

The Presbytery of Waterloo-Wellington met in regular session on Tuesday, May 13, 2025, within St. Andrew's Hespeler Presbyterian Church.

The Rev. Scott McAndless and Martin Bohl, led the Presbytery in a time of worship. The Moderator opened the meeting with prayer and constituted the court.

Attendance

Ministers

Rev. Scott McAndless, Clerk, Rev. Darrell Clarke, Moderator, Rev. Dr. Peter Bush, Rev. David Choi, Rev. Courtney Crawford, Rev. Jeffrey Crawford, , Rev. Kristine O'Brien, Rev. Nick Pavel, Rev. Dr. Mark Richardson, Rev. Reuben St. Louis, Rev. Cathy Stewart, Rev. Kirk Summers,

Representative Elders

Lenora Arbuckle, Janet de Groot, Bob Galbraith, Pauline Hall, Joanne Hall, Hyde, Carol, Loretta Fox, Werner Kuemmling, Peggy Lennox, Dave Mallet, Doug McCaig, Alistair McIlwraith, Gib McIlwraith, Vern Platt, Sue Senior, Bonnie Street, Rick Thomas, Terri Whiffin, Rhonda Wright.

Appendix: Rev. Herb Gale

Others: Steven Marsh (St. Andrew's Hespeler), Rev. Tae Ho Yoo, Steven Jones

Regrets: Rev. Dr. Aubrey Botha, Rev. Hugh Donnelly, Rev. Donald McCallum David Church (treasurer)

The moderator, Rev. Darrell Clarke welcomed guests and visitors

1. Motion to sit and correspond withdrawn as not necessary.

Docket

A late Property and Finance report and a draft amalgamation plan for St. Andrew's Mount Forest were added to the docket.

2. It was **moved** by Scott McAndless/Reuben St. Louise that the Docket as amended be adopted. **Carried.**

Minutes

Minor corrections to the minutes were noted including a date on the first line and the spelling of the name of a presbyter.

3. It was **moved** by Scott McAndless/Reuben St. Louise that the minutes of March 11, 2025 be adopted as amended. **Carried.**

Consent Agenda

4. It was **moved** by Scott McAndless/Doug McCaig that 6,7,9,10,11,12,14,15,16,17,18 and 20-36 as listed (and marked with ***) below be adopted by the consent of the court.

Items 23 and 24 were removed from the list at the request of a presbyter and the motion was carried. **Carried.**

Commissioners and Young Adult Representative to General Assembly (Jen Sokolowsky, Donald McCallum, Nick Pavel, Kristine O'Brien, Sue Senior, Werner Kuemmling, Terri Whiffin, Carol Hyde and YAR Maeve Lili Forde) were commissioned

Presbytery Why

5. It was moved by Scott McAndless/Doug McCaig that the Presbytery move into a Committee of the Whole to discuss the Presbytery Why Team Report (Jeffrey Crawford convening, Scott McAndless recording).

The Court returned to ordinary session on a motion by Scott McAndless/Jeff Crawford

Business Committee

6. ***That the report of the business committee be received and considered. **Carried by consent.**
7. ***That the actions of the Business Committee in referring correspondence items #311-337 be homologated. **Carried by consent.**
8. It was **moved** by Scott McAndless/Courtney that the Rev. Dr. Kristine O'Brien be elected the moderator of the Presbytery of Waterloo-Wellington for a one-year term commencing September 9, 2025. **Carried.**
9. ***That the revised Trust Deeds of Kortright Presbyterian Church and St. Andrew's Hespeler Church be approved and signed by the Clerk and Moderator. **Carried by consent.**
10. ***That the Rev. Bill Bynum be permitted to retire effective August 1, 2025. **Carried by consent.**
11. ***That the Rev. Bill Bynum be transferred from the appendix to the roll of the Presbytery of Waterloo-Wellington to the Presbytery of Paris, effective August 1, 2025. **Carried by consent.**
12. ***That the Presbytery homologate the actions of the Presbytery in approving the severance of the St. Andrew's Mount Forest Property. **Carried by consent.**
13. It was **moved** by Terri Whiffin/Reuben St. Louis that therefore, the Presbytery of Waterloo-Wellington recommends that the St. Andrew's Kitchener housing initiative proceed with the support of the Presbytery.

After some discussion, the motion was approved with a small change in wording, substituting "endorsement" for "support." A change agreeable to the mover and seconder. The motion was **Carried.**

14. ***That the Report of the Business Committee be adopted. **Carried by consent.**

Treasurer's Report

15. ***Receive the Treasurer's Reports **Carried by consent.**
16. ***Accept the Financial Statements to April 30, 2025. **Carried by consent.**
17. ***Approve the report as a whole. **Carried by consent.**

Ad Hoc Team on Presbytery Funds

18. ***That the report of the Ad Hoc Team on Presbytery Funds be received and considered. **Carried by consent.**
19. It was **moved** by Peter Bush/Jeffrey Crawford that this report be sent to Sessions within the Presbytery of Waterloo-Wellington and to the leadership teams at Two Rivers Church and the Board of Crieff Hills Community for Study and Report by August 3, 2025. **Carried.**
20. ***That the report of the Ad Hoc Team on Presbytery Funds be adopted. **Carried by consent.**

General Presbyter

21. ***That the report of the General Presbyter be received for information. **Carried by consent.**

