

MIDDLESEX PRESBYTERY**THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA**

A special meeting of Middlesex Presbytery for 2010-2011 was held by motion from the floor of Presbytery on September 27, 2011. The meeting took place at 75 Blackfriars St., London, Ontario, on Tuesday, October 25, 2011 and was chaired by Edward Avey. There was a quorum of members present.

ATTENDANCE:

Ministry Personnel: Marilyn Arthur, Anne Beattie-Stokes, Greg Brawn, Paul Browning, Susan Cameron, David Carrothers, Marilyn Carter, Barbara Clark, Jeff Crittenden, Mary Dillon, Michelle Down, Janet Fradette, Richard Golden, Art Hiley, Tom Hiscock, Don Keenlside, Mary Leard, Sheila Macgregor, Kenji Marui, Catherine Moore, Wendy Noble, Matthew Penny, Irene Richardson, Doug Ross, Marjorie Smith, Mary Stewart, Catherine Tovell, Janelle Towle.

Lay Representatives: Lynn Ardiel, Charlie Arnott, Edward Avey, Linda Badke, Janice Barnwell, Maurice Bell, Linda Britton, Steve Britton, Barbara Cartwright, Bob Coates, Ruth Dean, Sheila Duffin, Marg Gagan, Marilyn Hart, Elmore Hill, Isabel Hill, Nancy Hind, Linda Hoover, Irene Janes, Debbi Jarvis, Mary Kaiser, Lise Landsborough, Jan Lillie, Shirley Morris, Margaret Nelson, Joyce Payne, Norma Potter, Anne Ramey, Flora Rath, Marian Reith, Gail Schnarr, Don Sutherland, Bob Vosper, Jim Wilkie, Rick Young.

Alternate Lay Representatives: Sandra Campbell, Grace McGuffin, Gerry Pickett, Alistair Weir, Helen White.

Guests: No one signed in.

REGRETS: Pete Brennan, Gerald Drodge, Dorothy Ann Foster, Judith Gilliland, Val Hodgins, Lily Johnson, Bonnie Joynt, Mary Lee, Karen Low, David Mitchell, Phil Newman, Di Pratt, Lorenzo Ramirez, Julia Sinclair, Trixie Usselman, Paul Vollick.

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.

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

WORSHIP: Mary Stewart led us in worship, opening with a prayer for Phil Newman and family in the death last week of Phil's father and yesterday of Phil's sister. Mary then led us through a timely litany entitled "Fierce Patience", followed by a hymn.

DIVISION OF FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION:

1. Sale of the Wellington Street United Church Property:

Jim Wilkie reported on an offer to purchase the Wellington Street United Church property. **Moved and seconded that Middlesex Presbytery's approval be given to the Trustees of Wellington Street to proceed with the sale of the Wellington Street United Church property as per the offer from Farhi Holdings Corporation for the sum of \$300,000 subject to adjustments.**

Jim Wilkie noted item #14 re. Insurance of the agreement, since two air conditioning units have just been stolen from the building. This clause gives the buyer the option to either terminate the agreement or else take the proceeds of any insurance claim and complete the purchase.

A question on how many offers were received on the property was answered as none. In response to how long has the property been listed, the answer was about a month.

It was moved and seconded that Debbie Betchen, Chair of the Wellington Street Trustees and Larry McKenzie of Realty Executives be made corresponding members for this meeting. Carried

Debbie Betchen, Chair of Trustees at Wellington noted that this is the only offer they have received, although there have been two periods of listing. The first listing had some interest, but they had to de-list upon realizing that they didn't yet have the authority to sell.

