

The Presbytery of Westminster met in Regular Session on Tuesday, September 21, 2021 at 7:00pm via Zoom Video Conferencing due to the Covid-19 restrictions on in-person meetings. Worship was led by Isabel Evans and opened with the recognition of the traditional lands of the Coast Salish people upon which the meeting was held.

## CONSTITUTION

The Moderator, Isabel Evans constituted the Court and opened the meeting with prayer at 7:30pm.

The Moderator welcomed the following guests: Nicole Pringle, new Clerk of Session and Rep Elder for SASS, and Beverley Albon, new Alternate from Calvin, Abbotsford. Janet Eastwood and Daniel Martinez, co-Directors of Camp Douglas were also welcomed.

Leave to withdraw: Morgan Wong request to leave at 8:00 pm.

## DOCKET

It was moved by Victor Kim seconded by Ross Lockhart 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 June 22, 2021 be adopted as revised,
- 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 Any member may ask for an issue on the consent agenda to be withdrawn from this list before the agenda is adopted.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, P. Eastwood, M. Fontaine, B. Fraser, S. Goble, T. Hsieh, V. Kim, R. Lockhart, L. McKay, R. Simpson, B. Skelding, G. Snyman, M. Szigeti, R. Topping, W. van de Wall, M. Wong, D. Woods.

N. Abramson, M. Adams, B. Albon (Alternate for Calvin), B. Astop, J. Con, B. Dennehy, I. Evans, B. Feick, L. Gorman, S. Irvine (Alternate for Haney), R. Jansen (Alternate for St. Andrews-Newton) L. Johnson, K. Kim, L. Lanaras, A. Lin, K. Patrick, N. Pringle, C. Rebosura (Alternate for First), B. Shepansky, J. Sonachansingh, S. Stacey, E. Wilson, P. Wong, M. Zaine.

### Appendix:

G. Davis, P. Dutcher-Walls, B. Garvin, T. Siverns

Students/Certified for Ordination:

D. Martinez

Non-voting Guests include:

S. Harry, J. Eastwood, F. Lin

**REGRETS:**

G. Jay, T. Kim, C. MacLeod, W. van der Westhuizen, R. Watson, C. Gleimius, K. Sewell, G. Shields, L. Yen, K. Jordan, W. Sosnowsky, A. Perrett.

**CORRESPONDENCE:** June 17, 2021 – September 12, 2021

|          |                    |                                                                                                                                        |            |
|----------|--------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|
| 06-17-21 | Mary Fontaine      | Requesting the Joint Statement of past and present Moderator of the PCC regarding Residential Schools be circulated amongst presbytery | Circulated |
| 06-17-21 | Jackie Czegledi    | Requesting VCPC 2020 Statistical Report                                                                                                | Noted      |
| 06-18-21 | Maggie Leung       | Presbyterians Sharing Reports for May 2021                                                                                             | Received   |
| 06-20-21 | Teresa Charlton    | Poster for Synod 2021                                                                                                                  | Circulated |
| 06-21-21 | Mary Fontaine      | Sermon for National Indigenous People Day                                                                                              | Circulated |
| 06-22-21 | Marianne Lazaro    | Elders confirmed for Langley 2021                                                                                                      | Received   |
| 06-22-21 | Bernie Skelding    | Need another appointment to the St. John's Visitation Team                                                                             | Received   |
| 06-22-21 | Adrian Wong        | VCPC 2020 Statistical Report                                                                                                           | Received   |
| 06-23-21 | Kelly Patrick      | Map of First Nations Territories                                                                                                       | Circulated |
| 06-24-21 | Jennifer Astop     | Technology Grant approved for Gordon PC                                                                                                | Received   |
| 06-25-21 | Kiejoon Kim        | Error in presbytery minutes with respect to Rep Elder attendance list                                                                  | Noted      |
| 06-28-21 | Ted Siverns        | Concerns with two items noted in the June POW meeting minutes                                                                          | Received   |
| 06-28-21 | Allen Aicken       | Issues with a report held in the June POW meeting minutes                                                                              | Received   |
| 06-29-21 | Paddy Eastwood     | Signed copies of Minister-in-Association for Haney PC                                                                                  | Received   |
| 06-20-21 | Ian Ross-MacDonald | Retirement of Principal Clerk Stephen Kendall June 2022                                                                                | Circulated |
| 06-29-21 | Jennifer Astop     | Technology Grant approved for Bradner PC                                                                                               | Received   |
| 06-30-21 | Robert Daum        | Summary of PHO class order for July 1                                                                                                  | Circulated |
| 06-30-21 | Susan Stacey       | Kerrisdale LWC Report for 2021 submitted                                                                                               | Received   |
| 07-01-21 | Larry Eastwood     | POW Financial Statements for June 2021                                                                                                 | Received   |
| 07-02-21 | Jean Morris        | Announcing the passing of Rev. Dianne Ollerenshaw on July 1, 2021.                                                                     | Circulated |

|          |                                        |                                                                                                                                                                      |            |
|----------|----------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|
| 07-02-21 | Oliver Ng, Chief Financial Officer PCC | Building safety information for church buildings                                                                                                                     | Circulated |
| 07-02-21 | Clara Choi                             | Inquiry about report of IM in June 2021 Minutes                                                                                                                      | Received   |
| 07-06-21 | Melvin Singh                           | Faith Dialogue Invitation set for July 21                                                                                                                            | Noted      |
| 07-06-21 | Clara Choi                             | Response to situation about presbytery report                                                                                                                        | Received   |
| 07-07-21 | Omnya Nawar                            | Invoice from Marsh 2021-2022 and AON 2021-2022 Insurance                                                                                                             | Received   |
| 07-08-21 | Brad Childs                            | Checking status of Camp Committee members and recommendation of Nate Hartley                                                                                         | Noted      |
| 07-08-21 | Brian Fraser                           | Notice of Bible Study, <i>Exploring the Scripture with the Rabbit Hole Gang</i> , that is open to other congregations. Held by Zoom on Wednesday afternoons 2-3:30pm | Received   |
| 07-09-21 | Richard Topping                        | Post-pandemic planning resources                                                                                                                                     | Circulated |
| 07-21-21 | Melvin Singh                           | Faith Dialogue: Zoom connection details for July 21                                                                                                                  | Noted      |
| 07-22-21 | Jennifer Astop                         | Innovation Grant approval for Brentwood "Curious about church" podcast                                                                                               | Received   |
| 07-21-21 | Maggie Leung                           | Presbyterians Sharing Report – June 2021                                                                                                                             | Received   |
| 07-28-21 | Jennifer Astop                         | Technology Grant for St. Aidan's approved                                                                                                                            | Received   |
| 07-28-21 | Kathryn Muir                           | Special Committee re: Petition Nos 1 and 2                                                                                                                           | Received   |
| 07-31-21 | Larry Eastwood                         | POW July 2021 financial statement                                                                                                                                    | Received   |
| 08-04-21 | Gabriel Snyman                         | Requesting a Letter of Standing for Chaplin position                                                                                                                 | Responded  |
| 08-06-21 | Susan Stacey                           | Kerrisdale and VTPC honoured to host presbytery for dinner on November 2                                                                                             | Received   |
| 08-06-21 | Susan Stacey                           | Kerrisdale and WPGPC have agreed to discussion on an amalgamation of the two congregations                                                                           | Received   |
| 08-10-21 | Marjorie Copeland                      | Presbytery Endorsement for Jonathan Kwon required                                                                                                                    | Responded  |
| 08-10-21 | Kathryn Muir                           | Changes to the Roll – June 2021                                                                                                                                      | Received   |
| 08-10-21 | Hyo Jin Park                           | Confirmation of J. Kwon application package to GA                                                                                                                    | Received   |
| 08-11-21 | Brian Fraser                           | Assistance in finding documentation regarding PIM applications for the fall 2021                                                                                     | Received   |
| 08-11-21 | Marjorie Copeland                      | Presbytery Endorsement for J. Kwon received with thanks.                                                                                                             | Noted      |
| 08-12-21 | Kasha Klunder                          | VCPC redevelopment – recommendation for Escrow Release for period Aug-Oct 2021                                                                                       | Received   |
| 08-16-21 | Glen Davis                             | CEC August Meeting                                                                                                                                                   | Received   |

|          |                                 |                                                                                                 |             |
|----------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|
| 08-18-21 | Maggie Leung                    | Presbyterians Sharing Reports – July 2021                                                       | Received    |
| 08-18-21 | Michelle Bested                 | Final version for Guidance for Holding Low Risk Worship                                         | Received    |
| 08-23-21 | Centre for Missional Leadership | Certificate in Missional Leadership Program Update                                              | Distributed |
| 08-24-21 | Jennifer Astop                  | Innovation Grant for Richmond PC approved                                                       | Received    |
| 08-24-21 | Brian Fraser                    | Wondering if there has been an update on the review process of the PEF/PIM grant program        | Responded   |
| 08-24-21 | Brad Childs                     | Fairview advising POW that repairs and upgrades will be commencing – totally \$50,000           | Received    |
| 08-25-21 | Jennifer Astop                  | Technology Grant for Brentwood PC approved                                                      | Received    |
| 08-25-21 | Ian Rokeby                      | Response to repairs and upgrades at Fairview                                                    | Received    |
| 08-26-21 | Stephen Kendall                 | Correspondences regarding the GA appointment of Ross Lockhart as Dean of SAH                    | Received    |
| 08-26-21 | Richard Topping                 | VST Open House scheduled for September 23                                                       | Received    |
| 08-27-21 | Jean Lawrence                   | “Overworking ministers” at Presbytery – concern for our leaders including our own WVPC minister | Received    |
| 08-27-21 | Agnus Beattie                   | PEF dissolution memo and resolution of circulation                                              | Received    |
| 08-28-21 | Kaireen Morgan                  | Doctors note for medical leave for H. Botha                                                     | Received    |
| 08-30-21 | Bernie Skelding                 | St. John’s Visitation Team P&F member required                                                  | Received    |
| 08-31-21 | Kathryn Muir                    | Letter from the Assembly Council regarding Remits B and C                                       | Distributed |
| 08-31-21 | Kim Arnold                      | Records Schedule for Presbytery Records                                                         | Distributed |
| 08-31-21 | Ian Mason                       | Canadian Society of Presbyterian History – Virtual Conference Saturday September 25             | Distributed |
| 08-31-21 | Larry Eastwood                  | POW Financial Statements for August 2021                                                        | Received    |
| 09-01-21 | Kaireen Morgan                  | Sick Leave Policy as per PCC; Pulpit Supply Insurance Claim                                     | Received    |
| 09-01-21 | Dale Woods                      | Inquiry if the presbytery has guidelines for rental groups                                      | Received    |
| 09-02-21 | Dale Woods                      | Survey for online ministry within the presbytery                                                | Distributed |
| 09-03-21 | Perry Atwal                     | Confirmation of Presbytery Workshop                                                             | Received    |
| 09-05-21 | Colleen Kouwenberg              | Service of Remembrance for Hans Kouwenberg – October 16                                         | Distributed |
| 09-08-21 | Jennifer Astop                  | Fall granting program: Key Dates                                                                | Received    |
| 09-08-21 | Colleen McCue                   | Job posting for Program Coordinator – New Worshipping Coordinator                               | Distributed |

