

ERIE PRESBYTERY
HAMILTON CONFERENCE, THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA

Regular, April 25, 2018

THEME: “Gathered Blessings”

The regular meeting of Erie Presbytery, Hamilton Conference, The United Church of Canada, was held on Wednesday April 25, 2018 at Mount Zion UC. A quorum was present.

Cathy Dilts, Chair, welcomed us and asked us to reflect for a moment on the many losses in the last few weeks. There was a moment of silence, and then the reminder “we are not alone.” Cathy then acknowledged that the meeting was being held on Traditional Territory of First Nations’ Peoples, Neutral, Anishinabe, and Haudenauasane 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.

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/Kathryn Vance that the enabling motions be accepted as printed in the agenda.

CARRIED

Joys and Concerns

- Sheena Marini expressed two concerns – a colleague in a car accident, and a member of Mt Zion.
- Cathy led us in prayer.

Welcome to Erie Presbytery from Mount Zion UC

Donna Raytrowsky welcomed us and expressed hope that we would enjoy the meal and have a productive meeting.

Introduction of Visitors/ Newcomers

June Hibbert introduced Ken Robinson new rep from St George UC.
Art Tobey introduced new minister at Scotland Oakland UC, Rev Lennox Scarlett.

Worship: Worship was led by Cathy Dilts, and Robert Lawson with Norma Cronkwright accompanying on the piano the singing of the hymns. The Theme was Spring Sketches, - a service of joy and thanksgiving for the blessings of springtime, using Genesis 1:11-13, Psalm 23:1-3, Matthew 13:31-33.

Approval of Minutes:

Motion: Yvonne wright/Jayne Carmen that the minutes of March 28, 2018 meeting be approved.

CARRIED

Motion: Sheena Marini/Norma Cronkwright that the executive minutes of April 11, 2018 be accepted as information.

CARRIED

Correspondence: Karen Tobey read a letter received from Churchweb Support Inc.

Ministry Personnel:

Vicky Aldersley, Barrie Bain, Jennifer Canning, Thom Davies, Cathy Dilts, Paul Doughty, Brian Elder, Nora Fueten, Barb Fullerton, Deb Hinksman, Lee Haughton, David Iverson, Robert Lawson, Stephen Mabee, Dan MacLean, Sheena Marini, Chris Matheson, Mary Jo Patterson, Janice Pow, Kim Shantz Stephen Shantz, Jeff Smith, Ted Smith, Art Tobey, Kathryn Vance,

Lay Representatives:

Mae Bedford, Jayne Carmen, Patrick Cook, Norma Cronkwright, Sandy Crowther, Dianne Elliott, Simon Fraser, Joyce Gowan, June Hibbert, Leanne Houser, Tom Hunt, Lois Lockhart, John McNall, Sharon Mitchell, Ian McMillan, George Mulder, Elizabeth Newman, Janice Pow, Anne Reynolds, Judi Rushton, Lynne Shipton, Lori Stetson Bob Stevenson, Karen Tobey, Harold Wall, Odeyne Wodskou Sharon Woods, Yvonne Wright, Mike Wyatt

Persistent Friend: Diane Matheson-Jimenez for Peter Hartmans

Regrets Jennifer Bawden Miller, Peggy Bartlett, Jane Baxter, Jennifer Budd, Stuart Budd, Marg Crawley, Ross Gowan, Peter Hartmans, Matthew Lindsay, Deb McMillan, Gert van Rensburg, Adrienne Robertson, Dorothy Van Osch, Jim Wencil

Guests: Pat Gilmore, Brian Cronkwright, Diane Matheson-Jimenez, Susan Riach, Jeff Laforet, Tim Watson

Newcomers: Ken Robinson, Lennox Scarlett

Elder Abuse

Cathy introduced Susan Riach, chair of the Outreach Committee from Burford UC, who gave notice of workshop coming to Burford on Elder Abuse. The purpose of the workshop, produced by the Ontario government and Western University is to 'see it, name it, check it'. She suggested that the 'get it done people' come to the workshop Monday May 28 at 7pm at Burford, as this could be done in other churches also.

Ryerson Camp

Cathy introduced Tim Watson the new director of Ryerson Camp. He said the theme this year will be 'spreading seeds'. He has hired all the staff for the summer. The camp is upgrading and repairing with funds donated by the churches. He expressed thanks for the donations. There are eighty (80) kids registered already. Tim added that there is a wish list available on their website

http://www.ryersoncamp.com/docs/WishList_2017.pdf. He extended an invitation to everyone to come by for a visit!