Larry McKenzie, the realtor informed us that at first they thought the property was worth about \$500,000, but then realized that there was no parking, so that made it a bit difficult for alternate uses. There was interest from other church groups during the first listing, but no offers materialized except this one. Then when it was listed after authority to sell, there were about five calls, but no showings. One of the conditions for the sale is a satisfactory building and site inspection at the buyer's cost. Since the offer was made the two central air conditioners that were outside have now been stolen, so there may be some compensation due to the buyer. The value was compared to the price received for the Hyde Park and Robinson Memorial United Churches, but there's not really a comparison because of Wellington Street's location and lack of parking. One thing in favour of the building is that the City has been pretty aggressive in promoting the "So-Ho" area of the city. Fahri Holdings has until December 15, 2011 to back out of the agreement. The closing date is January 11, 2012.

A question was asked about how the Trustees of Wellington Street United feel about the sale. Debbie Betchen responded that they were relieved because with only three Trustees looking after the building, they're getting worn out. They feel it's a good offer and leaving the building empty in its location is only going to lead to its deterioration.

The Question was called and the **motion Carried.**

Moved and seconded that Presbytery give the executive of Middlesex Presbytery the power to approve any adjustments to the Wellington Street United Church property sale which may occur. Carried.

Jeff Crittenden offered a prayer for the closing of the Wellington Street church building.

2. 2012 Budget:

(Secretary's note: There were no print copies of the proposed budget, but the final, approved 2012 budget is attached as pages 2011-132 through 2011-134)

In the absence of an ill Dorothy Ann Foster, Chair of the Budget Committee, Treasurer Don Sutherland led us through the proposed 2012 budget, while Jim Wilkie made any revisions to what was being displayed on the screens.

The figures being shown on the screen compared income in 2011 to 2012. In 2011 there were 10,310 members being assessed, compared to 9,949 members in 2012, which is better than what most Presbyteries are experiencing. The assessment in 2011 was \$20.96 per member, with \$25.21 being proposed for 2012. Then there is income from Covenanting services averaging out at \$0.05 and Interest of \$0.20, for a total of \$25.46 per member, and the total income for 2012 being \$250,815. Don noted that this is a balanced budget.

One new item is \$1,000 for the cost of setting up the new website. Another new item is for an amalgamation consultant at \$15,000. Don said that it is to get someone to come in and do an analysis and come up with a report or road map to carry on for the future. Joyce Payne questioned why we would put in a substantial budget line for a consultant when we have a Conference staff person who is already trained in all this. She cannot support that line when we already have that resource paid for through our Conference assessment.

Don continued with his report, adding that the Tap Supervisor role has been terminated, so that's \$2,500 off the budget. Overall, there is an overall expense increase of \$32,000. Don then invited any questions about the proposed budget.

In response to a question about who is going to be responsible for the hiring of a consultant, Jim Wilkie explained that when the budget was prepared this was a whole new concept. Because there was so much hardship caused to the congregations who have amalgamated recently, it was felt they needed something

to help augment the process between congregations, Presbytery and Conference. They were not aware that there was anyone at Conference who is qualified. They picked the dollar figure out of the air, recognizing that consultants don't come cheap. The Division really has no idea at this time as to what the amount should be, but felt that \$15,000 should cover it.

Further comments and questions from the floor included:

- I have real issue spending this money knowing that we're sitting on a big reserve plus a bigger chunk of money in the United Church Council. Doesn't think this or \$15,000 for Camp Kee Mo Kee should be out of our assessments.
- At our annual meeting last year we voted on hiring Judith Gilliland, who was hired to help with amalgamation, opening new churches and/or closing churches. We really need to use her expertise.
- Are there copies available of the budget? Answered as no.

Moved and seconded that the proposed budget for 2012, as displayed on the screen be accepted.

An amendment was moved and seconded that the \$15,000 for an amalgamation consultant be deleted from the budget.

Comments on the amendment included that with Judith Gilliland serving eight presbyteries, she may not have time to assist us, so suggested leaving the money in the budget in case it's needed. Another comment was that we just artificially increased the budget.