|          |                                         |                                                                                                                               |                             |
|----------|-----------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 09-09-21 | Melia Bennett on behalf of John Vissers | Knox College Academic Dean Search                                                                                             | Distributed                 |
| 09-09-21 | Kathryn Muir                            | Referrals from the 2021 General Assembly                                                                                      | Received                    |
| 09-09-21 | Keith Leishman                          | New clerk of session for St. John's WR                                                                                        | Received                    |
| 09-09-21 | Laurie McKay                            | Invoice for police record check                                                                                               | Received                    |
| 09-10-21 | Dale Woods                              | Possibly of weekly Coffee and Conversation that focuses on the lectionary – requesting if there is any interest in doing this | Distributed                 |
| 09-10-21 | Dale Woods                              | Next Coffee and Conversation is scheduled for October 6 from 9:30-10:30am                                                     | Received                    |
| 09-11-21 | Presbyterian Church Heritage Centre     | Our New Home – Support is needed to continue the preservation and display of our church history.                              | Received                    |
| 09-13-21 | Brian Fraser                            | Request to nominate Dr. Sarah Travis as Academic Dean for Knox College                                                        | Referred to Admin Committee |
| 09-13-21 | Brian Fraser                            | Request for Admin Comm to consider request from Brentwood to apply for Avondbloem Grant                                       | Referred to Admin Committee |

## REPORTS

### CAMP DOUGLAS COMMITTEE REPORT

*The report was presented Rebecca Simpson, Camp Douglas Committee Convener for information only.*

#### Camp Douglas Report to Presbytery September 21, 2021

The CD committee has been working on discerning the mission and vision that God is calling the camp to. Dale Woods has been instrumental in that work. This is ongoing and we hope to present it to the presbytery in the coming months.

The Directors' report from this past summer can be found below. Janet "Thistle" Eastwood and Daniel "Chico" Martinez are to be commended for their hard work and dedication during a difficult year. We did not know until June that we would be allowed to run overnight camps and it took a tremendous amount of effort to accomplish the three weeks of on-site camping that we did. The day camp experiment in a few congregations was a good learning experience as well.

We on the committee are saddened by the resignation of Janet Eastwood as co-director, but we are also happy for her as she endeavours to focus on building her career in editing. She has made many wonderful contributions to the camp over several years as a volunteer and staff person, and especially these last few years as a director.

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Victor Kim

We will miss her fun-loving spirit and administrative perseverance. I'm sure we will call on her periodically to join the fray. You can take the director out of the camp, but never the camp out of the director. Thank you, Janet.

Please join us at Camp Douglas for a Mega-Work Party on Saturday October 23. Lunch will be provided. Brian Dennehy is the contact person (604-727-4123) and your rsvp can be sent to [director@campdouglas.ca](mailto:director@campdouglas.ca). All are welcome! See the accompanying poster.

*Yours in Christ,  
Rebecca Simpson, Convener of the Camp Douglas Committee*

### 2021 Directors' Report

2021 was an unusual summer, combining as it did day camps held at different host churches and overnight camps on the camp property. We are deeply grateful to the host congregations and volunteers who made this joint ministry possible, and to the volunteers who made overnight camps a reality. Especially we owe warm thanks to our staff, Savannah "Wave" McIntyre, Cathleen "Sandy" Dennehy, Bethany "Alpine" Walton-Knight; to Pamela "Chica" Roa Riquelme, who ran the kitchen with unhesitating skill; to Justin Thurn, who dove into camp life via the kitchen during LIT; and to the many camp committee members who helped behind the scenes, compiling paperwork, finding staff, wrangling volunteers, sending mail and cookies, praying for us all, and offering sound advice.

This summer our staff was small: three full-time staff (one first aid attendant and two cabin leaders) in addition to the two directors. We had intended to hire two more staff members but had no qualified applicants. The young adults who would normally have applied already had summer jobs, and the constant commute to and from day camps made the positions unappealing to many candidates.

#### Summer schedule

|              |                                                      |
|--------------|------------------------------------------------------|
| July 4-9     | overnight camp (LIT)                                 |
| July 12-16   | day camp (St. Paul's, Mission)                       |
| July 19-23   | day camp (Kerrisdale/Vancouver Taiwanese, Vancouver) |
| July 26-30   | day camp (Coquitlam, Coquitlam)                      |
| -----        | break week -----                                     |
| August 9-13  | day camp (Richmond, Richmond)                        |
| August 15-20 | overnight camp (Intermediate)                        |
| August 22-27 | overnight camp (Youth)                               |

#### Summary of the summer

One highlight of LIT camp was the strong sense of camaraderie among the LITs. There was a considerable amount of group cohesion, particularly among the boys. The decision to hold LIT camp on site was wise; being on-property significantly enhanced the LITs' experience. One thing that surprised us was how slowly they moved. Activities and transitions between activities took at least twice as long as expected. The LITs appeared to be comfortable wherever they were and happy to chat among themselves with no real aim; this foiled some of our more ambitious plans.

The first week of day camp, which was held at St. Paul's Presbyterian, worked out how day camp looked on reality rather than on paper. We discovered that the campers needed two snack breaks, not one. All the host congregations gamely stepped up and provided twice as much food as they had expected to – thank you!!! The

staff learned flexibility: while we followed the broad outline of the schedule each day, the session activities were almost never what had been planned beforehand. This held true throughout the summer. Reasons for this: since we were in a smaller physical location than the camp property, less time was lost in transitions from one activity or space to the next, meaning each activity took more time. A fair proportion of the campers were young (7-8 years old) and had short attention spans. The weather was hot most weeks, so outdoor activities needed to be curtailed or less energy-intensive. We also found that each week the campers collectively glommed onto two or three activities: they were happy to do these particular activities every day for hours, and had little interest in other things. Generally, campers of all ages and all genders loved bracelet-making (gimp; some of the older campers tried hemp or thread bracelets). At St. Paul's, theatre games were immensely popular. At Kerrisdale, games at the park. At Coquitlam, we found that having sidewalk chalk out first thing in the morning kept campers engaged while we waited for everyone to arrive. CIA was the hit of the week. At Richmond, knuckleball and outdoor games were popular.

This demand for constant flexibility, combined with the responsibility of leading almost all activities themselves required a lot from the cabin leaders. Sandy and Alpine rose to the challenge magnificently, working together when possible and leading their groups separately at other times. We were very impressed with their teamwork, Christian maturity, practicality, and playful engagement with the campers.

There were few situations requiring first aid attention during day camp. Most injuries were prevented by the flexibility of the schedule and the sites: we were able to avoid the worst of the sun and the campers played fewer running games than they typically do at camp. Accordingly, Wave acted as a support leader with the cabins in between her other duties, eg. sanitizing high-contact surfaces. (Please see attached First Aid report.)

For the overnight camps, we had a curious mixture of very experienced staff and staff who were completely new to the job – mostly past LITs, and a few who had never done LIT. We were also joined by a few staff for whom this was their first experience of Camp Douglas. We had to be conscious of how much camp life assumes everybody knows certain things, and intentional about explaining expectations, rules, and traditions clearly. The new cabin leaders were initially tentative in their positions but responded well to their cabins and to encouragement and guidance from the directors and more experienced staff. We were very impressed with the new leaders' commitment to giving their campers the best week possible, even when they were exhausted and finding the truth of Rebecca's maxim that camp life is a marathon and not a sprint. The older staff worked smoothly as a team and without friction either between themselves or with the newer leaders. The more experienced staff seemed to find renewed energy in the fact of being back at camp, in their easy teamwork, and by the enthusiasm of the new leaders.

In both day camps and overnight camps, we found that campers needed constant reminders to wear their masks (eg. in common areas, when being served food), but that they were willing to do so – there was no resistance to safety measures, just forgetfulness.

### **Significant challenges**

The most challenging aspect of day camps was the commute. The commute itself and the consequent early mornings meant that staff were exhausted by the end of the week. Day camps were more draining for the staff than overnight camps, despite the actual longer hours of overnight camps. We recommend that any future day camps be run by local people rather than commuting staff.

One significant challenge of overnight camps was finding a lifeguard. Between the efforts of Rebecca and Daniel we managed, but we came very close to having camps with no water-based activities. Thank you also to Kate "Violet" Simpson who traveled to camp during her day off so that the LITs had one day in the water.

Another challenge of overnight camps was the kitchen sanitizer. The kitchen inspector instructed the kitchen staff in a new-to-us Food Safe accepted process for sanitizing dishes after they were run through the machine. However, washing and sanitizing dishes was still an inefficient process.

**Camp numbers over the past six years**

|                            | <b>2021</b>        | <b>2019</b> | <b>2018</b> | <b>2017</b> | <b>2016</b> | <b>2015</b> |
|----------------------------|--------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| <b>Focus</b>               | 20<br>(St. Paul's) | 21          | 32          | 36          | 36          | 32          |
| <b>Girls</b>               | 12<br>(Kerrisdale) | 33          | 39          | 29          | 35          | 29          |
| <b>Family</b>              | 12<br>(Coquitlam)  | 47          | 41          | 39          | 10          | 29; 10      |
| <b>Sf/jr 1</b>             | 9                  | 13          | 45          | 44          | 35          | 42          |
| <b>Sf/jr 2</b>             | (Richmond)         | 22          | 24          | 45          | 32          | 35          |
| <b>Int 1</b>               | 27                 | 31          | 25          | 32          | 30          | 27          |
| <b>Int 2</b>               |                    | 20          | 26          | 31          | 40          | 36          |
| <b>Youth</b>               | 34                 | 43          | 50          | 19          | 22          | 25          |
| <b>LIT 1</b>               | 7                  | --          | 8           | 5           | 6           | 5           |
| <b>LIT 2</b>               | --                 | 14          | --          | 9           | 7           | 8           |
| <b>Total participants</b>  | 112                | 224         | 275         | 302         | 238         | 257         |
| <b>Total registrations</b> | 121                | 244         | 290         | 323         | 253         | 278         |

Note that 2021 intermediate camp and youth camp registration was full. We were unable to accept more campers for lack of staff to lead the cabins; two campers were on waitlist for Intermediate.

**Camperships**

This summer we had 35 campers on partial or full campership, not counting the families funded in part by St. Paul's Presbyterian. The entire campership fund was used, and exceeded by \$1, 203.

