

The Presbytery of Westminster met in Regular Session on Tuesday, November 3, 2020 at 7:00pm via Zoom Video Conferencing due to the CoVid-19 restrictions on in-person meetings. Worship was led by Dale Woods.

CONSTITUTION

The Moderator, Patricia Dutcher-Walls constituted the Court and opened the meeting with prayer at 7.26 pm.

The Moderator welcomed the following guests: Members from First Church: Rick Roorda and Harry McClelland, and Sue Harry from Coquitlam PC.

DOCKET

It was moved by Victor Kim seconded by Neil Abramson that the consent agenda below be adopted.

CARRIED

Consent Agenda:

- that the Docket be as indicated,
- that the attendance be recorded as noted in the Roll Record Book,
- that regrets and requests for permission to withdraw be noted as sent to the clerk of presbytery,
- that the minutes of the regular meeting held on September 15, 2020 and the special meeting of October 6, 2020 be adopted,
- that the correspondence be dealt with as indicated,
- that reports without recommendations be received "for information."
- that reports with recommendations be received and their recommendations considered,
- that the presbytery treasurer be permitted to speak to financial issues.

If the Court is agreed, these motions will be adopted at the beginning of the meeting. Any member may ask for an issue on the consent agenda to be withdrawn from this list before the agenda is adopted.

ROLL

Constituent Roll:

H. Botha, B. Childs, Y.T. Choi, P. Dutcher-Walls, P. Eastwood, M. Fontaine, B. Fraser, S. Goble, T. Hsieh, G. Jay, T. Kim, V. Kim, R. Lockhart, R. Simpson, B. Skelding, G. Snyman, M. Szigeti, W. van de Wall, W. van der Westhuizen, R. Watson, M. Wong, D. Woods.

N. Abramson, M. Adams, B. Astop, J. Con, B. Dennehy, I. Evans, B. Feick, C. Gleimius, L. Gorman, D. Jennings, K. Kim, A. Lin, R. Miller, K. Sewell, B. Shepansky, G. Shields, J. Sonachansingh, S. Stacey, E. Wilson, P. Wong, M. Zaine.

Appendix:

A. Aicken, G. Davis, R. Ross, J. Smith

Students:

A. Perrett

REGRETS:

C. MacLeod, L. McKay R. Topping
 K. Patrick
 J. Allan, B. Garvin, K. Jordan

Permission to withdraw given to: Willem van der Westhuizen request to leave at 9:15pm

CORRESPONDENCE: 09-01-20 to 10-28-20

09-01-20	Maggie Leung	Presbyterians Sharing Report – July 2020	Received
09-01-20	Larry Eastwood	POW Financial Statement for August 2020	Received
09-05-20	Calvin Crichton	Enquiry for temporary marriage licence	Received
09-06-20	Larry Eastwood	Canadian Ministries Transform grant return of funds due to cancellation of ministry by Andrea Perrett due to Covid	Noted
09-07-20	Jackie Czegledi	2019 Statistical Report- Changes to dollar base figures for Central, Brentwood and Langley PC	Received and forwarded to respective treasurers
09-08-20	Brian Fraser	Requesting permission for Brentwood to proceed with paving of parking lot	Received
09-10-20	Glynis Williams	Transfer of Certificate for Blair Bertrand to Presbytery of Ottawa	Responded
09-10-20	Chanil Lee	Letter of gratitude and looking for guidance as PCC minister moving forward	Responded
09-10-20	Kelly Patrick	Requesting to be removed from Camp Douglas Committee for personal reasons	Accepted
09-11-20	John-Peter Smit	Looking for suggestions from other presbyteries on how to move forward with meetings during pandemic	Received
09-11-20	Clara Soo Hyun Choi	Shepherd House Ministry would like to apply for all the grants from POW, BC Synod and Cooke’s Fund	Received and responded
09-13-20	Anne Bauman	Resigning from Presbytery as Equalizing Elder effective September 13	Noted
09-14-20	Bernie Skelding	Questions regarding liability for in-person worship. Looking for guidance.	Received
09-14-20	Maggie Leung	Presbyterians Sharing Reports for August 2020	Received
09-14-20	Jennifer Astop	Fall Grant Deadlines and the Transform Online Course Information	Received and distributed
09-14-20	VST	At a Glance – VST Newsletter September 2020	Received and circulated

09-14-20	Laurie McKay-Deacon	Question regarding Presbyterians Sharing allocations	Responded
09-15-20	Mary Fontaine	Requesting letter from POW for CM Grant application for 2021	Responded
09-15-20	Rebecca Simpson	First Church has begun their new roof project without final permission for POW	Received
09-15-20	Bev Feick	Leading with Care for Langley – did the clerk receive LPC 2020 document?	Responded
09-16-20	Paddy Eastwood	Gabriel Snyman and Thomas Kim will be co-Interim Moderators for First Church	Received
09-17-20	Richard Topping	VST invitation to Sommerville Lecture and VST Open House (Sept 30)	Distributed
09-18-20	Ross Lockhart	Sacrament Elders Course (Online) November 7 th 9am-noon.	Received and circulated
09-20-20	Joan Kerr	Haney Session approved that Joan Kerr will be new temporary Acting Clerk and Anne Bauman has requested to resign as equalizing elder. Sherry Irvine will serve as Alternate Elder until March 2021.	Noted
09-22-20	Terri-Lee Hamilton	2020 Yearbook GA – Records and Statistics available	Distributed
09-22-20	Terri-Lee Hamilton	Assembly Council seeking comments for 2021 General Assembly	Distributed
09-22-20	Larry Eastwood	Please advise Presbytery committee conveners to submit budgets for 2021	Distributed
09-22-20	David Jennings	Obtaining Presbytery recognition and commissioning as a Sacrament Elder	Received
09-22-20	Brian Fraser	A recommendation to consider certifying Ben MacRae for study for the ministry	Received
09-23-20	Donna McIlveen	Letter from Presbytery of Seaway-Glengarry stating it was agreed that standing as a certified candidate for ministry, and all the accompanying privileges, be withdrawn from Guy Laberge	Received
09-23-20	Sylvia Cleland	Rev. Barbara Piloow's husband Ted passed away in a traffic accident on September 23. Barbara is well known to those in POW – prayers are requested	Noted and circulated
09-23-20	Bernie Skelding	New Rep Elder for Coquitlam is Chris Gleimius replacing Ron Harry.	Noted

09-24-20	Terri-Lee Hamilton	Presbytery Clerk's Checklist for 2020-21	Noted
09-24-10	Brad Child	Enquiring if the congregations would be willing to share their Christmas plans so that they can learn from each other and possible work together in a shared project	Noted and circulated
09-25-20	Bev Feick	Question on in camera meetings and how to record minutes	Responded
09-29-20	Dale Woods	Flyer for October 17 Presbytery event	Received and circulated
10-01-20	Kathryn Muir	September 2020 Changes to the Roll	Received
10-01-20	Larry Eastwood	POW Financial Reports – September 2020	Received
10-02-20	Kristine O'Brien	Request from Crieff Hills Retreat Center	Received and forwarded to Admin Committee
10-02-20	Glen Davis	Is there a restriction on how many committees a member can be on?	Responded
10-04-20	David Jennings	Presbyterian Innovative Ministries – Grants and Loans Available	Received and circulated
10-05-20	Gabriel Snyman	Question regarding marriage protocol	Responded
10-05-20	Teresa Charlton	2021 Synod Advance Planning	Received and noted
10-05-20	Teresa Charlton	Synod Information regarding 2021 Regional Resourcing Grants	Received and noted
10-05-20	David Jennings	Copy of Draft for VCPC development trust agreement	Received
10-06-20	VST	At a Glance - #Chancellor'sREVEAL – online virtual tour scheduled for October 7 at 7PM	Noted and circulated
10-07-20	David Jennings	Letter to the Administrative Committee regarding honorarium paid to clerk and staff	Forwarded to Admin Committee
10-07-20	Brad Childs	Christmas ideas exchange opportunity. Jared Miller in Calgary will set up a Facebook page open to all PCC ministers to exchange ideas for advent and Christmas during this pandemic	Received and noted
10-07-20	Mary Fontaine	2020 Leading with Care Report for Hummingbird Ministries submitted	Received
10-09-20	Bob Garvin	An appeal from one member of Presbytery to another: assistance needed in getting Bob's granddaughter home to Campbell River to die at home.	Received and distributed
10-12-20	Jim Smith	Requesting POW approve Jim Smith's request to be Minister in Association with Brentwood	Received and forwarded to Ministry Committee
10-13-20	Don Muir	Enquiry whether POW has ever heard of "Jesus the Rock Ministries"	Responded (the answer is no)

10-13-20	Rob Steward	Bill Steward passed away on October 13 at the age of 100.	Received and circulated
10-14-20	Maggie Leung	Presbyterians Sharing Report for September 2020	Received and circulated
10-14-20	Miklos Szigeti	Covid-19 pandemic and the financial situation for First Hungarian	Responded
10-15-20	Brian Fraser	Enquiries regarding PIM Grants and standing orders	Responded
10-15-20	Jackie Czeglédi	Final Adjustments to 2019 Dollar Base Figures	Received and circulated to affected congregations
10-15-20	Julie Lees	VST Sunday 2021 is scheduled for January 24 th .	Received
10-22-20	St. Giles Kingsway	Free On-line conference "What's the View Ahead". October 28 and 29.	Distributed
10-22-20	Bernie Skelding	Response to the letter regarding the 2021 GA from the Assembly Council	Received and forwarded to Admin Committee
10-22-20	Ross Lockhart	An information night for the new Bachelor of Arts in Theology and Culture: St. Mark's College and VST - November 4th	Received and circulated
10-23-20	Don Muir	Webinar October 29 for pastors and pastoral leaders – "Running on empty: An invitation to a new fuel source." Cost is \$19.95 US	Received and distributed
10-27-20	Emily Hill	APCE Virtual Event notice	Received and circulated
10-28-20	Terrie-Lee Hamilton	Calling for nominations for GA Standing Committees	Received and circulated

A 15 minute Break out Groups for Fellowship and Prayer time was recognized and greatly appreciated.

REPORTS

STRATEGY AND LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT

The report was presented by Rebecca Simpson, Strategy and Leadership Committee Convener. All motions, unless otherwise noted, moved by Rebecca Simpson, seconded by David Jennings.

