

The Presbytery of Westminster met in Regular Session on Tuesday, January 19, 2021 at 7:00pm via Zoom Video Conferencing due to the Covid-19 restrictions on in-person meetings. Worship was led by a team from the Growing Together Churches, including Laurie McKay, John Carr, Laurel Gorman, Melanie Adams, Angus Beattie, Cal Macleod and Brad Childs.

CONSTITUTION

The Moderator, Patricia Dutcher-Walls constituted the Court and opened the meeting with prayer at 7:28pm.

The Moderator welcomed the following guests:
John Carr, member of the Growing Together Churches.

Leave to withdraw received from Willem van de Wall at 9:00pm.

DOCKET

It was moved by Bob Astop seconded by Miklos Szigeti 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 December 1, 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 Any member may ask for an issue on the consent agenda to be withdrawn from this list before the agenda is adopted.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:

M. Baxter, 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, C. MacLeod, L. McKay, R. Simpson, B. Skelding, M. Szigeti, R. Topping, W. van de Wall, W. van der Westhuizen, M. Wong, D. Woods.

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

Appendix:

A. Aicken, L. Bae, B. Garvin, R. Ross, T. Siverns, J. Smith.

Certified for Ordination:

C. Lee

REGRETS:

G. Snyman, R. Watson, A. Lin, K. Patrick, J. Sonachansingh, G. Davis, K. Jordan, A. Perrett.

CORRESPONDENCE FOR NOV-DEC 2020: 11-23-20 through to 01-14-21

11-23-20	Loraine Johnson	Renegotiating the call of Rev. Rebecca Simpson	Received and forwarded to Ministry Committee
11-24-20	Rebecca Simpson	Regional Resourcing Grant 2021 application for Camp Douglas	Received and forwarded to the Community Engagement Committee
11-25-20	Richard Watson	The Session of Kerrisdale has requested that the induction service be held once the current Covid restrictions have been lifted to allow for some in-person meetings	Received
11-25-20	Brian Fraser	Brentwood and the amalgamation explorations in New West and South Burnaby	Received
11-25-20	Brian Fraser	Announcing that he wishes to resign from being on Council for Hummingbird Ministries	Received
11-25-20	Jonathan Kwon	Requesting entry into the PCC	Received and forwarded to the Ministry Committee
11-25-20	Barbara Piloow	Transfer of care for Rev. Murat Kuntel from the presbytery of Winnipeg to presbytery of Westminster	Received
11-26-20	Terrie-Lee Hamilton	2021 General Assembly will be using an on-line format	Received and distributed
11-30-20	Jennifer Astop	Gifts of Change Grant received for Hummingbird Ministries	Received
11-30-20	Mathew Goslinski	Regional Resourcing Grant application declined for Shepherd's House	Received
12-01-20	Terrie-Lee Hamilton	News release: General Assembly 2021 to be online	Circulated
12-01-20	Ross Lockhart	St. Andrew's Hall announces the Rev. Rebecca Simpson to the position of Presbyterian Director of Denominational Formation	Circulated
12-01-20	Richard Topping	VST announces three new academic leaders	Circulated
12-01-20	Daniel Martinez	Camp Douglas Christmas Letter	Received and distributed
12-02-20	Richard Watson	Rev Glen Davis request to be Minister in	Received and

		Association with Kerrisdale PC	forwarded to Ministry Committee
12-02-20	Terrie-Lee Hamilton	Revised General Assembly announcement	Circulated
12-02-20	Jennifer Astop	New APCE Bursary and upcoming Grant Deadlines	Received and distributed
10-04-20	Don Muir	Clerks' Consultation 2022 to be held April 22-25, 2022	Noted
10-07-20	Dale Woods	The next learning workshop will be held Saturday, January 30 from 9-noon – hosted by Dr. Glenn Smith. RSVP to Dale requested.	Distributed
12-08-20	Paddy Eastwood	Call document for Rebecca Simpson secondment drafted for review	Received
12-08-29	Terrie-Lee Hamilton	Summary of responses to Assembly Councils decision for online GA 2021.	Circulated
12-08-20	Kathryn Muir	November/December Changes to the Roll	Received
12-14-20	Amanda Gomes	VCPC Redevelopment – recommendation of escrow fund release	Received and completed
12-14-20	Maggie Leung	Presbyterians Sharing Reports for November 2020	Circulated
12-16-20	Terrie-Lee Hamilton	Calling for commissioners for the 2021 GA	Received
12-16-20	Dale Woods	Possible workshop in March: What happens now? The role of online and the Church after Covid	Received
12-16-20	Morgan Wong	Free Sanitizer for churches	Circulated
12-17-20	Terrie-Lee Hamilton	Moderator Ballots for 2021	Received and will mail out
12-17-20	Kathryn Muir	Calling for YARs to the 2021 GA	Received
12-27-20	Laurel Gorman	Cal MacLeod's son passed away on Christmas Day	Received
12-29-20	Glen Davis	Documents related to the GBLI for sessions	Received
12-30-20	Glen Davis	Sample letter to MP and other government officials regarding the GBLI	Received
01-03-21	Larry Eastwood	POW December 2020 Financial Statements (updated version)	Received
01-04-21	Janet Eastwood	Joint Statement on physical punishment of children	Received and forwarded to Admin
01-04-21	Dale Woods	Reminder notices for Coffee and conversation and January 30 event with Glenn Smith	Received and distributed
01-04-21	Andrea Perrett	On medical/maternity leave effective immediately	Received and noted
01-05-21	Glen Davis	Permission to distribute letters on GLBI to clerks as discussed	Circulated