Congregational Response Team

22. ***Moved and seconded that the report be received and considered. **Carried by consent.**
23. It was **moved** by Reuben St. Louis/Jeffrey Crawford that Central, Cambridge be given permission to start the process of calling a minister prior to the retirement of Rev. Aubrey Botha so that an overlap between the new and outgoing minister would be possible, and that the Rev. Mark Richardson be appointed as interim moderator, responsible for only the search process with a start date of October 1st. **Carried.**
24. It was **moved** by Reuben St. Louis/Terri Whiffin that Rev. Jeffrey Crawford and the IM Rev. Peter Bush be established as the Presbytery amalgamation team for St. Andrew's Mount Forest, Knox Conn and Knox/Calvin, Harriston with power to issue given to the Congregational Response to appoint one more additional member to the team. **Carried.**
25. ***that Beth Anne Fisher be appointed to the Subcommittee on Sexual Abuse and Harassment. **Carried by consent.**
26. ***that the following individuals be appointed as visitation teams to the corresponding congregations.
Calvin, Kitchener – Rev. Don McCallum, Andrew Foster, Darlene Vandermey, (alternate - Rev. Kirk Summers)
Central – Rev. Cathy Stewart, John Dibben, Sonja McNabb, (alternate - Penny Renken)
Kitchener East – Rev. Kees Vandermey, Mollie Loughran, Ann Wilson (alternates - Rev. Frank Szatmari, John Hake). **Carried by consent.**
27. ***that St. Andrew's, Guelph be given permission to proceed with the call process for their next minister. **Carried by consent.**
28. ***That the report be adopted as a whole. **Carried by consent.**

Equipping Leadership and Renewal

29. ***That the report of the Equipping Leadership and Renewal Team be received and considered. **Carried by consent.**
30. ***That the request of the Rev. Reuben St. Louis to take an Intermission from December 29, 2025 to March 8, 2026, be approved. **Carried by consent.**
31. ***That the request of the Rev. Courtney Crawford to take an Intermission from April 20 to June 29, 2026, be approved. **Carried by consent.**
32. ***That the request of the Rev. David Choi to take Study Leave from June 22 to July 5 be approved. **Carried by consent.**
33. ***That the report of the Equipping Leadership and Renewal Team be adopted. **Carried by consent.**

Property and Finance

34. That the report of the Property and Finance Team be received and considered. **Carried by consent.**
35. The grant for \$3000 be approved for the 2025 sports camp at Westside Presbyterian Church. The funds are to come from the funds held in trust for "supporting outreach ministries area East Galt." **Carried by consent.**
36. That the report of the Property and Finance Team be adopted. **Carried by consent.**

The court engaged in a discussion of the amalgamation plan of St. Andrew's Mount Forest, to be considered at the next meeting.

37. It was **moved** by Kristine O'Brien/Terri Whiffin that the court adjourn. **Carried.**

Book of Reports May 13, 2025

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1. Presbytery Why Team Report

Recommendation 5: That the Presbytery move into a Committee of the Whole to discuss the Presbytery Why Team Report (Jeffrey Crawford convening, Scott McAndless recording).

Presbytery WHY

The Presbytery of Waterloo-Wellington *as of April 29*

Why Statement:

In response to Jesus Christ, the Presbytery seeks to guide the ministry, mission and witness of God in Waterloo-Wellington. We seek to do this by:

- Being attentive to and naming the ways God is already active and at work within the region (discernment)
- Focus on living into our calling as a 'sent people' who join God's mission in the world (missional)
- Moving beyond fear and engaging in risk-taking (discipleship)
- Learning and experimenting with renewal- new ways, models and practices of being the church (ecclesiology)
- We seek to build just and respectful relationship with all people, rooted in the love and justice of Christ (Inclusion and reconciliation)

To focus on the above principles, we are called to...

Gather:

- To have three teams: Gathering, Leading and Resourcing
- To gather as a Presbytery, alternating between a whole presbytery meeting and one for teams
- To meet focusing on growing relationships, learning together and preparing to be sent out to be the church in the world
- To seek and be open to how God is showing up and how we are being sent

Leadership:

- To establish health and wholeness as the priority for all elders and clergy

- To embrace curious and creative leadership within presbytery as a way of moving beyond problem/solution frameworks and a fear of failure that leave us stuck
- To support congregations/ministries in learning and acting with the Spirit's help
- To allocate people resources for ministries that can articulate and demonstrate their why, how God is at work, and how they are being sent

Resources:

- To allocate resources for viable ministry and mission based on the above Why Statement
- Effective stewardship of asset management (people, buildings, property, money, investments)
- To encourage the use of presbytery resources for growing mission and ministry, with a focus on: risk taking, learning, and experimentation
- To provide resources for ministries that focus on outreach- living our calling as a sent people
- To fund staff who support discernment and leadership

Goals for Fall 2025 & 2026

1. Experiment with new habits, rhythms and practices for regular gathering, including an intentional practice of worship at all gatherings
2. Practice forgiveness towards each other and for ourselves (confession) – “practicing unconditional positive regard for each other”
3. Create space for mourning and grief – the world and the church have changed and continue to change, and some are feeling loss and disappointment
4. Ask Sessions to name representative elders who are willing to be curious and support what God is doing in the Presbytery
5. Make changes to existing ‘standing orders’ and policy/polity to reflect the why
6. Engage in a specific learning foci at each meeting related to the above why statements.

2. Business Committee

Recommendation 6: That the report of the business committee be received and considered

Correspondence since March Meeting:

311	Mar	6	Jeff Crawford	Information re. Avondbloem Application	Business
312	Mar	6	Alex Monsour	Trust Deed (Kortright)	Business
313	Mar	11	Glen Soderholm	Nomination for Associate Secretary	Business
314	Mar	11	Debbie McKevitt	Job opportunity for summer	Web Page
315	Mae	21	Terrie-Lee Hamilton	Information re. Statistical reports	Clerk
316	Mar	23	Peter Bush	Intention to amalgamate (Mt. Forest)	Cong Resp.
317	Mar	25	Joni Smith	Quote on replacing AED's	Presbytery
318	Mar	26	Konnie Vissers	Proposal for Avondbloem Application	Business
319	Mar	28	Victor Kim	Approval of Asset Plan (Hespeler-Preston)	Congregation
320	Mar	28	Darrell Clarke	Funds Committee	Presbytery
321	Mar	31	Kathryn Muir	March Changes to the Roll	Presbytery
322	Apr	1	Mark Richardson	Churches and charitable status	Business
323	Apr	3	Steven Marsh	AED proposal question	Business
324	Apr	5	Peter Bush	Mt Forest Request to sever Property	Business
325	Apr	7	William Bynum	Request to retire, August 1, 2025	Business
326	Apr	11	Jennifer Sokolowsky	Resignation from Reconciliation and Healing Team	Clerk