**Presbytery of Westminster
 Strategy and Leadership Committee Report
 November 3, 2020**

The Strategy and Leadership Committee met September 23, October 7, and October 14, 2020. Planning for the October 17 Special Presbytery meeting, the SLC one-year work plan, budget planning for 2021 and study of the “New Witnessing Communities on the Way” document composed the bulk of our work together. We continue to receive monthly reports from the Rev. Dale Woods in his position as Presbyter for Mission and Vision. We continue to liaise with the Property and Finance Subcommittee as well.

1. We invite participant feedback on the experience of the Oct 17 special presbytery meeting:
 - what worked well?
 - what could be improved?
 - what topics might be of great encouragement to you / your congregation’s ministry?
 - what is one significant learning you will take away from the presentation?

Send responses to the Rev. Dr. Dale Woods, pmvwestmin@gmail.com

2. 2021 POW Budget notes:

The Presbytery of Westminster understands that the ‘maintenance’ model of doing church does not work. The SLC budgeted figures are based on the following assumptions:

- POW believes that it must turn its focus toward helping congregations and specialized ministries thrive spiritually and missionally and either reduce or abandon its work that is not aimed toward that vision.
- It must invest personal and financial resources toward the goal of developing healthy, flourishing, and vibrant congregations, specialized ministries and leaders.
- The financial support must be such that it provides the possibility of significant change rather than merely tinkering at the edges.
- “Ministry funds” include the following categories: New Worshipping Communities, Hummingbird Ministries, Camp Douglas, Immersive Learning Opportunities, and Communities of Faith and Leadership.
- The majority of these funds will be used for new worshipping communities in order to achieve the previously agreed upon goal of establishing at least three new worshipping communities within the POW.
- In addition to making funds available for new ministry initiatives, \$40,000 will be provided to Hummingbird Ministries as per the agreement with West Point Grey PC.
- The other categories for funding under the SLC (Camp Douglas, Immersive Learning Opportunities, and Communities of Faith and Leadership) will also be supported from this budget.
- The ‘ministry funds’ portion of the budget makes available ‘up to \$500,000’, which does not come from congregational assessments.

3. Ongoing Work Related to the Budget:

A document outlining the criteria and assessment and application process of any financial requests related to new ministry initiatives will be developed with input from and approval by the presbytery. While initially reviewed by SLC, all requests for financial support for new worshipping communities will be approved by the Presbytery.

A document will also be produced that will provide the process and criteria for applications for the category of 'Communities of Faith and Leadership' with input and approval by the Presbytery.

Proposed timeline:

January 12, 2021, Regular Presbytery meeting

- New Worshipping Communities draft criteria and process documents brought before Presbytery

Requested February 6, 2021, Special Presbytery meeting

- presbyter feedback on NWC draft criteria and process discussed and collected (should recommendation below be passed at tonight's meeting)

March 2, 2021, Regular Presbytery meeting

- final consideration of NWC criteria and process by Presbytery of Westminster

4. **Recommendation 1:** That a Special Meeting of the Presbytery of Westminster be called by the Moderator, on Saturday February 6, 2021 from 9 am to 3 pm by Zoom teleconference, for the purpose of considering a draft proposal of criteria and process for funding of New Worshipping Communities within the bounds of Westminster Presbytery and to convene a conversation about the general health and vitality of ministries within the Presbytery of Westminster. **CARRIED**

5. Report from the Property and Finance Subcommittee:

Vancouver Chinese Presbyterian Church (VCPC): that P&F, pursuant to the power to issue granted to it by Presbytery, hereby approved (1) the creation of a trust created by VCPC as Settlor and Vancouver CPC Development Limited as the Trustee, (2) the entering into and execution of the Vancouver CPC Development Trust Agreement by the parties that was presented to P&F, (3) the transfer of the real property of VCPC to such trust, and (4) VCPC's filing with the Land Title Office of four rezoning encumbrances prepared by counsel presented to P&F.

Dale Woods, the Presbyter for Mission and Vision (PMV) updated the court on his progress over the last few months. He shared some ideas on how to help congregations bond with their communities through studying information from Statistics Canada and how he will be creating and developing a series of short videos to assist sessions in their planning and discussions. Dale is eager to get copies of every congregation's profile and would like to start a coffee and conversation time with members of presbytery in hopes to get to know each other better.

*Respectfully,
Rebecca Simpson,*

Victor Kim

Convener,
Strategy and Leadership Cte

MINISTRY COMMITTEE REPORT

The report was presented Paddy Eastwood, Ministry Committee Convener.

All motions, unless otherwise noted, were moved by Paddy Eastwood, seconded by Mike Zaine.

Ministry Committee Report to Presbytery November 3, 2020

The four task forces of the Ministry Committee continue to meet over zoom.

Special Visitation Committee to First Presbyterian Church, New Westminster Background

The special Visitation Committee consists of the following members:

Convener: Rev. Richard Watson - Kerrisdale; Emily Wilson - St John's White Rock; Ian Rokeby - Gordon; Larry Yen - Vancouver Taiwanese; Gord Shields - Haney

The purpose of this report is a follow-up visit to check on the progress on assigned tasks (1-5) set out by Presbytery in June 2020. An additional task (6) was assigned at the September 15th meeting.

- A. That, as soon as is possible, the Session inform the Congregation of the present financial situation including information about the present cash flow crisis, the potentially larger year end deficit and information communicating what has happened with the management of designated funds.
- B. Complete a detailed review of present expenses in light of making appropriate adjustments so that the church can make it through to year end and continue to pay the stated supply contract;
- C. Apply to the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy (CEWS) fund for assistance in up to 75% of the wages being paid to Minister, Secretary and other paid staff for the months of March, April and May.
- D. Prepare a turnaround plan which defines and articulates the missional vision of First Presbyterian Church. This plan is to include a proposed solution to the issue of the structural deficit and include a proposed budget for 2021.
5. As a Session collectively review sections 1,2 and 4 of "Equipping Elders" resource material available on the National Church Website (<https://presbyterian.ca/elders/>) through a series of retreats or special meetings.
6. Discover the steps that led to the commencement of the roofing project without financing approved by the Property and Finance sub-committee, and that the Special Visitation Committee report their findings at the November Presbytery meeting.

In June Presbytery appointed two representatives, Rev. Graeme Illman and Larry Yen to assist the Session in making progress. The presbytery reps met with the Session and F+M Committee at First PC several times over the summer and into September.

Update and Observations on Progress

Visitation Committee interviewed members of the Session on October 6th through a Zoom meeting. The following Session members were present and participated in conversations and follow-up: Ron Miller (Rep elder to Presbytery), Harry McLelland, Claudine Robosura (Clerk) Rick Roorda, and Marion Baird (Assessor Elder appointed by Presbytery in 2016).

The following summary is provided for information purposes.

- Congregational Awareness of Issues - Session reported that the congregation was made aware of all the issues at a congregational meeting held on September 27.
- Review and Budgetary Adjustments - A revised budget was presented to the congregation and approved at the September 27th meeting. Session feels confident that by the end of 2020, the congregation will have returned to a "solid financial footing." They have eliminated the structural deficit. Reasons for this improvement in the financial position include:
 - The congregation no longer has a stipend obligation to a stated supply minister, with the retirement of Rev. Guy Sinclair on Sept 6, 2020.
 - Facility rentals are starting up again in October, including two new rentals.
 - Givings have remained stable and Session is hopeful that congregational offerings will return to near normal by the end of the year.

Concerns remain however, regarding the congregation's cash position. Cash on hand will be less than \$5,000 once all invoices for roof project are paid. Session is in the process of preparing a request to Presbytery P&F to borrow \$20K from Manse fund to provide a contingency. They hope to repay this to the Manse fund in 2 years.

- CEWS - Applications were made for the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy (CEWS) to cover salary for the minister and caretaker and \$1442 has been received for the months of March, April and May. CEWS benefits for June, July and August are expected. The caretaker has been laid off at present but will be called back with the reopening of church to rentals.
- Turnaround plan- No progress to date.

Rev Guy Sinclair retired as on Sept 6, and Presbytery has appointed two Interim Moderators to work with the congregation until another minister is in place. (Rev. Gabriel Snyman- City Centre Church and Rev. Thomas Kim-Calvin Church). Both IMs were present at the congregational meeting on Sept 27 and subsequently met with Session to discuss next steps. Nothing has happened so far, however they hope to proceed with some preliminary discussions at their November meeting.

In the interim they have proceeded with a similar direction that Rev. Guy Sinclair was going. For example, Rick Roorda, one of the Elders has been offering an Alpha course in lieu of the bible classes and worship offered by Rev. Sinclair.

The Congregation continues to worship online using Zoom. They are obtaining pulpit supply coordinated through the IM's and occasionally they lead their own services as well. The congregation was pleased to host Rev. Ross Lockhart who led a zoom service with approximately 20 people attending.

When asked Session was not focused on this process. However, one member of Session indicated that they hope to start a re-visioning process at their November Session meeting.

- Polity Education - The Rev. Graeme Illman led some review of Presbyterian polity with the elders at First on two separate occasions. Elders found it helpful however they have not had the time to review the full sections from the "Equipping Elders" material. Session members acknowledged that significantly more training is required.

Roof project - Steps

Onsite work for the roof project (contract for \$70,800+ GST) was started in early September and was completed during the second week of October. It is not clear when or if Session had given the go ahead to start construction. Session minutes were not available and Session members themselves had diverse opinions. The following project timeline history is relevant to the question:

- Fall 2017 - Original project concept discussed at Presbytery. First PC was given the information required for them to submit a formal application for approval from Presbytery.
- Fall 2018 - First PC submitted an update to their request including an application to P+F for a loan from Presbyterian Church Building Cooperation(PCBC).
- Fall 2018 - Presbytery requested additional information required in order for a project evaluation to proceed.
- Spring 2019 - First PC resubmits application to P&F committee. There were still information gaps but Presbytery provided conditional approval for the project. This included approval of a loan from PCBC which was agreed would be held in escrow until Presbytery has received the rest of the information.
- April 14, 2019 - First PC obtained Congregational approval for project.
- November 2019 - PCBC approves the Loan. Additional Information is sent to P&F Committee and they approved the project on November 19th via their power to issue. PCBC advanced the loan money to Presbytery (released to First PC on October 21, 2020).
- March 1, 2020 - Quote from HB Roofing to complete the roof project was approved at a Congregational meeting.
- May 2020 First PC submits first payment to PCBC
- May/June 2020 - The Special Visitation Committee discovers that designated money for the special roof fund was co-mingled with the general operating funds of the church. Session communicates that the project is scheduled to take place in July. A pro forma financial analysis is completed on the basis that the project will be completed in July. the results indicate that funds will be dangerously low by year end after completion of the project.
- July - Session and First PC Finance Committee reconsider the wisdom of completing the project this calendar year. Assisting elder Larry Yen works with Session and the Finance Committee to develop two proposed budgets - one with the roof project and the other without it. The plan was to hold a congregational meeting to reassess the wisdom of continuing with the project in 2020.
- September 10 - Session and F&M committee discover that that the contractors for the roof project have started work.

