoral Charges decide to stay until they cannot continue any longer. In favour of the motion, but cautious about what it may result in.

Bob Hockin, referring to United Church Council and what they're directed to do, wondered about the 75% for Council. Paul Browning responded that he would be content that funds given to Council would be in good hands. Bob suggested that there is a conflict in the two areas where it refers to Pastoral Charges but doesn't refer to two preaching places within one Pastoral Charge. Edward Avey said that since it doesn't refer to individual preaching places within a Pastoral Charge, then that would not be included. This motion is just for when two distinct Pastoral charges are amalgamating.

Wallace Hammond spoke against the motion. They are the only church that has ever been established in North Oxford. May descendants of those families would prefer that if and when the church closes that the church be taken down and the stones be used to build a cairn in memory. Does this mean that they would have to sell it? Edward Avey said, no this doesn't apply since their church building is part of a two-point Pastoral Charge.

Jim Wilkie, Chair of the Division of Finance and Administration spoke against the motion on the Division's behalf. They reviewed the motion thoroughly and thought it was most inflexible. They are concerned that once a property is deemed surplus, it is taken out of Presbytery's hands.

Edward Avey asked if we would like Paul Browning and Finance and Administration to have a conversation about this motion and suggested guidelines.

Paul Browning stated that we've had a good conversation, but this does not have anything to do with tearing down walls and building a cairn. It says that if you have a building with nothing going on, no one worshipping there, that it be declared surplus which is pretty much what has been going on. We'd do better to have some guidelines and a bit of clarity so there is a general expectation. There is still the possibility of bringing special circumstances to Presbytery. We need to make decisions tonight for the next 2-3 generations.. We need to preserve capital for those down the road.

The Question was called, and a Call was made to have the vote by ballot. Susan Cameron and Anne Beattie-Stokes distributed and collected the ballots. **It was moved and seconded that Susan Cameron and Anne Beattie-Stokes act as scrutineers. Carried.** As the ballots were being counted, we continued with the reports of the Division of Communication and the Resource Centre.

DIVISION REPORTS. continued:

DIVISION OF COMMUNICATION:

Art Hiley reported that the Communications Division is very small and inactive at this moment . He is looking for people who want to grab hold of the opportunity to become involved. Please speak to Art tonight about becoming involved in this Division. Marilyn Hart reported that Judith Gilliland is looking at getting the Division of Communications active at the Conference level as well.

RESOURCE CENTRE:

Marilyn Hart reported that the Resource Centre has done a fair bit of business since our director left the end of October. Many thanks are due our volunteers, who have kept things going, especially Barbara Cartwright, who has taken the lead and has been there every day. Jean Comfort and JoAnne Gramlich have been regulars and Marg Gagan has been on hand when her travels allow. Marilyn has helped out when needed to assure the centre being open. She apologised if anyone has had trouble

obtaining anything during this time, but the volunteers do not know all the ins and outs of the business. They have tried to keep their inventory low with the uncertain times ahead, but have done their best to meet needs.

Statistics for the Resource Centre, as follow were distributed.

- January – October 2011: 584 visits (plus over 60 visits so far in November)
- January – October 2011: 655 phone calls in (plus 59 calls so far in November)
- Clergy visits: 164
- Events (book displays): 12, with 1 up-coming.
Number of people served at these events: 1545
- Volunteers: Barbara Cartwright, Jean Comfort, JoAnne Gramlich, Marg Gagan, Anne White
- Volunteer hours: 426

Further to the stats, Marilyn noted that book displays have always been a part of the director's work, but hey take extra volunteer time and energy as they involve travel and packing/unpacking of books and gift items. JoAnne's husband Tom has been a wonderful help with many of these. For larger Conference U.C.W. events, Pat Gilmore usually comes from UCRD to help, and she is coming this weekend to work with our volunteers on Saturday at Metropolitan, for which we are greatly thankful.