327	Apr	11	Jennifer Sokolowsky	Loan request	P&F
328	Apr	11	Jeff Crawford	Study Leave Funding	Treasurer
329	Apr	16	Theresa McDonald-Lee	Clergy Day and Worship Services	Presbytery
330	Apr	16	Ann Wilson	Knox Guelph and its future (building sale)	P&F
331	Apr	22	Peter Bush	Amalgamation Plan Mount Forest	Cong Resp.
332	Apr	23	Courtney Crawford	Intermission request	Equipping Lead
333	Apr	29	Hugh Donnelly	Application to Diane Boyd Student Ministry fund	Renewal
334	Apr	30	Darlene Vandermay	Carol Hyde named as Rep. Elder (Gale)	Clerk
335	May	2	Marjorie Copeland	Candidate list for Education and Reception	Presbytery
336	May	3	David Choi	Study Leave Request	Equipping Lead
337	May	6	Nancy Nichol	Request to proceed to seek a call (St. A's Guelph)	Cong Resp.

Recommendation 7: That the actions of the Business Committee in referring correspondence items #311-337 be homologated

Moderator:

The term of our moderator ends on September 9, 2025. Unless there are any other nominations to be made, the Business Committee is very pleased to be able to put forward the following motion:

Recommendation 8: That the Rev. Dr. Kristine O'Brien be elected the moderator of the Presbytery of Waterloo-Wellington for a one-year term commencing September 9, 2025.

Trust Deed Updates:

Trust deeds have been received from Kortright Presbyterian (updated) and St. Andrew's Hespeler (Amalgamated congregation with two properties now).

Recommendation 9: That the revised Trust Deeds of Kortright Presbyterian Church and St. Andrew's Hespeler Church be approved and signed by the Clerk and Moderator.

Retirement of Bill Bynum

Bill has requested to retire effective August 1, 2025. He resides within the bounds of the Presbytery of Paris.

Recommendation 10: That the Rev. Bill Bynum be permitted to retire effective August 1, 2025

Recommendation 11: That the Rev. Bill Bynum be transferred from the appendix to the roll of the Presbytery of Waterloo-Wellington to the Presbytery of Paris, effective August 1, 2025.

Information from Synod

Synod executive has agreed to engage Jonathan Tait for the Congregational Health position.

Severing of Mount Forest Property

As reported elsewhere, the congregation has voted to amalgamate with Conn and Harriston. Research towards the sale of property has begun. St. Andrew's owns two houses – the manse which is beside the church and another house which is behind the church. We have discovered that that is all registered as one lot with three parts. So, there is a need to survey and sever the property into three lots before any sale is possible.

St. Andrew's, Mount Forest requested permission to sever the property into three lots. No action towards actual sale will happen until after the May Presbytery meeting when it is hoped an amalgamation plan will be presented. Seeing the severing into 3 lots as an administrative matter and understanding that no sale is happening at this time, the business committee gave approval of the action on a motion by Peggy Lennox, seconded by Reuben St. Louis and approved.

Recommendation 12: That the Presbytery homologate the actions of the Presbytery in approving the severance of the St. Andrew's Mount Forest Property.

Avondbloom Application for Kortright Presbyterian Church

At the March Presbytery meeting, the Business Committee was given power to issue to approve the Avondbloom Fund Application by Kortright Presbyterian Church. At our April Meeting, the committee review the application and approved the application on a motion made by Donald McCallum, seconded by Reuben St. Louis and Carried.

Request from St. Andrew's, Kitchener for Presbytery's Letter of Support and Update of the "Community Housing Initiative" Project.

The Roy Street Task Force of St. Andrew's, Kitchener, who are leading the "Community Housing Project have requested a recommendation and letter of support from the Presbytery.

Key Dates for Demolition Application and Background

- June 3, 2025 Demolition application goes to Heritage Department
- June 23, 2025 Application goes to council.

At this time, the only application before the city is the application for the demolition of the properties on Roy, aka the derelict structure (heritage property class B) and the structure on the corner of Queen Street/Roy (heritage property class A) . The city has required a vision of the project and its site plan in order to approve the demolition permit. St. Andrew's has met the requirements for the application of demolition permit.

Demolition would not begin until early August.

Development Application Update:

A site plan has been created and updated several times, along with a building occupancy plan (75-100 residents) and a Heritage Impact Assessment has been completed.

As the development application is presented to the city, an approximately two year \$5Million fundraising campaign will begin. The \$5 million dollars is St. Andrew's contribution to the approximately \$50 Million dollar project. The balance of the funds for the project will be covered by municipal, provincial and federal government contributions. The Presbyterian Church in Canada Building Corporation (PCBC) has pledged to extend loans to St. Andrew's to finance a portion of the \$5 Million dollars if necessary. A fundraising consultant has been contracted.

The Presbytery may contribute to the \$5 million dollar fund but it is not tied to this request.

Construction will not begin until all the necessary funds have been received, in 2027.

Before the final development application is presented to the City of Kitchener, the Presbytery will be asked to approve the project.

Project Governance

The project will be governed by the Board of the Kitchener Waterloo Housing Initiative Corporation (KWHIC). The corporation is 100% owned by St. Andrew's. *As a result, as per the recommendation of St.*

Andrew's legal counsel, Mr. Tim McGowan of the firm Bennett, Grant; the existing Board of Trustees of St. Andrew's should also constitute the board of the corporation.

Proposed Recommendation of Support:

Whereas, the congregation of St. Andrew's Kitchener demonstrates a thoughtful and forward-looking vision in advancing a housing initiative by repurposing part of its downtown campus, and this initiative reflects a strong commitment to serving God's people through sustained outreach and mission in the heart of the city;

Recommendation 13: Therefore, the Presbytery of Waterloo-Wellington recommends that the St. Andrew's Kitchener housing initiative proceed with the full support of the Presbytery.

