

The Presbytery of Westminster met in Regular Session on Tuesday, November 2, 2021 at 7:00pm with some members participating via Zoom Video Conferencing due to the Covid-19 and some in-person at Kerrisdale Presbyterian Church, Vancouver. Worship was led by Richard Watson and opened with the recognition of the traditional lands upon which the meeting was held.

CONSTITUTION

The Moderator, Isabel Evans constituted the Court and opened the meeting with prayer at 7:45 pm.

The Moderator welcomed the following guests:

Ian and Barbara Rokeby; Jacqueline Cleland, VST Student.

Leave to Withdraw: none

DOCKET

It was moved by Victor Kim, seconded by Paddy Eastwood, that the consent agenda below be adopted.

CARRIED

Consent Agenda:

- that the Docket be as indicated,
- that the attendance be recorded as noted in the Roll Record Book,
- that regrets and requests for permission to withdraw be noted as sent to the clerk of presbytery,
- that the minutes of the regular meeting held on September 21, 2021 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 Any member may ask for an issue on the consent agenda to be withdrawn from this list before the agenda is adopted.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:

IN-PERSON:

M. Baxter, P. Eastwood, M. Fontaine, B. Fraser, T. Hsieh, T. Kim, V. Kim, R. Lockhart, L. McKay, R. Simpson, G. Snyman, R. Watson.

M. Adams, B. Astop, I. Evans, N. Pringle, B. Shepansky, G. Shields, S. Stacey.

Via ZOOM:

S. Goble, C. Macleod, B. Skelding, R. Topping, W. van de Wall, D. Woods.

N. Abramson, J. Con, B. Dennehy, B. Feick, C. Gleimius, L. Gorman, K. Kim, L. Lanaras, C. Rebosura (Alt for First),

K. Sewell, J. Sonachansingh, E. Wilson, P. Wong, M. Zaine

Appendix:

IN-PERSON: A. Aicken, L. Bae, G. Davis, P. Dutcher-Walls, W. Sosnowsky.

Via ZOOM: B. Garvin, R. Ross.

Students/Certified for Ordination:

IN-PERSON: M. Arsenault

Non-voting Guests include:

Via ZOOM: J. Cleland, T. Zhou, P. Overhill, L. Eastwood, I. & B. Rokeby.

REGRETS:

G. Jay, M. Szigeti, M. Wong, A. Lin, K. Patrick, L. Yen, K. Jordan, B. McLagan, A. Perrett.

CORRESPONDENCE: September 13, 2021 – October 29, 2021

09-13-21	Brian Fraser	Recommendation for Knox College Dean Search	Forwarded to Admin Committee
09-13-21	Jennifer Astop	The New and Renewed Ministry Fund: Report Template to be completed by “Around the Well”	Received
09-13-21	Brian Fraser	Seeking approval to apply for an Avondbloem Experimental Fund Grant for 52 Song Scripture Salvation	Received
09-13-21	Teresa Charlton	Fall updates from Synod – Synod 2021 to be held October 15.	Circulated
09-13-21	Ted Sivers	Announcing move to Alberta by end of September	Received
09-14-21	Jackie Czegledi	Adjustments to the 2020 Statistical Report Dollar Base	Circulated
09-14-21	Richard Watson	Notice that an application for a PCC New and Renewed Ministry fund grant for “Around the Well” will be submitted	Noted
09-16-21	Dale Woods	Connecting around conversation – support for ministers	Circulated
09-16-21	Steve, Western Han-Ca	Requesting Jonathan Kwon membership to be transferred to the Presbytery of Western Han-Ca	Received, MCV has responded
09-19-21	Daniel Martinez	Camp Douglas Work Party scheduled for October 23	Distributed
09-20-21	Terrie-Lee Hamilton	2021 A&P and Book of Forms are now available on the PCC website	Distributed

09-20-21	Tim Purvis	Clarification on status for Jonathan Kwon – should be member of Western Han-Ca Presbytery	Received and noted
09-20-21	Brian Fraser	CV for Rev. Dr. Sarah Travis for Admin Committee meeting	Circulated
09-20-21	Hyo Jin Park	Receipt of letter regarding Jonathan Kwon	Received
09-22-21	Pat Dutcher-Walls	Bible Study Poster for distribution	Received and circulated
09-22-21	Mary Fontaine	Status Report of PCR for Canadian Ministries Grant Application	Received
09-23-21	Stephen Kwon	Required temporary marriage license for Sept 2022.	Received
09-25-21	Teresa Charlton	Change in date for fall 2021 Synod of BC meeting: changed to October 16	Circulated
09-27-21	Bruce Cairnie	Voting results RE: amalgamation from the growing together churches	Received
09-28-21	Donna McIlveen	Synod of Quebec and Eastern Ontario conference	Circulated
09-29-21	Dale Woods	Connecting lunch is on for October 5	Noted
09-29-21	Kathryn Muir	Action RE: Overture submitted to the 2021 GA	Received
10-03-21	Larry Eastwood	POW Financial Statements for September 2021	Received
10-04-21	Angus Beattie	PEF dissolution memo and resolution for presbytery circulation	Received and circulated
10-04-21	Bruce Cairnie	Detailed Voting results from the Growing Together Churches	Received
10-05-21	Marjorie Copeland	Arthur Surjadi looking for Presbytery Endorsement	Forwarded to Ministry Committee
10-05-21	Angus Beattie	Presbyterian Senior Citizens Housing Society (PSCHS) re-evaluating process	Received
10-05-21	Ian Rokeby	Response to PSCHS re-evaluating process	Received
10-06-21	Kathryn Muir	Changes to the Roll for September 2021	Received
10-06-21	Liz Brewer	Guidance Conference Report for D. Martinez, N. Hartley and S. Charleton	Received
10-07-21	Kathryn Muir	Updated Clerk's List	Received
10-07-21	Bob Matchett	Lakeview Presbyterian in Thunder Bay seeking permission to call Markus Arsenault as minister	Received
10-07-21	Laurie McKay	Enquiring on the status of John Carr as a certified student in the POW	Received and responded
10-08-21	Rebecca Simpson	BC Land Owner Transparency Act - registration required	Received
10-09-21	Kaireen Morgan	GBI Workshop to be held at WVPC – details forthcoming	Noted

10-09-21	Perry Atwal	Slides from Ministry/Business Plan Workshop for distribution	Received and shared
10-09-21	Harold Munn	Extinction Rebellion Vancouver to hold non-violent disobedient action on October 18 – looking for support from POW	Received and forwarded to CEC
10-09-21	Bob Matchett	Lakeview Call to Markus Arsenault paperwork	Received
10-11-21	Bruce Wiesner	Appreciation to all for a great workshop from Associate Dean of Sauder School of Business	Received
10-13-21	Dale Woods	Learning Event with Gail Donohue scheduled for November 6, 9am-12pm via Zoom	Distributed
10-13-21	Teresa Charlton	Synod 2021 Details	Distributed
10-14-21	Melian Bennett	Knox College Search for a new Principal	Distributed
10-14-21	Terrie-Lee Hamilton	Principal Clerk of Assembly Search – calling for nominations from presbyteries	Distributed
10-15-21	Daniel Martinez	Camp Douglas Work Party Reminder – please recirculate.	Distributed
10-15-21	Laurie Deacon	Criminal Record Check submitted	Received
10-15-21	Teresa Charlton	Synod 2021- Documents and Links	Distributed
10-15-21	Larry Eastwood	Urgent Synod announcement re: BC Legislation regarding Land Ownership	Received
10-15-21	Larry Eastwood	Congregational Trust Deeds – status required	Received
10-19-21	Sunny Lee	Video of the Ministry/Business Plan Workshop is available for limited viewing. This video is not to be shared outside of the intended group	Received and noted
10-23-21	Bruce Cairnie	Amalgamation Plan for Gordon, Knox and St. Aidan's	Received, circulated and forwarded to the Commission on Assets
10-24-21	M Repchuck	PCHC Campaign for circulation	Distributed
10-25-21	Douglas Young	Presbytery of Kingston is looking for a new treasurer and wondering if the POW has a job description they could use as a template	Received
10-27-21	Larry Eastwood	Invoice from Growing Together Churches for Interim Moderator costs	Received and referred to next Admin meeting
10-28-21	Oliver Ng	Response to the Amalgamation Proposal from Gordon, Knox and St. Aidan's from the Commission on Assets	Received and copied to Bruce Cairnie
10-29-21	Don Muir	Letter from Clerks of Assembly re: Decisions regarding the parallel definitions of marriage - wedding policies	Distributed

REPORTS

A ten minute Breakout Group for Fellowship and Prayer time was recognized and greatly appreciated.