- September 27 - Congregational meeting approving a revised 2020 budget. Financial analysis showed that the church had sufficient funds to pay for the roof, but that the operating budget would be very low (approx. \$3-5K remaining after roof bill paid out). The congregation approved a motion to accept the roof project again.
- October 16 - Contractor work is complete. All invoices but the 10% holdback have now been submitted.
- October 21 - Presbytery releases the PCBC funds to First PC.

Analysis

The Visitation Committee prayed about the information provided and apparent challenges of the situation. Some progress was demonstrated and despite all the setbacks there is a clear desire from within Session members to continue as a congregation. However most of the significant issues reported to Presbytery in June remain:

1. Financial Position - The congregations cash flow position remains in dire straits. The structural deficit was eliminated with the revised budget; however the congregation was only able to do so without a stated supply contract. Presently they are in no position to move forward beyond week to week and month to month because the congregation cannot afford to pay anything more than weekly pulpit supply.
2. Functionality of the leadership team. Session's ability to effectively steward things forward according to the polity of the Church is still very questionable. Since June, they have lost one elder and their minister. It is also evident that the leadership and unity of the Session is in disarray. The Visitation Committee witnessed visible disunity between the elders when it came to trying to understand what happened and why the roof project proceeded. Information gathered through telephone conversations and email exchanges have also revealed that there are major divisions in opinion about the way things should be proceeding. This conflict needs to be sorted out before anything else can proceed.
3. Direct communication - a very significant communication problem is inherent with the conflict mentioned above. Normally the clerk of Session is the centre-point of all communication. However, this is not the case at First PC, mostly because the existing clerk does not have enough experience and training. To use a colloquialism, there are too many cooks and no visible Chef. Clearly a new pattern of documentation and communication will need to be established.
4. Guiding Vision and Mission of the Congregation - Presently the focus is on survival and there is no sign of motivation from Session members to develop a turnaround plan with renewed vision and mission for moving forward.

Having said this - there are some positive signs as well. The congregation itself continues to be engaged with a desire to worship and be part of the body of Christ. Thirty people attended the Congregational meeting on September 27th and weekly worship attendance on Zoom often exceeds 20 people.

Recommendations

The Visitation Committee has prayerfully considered the situation at hand and recognizes that Session and Congregation of First PC face what might be considered insurmountable challenges. The recent loss of their stated supply minister, the conflicting actions and opinions of remaining leaders, the financial woes and restrictive challenges imposed by the COVID 19 pandemic has hit these people hard. In many ways they are like the crowd in the gospel of Matthew 9:36 "When Jesus saw the crowds, he had compassion for them,

because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.” This congregation is in real need of some unified and consistent leadership. Presbytery just might be able to help. With this in mind the committee brings forth following recommendations for prayerful consideration:

Recommendation 1: That a single Interim Moderator (IM) be appointed to provide strong, consistent and stable leadership in helping the Session move through the present challenges.

The first step will need to focus on a facilitated process of forgiveness, healing, reconciliation, rebuilding trust, and re-establishing clearly defined lines of communication. Ultimately the IM will provide the necessary leadership to re-establish unity and common purpose of all Session members towards its responsibilities of stewardship and mission of the congregation. **CARRIED**

Recommendation 2: That Presbytery commit the services of the Presbyter for Mission and Vision to assist the IM with the planning and implementation of some intentional strategic planning.

The goal: Establish a turnaround plan that defines the mission and vision of this specific church, one that can be led by and through the leadership team of Session and IM. The desired result: a new and renewed focus for the Congregation that carries them through the present challenges and away from survival mode. **CARRIED**

Recommendation 3: Appoint assisting elder - Larry Yen to assist the IM through the process above and work with the Finance and Maintenance committee to develop a workable budget for the 2021 year. **CARRIED**

Recommendation 4: That the Interim Moderator and Presbyter for Mission and Vision present a time-line and reporting schedule for meeting these recommendations at the next Presbytery meeting. **CARRIED**

*With respect and to the Glory of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.
Special Visitation Committee to First PC*

Interim Moderator for First

As per the recommendation of the Special Visitation Committee to First Presbyterian Church, New Westminster that the Presbytery appoint a sole Interim Moderator to First Presbyterian Church

Recommendation 5: That the Rev. Thomas Kim be dismissed with thanks for his ministry as co-Interim Moderator at First Presbyterian Church, New Westminster and that the Rev. Gabriel Snyman continue as the sole Interim Moderator, effective immediately. **CARRIED**

Recommendation 6: That the Visitation Committee be dismissed with thanks. **CARRIED**

Minster-in-Association Agreement between the Rev. Jim Smith and the Session of Brentwood Presbyterian Church

At the request of the both the Rev. Jim Smith and the Session of Brentwood Presbyterian Church,

Recommendation 7: that the following minister-in-association agreement between the Rev. Jim Smith and the Session of Brentwood Presbyterian Church be approved. **CARRIED**

Minster-in-Association Agreement between the Rev. Jim Smith
and the Session of Brentwood Presbyterian Church

Jim Smith, a minister in good standing of the Presbyterian Church in Canada wishes to establish formal ties with Brentwood Presbyterian Church as “Minister in Association”.

Assured that Jim wishes to make this congregation his home, both he and the Session would like to establish a formal relationship. The Session promises to show him the same pastoral care in nourishing his soul to flourish in the grace of Jesus Christ through worship, learning, fellowship, and service accorded to regular professing members and participants. Jim undertakes, with God’s help to fulfill those obligations common to all members of the church:

- To attend worship faithfully when able
- To give to the work of the congregation as God prospers him
- To pray for the welfare of minister, office bearers, members and adherents of the congregation
- To use his gifts for the good of Christ’s mission in and through the congregation when called upon

More particularly, Jim will collaborate with Brentwood’s missioning in the following ways:

Worship

- Provide pulpit supply as requested by the Session of Brentwood
- Provide counsel on formats for worshipping that align with the aspirations and needs of our members and participants as requested by the Session of Brentwood

Learning

- Provide leadership in learning opportunities, such as Bible studies, dialogue groups, and stewardship/leadership development conversations, as requested by the Session of Brentwood

Fellowship

- Provide support to our Connecting & Caring Team as requested by the Session of Brentwood
- Engage in the activities of the congregation as able and willing

Service

- Provide expert advice on the development and design of the congregation’s space to serve its missioning

- Provide expert advice on the congregation's connectivity to its expanding neighbourhoods

Signed by the Moderator of Session, the clerk of session, the Minister in Association and the Clerk of Presbytery.

Zoom Exit Visit to Langley Presbyterian Church – September 17, 2020

There is always a sense of happiness and sadness when taking care of an Exit Visit. Happiness for the Minister, Rev. Dennis Howard, who is retiring and sadness for the congregation, where the Minister is most beloved. So it was, when Rev. Geof Jay and Emily Wilson zoom visited with the Langley Presbyterian Church (LPC) on September 17, 2020.

Six responses from the questionnaire were received.

Worship and Sacraments: Communion is celebrated once a month which is now being presented on-line. At present the worship service and sacraments are restricted due to the Covid 19. There are a limited number of congregants. They are all familiar with sanitizing requirements and cleaning protocols. They feel that during Fall and Winter services will only be available "On-Line". In reflection and before Covid the comment in one of the responses was "good sermons, nice mix of hymns (traditional and more contemporary) thoughtful prayers".

Pastoral Care: All of Session agreed that Dennis did an excellent job with Pastoral Care and had a wonderful gift with pastoral prayers. There are a number of concerns, now that Dennis is retiring, as the Pastoral Care team has retired due to age and health. Dennis was described as being a pastor in the truest sense of the word. He was humble and caring. He held a zoom coffee break weekly on Fridays during the pandemic. The congregation has been home to a family from South America for the last couple of years. We were told "Dennis acted as their appropriate advocate in some of their difficulties of adopting the Canadian customs and housing". Visiting in care facilities is not possible at the moment.

Christian Education – all ages: For the past number of years Dennis organized and was involved with a Youth group, but they have aged out now and gone on to post-secondary. He and the Youth group developed a Mission timeline which is displayed across the downstairs wall. He was a great supporter of Camp Douglas and even worked as cook for one summer. There is a strong Sunday School Program in place. LPC has a good library and it is well supported with an adequate budget. The Bible Study group do not meet due to Covid.

Finances/Stewardship: Session were most complimentary about how Dennis helped them with their finances, at a time when they were having difficulties. He encouraged them to establish a consolidated fund and a trust fund. He advised them on all current and financial aspects of the operating funds and investments. One Session member advised that early in his ministry at LPC he would not take an increase in stipend in order to present a less deficit budget. They all agreed he will be greatly missed.

Mission/Outreach: LPC are a very generous congregation in support of missions (in Canada and Overseas). They support the following: Shephard's House, Christmas Hampers, two mission programs in Malawi, Camp Douglas, Salvation Army Gateway of Hope and Langley Memorial Foundation for Chaplaincy. Any excess funds from the Christmas Hamper program are used to provide congregational, community and international needs during the year.

Administration/Communication: Communication was very good between Dennis and Session. There seems to be some difficulty with the administrative assistant due to language and cultural differences. Dennis has provided a lot of assistance (e.g. bulletin announcements) and there is concern that the Session will provide this help during vacancy. The bulletin is very helpful with communication. A Personnel committee has been formed to help out with this.