The question was called on the **amendment, which was Carried.**

Marilyn Hart, Chair of the Resource Centre Standing Committee brought forth a **second amendment: Moved and seconded that because of the closing of the Blackfriars building, the Resource Centre be allocated \$5,000 for relocation expenses.** They have received a few offers from Anglican churches, but nothing from United Churches, who have little space to spare. They currently pay \$650 per month rent and pay for their own phone and internet. The Resource Centre's line in the Presbytery budget is to pay for the director's salary. This is a longstanding ministry and not sure if there are any other ministries left. The Resource Centre fills a big need in Presbytery especially for those Pastoral Charges without the internet.

Art Hiley spoke against the amendment, suggested that rather than putting it in the budget that the \$5,000 be taken out of reserves. Hugh John Cook noted that this would be a contrary amendment, so Art took back the motion until the other amendment was taken care of.

The question was called on the **second amendment concerning \$5,000 for Resource Centre relocation expenses and the Motion was Defeated.**

Paul Browning brought forth a **third amendment: Moved and seconded that since the \$15,000 for legal fees is mostly to do with amalgamations and property expenses, that this item be deleted and paid from reserves.**

Discussion and questions included:

- Richard Golden, Chair of the United Church Council noted that the \$100,000 that was so visibly returned to Presbytery by Hyde Park at the June meeting of Presbytery wasn't Presbytery's to keep. It was a repayment of monies loaned by the United Church Council. Presbytery cannot direct the United Church Council as to what to do with their money.
- To a question as to how much of the legal bills had to do with amalgamations or property, Don Sutherland responded that most had to do with property.
- Why don't the legal costs of amalgamations come out of out of any excess funds from the sale of property? Congregations shouldn't be burdened with these legal expenses. Answered by Jim Wilkie that it's because at the last Presbytery budget meeting, it was decided to put in to pay \$15,000 in legal fees.
- Where do our reserves stand at the moment? Don Sutherland responded that reserves are at \$116,000.

The question was called on the **third amendment concerning removing the line for Legal Fees from the budget, which Carried.**

Don Sutherland stated that the assessment was now down to \$22.75. Jim Wilkie noted that there were a number of items cut from the budget tonight. If we don't take \$5,000 for Resource Centre relocation expenses out of reserves, then where should they get the money from? The United Church Council already gave money when they moved to Blackfriars, so they can't do it again as that would be against their policy.

The 2012 Budget as amended now stands at \$226,350 or \$22.75 per member, which is only slightly more than last year.

The question was called to approve the amended 2012 budget and the Motion was Carried. Presbytery Chair, Edward Avey expressed our thanks to Finance and Administration for their work on this budget.

REMITTS:

The Chair, Edward Avey drew the attention of the court to Remits 4, 5A and 5B that had been sent out by the General Council Office and he offered some background information on each as they came up as motions. The secretary had sent copies of the remits by e-mail to all online presbyters, and they had been mailed out to the rest. The original and proposed changes for each remit were displayed on the screens.

Remit 4:

It was moved and seconded that Remit 4, concerning frequency and timing of Conference Meetings be approved.

There was one comment against the motion, because this would mean that Conference wouldn't have to meet the same year that General Council meets and we *need* to meet.

The vote was taken on Remit 4 and the majority was opposed, so the **vote was "No"**. The secretary will record this vote on the form for Remit 4, and mail it in to General Council.

Remit 5A:

It was moved and seconded that Remit 5A, concerning appointment of Designated Lay Ministers be approved.

Janet Fradette gave us some insight on the importance of the wording changes recommended by the remit. As someone who works with Designated Lay Ministers all the time, she would say that this proposal makes sense, although it may be a bit tricky for others to understand.

The vote was taken on Remit 5A and the majority approved, so the **vote was "Yes"**. The secretary will record this vote on the form for Remit 5A, and mail it in to General Council.

Remit 5B:

It was moved and seconded that Remit 5B, concerning Presbytery membership of Designated Lay Ministers be approved.

Comments included:

In favour: The issue we're seeing is that there has recently been a shift in Designated Lay Ministers in Conference and now to recognize them in Presbyteries. Membership only exists as long as they're in an appointment. It's necessary to change the polity to allow them to remain as members of Presbytery and to continue to be recognized after their retirement. Allow for those who are recognized by Presbytery to continue to be recognized after their retirement.