MINISTRY COMMITTEE REPORT

The report was presented by Paddy Eastwood, Ministry Committee Convener

All motions, unless otherwise noted, moved by Paddy Eastwood, seconded by Bev Shepansky.

Ministry Committee Report to Presbytery November 2, 2021

The Ministry Committee met on October 26, at 3pm on Zoom.

Call to Mr. Marcus Arsenault

The Ministry Committee has examined the call documents for the call from Lakeview Presbyterian, Thunder Bay, Ontario to Mr. Marcus Arsenault and finds them in good order. We are delighted for both Mr. Arsenault and Lakeview Presbyterian and support this call.

Mr. Arsenault would like to be ordained in his home congregation of Iona Presbyterian Church, Dartmouth, Nova Scotia.

Recommendation 1: That the Presbytery of Westminster support the call of Markus Arsenault to Lakeview Presbyterian Church, Thunder Bay as a true gospel call.

CARRIED

Recommendation 2: that Mr. Marcus Arsenault be ordained by the Presbytery of Halifax & Lunenburg.

CARRIED

The Moderator asked Markus Arsenault to come forward and a prayer was offered.

Proposal for the Amalgamation of Knox, St. Aidan's and Gordon Presbyterian Churches, New Westminster and Burnaby, within the Presbytery of Westminster

On October 23, 2021 the Rev. Bruce Cairnie, Interim Moderator for the Growing Together Churches, submitted the proposal for the Amalgamation of Knox, St. Aidan's and Gordon Presbyterian Churches. We rejoice at the enthusiasm of the three congregations for this next step in their ministry and mission.

According to the Policy for the Amalgamation or Dissolution of Congregations, it is the responsibility of the Presbytery to submit to the Commission on Assets of Dissolved and Amalgamated Congregations the portion of the amalgamation plan that shows how the assets will be used to further Christ's work in the local community and/or beyond it once any indebtedness has been paid. Our Clerk of Presbytery has done so.

Recommendation 3: that the Presbytery meet to consider the amalgamation of Knox, St. Aidan's and Gordon Presbyterian Churches at a special meeting, called at the discretion of the Moderator of Presbytery, and that chosen representatives of the congregations be cited to speak to the amalgamation.

CARRIED

Medical Leave for The Rev. Heinrich Botha

The Rev. Heinrich Botha has completed his medical leave and will return to his position, full-time, on Monday, November 15, 2021, and will preach on Sunday, November 21st.

The Session of West Vancouver Presbyterian Church has agreed that the first six months of his return to ministry would be a time of experimentation during which they would try new, creative ways of reaching out to the community. Those outside the church community need help, support and a safe place to find 'sanctuary' without any expectations placed upon them.

We thank the Rev. Woldy Sosnowsky for moderating the session during this leave.

Interim Moderator for Central Presbyterian Church

The Rev. Heinrich Botha has indicated that he wishes to resign as Interim Moderator for Central Presbyterian Church. We wish to thank him for this ministry and also the Rev. Bev Shepansky who has served as a temporary Interim Moderator during his leave.

The Ministry Committee has appointed the Rev. Dr. Dale Woods and the Rev. Bev Shepansky, as co-Interim Moderators to Central Presbyterian Church. The Rev. Shepansky will serve as Interim Moderator of Pastoral Care and Worship, and Rev. Dr. Woods will serve as Interim Moderator of the Session.

REPORTS

There are reports from Central, First, Langley and St Columba Presbyterian Churches.

Interim Moderator Report - Central Presbyterian Church

November 2, 2021, Presbytery of Westminster

What ministries have taken place since your last report?

Central has been worshipping in person since July 18, 2021 with COVID protocols.

During the majority of Sundays, services from other Presbyterian congregations have been viewed on the audio-visual system in the church. One Sunday a month (in September and October), live pulpit supply was available for two Sacraments of Communion.

The session temporarily discontinued the Tuesday Lunch program of feeding the community.

The session has been working at establishing a Finance Committee so that the present Church Treasurer can begin training two to three people to assume his position when he retires at the end of 2022.

Are you facing any key challenges and if so, what are they?

The congregation has experienced great difficulty registering for a My Business Account with Canada Revenue Agency in order to receive necessary information for the Presbytery Task Force, Central lawyers and Bosa lawyers.

Everyone knows that the congregation's financial situation is strained to say the least: both Central and Galilee Korean Presbyterian Churches have minister vacancies; Christ Alive congregation has not been able to meet in the church; offerings and tithes have decreased as a result of COVID-19. (This is likely the same for all congregations in the presbytery.) Small fund-raising projects have begun to generate some extra funds.

The elders have been encouraged by the PMV to meet with him to develop a new vision for Central.

Do you require any support from Presbytery at this point?

The session is receiving support from the Task Force, the Rev. Dr. Dale Woods and many sympathetic members of the court.

*Is there a person within the presbytery that could help organize the Finance Committee of Central Session?

Is there anything for your congregation for which you would like the Presbytery to pray in particular?

That the weekly Prayer Meeting continue its faithfulness. That Dale, the Central treasurer, regain sufficient health to resume his church responsibilities and train a Finance Committee.

That the session commit to creating a new vision with the guidance of the Rev. Dr. Dale Woods.

Respectfully,
The Rev. Beverley Shepansky,
Temporary Interim Moderator

Interim Moderator Report - First Presbyterian Church

Dear Presbytery,

Since my last report, First Presbyterian Church has given the first unsure steps towards being a post-pandemic church like most churches. As I was on leave at my own congregation, I utilized the opportunity to fill their pulpit supply for two consecutive Sundays. I was surprised by the reasonable attendance, lively worship band and the general enthusiasm and warmth. Since then other preachers I have arranged for pulpit supply made the same comments after their encounters with First Presbyterian Church.

As stated in a previous report, First Presbyterian is in need of a visioning process. There was however an issue we needed to address even before this one could be tackled. First Presbyterian is in need of new leaders on session. There are currently just three congregants on Session and one of them has indicated that he will be moving away to Vancouver Island upon retirement early next year. And so we started the process of electing leaders. Three names have been announced on Sunday October 24th for the first time. I plan to have them ordained by November 14th 2021 so that we can then arrange a visioning session, hopefully with the help and input of Dale Woods. Pulpit supply for October and November is arranged and services go well under the guidance of the session. There is a great need for someone to administer the sacraments as often the only pulpit supply comes from ministers and students from other churches or not yet ordained, unable to administer the sacraments. There is also a slight improvement in offerings and former renters have recently returned to the facilities which ought to supplement the income even further. The congregants express a desire for a full time minister but do not seem to be aware of the financial implications of such a benefit. I understand there are talks about unification on the way among many other Presbyterian Congregations in New Westminster. First Presbyterian is not a part of these conversations and seems unaware about the plight of the other Presbyterian Churches in their vicinity. The possibility of amalgamation does not seem to be on their radar or wish list. This is something that can also be addressed as soon as the new leaders join the session.

In Christ
Gabriel J Snyman
Interim Moderator: First Presbyterian Church
October 25, 2021

Interim Moderator's Report – Langley Presbyterian Church

November 2, 2021

Langley Presbyterian has now been vacant for just over a year. In some way the congregation has been challenged during Covid-19:

- Like all congregations in our Presbytery Worship services had to be put on hold. The last service for LPC was on October 18, 2020. It was only in August of this year that services resumed. The question was asked like in most congregations, *"How many people will be back when things are back to normal?"* Presently not even half of the people, who attended before Covid-19 surfaced, returned for Worship.
- It has been challenging for the leadership to search for a new minister as questions were asked about committing to a full-time ministry.

In spite of challenges the people of Langley Presbyterian Church have come together and affirmed their purpose as a people of God continuing to bring witness in their community.

There are some areas I would like to report on:

- **Strong Leadership** – The Session has demonstrated good leadership during the vacancy. They had addressed concerns of congregants; pastoral care has been done diligently through the Pastoral Team, which reports to Session on a regular basis. With one member in Hospice it was commendable to learn how elders coordinated visits.
- **Worship** – Before services resumed in August of this year Worship links have been forwarded to people in the congregation, including Cooke's PC. LPC has joined Cooke's for a virtual Communion service, earlier in the year. There are a number of people who are still following virtual services as they aren't comfortable to be back for in person services. For those presently attending, Covid-19 protocols are well in place. LPC has been blessed with good pulpit supply with a number of clergy alternating.
- **Search Committee** – The Search Committee comprising of elders and people of the congregation has worked diligently to form a Congregational Profile. A survey was done to get the input of the congregation.
- **Stewardship** – Concerns have been raised about the financial situation of the congregation with many people away from services due to Covid-19. In spite of that the congregation is blessed with the way congregants continue to tithe faithfully. There were some people who gifted the congregation with substantial sums of money. The treasurer of the congregation is to be commended for her commitment and hard work.
- **Church Administrator** – As the position of Church Administrator has not been filled yet the former Administrator was hired on a temporary basis and in her absence some of the elders have stepped in where needed. The leadership has reached the point where the position of Administrator soon will be filled.
- **Contracts and Maintenance** – Session under the leadership of one elder in particular has done well by putting all contracts/rentals in place and the maintenance of the church has been done diligently.