The Session agreed and acknowledged the workload and ministry of Dennis at LPC. The congregation had been through a healing time for about four years. He continued this process and did a lot of work energizing the congregational life of the congregation. They advised that when Dennis arrived, he was gentle in his approach but principled, and the congregants continued to build their trust in each other and him. Session members described him as follows:

“He is fair; a very astute listener; has no private agenda other than planning to attain a goal of taking LPC to a state of full-time ministry. He began his ministry at the 50% range and progressed to 90% in 2020. He has been successful. His working hours often exceeded past the established hours of the position”.

“He has helped the congregation to continue healing from past hurts and has facilitated a flourishing of harmony among us. He has introduced or continued many programs and innovations that assist the congregation as a community. His empathetic care for individuals has been a great comfort. He has led us well on our journey of faith. We will miss him very much.”

Session are very apprehensive about their future and expressed the hopes of what they would like to see in a new minister. There is a feeling of anxiety and loneliness. They would like a minister to sustain pastoral care, use their gifts for youth and education and have the young people active. They need a minister who is sincere, genuine and a loving Christian. They need a minister who is a good listener and values the input of the church family and be a part of the family. The new minister needs to be humble and follow through with plans. There were some differences as to how ready they are to proceed to seek a new minister. Some felt very alone without their minister and almost rudderless. Others felt that they have a good united Session, who can work together to take care of the congregation and communicate with the IM and take time.

Rev. Dennis Howard shared some of his thoughts with us. He is looking forward to his retirement and finding meaningful ways to contribute to God’s Kingdom and enjoying the company of his spouse. He enjoyed his ministry and meaningful services. He was pleased that that membership grew steadily, and discipleship was established. One of his highlights was the preaching of Catechism in a year as a sermon series – he picked the main topic, then printed it in the bulletin and advised the congregation to read and get ready for the service. He got very positive feedback. It was very obvious that Dennis worked very hard for LPC. He provided a very active pastoral care team. He had a regular Bible Study group and an active Sunday School (helped by Eleanor Mills and Rick Penner). There was a youth group, which has aged out, but he would like to see it reinvigorated. With his business experience he was able to help and advise LPC to establish the Langley Presbyterian Enduring Legacy Fund, as a means to create an endowment that would help sustain the work of this congregation well into the future. He was active in Mission and Outreach, which is so successful at LPC.

Dennis expressed that it was a privilege and honour to serve LPC for seven years as their pastor and minister. He said the Session is warm, kind and generous in their support of the minister and the ministry of the congregation. “My ecclesiastical career has been short but deeply fulfilling thanks to the lovely folks at LPC. I shall miss them all.

Recommendation 8: Rev. Dennis Howard is to be commended for his faithful and generous giving of his time to Langley Presbyterian Church. We wish Dennis and his wife a safe and happy retirement with many Blessings from the Lord. **CARRIED**

Recommendation 9: That Langley Presbyterian Church continue to flourish with hope and anticipation in the many areas where they faithfully serve the Lord. **CARRIED**

Respectfully submitted
Rev. Geof Jay
Emily Wilson

Zoom Regular Presbytery Visit to West Vancouver Presbyterian Church – September 17, 2020

The Team of Rev Dennis Howard, Rev Young Tae Choi & Bev Feick -Lead, met Rev Heinrich Botha at 10:00; Session at 10:30 and the Board at 11:15.

The Team received very comprehensive questionnaires from the Minister, eight Elders and one Board Member. Also, the team received an excellent overview of current proceedings, 2018 and 2019 AGM booklets and Compass - newsletter - all which provided very good communication.

WVPC spent great effort preparing the visit via Zoom. Seven Elders sat physically distanced at board tables. One Elder attended via Zoom at home and one Elder was unavailable. Three Board members sat physically distanced at the board table and one joined from home.

Rev Botha began his West Vancouver ministry in early 2018. He has a good relationship with the Session, the Board and the congregation and is most appreciated by the congregation. The overarching concern for him is his energy in this pandemic season. He prepares all facets of the You tube services. It has added many hours to his previous busy schedule.

“2020 has changed every aspect of congregational life: formal gatherings and worship, meetings, pastoral care, communication - this has led to a lot of contemplation and re-thinking of our ecclesiology.” Heinrich’s dream/vision for the congregation is that they could be known as “a family for those who seek family”.

Worship

Prior to Covid, the regular attendance for Sunday worship was fifty congregants with an atmosphere of warmth and deeply rooted relationships. Currently the virtual services are being viewed by 150 - 215 people. In Pre-covid time, communion was celebrated monthly between traditional service & intinction. It is being celebrated less often with the virtual services.

Rev Botha had explored live stream but you tube was deemed safer and preferred for the congregation. There is some congregational participation. Seven to eight congregants sign in with physical distancing and sanitizing procedures to attend a virtual service Sundays at 1030 in the sanctuary. The equipment is operated by an Elder. The church combines some summer and Holy week services with St David’s United Church in West Vancouver. In post pandemic time, there is a hope of broader participation of members.

Pastoral Care

The Elders attempt to be in contact with their district every two weeks. They inform Rev Botha of specific needs for hospital visits and a particular Elder sends the various cards. A Pastoral Care team is being considered when training time is available.

Christian Education - all ages

Although few children attend Sunday School on a regular basis, there are willing teachers. WVPC is keen to attract young families who can grow with the congregation. Prior to Covid, ten to fifteen Adults met weekly to discuss various books & videos.

Finances/Stewardship

The visiting team focussed on continuing budget deficits, which West Vancouver has experienced for the last couple of years, and the pandemic ongoing life of the church. We received clarification on the sale of properties and those investments. The question was asked if the PCC Consolidated Fund had ever been considered. In addition the team noted that the line items of the music/choir director, singer/relief organist being in the \$30,000 range annually rated closely to the deficit budget amount. The session and board seem well aware that changes are needed in their situation as the current deficit financing is not sustainable

Mission/Outreach

Donations are sent to several projects/services - PWS&D, Harvest Project Food Bank, North Shore Crisis Services Society in addition to support for a Community Children's Choir & the Annual Parking Lot Parties. A huge endeavor which was featured recently in the news was the church's support to an immigrant family of Mom and two children who had been separated for more than five years.

The church did not distribute their grant form to the Presbytery in 2020. The process is being reviewed. The Jazz Vespers held on Wednesday evenings received grants in 2018 and 2019. Prior to Covid, some congregants held monthly worship services at West Vancouver care Centre & Hollyburn House.

Administration/Communication/Leading with Care

A new admin Assistant shares her time with a nearby United Church. The Personnel committee holds regular employee reviews. West Vancouver reports that they are compliant with Leading with Care. The Communication Team publish an excellent newsletter "The Compass" three times annually and also E-News on a regular basis to update the congregation.

The dedication of the Clerk of Session is acknowledged.

Further Comments

The majority of the congregants are older seniors -beyond seventy years of age which leaves few physically able volunteers - who are dedicated. There is great concern for their Minister who is more extended during this pandemic era. He alone, has the technical expertise to manage a virtual worship service which adds a minimum of two additional days to his regular schedule.

WVPC was planning on 'launching' the Lasting Impact conversations in April of this year, as a follow up to a process which they started "in early 2019 (with the assistance of a book written by Carey Nieuwhof called "Lasting Impact") to ask some hard-hitting questions about the congregation's long-term viability if they were unable to make certain necessary changes. This naturally includes rethinking their Vision and Mission, and was intended as a long-term process of understanding their collective calling in a rapidly changing world."

Recommendations

Recommendation 10: That Rev. Botha be commended for his time and exceptional effort preparing virtual worship services to serve the WVPC congregation and the Session for their concern and diligence to maintain a worship experience to all; particularly those who do not have the necessary current technology access. **CARRIED**

Recommendation 11: To lessen the added task of preparing a “virtual” worship service that Session consider engaging a media student seeking experience to assist with the digital processes of a virtual worship service. **CARRIED**

Recommendation 12: During this pandemic time, that, resources from Westminster Presbytery be available to assist a Minister who is solely tasked with preparing virtual worship services.

Moved by Richard Watson, seconded by Rebecca Simpson to refer Recommendation 12 back to the Strategy and Leadership Committee for further review. **CARRIED**

Recommendation 13: That Session and Board continue to seek ways to balance their budget and report back to presbytery on its progress by the May 2021 meeting of presbytery. **CARRIED**

Respectfully submitted
Rev Dennis Howard
Rev Young Tae Choi
Bev Feick -Lead

The Visitation Task Force notes that since this visitation the congregation has used grant monies to cover the cost of a videographer who has offered them a 50% discount, as per Recommendation 10 .

REPORTS

This month we have received reports from Brentwood, Burnaby Taiwanese, Knox and Langley Presbyterian Churches.

Brentwood Presbyterian Church the Rev. Dr Brian Fraser Stated Supply

In brief, the following has been happening since Sept of 2020 as Brentwood continues to improve its space to nourish faith formation so souls can flourish in the grace of Jesus Christ.

Worship

- Sunday Morning Worshiping on Zoom has, on average, 35 live and 80 views after posting – we are working out way through the Corinthian conversations as we can understand them from the letters
- Jazz Evensong Online is attracting, on average, 200 views for each service
- A new monthly Devotional Jazz service with words and music has attracted 95 views so far

Learning

- We are carrying on with our 'Curious About Church' podcast (19 episodes so far) that was launched with a grant for innovative faith formation from our national church – funding is being provided for the rest of this year and will be built into the budget for next year – it's a discussion of Sunday's sermon with two of the musicians connected with Brentwood – one of them has decided to be baptized and join the church in November
- We are developing Bible studies and discussion groups to launch in Jan, probably online and perhaps in collaboration with other churches
- In the realm of leadership development, we are having weekly conversations involving 5-6 participants focused on Steven Scherer's project for his VST field education placement – he will be helping us identify, assess, and enhance our sources of revenues for our missioning – we've developed a package of resources and practices to help us grow together in this area

Fellowship

- We are developing resources to recruit and support a Connecting & Caring team
- We have indications that at least 5 people want to join Brentwood as professing members in November, bringing our total for new members in 2020 to at least 10
- We are being prudent about coming back to in-person worship and monitoring when it will be safe – there is no strong pressure to return
- We are electing up to 3 new elders in early Nov

Service

- We continue to serve the musicking communities in Greater Vancouver by providing our space for rehearsals and livestreamed performances
- The paving of our parking lot is completed – the lines will be painted on Wed, Oct 21

Respectfully submitted,

Brian Fraser
Minister with Brentwood
Oct 19, 2020

Burnaby Taiwanese Presbyterian Church

the Rev. Dr. Morgan Wong Interim Moderator

Shortly after I became the IM for BTPC, COVID 19 hit all of us and around the world. Many of the gatherings are restricted, including church services. BTPC is not an exception. We have stopped physical gatherings for worship and other church activities since March. It has affected the congregation in many ways. Since the church has no minister, the congregants have been watching online worship from VTPC and other sources from Taiwan and/or

North America. There is one online weekly Bible Study. An assigned leader will set the theme and discussion questions to be posted online for discussion and sharing. The elder in charge of the education will summarize the discussion and post it for others to review. Pastoral care is done through the Care Team by phone calls and social media. It is a challenging time for everyone as many elderlies feel isolated.

