

The Presbytery of Westminster met in Regular Session on Tuesday, June 22, 2021 at 7:00pm via Zoom Video Conferencing due to the Covid-19 restrictions on in-person meetings. Worship was led by Pat Dutcher-Walls, with the assistance of Laurie McKay, Mary Fontaine, Morgan Wong, Ta Li Hsieh, Ruth Chueh, Miklos Szigeti and Lydia Bae, and opened with the recognition of the traditional lands of the Coast Salish people upon which the meeting was held.

CONSTITUTION

The Moderator, Patricia Dutcher-Walls constituted the Court and opened the meeting with prayer at 7:39pm.

The Moderator welcomed the following guests: George Sze, alternate elder for VCPC, Lynn Laranas, new Rep Elder for St. Aidan's, Rick Roorda, member of First Church, New Westminster.

Leave to withdraw: Kelly Patrick request to leave at 9:00pm

DOCKET

It was moved by Victor Kim, seconded by Melanie Adams, 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 May 4, 2021 and the special meeting on May 16, 2021 (Rev. Watson's Induction) 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 Any member may ask for an issue on the consent agenda to be withdrawn from this list before the agenda is adopted.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, V. Kim, R. Lockhart, L. McKay, R. Simpson, B. Skelding, G. Snyman, M. Szigeti, R. Topping, W. van der Westhuizen, R. Watson, M. Wong, D. Woods

M. Adams, B. Astop, B. Dennehy, I. Evans, B. Feick, C. Gleimius, L. Gorman, D. Jennings, K. Kim, A. Lin, K. Patrick, C. Rebosura (Alt for First), K. Sewell, B. Shepansky, G. Shields, J. Sonachansingh, S. Stacey, G. Sze (Alt for VCPC), E. Wilson, P. Wong, L. Yen, M. Zaine

Appendix:

L. Bae, G. Booy, G. Davis, B. Garvin, T. Siversns, D. Tait-Katerberg

Students/Certified for Ordination:

N. Hartley

Non-voting Guests included :

J. McIntosh, R. Harry and L. Eastwood, Treasurer

REGRETS:

J. Con, T. Kim, K. Jordan, C. MacLeod, A. Perrett, W. van de Wall

CORRESPONDENCE: April 26, 2021 – June 16, 2021

Date Recd (m/d/y)	From	Concerning	Action
04-26-21	Claudine Rebusura	Submission of First PC 2020 Statistical Reports	Received
04-27-21	Glen Davis	Ellithorpe PIM Application requiring approval	Received
04-27-21	Daniel Martinez	Camp Douglas Letter and Poster for distribution	Received and distributed
04-28-21	Glen Davis	BC Government's Expert Panel Report on a GAI – requesting it be distributed	Received and distributed
04-28-21	Willem van de Wall	LWC and Healthy Boundaries Workshops List of Attendees (plus email list)	Received
04-28-21	Glen Davis	An Appendix to the BC Government's Expert Panel Report on a GAI written by Neil Abramson needs to be distributed with original document	Noted
04-29-21	Isabel Evans	2022 Grant Re-Application Letter (Hummingbird Ministries) forwarded from LMA	Noted
04-29-21	Dale Woods	Better than Brunch video resource and reflection questions available	Posted on website
04-29-21	Dale Woods	Next Coffee and Conversation is scheduled for May 20 starting at 9:30	Distributed and posted on webpage
04-29-21	Marjorie Copeland	Re: Competent objections by Presbyteries to Applications (re: Education and Reception of candidates to the PCC)	Circulated
04-30-21	Mary Fontaine	Hummingbird Ministries 2021 application for grant from the Synod of BC	Received
04-30-21	Jackie Czegledi	Several 2020 Statistical Report outstanding	Received
04-30-21	Kaireen Morgan	Copy of WVPC 2020 Statistical Report which	Received

		was filed in February 2021	
04-30-21	Linda MacLeod	Change in Trustees at Central	Received
04-30-21	Jackie Czegledi	Outstanding 2020 Statistical Report now overdue	Noted
05-04-21	Melanie Adams	Confirmation that Knox 2020 Statistical Report was received	Noted
05-04-21	Marjorie Copeland	Addition to the Competent Objections earlier report	Circulated
05-04-21	Mark Tremblay, (Clerk, Calgary Macleod)	Transfer for Justin Thurn from Calgary Macleod to Westminster as student	Received
05-05-21	Richard Watson	Submission of WPGPC 2020 Statistical Report (plus revisions)	Received
05-05-21	Miklos Szigeti	Submission of First Hungarian's 2020 Statistical Report	Received and forwarded to PCC
05-05-21	Larry Eastwood	Submission of SASS 2020 Statistical Report	Received and forwarded to PCC
05-08-21	Kit Schindell	Submission of Fairview's 2020 Statistical Report	Received and copy forwarded to PCC
05-10-21	Linda McLeod	Submission of Central's 2020 Statistical Report	Received
05-10-21	Bob Astop	Submission of City Centre's 2020 Statistical Report	Received and forwarded to PCC
05-11-21	Teresa Charlton	Synod 2021 Planning	Received and responded
05-12-21	Linda Sze	Signing officers for release from VCPC escrow account	Received and noted
05-12-21	Dale Woods	Free version of the 2021 Online Festival of Homiletics available – please distribute to presbytery	Received and distributed
05-13-21	Jackie Czegledi	2020 Statistical Report for VCPC still outstanding	Noted
05-14-21	Kathryn Muir	Changes to the Roll for April and May 2021	Received
05-16-21	Dale Woods	Coffee and Conversation Reminder for May 20	Distributed
05-17-21	Richard Topping	An important course on young adults and their faith journeys by Dr. Ruth Perrin is available through VST.	Distributed
05-18-21	Bob Wyber	Withdrawing as Commissioner for GA 2021	Noted
05-18-21	Terrie-Lee Hamilton	Recognition of withdrawal for GA for Bob Wyber	Noted
05-18-21	Kathryn Muir	Roll Lists for the 2021 A&P	Responded
05-19-21	Jennifer Astop	New and Renewed Ministry and Avondbloem Fund requests decision	Received

05-19-21	Dale Woods	Post-Pandemic Congregational Leadership Resource for distribution to Elders	Distributed
05-19-21	Eileen Sparrow	Looking for formal confirmation about presbytery's decision on St. Aidan's return to term eldership - plus annual eldership form for completion.	Received and responded
05-19-21	Jennifer Astop	Special Projects Fund grant application decision	Received
05-23-21	Eileen Sparrow	Elders commissioned to St. Aidan's for 2021 are Lynn Lanaras and Shirley Carleton	Received
05-24-21	Miklos Szigeti	Petition to 146 th GA from Hungarian Church groups in the PCC	Received and responded (petition is not in proper form and beyond the deadline for this GA)
05-25-21	Maggie Leung	Presbyterians Sharing Reports for April 2021	Received
05-25-21	Janet Eastwood	Resignation as Co-director for Camp Douglas effective 09-30-21	Received
05-26-21	Amanda Gomes	VCPC Redevelopment – Recommendation of Escrow Fund Release for May-July 2021	Received
05-27-21	Terrie-Lee Hamilton	Confirmation that Isabel Evans is the final Commissioner to GA 2021	Noted
05-27-21	Robert Daum	Detailed documents from the PHO on Indoor and Outdoor Worship effective immediately.	Received and distributed
05-28-21	Daniel Martinez and Janet Eastwood	Camp Douglas Camino pilgrimage fundraiser for August 7 th	Received and distributed
06-02-21	Larry Eastwood	POW May 2021 Financial Statements	Received
06-03-21	Ross Lockhart and Tim Dickau	Information regarding the September 2021 Certificate for Missional Leaderships program	Received
06-03-21	Glen Davis	Requesting all congregations in the Presbytery include a reflection in their worship service on the discovery of human remains found on the property of the Kamloops Residential School grounds.	Distributed
06-09-21	Eileen Sparrow	Letter from Session of St. Aidan's commending John Carr as a candidate for ministry	Received
06-12-21	Lydia Bae	Presbytery Communication Grant Application for Bradner PC	Received
06-15-21	David Jennings	Letter of resignation from Presbytery	Received
06-15-21	Willem van der Westhuizen	Application for Study Leave	Received

06-15-21	Gordon Shields	Minister in Association agreements for Haney with Rev. Bob Garvin and Rev. Dennis Howard	Received
06-16-21	Provincial Health	Revised Variances and guidance documents	Circulated
06-16-21	Dale Woods	Coffee and Conversation notice	Circulated

Fifteen minute Breakout Groups for Fellowship and Prayer time was recognized and greatly appreciated.

REPORTS

HUMMINGBIRD MINISTRIES COUNCIL REPORT

*The report was presented by Isabel Evans, Hummingbird Ministries Council Convener.
All motions, unless otherwise noted, moved by Isabel Evans, seconded by Laurie McKay.*

2021 Hummingbird Ministries Report to Presbytery

Council has had two meetings, plus a meeting with Dale Woods to discuss our standing orders and vision for Hummingbird Ministries, since last meeting of Presbytery. Since we were not able to complete all of the questions, we have not yet returned it to Presbytery.

Before our last meeting was called to order, there was an emotional discussion concerning recent events in Kamloops and colonialism.

Although the Synod grant application for the “Walk Humbly” events was declined, council have decided to go ahead with these events and will notify Presbytery of dates, times and venues. These walks are open to all members of presbytery and congregations within our bounds. Part of the reason that the application for the grant was made is that the line item that was in Synod’s budget for Hummingbird Ministries for \$8,000 has been removed therefore :-

Recommendation #1: Hummingbird Council request that Presbytery ask Synod why the line item that supports Hummingbird Ministries for general funds in Synod’s budget has been removed. **CARRIED**

After discussion concerning members and numbers on HM council :-

Recommendation #2: Hummingbird Council request that the Nominating Committee ask two more (for a total of 4) Presbyters to participate on Hummingbird Council. **CARRIED**

In light of Truth and Reconciliation as well as recent events in Kamloops and in hearing how hurtful it is to Indigenous Peoples when Land Acknowledgement is not stated:-

Recommendation #3: Hummingbird Council request that Presbytery ask that all PCC congregations with in our bounds acknowledge the land. **CARRIED**

Respectfully submitted, Isabel Evans.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE REPORT

The report was presented by Glen Davis, Community Engagement Co-Convener.