01-10-21	Ted Sivers	Enquiring into the commission at St John's PC	Replied
01-13-21	Willem van der Westhuizen	Requesting clarification on the status of the Commission to St. John's	Received and noted
01-13-21	Bev Shepansky	Concern regarding situation at Central PC and requesting Presbytery and Central to work together to address the issues	Received and responded
01-14-21	Sumarme Goble	Agreeing to serve as commissioner to GA 2021	Noted
01-14-21	Miklos Szgeti	First Hungarian naming Andrea Dobos as elder commissioner to GA 2021 in place of Lorand Tarko	Noted

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.*

Strategy and Leadership Committee Presbytery Report **January 19, 2021**

Work of the Strategy and Leadership Committee since December 1, 2020

The Strategy and Leadership Committee (SLC) met with the Property and Finance Sub-committee on December 30, 2020 to discuss the current situation of Central PC (as outlined in detail below). The SLC met on January 5 to support the work of the Presbyter for Mission and Vision (PMV) and on January 12 to discuss how the PMV and SLC might support the Presbytery of Westminster in its purpose of encouraging and supporting communities of faith.

In the ongoing endeavour to support congregational health and vitality, The Rev. Dale Woods (PMV) continues to offer monthly Coffee & Conversation events for presbyters. These conversations have so far allowed for open discussion on the themes of creating change and seeking vision in ministry and have been well attended and well received. Coffee & Conversation events will continue monthly. Please email Dale to receive the link to the February conversation, pmvwestmin@gmail.com.

Also, Dale has planned a workshop called "Engaging Communities" that will be led by Dr. Glenn Smith, for **Saturday January 30 from 9:00 am to noon**. This workshop is open to all in our congregations and specialized ministries. Dale says this about the "Engaging Communities" Workshop:

Numerous studies have shown that community involvement is strongly related to congregational vitality. The more congregations became 'congregations for others' rather than 'congregations for themselves', the more congregations experienced greater spiritual vitality and growth. Studies also show that leadership is key in making the transition to ministry to others. The workshop is designed to not only help us think about what it means to be involved with our communities, but to provide the tools to actually engage with our communities. The more people from any one congregation who attend, the more likely are you as a congregation to consider new possibilities.

Each person who would like to attend the “Engaging Communities” workshop can register directly with Dale Woods by emailing him at pmvwestmin@gmail.com. Registration is free.

Dale continues to work with the Collaborating Churches in New Westminster and Burnaby, with Camp Douglas and with a group of Interim Moderators in an effort to further the goals of discerning mission and vision within the Westminster Presbytery.

Reminder: please read and be ready to discuss and provide feedback on the New Witnessing Communities document at our Special Presbytery meeting on Saturday February 6 at 9:00 am. (NWC document sent out with January presbytery materials)

Central Presbyterian Church-Present Concerns

Background

Over the past 15 years Central Presbyterian Church (“Central”) undertook an analysis of its previous building and worked with a commercial developer, Bosa Developments (“Bosa”) to develop a complex building project, which included a building envelope that housed market housing owned by Bosa and for Central complex air space parcels that provided (i) property for congregational use, (ii) 42 units of low-income rental housing, and (iii) a street level space of 2,275 sq. ft. available for a retail store, a child day care facility, or any congregational activities. The development was ready for occupancy in 2018. While the plan to replace the former aging and aesthetically unappealing building with the new vibrant structure provided many benefits, it has resulted in material present and future liabilities for Central that, unless addressed with significant funds, will likely result in the loss of all property rights to Bosa.

