

After Divisions and Committees met at 6:30 PM, Kent Presbytery met in regular session at 7:30 PM, on February 5, 2008, at Victoria Avenue United Church, Chatham, as per the Consent Docket approved on June 5, 2007. Chairperson Cathy Collins Barker constituted the court, and a quorum was present throughout the meeting. Worship was led by the Division of World Outreach/Church in Society. Annalee Kerr reflected on portions of her trip to Israel last November. This was part of the United for Peace campaign.

ATTENDANCE

MINISTRY PERSONNEL:

Lynn Belbeck, Michael Brooks, Jim Brown, Lynn Brown, Cathy Collins-Barker, Mary Elford, Judith Fayter, Bruce Fraser, Annalee Kerr, Cheryl Kirk, Linda Maw, Pat Milliken, Ed Nicol, Derek Parry, Jennifer Richmond, Meg Runhart, Heather Scott, Eric Skillings, Margaret Trapnell, Bill Vanderveeken, Nancy Walker, Ross Williams, and Carolyn Wilson Wynne.

LAY REPRESENTATIVES:

Betty Lou Baker, Sharon Ball, Mae Bedford, Doug Cameron, Alice Dale, Sandra Ferren, Bonnie Harvey, Doreen Hewitson, Les Hogg, Leta Knutson, Betty Krekewich, Leslie Mancell, Margaret Mason, Susan Matsuo, Evelyn Mayo, Barbara Robbins, Arlene Ruggles, Sandy Ryall, Richard Sanford, Diane Sansom, Susan Scaman, Chuck Scott, Bob Sheperd, Joyce Sinasac, Linda Slegers, Lynda Van Leeuwen, Pat Weaver.

REGRETS: George Allan, Lloyd Brown, Curtis Marwood, Donna Alexander, Elliot Arnold, Mary Lou Crewe, Grace Harvey, Marjorie Jackson, Lorna Lawrence, Elaine Leeson, Dawn Marwood, Carolyn McMahan,

ABSENT: Bruce Cook, Lorne Thrower, Val Bechard, Tom Brunt, Tom Button, Eileen Hooker-Dolata, Betty McCully, Alex Miller, Thor Milton, Peter Scott, and Ton Wiltenburg.

GUESTS & VISITORS Gloria Stonefish, Janice Clubb

INTRODUCTIONS Gloria Stonefish of Moraviantown

WELCOME TO Victoria Avenue United Church: Board Chair, Brad Verfaillie welcomed Presbyters to Victoria Avenue United and outlined a brief history of the congregation.

RECESS

Motion Chuck Scott/Cheryl Kirk

It was moved, seconded and carried that the meeting be recessed for the Annual Meeting of the Kenesserie Camp Corporation.

At 8:45 PM, the regular meeting of Presbytery resumed.

MINUTES

Motion Ed Nicol/Doreen Hewitson

It was moved seconded and carried that the minutes of the meeting of Kent Presbytery, held on January 8, 2008, be approved as printed.

Motion Ed Nicol/Eric Skillings

It was moved, seconded and carried that the minutes of the meeting of the Executive of Kent Presbytery held on January 17, 2008 be received for information.

Business Arising from Minutes

Questions for Presbyters as mentioned in Executive minutes

1. Has this presbytery accessed help from the conference and was it a good experience?
2. Were there times when the conference response could have been more helpful? Give examples.
3. If you could change anything about the conference staff positions that would make them more helpful to you, what would you like to see?
4. What presbytery employees do you have and what are their roles?

CORRESPONDENCE

Received

#	Received	Sent	Via	Sender	Topic	Deal With
171	08-01-15	08-01-15	Email	T. Broadhurst	Notice of mailing spare stats forms	File
172	08-01-17	08-01-16	Mail	Chalmers PC	Notice of final disposition of funds	F & A & File
173	08-01-17	08-01-11	Mail	G.C. Office	Spare stats forms	File
174	08-01-17	08-01-17	Email	D. Cameron	Conference questions for Congregations	File
175	08-01-18	08-01-18	Email	M. Stevens	M&SN Messenger	File
176	08-01-20	08-01-20	Email	M. Stevens	Statement re: Annett	File
177	08-01-21	08-01-21	Email	J. Kincaid	M&S Remittances	File
178	08-01-23	08-01-21	Mail	Tupperville PC	Req. for JNAC	P. Relations
179	08-01-25	08-01-25	Email	Lambton Presbytery	Minutes	File
180	08-01-28	08-01-28	Email	C. Collins-Barker	Riverview Gardens concern	Email list
181	08-01-29	08-01-29	Email	G.C. Office	Press release re	File

					Gaza	
182	08-01-29	08-01-29	Email	G.C. Office	Requests re Overseas Personnel 2008	DWO
183	08-01-30	08-01-30	Email	M. Stevens	Foodgrains Bank update	File
184	08-01-30	08-01-30	Email	Laurie Logan	Kenesserie Reports	File
185	08-01-31	08-01-31	Email	G.C. Office	Press release re Omar Khadr	File
187	08-02-04	08-02-04	Email	Karen Paton-Evans	Partners registration info for Annual meeting	Secretary

BUSINESS ARISING FROM CORRESPONDENCE

With regard to correspondence item #169, the following names submitted for admittance to the Order of Ministry of The United Church of Canada as per the requirements of The Manual 031(w).