The congregation of Langley Presbyterian Church is to be commended for the diligence in which they fulfill their service of God.

Respectfully submitted,
Rev. Willem van de Wall
Interim Moderator, LPC

Answers from St. Columbia Church in East Vancouver

Blessings and all grace to our fellow members of Presbytery. We as a congregation pray for you often. May God bless you in ways both imagined and unimagined as you look towards the end of one year and into another.

The people of St. Columba continue to worship in person and meet for bible studies. Communion has been served since our last report and our shut-ins and sick are all regularly contacted.

1. *What ministries have taken place since your last report?* (You may wish to highlight one or two in particular.)
This past month St. Columba has agreed to rent out their building to the Korean Congregation, Vancouver Jireh Church. As such, worship has commenced at St. Columba on Oct. 3, 2021 in the afternoon from 1:30-4:30. This is a three year rental contract.

Starting the first of November members of our congregation will meet weekly for 30 minutes online, to pray for the concerns of our church, our congregants and our boarder supported ministries. We will also be thanking God, regularly, for all that God has done, is doing and we know will do. We are opening our hearts to whatever the leading of the Holy Spirit might be for our congregation. We are excited to do this and then look back in a year to see all the ways that God was faithful and surprising.

2. *Are you facing any key challenges and if so, what are they?*
At present we are not facing any new challenges.

3. *Do you require any support from Presbytery at this point?*
With great thanks we say we do not require any support from the Presbytery currently. God is so good.

4. *Is there anything for your congregation for which you would like the Presbytery to pray in particular?*
We are asking that the Presbytery pray for our congregation to continue to open doors and provide a space for other groups to share and experience Christ. We have been actively praying this year to ask God to bring people and groups our way that we may help them grow and flourish.

In Christ,
Rev. Calvin Crichton
Interim Moderator

Respectfully Submitted,
the Rev. Paddy Eastwood, Ministry Committee Convener

STRATEGY AND LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT

The report was presented by Pat Dutcher-Walls, Strategy and Leadership Committee Convener
All motions, unless otherwise noted, moved by Martin Baxter, seconded by Susan Stacey.

Strategy and Leadership Committee Report to Presbytery

October 29, 2021

A. Central Church GST Task Force - Report to SLC and Request for Action

Summary

In the spring of 2021, Presbytery directed the formation of a Task Force comprising Rev. Rebecca Simpson, David Jennings, Larry Eastwood, and Ian Rokeby to seek to resolve the unanticipated GST issues facing Central Church. Following the interim report to Presbytery in the spring of 2021, David Jennings resigned from the Task Force. Although an initial meeting was held with Bosa in the spring, progress on resolving this file has been challenging and very slow. The task force submits that the current situation is beyond the scope and resources of the Task Force and requires a larger mandate and more comprehensive action to avoid further adverse repercussions. Our recommendation is to establish a Commission with authority to carry out the following course of action:

- Engagement with the Trustee Board of the National Church;
- Payment by Presbytery at the earliest opportunity, as a loan to Central congregation, of the outstanding GST obligation;
- Establishment with the Central congregation of a payment schedule to repay the above loan; and
- Carrying out a rigorous and thorough program of cost reduction and revenue augmentation to maximize the potential viability of the congregation.

It is the view of the Task Force that this course of action offers the best potential to avoid financial penalties and/or legal action while stabilizing finances. At the same time, the Presbytery can consider options regarding the future vision and missional direction of this congregation. The following provides a summary of the findings of the Task Force.

Observations

The situation is highly complex and not sustainable:

- The GST liability generated through the transferring of the church property from the development company back to the church was not anticipated in CPC financial planning. As a result, CPC now finds itself in a negative- or negligible-equity situation with regard to its real estate assets, once the future maintenance and capital replacement costs of owning these assets are taken into account. This severely constrains congregational flexibility for dealing with the current situation.
- Currently, operating expenses of the congregation in this facility, even absent a minister, far exceed the potential revenues from conventional congregational sources, creating a classic structural deficit. We have requested action to achieve operating efficiencies but are not aware of any progress in this regard. We note that, strictly speaking, this important action is outside the mandate of the Task Force but is urgently required.
- Funds from ASP1 and/or ASP3 (retail and housing air space parcels) continue to be diverted to fund the above-noted operating deficit.
- Even absent the GST issues now facing CPC, the complexity of the business activities of the congregation exceeds that of any other congregation in the Presbytery, and of available congregational resources. It seems unrealistic to assume that the demands that this places on the congregation could be managed without professional staff resources, regardless of the experience of congregational volunteers. There is, however, no financial capacity available to fund this.
- The complexity and scale of the financial challenges originating from the GST liability are a challenge for Bosa as much as for the congregation, due to the interaction with PCC polity (with which Bosa has no experience). We believe that this is the reason Bosa has not taken substantive steps towards advancing

resolution since our initial meeting, except for requesting GST documentation (which as of the time of writing, CPC has been unable to produce).

- The Housing Society, which has been set up to receive and hold housing assets of CPC (not yet carried out), is controlled by a board of directors comprising residents and congregants. Under the current financial situation, this creates a significant conflict of interest regarding their stewardship.

Congregational Resources are Very Limited

- The church has no bargaining power in discussions with Bosa regarding the GST situation given their current financial situation. This is exacerbated by the difficulties experienced in achieving timely responses to Bosa's requests for information. The church is a supplicant in this relationship and can only hope to create goodwill from being cooperative in order to avoid legal action. We are not succeeding in this regard at present.
- The mismatch between the personnel resources of this congregation (availability, skills, and abilities) and the inherent complexity of their operating and financial situation is profound and threatens the effective resolution of their current challenges as well as their ongoing viability.

Lack of Clarity Regarding the Future of this Congregation Complicates Appropriate Decision-Making

The issues facing CPC are numerous and intertwined. Proposing and implementing a comprehensive strategy for dealing with CPC's financial issues is inextricably linked to the future of the congregation. This is currently under examination with the Presbyter of Ministry and Vision and will take some time to resolve. From an objective financial assessment, CPC is a failed business venture, and in the business world would be restructured and likely closed. Notwithstanding the time required to clarify the congregation's future, there are two very time-sensitive issues facing CPC which, in order to avoid further punitive repercussions, require urgent action, as follows:

- The risk of financial penalties from Canada Revenue Agency on any unpaid GST;
- The risk of legal action by Bosa against CPC relating to the GST issue.

Both of these issues originate from CPC's inability to pay the GST owing. While it is not clear whether Bosa has advanced funds to CRA to satisfy the CPC GST obligation, prompt repayment would resolve both of these issues and allow a little time to focus on the other issues facing CPC. We are presently seeking clarification as to whether the outstanding amount has been paid by Bosa or not.

Issues:

The observations outlined above have given rise to significant inefficiency and frustration in carrying out the work of the Task Force, on the part of both Task Force members and the congregation, as follows:

- The lack of coordination of mandate and resources between PMV, Task Force, and the Congregation has created a perception of lack of action;
- The Task Force recommended strategy, based on being pro-actively engaged with Bosa to generate goodwill has been substantially frustrated by lack of congregational capacity to provide needed information in a timely manner; the continuing delay in addressing this increases the likelihood that CPC will be named in legal action by Bosa in response to the very slow responses to their basic questions of CPC;
- The congregation continues to be reliant on cash transfers from housing and retail assets. This is continuing to erode the value of these assets and exacerbate the negative equity problem. This is due to apparent lack of action on restructuring congregational operating costs, and increases the magnitude of the financial problem with each passing month.

The Task Force is of the view that in the medium term, the negative equity situation of the congregation will require either:

- a significant cash injection by Presbytery **together with** serious cost reduction **and** a long-term arrangement with Bosa or others to rationalize the real estate holdings;

OR

- the orderly closing of the congregation.

In the meantime, prompt payment of the GST obligations to Canada Revenue Agency and/or Bosa will mitigate the risk of further adverse developments.