The purpose of this report is to explain how a failure of process and oversight has created the present and future financial crisis, to provide the basis for an analysis of actions to be taken to address the crisis, and to provide an opportunity for Presbytery to learn how future building developments ought to be conducted.

When Central initially brought to Presbytery its building vision, the leadership at Central provided oral assurances that the building project would not only be cost free to Central and Presbytery but would generate significant revenues in the future from its housing operations and retail space. A short debate resulted in the approval-in-principle of the project, subject to a subsequent detailed review of contracts and drawings prior to Central entering into any legally binding arrangements with Bosa and transferring church property title to Bosa. A review of the minutes over several years revealed that no such subsequent substantive approval was ever sought or obtained. This is a failure for both Central and Presbytery and responsibility needs to be accepted by both entities.

Without a Presbytery review of the project, significant issues remained unaddressed that now have resulted in a building project that creates serious challenges to any financial sustainability in the long term. It must be

admitted, however, that Presbytery has not had in previous decades the skill to assess such a complicated building program and it is doubtful if Presbytery would have been competent to identify the problems that now beset Central. That largely remains true, even today, with professional engineers and persons with building development experience serving on the Property & Finance subcommittee of Strategy and Leadership Committee. The fact is that modern building projects are too complex for any congregation or Presbytery without full time, expert consultants.

As an example, in the most recent building project considered by Presbytery at Vancouver Chinese Presbyterian Church, one of the key conditions for Presbytery's approval of the project was the requirement that the congregation retain the services of a sophisticated and professional project manager, construction manager and legal counsel. Even though the VCPC project had a value of over \$30 million, the Presbytery and VCPC were fortunate to retain the services of the existing consultants, as the project was "small" for a Vancouver development.

It was perhaps a fatal flaw of the Central project development that Central had no project manager retained to ensure that its interests were well represented throughout the project. This is not to say that Bosa was not an excellent project partner, but it had no obligation nor insight into the financial wherewithal of Central to ensure that once the project was completed the ongoing costs of the building project could be sustained by Central. That was Central's obligation alone, and it failed in that duty and Presbytery failed in its role of oversight to ensure such an obligation was properly undertaken.

The Present Problems

Capital Maintenance Deficit

Central's leadership had always (at least until recently) assured Presbytery that the revenue generated from Central's rental housing operations and retail operations would be sufficient to pay all costs in connection with the building as they arose. Central repeatedly stated that none of those funds would be used for the operations of Central. Neither of those statements is true.

Central was negligent in never obtaining an independently-prepared future-oriented cash flow analysis to determine the anticipated revenues and expenses of the congregation, housing units and retail space (especially the cost of its obligation to Bosa maintain its proportionate share of building expenses). Presbytery was negligent in not requiring such a cash flow analysis prior to the initiation of the building project. Parenthetically, such an analysis was done for the recent VCPC project.

In 2018 P&F required that Central obtain such an analysis and ultimately in early 2020 P&F dealt directly with Morrison Hershfield, an engineering and consulting services firm, to obtain such a report for a 40-year period (we note that most life cycles are only for 30 years, due to most such reports are prepared for banks with 30-year amortized credit facilities, but which do not look to the entire life cycle of the building). P&F's findings, based on the Morrison Hershfield analysis, conclude that there is a material structural long-term deficit in the combined financial activities of the congregation, the low-income housing, and street level space of between \$4 million and \$16 million. That deficit is based on the optimistic assumption that there will be no erosion of congregational, housing or commercial lease rental income over the coming four decades, despite the aging of the existing congregation and the building. Significant detail about the report and its conclusions were presented to Presbytery on April 7, 2020.

GST Owing

Just prior to Christmas 2020, Central and Presbytery were notified that Central had failed to register as a GST registrant, despite its obligation and its written representations to Bosa that it had done so. As a result, upon the

transfer of the air space parcels to be owned by Central from Bosa (Bosa held the title to all the property during the construction as security for the construction loans), an additional \$950,000 in GST became due and owing in 2019. CRA notified Bosa of the GST owing in March 2020 and Bosa notified Central on December 23, 2020. Regardless of the failure to become a GST registrant, Central would have been liable (and will be after sufficient time after a 50% refund is received) of \$475,000. Central has no funds to pay the GST owing, does not have a simple property structure to facilitate debt financing, and has a development partner in Bosa that requires payment immediately. It should be noted that there may be personal legal liability for the costs incurred by Bosa for each of Central's trustees who made written misrepresentations about Central's status as a GST registrant.