Rationale for exceeding the campership budget: many families who usually need a small campership due to the pandemic needed to ask for more assistance than usual. Since day camp registration was slow to take off, during the spring and the first part of the summer it seemed probable that we wouldn't have enough campers to run day camps if we did not help where we could. In a few cases, campers whose families could afford day camp fees registered for Maple Ridge day camp, which became overnight Intermediate camp when the province permitted overnight camps. We felt it was right to cover the difference for those families who had already registered, rather than tell their child not to come to camp. Also, congregations who customarily sponsor several campers each were hit hard by the pandemic and unable to continue the practice this year. These families applied directly to camp for assistance.

**Other financial notes**

Both cabin leader positions were funded by Canada Summer Jobs grants. A worship director position was funded through a Regional Resourcing Grant (\$5000); however, covid restrictions meant we were unable to offer a worship director position. (See "Current and ongoing.")

**Camp Douglas Camino**



On Saturday, August 7<sup>th</sup>, Ross Lockhart, Daniel, and Janet led the second annual Camp Douglas Camino. 10 intrepid pilgrims walked from Langdale ferry terminal to Camp Douglas along the Lower Road, pausing for prayer, devotions, and snacks along the way. It rained lightly for the first portion of the journey and gradually cleared to sunshine. At camp a delicious dinner and dessert awaited, courtesy of Pamela “Chica” Roa Riquelme. This proved especially popular: there were jokes around the table that all we needed to do to advertise next year’s Camino was promise a home-cooked meal by Pam. The evening closed with worship in the chapel, and a bus trip back to the ferry.

#### **Current and ongoing**

We will contact the head office to see if the Regional Resourcing Grant can be used for the First Aid Attendant position or if the money should be returned.

We are writing thank you cards to the Camino donors, staff and volunteers, and to other people who gave to camp in varying ways this summer.

We will follow up with leaders from the host congregations to discuss their experiences of day camps.

A reminder that Camp Douglas will have an accreditation visit next summer by representatives of the BCCA. We are currently on a 2-year accreditation term. If we maintain accreditation standards to satisfaction for two consecutive visits, we will be raised to a 3-year accreditation term.

#### **Final words**

From one family: “Thanks for making this summer happen! We are beyond grateful!”

And from another parent, a friend of the family described his amazement at the transformation in her son: “He was so quiet in the car, and then he gets to camp and it was like he’s a different person.” This parent went on to praise camp for its effect on her son. “He fits in, he has friends, he’s just like everybody else.”

“It’s an answer to prayer.”

Respectfully submitted,  
Janet Eastwood and Daniel Martinez

Both Janet Eastwood and Daniel Martinez spoke the support given to them and the camp during this pandemic time. Much was learned during this summer and blessings were received by all: staff, campers and host congregations. Due to the resignation of Janet Eastwood, a special acknowledgement and prayer was given to her for her work, wisdom and creative insight as Co-Director over the past few years.

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

#### **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 – September 21, 2021**

The Admin Committee, with direction from the Moderator and Clerk, has decided to remain with zoom meetings for presbytery for the time being. There is still too much uncertainty around the pandemic and continuing with

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Victor Kim

zoom meetings allows for the greatest possibility of participation with zero risk to health through in person contact.

Two separate workshops for Ruling Elders are being offered on October 5 and 19, both from 7pm to 8:30pm via zoom. These workshops will cover the role and responsibility of the ruling elder within congregations and sessions as well as within the other courts of our denomination. We encourage not only elders in presbytery to attend, but also invite all elders serving on sessions in our congregations to attend as well. Clergy who wish to attend would also be welcome. The agenda for the meetings, plus the “For Elders” resource, along with the zoom links will be sent out in a separate email to the presbytery. Please share with your congregations.

#### **Nomination for the Academic Dean position at Knox College**

Correspondence was received from Knox College seeking presbytery nominations for the position of Academic Dean. A nomination was forwarded by Brian Fraser to the Admin Committee for consideration.

**Recommendation 1** – that the Rev. Dr. Sarah Travis be nominated by the presbytery for the position of Academic Dean at Knox College. (Dr. Travis’ CV is included in the reports for this presbytery meeting.)

**CARRIED**

#### **Draft Revision of the Standing Orders**

Responses were received regarding revisions to the current Standing Orders and have been incorporated into the document which was sent out as part of the reports for this presbytery meeting. The sections of the Standing Orders concerning the Ministry Committee and Community Engagement Committee are the only sections that are proposed to be revised. No responses from other committees were received. Please review the proposed changes and respond to the Clerk prior to September 30, 2021.

#### **General Assembly Referrals**

Each year the General Assembly sends items for referral to the lower courts of the church for review and response.

**Recommendation 2** – Admin Committee recommends the following in terms of response to the referrals:

- **Recommendation CDC-003** (A&P 2021, p. 296, 50)  
That the updated edicts and preambles for ordination, induction and admission of the minister of Word and Sacrament and of the ruling elders be circulated to sessions and presbyteries for study and report comments to the Committee on Church Doctrine through the Clerks of Assembly by January 31, 2022.
  - **Refer to Admin Committee**
- **Recommendation CLK-003** (A&P 2021, p. 308, 54, [presbyterian.ca/gao/ga2021/2021referrals](https://www.presbyterian.ca/gao/ga2021/2021referrals))  
That the above guidelines to facilitate calls and election of LGBTQI candidates be commended to sessions, congregations and presbyteries.  
The report can be found at A&P 2021, p. 306–08, Appendix 310–11 and at [presbyterian.ca/gao/ga2021/2021referrals](https://www.presbyterian.ca/gao/ga2021/2021referrals).
- **Recommendation CLK-004** (A&P 2021, p. 309, 54)

That sessions, congregations and presbyteries be invited to share feedback with the Clerks of Assembly by January 31, 2022, with a view to improving these guidelines and that the Clerks of Assembly report to a future General Assembly regarding possible revisions.

- **Refer to Student Certification Committee**

- **Recommendation CLK-015** (A&P 2021, p. 318, 54, [presbyterian.ca/gao/ga2021/2021referrals](http://presbyterian.ca/gao/ga2021/2021referrals))  
That the proposed amendment to Book of Forms section 176.1, be referred to sessions and presbyteries for study and report to the Clerks of Assembly by January 31, 2021. (A&P 2021, p. 317–18 and at [presbyterian.ca/gao/ga2021/2021referrals](http://presbyterian.ca/gao/ga2021/2021referrals))  
176.1 Ordained ministers within the bounds, whose ministry is carried out on a minimum of a half-time basis and not as a complement to some other vocational pursuit and:
  - **Refer to Ministry Committee**
- **Recommendation LMA-048** (A&P 2021, p. 532, 38, [presbyterian.ca/gao/ga2021/2021referrals](http://presbyterian.ca/gao/ga2021/2021referrals))  
That the above proposed revisions to the Guidelines for Dealing with Mental Health Issues (2011) (A&P 2021, p. 519–32), be sent to the courts and committees of the church for study and report to the Life and Mission Agency by January 31, 2022, with the goal of presenting a final report to the General Assembly in 2022.
  - **Refer to Community Engagement Committee**

**CARRIED**

It was also agreed by the committee that Recommendation 35 from Life and Mission (A&P 2021, p.38) be studied by the Ministry Committee and the Strategy and Leadership Committee as it pertains to ordination to the ministry of Word and Sacraments to a non-traditional ministry position. The recommendation was adopted by the General Assembly and would be pertinent to our presbytery's plans around New Witnessing Communities.

### **Correspondence regarding the Dissolution of Presbyterian Innovative Ministries (PIM) and the Presbyterian Extension Fund (PEF)**

Having received correspondence regarding the proposed dissolution of PEF/PIM, the committee recommends that the Presbytery of Westminster, as a shareholder in PEF/PIM, support the proposal around dissolution as per the Form of Presbytery Dissolution...

This is an initial step which will begin the process of dissolution if approved by all presbyteries in our synod. Once this has begun, the presbytery can further discern how the funds available will be managed by our presbytery and for what purposes. That discussion will be for presbytery to consider at a future meeting.

**Recommendation 3** – that the Presbytery of Westminster approve the dissolution of PEF/PIM as outlined in the Form of Presbytery Resolution to Dissolve Presbyterian Extension Fund (B.C.) Ltd ("PEF") and Presbyterian Innovative Ministries (B.C.) Ltd. ("PIM").

**CARRIED**

Correspondence was received from an elder expressing strong concern for the workload on ministers in the presbytery. The committee appreciates and shares the concerns noted in the correspondence. The committee seeks to help all presbyters manage the workload in a more equitable and manageable way by inviting full participation from all presbyters in the ministry and work of the presbytery. All ministers will be encouraged to share the work of presbytery as accepted in our ordination vows and ruling elders will continue to be informed and equipped through workshops so that there may be more confidence and willingness to fully participate as

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Victor Kim

representative and equalizing elders. We understand that mental health is a priority for all members of the presbytery and encourage all to explore the resources and options available to us through our denomination. We also encourage all presbyters, including clergy, to continue to seek out friendships and partnerships with one another for meaningful support, encouragement and prayer.

We received news that The Rev. Dr. Ted Siverns will be moving to Alberta and that this will be Ted's last presbytery meeting with us. We give thanks to God for Ted's faithful ministry, both here in our presbytery and throughout the world. We trust that Ted and Betty will continue to know the fullness of God's presence and blessing in their new home.

A prayer was given thanking Ted for his years as service as a leader, minister, pastor, teacher and friend.

Given that September 30 is the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, the committee will share a portion of the video presentation on Residential Schools and the Presbyterian Church in Canada. This video is 30 minutes and we will only play a portion of it at the presbytery meeting, however, we commend this video to all congregations and the questions that are suggested on the website as resources for our congregations.

<https://presbyterian.ca/2021/09/13/video-residential-schools-pcc/>

Presbytery recommends that all congregations incorporate this video into any recognition of the September 30 National Day for Truth and Reconciliation.

Respectfully submitted,

*Victor Kim*  
Clerk

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Victor Kim

## CURRICULUM VITAE

**The Rev. Dr. Sarah A.N. Travis**

*Groundbreaking scholar, innovative teacher and administrator, and creative pastor*

### I. BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

#### PERSONAL

Name: Sarah Anne Noreen Travis

Home address: 260 Glenashton Dr. Oakville, ON L6H6H5

Phone: 289-795-1065

Email address: [sarah.travis@utoronto.ca](mailto:sarah.travis@utoronto.ca); [travissarah@hotmail.com](mailto:travissarah@hotmail.com)

#### EDUCATION

*Doctor of Theology* 2012

Knox College, University of Toronto

Department of Pastoral Theology, Homiletics

Dissertation: *Preaching in the Perichoretic Space: A Social Trinitarian Postcolonial Homiletic for the Canadian Context.*

Supervisors: J. Dorcas Gordon; David S. Jacobsen. Readers: Paul S. Wilson; John S. McClure.