All motions, unless otherwise noted, moved by Laurie McKay, seconded by Sumarme Goble.

Community Engagement Committee Report
Presbytery, June 22, 2021

Educational Workshop on Guaranteed Livable Income

The Rev. Allen Aicken has developed and presented an educational workshop on GLI for a congregation in Ontario which was very well received. Allen has generously offered to present the workshop more publicly, both for our presbytery constituency and for a wider audience. One of our congregations is considering providing space and technical help in presenting the workshop, probably in the fall of 2021. CEC encourages our congregations to promote and participate in this workshop when details are finalised. We will contribute a small portion of our 2021 budget to assist with technical expertise.

CEC Evaluation

CEC's evaluation material, as requested by Presbytery, is appended to this report for the information of presbyters.

Islamophobia

The CEC urges the sessions, congregations and church members in the Presbytery of Westminster to denounce all instances of hate, violence and exclusiveness toward members of the Muslim faith, and to find practical ways to show love, friendliness, neighbourly support and inclusion to members of the Islamic community in their midst.

Rainbow Communion Video

At the 2021 General Assembly, a 16-minute video/film entitled *All Are Not Welcome: A Call to Confession and Healing for Harm Done* was viewed by the commissioners. It was produced by The Rainbow Communion, the PCC's Special Listening Committee for LGBTQI+ people. The stories in the film are told by a wide range of people across Canada, each sharing their experience of identifying as a sexual or gender minority or as a loved one or friend of such a person. Actors speak the storytellers' statements in order to protect their identities. The recommendation below offers an opportunity for all of us to consider the challenges faced by LGBTQI+ individuals in our PCC congregations who have been hurt due to their sexual orientation. It helps us feel some of the harm they have endured. It provides an opportunity for us to learn about ongoing traumas affecting these members of our faith communities and to support them with love and pastoral care. We recognize that, regardless of our respective theological positions, we are all Christians seeking to be in right relationship with God and the human family. It is our hope that seeing this film will assist us all in discerning ways in which we

can be more loving and inclusive towards the members of the LGBTQI community who may be in, or estranged from, our communities of faith.

Recommendation 1: That Presbytery arrange to have the video named above shown at either the September meeting, or other meeting of the court, in 2021.

CARRIED

*Respectfully submitted,
The Community Engagement 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 June 22, 2021

Ministry with Ministers Task Force Rev. Paddy Eastwood, Facilitator

Minister-in-Association Relationship between the Rev. Robert Garvin and Haney Presbyterian Church
At the request of the both the Rev. Bob Garvin and the Session of Haney Presbyterian Church,

Recommendation 1: that the following minister-in-association agreement between the Rev. Robert Garvin and the Session of Haney Presbyterian Church be approved.

CARRIED

Minister-In-Association Agreement Between The Rev. Robert Garvin and The Session Of Haney Presbyterian Church.

Robert Garvin, a retired minister in good standing of The Presbyterian Church in Canada, presently on the Appendix to the roll of the Presbytery of Westminster, has participated in the life of Haney Presbyterian Church since January 2005, having served as the Minister of the congregation from January 1, 1994 to June 30, 2003 and a ruling elder since January 28, 2007. Bob has been a steadfast and faithful support to the ministry and minister of Haney Presbyterian Church. Both Bob and the Session of Haney Presbyterian Church wish to establish formal ties with each other. Acknowledging Bob Garvin as "Minister-In-Association" is to celebrate and affirm a relationship that blesses both parties. Bob and his wife Carol have significantly enriched the life of this congregation.

The Session affirms its desire to name Bob as Minister-In-Association.

Bob 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, he undertakes to preach when called upon, to lead study groups when invited and to give advice and counsel when asked.

Agreement by:

Moderator of Session

Date

Gordon Shields, Clerk of Session

Date

Robert Garvin, Minister-In-Association

Date

Victor Kim, Clerk of Presbytery of Westminster

Date

Minister-in-Association Relationship between the Rev. Dennis Howard and Haney Presbyterian Church

At the request of the both the Rev. Dennis Howard and the Session of Haney Presbyterian Church,

Recommendation 2: that the following minister-in-association agreement between the Rev. Dennis Howard and the Session of Haney Presbyterian Church be approved.

CARRIED

**Minister-In-Association Agreement Between
The Rev. Dennis Howard and The Session Of Haney Presbyterian Church.**

Dennis Howard, a retired minister in good standing of The Presbyterian Church in Canada, presently on the Appendix of the roll of the Presbytery of Westminster, wishes to establish formal ties with Haney Presbyterian Church as “Minister-In-Association”. Dennis served as a ruling elder at Haney from 2004 to 2010 until he began full time studies at Vancouver School of Theology. He was called to Langley Presbyterian Church and served as their minister 2013-2020, when he retired from pastoral ministry. His wife, Gayle was also an active member of Haney Presbyterian Church until their move to Langley Presbyterian and served as an elder 2006-2010.

Assured that Dennis wishes to make this congregation his home with Gayle, both he and the Session would like to establish a formal relationship. The Session therefore affirms its desire to show Dennis pastoral concern and afford him the same rights and privileges accorded to regular professing members.

Dennis 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, he undertakes to preach when called upon, to lead study groups when invited and to give advice and counsel when asked.

Victor Kim

Agreement by:

Moderator of Session

Date

Gordon Shields, Clerk of Session

Date

Dennis Howard, Minister-In-Association

Date

Victor Kim, Clerk of Presbytery of Westminster

Date

REPORTS

The Growing Together Conversation

Knox and St. Aidan's, New Westminster, and Gordon, Burnaby
The Rev. Bruce Cairnie, Interim-Moderator

2021 06 13

Knox, St. Aidan's and Gordon congregations, in New West and Burnaby, are discussing the possibility of growing together through amalgamation into one new congregation.

From April to June, three major activities have been taking place in these considerations:

1. The three congregations have completed a visioning process with the Rev. Dale Woods to lay out the foundation of the life and ministry they could have together. The Vision Plan has been approved by the Joint Session and is before each Session for consideration and presentation to the congregations. This process was well supported by the various congregations.
2. The Amalgamation Plan has been finalized and approved by the Joint Session. Each Session has also considered it and has, previously, approved its recommendations in principle. The next step is for the Sessions to engage their congregations over the Vision and Amalgamation Plan to determine if they accept them and wish to be amalgamated under them.
3. The congregations continue to worship together via Zoom and are laying plans for a return to in-person combined worship as well as a Zoom offering. The details are being worked out.

We continue to pray for God's leading in this process and are grateful for the contributions of the many leaders in these three congregations.

In Christ,
The Rev. S. Bruce Cairnie,
Interim-Moderator

Victor Kim

Central Presbyterian Church

The Rev. Heinrich Botha, Interim Moderator

I officially started as Interim Moderator for Central Presbyterian Church on May 1st, 2021.

The first order of business that was attended to involved making contact with Clerk of Session (Linda MacLeod) determining immediate needs and discussing the format of the agenda for upcoming Session meeting (scheduled for May 11th, 2021), as well as any pertinent information that would be helpful. (recent Minutes from Session meetings and the AGM/ACM, as well as contact information for Session members).

During the Presbytery Meeting of May 5th, the Moderator of Presbytery appointed a Task Force that would work more directly with CPC's leadership as well as liaise with other parties involved – i.e. Bosa.

I attended a Task Force Meeting on May 10th @ 11:30, during which time the urgency for the Session of CPC to give some clarity on the congregation's main focus of ministry going forward was expressed.

This led to a radical change in the agenda for the upcoming Session Meeting to assist in a more focused discussion. (Rebecca Simpson indicates that she's willing to attend Session meeting to relay the intention of the Task Force's request for an urgent response. Due to another commitment, Rebecca was unable to attend, but PMV Dale Woods was willing to attend the meeting).

Session Meeting: May 11th, 2021: Mostly in-person at CPC, with Dale Woods and 2 Session members joining via Zoom.

The agenda discussion focused mainly on coming to grips with the fact that CPC's financial situation doesn't allow for the continuation of all ministries, projects, operations, etc. as was originally envisioned. Question regarding 'What ministry(/-ies) are most valuable to the congregation and central to its identity and calling' was mainly explored.

Some time was taken for a discussion regarding the format of Worship Services. For the following weeks CPC will be given various options of online Worship Services from congregations in the Presbytery, which will be reviewed at next Session meeting.

Regarding Pastoral Care: Session has recently implemented a district system as a way promoting good communication with members and staying aware of pastoral needs.

Congregational 'Coffee & Conversation' Zoom Meeting: Sunday May 30th, 2021 @ 3pm:

During the Session Meeting of May 11th, the need was expressed for CPC members to connect on a less formal basis, and so the suggestion was made that a "Coffee & Conversation"-style Zoom Meeting will be held before the next Session Meeting. This will also allow the opportunity for the CPC members to get to know the new IM a little better.

Session Meeting: June 15th, 2021: In-person at CPC, with option for Zoom.

Unfortunately, there was no internet connection at CPC which led to Zoom attendees not being able to attend. Session voted on continuing with the meeting, as a quorum was present.

In general, the atmosphere was more relaxed than the previous meeting with more interaction and conversation. Session reported that they had met informally after the previous Session meeting of May 11th on May 15th as a way of reconnecting and discussing some of the practical implications of all the information that has come to

light, as well as some difficult decisions that lie ahead. All in all, that meeting went well, and has helped with bringing some perspective.

During the meeting, many reports were discussed, and during the Finance Committees report it came to light that the committee consists of only a single member. The need for a larger team was discussed to assist with more oversight as well as the sharing of responsibilities and empowering of more members within the congregation. Session put forth nominations for possible committee members that were approved, and who will be contacted by the Clerk of Session. The final approval of the team will be done at the next Session meeting, after which the current member of the Fin. Comm. will start a 6 month training of new members.