Phone calls to the Resource Centre are often individuals looking for information and this fills a definite need for the presbytery. Outgoing calls have not been logged this year but represent a fair amount of time spent by those working at the centre, either ordering items, inquiring about items or finding answers to queries by callers.

Small churches and individuals without internet service, U.C.W.s looking for resources and/or programming, anyone needing United Church materials, those wishing to browse hands-on, these are some of the needs we meet as Middlesex Presbytery Resource Centre. It is our aim to continue this ministry to our presbytery from another location and we are looking for an alternate space. So far we have received only one response to our recent email specifying our needs.

Results of the vote concerning the motion on Proposed Guidelines on the Sale of Surplus Church Property: The scrutineers returned with the counted ballots and reported a tie vote. The Chair, Edward Avey broke the tie by voting against the motion, so **the motion was defeated.**

It was moved and seconded that the ballots be destroyed. Carried Edward Avey said that we would probably be re-visiting this in the future, taking into consideration the comments made this evening and expressed hopes that Paul Browning will continue with this work.

DIVISION REPORTS. continued:

DIVISION OF MISSION IN CANADA:

ELUCO: Tracy Crick-Butler introduced Dave Burnett of ELUCO (East London United Church Outreach) who gave the following report. June 10th, 2012 marks the 87th anniversary to the day of union and the formation of the United Church. The East London United Church Outreach ministry would like to mark that day with a mass choir concert and is extending the invitation for singers from the congregational ministries to join us.

The 2:00 pm afternoon concert will be called "Changing the Face". The invitation is open to all - the venue is Dundas Street Centre - a wonderful old church to sing in.

Like many facets of our church, the face of music ministry is changing. Part of the ELUCO concert will pay tribute to some of the old tunes with new arrangements and part of the concert will highlight secular music that has worked its way into worship & we plan to have a small 16 voice jazz ensemble perform as well.

At this point almost all our composers / music arrangers are living and still writing music. We will even be featuring one of "our own" - Doug Price - who grew up as part of the Riverside United congregation and started writing music at age 8. Doug is now 24 and living in Toronto and has written some great music.

This is a wonderful and fun musical opportunity for those singers from our congregations. We are in negotiations to arrange either orchestral or brass accompaniment - a new performance experience for some. Music is a way for us to Unite as our name declares and work together in literal and figurative harmony.

Rehearsals for the mass choir will start in February. Invitation letters will be sent out in early January listing schedules and repertoire and details for the singers. Flyers and posters for the concert itself will be going out in mid-May.

Why is ELUCO, an outreach ministry doing this? Mission was big factor in union in 1927 and has continued to be and will continue to be a dominant part of our faith - an opportunity for all of us to grow in faith. Our founding churches brought with them a rich musical tradition. The two together are a fit!

Mission is often the face of our churches in the community. The power of the ministry of music is underestimated as a tool to spread the message of justice. A song can linger in one's soul long after the blogs and e-mails have faded from one's mind.

Speaking as a former congregational treasurer, this concert will include offertory music and we will be taking up an offering. Those givings have been earmarked by ELUCO for the food security programs in our community - to help us further those programs within our mission. We will be "singing for their supper" and having fun at the same time.

We hope that Presbytery will support in principle this celebration of union, mission and music. From Oscar Peterson's "Hymn to Freedom" to John Rutter's rendition of the 23th Psalm to what happens when Whoopi Goldberg meets Beethoven, it will be a fun day to come together in joy and harmony.

Since we are seeking participants from many congregations including some ecumenical friends, it is appropriate that we make Presbytery aware. While I will be making direct and personal appeals to various congregational music ministries, I can't get to everyone. Unless someone here tonight can pray for God to add a couple hours into the day, please consider this a general invitation to participate.

Please direct queries or interest to: concert2012.eluco@hotmail.com

U.C.W.: Flora Rath reported that the Fall Event at White Oaks United Church was a big success, with the best attendance ever, more donations and the choir loft overflowed. Susan MacPhail's message was well received. The collection went to Women's Rural Crisis Centre in Strathroy. Six agencies in London were supplied with clothes, shoes, toys and toiletries. Flora is now receiving thank you notes of appreciation.