The Task Force also is of the view that it lacks the resources and expertise and the breadth of mandate necessary to deal with the range of issues that have been identified. We believe that professional advice and support is required. Sending “talented amateurs” to deal with a complex financial and real estate restructuring problem will not produce optimal results and will delay resolution. Inappropriate strategy and/or delay increases the risk that Bosa or CRA will resort to legal means to seek settlement of the outstanding obligations.

Requests/Recommendations: In light of the foregoing, the Task Force requests that it be disbanded, and makes the following recommendations for action by Presbytery:

- Immediate engagement with the Trustee Board of the National Church regarding the CPC situation (including seeking their help in engagement of qualified professional support);
- Payment by Presbytery at the earliest opportunity, as a loan to CPC, of the outstanding GST obligation;
- Establishment with CPC of a schedule of future payments to retire the above loan; and
- Carrying out a rigorous and thorough program of congregational cost reduction and revenue augmentation to maximize the potential viability of the congregation.

Once these steps have been completed, the Task Force advocates prioritizing the further clarification of the CPC vision for ministry and developing a sustainable business plan for the congregation, if feasible.

We await your direction in this regard.

Respectively Submitted

Ian Rokeby

Rebecca Simpson

Larry Eastwood

Committee Response

In response to the report of the Task Force given above, the Strategy and Leadership Committee had an extended and thorough discussion of the situation at Central. One important and unavoidable conclusion was the need to pay the GST owing as quickly as possible to reduce further financial risks from potential penalties on the outstanding GST owing or from legal action. Other strategies built around that main conclusion included the need to get a better understanding of the complexities of the financial situation and to move toward resolutions that would protect the financial assets of the congregation from further erosion and sound financial management of resources so as to facilitate ministry.

At the same time, it was evident that Central needs stronger leadership provided by the Presbytery to increase their ability to deal with the complex situation in which they find themselves. Therefore, working with the Ministry Committee, we proposed the appointment of 2 Interim Moderators: Bev Shepansky who was recently appointed Interim Moderator during Rev. Botha’s leave to be joined in a co-Interim Moderator appointment by

Dale Woods. The shared responsibility will designate Rev. Shepansky as Interim Moderator of Pastoral Care and Worship, and Rev. Dr. Woods as Interim Moderator of the Session – the latter a term you will see in the motion below.

The Strategy and Leadership Committee thus brings the following **RECOMMENDATIONS** to Presbytery:

Motions

1. That the Presbytery dismiss the Task Force to Central with our deepest thanks for the work they have done in guiding the Presbytery on the situation at Central. **CARRIED**
2. That in response to the recommendations of the Task Force to Central Presbyterian Church, the Presbytery appoint a Commission with the following terms of reference:
 - A. That the Commission be established under the Book of Forms, section 4.4, having the powers of the Presbytery within these terms of reference, and under section 200 regarding Presbytery authority for the care and good order of the churches within its bounds.
 - B. That all the procedures and actions of the Commission shall be consistent with the laws and practices of The Presbyterian Church in Canada, including the principles of judicial fairness.
 - C. That the Commission is empowered to cite any members, adherents, office bearers, and others who may have been involved in the life of the congregation or served on any of its committees to appear before it.
 - D. That the authority of the Commission includes calling for, confirming, and examining any records they may deem relevant.
 - E. In order to expeditiously reduce the risks posed by the unpaid GST to the congregation, the Trustees of the congregation, and the Presbytery, that the Commission, with the advice and consent of the Clerk of Presbytery, and in consultation with Mike Walker, joint legal counsel for CPC and Westminster Presbytery:
 - immediately communicate with Bosa the intention to pay the GST bill starting as soon as arrangements can be made,
 - that the monies to fund this GST payment plan be drawn from CPC funds where possible and where needed, from Presbytery, national church or other funds, creating a payment plan that works within the current and expected funds available to Central and to Presbytery;
 - that this payment of the GST be a loan to Central Presbyterian Church to the extent that the repayment draws on Presbytery, national church or other funds, with proper documentation being drawn up to that effect and with payments to begin as soon as the GST is fully paid.
 - That a payment plan by CPC for the outstanding loan amount be put in place;
 - F. Once the GST owing is fully paid, that the Commission require Central Presbyterian to immediately apply for the GST rebate due to them as a non-for-profit organization, and that any monies thus obtained be immediately used as repayment on the loan extended to the congregation by Presbytery.
 - G. Parallel to the above action, and in order to fully understand the implications of the complicated financial and legal situation of Central, that the Commission seek out, and with the advice and consent of the Clerk, enter into a contract with a 'financial consultant' to do a thorough review of all of the assets and liabilities of Central Presbyterian Church, including all aspects of its finances and building; that the financial consultant be asked to give advice and counsel to the Commission on the full range of financial options available to the congregation, up to and including the sale of one or

more parts of the congregation's ownership of its interests in the building; that all decisions and actions of the Commission be guided by the advice of the financial consultant and be undertaken with consultation with Mike Walker; and that all payments to this financial consultant be paid out of funds from Central and, if Central is not able to pay these invoices in a timely manner, that such payments be made by Presbytery and the amount of the payments be a loan to Central by Presbytery, with proper documentation being drawn up to that effect.

- H. Parallel to the above actions, that the Commission require the Session of Central Presbyterian Church through the efforts of the Interim Moderator of the Session to fully cooperate with all requests for information, documents, and actions needed in relationship to the above actions;
- I. Parallel to the above actions, that the Commission work with the Session of Central Presbyterian Church through the efforts of the Interim Moderator of the Session to carry out a rigorous, thorough, and immediate program of congregational cost reduction and revenue augmentation to maximize the protection of the assets of the congregation.
- J. Parallel to the above actions, that the Commission undertake a thorough and honest review of the viability of the congregation, up to and including the possibility of dissolution the congregation, and bring a recommendation on this matter to Presbytery by the March 2022 meeting of Presbytery.
- K. Based on the above actions, that the Commission prepare a report for Presbytery on the full range of possibilities for the financial future of the building, including options such as maintaining the building as a site for ministry under the auspices of the Presbytery, or sale of the building; and that this report about options as they are understood at the date of the report be brought to Presbytery no later than April 2022.

Amendment moved by Brian Fraser, seconded by Bev Shepansky, that the wording in Section J be changed to:

"Parallel to the above actions, that the Commission undertake a thorough and honest review of the viability of the congregation, inviting input from the whole presbytery, and consider a range of possibilities, including amalgamation with West Point Grey Presbyterian Church that would include a redevelopment of the WPGPC site to ensure continuing missioning in that neighbourhood and create an endowment to support the work of the amalgamated congregation and the presbytery's vision and mission aspirations or the possible dissolution of the congregation or other options that emerge from the consultation, and bring a recommendation to the Presbytery by the March 2022 meeting of the Presbytery."

**Amendment DEFEATED
ORIGINAL MOTION CARRIED**

- 3. That the members of the Commission be Ian Rokeby, chair, Larry Eastwood, Rebecca Simpson, and Dale Woods.

CARRIED

B. Report from Property and Finance Subcommittee

Summary

The Property and Finance Sub-Committee (P&F) met October 6, 2021. Highlights of the business covered included:

- SLC reporting channels update: Ian Rokeby will be reporting out P&F business to SLC directly at their regular meetings.

- Initial discussion and recommended course of action on Major Capital Project oversight. See information and motions below.
- Review of Central PC Task Force recommended strategy.
- Adding to committee membership: Ian Rokeby has approached 3 well-qualified candidates to date only to find them over-subscribed. One more recommendation to follow up on; further suggestions are welcome.
- Update on template leases: Miller Thomson (legal firm) has been asked to provide a proposal to finalize template lease documents for use by our congregations when they enter into agreements for third parties for use of church premises.

Next Meeting of P&F is Scheduled for November 30, or at the call of the chair. Congregations are encouraged to become knowledgeable on the oversight roles of P&F, and to reach out to P&F should they be contemplating actions which they feel P&F may need to be aware of.

Update on P&F Oversight of Property Development Projects

Following up on a suggestion from a number of individuals in Presbytery, the undersigned reached out to both Rev. Doug Goodwin (now retired) and Don Evans of the United Church of Canada's Pacific Mountain Regional Council staff to discuss their experience and availability of resources and knowledge to help guide Westminster Presbytery in developing an oversight model and resources to help deal with major redevelopment of church real estate.