Grand River Bookstore

Pat Gilmore told us that since she was with us in March meeting she has been to St Paul's Paris and Grace Caledonia and sold many books! Grand River Spiritual and Education Resources had a board meeting this week and decided to discontinue the AVEL. She invited folks to come and get a video of their choice for a donation. She then spoke of some books:

'*Unbelievable*' by J.S. Spong – probably will be his last book; '*Enough*' by Adam Hamilton, the topic of stewardship; '*Holy Currencies*' by Eric Law, encourages churches to new ways of looking at things and '*Drawing on Holy Currencies*' with illustrations for stewardship; '*Grounded*' and '*Grateful*' by Diana Butler Bass.

Pat reminded everyone that children's books are 20% off.

We sang *Johnny Appleseed* grace.

Supper

Tom Hunt expressed thanks to Mount Zion for the delicious meal.

Archives

Bob Stevenson spoke about the archives and the importance of preserving church documents. He asked that we please send the records no longer in active use to the archives in Toronto. He also offered, if need be to take them there

Worship/Celebration Discussion

Cathy spoke to us of what presbytery will be planning for the fall, - a worship service and a celebration to mark Erie Presbytery and encouraged us to sign up and be a part of one of two groups.

Persistent Friend:

Diane Matheson Jimenez

- Webinar Monday April 30th 1pm there will be a webinar regarding how pastoral relations will work in the new system: link: <https://www.united-in-learning.com/index.php/webinars/181-our-new-pastoral-relations-system-an-update>
- Monday May 14th there will be a webinar on of the Office of Vocation Progress Report <https://www.united-in-learning.com/index.php/webinars/182-office-of-vocation-progress-report>
- 2017 M&S report –Diane said that M&S givings are up 3.7% from 2016 and Erie M&S is up .5% over 2016.
- Conrad Grebel College and the Mennonite Historical Society want to erect an official Ontario Provincial Plaque along Highway 17 to mark the site where Montreal River Alternate Service camp was located. This camp was for conscientious objectors during WWII, and six (6) of forty-seven (47) self –identified United Church members served there. For more information <http://www.mhso.org/content/yellow-bellies>, or lharderg@uwaterloo.ca, if you want to be on email list
- For those ministers/congregations who are concerned about their services during conference weekend please see hamconf.org for worship resources: hamconf.org/worship-resources/congregational-worship-resource-for-sunday-may-27-2018/

Nations Uniting – for Vicky's full report see APPENDIX A page 32

Skylight Festival

Jeff Laforet spoke of the upcoming Skylight Festival to be held at Five Oaks Centre July 27-29, 2018 Skylight Festival is a Social Justice and Arts Festival in its fourth year, previously held at Paris Fairgrounds. There are several guests this year 'Science' Mike McHargue of the Liturgists Podcast and Finding God in the Waves, and Peterson Toscano. <https://www.skylightfestival.ca>

He said he wants our time, talents and money (to sponsor acts).

Motion: Ted Smith/Sheena Marini that Erie Presbytery donate \$1,000.00 to the Skylight Festival.

CARRIED

Sharing the Work of the Church

- There will be an Open House for Rev Bob Thompson, Sunday April 29, 1:30 -3 pm at South Cayuga Community Church, 6182 Rainham Rd., Dunnville in the Village of South Cayuga.
- Burford UC is presenting 'steel city ROVERS', featuring Celtic and traditional music, Sat. May 5th, 7pm Tickets \$15. available at the church 519-449-5641
- Sydenham-Heritage UC is hosting a Celtic presentation, with beef supper May 12th 6 pm \$20.

Naming People to Regional Council Transition Commissions

Motion: Kim Shantz/Yvonne Wright that Ted Smith and Robert Lawson's names be submitted from Erie Presbytery.

CARRIED

Committee Reports:

Pastoral Relations:

Motion: Jennifer Canning/Brian Elder that Erie Presbytery approve the request of Vicky Aldersley for a change in pastoral relationship effective June 30th, 2018 in order to retire, and that she be retained on the roll of Erie Presbytery.

CARRIED

Motion: Jennifer Canning/Brian Elder that Erie Presbytery Appoint Nora Fueten as Pastoral Charge Supervisor to St Paul's UC effective July 1st, 2018.

CARRIED

Motion: Jennifer Canning/Brian Elder that Erie Presbytery appoint the Rev Mary Jo Patterson, ordained minister, category 'F' to Waterford UC part-time, 30 hours a week starting July 1, 2018 to June 30th 2019. Salary \$42,662.88 plus 2.5%, \$1,070.28; telephone \$360; ConEd \$1,024.08 for total annual remuneration of \$45,117.24.

CARRIED

Motion: Jennifer Canning/Brian Elder that Erie Presbytery reappoint the Rev Barrie Bain, retired ordained minister, category 'F' to St. James UC Simcoe, part-time, 20 hours a week starting September 1, 2018 to June 30th 2019. Salary: \$22,164.; Telephone \$960; ConEd \$696.; other\$ 500. for a total annual remuneration of \$24,320.