Loss of Title

Many congregations in the Presbytery have capital maintenance deficits (do any have sufficient reserve funds to replace their roofs today?) and have other liabilities that are not easily funded. However, unique to Central in the Presbytery, Central has contractual obligations to Bosa to pay all its proportionate share of all capital contributions and GST as and when due, and failure to do so can result in the loss of all its buildings and property.

It is fortunate that much of these cash flow issues arise several years from now once building upkeep becomes more expensive. Until then, cash flow in the congregation could be sufficient to give the congregation time to develop and implement a strategic plan to address the material long term financial deficit. But the GST payment must be made in the near term. To fail to make that payment will likely result in the loss of the property.

Decisions Needed

P&F, once it learned from legal counsel of the GST owed by Central, wrote to Central's leadership on December 24, 2020 to seek understanding of the situation and to ask how Central will address both of these financial crises. P&F also asked what role Central wished Presbytery to take in connection with this crisis.

In a preliminary response from Central, Central does not appear to have developed a plan to address the capital maintenance deficit reported to Presbytery in April 2020, does not know the actual results of its 2020 congregational budget, and does not know if there are other liabilities owed by the congregation, other than approximately \$31,000 owed to legal counsel. Presbytery assistance is sought but the form of that assistance has not yet been clearly articulated.

P&F and SLC met to discuss the situation on December 30. At that meeting, members of P&F were asked to examine the ability of Presbytery to borrow funds. This step did not indicate a recommendation to lend money to Central but was seen as important to know what Presbytery could do if desired by Presbytery. As well, a meeting with legal counsel is scheduled prior to the Presbytery meeting to understand better the legal rights of Bosa against Central and its property.

In light of the January 17, 2021 formal correspondence received from the Session of Central Presbyterian Church asking Presbytery to assist Central in paying Bosa the \$950,000 in GST due to the Canada Revenue Agency, the SLC, with the support of the P&F submit the following recommendation for presbytery consideration:

Recommendation: That the SLC receive on or before February 15, 2021

1. The actual financial results for 2020 (for the Central congregation, the Housing Society, and the commercial lease in its building)
2. The complete financial picture of the Central congregation, the Housing Society, and the commercial lease in its building
3. A full report on the Session's and Congregation's planning to date and plans for further work on the following:
 - a) Central's vision for its congregation over the next five years

- b) Its strategic plan to achieve that vision
- c) Its financial plan to provide for medium-term and long-term financial sustainability (which includes addressing the capital maintenance deficit)

CARRIED

Presbytery is unaware of how much of that work has been undertaken by Central to date and realizes that, should the above recommendation be approved by presbytery, the work will require much time and focus from Central's leadership team in order to have it ready by mid-February. If Central is unsure of what is wanted by Presbytery or how to prepare the materials, we encourage Central to contact the convener of SLC.

*Respectfully submitted,
Rebecca Simpson, Convener of Strategy and Leadership Committee*

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 **January 19, 2021**

The Ministry to Ministers task force of the Ministry Committee met on zoom on January 13, 2021.

Ministry to Ministers

Renegotiation of terms of call

The Rev. Rebecca Simpson began her new position as Director of Denominational Formation at St Andrew's Hall on January 1, 2021. Using zoom technology, the Rev. Paddy Eastwood met with the session on December 12th and moderated the duly constituted congregational meeting on December 16th, 2020 to oversee the changes in the call to Mrs. Simpson. 28 households attended the congregational meeting and agreed unanimously that "the St. Andrew's Hall and St. Paul's Presbyterian Church, Mission Secondment Agreement be added as an addendum to the call to Rebecca Simpson."

There is considerable enthusiasm for this change in ministry. There is a strong and loving bond between the Rev. Simpson and St. Paul's Presbyterian. Both the session and the congregation wish to share her gifts for ministry with the wider church and are also planning how they will expand their own ministry, using the funds from St. Andrew's Hall. At this point, the session is considering expanding the administrative position, their music ministry, and adding a pastoral care/bible study coordinator position. They will in due time call a congregational meeting to discuss these plans. They anticipate the renewal and energy of a team.

At the December meeting of the Presbytery, there were questions as to whether it was best to see this as a secondment or as two separate ministries. In corresponding with the Rev. Stephen Kendall, Principal Clerk of the General Assembly, it was clear that he understood this to be a secondment. Certainly, the congregation of St.