This is a motion of support for the vision as presented to the Presbytery of Waterloo Wellington by St. Andrew's Roy Street Task Force. It does not assign responsibility to the Presbytery of Waterloo-Wellington for the planning, financing, implementation, or any future liabilities related to the community housing initiative.

Recommendation 14: That the Report of the Business Committee be adopted

3. Treasurer's Report

2025 Financial Activity to April 30th

Attached are the unaudited Financial Position (Balance Sheet) and Financial Report (Income Statement) to the end of April 2025. Expenditures in April are tracking to the 2025 budget.

2024 Financial Review

The review of the 2024 finances was completed March 26, 2025.

First and Second Quarter Assessment Analysis

Thank you to the many congregations who have paid their first and second quarter assessment amounts as well as the congregations who have paid the full amount. I am emailing the congregations who still need to remit their quarterly or annual assessment payments.

PCC Consolidated Fund

The 2025 first quarter results of the PCC Consolidated Fund reduced the market value by \$7,377 and increased the distribution / income by \$5,131 thus the closing balance is \$1,291,372.

Recommendation #15 Receive the Treasurer's Reports.

Recommendation #16 Accept the Financial Statements to April 30, 2025.

Recommendation #17 Approve the report as a whole.

Respectfully submitted, David Church

Tuesday, May 13, 2025 – 7:00 pm
St. Andrew's Hespeler Presbyterian Church

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PRESBYTERY OF WATERLOO-WELLINGTON
DRAFT STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
as of April 30, 2025

	GENERAL FUND	RESERVE FUND	TRUST FUND	REDEVELOPMENT FUND	DIANE BOYD CAMPUS FUND	REMERGENCY FUND	REGENERATION FUND	ALL FUNDS Apr-25	ALL FUNDS Apr-24
CURRENT ASSETS									
CASH	7,711,7400	20,777,9400	18,042,4000	106,896,1100	3,720,0600	70,314,6700	6,083,0300	233,545,9500	531,786,6600
ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE	7,086,4800					-		7,086,4800	8,722,9200
ACCRUED INTEREST				175,000,0000		50,000,0000		225,000,0000	-
G.I.C.'S				-		494,7100		20,768,8800	336,816,1200
DUE FROM OTHER FUNDS	20,274,1700	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	877,325,7000
LONG-TERM ASSETS									
NOTES RECEIVABLE(CHURCHES)				835,823,0000		-		835,823,0000	882,843,0000
POC CONSOLIDATED FUND		113,226,4900	2,042,6100	42,408,8900	133,654,3600	194,466,7300	805,573,0300	1,291,372,1100	1,139,856,6900
CORPORATE&GOV.BONDS etc.	30,0000			72,061,2000				72,061,2000	72,156,6000
ADJUST TO MARKET VALUE				4,384,3800				4,384,3800	2,974,9700
	30,0000	113,226,4900	2,042,6100	954,677,4700	133,654,3600	194,466,7300	805,573,0300	2,203,670,6900	2,097,831,2600
FIXED ASSETS									
COMPUTER EQUIPMENT	2,485,9500							2,485,9500	2,485,9500
LESS DEPRECIATION	- 2,485,9500							- 2,485,9500	- 2,485,9500
	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL ASSETS	35,102,3900	134,004,4300	20,085,0100	1,236,573,5800	137,374,4200	315,276,1100	811,656,0600	2,690,072,0000	2,975,156,9600
LIABILITIES									
ACCOUNTS PAYABLE	- 1,887,7900							- 1,887,7900	1,976,3300
OWED TO OTHER FUNDS	494,7100	18,308,0600	-	428,8300	-	1,465,2800	-	20,696,8800	336,816,1200
LONG TERM DEBT				36,083,3400				36,083,3400	38,029,3900
	- 1,393,0800	18,308,0600	-	36,512,1700	-	1,465,2800	-	54,892,4300	376,821,8400
FUND BALANCES									
OPENING BALANCES	18,776,1400	115,825,6900	20,000,0000	1,202,068,5700	137,587,9900	354,232,4700	823,017,2700	2,671,508,1300	2,569,117,2700
CURRENT SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)	17,719,3300	129,3200	85,0100	2,007,1600	213,5700	40,421,6400	11,361,2100	36,328,5600	29,217,8500
PRIOR UNDISTRIBUTED	36,495,4700	115,696,3700	20,085,0100	1,200,061,4100	137,374,4200	313,810,8300	811,656,0600	2,635,179,5700	2,598,335,1200
TOTAL LIABILITY/FUND BALANCES	35,102,3900	134,004,4300	20,085,0100	1,236,573,5800	137,374,4200	315,276,1100	811,656,0600	2,690,072,0000	2,975,156,9600