CARRIED

Motion: Jennifer Canning/Brian Elder that Erie Presbytery appoint the Rev Muriel 'Gayle' MacDonald retired ordained minister, category 'F' to the Caistorville Pastoral Charge, part-time 20 hours a week starting July 1, 2018 to June 30th, 2019. Salary \$28,440; Telephone \$542.40; ConEd: \$696.50. for a total annual remuneration of \$29,678.90

CARRIED

Motion: Jennifer Canning/Brian Elder that Erie Presbytery approve the call of the Rev Robert Lawson ordained minister, category 'A' to Harmony UC, full time starting July1, 2018. Salary \$48,737; telephone: \$720.; ConEd \$1,500., for a total annual remuneration of \$50,957.

CARRIED

Pastoral Oversight

There was no report, but Barrie Bain thanked those who brought two copies of their annual reports thus far.

Mission and Outreach/Life and Public Witness

Barbara Fullerton said there will be an Interfaith Vigil, walking from Brantford City Hall to Harmony Square Saturday April 28th for victims of Monday's tragedy in Toronto.

Property

There was no report.

Administration/Finance,

Norma reported that at the request of the chair of Education and Students' committee on February 16th she sent cheques of \$1,000 each to five students: Paul Doughty, Robert Lawson, Caitlin MacKenzie, Alison Miculan and Janice Pow.

Motion: Norma Cronkwright/Brian Elder that Erie Presbytery set aside an amount of money that can be accessed by transition commission person(s) and the congregations of same for expenses incurred including pulpit supply to free up time for this important work. **CARRIED**

Motion: Norma Cronkwright/Harold Wall that the amount set aside per candidate/congregation for the transition commission be \$1,000. **CARRIED**

Faith Formation

Sheena said the Grand River bookstore is looking for someone with bookkeeping skills to work 16 hours per week at \$20./ hour.

She added that there is a suggestion that people provide reviews of books to the store and the reviews will be included in the books

Adjournment:

We closed with the singing of "You shall go out with joy" and the meeting was adjourned at ~8:20 pm.

Next Executive Meeting: Wednesday, May 9, 2018 9:30 am at Five Oaks Centre

Next Regular Meeting: Wednesday, June 13, 2018, at 5:00 pm, at Five Oaks Centre

Cathy Dilts, Chair

Karen Tobey, Secretary

DRAFT

**Nations Uniting update to Erie Presbytery
April 25th, 2018**

I am retiring from the Pastoral Charge effective June 30th. Nations Uniting is separating from the New Credit/Delaware Pastoral Charge and the Nations Uniting board has voted to appoint me as Director at Nations Uniting until December 2020. The position will be 8-10 hours per week

Senior leadership of the United Church of Christ and the United Church of Canada met at Nations Uniting today. Everyone was welcomed to the territory by Rhonda and Norma General-Lickers gave the Thanksgiving Address. Tom Hill from Six Nations showed a slide show about the history of the churches and the Residential School on Six Nations. In the afternoon we heard about the work of the wider church – the Calls to the Church from the Aboriginal Ministry Council and the Indigenous Justice and Residential Schools. Rhonda and I share information about the history and programs at Nations Uniting – a great deal of interest was expressed about the Coming Together for Reconciliation program and they asked me to send them the Power Point introduction to this program. We closed with a tour of New Credit United Church, Chapel of the Delaware and Grand River United Church.

We are hosting Hamilton Conference Mission Strategy and Support Committee on May 8th.

Upcoming events:

Monday April 30th, May 7th, 14th and 28th 2:00 – 4:30 **Parallel Paths:** In this new program we have an elder share a traditional story and then we look for parallels within the scriptures. Like the two row wampum for reconciliation we need to know and honour each other's stories.

Monday May 7th and May 28th from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. **Understanding the Indian Act** These sessions will focus on Lands, Memberships and Elections. (We learned about Estates at our first session.) They are led by a former Indian Affairs employee.

Wednesday May 30th from noon until 2:00 p.m. **Grandmothers' Tea** (monthly potluck lunch hosted by various churches on the reserves and in the neighbouring communities) at South Cayuga Community Church. The purpose is to build community between indigenous and non-indigenous peoples – an opportunity to work for reconciliation.

Monday June 18th from 10:00 a.m. until noon **Sharing Circle.** We are continuing the conversation about the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. No registration is required – just come and join the conversation!

Coming Together for Reconciliation has been deferred. If you are interested in this program call Rhonda and she will let you know when the program is rescheduled.

We are continuing the **Reclaiming Our Path** program and facilitation of the **KAIROS Blanket Exercises.**

Report prepared by Vicky Aldersley vicky.aldersley@gmail.com