Findings:

- There is at present no "guidebook" or template for the work that the UCC Real Estate (RE) unit is doing.
- UCC Regional staff are focused first and foremost on restoring or establishing long-term congregational viability as their goal. All other project objectives are subservient to this one. They have determined that the traditional Christendom model of putting up a building and waiting for people to show up will no longer work in terms of long-term sustainability. This will likely always include securing some annuity revenue from whatever redevelopment is undertaken.
- The first step in any proposal for congregational RE redevelopment is to get clarity on congregational vision. Once this has been established, then the search for an infrastructure project that might support and facilitate the desired outcomes can begin.
- The history of this work within the UCC has been complex and not without challenges. It has encompassed church rebuilds and housing developments, with contractors and with developers. They recently had to restart two projects (Nanaimo and Coquitlam) that had been plagued by contractor mismanagement and misallocation of funds. These are now back on track.
- Because of some of the challenges that have been encountered, UCC has had a moratorium on new major church development over the past period of time, until the Region could put in place appropriate oversight and guidelines.
- The Pacific Mountain Region is currently restructuring and adding staff resources to achieve institutional capacity for this task. Don Evans is currently their only staff person on these matters, but will be joined in the coming months by 1-2 others and a new board of directors. They are setting up two organizations, a charity for CRA-eligible work, and a non-profit entity for on-CRA work. They anticipate being in a better position to provide support to Westminster Presbytery in 6-12 months.
- Don is keen to share knowledge and collaborate as may be helpful to us. He is available for a chat on specific issues, and expressed a strong desire to help if and where they can.

Respectfully submitted, Ian Rokeby, Convener

Victor Kim

Motions

Based on the foregoing, the SLC brings the following **RECOMMENDATIONS**:

4. That Presbytery implement a moratorium on Final Investment Decision (FID) for any Major Capital Project by congregations for a period of 1 year (through end of 2022). A Major Capital Project (MCP) is for this purpose defined as any infrastructure project involving the expenditure of over \$500,000 or requiring long-term financing (term in excess of 5 years). For clarity, this would not prevent congregational visioning, planning, exploring approvals with municipal authorities, cost estimate preparation, etc. from proceeding, but would not allow any commitment to physical construction on these projects. **CARRIED**

Brian Fraser requested his dissent with reasons to be recorded on this motion.

Reasons for Dissent: *I do appreciate all the work that has gone into this effort to bring some kind of responsible ordering to Major Capital Projects being imagined among congregations in the Presbytery of Westminster. I am in agreement with the general concerns and principles that have been laid out.*

What I dissent from is the blanket moratorium imposed with no consultation with congregations already well on their way to discerning the feasibility of such a project as a major step forward in strengthening their ambassadorship for the triune Creator's forgiving and reconciling love for the world. Brentwood Presbyterian Church may be the only congregation directly delayed by this moratorium but its impact on our plans will be significant. If I have misread the motion, then I request that we collaborate in working out ways of meeting your concerns that will benefit both the congregation and the Presbytery.

The intent of this dissent is to request Presbytery's support in discerning the best ways to ensure collaboration that advances the vision and strategic priorities of Presbytery of Westminster. That vision, as I understand it, is "inspiring leadership for transformation." This motion imposes what I consider to be an unnecessary restriction on that kind of leadership in and through Brentwood. I say that at the risk of being heard to criticize and resist what has been done, but I'm not clear how else to express my dissent to enhance collaboration. I will frame my concerns in requests composed to clarify and perhaps ease the restrictions of the moratorium in Brentwood's particular case. I trust they are clear, positive, respectful in seeking concrete action and will be considered in that spirit and intent.

1. Is there any flexibility in the application of this moratorium that would enable Brentwood to continue to proceed with a project that has been in the planning and ownership-building phase for over 5 years now? *Presbytery, including the Presbyter of Vision and Mission and conveners of S&L and P&F, has been kept informed of this and has authorized the spending of significant funds (over \$30,000) from the congregation's own resources to pursue it. If there is some adaptability in the application of this blanket moratorium, please inform us officially.*

2. Will the Presbytery engage as a working partner with Brentwood by officially appointing people to work with us through this disruption in our planning, congregational approval, and fundraising? *We had requested this but no action was taken. We have kept individuals connected with S&L and P&F informed of our activities. But that was informal. This moratorium motion came*

to our attention three days before the decision was to be made. There was no consultation with us at all. In Canadian Presbyterian polity, with its core principles of ensuring full participation to enable full responsibility, this lack of collaborative communication is disruptive to innovative congregational missioning. There is a requirement that congregations first engage with the Presbyter of Ministry and Vision. I would argue that we have done that and have communicated in the channels available to the Presbytery as a whole. Several iterations of our vision have been provided to the Presbytery in our several approved applications for grants. To reiterate, we seek to nourish souls to flourish in the mercy and grace of Jesus Christ through worship, learning, fellowship, and service. We have a particular, though not exclusive, focus on our neighbours in the jazz community. Over the past decade, that vision and the strategies we have adopted to implement it have been used by the Spirit to double our income and triple the number of regular participants in the congregation's missioning in ways that have, in their assessment, transformed the congregation and their lives. If our partnership with the presbytery is to be through the PVM, then please inform us officially so we can bring him more fully into our process. If others are available to support us, that would be most welcome.

5. That Presbytery direct P&F to work with the United Church of Canada Pacific Mountain Region and other organizations knowledgeable in the faith-based property development industry over the next year to develop an appropriate system of oversight and gate-keeping to provide guidance, critical review, and practical support to MCP's where they emerge, and that they work to publish guidelines to assist congregations who may seek to develop a MCP by December 2022. **CARRIED**
6. That any enquiries regarding MCP's that may emerge over the next year be directed to first engage with the Presbyter for Mission and Vision to develop an updated congregational vision document which would establish the need for any capital expenditures. **CARRIED**

C. PMV Report to SLC - October 2021

This is an update regarding the things I have been working on:

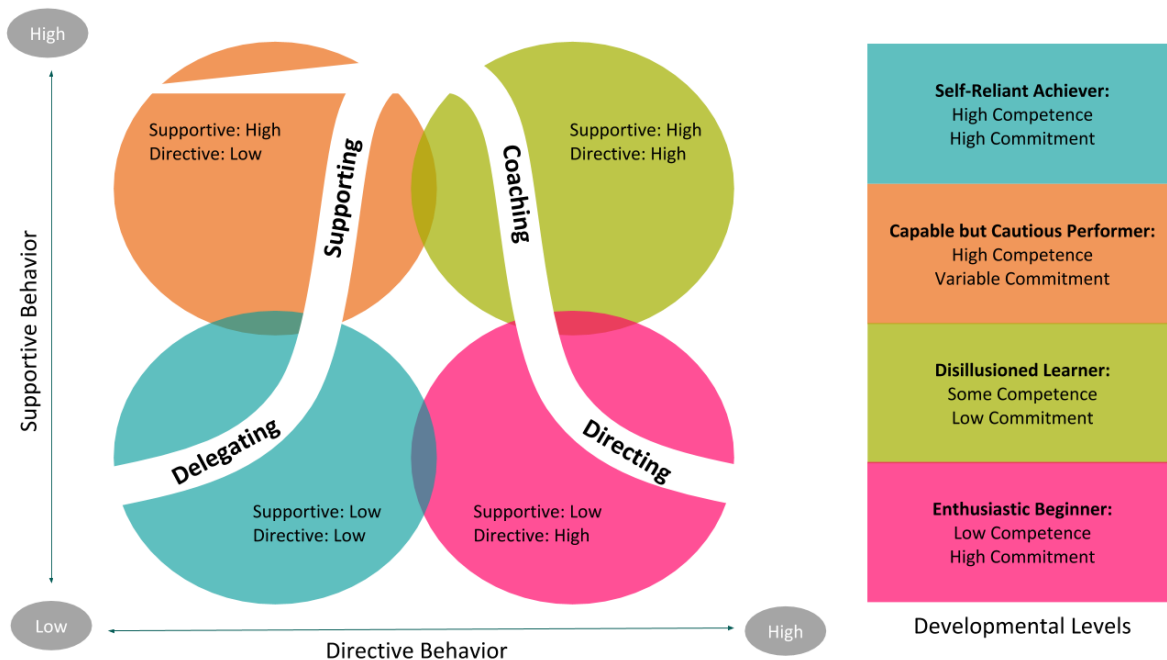
1. The Presbytery asked me to work alongside St. John's Presbyterian Church in White Rock. There is much work to do here, and I have laid out a 3-month work plan regarding steps forward. Some of the work here impacts future ministries within the presbytery as well. For example, thoughts about repurposing buildings.
2. I am working with the Session of Haney Presbyterian Church to discern next steps.
3. I have been working with Camp Douglas, helping to lay out a vision for the camp for the next decade. We hope to bring our vision to the Presbytery in January or February.
4. I will be working with Vancouver Chinese Church in November to work on discerning the ministry in their new building.
5. I have been and will be working more closely with Central Presbyterian Church. There is also much work to do here.
6. I continue to work on the immersive learning events and our next event will be Nov. 6. (See notice at end of this report.)
7. I continue to work with interim moderators.
8. I continue to work on following up with the online survey and taking next steps to help congregations advance these ministries.