- Drawing on the postcolonial theory of Bhabha and the social trinitarian theology of Moltmann, I constructed a postcolonial homiletic which has been cited widely

*Master of Divinity* 2002

Knox College, University of Toronto

- Gold medal for highest academic average in graduating class
- Thesis

*Bachelor of Arts* (Honours Psychology), 1998

University of Waterloo

#### ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

Knox College

**Adjunct Professor of Worship and Preaching**

2012-present

- Pioneered on-line pedagogy for preaching
- Redesigned worship curriculum and introduced a worship practicum course
- See full list of teaching experience on subsequent pages

Toronto School of Theology

**Interim Director, Doctor of Ministry Program**

2017-2020

- Led all aspects of DMin program, including program evaluation and redesign
- Wrote Quality Assurance report, updated learning outcomes and streamlined program
- Improved student compliance to program timelines
- Used social media and reached out to member colleges in order to increase the profile of the DMin program within the TST community
- Taught courses in Theology of Ministry, Contextual Theologies, Qualitative Research Methods; participated in student committees and student counselling; reviewed Research Ethics Board applications

Knox College, University of Toronto  
**Interim Director of Field Education**  
2016-2017

- Oversaw all aspects of Theological Field Education
- Interviewed and placed students in practicum assignments
- Led weekly course integrating insights from field education experiences

PASTORAL APPOINTMENTS  
Norval Presbyterian Church, Norval ON  
**Minister** (half-time)  
January 2020 – present

- Weekly preaching and worship planning – pivoted to on-line worship during pandemic
- Pastoral care and bible study – pivoted to on-line
- Denominational leadership includes representation on steering committee of Kairos Canada
- Interim Moderator of neighbouring congregation during pastoral vacancy

Knox College  
**Minister of the Chapel**  
2012-2020

- Oversaw all public worship at Knox College including weekly chapel worship services and annual retreats
- Scheduled worship leaders – faculty, students and guests
- Mentored student leaders
- Preaching and facilitation as required
- Initiated and directed Vital Worship Grant from Calvin Institute of Christian Worship  
Topic: In a multi-cultural context, how might the Knox College Community refocus its worship practices?

St Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Hillsburgh ON  
**Interim Moderator**  
2011-2013

- Led congregation throughout pastoral vacancy, including weekly worship services
- Oversaw search for new minister

Knox Presbyterian Church, Guelph ON  
**Associate Minister for Youth and Families**  
2003-2006

- Worship and Preaching and Pastoral Care and Administration
- Led pastoral and creative programs with youth, students and families
- Initiated "Feed your faith" midweek fellowship and study program for all ages

## II. SCHOLARLY AND PROFESSIONAL WORK

### RESEARCH ENDEAVOURS

Postcolonial theory and preaching; postcolonial biblical interpretation; the church and empire; the social doctrine of the Trinity; worship leadership; homiletic pedagogy; experience of listeners in preaching; Canadian context for ministry,

including indigenous-settler relations; preaching and trauma; interplay of local and global Christianity; power dynamics in church life; justice; development and aid; multi-ethnic worship.

## PUBLICATIONS

### Books

*Unspeakable: Preaching and Trauma Informed Theology*. Eugene, OR: Cascade, June 2021. (R)

*Metamorphosis: Preaching after Christendom*. Eugene, OR: Cascade, July 2019.

*Decolonizing Preaching: The Pulpit as Postcolonial Space*. Eugene, OR: Cascade, 2014.

### Articles in academic journals.

“In the Room Where it Happens: Cultural Humility, Curiosity and Wonder in the Homiletics Classroom.” *Homiletic*, forthcoming. (R)

“Troubled Gospel: Postcolonial Preaching for the Colonized, Colonizer, and Everyone In-Between.” *Homiletic*, Vol 40, No 1, 2015, online. (R)

### Chapters in multi-author volumes.

“Resisting White Fragility: Preaching towards Indigenous-Settler Reconciliation in Canada.” In *Unmasking White Preaching: Racial Hegemony, Resistance, and Possibilities in Homiletics*. Lexington Books, forthcoming. (R)

“Deconstructing a Gospel of Reconciliation: Locating Trouble and Grace in Postcolonial Preaching.” In *Theologies of the Gospel in Context: The Promise of Homiletical Theology*, edited by David S. Jacobsen. Cascade Books, 2017. (R)

“What on Earth is Liturgy? Liturgy and Ecology” by Charles Fensham and Sarah Travis in *The Church in God’s Household: Protestant Perspectives on Ecclesiology and Ecology*. Edited by Clive W. Ayre and Ernst M. Conradie. South Africa: Cluster Publications, 2016.

“They Were All Captive.” In *Unsettling the Word: Biblical Experiments in Decolonization*, edited by Steve Heinrichs. Common Word, 2018.

## CREATIVE PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITY (selected)

Teacher-Scholar Grant (2021). Calvin Institute of Christian Worship. Topic: How does worship prepare us for the work of reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples?

Consultation on Cultural Intelligence and the Evaluation of Preaching Practice. Boston University. January 2019 – present.

Preaching Masterclass, keynote speaker. Atlantic School of Theology, March 2020.

Liturgy Seminar, Toronto School of Theology. “Prayer, Praise and Postcoloniality: Rethinking Liturgy in Canada.” November 19, 2014.

Consultation on Postcolonial Theology and Preaching. Boston University. “Troubled Gospel: Postcolonial Preaching for the Colonized, Colonizer, and Everyone In-Between.” October 27, 2014.

Nicholson Lecture. Atlantic School of Theology, Halifax Nova Scotia. “Gospel and Postcolonial Imagination: The Canadian Church Speaks Back to Empire.” July 9, 2014.

Academy of Homiletics. Chicago, IL. “Preaching Development and Aid: The View from Elsewhere.” November 2013.

Resource: Presbyterian World Service and Development. *Worship Resource 2013, 2014, 2017*.

Resource: *To Preach the Good News: A Handbook for Preaching for Presbyterians in Canada*. Toronto: The Presbyterian Church in Canada, 2015.

Seminars: St. Andrew’s Presbyterian Church, Toronto Ontario. Series of three seminars entitled “Transforming Worship.” October 2016.

Workshop: Lester Randall Preaching Fellowship, “Preaching and Trauma: Toward a Trauma-Informed Homiletic.” October, 2019.

Workshop: Lester Randall Preaching Fellowship, "Liberating the Church: Preaching at the End of Christendom." October 2016.

Presbyterian World Service and Development. National Committee, 2012-2017.

Kairos Canada. Steering Committee, 2020-present.

### III. TEACHING & SUPERVISORY ACTIVITY

\*indicates responsibility for course design

Undergraduate/Basic Degree courses taught:

Reformed Worship\*, Online

Decolonizing Preaching\*

Introduction to Preaching\*, Online

Worship Practicum\*

Human Growth and Spirituality

Basics of Biblical Preaching, Online and on-campus

Graduate/Advanced Degree courses taught:

TSM5020 – Contextual Theologies\*

TSM5021 – Theologies of Ministry\*

TSM5022 – Qualitative Research and Design.\*

### IV. OTHER RELEVANT INFORMATION

#### PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

Academy of Homiletics

Association of Doctor of Ministry Educators (ADME)

Ordination, Presbyterian Church in Canada, May 2003.



## **Presbytery of Westminster Ruling Elders' Workshops**

### **Session One – Tuesday, October 5, 7:00 – 8:30 pm via zoom**

#### **The Ruling Elder in the Local Congregation**

- We will be using the resource, **Equipping Elders**, which will be emailed to all participants prior to the workshop

In the first workshop we will cover the roles and responsibilities of the elder as it relates to the local congregation as a member of the session

Some of the issues covered will include:

- What are the primary responsibilities of the elder?
- Governance role and pastoral care role
- The theology of eldership
- What is the polity of the Presbyterian Church in Canada, how does it work?

We will also explore areas of session leadership relating to:

- Membership
- Pastoral Care
- Worship
- Christian Education
- Stewardship and Mission

How are elders elected, ordained and admitted?

- Ballot of nominees vs, ballot of members

What makes for a good session meeting?

- Healthy debate
- Confidentiality
- Covenant of conduct
- Understanding the servant/leader role of the session in relation to the congregation

### **Session Two – Tuesday, October 19, 7:00 – 8:30 pm via zoom**

#### **The Ruling Elder in the Wider Denomination**

- We will explore the role and responsibility of the ruling elder in relation to the other courts of the church, including presbyteries, synods and the General Assembly

The Ruling Elder and the Presbytery

- How does the presbytery work?
- What are representative elders, equalizing elders, assessor elders?

- What is the role and responsibility of representative elders to the presbytery?
- What about the synod?

#### The Ruling Elder and the General Assembly

- What is the General Assembly and how does it work?
- What is a Commissioner to the General Assembly and what happens if I am asked to be a commissioner to the General Assembly?

#### What is Judicial Process and how does it work?

- General Principles
- Non-disciplinary cases vs. Disciplinary cases
- Review of Ministry
  - What is it and how does it work?

There will be time for questions at the end of each workshop

The workshops will be recorded so that those who cannot attend can view them later.  
They will be posted on the presbytery website once the meetings are complete.

### **Proposed changes to the Standing Orders**

With regard to the Ministry Committee mandate, we are suggesting reverting back to the former structure of separate committees for Ministry, Visitation, Ethics and Care and Student 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

#### **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 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
  - 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
  - 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
  - Equip our congregations and ministries with tools for faithfully following the mission of God in the world, preparing congregations for confident, gracious, and loving ways to be God's sign and instrument to the world around them, having God's heart for mission, evangelism, justice and living the gospel of Jesus Christ
  - Encourage and equip PCC 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, 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**

- The Admin Committee has heard that most presbytery standing committees are short of the people resources that they need to make their work more effective and efficient
- We realize that the presbytery is a limited resource in terms of people and gifts
- 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
- The Admin Committee is offering workshops to help ruling elders in particular to become more familiar with the role of elders, both at a congregational level and at the presbytery, synod and general assembly level
- This may help in engaging more of the resources of the presbytery in the work of the presbytery

**Frequency of Presbytery Meetings**

- Given the uncertainty around the ongoing pandemic, especially as it relates to meetings and the availability of people for meetings, it is recommended that we not change the frequency of meetings at this time
- We do, however, see value in shaping one of our meetings into an annual retreat meeting
- Further work will be done around what that might look like and when it would best work for the presbytery

**PRESBYTERIAN EXTENSION FUND (B.C.) LTD (“PEF”)  
PRESBYTERIAN INNOVATIVE MINISTRIES (B.C.) LTD. (“PIM”)**

Fifth Floor | Three Bentall Centre | 595 Burrard St. | P.O. Box 49369 Vancouver, BC | V7X 1L4

August 10, 2021

To: Presbyteries of Westminster, Vancouver Island, Kamloops and Kootenay

Re: Potential Dissolution of PEF and PIM – **ACTION REQUIRED BY PRESBYTERY**

***Proposal to Dissolve PEF and PIM***

At its recent annual meeting, the directors and Presbytery shareholder representatives of PEF voted unanimously to cease operations of PEF and its wholly-owned subsidiary PIM. If approved by each of the Presbyteries of Westminster, Vancouver Island, Kamloops and Kootenay, PEF would wind up both PEF’s and PIM’s legal structure and disburse its assets to those presbyteries in proportion to each presbytery’s shareholdings in PEF (the Presbyteries of Kamloops, Kootenay, and Vancouver Island each own one share, Westminster owns three shares).