Offering has dropped significantly. Currently, Brentwood PC has reduced the rental fee for BTPC from \$1,715 to \$1,000. The Session has met periodically to address the needs of the church.

We covet your prayers.
Morgan Wong

Knox, Presbyterian Church the Rev. Brad Childs Interim Moderator

Knox Presbyterian Church is continuing to carve out a niche of uniqueness. The formation of mission is paramount but beneath this the community is also fairly strong as is. The personal connections have remained largely. As of recently the Session has opened up the sanctuary and rental space for themselves and others. Re-opening plans went smoothly. As well, the food program continues through the Collaborators as do other initiatives. Knox will be adding at least two elders before the new year as well, in order to help assist with future collaborative efforts and because of their leadership, faithfulness and gifts of the Spirit. An ordination of Elders celebration is being planned for November 22nd, 2020 if all goes according to plan. The Elders continue to surprise me with their good spirits and straightforward practical ministries. In line with this a joint meeting of collaborating congregations will be held next month.

Brad Childs 2020-10-23

Langley, Presbyterian Church the Rev. Willem van de Wall Interim Moderator

With the retirement of Rev. Dennis Howard, affective September 30, 2020 the pulpit of Langley Presbyterian Church has become vacant. Already in the summer there was back and forth communication between the Rep. Elder, Bev Feick, and myself. The Session and congregation did good planning already before Rev. Howard's retirement about expectations and goals. From October 1st we had concrete things put in place like pulpit supply and ensuring that virtual services would be held every other Sunday. What impressed me were protocols the Session put in place for Covid 19. This already started under the leadership of Rev. Howard. I was unfortunately not available the first two Sundays in October to go and preach the pulpit vacant. I went on October 18th and was well received by elders and other congregants. I was made aware of the protocols for Covid-19 and got the impression that the best precautions had been put in place. There were 17 people who attended including the volunteers. Those who attended had to reserve a pew before arriving at the church. Everybody wore masks and those who took part in the service took them off only when participating. I left Langley Presbyterian Church with the thought that in spite of the Pandemic there is a positive spirit in the church. On Tuesday, October 20th the Session and I met by Zoom and we had touched on expectations of both them and me as Interim Moderator. The leadership of the Session is strong and all the different committees under Session are well in place. Session agreed to have sessions with me re: visioning and reviewing of ministries. I am very blessed for having been appointed as Interim Moderator of Langley PC and I look forward to the journey with the congregation in the months to come.

*Respectfully submitted,
Rev. Willem van de Wall
Interim Moderator
Langley Presbyterian Church*

*Respectfully submitted,
The Rev. Paddy Eastwood,
Convener, Ministry Committee*

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE REPORT

*The report was presented by Glen Davis on behalf of co-conveners, Glen Davis and Neil Abramson.
All motions, unless otherwise noted, moved by Neil Abramson, seconded by Sumarme Goble*

Community Engagement Committee (CEC) Report to Presbytery, Nov. 3, 2020

The CEC met on Zoom, October 9, 2020, and also conducted two email votes on emergent issues related to grant applications.

Grant Applications

Recommendation 1: That the **Shepherd's House** 2020 grant application for \$1,000 from the Regional Resource Fund be endorsed by presbytery. **CARRIED**

Regional Resource Grants.

A recent letter from the BC Synod Clerk informs us that Regional Resource Grant Applications must be received by synod by January 31, 2021. In order to give the CEC sufficient time to review these applications before the January Presbytery meeting, we make the following recommendation.

Recommendation 2: That all Regional Resource Grant applications for 2021 be received by the Community Engagement Committee by December 31st, 2020. **CARRIED**

Recommendation 3: That presbytery approve the following annual process for handling Regional Resource Grant applications: "In order to provide for fair consideration of all applications at one time, grant applications for the budget year will normally be received by the CEC by December 31st of the preceding year. CEC will make its recommendations to Presbytery so they can be dealt with in time to meet synod deadlines." Note: Should there be any funds remaining in the amount allocated to presbytery for the calendar year, later applications will also be accepted. **CARRIED**

Metro Vancouver Alliance (MVA)

The MVA is engaged in a renewal and rebuilding process. This was occasioned by the departure of its Lead Organizer, and its need to raise sufficient funds to hire a new person so it might continue its valuable work of organizing for the common good, and enabling single organizations like churches, other faith groups, civil society NGOs and unions to work together and influence issues that they would be unable to do on their own.

Recommendation 4: That the CEC 2021 budget include the \$1,000 fee for Presbytery membership in the Metro Vancouver Alliance (MVA) for 2021. **CARRIED**

Recommendation 5: That Presbytery encourage congregations and organizations in the Presbytery to consider joining the MVA individually, to make use of its training workshops, and explore potential for taking advantage of student/youth internship, field education, and community leadership opportunities. **CARRIED**

CEC process for supporting Presbytery member-initiated social action issues and concerns.

There are occasions when individuals, sessions and/or congregations have a social justice issue that they would like to present to presbytery for consideration and action.

Therefore, **CEC issues the following invitation. "Members of Presbytery, and members of sessions and organizations belonging to Presbytery are invited to approach the CEC concerning any social action issue they would like to bring to the attention of Presbytery. If the CEC approves the initial proposal, the proposer is invited to flesh out his/her proposal, with CEC sub-committee assistance if requested. Upon subsequent CEC approval, the proposer will present the proposal to Presbytery with the support of the CEC."**

* After some discussion around the need for enough time to have a viable and constructive discussion, the conveners of the CEC agreed to delay the discussion of the following part of their report, along with the recommendations, to the December 1, 2020 meeting of the presbytery. A Stated Hour at the beginning of the meeting will be given to the discussion of the GBLI report and recommendations.

Guaranteed Basic Livable Income (GBLI) for all Canadians.

Note 1: Following the Sept. 15th presbytery meeting, CEC noted that among the several terms used for this basic income concept, the most frequently used and accepted ones include the word "livable" so we have added it to the term we are using: Thus, *Guaranteed Basic Livable Income (GBLI)*.

Note 2: In the paper presented to presbytery on Sept. 15, the references in Section 6 to specific dollar amounts that might be considered a "livable income" have been removed. We have done this to avoid getting bogged down in long discussions about the feasibility of specific amounts, and enabling the presbytery to focus on the basic principle of a livable income for all Canadians. Please see paragraphs 2 and 3 in Section 6. We refer instead to an income that is considered "livable" according to the specific situations of recipients; e.g. a single person, a family of 4, persons living in remote areas where the cost of living is extremely high, etc.

The committee considered the issues raised in the paper presented to the September meeting of presbytery and made the following recommendations.

Recommendation 6: That Presbytery approve the GBLI proposal in principle.

Recommendation 7: That a shortened version of the GBI proposal, that will make it more accessible to a wider audience, be prepared by the CEC for use when addressing members of government and general society.

Recommendation 8: That the GBI proposal be forwarded to the PCC Justice Ministries office and to all Presbyteries of the PCC recommending their consideration, approval and action.

Recommendation 9: That the shortened GBI proposal be forwarded to appropriate federal and provincial government ministers requesting their support.

Recommendation 10: That Presbytery sessions be invited to study the GBI proposal, and encourage their congregants to write letters of support for this proposal to their MPs and relevant government decision-makers. (A sample letter will be prepared by the CEC to assist those who might find it helpful when writing their letters.)

Respectfully submitted,
G. Davis and N. Abramson – Co-conveners

**Report of the Community Engagement Committee
Presbytery of Westminster, Sept. 15, 2020 with amendments to Section 6 for Nov. 3rd**

At the June 2020 meeting of presbytery, the Community Engagement Committee presented a report on the subject of a Guaranteed Basic Income (GBI)¹. It was supported by a letter from the national church of the PCC signed by the Moderator of the General Assembly. The following paper addresses some of the critical statements made at the June meeting which claimed that what the Moderator wrote was inaccurate, irresponsible, and poorly researched. But more importantly, it addresses some of the major concerns people might have about the concept of a GBI. What we hope to do here is present a case for why Presbyterians should treat this matter with the seriousness it deserves and engage in a respectful conversation about both its merits and potential problems. **Because this paper is rather lengthy, we are not asking presbytery to discuss its contents at this meeting. Rather, we are requesting that presbyters read it before the next regular meeting of presbytery in order to participate in a conversation that might lead to further action.**

A Livable Basic Income

The Gospel of Jesus Christ often leads us along pathways that are different from those of our culture. The Gospel sometimes pushes us to make better what we cannot make ideal. The gospels portray Jesus as meeting many suffering persons along the way. He responded by healing, welcoming and including people, and such is our calling. Today, Jesus lives on in the presence of his disciples. The church is made up of his followers, imitators of that model that Jesus laid out so dynamically.

In our era, the context is different, but the need remains. We are the salt of the earth, not with power to command the world to be different, but with salt that has the potential of wooing those with the power of change to help our world

¹ “Guaranteed Basic Income” is one name for government provision of a basic income floor for all people. There are other names, but this one, together with the “GBI” abbreviation, is used here.

to taste, at least a little, the values of the kingdom of God. And powers of government sometimes will hear our case. As faithful witnesses we must do our Spirit-inspired best to find a better way for "the little ones" to have a chance in this world.

Because we have been bequeathed the loving heart of Jesus, we do not believe the poor to be worse than or inferior to us. We see all humanity to be made in God's image. In this witness we labour and struggle, up to, and including, the cross. And that is why our church is concerned about a livable income for all Canadians.

Our church's letter to the government, signed by the Moderator, provides a brief summary of what the PCC has said and done on this subject. It makes clear that the letter is in keeping with past statements and positions taken by our church. Here are some relevant quotations.