Name	Denomination	Recommending Presbytery
Carl Nelson Emke	Baptist Convention of Ontario & Quebec	Niagara
James Grant Ravenscroft	Roman Catholic Church	Edmonton
Maki Fushii	Japan Baptist Convention Church	Vancouver South
Scott Kerr Hunter	Baptist Convention of Ontario & Quebec	Montreal

REPORTS FOR ACTION

Education & Students – Derek Parry

MOTION Derek Parry/Judith Fayter **Carried**

Whereas 1. the United Church of Canada provides for an ordination track student to obtain their M.Div. at a non-United Church theological school by decision of their Presbytery based on exceptional grounds (Manual section 727 subsection (b)) vis.

Any Candidate seeking permission to take basic theological training outside Canada or in a theological school not related to the United Church shall seek the prior approval of the Presbytery through the Committee responsible for Candidates. If the Presbytery supports the request, it shall obtain the concurrence of the Conference Education and Students Committee and the appropriate General Council working unit. In considering such a request, the Presbytery, the Conference, and the working unit shall be guided by the United Church's need for ministers who are trained for ministry in the United Church and who have knowledge and an appreciation of the United Church's Polity, ethos, traditions, and theologies. It shall be the responsibility of the Candidate to provide evidence

that the alternate educational program will meet the United Church's need. Such requests shall be granted only in exceptional cases. And,

Whereas 2. Kent Presbytery recommended that Sharon Campbell Rayment be permitted this extraordinary educational route by virtue of her medical limitations which precluded repeated travel to a United Church theological college, and the limitations of her family which precluded her residing at a United Church theological college; and the higher courts agreed with this decision; and,

Whereas 3. Sharon Campbell Rayment was given to understand that this permission and the conditions that led to it would not bar her from due consideration for ordination when the time came; and,

Whereas 4. Sharon Campbell Rayment is prepared to demonstrate that she has successfully completed the necessary academic, educational and pastoral practice requirements of the United Church, including an M.Div. degree from Huron College, a college associated with the Anglican Church of Canada, including the equivalent of a year studying the appropriate United Church courses from United Church colleges fulfilling the requirements of section 227 (c) – see below; and,

Whereas 5. Sharon Campbell Rayment is ready to fulfill the requirement of an eight month internship; and,

Whereas 6. the application for an internship for Sharon Campbell Rayment will be seriously hindered if there is doubt about her continuing on to ordination even on successful completion of her internship, due to a lack of a Testamur; and,

Whereas 7. Sharon Campbell Rayment has completed 5 years (3 years full-time equivalent) pastoral service and received a positive commendation on her work; and,

Whereas 8. ordained applicants from other approved denominations, including the Anglican Church, are not required to provide a Testamur from a United Church school, or any college because they are not required to complete a one year equivalency at a United Church college; and,

Whereas 9. United Church colleges will not grant a Testamur to someone who has not completed a one year residency program; and,

Whereas 10. the residency requirement is explicitly permitted to be waived under sections 024 (c) and 227 (c), section 024(c) stating that,

If the candidate intends to study at a theological school not associated with the United Church, the provisions of section 227 apply; and,

section 227 (c) stating that,

Candidates who have taken a complete program of theological studies in a theological school not related to the United Church shall be required to take the equivalent of at least one (1) year of full-time studies in a theological school related to the United Church prior to being recommended for commissioning to the diaconal ministry of education, service, and pastoral care, or ordination. **In exceptional cases this requirement may be modified or waived on recommendation of the Presbytery and with the approval of the Conference and the appropriate General Council working unit. It shall be the responsibility of the Candidate to provide evidence that the completed program of theological studies has met the United Church's need. (2007)**

and,

Whereas 11. to be consistent with the earlier decision of Kent Presbytery the requirement of a Testamur should be waived since the waiving of the academic residency in a United Church school, without the waiving of the Testamur which can only be attained by the equivalent of residency at a United Church school is illogical; and,

Whereas 12. the Testamur primarily attests to academic and pastoral performance, while the general suitability of the candidate is assessed by their Presbytery and Conference (see Manual sections 026 subsections c and d) vis.

section 026 (c) and (d) stating that,

(c) Presbytery Recommendation. The Presbytery shall determine the Candidate's readiness for ministry by examining their genuine sense of call to ministry, personal character, motives, academic records, doctrinal beliefs, and general fitness for ministry, and shall satisfy itself that the Candidate is in essential agreement with the statement of doctrine and will abide by the Polity of the United Church, and, if satisfied, shall recommend the Candidate to the Conference for commissioning to the diaconal ministry of education, service, and pastoral care, or ordination.

