

On May 30, 2023, at 7 pm, the Presbytery of Waterloo-Wellington met in emergent meeting via Zoom online meeting. Former Moderator, Rev. Bill Bynum, presided over the court as the current moderator, Rev. John Borthwick, was the subject of the emergent meeting. Rev. Bynum opened the meeting with prayer and duly constituted the court.

Attendance

Ministers

Rev. John Borthwick, Rev. Aubrey Botha, Rev. Diane Boyd, Moderator, Rev. Bill Bynum, Rev. Hugh Donnelly, Rev. Don McCallum, Rev. Marty Molengraaf, Rev. Dr. Kristine O'Brien, Rev. Nick Pavel, Rev. Dr. Mark Richardson, Rev. Glen Soderholm

Representative Elders:

Jeanette Bowman, Sang Lee, Gib McIlwrath, Vern Platt, Bonnie Street, Kim Brnadon Uyede, Terri Whiffen, Rhonda Wright

Alternate Representative Elders

Jo-Anne Hall, Nancy Nicol

Appendix

Rev. Arnold Bethune, Rev. Darrell Clarke, Clerk, Rev. Barb Molingraaf

Guests

St. Andrew's, Guelph

Craig Clack, Peter DeVries, Mark Garlough, Paul Harrison, Catherine Johnstone, Pauline Sanderson, Denyse Wozencroft

Rev. Mark Gaskin (Presbytery of Paris)

Regrets Rev. Brian Jung, Rev. Dr. Peter Bush, Rev. Reuben St. Louis, Rev. Courtney Crawford, Rev. Jennifer Sokolowsky, Rev. Dr. Linda Bell, Rev. Howard Sullivan, Rev. Susan Clarke, Sue Senior, Peggy Lennox

Agenda

Moved by Kim Uyede/Gib McIlwrath that the draft agenda be accepted as amended. Carried.

Reason for Emergent Meeting

This emergent meeting of the Presbytery of Waterloo-Wellington is called to receive and consider the resignation request of the Rev. John Borthwick from the position as Minister of Word and Sacrament at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Guelph.

Request to Resign: Rev. John Borthwick, Ministry of Word and Sacrament at St. Andrew's PC, Guelph

On May 15, 2023, the Presbytery received the resignation request of the Rev. John Borthwick. The Rev. John Borthwick informed the Session of St. Andrew's PC, Guelph on May 16th of his intention to resign as Minister of Word and Sacrament effective July 31st, 2023. The congregation was informed on May 21st and Rev. Borthwick's last Sunday at St. Andrew's will be July 2nd, 2023. Rev. Borthwick will be on vacation and study leave until July 31.

Moved by Kim Uyede/Hugh Donnelly that the request of the Rev. John Borthwick to resign from the Ministry of Word and Sacrament at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, St. Andrew's, Guelph be received and considered. Carried.

Sit and Correspond

Moved by Diane Boyd/Aubrey Botha that the representatives from St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Guelph, be invited to sit and correspond and be invited to speak regarding the resignation request of the Rev. Borthwick. Carried.

Representatives from St. Andrew's, Guelph spoke to the request of Rev. Borthwick. Paul Harrison, Pauline Sanderson, Nancy Nicol, Catherine Johnston, Mark Garlough, and Peter DeVries, expressed their sadness at Rev. Borthwick's departure and wished him all the best in his new endeavor. Rev. Mark Gaskin also expressed his best wishes and thanks to Rev. Borthwick.

Members of the court, Gib McIlwrath, Rev. Diane Boyd, Rev. Hugh Donnelly, and Rev. Marty Molengraaf also shared their gratitude and best wishes to Rev. Borthwick.

Approval of Resignation

Moved by Glen Soderholm/Hugh Donnelly that the request from the Rev. John Borthwick, to resign from the Ministry of Word and Sacrament at St. Andrew's, Guelph, effective July 31st, 2023, be approved. Carried.

Appendix

Moved by Marty Molengraaf/Diane Boyd that the name of the Rev. John Borthwick be transferred to appendix of the Roll of the Presbytery of Waterloo-Wellington effective July 31, 2023. Carried.

Appointment of Interim Moderator

Moved by Aubrey Botha/Marty Molengraaf that the Congregational Response Team be given power to issue to appoint an Interim Moderator, who with a second Presbyter of their choosing, conduct exit interviews with the minister and the session. Carried.

Notice of Vacancy

Moved by Diane Boyd/Kristine O'Brien that the Clerk of the Presbytery provide a notice of Vacancy to the Clerk of Session of St. Andrew's PC, Guelph by July 31st, 2023. Carried.

Moved by Nick Pavel/Mark Richardson that the interim moderator preach the pulpit vacant on August 6th, 2023. Carried.

Rev. Borthwick addressed the court and thanked the congregation of St. Andrew's, Guelph for their support during his many years as minister. He noted that he will miss the congregation and that he is looking forward to his new challenge at Knox College. He also thanked the Presbytery for their support and kind remarks.

Adjournment

Moved by Kristine O'Brien that the meeting adjourn. Carried.

The moderator closed the meeting with prayer.