***Background of PEF and PIM***

PEF was formed in 1957 as a charitable organization to guarantee commercial bank loans of Presbyterian congregations from shareholder Presbyteries for the purpose of congregational sanctuary and manse building programmes. As of May 31, 2021, PEF held approximately \$2.8 million in assets in trust to secure those loan guarantees. While dozens of congregations throughout British Columbia have benefitted from PEF’s guarantees since its creation, due to changes in banking regulation and congregational needs, only Trinity Presbyterian Church, Campbell River has utilized the guarantee facility over the past 15 years. That loan is for approximately \$120,000.

PIM commenced operations in 1999 after the PEF shareholders agreed to amend the trust terms of PEF to allow for the transfer of a portion of the annual portfolio income from PEF to PIM to fund innovative ministries in the province. Numerous groups and persons have received grants totalling more than \$1 million from PIM over the past two decades.

***Why Dissolve?***

There are several reasons the PEF board of Directors concluded it was best to dissolve PEF, including the following:

***1. Proper Stewardship of Assets***

PEF’s \$2.8 million in liquid assets have sat largely idle for over two decades. While these funds have been built up over the years, the present \$2.8 million will almost certainly never be needed by PEF to guarantee church sanctuary and manse building loans. Few if any congregations are building sanctuaries and manses these days. For those who do, the terms of loans allowed by the Bank of Montreal for PEF are usually not as favourable as the terms a congregation can receive from its existing banking relationships. There is a limit on loans to \$400,000 placed by BOM, which is really insufficient for any serious building project. The national Presbyterian Church Building Corporation (PCBC) has significantly more funds, full time staff, and better banking arrangements that PEF can obtain. PCBC has more recently started lending to British Columbia Presbyterian congregations. PEF is required by BOM to invest its money with its affiliate Nesbitt Burns, which results in professional fees of approximately \$40,000 a year. It would be far less expensive (and based on recent returns, more profitable) to invest in the denomination’s Consolidated Fund which has very low transaction costs (0.5% of invested amounts).

***2. Charity Law Challenges***

Rules were introduced several years ago by CRA to ensure that charities spend the monies they hold if not being used in active programs. PEF’s auditors have warned for the last several years that CRA could challenge the \$2.8 million held when so little is needed to provide guarantees over the past two decades. PEF has taken the position that the money is needed for PIM, but technically PIM is not part of the PEF charitable organization. More recently, there has been proposed legislation to require even greater spending percentages of non-restricted funds by charities. While

not yet adopted, this legislation would further pressure PEF to rid itself of its funds. Of course, PEF could simply “dividend” a significant portion of that money to its shareholder Presbyteries, but BOM would likely collapse the guarantee structure for loans if material amounts were removed, thus eliminating any argument for maintaining funds for guaranteeing loans.

### 3. *Needs of Presbyteries*

All Presbyteries have financial strains that are limiting present ministries and ministry opportunities. If PEF was dissolved, approximately \$466,000 would be made available to *each* of the Presbyteries of Kamloops, Kootenay, and Vancouver Island and \$1.4 million to the Presbytery of Westminster. Of course, portfolio values fluctuate and there would be some legal and accounting dissolution costs, but the estimates above are reasonably accurate. The one congregational loan outstanding for Trinity Presbyterian Church, Campbell River would require some arrangement with BOM, probably an assignment of the debt to the Presbytery of Vancouver Island.

### 4. *Local is Better*

At present, PIM represents the best use of PEF assets, albeit only drawing on PEF’s annual income amounts (as per the terms of the original trust). Each Presbytery has different needs and very few innovative ministry proposals come from congregations outside of the Presbytery of Westminster, meaning the benefits from PIM have not been evenly distributed. If the funds were distributed to local Presbyteries, each would have an opportunity to use the capital and income as it deems best.

### *Steps to Dissolve*

The dissolution of PEF and PIM would be relatively simple. The most important condition is that, given that there were original trust terms associated with the PEF assets, *each* Presbytery shareholder would need to agree to a dissolution. If a formal motion of approval, substantially in the form provided with this memorandum, from each Presbytery was passed (Synod is not involved in either PEF or this process), the existing assets, which are held in public market securities, could be sold in a relatively short period of time. A formal dissolution of the companies and final filings with CRA could be prepared, probably at a cost not exceeding \$10,000. If all Presbyteries had granted approval, the whole dissolution process would take approximately three months. If any Presbytery would like further information about this process or PEF and PIM generally, they can ask their PEF Shareholder representative or contact me, Angus Beattie, at [ABeattie@omiconaecc.com](mailto:ABeattie@omiconaecc.com).

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### **Form of Presbytery Resolution to Dissolve Presbyterian Extension Fund (B.C.) Ltd (“PEF”) and Presbyterian Innovative Ministries (B.C.) Ltd. (“PIM”)**

#### **WHEREAS:**

- A. Presbyterian Extension Fund (B.C.) Ltd (“PEF”) has six issued and outstanding shares held by four shareholders, being the Presbyteries of Kamloops, Kootenay, and Vancouver Island which each own one share, and Westminster which owns three shares;
- B. Presbyterian Innovative ministries (B.C.) Ltd. (“PIM”) has one shareholder, being PEF;
- C. PEF was formed in 1957 as a charitable organization to guarantee commercial bank loans of Presbyterian congregations from shareholder Presbyteries for the purpose of congregational sanctuary and manse building programmes, and while dozens of congregations throughout British Columbia have benefitted from PEF’s



- guarantees since its creation, due to changes in banking regulation and congregational needs there has only been one such loan advanced in over two decades;
- D. PIM commenced operations in 1999, using a portion of the annual portfolio income from PEF to fund innovative ministries in the province, and while numerous groups and persons have received grants totalling more than \$1 million from PIM over the past two decades, PIM directors concluded that the distribution of the grants was neither proportionate across the Province of BC nor perhaps the highest and best use of the funds for each Presbytery;
- E. As of July 31, 2021, PEF held approximately \$2.8 million in assets in trust to secure potential loan guarantees and PIM has no assets or liabilities;
- F. The PEF board of directors, which is comprised of representatives from each shareholder Presbytery, voted unanimously to cease carrying on business and to wind up the affairs and business of PEF and PIM and to file an application for voluntarily dissolution of PEF with the British Columbia Registrar of Companies pursuant to section 316 of the *Business Corporations Act* (British Columbia), subject, *inter alia*, to the approval from each of the Presbyteries of Westminster, Vancouver Island, Kamloops and Kootenay;
- G. In order to be legally dissolved, PEF must file an application with the British Columbia Registrar of Companies stating, among other things, that deposited in PEF's records office is a director's affidavit stating that PEF has no assets and that PEF either has no liabilities or has made adequate provision for the payment of each of its liabilities;
- H. It is proposed that, incidental to the dissolution, PEF distribute all of its remaining property and assets, being its portfolio of public securities and cash held in BMO Nesbitt Burns trading accounts and any cash in its BMO bank account remaining following PEF having made provisions for the discharge or satisfaction of all of its remaining debts and liabilities, if any (the "Assets");
- I. PEF has made provisions for the discharge or satisfaction of all its remaining debts and liabilities, if any;
- J. Section 301 of the *Business Corporations Act* (British Columbia) provides that a company must not sell, lease or otherwise dispose of all or substantially all of its undertaking unless it has been authorized to do so by special resolution of its shareholders; and
- K. The Presbytery of [Kamloops / Kootenay / Vancouver Island / Westminster] ("Presbytery"), as a shareholder of PEF, believes that it should by way of special resolution approve the dissolution of PEF and PIM and the disbursement of the net assets to those presbyteries in proportion to each presbytery's shareholdings in PEF, which should result in approximately [\$466,000 / \$1.4 million] being paid out to the Presbytery;

**BE IT RESOLVED, AS A SPECIAL RESOLUTION, THAT:**

1. as incidental to the dissolution of PEF, the distribution of all or substantially all of the undertaking of PEF and all of the remaining property and assets of PEF, including any cash remaining following PEF making provisions for the discharge or satisfaction of all of its remaining debts and liabilities, if any, to [x], a shareholder of PEF is authorized;
2. PEF wind up its affairs by making provisions for the discharge or satisfaction of all its remaining debts and liabilities, if any;
3. PIM wind up its affairs by making provisions for the discharge or satisfaction of all its remaining debts and liabilities, if any;
4. PEF is authorized to apply to the British Columbia Registrar of Companies to be dissolved under Division 2 of Part 10 of the *Business Corporations Act* (British Columbia);

5. PIM is authorized to apply to the British Columbia Registrar of Companies to be dissolved under Division 2 of Part 10 of the *Business Corporations Act* (British Columbia);
6. any one director and officer of PEF, signing alone, be authorized to execute, for and on behalf of and in the name of PEF, under the seal of PEF or otherwise, all documents and instruments and to do all acts and things necessary or advisable to give effect to this resolution and the dissolution of PEF and PIM; and
7. [XXXXXXX] or [YYYYYYY] signing alone, be authorized to execute, for and on behalf of and in the name of the Presbytery, all documents and instruments and to do all acts and things necessary or advisable to represent the Presbytery and to give effect to this resolution and the dissolution of PEF and PIM.

## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE REPORT

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

*All motions, unless otherwise noted, moved by Sumarme Goble, seconded by Neil Abramson.*

### Community Engagement Committee (CEC) Report to Presbytery Sept. 21, 2021

The CEC discussed its concerns related to the finding of the unmarked graves of Indigenous children who died at residential schools. The CEC offers two recommendations to Presbytery.

**Recommendation 1:** That Westminster Presbytery encourage the Presbyterian Church in Canada to press forward, in close consultation with local Indigenous communities, to arrange a search of the grounds of the eleven residential schools that the PCC was originally responsible for, including the two schools that the PCC remained responsible for after the United Church was formed, to determine whether there are any unmarked graves, and to work to bring solace and justice to those communities. **CARRIED**

**Recommendation 2:** That Westminster Presbytery encourage the PCC to request the Canadian Council of Churches to encourage the Pope to come to Canada to confess, on behalf of the Roman Catholic Church, responsibility for the deaths of children in its care, and their unmarked graves at Catholic residential schools. **CARRIED**

#### Grant applications,

Two grant applications, both of which were reviewed by CEC previously, and which now need to be amended or renewed, came to us very recently. Because there were special circumstances that warranted an exception to the requirement of meeting our usual review deadlines, and because the funding agencies require presbytery's approval before their October deadlines, we did not feel it necessary to try to hold a special meeting of the CEC.