Worship: As much as there's a deep need to get back to in-person Worship Services, the Session understand the importance of exploring the possibility of creating some kind of online presence / ministry. Rolling out a strategy for re-opening needs to be taken seriously, rather than just trying to 'get back to normal asap'.

Pastoral Care: An online prayer group has been introduced and promoted within the Congregation, and despite it having met only a number of times, the response has been very positive.

Heinrich Botha

First Presbyterian Church, New Westminster, The Rev. Gabriel Synman, Interim Moderator

In the time since my previous report there has been a few developments. Larry Yen joined the session meetings in an advisory capacity which session welcomed. A process has been put into motion to nominate and elect new elders. Many of the current leaders has indicated to me that they will be stepping down within a year due to health and moving away from the church for retirement purposes. In person services have resumed. We were able to find good and steady pulpit supply.

As far as the financial position of the church goes, there does not seem to be much of an improvement. New assistance with the churches books has been brought in and the urgency of the matter is communicated from time to time but as of yet the change was minimal. I have also just been informed that the church's second quarter Presbytery assessment is now overdue.

In Christ
Gabriel J Synman
June 15th 2021

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

It has now been more than 8 months since I was appointed as Interim Moderator of Langley Presbyterian Church. As much as this has been a wonderful journey with the congregation, we have been working through some challenges. These challenges have slowed down the search for a new minister.

- The most prominent challenge is one that affects all congregations – **COVID-19**. Since October of 2020 the congregation has not been back to the building. Though the BC Health Authorities have made announcements about restricted in-person worship for Church communities effective May 25th, the Session of LPC decided to wait until the end of July before returning to church.

On the Ministries and Congregational Life of Langley PC I can report as follow:

- **Session:** The Session has met on a regular basis and elders have shown good leadership in a difficult time of the pandemic. It was business as usual as all the ministries continued under the guidance of Session. Session began the study of the book, *"The Essence of the Church"* by Craig van Gelder. There has been good communication about expectations for the congregation and how the role of a new minister is seen. The concern has been raised about the workload of elders as two elders have been excused from the regular duties. One went on a Leave of absence and another elder had to give a step back due to family matters.
 - **Pastoral Care:** Elders have been very diligent in keeping contact with their districts during the time of the pandemic and pastoral matters that needed attention was brought to my attention. One line item on the Session Agenda is Pastoral Concerns and valuable time has been spent to go over the needs or concerns of congregants.
 - **Worship:** There were two virtual services that were well received by the people of Langley PC – Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday. It was well planned with the participation of children for Palm Sunday, as well as participation of some families and others for Easter Sunday.
- For the other Sundays, links of YouTube services of Cooke's PC have been forwarded to the congregation.
- **Annual General Meeting:** A virtual AGM was held on March 14th after the service. It was attended by about 17 people and all needed matters had been taken care of.
 - **Search Committee:** As mentioned earlier, there were challenges that slowed down the work of the Search Committee. The committee was formed with three elders and three congregants. The committee had a survey distributed in the congregation to get feedback about the main areas the congregations wants to focus on. Presently the committee members are working on different areas of the Congregational profile.
 - **Finances:** LPC has been doing fairly well with its finances in spite of Covid-19. People have been faithful to drop off their offerings at the church as well as doing E-transfers. However, there is a concern whether the congregation will be financially stable enough to commit to a full time position by the end of the year.

In general, the congregation of LPC is healthy and should be commended for their commitment to the work of the Lord. They continue to work diligently to seek what God has in store of them.

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

St. Columba Presbyterian Church The Rev. Calvin Crichton, Interim Moderator

The congregation of St. Columba have, we hope, come to the end of a long road. We are finally entering our building to commence services on June 20th. Up to now we were having bi-weekly bible studies, weekly services, and monthly session meetings via Zoom. The whole electronic forum was, at times challenging, but for the most part a real blessing to the worship team. We have been talking about expanding our ministry online and feel that the shutdown helped to hone our technical skills for future ventures. Once again, God is using a trying and difficult situation for the greater good. We have a great God indeed!

Our elders have been very good to keep in contact with their district congregants. Letters, phone calls and door deliveries have been a blessing to those who can't meet with us via Zoom. I am very proud to say that everyone really looked out for each other out of genuine concern and care. One of the first things we will be doing this

weekend, upon entering the church building, is collecting information to do a formal report via the Leading with Care committee. We just want to make sure that we are presenting the safest, cleanest environment possible. Our congregation continues to be represented in Presbytery through our representative elder Judy Dabideen-Sonachansingh. We thank her for her service and pray for all of you as you continue to work out the wider vision of our Presbytery's various ministries. May God richly bless you all.

Calvin Crichton
Intern Moderator
St. Columba Presbyterian Church

Study Leave

Study leave was approved for the Rev. Willem Vander Westhuizen to take two courses at Jerusalem University College, November 14-December 12, 2021: Contexts of the Holy City and Geographical Contexts of the Prophets.

Student Support and Certification Task Force Rev. Dr. Brian Fraser, Facilitator

Justin Thurn has been transferred from the care of the Presbytery of Calgary-MacLeod to the care of the Presbytery of Westminster.

The Student Support and Certification Task Force would like to increase its numbers.

Recommendation 3: that Ms. Jacqui Lilley, from St. Andrew's and St. Stephen's Presbyterian Church, be appointed to the Ministry Committee, serving on the Student Support and Certification Task Force.

CARRIED

Visitation Task Force Ms Bev Feick, Facilitator
Calvin Presbyterian Church, Abbotsford, Zoom First year visit
April 14, 2021

Visitation team: Pamela Wong (Lead), Ted Siverns

Attending: (Elders) Rod Thomas, Joyce Tiessen, Edward Akuffoe, Margaret Allan

Reverend Thomas Kim

The Elders are most appreciative of Rev. Kim's care and engaging style of ministry. He has the ability to fulfill the needs of the congregation and their mission to connect with their community around them.

At the time before Thomas arrived, Calvin was a divided congregation. People were unhappy to be in debt, had to physically relocate, they were working on searching for a new minister. Even before Thomas arrived he asked names of the congregation and prayed for them by name. He hand delivered Christmas cards to bereaved families. The Session is encouraged by Rev. Kim's biblical based sermons. They feel their biggest challenge in connecting with each other is COVID. The minister with help of others has transitioned to services on YouTube. Viewing on a Sunday 75-80 people, views during the week 150 plus. They have Bible Study, during Passion Week there were daily Bible studies. "He is a good shepherd." He has invited former attendees to come back and some

Victor Kim

have. He does drive-by visits with people visiting from a distance. His message is vibrant and he has a heart for people of all ages. They have a youth ministry where the youth prepare a worship Sunday. He is broadening his attention with seniors.

Because of COVID it was difficult to welcome Thomas, his (ordained) wife Lydia and their daughters with the hospitality Calvin is known for. When health protocols permit they will have a huge celebration.

They felt the questionnaire was irrelevant, inapplicable at this time to their situation. They expected a more tailored approach to the specific congregation in the specific time.

Finances: Income has been strong... down 8-10 % but they are able to meet their obligations through offerings and permitted rentals.

Presbytery: The Session observes the need to deal with Presbyterianism, using old buildings as resources to minister to dwindling congregations, reconcile situations, establishing 1 ½ calls. Leading with care courses should be led by skilled presenters not ministers.

Rev. Kim: He loves his congregation and from day one really felt the love and welcome for him and his family. He is grateful and thankful to God for Calvin PC. He would like to spend more time in prayer with the congregation and in year 2 establish more pastoral care and family style relationship, inviting people to visit and sharing food. He always carries a membership directory with him. When applying for the call he submitted his profile which identified his heart and vision. His profile is taped to his office wall to help keep him focused on vision and mission with Calvin. They have a covenant relationship together. He feels seniors are important and wants to launch a seniors ministry, becoming a hub for seniors in the community. He has a good work and home balance. He exercises daily, his wife Lydia is his coach.

Presbytery: Thomas would like to see more of a Presbytery presence with celebrations and confirming reports as well as events for Session members such as retreats and fellowship engagement, not training or teaching.

Recommendation 4:

The Session is to be commended for their strong support and care of their minister and his family and commended for their vision of a lively faith based community.

CARRIED

Recommendation 5:

Rev. Kim is to be commended for his heart and vision in leading Calvin Presbyterian Church as an engaged and committed faith community in Abbotsford.

CARRIED

In Christ's service,
Pam Wong, Lead
Ted Sivers

City Centre Presbyterian Church, Zoom One Year Visit
March 25, 2021

Victor Kim

Rev Dr Glen Davis and Bev Feick (lead) met with Rev Gabriel & Isabel Snyman for thirty minutes via Zoom followed by approximately forty five minutes with six of the seven Elders on Session. The team received six questionnaires, and the Congregational Profile from the Clerk of Session. Rev Snyman is named as Pastor or Gabriel in the responses.

After 2 ½ years of ministry at Faith Presbyterian Church in Fort McMurray, Rev Snyman and family moved to BC and he was inducted at City Centre in September 2019. His wife, Isabel, practises as a physiotherapist with a Neural focus at a private clinic in Surrey.

Gabriel remarked that it was most unexpected to receive a request to consider a call to City Centre. Faith congregants were reluctant to agree to his departure. Gabriel was excited by the missional focus of City Centre. He finds the City Centre leadership a most mature spiritual group.

During the visit, it was obvious that each Elder was actively engaged in the life of the church and the community. The surrounding community has many challenges. On some mornings, the minister or others arrive at the church to find some homeless folk sleeping in the outside stair wells.

City Centre is a diverse congregation of different economic backgrounds and life experiences. It is in an area where City Centre PC, along with other organizations and churches, assist many poor, homeless folk and new immigrants. Covid -19 has curtailed some of their programs but they have adapted. One major endeavor is the 4000 bagged lunches per month they provide to groups in the Whalley area.

The Congregational Profile, completed in 2018, listed 6 “pastoral skills especially needed in the ministry and program at City Centre Church.” Several elders commented, “Gabriel is a great fit and we are all so blessed to have him.”