FINANCIAL REPORT TO PRESBYTERY of WATERLOO-WELLINGTON as at April 30, 2025

	GENERAL FUND			RESERVE FUND	TRUST FUND	ReDEVELOP MENT FUND	DIANE BOYD CAMPUS FUND	REMERGE-NCY FUND	REGENERA-TION FUND	TOTAL Apr-25	TOTAL Apr-24
	Apr-25	Budget	Variance								
INCOME											
Assessment Income	46,520	93,040	46,520							46,520	50,817
Income from induction services			-							-	
Interest Earned	3	250	247	68	89	334	19	339	40	891	5,384
PCC Fund Income				- 197	- 4	- 74	- 232	- 338	- 1,401	- 2,246	-
Capital Gain(loss)			-			12				12	2,606
Proceeds of Dispositions, Grants & Bequests	-	-	-	-		-			-	-	67,463
Total Income	46,523	93,290	46,767	- 129	85	273	- 214	1	- 1,361	45,178	121,058
EXPENSES											
Synod Assessment	18,098	36,195	18,098							18,098	21,192
Assessments - Total	18,098	36,195	18,098	-	-	-				18,098	21,192
Counselling Fees	-	-	-	-						-	-
Grants to Congregations						3,000			10,000	13,000	18,000
Grants-Renewal Projects			-							-	
Grants - Post Secondary Students			-				-			-	-
Grants - U of G chaplaincy	-	9,000	9,000							-	-
Grants - Students for Ministry		1,200	1,200							-	-
Grants - Manse_Rental Subsidy			-			-				-	-
Grants - Canadian Food Grains		25	25							-	-
Grants - Other	-	-	-							-	-
Grants - Total	-	10,225	10,225	-	-	3,000	-	-	10,000	13,000	18,000
Clerk's honorarium	5,040	15,120	10,080							5,040	5,040
Treasurer's honorarium	4,000	12,000	8,000							4,000	4,000
General Presbyter salary	-	-	-		-	1,283		30,811		29,528	32,133
General Presbyter pension & benefits	-	-	-			-		5,930	-	5,930	5,576
CPP/EI	438	1,500	1,062			-		2,124	-	2,562	2,616
Liability Insurance	-	3,750	3,750							-	-
General and office supplies	11	2,000	1,989			86			-	97	400
Depreciation	-	-	-							-	-
Telecommunications	-	3,250	3,250							-	324
Audit and legal fees		2,500	2,500			-				-	-
Bank interest/charges	17	100	83	-	-	135				152	135
Administration Expenses-Total	9,506	40,220	30,714	-	-	1,062	-	38,866	-	47,310	50,225
Travel and mileage	-	750	750			342			-	342	324
Meals and hospitality	300	1,750	1,450		-					300	1,400
Travel - total	300	2,500	2,200	-	-	342	-	-	-	642	1,724
Commissioner's Expenses GA	-	2,000	2,000							-	-
Conference Funds	600	500	100			-		1,557		2,157	700
Student Psych. assessments/counselling			-							-	-
Visitors and Gifts	300	250	50							300	-
Christian education		750	750							-	-
Carbon Offset	-	350	350							-	-
Bunum	-	-	-							-	-
Canada Youth/Lift		-	-							-	-
Student certification	-	300	300							-	-
2023 deficit recovery	-	-	-							-	-
General expense - Total	900	4,150	3,250	-	-	-	-	1,557	-	2,457	700
Total All Expenses	28,803	93,290	64,487	-	-	2,280	-	40,423	10,000	81,506	91,840
										-	
Surplus/(Deficit)	17,719	-	17,719	- 129	85	2,007	- 214	40,422	- 11,361	- 36,329	29,218

4. Ad Hoc Team on Presbytery Funds

wwpresbyter@gmail.com 519.870.6060

Recommendation 18: That the report of the Ad Hoc Team on Presbytery Funds be received and considered

FUNDS PLAN

An ad hoc team was named by the Moderator of Presbytery to re-imagine how the Presbytery of Waterloo-Wellington might deploy the funds available to it. At present (Feb. 28, 2025) the presbytery has \$2,675,170 in assets – some in cash, some in various investments and some in loans to congregations. The money represented by that \$2,675,170 comes from a variety of sources – from congregations

paying Presbytery Dues, from offerings at induction services, and from the sale of property following the dissolution of a congregation.

The monies in this last category come to the Presbytery through the Commission on Assets of the Trustee Board of The Presbyterian Church in Canada on the basis of an approved mission plan. The Commission on Assets has been apprised of the present conversation taking place within the Presbytery and looks forward to seeing any changes the Presbytery may approve to the deployment of funds coming from the sale of congregational lands.

As noted above there is a TOTAL of \$2,675,170

LOANS to congregations	\$ 835,823
CURRENT account	\$ 30,830
Leaves NET of	\$1,808,517

The plan outlined below deploys \$1,800,000

Three operational funds

The Reserve Fund will be set at \$150,000.

The Reserve Fund will become the new Emergency Fund of the Presbytery. Backstopping the Current Acct. if there is a cash flow challenge, providing bridge loans to congregations with emergent needs – these loans would be limited to \$25,000 maximum and the congregation to qualify for the loan would need to match the loan from Presbytery.

The Reserve Fund would not be allowed to grow above \$200,000 in cash or near cash.

Church Leaders Wellbeing Fund (Previously Trust Fund) will be set at \$100,000

The Church Leaders Wellbeing Fund will provide resources to church leaders (both ordained and lay) who would benefit from time away, counselling support, etc. It will also do what the Trust Fund did in offering grants to clergy (both active and retired) needing financial support due to crises or transitions in life.

If the Church Leaders Wellbeing Fund drops below \$50,000 additional funds will be moved into the fund. This fund will not be allowed to grow above \$150,000.

The General Presbyter Fund will be set at \$300,000

This fund will cover the cost of the General Presbyter for two years.

If the General Presbyter Fund drops below \$100,000 additional funds will be moved into the fund. This fund will not be allowed to grow above \$300,000.

A NOTE: As congregations repay their outstanding loans those funds will be designated to go as needed to The Reserve Fund, The Church Leaders Wellbeing Fund, The General Presbyter Fund and the Diane Boyd Campus Fund. If all those funds have reached their ceilings loan repayment funds will go to the Endowed Project Fund.

Grants for Ministry – Vision and Why Fund

Endowed Project Fund will be set at \$450,000 (up to 10% can be spent annually)

This is an endowed fund that will work as the present Re-Generation Fund does. Grants will be up to \$5,000 with the requesting body contributing at least 25% of the total cost of the project. These projects are to be related to outreach, including partnerships in the community. A Session must endorse the project.

Diane Boyd Campus Fund (Endowed) is set at \$300,000 (up to 10% can be spent annually)

This endowed fund will continue to support work on university and college campuses and with university and college students. Congregations applying for grants need to demonstrate that they will be contributing 25% of the total cost of the campus work. Chaplaincies and other groups applying must provide a motion of support from the ministry's board and demonstrate that the grant request is not more than 75% of the total cost of the ministry.