Victor Kim

Paul's understands this as an expansion of their ministry that will shape future leaders of the church, rather than a stepping back in ministry. VST already has secondment agreements with two of its Anglican clergy teachers.

The secondment agreement with St. Andrew's Hall that has now been added to the Rev. Rebecca Simpson's call to St Paul's is below.

**St. Andrew's Hall (SAH) &
St. Paul's Presbyterian Church, Mission (SPM)
Secondment Agreement**

This Fixed Term Agreement is between St. Andrew's Hall (6040 Iona Drive, Vancouver, BC V6T 2E8) and St. Paul's Presbyterian Church (8469 Cedar St, Mission, BC V4S 1A1). This engagement will be for a fixed term from January 1, 2021 to December 31, 2023 (the "Term"), subject to early termination in accordance with the Termination section.

1. Objective of Fixed Term Agreement

- a. St. Andrew's Hall and St. Paul's Presbyterian Church will have a shared ministry agreement to facilitate Rev. Rebecca Simpson's role as the Director of Denominational Formation at St. Andrew's Hall during the Term of this agreement.

Terms and Conditions

2. Responsibilities

- a. Rev. Rebecca Simpson will be serving as the Presbyterian Formation Director at St. Andrew's Hall (and the Vancouver School of Theology) accountable to the Dean of St. Andrew's Hall (and the Principal of The Vancouver School of Theology). This is a part-time position (20 hours per week), appointed by the Board of St. Andrew's Hall, estimated at 2.5 to 3 days per week.
- b. Under this agreement, Rev. Simpson will remain the called minister at St. Paul's Presbyterian Church but is seconded part-time to St. Andrew's Hall. St Paul's Presbyterian Church will be responsible for the payment of all benefits including the Presbyterian Pension Plan, Group Insurance and government deductions. SAH will reimburse St. Paul's Presbyterian Church for all employer related salary and benefits expenses pertaining to the half-time secondment to SAH.
- c. Vacation and continuing education will be arranged and monitored by St. Paul's Presbyterian Church, in consultation with the Dean of St. Andrew's Hall.
- d. St. Paul's Presbyterian Church will grant Rev. Simpson two (2) Sundays off per month for St. Andrew's Hall duties of guest preaching on behalf of the Hall; visitation of students in their sites of learning; or other research duties re: congregational vitality.
- e. St. Paul's Presbyterian Church will conduct a review at the end of the first, second and third years to assess the impact of the shared ministry arrangement on the ministry of the congregation prior to any decision for renewal at the end of this term agreement.

3. Remuneration

- a. The remuneration for this part-time position will be an annual stipend of \$45,000 plus benefits identified in Responsibilities 2 b, payable directly by SAH on a monthly basis to the Treasurer of St. Paul's Presbyterian Church.

4. Termination

- a. Termination of this secondment agreement can be made by either party (SAH or SPM) by written notice with immediate effect. The resignation of Rev. Rebecca Simpson from either SAH or SPM would terminate this agreement immediately.

This Fixed Term Agreement constitutes the entire agreement between St. Paul's Presbyterian Church and St. Andrew's Hall and there are no other representations, whether written or verbal, regarding the terms and conditions of this shared ministry agreement. Unless we mutually agree otherwise in writing, the terms of this agreement will continue to apply even if we continue our relationship past the initial 36-month term.

Clerk of Session,
St. Paul's Presbyterian Church

Ross A. Lockhart,
Dean of St. Andrew's Hall

Stated Supply Minister Agreement with Brentwood Presbyterian Church

The Rev. Dr. Brian Fraser has been Stated Supply minister at Brentwood Presbyterian Church for twelve years. His contract was due for renewal on January 14, 2020. The Rev. Bev Shepansky and Mr. Mike Zaine interviewed Dr. Fraser on Monday, December 21, 2020 via Zoom and the six elders on Sunday, January 3, 2021 via Zoom.

Neither the minister nor the elders want to change the agreement shared. The minister was excited about twelve congregants joining the church during 2020. The elders were enriched by the kinship atmosphere at Brentwood. In the context of this agreement renewal, succession plans were discussed and will be part of an ongoing discernment.