9. I have met with ministers to discuss where they are at personally in their congregations and the challenges they face. I hope to do one or two more of these meetings.
10. I continue to join in various events across Canada that talk about church planting and creating new ministries. Some of these are put on by The PCC while others are from other denominations. Common themes keep cropping up including significant shifts in understanding ministry as a profession to a way of life regardless of occupation. Bi-vocational ministry is the norm in most of these start-ups. Simplicity is another theme. People start new ministries that are simple and sustainable. For example, one person started a pot-luck church where people meet weekly for prayer, study, worship, fellowship, and everyone shares the leadership. The cost of the ministry is \$9 a month.
11. I will be following up with the workshop on Ministry Plans, taking the material and trying to put it into a format that could be used for New Witnessing Communities and congregations in general.

There is a lot of work to do within any congregation and that workload is multiplied when it comes to the Presbytery. We are working with a system designed for a different age and imaging new wineskins for new wine takes prayer, imagination, and most of all an expectant faith that the Holy Spirit will work among us in surprising ways. Let us continue to remember each other in prayer and to ask God to give us the courage that overcomes our fears.

For those who are interested, I try to model my work around the situational leadership model.

Hersey-Blanchard Situational Leadership Theories



*This graphic combines elements of the Hersey-Blanchard Situational Leadership Theory & Blanchard's revised Situational Leadership Theory II

This model assumes that leadership is determined by the needs of the follower. In the church, we often lead by delegating. But that only works where people feel they are highly competent and highly committed to a task. I try to adjust my leadership to the needs of those I am working with. This model may be helpful to the Presbytery when it is considering how best to help a congregation. Asking 'What kind of leadership is most needed in this particular context?' can be helpful.

I also remind myself regularly of the mission of the Presbytery and its six strategic priorities:
Inspiring Leadership for Transformation

Strategic Priorities:

- 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,
- Engage in evangelism, outreach and discipleship
- Embrace a missional culture that nurtures initiative and risk taking
- Discern, prepare and support leaders – lay, youth and young adults and clergy – for faithful and fruitful ministry
- Create, encourage and support communities of faith
- 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

D. Woods

*For the SLC Committee,
Pat Dutcher-Walls*

Four Sides at the Table: What Chair are You Sitting In?



Strategies for Improving Communication in an Ever-Changing World.

Sat. Nov. 6, 2021
9am-12pm via zoom
With Gail Donohue

We come from a history of acknowledging the power of the word. “In the beginning, God spoke” and a new creation came to life. Jesus reminded the crowds many times: “those who have ears to hear, let them hear.” And yet we live in a world, including the world of the church, that finds it difficult to exchange words in a way that excludes judgment, blame, and even violence.

This workshop is centered on the work of Marshall Rosenberg, whose books include *Speak Peace in a World of Conflict: What You Say Next Will Change the World*. This workshop is for everyone who is interested in how we can structure communication that forms bridges rather than builds ditches and allows us to speak with authenticity while paying others the respect they deserve.

The facilitator for our workshop is Gail Donohue. She is an experienced coach with a demonstrated history of working in the sports industry, non-profit organizations, coaching, entrepreneurship, athletics, and conflict resolution bringing together the latest research in neuroscience and communication. Her vocation is to help transform challenging personal or workplace issues to build relational connections and personal fulfillment.

A Question to Consider

To prepare for the upcoming workshop on communication, please respond with your comments to the following question: As a presbytery, when we are called to care about our relationships with one another, what strategies have you found helpful to use during difficult conversations? Please write your response at this link:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeHyXsRv9pq8Sqn00msnLmMlkkYTG3OqG_6hiVFATPU3DkRtg/viewform?usp=sf_link

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE REPORT

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

Community Engagement Committee Report Presbytery of Westminster, Nov. 2, 2021

While the CEC has not held a formal meeting since the Sept. Presbytery meeting, it has dealt with some questions and issues by email.

1. Made further suggestions for revising the CEC Standing Orders
2. Dealt with correspondence from a civil justice organization which asked to have its blockade action invitation distributed to presbytery. This was handled by the two conveners in consultation with the clerk.

Victor Kim

3. This led to a request from the Admin Committee that the CEC draft directions for the presbytery as to how to respond to such invitations from social justice organizations which ask us to support and/or distribute information on proposed civil disobedience actions on critical justice issues. We shall work on this task over the next month.
4. The General Assembly has asked the presbytery to consider **proposed revisions of the Guidelines for Dealing with Mental Health Issues**. The Admin Committee suggested that CEC review this document and submit comments before the Jan. 31, 2022 deadline. CEC would like to hear from anyone in the presbytery who would like to work with us on reviewing these proposed revisions.
5. Motivated by the sad and heart-breaking news of the discovery of unmarked graves of children on the property of former residential “schools”, the Fall issue of Connection, published by the National Office of the PCC, contains some excellent material on Reconciliation with some challenging practical suggestions for steps our congregations might take to work toward healing and reconciliation between Settlers and Indigenous people. **We urge each congregation in the Presbytery to read these articles and consider what steps it might take on this critically important task of reconciliation.**

Respectfully submitted, Glen Davis, Co-convener

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 – November 2, 2021

Future Presbytery Meetings

- The Admin Committee supports the direction of having future presbytery meetings take the form of hybrid gatherings, with an in-person component for those who are fully vaccinated and comfortable gathering with others and an online option for those who wish to join via zoom.
- The meetings will follow our usual pattern with the September, November, March, May and June meetings taking place at various congregations and including dinner prior to presbytery and the December, January and April meeting taking place at Gordon Presbyterian Church without dinner prior to the presbytery meeting.
- Currently we are looking for congregations to host presbytery on March 1, May 3 and June 21, 2022. Please contact the Clerk should your congregation wish to host presbytery and provide dinner beforehand. Congregations interested in hosting need to have reliable wifi connections available.

Land Owner Transparency Act Requirement

- The LOTA Act of the province of BC requires that ownership of real property be registered with the province as of the end of November 2021. Congregations, their property, including manses, as well as other property belonging to the presbytery must be registered by that deadline.
- Larry Eastwood, our Treasurer, has offered to file the registrations for the properties of our presbytery, including congregations, and needs to have current Trust Deeds for all congregations. Some congregations have returned copies of Trust Deeds while others have yet to do so.
- The Clerk will send Trust Deeds to those congregations for which we do not have current Trust Deeds and requests that they be filled out and returned as quickly as possible.

- Congregations will incur significant penalties if the deadline is not met.

It was noted during the presentation that the Province of BC had extended the deadline to register for LOTA to November 2022. This will allow congregations to complete their Trust Deeds at their annual congregational meetings in early 2022 and submit them to the presbytery.

Ruling Elders Workshops Report

- Two workshops for Ruling Elders were presented on October 5 and 19. They were well attended, close to 50 for the first and over 30 for the second, and others have been able to view the workshops on the presbytery website.

Revision of Standing Orders

- Having received further feedback from presbyters, the following revisions to the current Standing Orders are presented for the presbytery's consideration. Since the understanding has been that the current Standing Orders would be reviewed after the first year, there is no need for a Notice of Motion to amend the Standing Orders.

Proposed changes to the Standing Orders

Regarding the Ministry Committee mandate, we are suggesting reverting back to the former structure of separate committees for Ministry, Visitation, Ethics and Care and Student Support and Certification, each committee to report separately to presbytery.

Committee make up should reflect an attempt to balance teaching and ruling elders as far as possible.