If the principle in the Diane Boyd Campus Fund drops below \$250,000 additional funds will be moved into the fund.

[A Note: The Funds Team believes these terms allow the Presbytery to regularize how it manages Campus Ministries by moving support for the Guelph Ecumenical Chaplaincy from the General Budget to funding from the Diane Boyd Campus Fund.]

New Ministry Grant Fund is set at \$400,000

This is a grant fund where the whole amount is available for grants in support of new ministries. They may be based in one congregation, they may be the work of a number of congregations, they may be the work of a collection of persons from congregations working together outside the congregational system. However the new ministry is structured a court of the PCC (that is, Session(s), the Presbytery, or the Synod) must endorse the project – this is central to our understanding of accountability. Grant requests to the New Ministry Grant Fund must be submitted to the Clerk of Presbytery by Sept. 1, 2026. No funds will be granted ahead of that date. Applicants must demonstrate financial, in-kind, and spiritual support from one or more courts of the PCC.

Knox's Galt Fund is set at \$100,000 (up to \$12,000 spent annually)

This fund is a left-over matter from the closure of Knox's Church, Galt. \$100,000 was set aside for outreach projects in Cambridge. The fund to be expended over 10 years. Annually up to \$12,000 will be made available for grants to Presbyterian ministries in Cambridge to fund outreach and community partnerships. If in Sept. of a given year not all \$12,000 has been expended, non-Presbyterian related ministries will be invited to apply.

A NOTE: As new funds flow to the Presbytery – from the dissolution of congregations and other sources – those funds will be first deployed to the New Ministry Grant Fund. When that fund reaches \$500,000 any additional available funds will be divided equally between the Endowed Grants Fund and New Ministry Grants Fund.

REVIEW:

This plan should be review in three years time to determine if the funds are working as hoped for. The Presbytery shall at its June 2028 meeting name a team to review the funds plans and to report to the Sept. 2028 meeting of Presbytery. Any changes to become effective Jan. 1, 2029.

Hoped-for approval process:

This document goes to Sessions for Study and Report following the May 13, 2025 meeting of Presbytery. Session responses (responses from individuals will not be reviewed – the committee believes those desiring to provide input to this plan should be able to explain to a Session their concerns and ideas and receive the Session's endorsement for that response) will be received until Aug. 3, 2025.

The Funds team will bring a revised plan to Presbytery in Sept. 2025 along with the mechanics of the plan more clearly defined. If the Plan receives support in Sept. 2025, a notice of motion will be given to change the standing orders and the new standing orders will be voted on at the Nov. 2025 meeting of Presbytery. Those standing orders would come into effect on Jan. 1, 2026.

RECOMMENDATION 19: THAT this report be sent to Sessions within the Presbytery of Waterloo-Wellington and to the leadership teams at Two Rivers Church and the Board of Crieff Hills Community for Study and Report by August 3, 2025.

Recommendation 20: That the report of the Ad Hoc Team on Presbytery Funds be adopted

5. General Presbyter Report

Recommendation 21: That the report of the General Presbyter be received for information.

wwpresbyter@gmail.com 519.870.6060

General Presbyter Ministry Focus

The following three areas of ministry guide the focus of the General Presbyter:

- *Relationship builder, support, coach and care for clergy and presbyters;*
- *Creator of intentional processes to support the Presbytery in discernment and action;*
- *Connect, resource and support discernment and leadership development in congregations.*

Presbytery 'Why?'

Please see the attached report from the Why Working Group. This report is a draft Why for your consideration. We look forward to the conversation at the Presbytery meeting to gain your input, wisdom and feedback about this draft. The overall goal is to determine a focus for our Presbytery that is grounded in scripture and builds on conversation over the last year around leadership, structure and resources.

Regional Conversations

Each of the four regions are continuing the conversation and exploring what is helpful or not beyond the spring. Below is a summary of the conversation and current direction in each area.

North: the March 25 gathering in Palmerston of elders and clergy focused on conversation in small groups, which explored how the presbytery could support churches, how we could support each other and ways to improve communication in the region.

South: the summer worship experience between Doon, Duffs, Knox, Crieff and St. Andrew's Hespeler has been the focus of dialogue. Enhanced communication is an ongoing conversation.

KW: clergy have been meeting monthly on zoom, which resulted in an education opportunity on intergenerational ministry on April 2 with Dr. Rebekah Ludolph. A conversation in early May focused on the future of ministry and the Presbytery Why.

Guelph: Elders and clergy have focused on getting to know each other and build relationships. Beyond relationship building and sharing in events, some ministries are wondering how helpful the regional dialogue is without clear direction for action. The next gathering is on May 21.

Role of General Presbyter & Benchmarks

The General Presbyter Support Team of the CRT continues to meet on a regular basis and related to both the 'Why' and 'Funds' conversations. The group intends to bring some recommendations in June about the continuing role of the General Presbyter and a 'benchmark' resource.

If you have specific thoughts or comments about the role of the General Presbyter or potential benchmarks, please be in contact with the support team of Doug McCaig, Jennifer Sokolowsky, Kristine O'Brien or Jeffrey Crawford.

6. Congregational Response Team

Recommendation 22. Moved and seconded that the report be received and considered.

Central, Cambridge

This winter the CR team was made aware that the Rev. Aubrey Botha is planning on retiring from Central, Cambridge at the end of 2026. The Central Session requested that they be given permission to follow a non-conventional approach to calling their next minister. Their transition plan includes forming a search committee prior to Rev. Botha's retirement so that the next minister could be called ensuring that there could be an overlap (approx. 3-4 months) between the two ministers. A small team was sent to meet with a few Session members from Central to discuss the transition plan. A favourable report was provided to the CR team indicating that the transition plan was appropriate for the situation. An interim moderator was chosen who would be responsible only for the search process given that the current minister will still be present to provide pastoral, Session leadership and worship.