Our next big event is Celebrating Our 50th Anniversary at our Annual Meeting on February 15, 2012 at Richards Memorial United Church. Our guest speaker is Betty Turcotte, National U.C.W. President.

Tracy Crick-Butler reported on the following:

Remit Party: It's a (6A, 6B & 6C) remit party – and you're all invited. It will be held on Wednesday, January 18th 2012 at Siloam United Church at 7:00 p.m. A snow date has been set for Wednesday January 25th at Siloam at 7:00 p.m. More information will be coming out to you in the next little while – but the important thing tonight is to mark your calendars and inform your session, council or board members of the date. You will not want to miss it!

Youth Ministry: Division of Mission in Canada is wanting to generate a list of WHO we should contact at each pastoral charge or church to share information about Youth Ministry. So please write on your yellow stickie (handed out as you registered tonight) and give it back to one of the members of the Division.

Youth Delegates to General Council: There is an opportunity for one youth from each presbytery to go to the 41st meeting of General Council this summer. Youth 15-20 years-of-age need to apply to this position and DMC will prayerfully determine who our representative will be. We will e-mail out the forms through the presbytery connections, but we need you to pass the info on to the youth and youth leaders. Deadline for application is February 1, 2012.

There is also the opportunity to apply to be a home group leader for General Council, or a chaplain. These applications go directly to National but if you are looking for the information please feel free to contact Tracy Crick-Butler or Betsy Exley.

DIVISION OF WORLD OUTREACH: Pam Tolmay reported.

Concerning the Division's current project Kare for Kids, when Pam Tolmay met with others to plan the World Food Day service they came up with the idea of a Tree of

Hope. This involves using a picture of the children and putting them on tree baubles. On the literature table there's a poster to pick up and a gift catalogue, envelopes and cards. To date they have raised just under \$44,000 of the \$120,000 needed. Photos can be downloaded from the Kare for Kids website, www.ivanpastoralcharge.ca or type Kare for Kids into your search engine and it will pop up.

Pam has accepted a call to Bruce Presbytery, Palmerston United Church as of February 1, 2011, so is saying goodbye and expressed that the enthusiasm and participation of the congregations and presbytery over the years has been wonderful. The Court showed it's appreciation for Pam's many years of service to Presbytery.

DIVISION OF MINISTRY PERSONNEL AND EDUCATION:

Education and Students Committee: On behalf of the Division and Committee, Janet Fradette brought forth the following motions:

1. Re: Cheryl Bolton, annual confirmation of status as candidate for ordained ministry it was **moved and seconded that Middlesex Presbytery confirm the status of Cheryl Bolton as a Candidate for Ordained Ministry Carried**
2. Re: Sandra Bendall annual confirmation of status as candidate for ordained ministry and readiness for internship (to begin after end of April 2012), it was **moved and seconded that Middlesex Presbytery confirm the status of Sandra Bendall as a Candidate for Ordained Ministry and affirm her readiness for a supervised ministry placement, to begin after the end of April 2012, to satisfy the internship requirements for ordination. Carried**
3. Re: Mark Bellamy recommend to London Conference for ordination at the Annual Meeting 2012. (Mark's London Conference final interviews would be in January 2012), it was **moved and seconded that Middlesex Presbytery recommend to London Conference: Candidate Mark Bellamy, for ordination Carried**
4. Re: Peter Smeltzer being recommended to Middlesex Presbytery by E&S as a candidate for ordained ministry, it was **moved and seconded that Middlesex Presbytery, on the advice of its Education and Students Committee, receive Peter Smeltzer as a candidate for ordained ministry. Carried**

It is requested of Presbytery that a covenanting service be arranged for Mark Bellamy at his home church of Metropolitan United.