Ministry Committee – Paddy Eastwood

- Up to 10 people
- Review and present recommendations regarding Calls to ministers or diaconal ministers.
- Provide pastoral care of professional church workers as required
- Review and approve study leave requests
- Administer counselling fund to assist all full-time professional church workers and/or family members to obtain appropriate counselling when needed
 - The fund is to be maintained annually at \$4000.00;
 - Full time professional church worker, spouse or dependent family member may approach the convener or vice-convener of the Committee for financial assistance towards the costs of counselling with a qualified counsellor at \$500 per full time professional church worker and \$300.00 per family member
- Provide support and resources for youth ministry, including the biennial Canada Youth conferences
- Provide personnel leadership, i.e. Interim Moderators, Stated Supply and inform the Presbytery regarding these ministries

Visitation Committee – Bev Feick

- Membership of up to 8 people, but able to co-opt others from the presbytery and congregations for visitation teams as needed
- Coordinate congregational visitations at least every 3 years, including a first year visit after a new ministry begins, and/or as requested by Presbytery or a congregation
- Conduct exit interviews after the retirement or resignation of a minister
- Use the resources in Appendix 3 as a guide for the visitation and reporting back to presbytery

Student Support and Certification Committee – Brian Fraser

- Membership of up to 8 people
- Support, advise, and examine students interested in and/or preparing for the Ministry of Word and Sacraments and for the Order of Diaconal Ministries in The Presbyterian Church in Canada. The committee might also, from time to time, provide support and supervision for students taking courses for other forms of service in the mission of the church of Jesus Christ;
- Coordinate the cooperation of the various courts and agencies of the church in providing the best formation for ministry possible including matters concerning candidates for reception into the denomination
- Offer ongoing guidance and mentoring of the students as they navigate the process;
- Keep up-to-date files on the progress and evaluations of each student until they are certified for ordination or withdraw from the process;
- Enhance the alignment of the support that comes from the Session that recommended the student, the college personnel responsible for denominational formation, the congregations where the student is involved, and the Ministry and Church Vocation personnel who offer the Guidance Conference;
- Meet 2-3 times a year with the students to ensure a supportive supervision from the time of initial certification for study to their final certification for ordination;
- Explore with the students, in an initial meeting or two, the Ordination Services of The Presbyterian Church in Canada and sections on church and ministry in Living Faith as a way of orienting the students to the denomination's expectations of its leadership, of deepening their sense of their calling, and of supporting them in determining the best ways of using the resources of the colleges to align their particular gifts with that calling;
- Ensure that students, as they move through the process, are supported in meeting the denomination's requirements as detailed in the Book of Forms, viz:
 - be recommended by a Session;
 - provide details about his/her background and reasons for seeking certification;
 - be available for all the appropriate interviews throughout the process;
 - be advised of the proper process should certification be denied or revoked, or lapse;
 - be advised that no examination for certification for ordination will happen until all the requirements outlined in a-d are completed to the satisfaction of the Student Support and Certification Committee and the Presbytery;
- Ensure that the Presbytery not cede its right to certify candidates for ordination to any other Presbytery until after it has determined, in consultation with all the courts and agencies involved in formation and evaluation, that the student is fit for ministry;
- In preparation for its final examination for certification for ordination, the committee will receive from the student:
 - A copy of the major paper that they enjoyed most;
 - A copy of their major paper on the theology and practice of ministry;

- A sermon script;
- A letter from the Principal of the college to confirm its final decision that the student is fit for ministry within The Presbyterian Church in Canada.

Ethics and Care Committee – Willem van de Wall

- Membership of up to 6 people
- Responsible for the implementation and review of the Leading with Care Policy of The Presbyterian Church in Canada
- Responsible for the implementation of the Policy of The Presbyterian Church in Canada for Dealing with Sexual Abuse and Sexual Harassment
- Responsible for the implementation of the Policy of The Presbyterian Church in Canada for Dealing with Allegations of Racial Harassment
- Arrange Broken Boundaries workshops and Leading with Care workshops at least every other year; and as time allows will provide other education events in relation to “Growing in Christ: Seeing the image of God in our neighbour” and other topics related to the respect and care of persons

Regarding Community Engagement Committee, we are proposing clarifying language regarding responsibilities around Grant Requests, and what liaising means when referring to special ministries of congregations and agencies such as PWS&D.

Community Engagement Committee – Glen Davis and Neil Abramson

- Membership, up to 15 people, free to co-opt members from congregations as deemed helpful to the make-up of the committee
- Collaborate with Hummingbird Ministries Committee in furthering the work of healing and reconciliation between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples as a primary responsibility of this committee
- Mission responsibilities
 - Review grant requests from congregations and ministries within the presbytery, including for aid-receiving charges: special grant/loan requests
 - These reviews will ensure that grant application forms are completed according to the requirements of the granting agency, and that the project/ministry is one that has potential to advance the strategic priorities and goals of the Presbytery of Westminster.
 - Grant requests must be received in time (at least 2 weeks prior to deadlines) for the Committee to perform due diligence prior to bringing recommendations to presbytery
 - The committee will bring recommendations to presbytery regarding all grant requests
 - The committee will highlight the work of, and coordinate any work with, Presbyterian World Service and Development at the presbytery level
 - Coordinate itineraries of missionaries on deputation work when requested by the Life and Mission Agency
 - In conjunction with the Presbyter for Mission and Vision, seek to offer missional education information and opportunities as needed, including possible workshops around mission and social justice and action, or inviting speakers on appropriate topics at presbytery meetings
 - Be the contact point for congregational special ministries involved with mission for issues such as grant applications
- Social Justice and Action responsibilities

- Making congregations aware of the mission and social justice opportunities that are presented to them within the BC context and through priorities adopted by the national church, and assisting congregations in responding faithfully to those opportunities
- Encourage and equip Presbytery of Westminster congregations and ministries in local, regional, national and international partnerships, seeking to further opportunities for congregational members to engage in transformational ministries
- Provide connections between congregations regarding tools, resources, models and ideas that deal with issues of social justice and mission
- Be aware and help equip congregations and ministries within the Presbytery around issues of demographic change and opportunities for inter-cultural and inter-faith connections, specifically as they relate to issues of mission and social justice
- Advocate for congregations seeking to be involved in housing as a social need to which churches can and should respond, perhaps through creative re-purposing of their property, including focusing on affordable housing when feasible
- Aspects of the Community Engagement Committee's work will necessarily involve a high level of coordination with the Strategy and Leadership Committee and care should be taken to ensure the appropriate level of coordination.

Committee Membership in General

- We encourage committees to seek appropriate gifts from within the broad range of gifts represented in our congregations
- Any member or adherent from our congregations can serve on a committee, but only presbyters may report to the presbytery and speak to motions at presbytery
- We encourage all presbyters, ministers and elders alike, to contribute as fully as possible to the collective work of the presbytery

Recommendation 1: That the above revision to the Standing Orders of the Presbytery of Westminster be adopted and incorporated into the full Standing Orders document.

CARRIED

Draft Presbytery Budget 2022

- The Admin Committee is responsible, with the guidance of the Treasurer, to present a draft budget for presbytery consideration
- The draft budget is presented in the separate Excel spreadsheet
- Currently, there is no amount provided in the line items for Ministry Funds, New Witnessing Communities and Communities of Faith and Leadership
- We expect that there will be additional funds available at some point in 2022, but we cannot put a number in without having confirmation that the funds will be available
- Once those funds are confirmed, an update will be presented to the presbytery with recommendations as to how the funds may be utilized

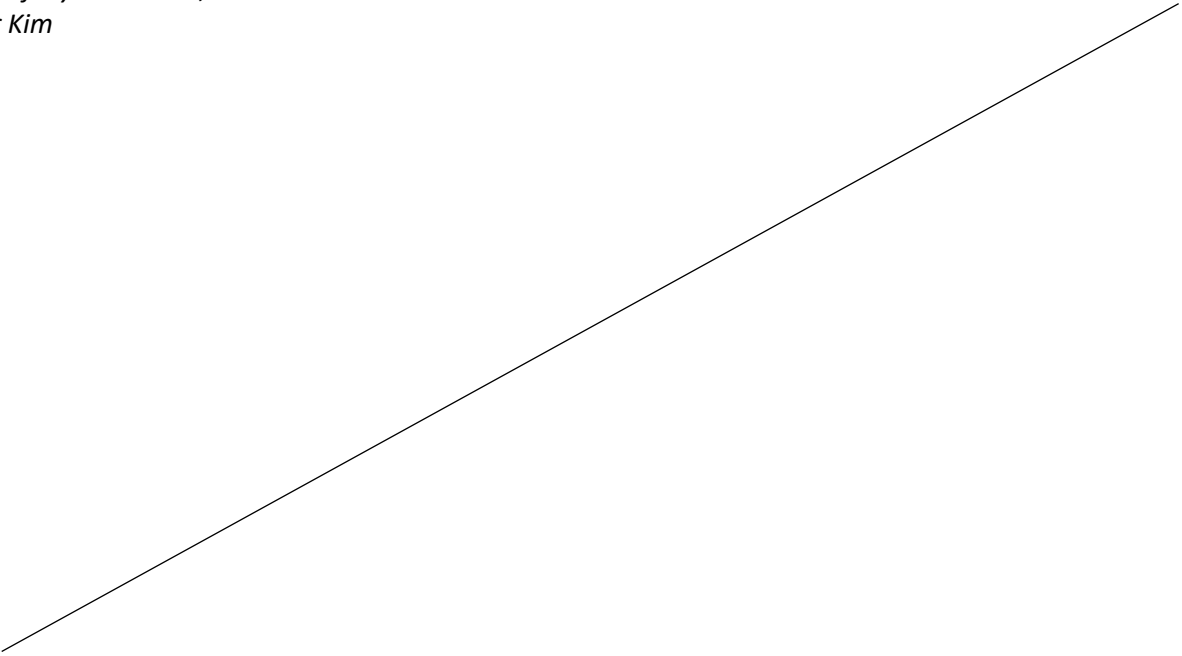
Recommendation 2: That the 2022 budget for the Presbytery of Westminster be adopted.