23 Moved and seconded that Central, Cambridge be given permission to start the process of calling a minister prior to the retirement of Rev. Aubrey Botha so that an overlap between the new and outgoing minister would be possible, and that the Rev. Mark Richardson be appointed as interim moderator, responsible for only the search process with a start date of October 1st.

St. Andrew's, Mount Forest

Last fall, Rev. Peter Bush was appointed as IM for St. Andrew's, Mount Forest and Knox, Conn starting January 1st. Since then, he has been working with this long vacant two-point charge to discern their future. St. Andrew's, in conversation with Knox, Conn and Knox/Calvin, Harriston has decided to amalgamate with both congregations and an amalgamation plan was submitted to the CR Team for review. CR reviewed the plan and followed up with a few questions for the IM. It was then decided to submit the plan to the Presbytery at its May meeting for information only (see attached) with an opportunity for further questions. In June, the amalgamation plan, with any agreed upon changes, will be brought to the June meeting of Presbytery for approval. Furthermore, in discussion with the Business Committee, it was determined that a Presbytery team be put in place to support the amalgamation plans. An additional person is still being sought to add to the team.

24 Moved and seconded that Rev. Jeffrey Crawford and the IM Rev. Peter Bush be established as the Presbytery amalgamation team for St. Andrew's Mount Forest, Knox Conn and Knox/Calvin, Harriston with power to issue given to the Congregational Response to appoint one more additional member to the team.

Amalgamation Plan for St. Andrew's Mount Forest

This is supplemental information for Recommendation #24 in the Congregational Response Team report. This is given for information and no specific approval for this plan is yet being sought.

Dated – April 22, 2025

BACKGROUND

The Session of St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Mount Forest has been wondering about the future of the congregation for a number of years. That process was sped up by two events in late 2024 and early 2025. The first was the clear statement from the person who has been Clerk of Session, Treasurer, and maintainer of the building that they intended to step down from all those roles. The second was Session members reading through the State of the Presbytery Report and hearing in it permission for St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Mount Forest to close. Those events coincided with the appointment of a new Interim Moderator. The Session took the change in Interim Moderators as an opportunity to ask the Interim Moderator to guide the congregation through a process to closure.

At the Annual Meeting of the Congregation (Feb. 22, 2025) the Session indicated to the congregation their belief that it was time for St. Andrew's to close. The Interim Moderator outlined the differences between dissolution and amalgamation. The Session was clear that no decision was being made at that meeting.

Session reflected on what they heard from congregation members and their own reflections and decided at a meeting held on March 5, 2025, to bring to a congregational meeting a recommendation to amalgamate with both Knox Presbyterian Church, Conn and Knox-Calvin Presbyterian Church, Harriston. The congregational meeting was held on March 22, 2025; the congregation voted 13 to 2 in favour of such an amalgamation.

(Knox, Conn has been a long-term partner with St. Andrew's in a two-point charge. Knox-Calvin, Harriston had some years ago approached St. Andrew's and Knox, Conn about becoming a three-point charge, something that did not take place.)

Both the Sessions of Knox, Conn (April 8, 2025) and Knox-Calvin, Harriston (April 9, 2025), have agreed to the plan. Once the plan has been reviewed by Presbytery (May 13, 2025), the plan will go to the congregations of St. Andrew's, Mount Forest; Knox, Conn; and Knox-Calvin, Harriston for approval. The approved plan will then return to Presbytery for approval at the June 2025 meeting of Presbytery.

A number of the items that take up substantial space in most amalgamation plans are not relevant in this context.

PASTORAL LEADERSHIP

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Mount Forest has no pastoral leadership beyond supply preachers and an interim moderator. Their involvement with St. Andrew's will end when the amalgamation is completed, no transition allowance will be required.

GOVERNANCE

None of the five elders who presently serve at St. Andrew's want to be elders in the amalgamated congregations. The Session will dissolve with the sale of the building.

INFRASTRUCTURE

The Board of Managers of St. Andrew's Church will dissolve with the sale of the building and the distribution of the assets. The Trustees Board will dissolve with the sale of the building.

ASSETS

By the time the amalgamation is enacted St. Andrew's will have about (guess of \$3,000?) in the bank.

There is no debt on the books.

The congregation owns three buildings – the church building (196 Birmingham East, Mount Forest), the manse (166 Birmingham St. East, Mount Forest), and the small house behind the church (191 Fergus St. North, Mount Forest). These will be sold with the proceeds becoming the residual assets of the congregation to be taken into the amalgamation.

The manse and the small house are both rented out, the tenants have been informed of what is taking place and are being given the first chance to purchase the two houses at close to market value. Otherwise, they will be sold on the open market.

This process will take some time since the lot on which the three buildings stand needs to be severed into three lots. This will require a land survey and township/county approval. It seems likely that the sale of the properties may not be completed before 2026. But that should not impact the date of the last worship service of Sept. 21, 2025.

The congregation designates that 10% of the residual assets be given to Presbyterians Sharing.

The congregation designates 25% of the residual assets be divided between the Louise Marshall Hospital, Mount Forest and the Mount Forest Community Pantry. (One other local charity may be added.)

The remainder will be divided equally between Knox Presbyterian Church, Conn and Knox-Calvin Presbyterian Church, Harriston.

CRA CHARITABLE NUMBER

St. Andrew's charitable number will be the one being revoked. There is no name change happening to the other two congregations. The process of revoking the charitable number will be managed by the congregational treasurers.

CHATELS

Once a sale of the church building has taken place it will be much easier to determine what items will be staying with the building. Knox Presbyterian Church, Conn has expressed interest in some items.

Plans are being made regarding the War Memorials, and other items of community significance.

Other items will be donated to places where they can be used or given to the Mount Forest Thrift Store, the proceeds from which support health care in the community.

ARCHIVAL RECORDS

The Congregational Archivist of St. Andrew's Church, Mount Forest will play a lead role in this process which will follow the pattern outlined in the Amalgamation Guidelines prepared by the General Assembly Office.