The Presbyterian Church in Canada affirms that the church has a calling to seek justice in the world, and that the church's pursuit of justice requires concern for the poor as well as seeking the best way to create well-being in every society. Creating such well-being entails addressing issues such as employment, education and health. ...As early as 1973, the Presbyterian Church in Canada communicated its support of what was then called a 'guaranteed annual income' to the federal government.

Statements from the church such as these have been followed...by appeals to the federal and provincial governments during the recession in the early nineties to ensure that efforts directed towards economic recovery should not occur in concert with the curtailment of social programs, and again in 2007, affirming the need for a national strategy ...to reduce poverty in Canada, including that minimum wage should be indexed to the annual cost of living and that there should be the establishment of a national social housing program.

Thus the Presbyterian Church in Canada has a decades-long history, beginning with advocating for a concept similar to Guaranteed Basic Income, of advocating for the end of poverty and that all should be able to live with dignity and meet their basic needs.

Presbyterians relate to one another with rarely a reference to household income. The income of each is a little different, yet we assume that each of us is in the livable range. But there is a percentage of the population that exists below a line of livability. That line is somewhat arbitrary but those who daily experience inadequate income, feel its impact deeply.

Income that is too low can bring on a range of problems that others cannot see – inability to pay for dental care and prescribed medication, inferior housing, frequent shelter changes, clothing that inadequately protects against the elements or leads to social exclusion, more frequent visits to doctors and hospitals, the inability to continue education, jobs that are harder on the body and on the family, high stress levels, and depression. We note also that when the poor cannot afford what they need, it affects even those of us who have enough, and more, to meet our needs. The economy depends upon consumption, which involves not only the luxuries of the rich, but the every-day necessities of the poor. Thus, a GBI can contribute to the health of the economy. This is an argument that appeals to the mind of the political right and they frequently use it in support of a GBI.

In this time of pandemic, the problem has grown worse as lower echelons of health care workers face illness and death, without systemic protection. There is a dawning recognition that their income is not consistent with what they give and risk. In many other areas of the employment-seeking world, the prospects have worsened. The provincial and federal governments have found it necessary to intervene.

1. Poverty, with new severity.

Today our world is marked by increasing inequality. For many, a job with a livable wage is no longer within reach. There is a rapidly growing population of billionaires while those families in the lower 13% of income earners do not have access to what is needed to live in security. Since 2008 employment is drifting more quickly away from full-time jobs. The combined factors of inequality, the increased cost of health care, and the absence of job security combine to lead to the exclusion of those with low income from the community.

As our church has evolved over past decades, we recognize that our people, many of whom are over 65 years of age, tend to live with higher-than-average income. Canadian pension schemes give wide protection from want to most seniors in our churches. As a result of employment pensions, together with two government pensions (CPP and OAS), most Canadian seniors enjoy a kind of guaranteed income, as do needy families with young children (CCB²). Unlivable income is outside the experience of most of our church folk.

2. Income Without Work?

Some of us will be uncomfortable with the prospect of people receiving an income that is not related to their labours. The contemporary economy is making a significant shift that is pressing us to take a new look at how work functions in our lives. It takes fewer people to accomplish the same work, yet there is much to be done. It requires more and different training. We have arrived at a place where not all are able to find work. Ironically there is still a shortage of workers, usually in areas where there are not enough people trained for the job or in areas where the pay for the job is so low that workers cannot live on the wage (e.g. farm workers, fast food workers, lower levels of healthcare workers). On the other side of the ledger are the very rich who have a variety of options, including well-paying jobs and opportunities to invest capital, that enable them to increase their wealth well beyond their needs.

Contemporary work is often shaped by short-term contracts without such benefits as a pension plan, extended health care, dental care and medical prescription coverage. Jobs are for a season, without security. Most people of low income do have a job, and frequently both adults in the house are working, yet income is inadequate to meet the need. It is common that lower income employment comes with higher risk to life and limb and less access to what will heal the body. Aged-out youth – those who reach the age of 18 after living as wards of the government – are cast out on the street to fend for themselves, without the necessary family and material resources to support them.

3. Responses that Address Income

In these times there are regions of the world that are turning toward a government-guaranteed basic income, either for all, or for some, of their citizens. The City of Barcelona began an experimental program in 2017 using four different models to see which is the more effective and practical. In May 2020, Spain introduced a GBI that will provide a minimum income for the poorest members of its society. Finland and the Netherlands have experimented with a GBI and there are cities in Scotland and the U.S. that are exploring it. Various models have been launched in poorer countries too: Malawi, India, Kenya, and Namibia.

Here in Canada there was a desire to explore the provision of a basic income (or GBI) for all Canadians who fall below a fixed income level. It was long ago, in the 1970's, but it was one of the more meaningful attempts that the world has seen. It happened in Manitoba, in parts of Winnipeg, in a sprinkling of villages, and in Dauphin. Dauphin is a town of

² The Canada Child Benefit is administered by the Canada Revenue Agency. It is a tax-free monthly payment made to eligible families to help with the cost of raising children under 18 years of age.

10,000 whose population was saturated, i.e., every resident with below-the-line income received the benefit, which was called “Mincome”. The amount received was a little higher than provincial welfare rates, but it was quite different from social assistance. Social assistance requires the recipient to check in with a welfare worker. The cost of bureaucracy and administration is high. Life is monitored, and any perceived misbehaviour can terminate the income. Once that happens, all social benefits (such as pharmacare and dental) are ended. But Mincome was about income only, and it involved no bureaucratic surveillance over how the recipient chose to use the income.

GBI allowed for additional earnings. Every dollar earned reduced basic income payment by 50¢. In the 1970's a family of four, with no other income, could receive \$3,800 a year (\$22,000 is an estimated 2020 equivalent). If the total rose to \$7,600 (\$44,000 today), the Mincome payments would stop. The benefit was paid both by the federal government (75%) and the provincial (25%). Everybody was expected to file an income tax return and that was the sole basis of calculation. Anyone below the line would receive funds that would lift them up to the line. The money came by the same route as one would receive a refund from the Canada Revenue Agency. Whenever combined income reached taxability, it was taxed. Payment was “unconditional” in that it came as a result of low income, not at all related to case-worker surveillance. It was not received by every citizen but only by those who could demonstrate that their income was below the established line. This is the only form of Basic Income that Canada has ever used, and the guidelines were very similar to the formula used in the recent and prematurely ended experiment in Ontario.

4. Is GBI Affordable?

This is one fear that has held back GBI implementation in the past. What is the cost? The Parliamentary Budget Office, an independent and non-partisan group, was asked this question. A figure was produced.³ How would the government find the necessary \$23 billion? The newspaper columnist Andrew Coyne, a proponent, has said it would cost three points on the G.S.T. By that he means a move from 5% to 8%, a tax that is still low by European standards. GST is a good route to go in that it is a tax on what is consumed, not what is earned. While precise calculation is not possible because of inter-related variables, most economists are content to accept Coyne’s figure as a valid approximation.

If Canadians are willing to accept the plan, the net benefits are likely to be high. In the Dauphin experiment, hospital admissions were 8.5% lower than they were before Mincome was in place. There were fewer accidents, fewer expenses from alcohol abuse, and lower mental health care costs. Visits to the doctor were down as was the need for the services of health care workers. Policing costs were lower. This experiment indicated that the pre-Mincome system tended to push a host of the needs of the poor over to the health care budget, an inefficiency that was costly.

Many of us, viewing a 3% increase in the G.S.T. would give the knee-jerk response that it is an unwelcome increase in taxes. What would I be getting for this expense? The major benefit is that the lower 13% of income recipients would have the necessities of life. And the spin-off benefits are many. Researchers of the Dauphin experiment, the Finland project in 2017-2018 and studies of results from the first year of the recent GBI program in Ontario, note these positive results:

- able to pay bills
- decrease in stress and anxiety
- afford healthier food
- self-improvement - able to continue education
- higher self-esteem

³ It would cost about \$76 billion. In process of paying it other expenditures presently paid would no longer be offered. This reduces the total by \$32.9 billion. The provinces, too, would have lower payouts in that they would no longer be providing welfare or social assistance. This reduces the total by \$20 billion. There remains \$23 billion that would need to be found, which is roughly what the Canada Child Benefit costs the people of Canada each year.

- feeling of fulfillment from doing useful work
- decrease in mental illness
- lower health care costs (fewer visits to doctors, fewer hospitalizations)
- part time work income is not clawed back
- decrease in family violence
- less abuse of alcohol and traffic accidents among youth
- more social inclusion with friends and family

In brief, the cost will be felt, but the rewards are many, and they are what we have been praying for.

5. Does GBI Lead to Idleness?

Often this is society's largest fear. The whole of the Mincome experiment in Manitoba was set up to find an answer to this question. If the reader is suspicious of the poor, seeing them as wanting to pick your pocket, you could well have this fear. There are some who will scam the system, although the Mincome experiment showed that they were few in number. Like you and me, most people use their resources for their family's best outcome and, given the choice, they want to work. Those who will abuse this system are already abusing the present systems. The research shows that, when income is in the form of welfare, it is insecure. It encourages people to spend quickly, for one does not know whether there will be money tomorrow, and if so, how much.

Here are some stories from the Dauphin experiment.⁴

"It wasn't a case of getting money to live and do nothing," says Sharon Wallace-Storm, who grew up in Dauphin and was 15 when the experiment began. "They set a level for how much a family of three or four needed to get by. You applied showing how much you were making, and if you didn't meet that threshold, they would give you a top up."

There was also an increase in the number of adolescents completing high school. Before and after the experiment, Dauphin students – like many in rural towns across Manitoba – were less likely to finish school than those in the city of Winnipeg, with boys often leaving at 16 and getting jobs on farms or in factories. However, over the course of those four years, they were actually more likely to graduate than Winnipeg students. In 1976, 100% of Dauphin students enrolled for their final year of school.