Worship & Sacraments:

The worship leader chooses songs that reinforce the sermon message. Contemporary songs are sung as well as more traditional hymns. Worship has adapted very well to online services, with music, scripture, preaching, regular communion services and even a baptism. Gabriel brings life to the sacrament of communion as he visually shows & explains the meaning and significance of the sacrament. Some see an ongoing challenge, and perhaps an opportunity, in the possibility that some people will want to continue online even after the return to in-person services.

Pastoral Care:

Gabriel is leading Session into participating alongside him to care for the needs of people within the congregation as well as within the community. Although visiting restrictions with people have made this difficult, better online / zoom / meeting access has actually opened up new opportunities for City Centre. Gabriel carries out weekly phone calls and touches base with anyone who requests a visit. He is reported to be a good listener, attentive to a person's needs as well as their spiritual needs.

Christian Education – all ages:

There is a children's time early in the online service. Elders express concern about the non-interactive aspect of a virtual service for children. Several volunteers, including young teens, present a Bible story for the participants. The pastor leads a Bible study group on Wednesday evenings and a home group engages in a Christian book study on Saturday evening. These are well attended.

Finances/Stewardship:

During the past year City Centre had a surplus of \$2,000 - a small financial miracle considering the current situation. "The Lord has been good, and the people of City Centre have been very faithful in their giving and tithing throughout Covid." Donations are made through PAR / etransfer/ mailing or dropping off envelopes at the church mailbox. The needs of the church have been met, and a new feeding ministry is supported with the additional donations.

Mission/Outreach: Including both Social Action and Evangelism:

This continues to be an area of growth and focus at City Centre. The congregation partners with SUM (Surrey Urban Mission) to provide over 4000 bag meals monthly to various groups in the Whalley area. A Community Garden is their newest exciting venture for the neighbourhood. Some neighbours are involved as well as other churches and many group partners (Community Living Society; Recovery groups) who use the church. A lease to allow a social housing development for hard-to-house folk on their property is being considered. "Gabriel is excellent at reaching out into the community. He walks the streets of Whalley simply in order to connect with people. This has certainly helped us as a congregation to have a continued vision for the lost and hurting."

Administration/Communication:

The Pastor and many volunteers are involved in Administration. Zoom and WhatsApp, the webpage and Social Media (Facebook) are being improved for communication.

Other areas you might like to comment upon:

There is a sense that City Centre is called to their neighbourhood. Although they don't know the plan precisely, they continue to be faithful in witnessing, outreach and mission. The finances are sufficient. However, as one commented, their outreach could be increased if more funds were available and if more understood the concept of tithing. There is a wish to have more teaching on the blessing of tithing.

Rev Snyman's relationship with the congregation is strong. The Elders describe him as caring; connects very well with the surrounding community; an excellent leader; has an amazing energy and faithfulness to the Lord. He has absolute support from the Elders.

Regular services and announcements, elders reaching out to their communicants, a regular newsletter, regular Face Book posts and WhatsApp all create a good communication flow between Session and the congregation. Change can be a topic of concern and difficult to manage in any church. Session reports that City Centre recognizes that effective change takes time. As one mentioned "we have been changing for years now (music, church name, minister, worship leader) and experienced a loss of only a couple of people." When asked about changes they think would help the congregation to be more effective and faithful in its mission and ministry, they mentioned: an improvement in social media outreach; a restart of the youth group, a possible building program and developing as a hybrid church. New ideas and innovations are always welcomed.

Recommendation 6:

That the Rev. Gabriel Snyman be commended for his energy and joyful willingness to include himself in the fold of City Centre congregation and in the local community. **CARRIED**

Recommendation 7:

That the session be commended for their faithful service and leadership, and their strong support for their minister in this first year of his ministry. **CARRIED**

Recommendation 8:

That presbytery be requested to pray for City Centre as it seeks to make diligent efforts towards the growth of the church and ways to overcome the limitations of not being able to worship and fellowship together in person. **CARRIED**

Respectfully submitted,
Bev Feick and Rev Dr. Glen Davis

Evaluation of the Presbytery Restructuring by the Ministry Committee as a Whole

The Task Forces under the umbrella of the Ministry Committee met on Zoom on May 18, to evaluate the Presbytery Restructuring.

The meeting was called to consider our answer to the questions presented by the Admin Committee.

There was general consensus that the members of the Ministry Committee knew the work of their own task force but not of the Ministry Committee as a whole. There is also a lack of clarity/knowledge regarding the structure of the Ministry Committee.

The Rev. Paddy Eastwood noted that one of the goals of the restructuring was to increase efficiency and thus free up time from routine work to allow for time for Presbytery retreats and other times for renewal. There are hopes that we might move from 8 Presbytery meetings a year, to 4 with the fall meeting devoted to education.

Throughout the meeting, we had considerable conversation around the issues of efficiency and engagement. Being efficient may circumvent engagement and responsibility. This is true on all levels, both committee and Presbytery. If a committee doesn't meet (such as Ethics and Care which only meets when necessary) it is hard for its members to feel connected and engaged. The four task forces of the Ministry Committee did not meet together which means additional voices and perspectives were not heard at the level of the Ministry Committee as a whole. Can we encourage respectful conversations at the meetings of the Presbytery, perhaps returning to some of the opportunities for conversation (such as the committee fairs) in small groups, rather than the potentially adversarial practice of speaking for or against recommendations?

1. **To what extent does the actual work of the committee this past year correspond to the Standing Orders description of the committee's tasks? Does anything need to be changed in the Standing Orders?**

There was consensus that we are doing the work assigned to us though the Standing Orders do not reflect our current structure and some of the tasks are misassigned.

2. To what extent are the Presbytery priorities being engaged and enacted by the committee? What improvements could be made in that effort?

The Presbytery has decided to focus on the following six priorities:

1. Engage in biblical theological reflection and education that deepens understanding of and commitment to God, the church, and its place in Christ's ministry and mission,
2. Engage in evangelism, outreach and discipleship
3. Embrace a missional culture that nurtures initiative and risk taking
4. Discern, prepare and support leaders – lay, youth and young adults and clergy – for faithful and fruitful ministry
5. Create, encourage and support communities of faith
6. Engage in healing and reconciliation between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples

Reviewing the six priorities made each of the task forces aware of how they could contribute to these priorities and include them in their work. We recommend that the Presbytery put these six priorities on each docket and on our website so that our priorities are visually before us.

We also agreed that not every committee needs to focus on all six. Some of them may be uniquely suited to the work of a particular committee.

We had a lively conversation around priority #4, in regard to giving young clergy the opportunity to serve within our Presbytery. As is true across Canada, there are many congregations with a part-time Stated Supply minister, often a retired minister. Our polity limits these positions to two years but Presbyteries are largely ignoring this. These could be opportunities well-suited to a new graduate but they may also be churches who need the skill set of an older, experienced minister. Yet without a charge, new graduates will have difficulty gaining this experience. The Presbytery needs to balance the needs of new grads needing both employment and experience and the needs of the congregation. The choice/desire of the congregation is also important.

It may be time to change the rules around Stated Supply ministry. Research indicates that it may take up to ten years for a new witnessing community to become established. Our funding should reflect this long-term need.

It may be time for the Presbytery to embrace a wider range of non-ordained ministries that do not fit the mold of one full-time clergy to one congregation. VST has been doing work in this area and we would be well-advised to consult Richard Topping. Bi-vocational ministry is another option our Presbytery can consider

We discussed the challenges of visiting congregations. It is not always easy to find ministers to go on a visitation team and although it is wonderful to celebrate the work of a congregation, it is also true that some congregations greet visiting teams cautiously.

3. How well is the mandate of the committee working? Are any changes needed in how the work of the committee is accomplished?

As noted above, we believe that the work assigned to us is being done. However, we do believe there is significant need for training of elders and representative elders for their role within their congregation and at a Presbytery level. Overall, congregations do not understand the role of Presbytery in the life of the church. We are pleased to see that elder training is planned for the fall and also recommend similar training focused on the role of representative elders. Presbytery-wide elder training would also encourage relationships between the elders of different congregations and be a source of encouragement for young elders.

We also considered the relationship between Presbytery and congregation and the importance of language to describe our work. We discussed the nuances of oversight, supervision, support and partnership. It may be that a better understanding of the relationship between Presbytery and congregation might lead to a partnership rather than a punitive or disciplinary relationship. It seemed to us that an attitude of “coming alongside” a congregation needing help is important. We are brothers and sisters in Christ.

We recognized that accountability is challenging: there has to be accountability and it is hard to please everyone.

Pulpit exchanges might be a natural way to foster connections between our congregations. The work of each congregation could be celebrated, and the work of Presbytery shared.

Praise Festivals were a wonderful way for the valley churches to get to know each other.

There was a preference to return to the old committee structure with Ministry Committee, Ethics and Care, Student Support and Certification and Visitation working independently. These committees are well-run and meet as needed. This is efficient. In order to allow for better engagement, we encourage the Presbytery to reconsider how we discuss items at the court: calling inappropriate speech or behaviour to account and encouraging small group discussion of important items. We appreciate the break-out prayer groups.

It was a valuable exercise to reflect on our Presbytery and its priorities and if we return to separate committees, then a multi-committee opportunity to do this annually would be valuable.

4. Is anything being missed by work of the committee that should be accomplished?

Pastoral care of clergy and elders is not formally arranged. We rely on the existing relationships within the court but this means some pastoral concerns may be overlooked: retired teaching elders, grieving or ill teaching and ruling elders.

Respectfully Submitted,
The Rev. Paddy Eastwood
Convener

STRATEGY AND LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT

The report was presented by Rebecca Simpson, Strategy and Leadership Committee Convener for information only.

**Strategy and Leadership Committee
Presbytery Report
June 22, 2021**

New Witnessing Communities update

Dale Woods with the support of the SLC continues to work on the New Witnessing Communities grant application process. In response to our first round of applications, we have sought ways to resource the planning of new witnessing communities applicants. Along with VST Principal Richard Topping, a conversation with the UBC Sauder School of Business has begun around the possibility of a professional workshop on building a ministry plan. We are hoping to offer this workshop in the fall. It will be very valuable for anyone who desires to begin a new witnessing community, covering a range of needs such as: visioning, planning, risk assessment and management, human resources and financing.