***Recommendation 1:** that the Stated Supply Contract between the Presbytery, Brentwood Presbyterian Church and the Rev. Dr. Brian Fraser as prepared in accordance with the Ministry Committee's approved template together with the following material amendments be approved:

	Annual	Monthly
Stipend (inclusive of travel allowance*)	\$28,123.00	\$2,343.58
Housing allowance (fair rental value of appropriate housing or use of manse)	\$11,000.00	\$ 916.67
BC MSP for family coverage	NA	NA
Medical Expenses, on voucher, up to the amount of the PCC Medical-Dental Plan on the date the contract commences	\$ 3,500.00	
Utilities, on voucher	\$ 2,000.00	
Total	\$44,623.00	

CARRIED

Victor Kim

Minister-in-Association Relationship between the Rev. Dr. Glen Davis and Kerrisdale Presbyterian Church

At the request of the both the Rev. Dr. Glen Davis and the Session of Kerrisdale Presbyterian Church,

***Recommendation 2:** that the following minister-in-association agreement between the Rev. Dr. Glen Davis and the Session of Kerrisdale Presbyterian Church be approved.

CARRIED

Minister-in-Association Agreement
between
The Rev. Dr. Glen Davis
and
The Session of Kerrisdale Presbyterian Church

Kerrisdale Presbyterian Church (KPC) has been home for Glen for 14 years, however recently he has expressed a desire to more intentionally share his gifts with the congregation. Both he and the Session would like to establish a formal relationship. In accordance with the Book of Forms (2019), ministers who are not called by or appointed to a congregation, should be associated with a congregation. Such association does not detract from the fact that they are primarily under the care and discipline of the presbytery.

Whereas the Reverend Dr. Glen Davis, a minister in good standing of the Presbyterian Church in Canada, wishes to establish formal ties with Kerrisdale Presbyterian Church as “Minister in Association.”

Whereas the Session wishes to add Glen’s name to the congregational roll in order to formally welcome him and provide him the same pastoral care accorded to regular professing members and participants of the congregation.

Under this agreement, Glen will have the rights and privileges accorded to regular professing members, including election as a ruling elder in the congregation. In turn Glen will have the freedom to participate in the life of the church common to all members: To attend and faithfully participate in worship when able; to participate in the work of the congregation; to pray for the welfare of the minister, office bearers, members and adherents of the congregation; and, to use his gifts for the good of Christ’s mission in and through the congregation when called upon.

Given that Glen has specific gifts in relation to his calling and experience as a minister of Word and Sacrament, the nature of his service to KPC includes:

- Providing leadership in learning opportunities, such as Bible studies, dialogue groups, and leadership development conversations, as requested by the Session.
- Occasionally leading worship and preaching as requested and arranged through the minister of KPC.
- Attending session meetings on occasion to provide counsel as requested by the Session.
- Should the need arise, presiding over the occasional session meeting or portions thereof as the existing moderator of the session deems fit.

Signed by,

Rev, Richard Watson, Moderator of Session
Susan Stacey, Clerk of Session
Rev. Glen Davis, Minister in Association and,
Rev. Victor Kim, Clerk of the Presbytery of Westminster

Victor Kim

Interim Moderator for Central Presbyterian Church

The Rev. Cal Macleod has asked to be relieved of his role as Interim Moderator for Central Presbyterian Church. The Presbytery and the session of Central offer their heartfelt condolences to Mr. Macleod on the death of his son and will keep the Macleod family in our prayers. We have accepted the resignation of Mr. Macleod with gratitude and regret and in consultation with the elders of Central Presbyterian have appointed the Rev. Drs. Ross Lockhart and Richard Topping as Co-Interim Moderators for Central Presbyterian Church effective immediately. This is a one-year commitment the two goals of which would be: 1) to formulate a strategic plan for missional engagement; and 2) to prepare a profile for calling a minister who would lead it.

Interim Moderator for Bradner Presbyterian Church

The Rev. Dr. Bob Paul has served as Interim Moderator for Bradner Presbyterian Church for the past year. At this point, he feels that he must give his energies elsewhere and has resigned effective February 21, 2021. The clerk of session has expressed the congregation's gratitude for Dr. Paul's ministry. We accept the resignation of Rev. Dr. Bob Paul as Interim Moderator of Bradner Presbyterian Church with both gratitude and regret and have appointed the Rev. Lydia Bae as Interim Moderator of Bradner Presbyterian Church effective February 22, 2021.

REPORTS

There are reports from St. Columba Presbyterian Church and the Growing Together Conversation. For the full report, contact the Rev. Paddy Eastwood, Ministry Committee Convener.