Pastoral Relations: On behalf of the Division and Committee, Joyce Payne brought forth the following motions:

Moved and seconded we approve the request by Rev. Mary Stewart for a change in pastoral relations effective February 28, 2012 for the purpose of accepting a call at the Tavistock pastoral charge. Carried

Moved and seconded we approve the request for the transfer of Rev. Gervis Black from Middlesex Presbytery to Living Waters Presbytery. Carried

Moved and seconded we approve \$500.00 each from Presbytery funds for Rev. Art Hiley and Rev. Michelle Down for the second session for Interim Ministry Training. (Rationale: Two courses have been scheduled into one calendar year, whereas normally one course is scheduled per year). **Carried**

Moved and seconded we approve the reappointment of Rev. Wendy Noble to St. Andrews Westminster pastoral charge, 2/3 time, from January 1, 2012 to June 30, 2012. All requirements of The Manual have been met. Carried, with the noted abstention of Wendy Noble.

Moved and seconded we approve the reappointment of Rev. Wendy Noble to Littlewood pastoral charge, 1/3 time, from January 1, 2012 to June 30, 2012. All requirements of The Manual have been met. Carried, with the noted abstention of Wendy Noble.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Treasurer Don Sutherland referred to the report attached to the November 1, 2011 executive minutes. On the balance sheet, the \$15,000 loan to Cairngorm is to be returned this month. Money not spent by the Rebirthing committee has been returned to the United Church Council of Middlesex Presbytery. There is still \$10,000 to be received in assessments, but he has no concerns that they will be received.

There is an additional \$10,000 plus that will be coming in from Riverside/Hyde Park. Under Resource Centre, the difference of \$1,900 is the amount that has been sent to the Resource Centre to cover the cost of the honorarium for volunteers working at the Resource Centre in place of a Director. We can expect a net income of \$10,000 by year end. **It was moved and seconded that the Treasurer's report be accepted. Carried.**

CHAPLAINCY REPORT and **COVENANTING SERVICE FOR REV. KAREN LOW AS U.W.O. CHAPLAIN**

Chair, Edward Avey presided over the Covenanting Service for Rev. Karen Low as newly appointed United Church Chaplain at the University of Western Ontario.

Val Hodgins presented the report of the Chaplaincy Committee on behalf of fellow committee members Kenji Marui, Marilyn Arthur, Ed Tufts. Val expressed her pleasure in presenting Rev. Karen Low as the new half-time Chaplain for the University of Western Ontario. In 2006 Westminster College Foundation and Middlesex Presbytery joined together to provide a chaplaincy at U.W.O. In 2007 this chaplaincy began. Since that time we've had two other people in this position and it was thought that perhaps we needed to look in another direction. A new proposal was brought forth, which was accepted by the Westminster College Foundation and U.W.O. Tonight she is pleased to introduce officially Karen Low as the newly appointed chaplain. Karen has been working since the beginning of November and has made a lot of contacts there and is already making inroads.

Edward Avey led us through the covenanting liturgy, assisted by Val Hodgins, Kenji Marui and Marilyn Arthur.

Karen Low said a few words, thanking us for the opportunity to do something that has been a passion of hers for quite some time. She looks forward to the opportunities and challenges of campus ministry, as a place and presence of welcome and inclusive community where people can experience the nurturing of the Spirit. She already has some articles coming out in the newspaper and looks forward to sharing her work with us.

LONDON CONFERENCE REPORT:

There was no report due to Judith Gilland's unexpected absence.

NEW & OTHER BUSINESS:

1. The November 16, 2012 highlights of the executive minutes of London Conference are out and have been e-mailed to all Presbyters on our e-mail list. The minutes are attached to these minutes for our perusal. (Pages 2011-161 to 2011-164)
2. Concerning the General Council Executive Report and Comments on the Effective Leadership and Healthy Pastoral Relationships proposal for General Council, Edward Avey commended those to us and recommended we peruse those. Most of these are available on line and have been sent out to Presbyters with e-mail.
3. Concerning remits 6A, 6B & 6C, General Council mailed these out to all Pastoral Charges and the documents are also available on the United Church website. Contact Nancy Hind if you are unable to retrieve the documents otherwise.
4. Marilyn Hart reported that the Resource Centre is still open if anyone needs to do any business before they leave tonight.
5. The next meeting is on February 28th, 2012 at Riverside United Church. Expect a really good youth presence as they're doing the worship service. Those in paid accountable ministry and those retained on the roll are strongly urged to attend the 4:00 p.m. workshop on Boundaries and Professional Ethics. All others are welcome to attend the dinner, but not the workshop.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 8:32 p.m.