Dale has submitted a draft document to aid the development of a ministry plan to the SLC. We are hoping to bring this document to the presbytery in the fall.

In response to the planned assessment of our standing orders, the SLC felt that in general the Committee is working as anticipated within the Standing Orders. The size of the Committee is good but should not get any smaller than its current size. As well, maintaining a good connection with the P & F subcommittee is very important, so at least one person should sit on both SLC and P & F. We wondered whether SLC can form another subcommittee on its own or whether that would need to be set up directly by Presbytery at our request - this both as a specific question and as a general question about the powers of the committees under the Standing Orders. To that end, we are wondering which body, SLC or the Presbytery, would appoint a small working group, that reports to the SLC, to receive and consider all applications to the New Witnessing Communities and Transforming Ministries grant funding.

Presbyter for Mission and Vision

Dale Woods has been working hard in a variety of areas to support the ongoing strategic priorities and short-term goals of Westminster Presbytery.

Strategic Priorities:

1. Engage in biblical theological reflection and education that deepens understanding of and commitment to God, the church, and its place in Christ's ministry and mission
2. Engage in evangelism, outreach and discipleship
3. Embrace a missional culture that nurtures initiative and risk taking

4. Discern, prepare and support leaders – lay, youth and young adults and clergy – for faithful and fruitful ministry
5. Create, encourage and support communities of faith
6. Engage in healing and reconciliation between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples

Short-term Goals:

- Start at least 3 new worshipping communities within our bounds
- Examine the health and vitality of every ministry within our bounds to assist it achieve healthier, more vital outcomes
- Commit to greater financial assistance of Hummingbird Ministries and Camp Douglas to achieve healthier and more vital outcomes
- Provide a number of immersive learning opportunities annually for all presbyters and congregational leadership and members

Since our last presbytery meeting, Dale has continued work with the “Growing Together” congregations of New Westminster and Burnaby, helping them to develop an overall vision and a draft ministry plan and amalgamation plan.

Dale is working with Hummingbird Ministries to help them identify their purpose, key values and possible next steps.

With Camp Douglas, Dale has helped the committee to articulate the camp’s purpose, key values and key strategic anchors, short-term, mid-term and long-term goals. The committee is now prayerfully considering priorities for the next three years.

Workshops for the fall are being planned, taking into consideration what learning opportunities might encourage the ministry of congregations and what is being offered by others such as the Center for Missional Leadership.

Dale continues to work directly with some sessions in our presbytery, as well as with Interim Moderators on a regular basis.

Please continue to connect with Dale through the Coffee and Conversation events and directly with your questions, ideas and concerns.

The next Coffee and Conversation will be Wednesday June 30, 9:30-10:45 am, where we will discuss “Hybrid Churches – Where do we go from here?”

Central Presbyterian Church Task Force Interim Report

The report of the task force is given below.

Respectfully submitted,

Victor Kim

Rebecca Simpson
Convener of Strategy and Leadership Cte

INTERIM REPORT FROM CENTRAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH TASK FORCE

Background

At the May 4, 2021 Presbytery meeting, the Central Presbyterian Church Task Force was created “with a specific mandate to help [Central Presbyterian Church] assess its short- and long-term financial difficulties”, which include but are not limited to Central’s present obligation to satisfy a \$950,000 GST payment obligation. As part of its terms of reference, “the mandate of the Task Force is to arrange the best possible solution to preserve the possibility of Christian ministry in that location and to preserve the real estate assets for ministry”. The Task Force was given power to issue to negotiate contractual arrangements for financial accommodation, subject to approval by Presbytery.

The Task Force is comprised of Ian Rokeby (coordinator), Rev. Rebecca Simpson, Larry Eastwood and David Jennings.

The Task Force has met by videoconference several times and corresponded by email. Each member of the Task Force had extensive prior experience with Central, which enabled a prompt review of background materials and the present situation facing Central.

Steps Taken with Central

A two-hour videoconference meeting with the designated representative from Central and its interim-moderator occurred on May 10, 2021 at which time an analysis of the present financial challenges were discussed in depth. It was agreed that based on the facts that the following were the primary financial challenges facing Central:

- \$950,000 GST payment due and owing since at least December 2020;
- a significant present capital maintenance reserve deficit for its building, projected to increase over the life of the building;
- insufficient revenues from the housing, commercial lease, and congregational donations and rentals to pay future capital maintenance obligations which have been independently determined to be several million dollars;
- a large present congregational operational deficit despite there being no payments made for a minister for material ministry programs;
- an inability to borrow funds, based on its dire financial situation; and
- a likely reduction in donations from the congregation going forward.

Based on these financial challenges, together with the legal obligations owed to Central’s development partner Bosa Properties, it became apparent that Central would not be able to remain financially viable in the short to medium term without a major restructuring of its assets, revenue streams, and expenditures.

The representative from Central and the interim-moderator agreed to discuss the financial challenges with the Session of Central with the goal of ensuring all parties understood the present situation and obtaining agreement on the priorities of the congregation in future.. It was later reported to the Task Force that the Session placed its highest priority in retaining access to the sanctuary space, and if possible, the operation of its food ministry.

Meeting with Bosa

On May 14, 2021 the Task Force met with legal counsel to discuss the existing legal obligations and rights of Central. At the end of that 90 minute meeting it was agreed that the Task Force should speak directly with Bosa Properties with legal counsel present. A negotiation strategy was discussed at that time.

Request for a meeting was made shortly thereafter and was arranged for June 1, 2021. Senior representatives of Bosa were in attendance (VP, Relationships & Development; Chief Financial Officer; General Counsel) as well as all members of the Task Force and legal counsel. The Task Force set the agenda for the meeting, the purpose of which was to find a financially sustainable structure to satisfy the ongoing legal and commercial obligations of Central and Bosa. A very candid and wide-ranging conversation occurred among the parties. Clearly, Bosa had not anticipated the difficulties that Central was experiencing. That said, Bosa displayed the same level of professionalism and good faith that they had throughout the entire development process. The meeting ended with Bosa committing to reviewing the financial and legal situation and agreeing to future conversations with the Task Force.

After that meeting with Bosa, the Task Force provided the independent valuation report by Morrison Hershfield which identified the capital maintenance requirements, as well as material contracts governing the housing and commercial lease, and financial information regarding the housing operations, commercial lease, and congregation.

At this time, the Task Force awaits a response from Bosa Properties.

Respectfully submitted,
Ian Rokeby, coordinator

REPORT OF THE COMMISSIONERS TO THE 2021 GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The report was presented by Victor Kim for information only.

Report of the Commissioners to the 2021 General Assembly

List of Commissioners from Westminster

Elders: Andrea Dobos (First Hungarian), Isabel Evans (Richmond), David Jennings (St. Andrew's and St. Stephen's), Bev Shepansky (Central), Susan Stacey (Kerrisdale)

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

Introductory comments (Victor Kim)

As presbyters will know, GA 2021 was held online from June 6-9. Given the online format of GA and the decision to limit sederunts to 2 ½ hours for the first session and 5 hours per day afterwards, there was limited time to consider the work of GA. Though our presbytery, along with others, had requested that the GA consider

Victor Kim

deferring some matters to a later Assembly, it was decided that commissioners had the right and responsibility to set their own agenda.

In an attempt to facilitate the work in the time allotted, a Recommendation Poll was commissioned which asked commissioners to categorize every recommendation of the committees to GA, which amounted to roughly 210 recommendations, as either to: 1) approve without debate, 2) discussion prior to decision, or 3) defer to a future Assembly.

The poll results were to approve without debate all but 5 recommendations, those 5 being the two Remits, one from the Rainbow Communion around establishing a fund to support psychotherapy/counselling for those who have experienced harm done by homophobia, hypocrisy, transphobia and heterosexism in the denomination and provide a report on the funding accessed to the next General Assembly, and two from the Clerks of Assembly report dealing with guidelines to facilitate calls and election of LGBTQI candidates.

While the Recommendation Poll results were not binding, they did result in large omnibus recommendations for each committee of GA to approve almost every recommendation of each committee without debate, with the provision that any recommendation could be removed from the omnibus recommendation by a motion, which would need to be supported by a majority vote of the commissioners. Suffice it to say that this process was cumbersome and not satisfactory in the eyes of many commissioners. Ultimately much time was spent on amendments and discussion around whether certain recommendations should be removed from the omnibus recommendations.

The tool used to conduct the business of GA, called PC-BIZ, presented some challenges. Though the process worked much of the time, there were significant cases where a lack of transparency led to concerns about process. In the end there was frustration expressed by some commissioners that motions and amendments were unrecognized and that process questions were left unresolved or were sometimes entirely ignored. Much more could be said about the process but it would be fair to say that many commissioners were left deeply frustrated by the process by which this GA was conducted.

Since so much of the usual work of the GA, that being the consideration of the reports of the committees of GA and their recommendations, was condensed by the omnibus recommendations to approve without debate, there is not much to report from many of the committees of the GA, other than what can be found in the reports of the committees, which is available at <https://assembly.presbyterian.ca/>.

The commissioners from Westminster therefore offer a summary of the reports from the committees, including some recommendations which ended up being discussed prior to decisions being made. There will also be a reflection on the 2021 General Assembly offered by one of our commissioners as a supplementary report.

- **Bills and Overtures (Victor Kim)**

68 unrefereed overtures were received by the committee, along with 2 petitions and 1 appeal. Most of the unrefereed overtures were of 3 general categories, 1) to create alternative governing bodies, 2) to prepare a process of Gracious Dismissal and 3) to limit the business of the 2021 GA.

Overtures asking for the limiting the business of the 2021 GA were addressed by the Clerk's recommendation that commissioners have the right and responsibility to set their own agenda for business. The overtures around alternative governing bodies and gracious dismissal were referred to the Assembly Council with direction to report back at the 2022 General Assembly.