CARRIED

The Presbytery of Westminster
Regular Meeting via Zoom Video Conferencing
November 2, 2021

9380

Respectfully submitted,
Victor Kim
Clerk



Victor Kim

Victor Kim

PRESBYTERY OF WESTMINSTER									
COMMITTEE AND PROGRAM EXPENSES									
Committee Expenses	2,000	0	0	0	2,000	3,700			
Comm: Leading With Care	1,000	0	0	0	2,000	2,000			Trainer training ??
Comm: Student Cert	1,650	0	1,650	0	1,650	1,500			PCC fee
Comm: Ethics	0	0	200	0	200	200			
Comm: Community Engagement	1,500	1,000	2,000	0	500	500			Glen Davis
Comm: Nominating	0	0	0	0	550	550			
Visitations/Commissions	500	0	500	0	500	500			
Travel	1,000	104	1,000	0	2,000	2,000			
Canada Youth Conference	0	0	0	0	3,000	2,000			not used in 2020: balance held
Crieff Hills grant	0	0	5,000	0					
Reg. Resource note 1	12,500	8,400	10,000	0	10,000	12,328			camp Douglas staff position & Urban camp
Camp Douglas	50,000	50,000	55,000	0	50,000	50,000			Landlord duties, roofing project
Shepherd's House	2,000	2,000	2,000	0	2,000	2,000			Glen Davis request Sept 2020
Hummingbird Ministry	8,000	8,000	8,000	0					
Counselling Fund	1,500	900	1,500	0	1,500	1,500			Willem vander Westhuizen
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	115,650		122,700		107,045	109,348			
Surplus/(deficit)	0		0						
WPG Funds Expenses									
PMV position									
CPP expense	1,400	0	3,166	0	500	0			
EI Expense	3,300	0	1,245	0	300	0			
WCB Expense	120	0	275	0	50	0			
PMV - stipend	125,000	0	125,000	0	20,833	0			
PMV - Housing	36,000	0	36,000	0	6,000	0			
PMV - utilities & cell	5,500	0	3,700	0	500	0			
PCC Health & Dental	4,684	0	4,592	0	1,812	0			
POW PCC Pension Contribution	8,342	0	8,986	0	1,500	0			
PMV Moving expense	0	0	0	0	20,000	0			
PIER expense	500	0	300	0	0	0			

	<u>PRESBYTERY OF WESTMINSTER</u>										
											184,750
											-184,750
STRATEGIC PRIORITIES											
Covid 19 Congregational Support				0	2,762	0		0			0
Hummingbird Ministry				40,000	40,000	40,000		19,999			0
Ministry Funds				0	0	500,000		0			0
New Worshipping Communities				0	0			20,000			0
Communities of Faith & Leadership				0	0			50,000			0
Camp Douglas Vision				0	0			0			0
Hummingbird Vision				0	0			0			0
Immersive Learning Opportunities				12,000	7,778			10,000			0
Presbytery Mission Vision				7,500	6,852			61,069			0
TOTAL WPG Fund Expenses				243,846		722,964		212,563			0
Total POW (Operating & WPG Fund)				359,496		845,664		319,608			109,348
Note 1:				expenditures dependant upon receiving grant							

VISITATION TO ST. JOHN'S, WHITE ROCK COMMITTEE REPORT

The report was presented by Bernie Skelding, Visitation Team Convener.

All motions, unless otherwise noted, moved by Bernie Skelding, seconded by Mike Zaine.

St. John's Visitation Team 'Not-Final' Report, November 2021

In April 2021, Presbytery voted to send what was termed a "Visitation Team" to St John's, with the mandate to help that congregation meet the challenges that had been identified by a series of reports from Visitation Teams of the past, namely from 2014 & 2018, as well as a 2018 Presbytery Commission that reported in April 2021.

Specifically, the motion of Presbytery was as follows:

- *The PMV (Dale Woods) will engage the Session of St. John's in a visioning process for the congregation that identifies the ministry goals of St. John's and outlines the process by which these goals will be realized.*
- *With a member of the Presbytery Property and Finance Subcommittee, will work with the Session and the Treasurer to plot a financial plan for the ongoing viability of the congregation and its ministry.*
- *Again, utilizing the PMV or other presbytery resources including the appointment of Assessor Elders, work with the Session of St. John's to increase capacity and confidence around Presbyterian polity and process leading to a more engaged and participatory Session.*
- *A mentor for the Rev. Willem van der Westhuizen will be appointed by the Moderator to work with Willem to address identified concerns around aspects of pastoral ministry from the 2018 Visitation Report.*
- *All of this work will commence as soon as the Visitation Team and mentor are named.*
- *While the final report will be due in November 2021, regular updates to the presbytery will be helpful and appreciated.*

Even though the Presbytery asked in April for a Final Report in November, the current 'team' of Dale Woods, Mike Zaine, Glen Davis, Bernie Skelding (convener) do not feel a final report can be offered at this time. The work that has been asked of the team requires addressing underlying issues more closely related to congregational renewal, which is not something that can be done quickly. The 'team' is asking for an additional 6 months, not because work has been delayed, but because the work has begun in earnest and more time is needed to provide the opportunity for it to be fruitful.

What has been accomplished to date:

- A budget and financial review was completed by Gray Finlayson (rep from Property and Finance, who stepped down over the summer). A limited number of adjustments were recommended to make a balanced budget. This information was presented to the Session at the beginning of summer and will be taken into consideration when drafting St. John's 2022 budget. Difficult decisions remain.

- Glen Davis has met several times with Rev. Willem van der Westhuizen as a support through the mentoring role on behalf of the 'team'.
- Mike Zaine participates on Session as one of two appointed Assessor Elders, to bolster St. John's Session, model an effective Ruling Elder role, while ensuring the 'team' gains from an Elder's perspective.
- Elders of St. John's Session accepted the invitation to participate in the recent 'Ruling Elders Workshops 1 & 2' lead by the Presbytery Clerk. It is hoped that such education and training will ground newer Elders in 'Presbyterian polity and process', as well as be a good refresher for longer serving Elders.
- Dale Woods has met extensively with the Session over the last 6 months to gain trust, clarity of the issues, and develop a way forward. A Strategic Work Plan will soon be completed with goals, tasks and timelines for addressing five critical areas, namely ministry strengths and challenges, stewardship of finances, effective use of building, leadership/administration, and community mission.
- The Visitation Team has met approximately every 6 weeks to keep a short account in our communication and to stay coordinated in our efforts to support and assist St. John's into a healthy and hopeful future.

While St. John's leadership has willingly engaged the process to date, what they face are long-term issues that will require (as with every congregation) a commitment to honoring and celebrating past and present successes, having honest and healing conversations, making difficult decisions (especially around finances and budget), and engaging important changes. The 'team' feels that St. John's still needs support in this immediate journey.

Recommendation:

1. That the St. John's Visitation Team remains in place for an additional 6 months, maintaining regular reports to Presbytery.

CARRIED

*Respectfully Submitted,
Bernie Skelding, Convener*

HUMMINGBIRD MINISTRIES COUNCIL REPORT

A verbal report was presented by Laurie McKay, Council Member for information only.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Victor Kim

ADJOURNMENT

The Moderator offered a closing prayer.

Moved by Laurie McKay, seconded by Brian Fraser that the meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED

- The next **regular scheduled meeting of presbytery** is **December 7, 2021**, at 7:00p.m. within Gordon Presbyterian Church, 7457 Edmonds Street, Burnaby with a Zoom option for those who wish to participate online.

The Moderator closed the court with a benediction at 9:30p.m.