

ERIE PRESBYTERY
HAMILTON CONFERENCE, THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA

Regular, November 22, 2017

THEME: "Gathered Blessings"

The regular meeting of Erie Presbytery, Hamilton Conference, The United Church of Canada, was held on Wednesday November 22, 2017 at Scotland UC. A quorum was present.

Cathy Dilts, Chair, acknowledged that the meeting was being held on Traditional Territory of First Nations' Peoples.

Constitution of the court:

Cathy duly constituted the court in the name of Jesus Christ the only head of the church, and the meeting open for the business set out to come before it. She welcomed everyone.

Enabling Motions:

1. **Attendance** Those members on the Roll, registered for this meeting.
2. **Agenda** As printed, be the order of business subject to changes that are recommended by the Chair or secretary or approved by the court itself.
3. **Corresponding Members:**
Visitors will be made corresponding members for the meeting (allows one to speak but not vote).
4. **Correspondence** Acknowledges acceptance of correspondence and the assignation of same as printed with the minutes.
5. **Reports** All reports are to be legibly written or typed and handed to the secretary prior to the presentation of the report.
6. **EXECUTIVE** Grants the power of the Presbytery to the Executive between the regular meetings of Erie Presbytery.
7. **Adjournment** the Presiding Officer has the authority to recess the Presbytery when business, as ordered, is complete. Enabling Motions:

Motion: Mike Wyatt/ Vicky Aldersley that the enabling motions be accepted as printed in the agenda.

CARRIED

Joys and Concerns

- Adrienne Robertson reported that Lisa (church pianist) has no new lesions and all others have shrunk
- Cathy Dilts said that we continue to hold Jackie Childerhose in our prayers

Welcome to Scotland UC

Art Tobey welcomed everyone and gave a brief history of the Congregational Church in Canada, as Scotland UC is one of the few remaining in the country.

Introduction of Visitors/ Newcomers

- Jennifer Bawden Miller introduced Sharon Woods as alternate rep for Oneida
- Norma Cronkwright introduced Pat Gilmore for the Grand River Bookstore
- Sheena Marini introduced Sandy Crowther as Mt. Zion's new rep
- Ted Smith introduced Becky Smith from Courtland as guest and Janice Pow formerly from Courtland as newly appointed to KTV as DLM student.

Worship: Worship was led by Cathy Dilts, Kim Shantz, Chris Matheson. The theme was 'To Everything a Season' using the scripture from Ecclesiastes 3. Norma Cronkwright accompanied on the piano for the hymns.

Approval of Minutes:

Motion: Ted Smith/Jennifer Bawden that the minutes of September 27, 2017 meeting be approved
CARRIED

Motion: Norma Cronkwright/ Kim Shantz that the executive minutes of October 11 and November 8, 2017 be accepted as information.
CARRIED

Roll:**Ministry Personnel:**

Vicky Aldersley, Barrie Bain, Murray Barnet, Jennifer Bawden, Ted Black, Jennifer Canning, Thom Davies, Cathy Dilts, Brian Elder, Nora Fueten, Barbara Fullerton, Lee Haughton, Stephen Mabee, Randy MacKenzie, Chris Matheson, Dan MacLean, Sheena Marini, Debbie McMillan, Adrienne Robertson, Kim Shantz, Stephen Shantz, Jeff Smith, Ted Smith, Art Tobey, Kathryn Vance, Gert van Rensburg, Frank Walker, Jim Wencel.

Lay Representatives:

Jane Baxter, Mae Bedford, Jayne Carman, Patrick Cook, Marg Crawley, Sandy Crowther, Joyce Gowan, Ross Gowan, June Hibbert, Liz Hooper, Tom Hunt, Barry Knight, Carol Knuth, Shelly Lefler, Matt Lindsay, Ian McMillan, John McNall, Lois Lockhart, Elizabeth Newman, Allan Rey, Janice Pow, Anne Reynolds, Judi Rushton, Sandy Sinden, Bob Stevenson, Sue Stevenson, Lori Stetson, Pat Tinney, Karen Tobey, Harold Wall, Marg Walker, Sharon Woods, Yvonne Wright, Mike Wyatt

Persistent Friend: Diane Matheson-Jimenez for Peter Hartmans

Regrets: Phyllis Buchner, Jennifer Budd, Stuart Budd, Jackie Childerhose, Larry Dawson, Robert Lawson, Sharon Mitchell Lynne Shipton, Dorothy van Osch, Odeyne Wodskou

Guests: Pat Gilmore, Becky Trembley, Brian Cronkwright

Persistent Friend:

Diane Matheson Jimenez:

- Save the date! May 25-27, 2018 Hamilton Conference Annual Meeting at the Unifor Centre Port Elgin. CAYTS and Youth Forum will run simultaneously – inform all the children in your congregation!
- Advent Peace Boxes – now available - can order from Hamilton Conference office soap and olive oil to support Palestine/Israel
- Sat June 13 – Iridesce - the Living apology Project: Aaron Miechkota Coordinator of the *Iridesce Living Apology Project* will be in Hamilton conference January 12-15, 2018 and is seeking pastoral charges and community ministries to host her as she facilitates workshops to address the question: since 1988 when the church declared that all people, regardless of sexual orientation are welcome as full members and that all members are eligible to be considered for ordered ministry – how welcoming (or not) has the church been? If you are interested in hosting Aaron in your community of faith or ministry, please contact her directly at livingapology@gmail.com before Monday December 11. She will be arranging workshops on a first come first served basis. For more information on *Iridesce*, including testimonials from have already participated in a workshop, please visit <https://www.iridesce.ca/>
- The UC of Canada is accepting donations for the needs of the Rohingya people. The Canadian government will match all eligible donations made until November 28.

Five Oaks

Barbara Fullerton, a member of the board of Five Oaks brought greetings. Barbara said there are two Muslims, two First nations members also on the board. She explained that the new business plan is for the centre to be self-sustaining. Online registrations, the Acorn restaurant, the hiring of Michael Shewberg as Operations Manager, and a financial person are to be celebrated. Last Sunday was a retirement party for Tom Hunt and they have just hired a new grounds keeper.

Grand River Bookstore

Norma Cronkwright read a message from Jackie Childerhose who is off on medical leave.

Pat Gilmore, who is helping out in the bookstore in Jackie's absence then presented some books and gift ideas from the bookstore:

Advent calendars, UC calendars, "*The Lord is our Light*", advent study guide, Gathering, Upper Room, '*Mudhouse Sabbath*', by Lauren Winner, and several children's books: "*No One Else Like You*", '*Embers*', Richard Wagamese.

Nations Uniting – for Vicky's full report see Appendix A page 37

SUPPER Randy Mackenzie led the group in a choral thank you to Oakland UC for the lovely meal.

Presentation Matthew Lindsay

Matthew shared his trip to Leipzig Germany this June, working as a steward at the *World Communion of Reformed Churches*, in a power point presentation. He thanked the court for its financial support for this trip.

Remit 6

Randy Mackenzie led us in an overview and voting of Remit 6.

The Question:

Does the Presbytery agree that there should be one new order of ministry encompassing the present categories of recognized designated lay ministers, diaconal ministers, and ordained ministers, with ordination to the ministry of word, sacrament, education, service and pastoral care as the single rite of entry, and with the provision for the continued identity of the diakonia within the ordained ministry?

Vote result: YES

Motion: Randy Mackenzie/Nora Fueten that Erie Presbytery give approval to Remit 6 and that the results be forwarded to the General Council of the UCC.

CARRIED

Archives

Bob Stevenson gave a brief interesting and informative review of his trip with Kathryn Vance and Randy Mackenzie to the UCC Archives in Toronto

Sharing the Work of the Church

- Barrie Bain spoke to the upcoming Scott Woods Band Christmas Concert at St James, Simcoe, Dec. 7
- Diane Matheson-Jimenez referred those who had questions regarding the vote on Remit 6 to remits@united-church.ca
- Jennifer Canning informed us of an Interfaith Exchange to be held Wednesday Dec. 6 at Muslim Centre, 192 Greenwich St Brantford. The theme of the event is "A Community Against Gender-Based Violence."

Committee Reports:**Pastoral Relations:**

Motion: Jennifer Canning/Ted Smith that Erie Presbytery declare a vacancy for Delhi United Church, for a three quarter time ministry personnel, starting immediately. This position will also serve Lynnville United Church.

CARRIED

Motion: Jennifer Canning/Ted Smith that Erie Presbytery accept the JNAC of Lynnville United Church that will lead to a shared ministry with Delhi United Church.

CARRIED

Motion: Jennifer Canning/Ted Smith that Erie Presbytery approve the appointment of Janice Pow, unrecognized designated lay minister in training, "A" category, to KTV United Church, part time, 27 hours a week, starting November 13th, 2017 to June 30th 2018. Salary \$31,873.24 per annum, telephone \$480 per annum, continuing ed. \$1,393.00 per annum Total: \$33,746.24.

CARRIED**Mission & Outreach/Life and Public Witness**

Jennifer Bawden took the opportunity to share that Oneida Church hosted a Canadian Foodgrains Bank Concert last Sunday and raised \$2,000.

Education and Students

Jayne Carman reported that the committee met November 1 regarding Robert Lawson's readiness for ordination. They credited him four (4) months internship for his three (3 years) ministry at Harmony UC and 4 months for psychotherapy course

Motion: Jayne Carman /Jennifer Canning that Erie Presbytery recommend Robert Lawson for ordination May 2018.

CARRIED

Jayne added that there are only four students at present, two inquirers and a DLM, and only two candidates for ordination from Hamilton Conference this upcoming year.

She spoke of the LLWL workshop at Five Oaks in the fall and how they are looking forward to another one.