(d) Conference Action. It shall be the duty of the Conference to have final enquiry in determining the readiness for ministry of each Candidate for commissioning to the diaconal ministry of education, service, and pastoral care, or ordination, by examining their genuine call to ministry, personal character, motives, academic records, doctrinal beliefs, and general fitness for ministry. Each Candidate recommended to be commissioned to the diaconal ministry of education, service, and pastoral care, or ordained, shall be examined on the statement of doctrine of the United Church, and shall, before commissioning to the diaconal ministry of education, service, and pastoral care, or ordination, satisfy the Conference Education and Students Committee that they are in essential agreement therewith, and that as a member of the Order of Ministry of the United Church they will accept the statement as being in substance agreeable to the teaching of the Holy Scriptures. The Conference shall be assured that the Candidate is in essential agreement with the statement of doctrine, that the Candidate will agree to be subject to transfer and settlement in the United Church, and that the Candidate will abide by the Polity of the United Church. (2007); and ,

Whereas, 13. the Manual requires that "if satisfied" per above, the Presbytery "shall recommend" the candidate; and,

Whereas 14. even if a candidate is not given a positive Testamur by the United Church related college in which they studied the candidate may still be recommended by the Conference after consultation with the Presbytery E&S committee and other bodies;

It is moved and seconded that Kent Presbytery of London Conference of the United Church of Canada recommend to the appropriate bodies of the United Church that, given demonstration of all other conditions being satisfied, the requirement for a Testamur for Sharon Campbell Rayment be waived.

REPORTS FOR INFORMATION

MPE - Barbara Robbins

M & P Committee workshop on Tuesday Feb. 26, beginning at 6:30 PM, at Victoria Avenue UC. Please pre-register with Barbara Robbins either by phone or email.

2 copies of Annual Reports are to be submitted as soon as they are available.

DWO/CIS – Meg Runhart

Annalee Kerr will make a full presentation of her trip to Israel, which was part of the United for Peace Campaign, before the March meeting of Presbytery. Interested persons are invited to come at 5:30 PM to Trinity UC - Wallaceburg and bring a bag lunch.

Communications – Eric Skillings

Make full use of the Newsletter. All upcoming events are listed there. Those holding events are asked to contact Doreen Hewitson to publish details.

Finance & Administration – Doug Cameron

The Conference Staff Futures Committee is preparing information for the year 2010 and beyond. In that year, two staff members are planning to retire. The committee is asking questions to determine staffing requirements based on present and future usage. The questions for Presbyters appears earlier in these minutes.

The questions for congregations are as follows:

1. What do you know about conference?
2. What role does the conference play in your congregation?
3. What conference staff or services have you used over the last three years?
4. When you read the mission statement of the conference staff and what their goals are, where do you see these ideas connecting with your congregation?
5. What changes do you see in the future of your congregation and how can all of us, as the United Church, function better together?

Planned Giving Workshop – Michael Brooks

Wed. March 5, Heather McLean will be holding an event entitled, “Conversation Café” at St. Andrew’s United Church in Chatham. Posters for each congregation were distributed.

Resource Centre – Susan Scaman

Susan referred to the book display and some \$2.00 bargain items.

Chaplain to Clergy – Arlene Ruggles

The next retreat for clergy will be on Friday Feb. 29, beginning at 8:30 AM at Smitty’s Restaurant in Chatham. The theme is “Love and Loss.”

Director of Camping & Youth Ministry – Nancy Walker

Nancy outlined various recent and upcoming activities. The March Mission Event will take place March 10 – 15. Brochures are available.

Riverview Gardens – Michael Brooks

Michael updated information regarding budget cuts with respect to pastoral care concerns at the facility.

UCW – Mae Bedford

- Kent Presbyterial UCW Annual meeting Feb. 23 at St. Luke's UC
- Westminster Weekend – April 11 & 12 @ Stoneridge Inn London
- London Conference UCW Annual meeting – Apr. 27 & 28 - @ St. Andrew's UC, Chatham

NEW BUSINESS – Jim Brown

St. Paul's UC will be hosting a workshop for elders in late March. David Woodall will be the facilitator. The date and time will be announced soon.

Theological Reflection – Arlene Ruggles

Arlene reflected on tonight's meeting, with reference to the power of stories in our lives.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 PM, with prayer from Chairperson Cathy Collins-Barker.

Catherine Collins-Barker, Chairperson

Ed Nicol, Secretary