**Recommendation 3:** Therefore, **we are recommending that Presbytery** (1) renew its approval of the 52 Scriptural Songs project (Brentwood), this time to the Avondbloem Experimental Fund, and (2) renew its approval of the Around the Well Ministry application to the New and Renewing Ministries Fund of the PCC, for another year. **CARRIED**

#### For information

The CEC will revive and maintain a previous informal **website** known as "SoJustAct" to assist the CEC in fulfilling its mandate to keep the Presbytery community informed of social justice issues that are being worked on by the national church, as well as such issues that have specific relevance to BC and the lower mainland. Our hope is that this website will lead both to greater awareness of, and faithful action on, justice issues.

The CEC is looking for a volunteer who would help maintain and update the site, and asks member churches to let us know of any potential volunteers.

*Respectfully submitted,  
Glen Davis – Co-convener*



## THE NEW AND RENEWED MINISTRY FUND: REPORT TEMPLATE

|                        |                         |                             |               |
|------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------|
| <b>PROJECT NAME</b>    | Around the Well         | <b>NAME OF CONGREGATION</b> | Kerrisdale PC |
| <b>MINISTRY LEADER</b> | <b>PERIOD COVERED</b>   | <b>DATE OF REPORT</b>       |               |
| Ricahrd Watson         | April 2020 to Aug, 2021 | September 14, 2021          |               |

### PROJECT SUMMARY AND KEY LEARNINGS

Please provide a 2-3 sentence summary of the project that is being funded by the grant.

Mission: "Building Community through welcoming and mutually transforming relationships."  
 Around the well (ATW) started in March 2019 as a third space ministry that hopes to eventually become an independent self supporting new worshipping community on the west side of Vancouver. Everything changed however once the COVID pandemic hit in March 2020. We were intentionally focussed on being present in person to develop relationships with local people. However, our options for inperson interactions became very limited. This experiment in discerning God's call to engage the community outside the walls of existing Presbyterian churches was forced to adapt and pivot. The vision to love neighbour and make disciples of the nations as well as our focus on the residential population of UBC campus, especially non Christians, remained. However, the way in which we plan and carry out our mission has. This is the story of what happened.

Please list the goals and objectives outlined in your most recent application. Did you meet these goals and objectives this year? Why or why not?

The overview and opening positon of the proposed NWC is enclosed in Table 1. In April 2020 we set the following Goals:

- 1) Complete a mission plan.
- 2) Continue with monthly gatherings focused on perferated circle and half circle operations.
- 3) Create a weekly close circle "worship" event to develop and sustain the leadership team.
- 4) Forge and formalize a partnership to improve long term viability and financial stability.

Goals 1 and 2 stalled; this was primarily due to the changes in gathering to prevent the spread of COVID. The biggest disapointment for me in this was the stall in fully developing a mission plan. In addition our monthly planning group was severely disapointed when the March 2020 event was cancelled. Everything basically stopped. As the pandemic unfolded it took its toll on everyones participation. Although we coninued with a couple zoom meetings formal ATW events stopped and our byweekly discernment group disintegrated. I continued to lead a weekly online bible study group with a womens group from mainland china, on Wechat but this too ended in September 2020.

By God's grace Goals 3 and 4 were achieved in a way that was not originally envisioned. In May 2020 I received and accepted a call to become the minister of Kerrisdale Presbyterian Church. The good news was with a stipend from Kerrisdale and agreement that I could continue with the leadership of ATW I would no longer need a stipend from ATW funds. In addition, ATW became a ministry of Kerrisdale Church as of January 1, 2021. This meant we could reinvision the use of the grant money to creatively think of ways of continue the experiment. Discernment team members, Kelly Patrick, Larry Yen and Joyce Huang agreed that using the money to hire some theological students would be an effective way of trying to bring new ideas into the process and continue with the existing core values and vision. In September 2020 I issued a request for interested students through St. Andrews Hall and in October four theological students started meeting weekly with me to discern the next steps for ATW. Three of these students were supported with monthly stipends in exchange for their participation in the leadership of ATW. As a result we were able to continue and begin again.

What were the key outcomes this year?

Looking back the following was most significant for the growth and development of Around the well:

- 1) Weekly close circle meeting on Friday afternoons. Richard met with a diverse group of four theological students each week to listen to, to mentor and share the vision and values, as well as to plan for ATW events and embrace the faithful presence of Christ in our midst. The strongest characteristic of this close circle was the trust environment, with strong friendship created among the members of the Staff of the Around the Well team, from October 2020 to August 2021. All four students have embraced the concepts of ATW and are eager to continue.
- 2) Partnerships with the existing church – When the session of Kerrisdale Presbyterian Church (KPC) embraced around the well as one of its ministries and part of its mission. One of the most telling moments of this journey was in when the four student leaders from ATW met with Session to describe what they were doing and ask permission to connect with KPC members all session members declared their hope and excitement for ATW.
- 3) Connections with the UBC residential community continued to grow. Richard continued in his volunteer role as Chair of the University Neighbourhoods Association Board of directors. This has proven to be very significant in understanding the needs of the community and the ways they go about trying to help people. It was interesting to witness the development of a Community engagement committee and the hiring of a community engagement officer who plans and promotes similar community events as Around the well. As the community consists of about 12,000 people it also helped for me to get to know and engage with a broad spectrum of people who normally would not engage with a Christian minister.

In what ways is the ministry currently meeting needs within the local community?



Around the well is struggling to be a real faithful presence in the larger community, especially without our normal monthly events. However, we still managed to have five events in which people were provided with an opportunity to have some of their needs met.

- **Art of Listening - January 16th 2021.** We received Cathy Marchant, an Interreligious Studies Program Student from the Vancouver School of Theology, who could share her personal spiritual journey and also introduce Listening as a strategy for reconciliation among people and groups that suffered calamities like refugees, and war victims.

- **Snow Tubing - February 20th** - 17 people, including 7 children, 5 families. We advertised that our community was going to Cypress Mountain in Vancouver to enjoy Snowtubbing with the Children outside and COVID safe space. After the time of snow tubing, the five families could interact with one another in meaningful conversation which included our spiritual journeys, and the children could start an important friendship with one another.

- **Art of Gathering - March 11th** - participation in a PCC encounter. We could participate in a National meeting, where Rev. Richard Watson could share some experiences with the Around the Well ministry. It was inspiring for many people that said that it is a clear example of humble engagement into the community, where the church not only teaches but also learns from leaders of diverse contexts as from a group of people that promote communitarian walkings and neighbourhood associations.

- **Bread Baking Gathering - April 17th.** Four leaders of ATW could participate with Jacqueline Cleland, a leader of a community that shares recipes and time together making bread even during the pandemic, through online meetings.

- **Movie Session. July 16th.** Approximately 30 people gathered for a picnic followed by a movie session and a final time of conversation and fellowship engaging with the theme of the movie Unbroken, about resilience, forgiveness, and reconciliation.

IN addition members of the ATW team attended Community sponsored events to build bridges and learn what God might be doing outside of formally organized church events:

- **COVID Coping, Connecting, and Community, February 22nd.** ATW leaders have participated in this meeting where communitarian resources and limitations could be shared. One very important insight came out from there, the importance of the community to reduce the suffering during the pandemic.

- **Inclusive Communities: Strategies for Enhancing Racial Equity and Inclusion, April 28th,** Three ATW members joined the Neighborhood Association and shared the awareness that diversity is not a synonym of inclusiveness. The importance to recognize exclusions and being intentional to include marginalized people was highlighted in this important moment for our neighbourhood.

- **Neighbourhood Meeting - May 5th** - Joined the University Chapel members to participate in research about how to improve the neighbourhood. Two leaders from ATW could hear and suggest actions to build community on the UBC campus. It highlighted the need to be aware of marginalized groups like international students' families, single moms, people with mental health challenges. The group concluded that the best resource that the churches could offer to the campus is a welcoming space where people can gain friends, share foods, feelings, and freedom.

## RISKS AND ISSUES

Were there any unexpected challenges or changes to the ministry's plan this year?

The years was filled with challenges and changes as described above. Here are a couple additional stories.

**Leadership Team member, Afonso from Brazil, is a theology student in Vancouver School of Theology.** As a newcomer, Afonso Issa was received by Rev. Richard Watson in such a way that he felt as part of the family. The loneliness that is commonly mentioned by foreigners was replaced by an environment where he could share dreams, fears, gifts, thoughts, and purposes. It was such a strong experience for him that even after the cycle of events in the first semester that Afonso still meets Rev. Richard every week for a time of heart accountability, and he is willing to continue the mission within the UBC community.

**Connections with Community members.** Jane Kang is a single mother and mainland chinese immigrant living in the University Neighbourhoods Community. She is extremely involved in volunteer activities in the community and is well connected with the first generation Chinese community who represent as much as 50% of the population. Jane was elected on the UNA Board of directors along with Richard in October 2019. We did not realize we shared a common faith in Christ until we started talking. It made a lot of difference to learn from each other knowing we are both Christians but know Christ from two very different cultural origins. Jane changed Richard's original plan when she asked if he would lead a bible study for her group of about 20 chinese women from the neighbourhood. It turned out that most of them were not Christian but all we interested in finding out about Jesus from a local Christian minister.

How did the leadership team or congregation grow or adapt in order to handle these challenges/changes?

Described above.

#### ADDITIONAL INSIGHTS

Are there any important lessons or insights that could be shared with the wider denomination?

Stepping outside the Church and into the neighbourhood with the hope of building positive relationships in Christ is completely different than inviting someone into your existing church. Ironically, once people in the neighbourhood get to know you and trust you, they start asking about your faith practices. This includes asking about your local church. It's a very slow process however. It takes time and consistent faithful presence to build a relationship that God is blessing. My hope is that continuing to invest in efforts like Around the well will eventually pay off with spiritual fruit in whole community. It's not easily visible or measurable however, especially in the short term. I heard the Reverend Chuck Congram once say, "It took me ten years of being involved in the community before the community started trusting me enough to come into my church." Thank you for listening and supporting this effort to start a new witnessing community.

The Presbyterian Church



L'Église presbytérienne <sup>1</sup>

in Canada

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**New Ministry Yield Grant Application**

**Stage 2 - Towards Stability and Sustainability**

**Submitted by Afonso Issa and Charlie Tsun Ting Tso**

**TO:** The Session of Kerrisdale Presbyterian Church, care of Susan Stacey, Clerk of Session. And The Presbytery of Westminster care of the Rev. Victor Kim, Clerk of Presbytery.

**FROM:** Afonso Issa (MDiv Student at the Vancouver School of Theology - VST) and Charlie Tsun Tin Tso (MDiv Student at the Regent College). Supervised by the Rev. Richard Watson, a minister in good standing of the Kerrisdale Presbyterian Church, enrolled in the Presbytery of Westminster.