St. Columba Presbyterian Church

On November 29, 2020, the Rev. Calvin Crichton, Stated Supply Minister at St. Columba Presbyterian Church reported that St. Columba Presbyterian Church has weathered this past year in fine fashion. When in-person services shut down, they were quick to start worshipping on Zoom. They worshipped in person June 29 to November 15 and now continue to worship on Zoom.

In the fall, before COVID case numbers spiked, the congregation had a few bag lunches on the lawn, following protocols. As numbers rose, they returned to just worship.

A team of three elders has led worship in the summer as well as visiting clergy. They are open to zoom supply if any in the Presbytery are interested.

The session has made a thorough study of human sexuality over the course of the year. It was much easier than anticipated in light of differing viewpoints. They came away with one common consensus: the Church needs to be faithful in creating safe spaces for all people without prejudice. At the same time, the Church needs to be as faithful to the full message of Scriptures (and the Holy Spirit working within that medium) to carry on God's work of justice, reconciliation and, where need be, correction. As of January 2021, they will next look at the questions coming out of Dr. Dale Wood's workshop on Planning with the Presbytery. They plan on studying this for a solid 6-12 months if need be.

The following are other brief descriptions of life at St. Columba:

- New elder, Joseph Lopez, was ordained as of October 11, 2020
- Four communion services held so far this year.
- 15 on average attending worship
- Monthly session meetings
- Bi-weekly bible study via zoom -average attendance about 6
- Card ministry and phone calls to shut ins
- Revamped elders districts
- Recently severed ties with renting space out to Waters of Elem Chinese Church effective December 31st 2020.

The Growing Together Conversation - Knox and St. Aidan's, New Westminster, and Gordon, Burnaby

The Rev. Bruce Cairnie reports that the Knox, St. Aidan's and Gordon congregations, all in New West and Burnaby, are discussing the possibility of growing together through amalgamation into one new congregation.

As previously reported to the presbytery, the three have been meeting since early 2018, along with representatives from Brentwood Presbyterian and, in the beginning, First Presbyterian, New Westminster. Together, these five would claim the name of being the Collaborating Churches. At first simple collaboration was the subject of conversation. The five already work together to provide, for example, the Christian Urban Camp, and there are many other possible collaborations.

In the passing of time, the representatives of the Sessions and broader congregations of Knox, St. Aidan's and Gordon began to recognize the Spirit leading them to enter a new conversation around an organic level of collaboration and so began to discuss becoming one new congregation. For clarity's sake, they call themselves the Growing Together churches. The previous conversation around collaboration continues to benefit from Brentwood's participation but First has chosen not to participate in a formal manner, although individuals from First are occasionally present.

The three Growing Together congregations are very close to one another geographically.

The basic fact set is the same for all three congregations: aging and declining congregations in older and maintenance intensive facilities all rely upon a few people to do many tasks in order to continue. Their financial pictures are also similar: they get by but the facilities demand more and more of their resources while their reliance upon particular donors grows more intense. At the same time, in all three congregations, they wish to enjoy a more missional life. As we began to talk about these similarities, it only made sense to begin talking about growing together into something new, thereby enabling that missional life they long for.

The conversation has been well received across the congregations. Many respond by saying words to the effect of "we're finally doing this!" There have been, of course, some questions, and no doubt there will be more.

Since the necessary restrictions on gathering for worship came into place, the three congregations have been worshiping together via Zoom. Even when there were some opportunities for people to attend a service in one of their buildings, they continued to use Zoom together, with some being in a sanctuary and some being elsewhere.

Currently, the Sessions meet separately on a monthly basis but also meet together at the same frequency. In addition, following the direction of the denomination's policy on amalgamating congregations, the Joint Session asked each Session to name three people to a Working Group to propose a basis for amalgamation. That group meets weekly and is making good progress.

The Rev. Dale Woods has agreed to lead a process for discerning the missional basis for amalgamation. The Joint Session asked each Session to appoint people to a second Working Group to design and facilitate that process with him and they are underway. Dale's encouragement and expertise is a great asset for them.

Their intention is to have a great deal accomplished by June in terms of preparing materials to come to the Presbytery and Mr. Cairnie shall continue to provide reports to the Presbytery through the Ministry Committee.

Visitation Task Force

Visitations to Richmond, Calvin and City Centre congregations are being arranged.

*Respectively submitted,
The Rev. Paddy Eastwood
Ministry Committee, convener*

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

The report was presented Victor Kim, Administrative Committee Convener.