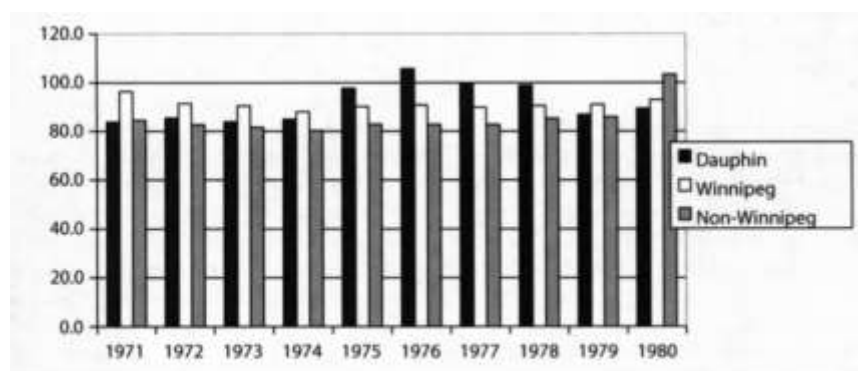
"Very often these people were the first in their family who'd ever finished high school", says Evelyn Forget. "When Mincome came along, families decided they could support their sons in school just a little bit longer, and, in some ways, I think that's the most exciting result because we saw that investment in human capital."

The results of the Dauphin experiment revealed an oddity. There was one demographic that tended not to seek employment. They were males in their late teens and early twenties. Why?

Researchers looked at high school records in an attempt to find the answer. They found that young people in Dauphin, prior to Mincome, were less likely to finish high school than those in the city of Winnipeg. In the 70's there was farm work readily available to youth with neither education nor experience. Many households were running on a very tight budget so it was natural for parents to urge their young men to quit school and take jobs.

The GBI made it possible for students to stay in school, or even return to school. During the three years that Mincome was in effect, there were more students enrolling in grade 12 than had completed grade 11 the previous June.

Please refer to the graph below.



Graph 2: Grade 12 enrollment as a percentage of previous grade 11 enrollment

Source: Forget p. 291

⁴The quotations in this section, along with those from Greg Mason, below, are taken from a BBC report by David Cox (<https://www.bbc.com/worklife/article/20200624-canadas-forgotten-universal-basic-income-experiment>). This BBC report leans heavily on the doctoral thesis of Evelyn Forget which was recently published as a book: *Basic Income for Canadians*. It is well worth reading for anyone who has questions about the Mincome experiment, and a proposed design for a future basic income plan.

In 2017 and 2018, Finland ran a pilot basic income program. It paid a regular monthly income to 2000 randomly selected unemployed people with no obligation to seek a job and no reduction in their payment if they accepted one. Its primary goal was to see if the guaranteed income would motivate people to take low-paying or temporary jobs without fear of losing benefits.

Depending on the social, political, economic or faith perspective from which we look at a GBI, the results of this pilot program can be seen as a success, a failure, or some of both. If our only criteria are getting more people to work and how much it cost, then we might conclude that the program was not successful because it did not do much to encourage recipients into work. But there are other criteria we must look at. Researchers at Helsinki University undertook a study of the program and concluded that it "improved their mental wellbeing, confidence and life satisfaction." They also "experienced less mental strain, depression, sadness and loneliness." (*The Guardian*,

2020, 05 07)

Researchers also noted a mild positive effect on employment, particularly for families with children. Others just said there were no jobs in the area they were trained for. Still others said that with the basic income they were prepared to take low-paying jobs they might not have taken otherwise. Receiving the basic income also encouraged some to get more involved in voluntary work such as care for family and neighbours. The income legitimized for them this kind of care work.

The researchers concluded that the results of the study could support arguments both for and against basic income. Surely it is important for us as Christians to take into consideration values that look beyond purely financial costs and economic productivity, and appreciate those like decreased depression, less sadness, fewer doctors' visits, more sense of security and satisfaction with life.

6. How Much Should it Be?

Greg Mason, an economist at the University of Manitoba, says:

All the experiments so far have only considered whether basic income affects the willingness to work of those receiving the extra payments. But they haven't looked at the people who are just above the threshold for receiving basic income. Those people could well become very resentful of anyone who isn't working, and yet only earn slightly less than they do.⁵

Mason believes that for basic income to work on a larger scale, governments would need to find an eligibility income threshold that is reasonable enough to cover necessities, while not allowing people to live "the good life". The exact amount will depend upon such variables as whether it is an individual or a typical Canadian family, whether the person or family lives in a remote area where the cost of living is extremely high, etc.

The church is unlikely to be asked what the level should be. Both right-wing and left-wing politicians have espoused a basic income benefit, the right-wing usually coming in at a lower dollar figure than the left-wing. It is the caring principle behind the move that the church can heartily support, rather than getting embroiled in an argument about amounts that tends to lose the larger issue.

Conclusion

In the stories that tell the ministry of Jesus in the four Gospels there is no overt concern with poverty but there is a focus on exclusion. There are about fourteen encounters in the first nine chapters of Mark's Gospel, for example, and all of these people who encountered Jesus have afflictions that have excluded them from their community and left them outside the city wall. Exclusion is their curse. Their being healed not only makes them more physically capable but also brings them back into community. The church is called, not only to look after its own corporate well-being, but also to bring restoration to those who have been cast out of their community. So says the story in the Hebrew Bible. Although the New Testament is heard in another key, the theme is the same. Healing includes restoration to community.

⁵ David Cox, "Canada's Forgotten Universal Basic Income Experiment" BBC, June 2020
www.bbc.com/worklife/article/20200624-canadas-forgotten-universal-basic-income-experiment.

How shall we respond? It is the job of the Christian Church to act as midwife for the birth of the Kingdom of God, to help the world toward its healthiest shape. Part of that job is to prod, press and encourage those with political power to come up with the appropriate mechanics and dollar figures that will create a Canada where everyone can live with the security and dignity of a livable income.

Our faith cries out for the support of the little ones in our society who are without adequate resources and without the security and confidence that they will have enough bread for today and tomorrow, as our Lord prayed. The disciples of Jesus learned to bring the sick, the needy, the blind, the lame, the lonely to Jesus, who, in turn, brought even the excluded leper inside the circle. Jesus' ministry of healing and welcome is our ministry. We are the salt of the earth and it is our calling to woo the empires of this world toward a higher level of justice. If we do what we must do, by supporting this ambitious social experiment, we might well play a small role in answering our Lord's prayer that God's will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Recommendation: That this report be received; that presbyters be asked to read and reflect upon it and be prepared to consider it for further action at the November meeting of presbytery.

*Submitted with respect and hope,
Glen Davis and Neil Abramson, Co-conveners*

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

The report was presented by Victor Kim, Administrative Committee Convener.

All motions, unless otherwise noted, moved by Victor Kim, seconded by Paddy Eastwood.

Administrative Committee Report

November 3, 2020

- Anne Bauman from Haney Presbyterian Church submitted her resignation as an equalizing elder to the presbytery. We thank Anne for her service and wish her well going forward. The Clerk will create an updated rotation of congregations who will be asked to provide an equalizing elder to presbytery. Once a response has been received from a congregation, a name will be presented to presbytery for adoption.
- The Clerk will also create an updated rotation for congregations to submit their rolls and records for examination. Given the current pandemic the plan will be to remind congregations to keep careful record of session minutes, their membership roll and records of marriages, baptisms and funerals so that when we are able to gather in person again those records can be presented for examination. A checklist for session records is attached to the end of this report for reference for all sessions.
- Presbytery received correspondence from the Assembly Council with regards to planning for the 2021 General Assembly. The Assembly Council presented three options for presbytery feedback:
 1. Plan to hold an in-person General Assembly in June of 2021.
 2. Plan to hold a General Assembly in June of 2021 by videoconference and not in-person.
 3. Postpone General Assembly until 2022 on the assumption we can safely meet in-person.

Victor Kim

Feedback was requested from presbyters and we received a very limited response. Based on those responses and based on the Administrative Committee response, the following is proposed as the response of the Presbytery of Westminster.

Recommendation 1: That the Presbytery of Westminster encourage Assembly Council to follow option 2 regarding the planning for the 2021 General Assembly, with the encouragement that urgent practical matters allowing for the functioning of ministries and departments within the national church be prioritized and that consideration of issues regarding Remits B and C 2019, be deferred until the next available in-person meeting of the General Assembly. **CARRIED**

- A request was received from Crieff Hills Retreat Centre, which is the only retreat centre of the Presbyterian Church in Canada. Though Crieff Hills is used by many in the church it does not receive funding from the General Assembly. Given the loss of income due to the pandemic, Crieff Hills has reached out to presbyteries across Canada for support.

Recommendation 2: That the Presbytery of Westminster support Crieff Hills Retreat Centre with a gift of \$5,000.00 in the 2021 presbytery budget to help Crieff Hills deal with the shortfall due to the pandemic. **CARRIED**

- The Presbytery Website is up and running. Many thanks to Pearl Overhill, the Secretary to the Clerk for her work in setting up the website! Updates, comments and questions can be directed to the Clerk.
- We note the recent transitions regarding the appointment of The Rev. Dr. Ross Lockhart as Dean of St. Andrew's Hall and The Rev. Dr. Dale Woods as the Presbyter for Mission and Vision within the Presbytery of Westminster. We have not as of yet held recognition services for Ross and Dale in these positions. While acknowledging that the restrictions of the pandemic have made some things more difficult, the presbytery should be celebrating the appointment of the Dean and the hiring of the PMV.

Recommendation 3: That the Moderator and Clerk, in consultation with Drs. Lockhart and Woods, arrange a suitable time to hold services of recognition for The Rev. Dr. Ross Lockhart as the Dean of St. Andrew's Hall and The Rev. Dr. Dale Woods as the Presbyter for Mission and Vision in the Presbytery of Westminster, and that these services be a hybrid model with some in-person attendance and zoom invitations sent to all in the presbytery (and beyond as appropriate). **CARRIED**

- With the death of The Rev. Dr. Hans Kouwenberg in June of 2020, the Administrative Committee proposes the following Memorial Minute.

Recommendation 4: That the following Memorial Minute be adopted by the Presbytery of Westminster and forwarded to the General Assembly office for inclusion in the Acts and Proceedings of the General Assembly in 2021. **CARRIED**

The Moderator asked the court to stand as the Memorial Minute was read.