The following information is provided in support of an application to Canada Ministries for a "Yield" grant from the New and Renewed Ministry Fund. The project already received the "seed" grant in 2019 and a "growth" grant in 2020 for \$20,000. We are applying in the second category described as a new worshipping community and asking for the support of the Presbytery of Westminster as the governing body to accompany our application. The Grant application must be Submitted by September 27<sup>th</sup> 2021.

**1. Objectives of the Third Space Ministry - "Around the Well".**

**1.1. Purpose of Around the Well**

Around the Well is a ministry that aims to grow into a new worshipping community (NWC) on the west side of Vancouver. The project is an experiment in discerning God's call to engage the community outside the walls of existing Presbyterian churches in the area with the hope of eventually forming an independent self sustaining "Congregation". At present our focus is on obeying Jesus' command to Love your neighbour with the residential population on UBC campus, especially non-Christians. Since becoming a ministry of Kerrisdale Presbyterian Church (January 2021 our focus now includes a second location – the Kerrisdale Community.



### **I - Mission Statement (developed during Stage 1 of the project)**

*"To create spaces or join existing spaces that build community through welcoming mutually transforming relationships."*

### **II - Core values (developed during Stage 1 of the project)**

- 1) Confessional in approach** - We like to share our love for Christ and understanding of the Christian faith. The means of sharing is confessional and we leave space for people to share contrary opinions.
- 2) Biblical** - The Christian bible is our primary reference document for discerning what loving neighbour means.
- 3) Respectful of religious diversity**. We value hearing about other ways of looking at the world and look to Jesus' conversation with the samaritan woman at the well as the basis for our approach. Specifically, we believe God the Father is seeking people to worship him in spirit and in truth (see John 4:23) and believe there are many ways that people do this.
- 4) Experience matters** - We value the stories of our lives and believe they are relevant to the way we live.
- 5) Belonging is a priority** - we set a priority on belonging over believing. Although we celebrate those who believe in Jesus Christ the priority of this mission is to build relationships with those who do not yet believe.

### **III - Vision**

*Obedying Jesus' command to Love our neighbour in three distinct social spaces<sup>1</sup>:*

- 1) Intimate Circle** - a space where we, committed Christians, gather with Jesus hosting at the centre.
- 2) Perforated Circle** - where God's presence reveals itself in our hosting space open to neighbours and strangers alike from our local community.
- 3) Half Circle spaces** -where we discover Christ's loving presence as we participate in activities hosted by people in the secular community

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<sup>1</sup> Based on: Fitch, David E. *Seven Practices for the Church on Mission*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 2018.

## **2. Background – getting to today (September 2021).**

Around the Well has an established history of connecting with the Neighbourhood. There was a period between March 2020 and August when it was not clear if the Mission and Vision of ATW should continue, the COVID pandemic changed a lot of things. However, by the grace of God and some great help from the Church ATW was able to make some adjustments and continue the experiment. This past year was filled with some joyful experiences within all three circles of the vision. IN the end ATW more than survived it began to thrive in different forms. The Intimate Circle gatherings developed into something entirely different than originally anticipated. By getting theological students involved in practicing the core values Around the well changed into a functional and growing ministry of Kerrisdale Presbyterian Church. Please refer to the appendix at the end of this document for the details.

## **3. Current Aims of the Around the Well Project**

### **Why do we need to continue? To join the *Missio Dei* at the UBC campus.**

The UBC campus is a place that is attracting a multitude of new residents, especially in the South region of that campus. There is also a continuous need to serve as a place of hospitality for the immense university community. This tension between the necessary connection of permanent residents and temporary residents is a missional challenge that needs to be embraced by the most powerful tool of Evangelism, according to Michael Green, this is the local church<sup>2</sup>. ATW is well positioned to contribute as a ministry of Kerrisdale Presbyterian Church.

### **Who will be continuing ATW? A Covenant to continue Building Community,**

The Launch team continues to be lead by Richard Watson however, we now have several additional key team members involved:

- a. **Kerrisdale Presbyterian Church.** As Around the Well became a ministry of the Kerrisdale Presbyterian Church in January 2021, the Session clearly embraced this ministry as part of her mission. Kerrisdale is contributing in significant ways: First they are encouraging Richard to dedicate a good portion of his time to it's

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<sup>2</sup> Green, Michael. *Evangelism through the Local Church*. London: Hodder & Stoughton, 1993.

development. In addition, Kerrisdale's Church treasurer is now taking care of the Books for Around the Well.

- b. **Leadership Formation and Mentorship Team (LFMT).** This team was the core of Around the Well in this past year. Weekly meetings take place to worship, and plan the continued operations of Around the well. It began to take shape in October 2020 and carried through to August 2021. When Richard began weekly meetings with four theological students with diverse backgrounds (one Nigerian, one Brazilian, two Indonesian) he was hoping to get some great ideas for the monthly events and some talented help in planning and carrying out the activities. However things changed. In addition to a monthly stipend, this team received mentorship, guidance, feedback and pastoral care from Rev. Richard Watson. It was an intimate circle space where the trust environment created space for strong friendship. This group has been refining the mission of the new worship community and adjusting its ministry activities based on the biblical image of the encounter of Jesus with the Samaritan woman. The plan is now to continue this trajectory for the next two to three years. Up to five theological students will be recruited and paid a stipend for 8 hours/week to lead the development and church planting activities. The idea is that these leaders will recruit and work with an additional three to five people from the existing community to plant the ATW ministry (Total of 9-11 people including West Point Grey, Kerrisdale, and University Neighborhood Association areas). This group will be mentored by the Rev. Richard Watson, from the Kerrisdale Presbyterian Church, together with the Session of the local church. The choice for theological students is due to their potential to become leaders for the next phase that will require a long-term engagement with the local community. It is also a good strategy for leadership formation to engage theological students in new worship communities, because it will require flexibility, creativity, team-work, sensibility, humility, and teachable hearts.
- c. **Discernment Advisory Group.** This group will continue to provide input and guidance by occasionally meeting with Richard and the LFMT. It includes people from different congregations, including VTPV, West Point Grey, Kerrisdale

Presbyterian Church, and also the Presbytery joined to discern the tone of this worship community.

### **When will ATW act? Close Circle, Perforated Circle, and Half Circle**

Small groups on weekdays (starting with Friday nights), Sunday Services (To be defined if in the morning or in the evening), and weekly missional leadership group (LFMT) on Friday afternoons. Monthly neighbourhood engagement initiatives will continue.

### **How - Regular meetings for Long Term Relationships**

**Small groups for hospitality, Sunday worship services, and Social Justice engagement.** Together with a group of people that have participated in the discernment process in the past two years, we want to continue our engagement into the UBC neighbourhood, through promoting and participating in public agendas. We need:

1. **Closed Circle:** To strengthen the relationship within the leadership group by keeping our weekly agenda for the core group of staff, but we need to include, at least every two weeks, the discernment group with non-staff members
2. To improve the stability and the sustainability to establish two weekly public agendas, a space of fellowship and accountability with groups of up to 12 people (small group) to offer deep hospitality (perforated circle, in David Fitch words<sup>3</sup>), and also opportunity to people to worship God as a broader community through gospel centered meetings on the weekends (intimate circle<sup>4</sup>).
3. To continue our efforts to facilitate, promote, or participate in broader agendas to the common good of the neighborhood (school events, neighborhood association events, socio environmental initiatives, interreligious dialogues, integration between Faith and Science events).

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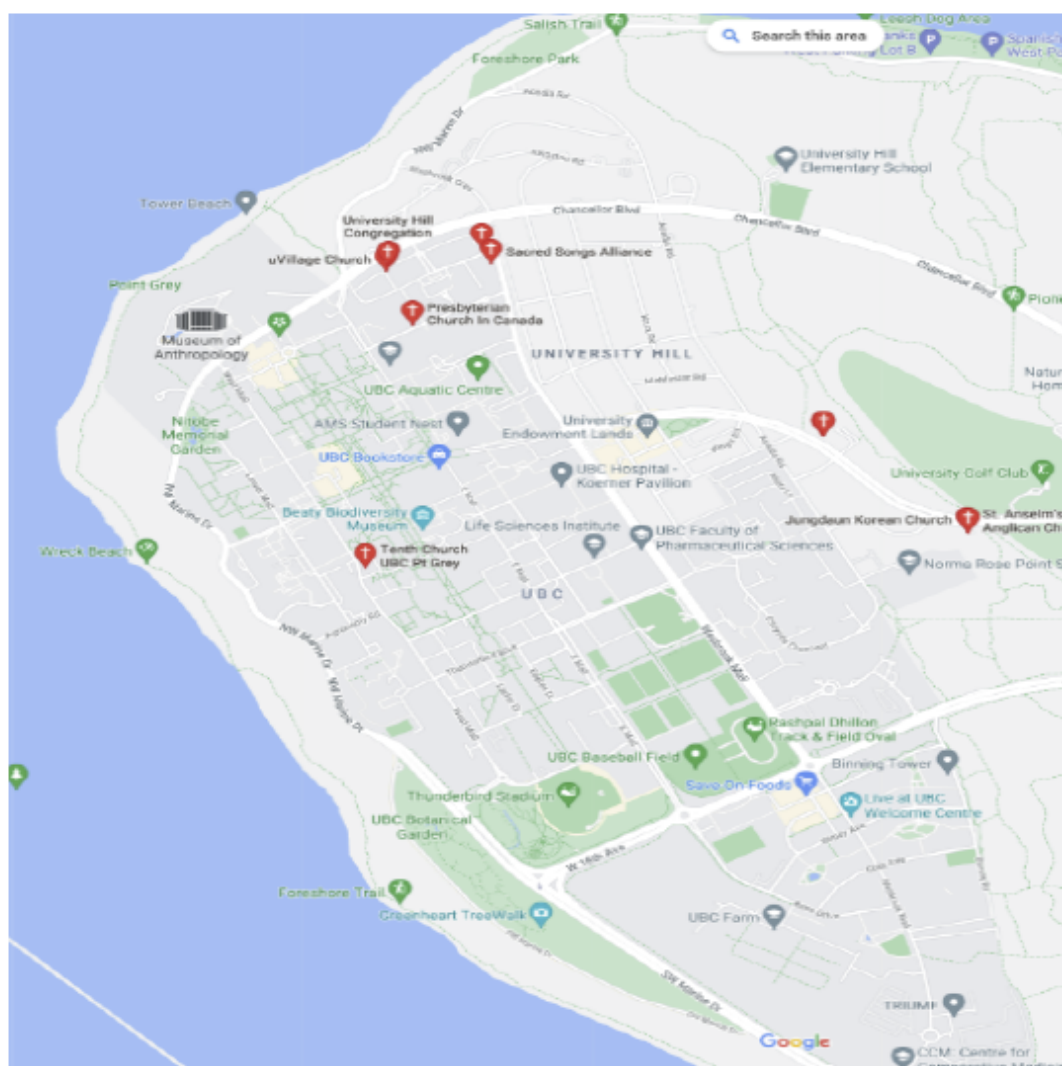
<sup>3</sup> Fitch, David E. *Seven Practices for the Church on Mission*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 2018.