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

Administrative Committee Report

January 19, 2021

The mandate of the Administrative Committee includes nominations and therefore the Committee brings forward the following recommendations:

Recommendation 1: That Isabel Evans, Ruling Elder for Richmond Presbyterian Church, be the next Moderator of the Presbytery of Westminster. **CARRIED**

As presbyters will know, General Assembly in 2020 was cancelled due to the Covid-19 pandemic. The commissioners to GA from our presbytery named for 2020 were approached in 2021 to stand as commissioners for GA 2021, which will take place online from June 6-9. There were two changes to the clergy commissioners due to the retirements of both The Rev. Dr. Bob Paul and The Rev. Dennis Howard. There was one change in the elder commissioners, but from within the same congregation.

Recommendation 2: That the following be the Commissioners to the 2021 General Assembly.

- **Clergy:** Brad Childs (Fairview), Rebecca Simpson (St. Paul's, Mission), Victor Kim (Richmond), Sumarme Goble (SAH), Heinrich Botha (West Vancouver).

Victor Kim

- **Elder:** Bob Wyber (West Vancouver), David Jennings (St. Andrew and St. Stephen's), Bev Shepansky (Central), Susan Stacey (Kerrisdale), Andrea Dobos (First Hungarian).
- CARRIED**

Continuing on the theme of the General Assembly, the Clerk has mailed out ballots for the Moderator of 2021 General Assembly. Normally these ballots would be distributed at a presbytery meeting but due to the pandemic, they have been mailed out and will need to be mailed back to the Clerk of Presbytery. You will have received ballots, envelopes for the ballots to be sealed within and an addressed return envelope. Please ensure that all ballots are filled out, individually placed in their ballot envelopes, signed and sealed, then all the ballot envelopes can be placed together in the return envelope and sent to the Clerk. They need to be returned by the end of February so that the Clerk can mail them to the General Assembly Office.

We note that The Rev. Mary Fontaine, Director of Hummingbird Ministries, is one of the nominees for Moderator of General Assembly. Congratulations!

Recommendation 3: That David Jennings, one of the members of Assembly Council, present a verbal update on the recent work of the Assembly Council. **CARRIED**

Respectfully submitted,
Victor Kim
Convener/Clerk

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE REPORT

The report was presented for information only.

Community Engagement Committee

Report to the Jan. 19, 2021 meeting of the Presbytery of Westminster

1. GBLI matters.

Following the Dec. 1st Presbytery meeting, the CEC has completed tasks arising from the recommendations approved by presbytery on a Guaranteed Basic Livable Income.

- We wrote a short version of the GBLI proposal, with input from several CEC members.
- We provided a sample letter that individual church members might make use of when writing to their MP or other government officials.
- We also wrote a draft of a covering letter which the clerk could use, with his own changes, when sending the documents to sessions.

The clerk sent these, plus a copy of the original proposal, to sessions in the first week of January, encouraging them to study them and take whatever action they decide upon.

Victor Kim

2. Synod Resourcing Grant Applications

We received one application for an SRG on Dec. 31, which was the recommended deadline.

The clerk sent a further reminder early in January to get SRG applications to the CEC as soon as possible so we can review them and make our recommendations to presbytery in a timely fashion. We shall review those applications in a February meeting of the CEC.

3. Declaration of Faith Concerning Church and Nation

We have received a request to raise with presbytery the matter of a rewrite of the early Study Guide to this subordinate standard of our church. I have asked the proponent to provide us with a rationale for this request so we might consider it at our next meeting.

This is simply a report for information.

*Respectfully submitted,
Glen Davis, on behalf of the Community Engagement Committee*

COMMISSION TO ST. JOHN'S PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

The clerk noted that a report from the Commission to St. John's was not available for tonight's presbytery meeting.

Moved by Emily Wilson, seconded by Willem van der Westhuizen, that a full and comprehensive report of the Commission to St. John's Presbyterian Church be provided to the presbytery at the March 2, 2021 meeting of presbytery.

CARRIED

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Mary Fontaine, seconded by Richard Topping to adjourn the meeting.

CARRIED

- Presbytery will next meet for a **Special Visioning Session** on **February 6, 2021** from 9-12pm to consider work related to the vision of Presbytery led by the Presbyter for Mission and Vision. Details will be emailed to presbyters shortly.
- The next **regular scheduled meeting of presbytery** is **March 2, 2021** via Zoom. This meeting will also be the AGM for Hummingbird Ministries.
- The next **regular Admin Committee** meeting is **February 24, 2021** at 9:30 am. If there are any recommendations that need to come before presbytery for March 2, please make sure

Victor Kim

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 8:51pm.