Edward Avey
Chairperson

Nancy Hind
Secretary

**HIGHLIGHTS
LAMBETH UNITED CHURCH****LONDON CONFERENCE EXECUTIVE****NOVEMBER 16, 2011**

Staff Support Committee

John Brown was pleased to announce that the General Council Executive approved Rev. Cheryl-Ann Stadelbauer-Sampa for the position of Executive Secretary for London Conference, effective February 1, 2012.

Division of Mission in Canada

The committee will soon be receiving applications from camp staff to participate in the Cuban camping exchange next summer; Betsy Exley will be sending application information to presbytery camps in November with interviews beginning in January. Contact your local camp director for more information.

Social Justice Committee – FORMERLY “Division of World Outreach” & “Church In Society”

The Division of World Outreach and Church In Society have merged to form a new committee to address issues of social and ecological justice on the local and global levels, with a new mandate and a new name. Submit your name to Nominations if you are interested in heading up this new committee. The first meeting for this new committee is Tuesday, November 29th, from 2:00 PM until 3:00 PM via tele-conference. Contact Matthew Stevens (matthew@londonconference.ca) for more background information.

Finance Committee

The 2013 Budget Forum will occur March 30, 1-4pm at Lambeth United Church. Mark your calendars!

Annual Meeting

The registration for the 2012 Annual Meeting will be available on-line in mid-January, 2012. The *actual* cost per person for the Annual Meeting is approximately \$160.00. This provides for the overall experience including food, worship and music, the facility use, guest speakers and theological reflectors, the preparation and publication of all official business documents required to conduct the Annual Meeting. The *subsidized* price for delegates will be **\$85.00** with the balance charged to the Conference Budget line "Annual Meeting costs". The meeting dates are May 4 – May 6, 2012.

Mission and Ministry Priorities for London Conference

Conference Executive moved to support the establishment of 3 priority working groups in areas of Congregational Transition; Property and Asset Matters; and Youth Leadership, Mission and Social Justice at the congregational level. Paul Browning and Gary Clark are looking for people with a passion to serve in these areas; contact them if you feel drawn to a group.

Nominations

London Conference has several vacancies that we are looking to fill with qualified individuals:

- Chair of Communication (Staff Support – Judith Gilliland)
- Social Justice Committee Chair (Staff Support – Matthew Stevens)

**HIGHLIGHTS
LAMBETH UNITED CHURCH**

LONDON CONFERENCE EXECUTIVE

NOVEMBER 16, 2011

- Conference Treasurer (Staff Support – Executive Secretary)
- Chair of Pensions Committee (Staff Support – Peter Kingsbury)
- DMC Planning Budget Support Members-at-Large
- and various other presbytery representatives.

Please contact Phil Newman @ Riverside United if you feel called to serve.

Camp By-Laws

The Incorporated Ministries Committee is pleased to note that Camp Bimini (Huron-Perth) and Camp Kee-Mo-Kee (Middlesex) are the first camps to satisfy UCC by-law requirements and having been approved at the November 16, 2011 Conference Executive meeting, they will be forwarded to the General Council Office.

Gethsemane United Church – Affordable Housing

London Conference Executive recommended that the General Council of UCC approve the sale of Gethsemane United Church in London, Ontario to the London Affordable Housing Foundation to create an Affordable Housing Project of approximately 25 units which meets with the desires of the former members of Gethsemane United Church. The Gethsemane property currently houses an active Foodbank operated by ELUCO (East London United Church Outreach) for which provision has been made within the agreement to continue operation as well as for a common space within the proposed complex to be used for worship if so desired at a future date. The purchase price is \$230,000.