The 2 petitions were from the Eastern and Western Han Ca presbyteries seeking a confession from the General Assembly for the mistreatment by the dominant culture in our denomination against ethnic minorities. A Special Committee of the Assembly was established, again with direction to report back by the 2022 General Assembly.

The appeal, from a congregation within the Presbytery of Calgary Macleod against a decision of the presbytery not to forward an overture, was referred to a Special Commission of the General Assembly.

- **Life and Mission Agency (Sumarme Goble, Rebecca Simpson)**

The 2021 LMA report was 175 pages long. The information in those pages reflected stories of faith in the face fear, of reconciliation and tranquility sought, of sanctuary given, and of renewal found. The Life and Mission Agency, in all its work, strives to extend God's reign where it has been called to serve in the world. The LMA consists of over 125 members across Canada who serve on advisory committees and working groups who seek to help The Presbyterian Church in Canada integrate discipleship, evangelism, social action, and justice into congregational life.

The LMA report included 55 recommendations in total. Of those 55, one recommendation had to do with reconsidering the terms of reference of LMA, specifically, how the membership is appointed. One recommendation sought approval to change the terms of reference regarding the membership of the Life and Mission Agency Committee, from 14 to 15 members in order that one of the LMA members be appointed by the National Indigenous Ministry Council.

The Life and Mission Agency Committee is committed to the important and ongoing work of healing and reconciliation that The PCC is doing in order to walk in new ways with Indigenous peoples. Because of the commitments that the PCC has made and the urgency of the work of healing and reconciliation, the LMA Committee believes it is important that one of its members be appointed by the National Indigenous Ministry Council.

Twenty-three recommendations had to do with ways that the PCC can be advocates for issues of justice in congregational life and in Canada at large. These included issues such as climate change, building relationships between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people, poverty reduction and breaking down the barriers of systemic racism. Seven recommendations had to do with how congregations can support the work of PWS&D. And twenty-four recommendations were responses to sixteen overtures that had been presented to the Assembly on important topics such as: supporting the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's call to action 57, addressing mental health and ministry, investing in Indigenous enterprises, supporting Presbyterians Sharing and PWS&D, endorsing the joint statement on physical punishment of children and youth and developing procedures for addressing workplace harassment. Also: allowing tent-making ministry,

producing liturgies for same sex weddings, seeking further legal advice on religious freedom and marriage, addressing ordination requirements for chaplaincy, reviewing Education and Reception guidelines. Not all overtures were supported with positive recommendations.

- **Women's Missionary Society (Sumarme Goble)**

The Women's Missionary Society is a community of Christians who meet to encourage one another and all the people of the church to be involved in local and world mission through prayer, study, service and fellowship. Cathy Reid is the current President.

The first 'Come Together' conference was held on Zoom on February 10, 2021. For 1 ½ hours, over 138 participants came together and had a time of fellowship, worship, learning led by special guests and praying. They will continue these meetings post-pandemic.

The 4th National Women's Gathering is scheduled for May 20–21, 2022, in Richmond Hill, Ontario. Back in 2019 this gathering was held in Surrey, BC.

On a sad note, the WMS Council executive made the difficult decision to downsize their office staff. The effect of this decision was that the magazine, *Glad Tidings*, ceased publication with the December 2019 issue. Two part-time staff positions were terminated, one in June and one in December of 2020. So, they said goodbye to Colleen Woods and Alexis McKeown with God's blessings. This leaves the WMS with one full-time staff in the office.

Finally, some changes were made to the constitution of the WMS in order to bring it up to date with decisions that were made in previous years. The recommendation to amend the constitution (No. WMS-001) was adopted.

- **Special Committee on Listening – Rainbow Communion, (Bev Shepansky, Victor Kim)**

With the exception of the previously mentioned recommendation around establishing a fund to support psychotherapy/counselling for those who have experienced harm done by homophobia, hypocrisy, transphobia and heterosexism in the denomination... all other recommendations from the Special Committee on Listening were adopted by the Assembly without debate.

The recommendation around establishing a fund... was also adopted with no debate, though it was voted on separately.

An Additional Motion, requesting that the Moderator of the 2021 General Assembly write letters of apology to the Rev. Darryl Macdonald and the congregation of St. Andrew's, Lachine (through Summerlea United Church) in light of the Special Committee report was adopted by the Assembly.

The Committee showed an excellent video, *Not All Alone*, that rose out of its conversations with LGBTQI people within the PCC. A total of 139 stories were listened to. The entire report encouraged the church to

“speak kindly and gently.” Within the report were resources for the pastoral care of LGBTQI people and strong encouragement for the education of all PCC congregations.

- **Assembly Council (David Jennings)**

Assembly Council, the denomination’s principal administrative body that ostensibly serves General Assemblies, addresses most of the financial and polity matters within the denomination.

At this General Assembly, Assembly Council introduced 22 recommendations, all of which were included in an omnibus resolution. As a result there is virtually no debate on any matters, despite important issues involving large budget deficits, significant income received from the federal government, the identification of legal risks associated with the Remits, and the inability of Assembly Council to address the work that had been assigned to it.

The financial statements for both the denomination and the pension fund for the years 2019 and 2020 were presented as well as the budgets for 2021 and 2022 and a three year forecast for 2023, 2024 and 2025. In 2020 the denomination had expenses of approximately \$8.6 million in revenue of \$6.4 million, with Presbyterian Sharing providing \$5.5 million. Investment income on the \$120 million held by the denomination received annual returns of 16.6%. Those returns were able to address the operational deficit in the denomination.

The pension fund has assets of \$321 million and, according to its actuarial valuation at the end of 2019, it has a “solvency deficit” (that is, if the pension fund had to be wrapped up immediately) of \$32.4 million but a “going concern surplus” (that is if pensions are paid out on the basis statistically anticipated) of \$35.2 million. During 2020 an annual investment return of 7.6% was achieved. The pension fund was able to recommend a reduction in contributions in the coming years, which was adopted.

With respect to the work specifically assigned to Assembly Council previously, that body did not complete its work (or more specifically, not even start its work) with respect to an analysis of gracious dismissal, the concept of theologically separate synods, or addressing properly the legal risks surrounding Remits B & C.

It should be noted that the minimum stipend increase for 2021 was set by Assembly Council at 0%. As inflationary pressures increase dramatically this year and in coming years, that will be an important consideration for many ministers. As well, for statistical purposes, there were new requirements for how to record in person and online weekly attendance, which will be incorporated into your future instructions for completing the statistical report.

- **Clerks of Assembly (Brad Childs)**

Most prominently, the Assembly Clerks dealt with new guideline implementation concerning Remits B and C related to issues of human sexuality. Several actions were taken due to the missed 2020 Assembly and specific issues related to the meeting by the online format. In addition, the Clerks dealt with some 20 overtures, with most being considered beyond the time commitment needed this year. Various recommendations on how these might be dealt with at other Assemblies or in other ways were presented.

Some highlights:

A 2-minute time limit was placed on speaking

An invitation for Court Observers (YARS) to hold an advisory vote on each issue was adopted

Streamlining of the typical process through omnibus motions

Limiting the scope of business to be addressed in total

Determining not to deal with the correspondence from our two non-regional Presbyteries

Determining to not deal at this Assembly with the vast majority of overtures received concerning Gracious Dismissal

Deciding not to deal with any possible restructuring of our system of polity and/or developing a "sister denomination" with shared resources and/or creating Wide/Broad/High formal presbyteries and other similar ideas

Encouragement of Sessions to consider including "more young people" among their ranks

Extending terms of those serving on National Standing Committees

Homologation of acts deemed necessary due to the results of Covid-19 and the lack of a 2020 General Assembly

Most notably:

Very few things were deemed necessary for discussion

Perhaps the most significant amount of our time was used seeking advisory votes or discussing why things would not be discussed

Most issues of significant concern were instructed to be dealt with by committees, commissions and future Assemblies

All remits passed down through the Barrier Act were approved

- **Committee on Church Doctrine (Susan Stacey)**

As congregations and presbyteries struggle with COVID-19 restrictions, many theologically crucial and urgent issues are being exposed. This year the committee did not present any new major work other than to help the General Assembly concentrate on subjects still under discussion and focus everyone on issues of mission and urgency. The committee presented recommendations, which were approved:

- Recommended a short statement expressing opposition to the recreational use of marijuana as harmful to individuals, society and inappropriate for Christians particularly regardless of its legalization, together with the affirmation of the medical use of marijuana for certain medical treatments.
- Recommended that updated preambles for the ordination and induction of ruling elders and ministers be circulated to sessions and presbyteries for study and feedback to the committee. Making the preamble language current and accessible required updating some theological expressions.
- Recommended that a request from the Presbytery of Kamloops to clarify and reaffirm the seriousness and sanctity of ordination vows be answered with encouragement to all to uphold and respect the discernment process already in place and trust the guidance of the Holy Spirit.
- Recommended that congregations, presbyteries, and agencies be encouraged to consider changing the title of the *Report on Physician Assisted Suicide* to *Physician Assisted Suicide: Medical Assistance in Dying*.

- Recommended starting a discussion about serving Christ and the Church by being ordained to positions that are unusual or less traditional and less than half time when all qualifications are met.
- Recommended that a request to revise *Living Faith* with more contemporary language be answered by explaining that constantly revising for current and immediate issues would be impractical—by the time a draft revision is presented for study and review, other more urgent issues would have risen, leading to an unending cycle of revisions. The Committee instead recommends that sessions, study groups, and confirmation classes continue to read, study and use the current *Living Faith* as the church continuously adds relevant faith statements in a timely manner through declaratory acts.

The committee report also includes a six-part study guide for its 2019 document *Living in God's Mission Today*.

- **Pension and Benefits Board (Andrea Dobos)**

The Pension and Benefits Board reported the financial status of the pension plan, results from the Asset Liability Management Study, responses to overtures and petitions, and updates on congregational assessments in arrears, group benefits and communications.

The going concern funded status of the plan held strong over the past year and the solvency (wind-up) position of the plan improved slightly due to better than expected investment returns and a slight increase in discount rates for calculating wind-up liabilities.