Memorial Minute

The Rev. Dr. Johannes (Hans) Hendrick Kouwenberg

October 13, 1945 – June 10, 2020

The Rev. Dr. Hans Kouwenberg died on June 10, 2020, in Vancouver. Hans was born October 13, 1945, in Den Haag, Netherlands, son of Henk (Hendrik) and Joyce. A proud Canadian and diligent scholar, Hans immigrated in 1951 and earned degrees from Carleton University, then Knox College, Toronto where he received his Master of Divinity degree before taking a call to St. Giles' Presbyterian in Prince George, B.C. Hans and his loving wife, Colleen, ministered there and at Calvin Presbyterian in Abbotsford before retiring in the area. Hans is survived by Colleen; children, Jonathan (Rebecca), Joanna (Tyler) and Jennifer (Chad); many siblings and seven grandchildren. A passionate family man, and grounded theologian, student and teacher, Hans noted that God's design for his life, and the gifts he had been given were well used in every aspect of his being. That included Hans' service to the wider church, including serving on various national committees and agencies, and in particular his work with the theological colleges of our denomination. Hans served on the governing boards of all three Presbyterian colleges, most recently with St. Andrew's Hall (SAH) in Vancouver, where he was the initial convener of the board of the Elders' Institute and also served as convener of the Board of St. Andrew's Hall. He served for a term as the Director of Denominational Formation at SAH and in many other roles throughout the Presbytery of Westminster. Hans pursued education throughout his life, earning a Doctor of Ministry from Fuller Seminary and he was honoured with an honorary doctorate from the Presbyterian College in Montreal in recognition of his service to the colleges, the churches and the communities in which he has lived. Dr. Hans Kouwenberg was also elected as Moderator of the 133rd General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Canada.

The Presbytery of Westminster will miss Hans Kouwenberg, a man of deep and abiding faith who was so generously gifted for ministry. We will miss his wisdom, his strength of character, his intelligence, his humour and his tenacious commitment to the well-being of the church and of the kingdom. The legacy of his ministry will continue to live on through the many generations Hans' life and witness has impacted, in congregations, in seminaries, in communities and in his family, whom he so deeply loved. The Presbytery of Westminster gives thanks to God for God's faithful servant and finds our comfort and confidence in the promises of Jesus Christ, who is the resurrection and the life. Well done, faithful servant!

- Presbytery Budget for 2021. Under the revised Standing Orders, the Administrative Committee is responsible for presenting a draft budget for presbytery consideration.

Recommendation 5: That the Presbytery of Westminster adopt the proposed budget for 2021. (The draft budget is part of the mailed-out material for this meeting).

Discussion took place around the proposed presbytery budget and Larry Eastwood, the Treasurer answered questions around the budget.

CARRIED

David Jennings extended his thanks to the Administrative Committee and to Larry Eastwood for their effort in preparing the budget.

Respectfully submitted,

Victor Kim

Victor Kim

Convener/Clerk

PRESBYTERY OF WESTMINSTER				
PROPOSED BUDGET 2021				
28 Oct 2020 DRAFT4				
	2021	2020	A 2020	2,019
	DRAFT	expected	S APPROVED	Approved
INCOME		<small>actuals 31 Dec</small>		
Congregational Assessments	105,070	105,070	105,070	105,070
Synod Regional Resourcing Grant note 1	10,000	10,000	10,000	12,328
Transfer from Contingency Fund	7,630			
Interest	0	40	1,300	1,300
<i>Operating sub-total</i>	122,700	115,110	116,370	118,698
Transfers from WPG fund	721,063	192,564	141,069	0
Total Revenue	843,763	307,674	257,439	118,698
OPERATING EXPENSES				
ADMINISTRATION AND OVERHEAD EXPENSES				
Administratiion	1,500	749	1,000	1,000
Bank fees	650	118	200	250
General Assembly Commissioners	0	0	2,000	2,200
Criminal Record checks	500	133	500	500
Legal fees	5,000	0	0	0
GST paid	1,000	1,069	1,300	700
Insurance - Liability Presbyery	1,800	1,574	1,800	1,600
Misc. expenses	1,000	0	1,000	800
Synod Allocation	12,000	0	11,645	11,820
Clerk's Honorarium	5,500	4,800	4,800	4,800
Office Administrator honorarium	3,900	3,900	3,900	3,900
Treasurer honorarium	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000
				To Be Determined

The Presbytery of Westminster
 Regular Meeting via Zoom Video Conferencing
 November 3, 2020

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COMMITTEE AND PROGRAM EXPENSES					
Committee Expenses	0	0	2,000	3,700	
Comm: Leading With Care	0	0	2,000	2,000	Trainer training ??
Comm: Student Cert	1,650	0	1,650	1,500	PCC fee
Comm: Ethics	200	0	200	200	
Comm: Community Engagement	2,000	500	500	500	Glen Davis, Sept 2020 request
Comm: Nominating	0	0	550	550	
Visitations/Commissions	500	0	500	500	
Travel	1,000	239	2,000	2,000	
Canada Youth Conference	0	3,000	3,000	2,000	not used in 2020: balance held
Crieff Hills grant	5,000				
Reg. Resource note 1	10,000	10,000	10,000	12,328	camp Douglas staff position & Urban camps
Camp Douglas	55,000	39,189	50,000	50,000	Landlord duties, roofing project
Shepherd's House	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	Glen Davis request Sept 2020
Hummingbird Ministry	8,000				
Counselling Fund	1,500	0	1,500	1,500	
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	122,700	70,271	107,045	109,348	
Surplus/(deficit)	0				
WPG Funds Expenses					
PMV position					
CPP expense	3,000	0	500	0	
EI Expense	900	1,199	300	0	
WCB Expense	275	25	50	0	
PMV - stipend	125,000	52,083	20,833	0	
PMV - Housing	36,000	14,300	6,000	0	
PMV - utilities	2,100	700	500	0	
PCC Health & Dental	4,502	1,812	1,812	0	
POW PCC Pension Contribution	8,986	3,744	1,500	0	
PMV Moving expense	0	18,466	20,000	0	
PIER expense	300	50	0	0	
					181,063
STRATEGIC PRIORITIES					
Covid 19 Congregational Support	0	29,000	0	0	
Hummingbird Ministry	40,000	40,000	19,999	0	
Ministry Funds	500,000	0	0	0	
New Worshipping Communities		0	20,000	0	
Communities of Faith & Leadership		0	50,000	0	
Camp Douglas Vision		0	0	0	
Hummingbird Vision		0	0	0	
Immersive Learning Opportunities		0	10,000	0	
Presbytery Mission Vision		1,703	61,069	0	
TOTAL WPG Fund Expenses	721,063	163,082	212,563	0	
Total POW (Operating & WPG Fund)	843,763	233,353	319,608	109,348	
Note 1:	expenditures dependant upon receiving grant				

(The following is the guide that the presbytery uses to examine session records on a regular basis. We encourage every session to diligently keep accurate minutes of their meetings and their roll and registers)

**SESSION RECORDS
PRESBYTERY EXAMINATION CHECKLIST**

Church courts shall take special care that their records are carefully and correctly kept. This checklist is meant to help maintain the good order of session records. (Book of Forms 25 and 114.4)

Name of Congregation: _____

1. Session Minutes (See Book of Forms 27 and following)

✓ **the following items that are neatly and correctly included in the minutes.**

- Date and place of each meeting included on every minute page
- Subject headings clearly present
(Either in the margin or in the body of the minutes)
- Pages of the minutes sequentially numbered
(Appendices are not normally included in regular numbering)
- Erasures, cancellations, later insertions, etc. initialed by the clerk
- Vacant space, except the ordinary space between paragraphs, stroked through and initialed by the clerk
- Every page signed by the clerk
(Appendices do not require the clerk's signature)
- Each meeting signed by the moderator

✓ **one of the following recommendations to be made to the presbytery.**

- That the minutes be attested as neatly and correctly kept.
- That the minutes be attested with notes.

2. Professing Members' Roll (See Book of Forms 125 and following)

✓ **the following items that are neatly and correctly included on the roll.**

- Names and addresses of the professing members clearly noted
- Date of enrollment and manner of enrollment clearly noted
(By profession of faith, certificate, or special resolution of session)
- Date of removal and manner of removal clearly noted
(By death, transference, or special resolution of session with reason for resolution noted)

✓ **one of the following recommendations to be made to the presbytery.**

- That the Professing Members' Roll be attested as neatly and correctly kept.
- That the Professing Members' Roll be attested with notes.
Notes:

3. Baptismal Register

✓ **one of the following recommendations to be made to the presbytery.**

- That the Baptismal Register be attested as neatly and correctly kept.
- That the Baptismal Register be attested with notes.

Notes:

4. Marriage Register

✓ **one of the following recommendations to be made to the presbytery.**

- That the Marriage Register be attested as neatly and correctly kept.
- That the Marriage Register be attested with notes.
 - ▶ Ensure marriage license number as well as clergy name and license number are recorded for each marriage.

Notes:

5. *Funeral Register

✓ **one of the following recommendations to be made to the presbytery.**

- That the Funeral Register be attested as neatly and correctly kept.
- That the Funeral Register be attested with notes.

Notes:

***Funeral Register Option:** According to Book of Forms 114.4, congregations are not required to keep a Funeral Register (Also known as Burial or Death Register). The presbytery, however, believes the information recorded in such a register can be of pastoral and historical value and therefore asks that each session maintain and submit a Funeral Register for examination.

HUMMINGBIRD MINISTRIES REPORT

The report was presented for information only.

Hummingbird Ministries Report to Presbytery November 2020.

This report is for information only. Hummingbird Council are meeting on Friday November 6th, 2020. We do want to inform presbytery that we have a new council member:-

Renee Nahanee is an Elder of the Squamish First Nation Community
Permanent Deacon in the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Vancouver
Diaconate Ministry at St. Paul's Indian Catholic Church in North Vancouver Squamish Nation
Retired from First Nation Ministries RCAV 2020
Volunteer in Suicide Prevention Committee in Squamish Nation
Plays in all native rock band called Whyte Feather.

We welcome and look forward to Renee working with us with all his experience and knowledge.

*Respectfully submitted,
Isabel Evans.*

Victor Kim

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Ross Lockhart seconded by Brad Childs to adjourn the meeting.

CARRIED

- The next **regular scheduled meeting of presbytery** is **December 1, 2020** via Zoom.
- The next **regular Admin Committee** meeting is **November 25, 2020** at 9:30 am. If there are any recommendations that need to come before presbytery for December 1, please make sure that they are referred to the appropriate committees or to the Clerk prior to the meeting of the Admin Committee.

The Moderator offered a closing prayer.

The Moderator closed the court with a benediction at 10:04pm.