Against: Lay people generally speaking are members of congregations not presbytery. When they are not in an appointment, membership should revert back to their congregation, not presbytery.

In favour: At General Council, some people felt that sometimes Designated Lay Ministers might not be in an appointment, so we might lose people in Presbytery.

The question was called and the vote taken on Remit 5B and the majority approved, with 27 in favour, 19 against and 11 abstentions, so the **vote was "Yes"**. The secretary will record this vote on the form for Remit 5B, and mail it in to General Council.

NEW & OTHER BUSINESS:

1. Pastoral Relations:

On behalf of Pastoral Relations, Joyce Payne presented the following motions.

Moved and seconded Middlesex Presbytery approve the appointment of Rev. Karen Low to the position of UWO Chaplain, half-time (20 hours/week) effective November 1, 2011 to June 30, 2012. This appointment is contingent on the approval of the Chaplain's Committee at the University of Western Ontario. Carried

Moved and seconded Middlesex Presbytery approve the Joint Needs Assessment Report from Siloam United Church. Carried

Moved and seconded Middlesex Presbytery declare a vacancy at Siloam United Church for a full-time Youth, Young Adults and Families ministry position, effective November 1, 2011. Carried

2. Concerning items which came up under discussions on the Budget:

It was moved and seconded that up to \$10,000 be allocated for the relocating expenses of the Resource Centre and that the money come out of Presbytery reserve funds.

There was a question about how it was heard earlier in the meeting that they were looking for \$5,000, and this motion just doubled that. Answered by Joyce Payne that when the Resource Centre moved to 75 Blackfriars 5 or 6 years ago it cost \$5,000 and much of the work was done by volunteers. So they may have been a bit light in their initial estimate.

The motion Carried.

It was moved and seconded that any legal costs be paid from reserves for the 2012 budget year. Carried.

The Chair, Edward Avey asked if there was any other business, and there being none, informed us that another piece of information will be sent out soon as a notice of motion. This motion has been changed from Paul Browning's previous motion for which notice had been given for the November meeting. The new motion has been reviewed by Church House and been declared valid.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 8:27 p.m., with Edward Avey giving the closing prayer.

Edward Avey
Chairperson

Nancy Hind
Secretary

	Res Mem 2009 stats	Pastoral Charge Asses 2011	Res Mem 2010 stats	Pastoral Asses 2012
Ailsa Craig	106	\$ 2,222	105	\$ 2,362
Arva	108	2,264	88	1,980
Avon-Putman	89	1,866	89	2,002
Belmont Harrietsville	177	3,710	181	4,072
Bryanston	33	692	33	742
Delaware-Kilworth	172	3,605	172	3,870
Dorchester-Crumlin	253	5,303	270	6,075
Glencoe-Appin	132	2,767	128	2,880
Granton-Wesley	172	3,605	171	3,847
Ilderton-Birr	169	3,542	170	3,825
Ivan	127	2,662	119	2,677
Kerwood-Cairngorm	111	2,327	143	3,217
Komoka	77	1,614	77	1,732
Littlewood	55	1,153	56	1,260
Byron	412	8,636	379	8,527
Calvary	396	8,300	386	8,685
Colborne St Empress	660	13,824	580	13,050
Dundas St. Centre	101	2,117	121	2,722
Fairmont	104	2,180	92	2,070
First-St Andrew's	705	14,777	706	15,885
St Andrews Westminster	130	2,725	130	2,925
Grace	66	1,383	66	1,485
Hyatt Ave.	93	1,949	-	-
Lambeth	442	9,264	431	9,697
Metropolitan	1,220	25,571	1,090	24,525
Mount Zion	125	2,620	127	2,857
Richards Memorial	302	6,330	306	6,885
RiversideHyde Park	729	15,280	769	17,302
Rowntree Memorial }	110		-	-
Robinson Memorial - }	117	4,768	300	6,750
Wellington St. }	89	1,865	-	-
Siloam	587	12,304	592	13,320
Trinity	145	3,039	141	3,172
Wesley-Knox	541	11,339	494	11,115
White Oaks	264	5,533	263	5,917
Lucan	124	2,599	124	2,790
Melbourne	94	1,970	92	2,070
Mt. Brydges	188	3,940	190	4,275
South Caradoc	13	272	14	315
Strathroy	427	8,950	409	9,202
Thorndale	204	4,276	211	4,747
Wardsville	9	189	9	202
Wellburn	121	2,536	114	2,565
Cairo	11	231	11	247
Total	10,310	\$ 216,098	9,949	\$ 223,850