OTHER MATTERS

Membership

Members of St. Andrew's will be given time to select where they wish to have their members transferred to, or if they wish to be sent their membership certificate. For members who have not indicated where they wish to have their membership sent by Nov. 1, 2025, will be transferred to either Knox Church, Conn or Knox-Calvin Church, Harriston.

Pastoral Care

The Interim Moderator of Knox Church, Conn or the minister of Knox-Calvin Church, Harriston will be available to provide pastoral care if persons in Mount Forest wish a Presbyterian minister.

Final service

The final service at St. Andrew's Church will be led by the interim moderator of Knox and the minister of Knox-Calvin and is planned to take place on Sept. 21, 2025.

Sexual Abuse and Harassment Sub-Committee Membership

The current Sexual Abuse and Harassment Sub-Committee consists of Rev. Kristine O'Brien and Rev. Frank Szatmari. It was determined that one more member should be added to the committee. Beth Anne Fisher has offered to serve on the committee. Through Emmanuel College, she has completed training in responding to disclosures of sexual harassment, developed a strong trauma-informed approach to crisis management, and personally supported people during equity complaint processes.

25 Moved and seconded that Beth Anne Fisher be appointed to the Subcommittee on Sexual Abuse and Harassment.

Presbytery Visitation Teams

With the leadership of the General Presbyter and Rev. Peter Bush, the CRT has recruited teams of Presbytery visitors and has provided an orientation day for these individuals. CRT is ready to proceed with visits to congregations.

26 Moved and seconded that the following individuals be appointed as visitation teams to the corresponding congregations.

Calvin, Kitchener – Rev. Don McCallum, Andrew Foster, Darlene Vandermey, (alternate - Rev. Kirk Summers)

Central – Rev. Cathy Stuart, John Dibben, Sonja McNabb, (alternate - Penny Renken)

Kitchener East – Rev. Kees Vandermey, Mollie Loughran, Ann Wilson (alternates - Rev. Frank Szatmari, John Hake)

St. Andrew's, Guelph

CR has received a request from St. Andrew's, Guelph asking for permission to proceed with a search process for their next minister. CR has been given regular updates of the positive progress that St. Andrew's has made under the leadership of Rev. Kirk Summers. They have considered various alternative avenues for ministry and have discerned that calling a minister is the faithful response at this time. Therefore the following recommendation has been made.

27 Moved and seconded that St. Andrew's, Guelph be given permission to proceed with the call process for their next minister.

28 Moved and seconded that the report be adopted as a whole.

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. Reuben St. Louis

7 Equipping Leadership and Renewal Team(s)

Recommendation 29: That the report of the Equipping Leadership and Renewal Team be received and considered.

Two requests to take Intermissions and one request for Study Leave have been received.

Rev. Reuben St. Louis is planning to take an Intermission from December 29th to March 8th 2026 to "reconnect with Creator (worship), creation (retreat), community (events) and creativity (music) with the hope of returning to the congregation with renewed imagination and inspiration. Activities will include time at the Ignatius Jesuit Centre in Guelph, ON and/or Camp Kintail; attendance at the Calvin Symposium on Worship in Grand Rapids and the Friar's Briar Bonspiel; worship in a variety settings and time spent composing, learning and performing music.

Rev. Courtney Morris Crawford is proposing to take an Intermission from April 20 to June 29, 2026. Her plan to focus on *personal & spiritual renewal* via the following:

- *I hope to spend **exploring where the arts meet faith**, especially related to the **intergenerational practice of quilting**. This art is, for me, a spiritual discipline, connecting me with community, multiple generations, and the Holy Other.*
- *I wish to spend **a week in residence at Haliburton School of Art + Design** and feeding my gift of creativity. I hope that such an activity will nourish my soul and refresh my spiritual life and calling, enabling me as clergy to become the worshipper through creating and communing with nature in this beautiful setting by forest and water.*
- *I plan to continue to read books and articles in support of the study I'm engaged in for a **Diploma of Intergenerational Faith Formation**.*
- *I intend to explore ways that I might be able to experience worship in other faith communities who are intentionally **engage in intergenerational worship***
- *I plan to re-engage with a **spiritual director** before, during, and after my Intermission.*

Both ministers have the approval of their Sessions and are making plans for pulpit supply and other pastoral duties to be met during the time away.

Rev. David Choi has requested Study Leave from June 22 to July 5th. He plans to read a four-book series by Eugene Peterson: 1. Five Smooth Stones for Pastoral Work; 2. Working the Angles: The Shape of Pastoral Integrity; 3. Under the Unpredictable Plant an Exploration in Vocational Holiness; 4. The Contemplative Pastor: Returning to the Art of Spiritual Direction

Rec. 30: That the request of the Rev. Reuben St. Louis to take an Intermission from December 29, 2025 to March 8, 2026, be approved.

Rec. 31: That the request of the Rev. Courtney Crawford to take an Intermission from April 20 to June 29, 2026, be approved.

Rec. 32: That the request of the Rev. David Choi to take Study Leave from June 22 to July 5 be approved.

Recommendation 33: That the report of the Equipping Leadership and Renewal Team be adopted.

8 Report of the Property and Finance Team

Recommendation 34: That the report of the Property and Finance Team be adopted.

The Finance committee in response to a request for funds - "On behalf of the Session of Westside Church, we are making a request for 2025: that the Cambridge Sports Camp be granted the amount of \$3,000 for 2025, from the funds set aside for 'supporting outreach ministries in the area of East Galt.'"

The recommendation motion was approved at a May zoom meeting of the Property and Finance Committee.

Recommendation 35: The grant for \$3000 be approved for the 2025 sports camp at Westside Presbyterian Church. The funds are to come from the funds held in trust for "supporting outreach ministries area East Galt"

Recommendation 36: That the report of the Property and Finance Team be adopted.



PRESBYTERY OF WATERLOO-WELLINGTON
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN CANADA

Tuesday, May 13, 2025 – 7:00 pm

St. Andrew's Hespeler Presbyterian Church

6670