Celebration

The Staff Support Committee arranged a surprise luncheon for Heather's last meeting as Acting Executive Secretary. Conference Executive and Staff enjoyed sandwiches, veggie trays and cake (thank-you Lambeth UCW!) and a very-surprised Heather shared some final words of wisdom with the court.

Goderich Tornado Relief

To date, donations have been received from churches, individuals and even the General Council Office and London Conference Executive that total a whopping **\$16,905.14** (*which is really \$50,715.42 with the 2-1 matching program by the Ontario government*). There is still time to donate, but donating directly to the Goderich Disaster Relief is the best option to ensure your donation remains eligible for the time-sensitive 2-1 matching grant. Please make your cheque payable to:

“Goderich and Area Disaster Relief Fund”

And mail or deliver your cheque to:

Disaster Relief Fund
Goderich Town Hall
57 West Street

Goderich, Ontario N7A 2K5

Please remember to include your name and mailing address with your cheque.

HIGHLIGHTS
LAMBETH UNITED CHURCH

LONDON CONFERENCE EXECUTIVE

NOVEMBER 16, 2011

General Council Highlights

If you have an interest in keeping abreast of the General Council 40 meetings, minutes, decisions and discussions, all of the information can be found here: <http://gc40.unitychurch.ca/>.

Mission Support Grants

Conference Executive approved the following 2012 Mission Support Grants:

LONDON CONFERENCE 2012 MISSION SUPPORT GRANTS

Presbytery	Name	Address	Amount Granted
Algoma	First United Church Wawa	First United Church 124 Mission Road, Box 221 Wawa ON P0S 1K0 705-856-2926	\$ 7,500.00
Algoma	St. Paul's United Church Manitouwadge	St. Paul's United Church 8 Shawinigan, PO Box 759 Manitouwadge ON P0T 2C0 807-826-3897	\$ 10,000.00
Essex	Windsor Downtown Mission	Downtown Mission of Windsor 664 Victoria Avenue Windsor ON N9Z 4N2	\$ 5,000.00
Essex	Windsor Youth Centre www.windsoryouthcentre.org	Windsor Youth Centre 1321 Wyandotte Street East Windsor ON N9A 3K8	\$ 15,000.00
Essex	Student Outreach Ministry Iona College	Student Outreach Ministry c/o Iona College 208 Sunset Avenue Windsor ON N9B 3A7	\$ 4,000.00
Huron-Perth	Huron-Perth Traveling Summer Day Camp	H-P Traveling Summer Day Camp 422 Mill Street, PO Box 400 Blyth ON N0K 1N0 519-523-4380	\$ 2,000.00

**HIGHLIGHTS
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LONDON CONFERENCE EXECUTIVE

NOVEMBER 16, 2011

Kent	Ridgetown Chaplaincy c/o Blenheim & District Ministerial Association	Ridgetown Chaplaincy Program c/o Blenheim & Dist. Ministerial Assn. 6635 Middle Line Merlin ON NOP 1W0 519-689-7555	\$ 4,000.00
Lambton	St. Clair United Church 978 Tashmoo Avenue	St. Clair United Church 978 Tashmoo Avenue Sarnia ON N7T 7H5 519-344-6119	\$ 32,000.00
Middlesex	Limberlost Chaplaincy	Limberlost Chaplaincy Sherwood Forest PO Box 8098 London ON N6G 4X1	\$ 5,500.00
Middlesex	Southdale Chaplaincy	The Southdale Chaplaincy Inc. PO Box 37085, 900 Adelaide St. S. London ON N6E 3T3 519-685-2771	\$ 11,000.00
Middlesex	East London United Church Outreach	ELUCO PO Box 32013 London ON N5V 5K4	\$ 9,000.00
Oxford	Meeting Place Operation Sharing	Operation Sharing PO Box 20081 Woodstock ON N4S 8X8	\$ 11,000.00