Middlesex Presbytery

	2011		2012		Difference
Income	Budget	Cost Per Resident Member 10,310	Budget	Cost Per Resident Member 9,949	2012 less 2011
Assessments	\$ 216,098	\$ 20.96	\$ 223,850	22.50	\$ 7,752
Covenanting Service	500	0.05	500	0.05	-
Interest	2,000	0.19	2,000	0.20	-
Total Income	\$ 218,598	\$ 21.20	\$ 226,350	22.75	\$ 7,752
Expenses					
London Conference	\$ 146,470	\$ 14.21	\$ 150,000	15.08	\$ 3,530
Secretary - Contract	11,000	1.07	13,200	1.33	2,200
Hon- Treasurer	2,000	0.19	2,100	0.21	100
Er's Share of CPP & EI	400	0.04	50	0.01	(350)
Travel	700	0.07	400	0.04	(300)
Rental	1,200	0.12		0.00	(1,200)
Service Contract	400	0.04	600	0.06	200
Printing & Copying	1,100	0.11	1,000	0.10	(100)
Postage & Stationery	600	0.06	1,000	0.10	400
Telephone	600	0.06	300	0.03	(300)
Meeting Expense	700	0.07	500	0.05	(200)
Care & Oversight	400	0.04	500	0.05	100
Accountant's Fees	1,000	0.10	1,000	0.10	0
Computer Expense,	2,000	0.19	1,500	0.15	(500)
Website		-	1,000	0.10	1,000
Legal Fees	15,000	1.45		0.00	(15,000)
Comm Division	500	0.05	500	0.05	0
F & A Division	100	0.01	100	0.01	0
World Outreach	600	0.06	600	0.06	0
Mission Canada	3,600	0.35	4,000	0.40	400
MP & E General	500	0.05	500	0.05	0
MP & E Covenanting Service	50	0.00	50	0.01	0
MP & E Pastoral Relations	2,000	0.19	2,000	0.20	0
MP & E Manse	100	0.01	100	0.01	0
MP & E Pensions	700	0.07	700	0.07	0
MP & E Education & Students	200	0.02	300	0.03	100
MP & E Internships	50	0.00	50	0.01	0
MP & E Hospital	200	0.02		0.00	(200)
Storage & Disposal (Records)		-		0.00	0
UWO Chaplaincy Program	10,000	0.97	10,000	1.01	0
Resource Centre		-		0.00	0
Resource Centre (1.8% COL)	16,000	1.55	16,300	1.64	300
Benefits	1,100	0.11	3,000	0.30	1,900

Middlesex Presbytery

<u>Income</u>	2011 Budget	Cost Per Resident Member 10310	2012 Budget	Cost Per Resident Member 9949	Difference 2012less 2011
CONFERENCE ANNUAL MEETING		-		0.00	0
Tap Supervisor	2,500	0.24		0.00	(2,500)
Local Arrangements		-		0.00	0
Camp Kee--Mo--Kee	15,000	1.45	15,000	1.51	0
		-		0.00	0
Total Expense	\$ 236,770	\$ 22.97	\$ 226,350	22.75	(10,420)
Surplus (Deficit)	(18,172)	-	1.76	\$ -	0
Total Revenue	\$ 218,598	\$ 21.20	\$ 226,350	22.75	