Pastoral Oversight

There was no report.

Property

Motion: Ross Gowan/ Harold Wall: to accept the recommendation by the EP Executive Committee regarding the distribution of assets of the Balfour Street Pastoral Charge.

The assets will be distributed as follows:

1. Upholding the trust created at the time of the Melsom Bequest, the remaining assets from the Melsom Bequest will be transferred to Brantford Harmony United Church, with the same limitations on its use that were enjoyed by Balfour Street Pastoral Charge.
2. The gross proceeds from the mortgage, currently being held by the Erie Presbytery Mission and Development Council, be disbursed annually in three equal portions to Erie Presbytery, Ryerson Camp, and the Erie Presbytery Mission & Development Council.
3. The Balfour Street Pastoral Charge will make two contributions in the amount of \$10,000 each in favour of: i) Ryerson Camp, and ii) a directed donation (Basis of Union 16.3.3) to assist in providing

an upgrade to United Church pension plan retirees as supported by the Erie Presbytery resolution brought by its Pensions Convenor earlier this year.

4. The remaining assets held by the Balfour Street Pastoral Charge Trustee Board will be disbursed following the formula in the Erie Presbytery / Hamilton Conference guidelines for disbanding pastoral charges.

CARRIED

Administration/Finance

Harold Wall thanked the court for offering churches for the plenary meetings.

Motion: Norma Cronkwright/Harold Wall that Erie Presbytery accept the Draft Budget (previously circulated) for 2018.

CARRIED

The approved budget is in a separate (excel spreadsheet) document.

Motion: Norma Cronkwright/Sheena Marini that Erie Presbytery continue to support the transitional phase of Grand River Spiritual and Educational Resources in our prayers and through financial support from Erie Presbytery Reserve Fund up to the amount already approved (\$30,000.) through 2018.

CARRIED

Norma explained re: the above motion: 'The original motion was made June 8, 2016 and it now appears that transitional time at the end of 2018 may be when these approved funds are most needed. It will be at this time that the regions will starting up and we anticipate some delays in the delivering of funding'.

Faith Formation

Sheena reported that Five Oaks is providing faith formation for the presbytery – see their website

www.fiveoaks.on.ca

She added that CAYTS and Youth Forum will be held again this year at annual meeting of conference.

Human Resources

There was no report

M&S - a letter was received from Hamilton Conference thanking....'all the congregations for their generosity and support of the mission and service of the United Church of Canada. As a conference, we raised \$2,874,101 for 'M&S in 2016! 'Thank you' posters were distributed to individual congregations.

Adjournment:

Closing Hymn was 'The Church is Wherever God's People'. Chair Cathy Dilts closed the meeting with a benediction and adjourned the meeting at ~8:55 pm.

Next Executive Meeting: Wednesday, December 13, 2017 9:30 am at Five Oaks Centre

Next Regular meeting: Wednesday, January 24, 2018, at 5:00 pm, at Harmony UC, Brantford

Cathy Dilts, Chair

Karen Tobey, Secretary

**Nations Uniting update to Erie Presbytery
November 22nd, 2017**

In September we began a new program focused on Six Nations youth and young adults. Reclaiming Our Path provides tools and traditional teachings to help them understand themselves and what influences are affecting them, connect to their inner selves and their feelings and thinking, learn some of their traditional stories and reclaim their path with a good mind, rooted in their teachings and connected to creation. This program will continue through May 2018.

Although Coming Together for Reconciliation, has officially ended, we were able to offer this program for two sessions in the fall. One in the daytime and another in the evening. There were 16 participants during these sessions. We still have some funds available to offer the program in the spring. If you are interested please call Rhonda Johns at (519) 445-2424.

Sharing Circles

At our Sharing Circles in October and November we began discussions of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. We will continue this conversation at our next sharing circle on Monday December 18th from 10:00 a.m. until noon.

Wisdom Through the Ages

Topics being researched are the Sixties Scoop and the Indian Act. Information will be provided when programs/workshops are available.

Grandmothers' Tea is a monthly potluck lunch that is hosted by various churches on the reserves and in the neighbouring communities. The purpose is to build community between indigenous and non-indigenous peoples – an opportunity to work towards reconciliation. The next Grandmothers' Tea is Wednesday November 29th from noon until 2:00 p.m. at Barton Stone-Mount Hope United Church in Hamilton

Healing programs for Residential School and intergenerational survivors are offered monthly. They include energy therapy and healing & stress reduction.

Nations Uniting continues to facilitate the KAIROS Blanket Exercises. During the past two months these have been at the Niagara Youth Festival in St. Catharines, Faith Lutheran Church in Brantford, and for 2 groups in Woodstock. The blanket exercise is being offered this evening at McMaster University and one is being scheduled for Three Willows United Church in Guelph in January.

Report prepared by Vicky Aldersley

Minister New Credit Delaware Pastoral Charge (which includes Nations Uniting)

nations.uniting@gmail.com (519) 445-2424