In January 2022, the member pension contribution rate will be reduced to 8.0% of pensionable income, the pension plan congregational assessment rate be reduced to 4.5% of dollar base and the employer contribution rate be reduced to 11% of pensionable income.

The Assembly adopted a series of recommendations to help the church move toward and ensure greater gender pay equity locally and across the denomination.

- **International Affairs (Heinrich Botha)**

The Cutting Edge of Mission Award was presented to Julia Drydyk, Executive Director, at the Canadian Centre to End Human Trafficking, who addressed the Assembly.

The report raised pressing issues of international concerns. The report brings forth new information on the following subjects:

- Migrant workers & Human trafficking (with a focus on the Canadian context);
- Global Crisis: The loss/degradation of Global Biodiversity & Displacement due to climate change;
- Israel-Palestinian relationship & impact of Israeli occupation on children and families

The report highlights situations where systematic injustices and environmental stresses causing harm to humans and the rest of God's creation. It also highlights how the COVID-19 pandemic has led to an increase in rendering some people more vulnerable to human rights abuses.

The report also provides recommendations on how the PCC *via* the Moderator of the GA, other courts and even individuals members can respond, for instance further education/awareness on such matters, advocacy and personal sacrifice that could promote justice and inspire positive change for the benefit of all.

During the discussion, some concerns were leveled that the report and the recommendations regarding the Israeli-Palestine conflict seems one-sided, especially in light of more recent developments that have arisen since the report was submitted. Ultimately, the report and recommendations were put forward as an omnibus recommendation, and was adopted as a whole.

- **Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations (Heinrich Botha)**

The report highlights many ways in which individuals and organisations within the PCC are engaged in the work of the church through ecumenical and interfaith relationships, and it is noteworthy that these existing relationships can be a wonderful avenues of ministries to pursue for congregations as well as individuals if they feel called to do so.

The report also encourages all within the PCC to *‘continue and develop new relations with worship communities in their neighbourhoods’*.

The Rev. Marikje Strong, Executive Secretary Regional Synod of Canada Reformed Church in America, was the Ecumenical guest at the Assembly and addressed the Assembly. Rev Strong expressed her gratitude for the ongoing partnership between the RCA, CRC and the PCC, and impressed on the GA a message that the changing landscape of the times are bringing forth new, exciting expressions of faith that lead to the restoration of justice and renewal of all things to God’s desire: Isaiah 43 (:16ff): “See, I AM doing a new thing!”

A request was made that, ***“In response to the London Attack on June 7, 2021 (EIR-ADD)”*** that a letter of condolence be written by the Moderator of GA to the National Muslim-Christian Liaison Committee.

Iman Muneeb Nasir, Co-chair of the National Muslim Christian Liaison Committee, was the Interfaith guest at the Assembly and addressed the Assembly. Imam Nasir shared with the GA that the MCLC provides a forum for respectful conversation between Canadian Muslims & Christians. He also emphasized that *in light of pandemic, we choose our future. Choosing that our differences no longer divide us, but rather that our similarities support us in working and living together*. He impressed on the GA that the continuation of dialogue between Christians and Muslims should aim to deepen ideas and relationships, but also lead to actions.

- **Remits (Isabel Evans)**

REM-001 regarding Length of Term Service for elders duly seconded and adopted without much discussion.

REM-002 regarding Definition of Marriage was adopted after a long and passionate discussion. A vote count was requested by two commissioners – Approve 136, Disapprove 76. Dissent with reasons regarding REM-002 submitted by 13 commissioners.

REM-003 regarding Ordination of LGBTQI Persons be approved was presented. There was a call for immediate vote that was defeated. Again after further discussion there was a call for immediate voted that was adopted. Another call for vote count by two commissioners Approve 130, Disapprove 83. Dissent with reasons submitted by 8 commissioners.

An additional motion seeking the establishment of separate theological synods for churches which hold to the definition of marriage prior to the passing of Remit B, and other theological matters deemed deeply important to them, was defeated.

- **Report of the Colleges (Bev Shepansky, Isabel Evans)**

- Presbyterian College***

The Rev. Dr. Roland Roland De Vries was appointed as Principal for a five-year term commencing June 1, 2021.

A Minute of Appreciation was adopted for the Rev. Dr. Dan Shute, who served as college librarian, and in many other capacities, over 4 decades.

A Minute of Appreciation was adopted for the Rev. Dr. Dale Woods, who served as Director of Pastoral Studies and then Principal of the college from 2008 to 2020.

- St. Andrew's Hall***

The Board of SAH has been working on a new 5 year strategic plan to educate and equip missional leaders.

Rev. Dr. Ross Lockhart was formally appointed as the Dean of St. Andrew's Hall and addressed the Assembly.

The current makeup of the Board of SAH is as follows:

12 Members (3 year term, option for 2nd term)

Years	Name
2018–2022 (II)	Rev. Ena van Zoeren, Salmon Arm, BC
2019–2022 (I)	Rev. Gwen D.T. Brown, Creston, BC
2019–2022 (I)	Dr. Victor Ling, Vancouver, BC
2019–2022 (I)	Mr. Ron Zapp, New Westminster, BC
2017–2023 (II)	Rev. Dr. M. Jean Morris, Calgary, AB (convener)
2017–2023 (II)	Mr. Stephen Roche, Thornhill, ON
2020–2023 (I)	Rev. John J. Paeng, Parksville, BC
2021–2023 (I)	Joseph Bae, Thornhill, ON (for 2 years)
2018–2024 (II)	Mr. Matthew Walton-Knight, North Vancouver, BC

2021–2024 (I) Ms. Mary Rozsa de Coquet, Calgary, AB
2021–2024 (I) Mr. Neil Singh, Surrey, BC
2021–2024 (I) Mr. Larry Yen, Vancouver, BC

-Knox College

The college has successfully completed two years of academic programs under the conditions of the Covid -19 pandemic. Although a challenging year, through God's Grace, student enrollment has increased. An expression of gratitude was given for Dr. Nam Soon Song on her retirement.

Rev. Dr. John Vissers does not wish to be considered for a second term as Principal but agreed to take on an extension to his term to June of 2023, or however long it may take, in order to facilitate the naming of his successor.

• **Committee on Church History (Susan Stacey)**

To help us celebrate and preserve Presbyterian history across the country, the Committee on History reports on what's new in church history and gives updates for ongoing projects. They remind us that we are commended by God to tell our history as we move into the future.

At the 2021 General Assembly they:

- Encouraged congregations to observe Heritage Sunday on February 20, 2022 (or another Sunday) to celebrate our vibrant and dynamic faith legacy. They welcome feedback about how congregations celebrate their heritage.
- Encouraged congregations and individuals to submit publications for consideration for history book prizes. Submissions for the 2022 prizes should be sent to the Prize Committee, Presbyterian Church Archives by December 31, 2021.
- Recognized the Rev. Peter Bush for completing over 30 years as editor of *Presbyterian History*, and noted that history articles are also published in the *Presbyterian Connection*.
- Reminded commissioners of the oral and visual history project to capture the memories of individuals in our church with the added element of voice and personality.
- Encouraged presbyteries, congregations, groups and individuals to support the 3-year national fundraising campaign for the Presbyterian Church Heritage Centre, now located at:
Presbyterian Church Heritage Centre (PCHC)
19 Falkirk Street, RR3
Denfield ON N0M 1P0
pcheritagecentre@gmail.com
pcheritagecentre.ca
- Reminded congregations about the importance of well-kept congregational records and the management of such records and of following the advice and guidance of the Presbyterian Church Archives.

Jun 21, 2021

YAR Report – Petri du Toit

Reflecting upon my experience at the 2021 General Assembly, it was a time for growth spiritually and personally. I learnt more than I expected about the governance of The Presbyterian Church in Canada than I expected. I learnt more about the difficult discussions that are ongoing within our Church as a whole. I was fortunate enough to have 11 other YARS with a wide breadth of experiences and perspectives that we could discuss the matters on hand and dive into the impact they would have on the Church. We were fortunate to have leaders who supported and cared for us over the four days. Jo Morris and Jeff Murray were available throughout the Assembly to help answer any questions and provide more detail on the business at hand. The most significant challenge was the online format of the General Assembly. Not being able to gather physically was difficult. With the Assembly being about five hours a day, the YARs would spend an extra three hours together on Zoom with Jo and Jeff, debriefing and priming for the next sederunt. This time spent with the other YARS was crucial. My advice for future YARs would be to lean on your fellow YARs and advisors. There will be some challenging matters during GA; knowing that there are people you can talk to about the business at hand is extremely helpful. If there is something you do not understand, ask the Advisors because if they do not know the answer to your question, they will point you in the direction of someone who does know.

We the YAR's of the 2021 General Assembly prepared a prayerful report to the General Assembly.

We the Young Adult Representatives to the 2021 General Assembly are siblings in Christ and celebrate our call to be Christ's Church together bound to him who is the only King and Head. We come from North, South, East, and West to pray for unity in a fragmented world. We seek reconciliation with each other by:

Giving thanks to God for keeping everyone safe in this virtual General assembly due to Covid and guiding us to a stronger faith and a more accepting future. We are thankful for the courage and bravery of those who have shared their stories with us.

Challenging the Church to not let the rift between theological differences to fester and grow to divide us. We the people of Christ are stronger together as one unified church in body and mind bringing glory to our Lord.

Asking the Church to keep building faith on a rock by following and doing what it says in the Bible, as the world and its desires pass away, but whoever does the will of God has eternal life.

Reminding us as disciples to spend time with those in need and to not be afraid, God is with us always. God is with us as we, Christ's church, continue to open boundaries and we commend the work of those who have reminded us to welcome all.

Seeking to bless each other with peace of mind, heart and soul, with gentle vulnerability, raw storytelling and thoughtful expression, through the courage of the Holy spirit so that we will walk on God's path and do God's will.

We ask all these things in Jesus' name. Amen

Addendum to the Commissioner's Report

- The following is a reflection from David Jennings

A Horribly Failed General Assembly - Reflections of a Commissioner

When the 2020 General Assembly was cancelled due to the pandemic, plans started to be formed by the Clerks of Assembly with respect to how a General Assembly could occur in 2021. Three options were presented: hold and in-person General Assembly in June, 2021; hold a videoconference General Assembly in June 2021; and postpone General Assembly until 2022 for an in-person meeting.

A survey was distributed to presbyteries and sessions seeking input. A thorough 17 page summary of those responses is available which could be summarized with “if a General Assembly must be held in 2021, hold it by videoconference and deal only with limited business, avoiding contentious issues such as the Remits”. The summary of responses prepared by National staff was far more positively inclined to hold a videoconference General Assembly. That summary is also available. Our presbytery was explicit in his recommendations: *“encourage Assembly Council to follow [videoconference 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**”*. It was incredibly unfortunate that the Assembly Council did not follow the advice and wisdom of this presbytery. I do note that several members of Assembly Council registered dissents in writing with respect to the procedural and substantial problems a videoconference General Assembly would entail.

But still a videoconference General Assembly in 2021 was chosen, with no limit as to the amount of business to be put before it. Thereafter, a software platform designed by PC USA was chosen to host the materials and the voting process for a videoconference, while Zoom allowed for a video connection. However, the platform’s shortcomings as a method of holding a meeting were horribly evident during the four day General Assembly. Commissioners were confused by the platform. The Help-Desk was confused by the platform. The Moderator was confused by the platform.

Because (i) two years’ worth of materials and recommendations were to be presented; (ii) the highly contentious Remits would be debated; (iii) fewer hours were scheduled for debate than in normal years; (iv) a decision to seek an advisory vote of YARs and student representatives on each motion; and (v) the more cumbersome process of passing any recommendation by way of the platform, a decision was made by the Clerks of Assembly to end the practice of “consent recommendations” (as with this presbytery, a listing of ostensibly non-contentious recommendations that need not be debated, with the proviso that any one member of the court can request that the matter be removed from the recommendation and separately debated). In its place, an “omnibus resolution” proposal was required, with the resolution to include the adoption of numerous recommendations, all being non-debatable unless over 50% of the members of the court voted in favour of debating it. The omnibus resolution process represented a direct violation of Section 4 of the Book of Forms (which grants each commissioner the right to debate any motion before the court) and Section 50 of the Book of Forms (which requires that any motion with more than one part be divided upon the request of any two commissioners). Combined with the inability to publicly declare dissent on motions and a timeline and a word limit for such dissents imposed also directly contrary to Section 91 of the Book of Forms, this General Assembly unilaterally denied many of the basic rights of commissioners enjoyed in General Assemblies since the formation of the denomination.

Making it worse, PC-biz apparently was confusing to the Moderator, which was understandable given that he could not see any commissioners and had to continuously review multiple screens. How bad was it?

Amendments to motions properly processed were not acknowledged nor debated, additional motions to occur at the end of reports were postponed and then cancelled, points of order raised were habitually not addressed, many questions were not answered, several commissioners who wish to speak were not heard, the mover of a motion was not permitted to speak to the motion prior to a vote, and the call for immediate votes was constantly occurring and being recognized, despite little debate having occurred. As an example, the Moderator unilaterally chose to cut off debate with respect to Remit B, despite the Barrier Act requiring that debate only be limited on such a Remit with the vote of two thirds of the commissioners. There is a strong argument that due to the improper process, Remit B has still not been adopted. Whether intentional or not, the overall effect of the violation of basic procedural rules and poorly handled moderating of the proceedings resulted in frustration, acrimony, and a suspicion regarding the legitimacy of the proceedings themselves.

The travesty of this past General Assembly will be felt for a very long time, as many commissioners and other Presbyterians, who will accept most outcomes if reached in a fair and equitable manner, feel that the entire General Assembly was organized and executed in a manner that ran roughshod over time-tested procedural rights and seemed to diminish materially the respect due to each Commissioner.

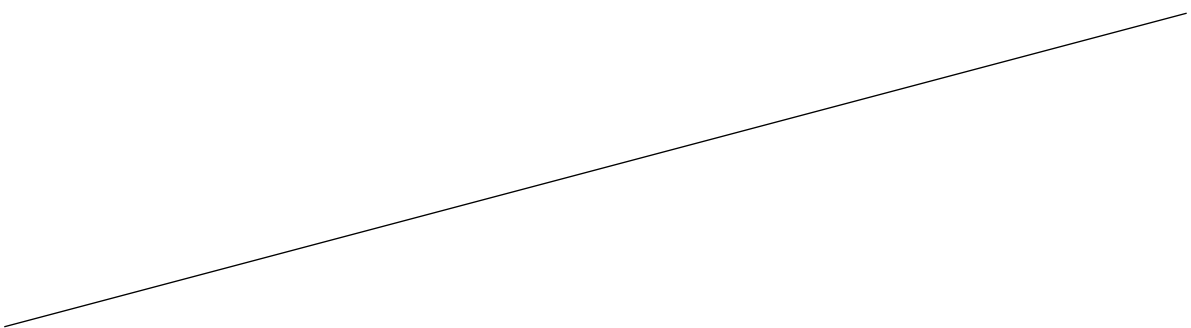
I would encourage this Presbytery to gather up the reflections of all its commissioners and to present them to Assembly Council, along with an Overture to ensure that mistakes made at this past General Assembly will never again be repeated.

Moved by Isabel Evans, seconded by Brad Childs, that a special meeting of presbytery be called by the Moderator and Clerk for the fall of 2021 to discuss issues raised by the 2021 General Assembly, to provide pastoral support for ministers and ruling elders and to offer opportunities for the presbytery to consider overtures to the 2022 General Assembly.

CARRIED

The Moderator and Clerk will be in contact with the Commissioners to the 2021 General Assembly to help prepare a document that can serve as a guide for the special meeting of the presbytery.

A moment of celebration took place to acknowledge the formal appointment of Dr. Ross Lockhart at General Assembly as the Dean of St. Andrew's Hall.



ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

The report was presented Victor Kim, Administrative Committee Convener.

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

Administrative Committee Report, June 22, 2021

Standing Orders/Committee Structure Review

The Admin Committee will receive the feedback and comments regarding the Standing Orders and Presbytery Committees and will prepare a revision for presbytery consideration for the September meeting. We would like to hear from committee conveners around committee membership as well, if that isn't addressed in the feedback.

Elder Training

A request was received earlier for the presbytery to present workshops for ruling elders, around polity and practice, both for the local Session context as well as the other courts of the church. The Admin Committee proposes that two workshops be offered in the fall, one to focus on the Session context and the second the focus on Presbytery/Synod/General Assembly. In order to not conflict with many other workshop offerings on weekends, including the PMV workshops and from the Centre for Missional Leadership, we are proposing to hold these workshops on Tuesday evenings. These workshops will be organized by the Moderator and Clerk, inviting others to assist and participate as requested. There is much experience in the presbytery and we wish to draw upon that experience.

- **Recommendation 1:** That the presbytery approve the presentation of two workshops for ruling elders around polity and practice, both for local session contexts and the other courts of the church, to be held on Tuesdays, October 5 and 19 from 7-9pm via zoom. **CARRIED**

Installation of new Moderator

At the end of the June presbytery meeting, Isabel Evans, elder from Richmond Presbyterian Church will be installed as the next Moderator of the Presbytery of Westminster. We thank the Rev. Dr. Patricia Dutcher-Walls for her term as Moderator and look forward to Isabel's leadership in the year ahead.

Transitions within the presbytery

As this is the last regular meeting of presbytery prior to September, some representative and equalizing elders may be stepping down and new elders may be commissioned by sessions to take their place. We thank all those elders who will be completing their term on presbytery for their service and give thanks to God for their faithful witness.

One particular rep elder is not only stepping down from his role but also making a physical move from our bounds. We give thanks for the faithful work of Dr. David Jennings as representative elder from St. Andrew's and St. Stephen's Presbyterian Church. David has also served the wider church in ways too numerous to list. We pray

Victor Kim

for God's blessing to be with David as he moves and give thanks to God for the blessing he has been to our presbytery and to our denomination.

The Moderator and Clerk spoke to the dedication of David Jennings and thanked him for his deep involvement within the court and at the national level. Richard Topping also expressed the appreciation of Vancouver School of Theology for David's critical work in the turnaround at Vancouver School of Theology.

David was invited to speak and shared about the congeniality within the presbytery, the hope and risk that this presbytery has undertaken around new ways of being church and for the connections and friendships he has made along the way – for that he is eternally grateful.

Return to in-person presbytery meetings

Given the continuing changes to the guidance around pandemic restrictions, both indoors and outdoors, it would be helpful to give permission to the Moderator and Clerk to decide around how the September meeting of presbytery will take place, whether by zoom or in person (a zoom option will be offered if the meeting is held in person for those who cannot physically attend).

- **Recommendation 2:** That the Moderator and Clerk, based on the guidance provided by the Provincial Health Officer, determine whether the September meeting of presbytery will be via zoom or held in person and communicate that to the presbytery. **CARRIED**

Respectfully submitted,
Victor Kim, Clerk

INSTALLATION OF ISABEL EVANS AS NEW MODERATOR

Installation of Isabel Evans as the new Moderator of Presbytery

The Moderator welcomed the Isabel Evans, Moderator Elect and proceeded to install her as the Moderator of Westminster Presbytery for the 2021-2022 Presbytery year.

The new Moderator assumed the chair. The Clerk expressed the appreciation of the Court for the outgoing Moderator and this was affirmed by the Court.

Moved by Richard Topping, seconded by Paddy Eastwood, that the Rev. Dr. Patricia Dutcher-Walls be thanked and recognized with gratitude for her tremendous work as Moderator over the past year. **CARRIED**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Laurie McKay, seconded by Laurel Gorman to adjourn the meeting.

CARRIED

- The next **regular scheduled meeting of presbytery** is **September 21, 2021**, 7:00 pm either in person or via Zoom. Worship will be led by the Moderator, Isabel Evans.

The Moderator offered a closing prayer.

The Moderator closed the court with a benediction at 9:42pm