<sup>4</sup> Fitch, *Seven Practices*.



### Where? UBC Vancouver Campus.

We concluded that it is necessary to focus on the Wesbrook Village, a new neighbourhood in the south region of UBC Campus, that is the only one without a presence of a church in the Campus. We have met other campus ministries and chaplains, including at least four churches that are being planted (Origen Baptist Church in the middle, Tenth Church in the west, St Thomas Church in the East, University Hill- UCC Congregation). However, the south of the Campus is still with less presence of Christian communities there, as the map on the right (red points are churches locations found by Google maps).



### Timeline For growth and Benchmarks

We hope to carry this through for three years. The project team will continue to provide update reports to KPC Session and Presbytery on a monthly basis and as needed. The plan roughly follows the general framework established in March 2019 (see attached Table 1.) This year we hope to: 1) Establish a regular meeting location for ATW worship and monthly gatherings on UBC Campus. At present we are hoping this will be in Wesbrook Community Centre. 2) Post COVID - Re-establish our group of regular in person attendees and committed members within the residential community of UBC and further develop through small group formation. 3) Generate an atmosphere where offerings of thanksgiving are encouraged. So far, beyond small one time donations of food and time, this group has not been asked to contribute so we plan to provide regular giving opportunities for this group to assist with the financial independence of ATW. Our hope is to fundraise up to \$20,000.

| Table 1 - Overview and opening position of a proposed NWC on the West Side |                                                                                                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                                                                                                                                                                                             |                                                                                                                                                 |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Inputs                                                                     | Outputs                                                                                        | Short term Goals<br>(8 months to a year)                                                                                                                                                                                             | Mid Range Hopes<br>(1-3 years)                                                                                                                                                              | Long Range Dreams<br>(3 to 7 years)                                                                                                             |
| Richard Watson                                                             | - Lead person providing spiritual guidance, facilitating communication and empowering leaders. | - Obtain clarity on leadership role and position description for future community.<br>- Assemble leadership team.<br>- Administrative production of "Mission Plan."<br>- Build partnerships with existing churches in the community. | - Leadership for a 3rd space community (focussing on perforated circle and half circle operations).<br>- Leadership for close circle fellowship of leadership team and 3rd space community. | Leadership of a growing and flourishing new worshipping community that acts upon and witnesses Christ's faithful presence in all three circles. |
| Other paid staff                                                           | Support and leadership as the ministry develops                                                | Position Descriptions developed for envisioned implementation team.                                                                                                                                                                  | To be determined at completion of short term goals. Possible hiring of staff.                                                                                                               | Fully integrated team members of new worshipping community.                                                                                     |
| Eight to twelve (8-12) member leadership team                              | Core team creating the plans and setting goals for the vision and mission of the NWC.          | Discernment team Core creating the mission plan and establishing the needs for leadership people in the new third space community.                                                                                                   | Guidance, support and participation in the third space community core.                                                                                                                      | Session of New worshipping Community.                                                                                                           |
| Partnerships with existing churches in the Community                       | "Close Circle" worship centres, support for growing new community"                             | "Close Circle" worship centres, financial support, possible human resources for leadership.                                                                                                                                          | Partnership support for third space community.                                                                                                                                              | Partnership and support with an independent New Worshipping Community.                                                                          |
| Book keeper                                                                | Financial accountability                                                                       | Financial accountability                                                                                                                                                                                                             | Financial accountability                                                                                                                                                                    | Financial accountability                                                                                                                        |
| Presbytery of Westminster                                                  | Support and Overall Accountability Check                                                       | Support and Overall Accountability Check                                                                                                                                                                                             | Support and Overall Accountability Check                                                                                                                                                    | Support and Overall Accountability Check                                                                                                        |

### **Strategy for making Ministry Known through the Community**

Our team members continue to have and develop strong personal connections with people in the community. In addition we continue to be involved with local community activities. Richard remains on the UNA Board of Directors and regularly contributes to articles in the local newspaper – the Campus resident. In addition ATW retains a Facebook presence and utilizes a monthly newsletter. We also continue to communicate through all the online communication tools of Kerrisdale Presbyterian Church.

### **God at work in this new ministry**

This whole endeavour would not be happening if it were not for God's grace at work. When the CoVID pandemic hit in March 2020 and continued throughout the summer I thought it was probably the end of Around the Well because we were so focussed on developing relationships through in person meetings. Thanks to input from Rev. Dr. Dale Woods, Presbyter of Mission and Vision as well as Rev. Dr. Ross Lockhart the creation of the Leadership Formation and Mentorship Team happened and gave new life to Around the Well. No Doubt God was at work through the servant leadership of these two individuals.

### **Groups of people who are impacted by the start of this new ministry**

Three groups of people have been most significantly impacted by the Start of Around the Well. First, people from the existing Church have been inspired and encouraged to be involved in similar like activities. The People of Kerrisdale Presbyterian Church are a prime example, they are very excited to be part of this and are being encouraged in their faith as they hear about the events and see new people coming into the sanctuary to worship at KPC.

Second, the theological student who have been part of the LFMT group received a threefold blessing. First they are connected with a realtime effort to start a new worshipping community, second they are receiving financial help for their participation and third they have found a place of fellowship where they can grow spiritually and explore their call as members of

the body of Christ. Leadership Team member, Afonso from Brazil, is a theology student in Vancouver School of Theology. As a newcomer, Afonso Issa was received by Rev. Richard Watson in such a way that he felt as part of the family. The loneliness that is commonly mentioned by foreigners was replaced by an environment where he could share dreams, fears, gifts, thoughts, and purposes. It was such a strong experience for him that even after the cycle of events in the first semester that Afonso still meets Rev. Richard every week for a time of heart accountability, and he is willing to continue the mission within the UBC community.

Third, people within the UBC community are getting a small taste of what Christians living out their faith look like. It's hard to measure the impact or even point to specific individuals, however here is one example: Jane Kang is a single mother and mainland Chinese immigrant living in the University Neighbourhoods Community. She is extremely involved in volunteer activities in the community and is well connected with the first generation Chinese community who represent as much as 50% of the population. Jane was elected on the UNA Board of directors along with Richard in October 2019. We did not realize we shared a common faith in Christ until we started talking. It made a lot of difference to learn from each other knowing we are both Christians but know Christ from two very different cultural origins. Jane changed Richard's original plan when she asked if he would lead a bible study for her group of about 20 Chinese women from the neighbourhood. It turned out that most of them were not Christian but all were interested in finding out about Jesus from a local Christian minister.

#### **How much does it cost? Budget January 1, 2023 to January 1, 2023**

In this second phase the financial aid will mainly be for theological students that will be receiving the supervision of Rev. Richard Watson. The attached budget summarizes our plan.



## Table 2 Budget

| REVENUE                       |                 |
|-------------------------------|-----------------|
|                               |                 |
| Income                        |                 |
| Canada Ministries Yield Grant | \$30,000        |
| Donations / offerings         | \$20,000        |
| <b>TOTAL INCOME</b>           | <b>\$50,000</b> |

| EXPENSES                        |                 |
|---------------------------------|-----------------|
| Stipend / Honorariums           | \$42,000        |
| Worship or meeting place rental | \$2,400         |
| Social Media and Website        | \$1,400         |
| Advertizing                     | \$300           |
| Food and Hospitality            | \$2,400         |
| Administration & Printing       | \$500           |
| Book keeping (provided by KPC)  | \$0             |
| Books and Education             | \$1,000         |
| <b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>           | <b>\$50,000</b> |

## **Appendix - Summary of the Past Activities 2019 to August 2021**

### **Pre-COVID-19 (March 2019 to March 2020)**

#### 1) This period achieved the following Short term Goals:

- a. Neighbourhood exegesis - establish cultural and spiritual awareness of the neighborhood around UBC.
- b. Roughed out a new mission and vision for Around the Well based on the Story of Jesus with the Samaritan woman (John 4).
- c. Assembled a leadership team and began:
  - i. Regular meetings with the discernment group;
  - ii. Monthly events integrating Christian message with relevant aspects to the community; and,
  - iii. Half circle participation with people and organizations outside the church.

#### 2) Details

- a. **Intimate Circle** - Jesus as the Host of the New Worship Community
  - i. **Monthly Planning group** - This group started in June of 2019. About eight people meet to discuss the plans for upcoming events. They began over a meal in Richards's home and evolved into a meeting at the community centre. Our meetings are now online (COVID 19 response).
  - ii. **Weekly Discernment Group meetings started on October 8th of 2019.** The discernment group began a 20-week process of discerning a missional plan for Around the Well. Over 24 people were invited but the core group remained at five people. We meet at a local coffee shop for an hour and a half to pray, share and go through a defined Process of Discernment. So far we have reached Meeting #13 of 20. The process was placed on hold in March of this year because of COVID 19. The vision, mission and values statements included in this application were developed as a result of this group. We hope to finish with a full mission plan that will be presented to Presbytery.
- b. **Perforated Circle** - Hospitable Events in 2019 and 2020.

- **March- A Saint Patrick's Day Social** at the local community centre with a special message on the story of Jesus encountering a Samaritan woman at Jacob's Well, John 4:1-42. Thirty five people attended including about a dozen children.
- **May - Creation and Creator at the Beaty Museum of Biodiversity** on UBC campus A talk about the six billion year history of Earth in light of the story of Genesis. The event was back by popular demand in June with VTPC Seeds, a youth group.
- **July - Family picnic at the Maple Grove Community pool.** - the event rained out but we still enjoyed some fellowship with about eight people.
- **Aug - Beach BBQ at the Spanish Banks West.** 20 adults and 11 children gathered on a warm summer day. The main message delivered was all about finding ways to get to know each other and build community.
- **September - Supported Hawthorn Community Block party.** This was an intentional half circle activity whereby about six people from around the well simply volunteered and help run a BBQ in the community. About one hundred people attended this event.
- **October "Flavours of the World Potluck."** The theme of the event was - Sharing food to build community. Richard spoke on the innate and uniquely human gift of creating food and drink through special recipes and our desire to share our successful creations. What is the driving force behind our desires to create and share food?
- **November - KAIROS Blanket Exercise** - Janette McIntosh from KAIROS and Melaney Gleeson-Lyall from the Musqueam people led thirty five of us through an hour and a half long history of the Indigenous peoples in Canada. Richard set the stage for the exercise with a reflection on Naboth's Vineyard (1Kings 21). We all shared in some vegetarian chilli and talked about our experiences. It was well received and very powerful!
- **December - Cookies Crafts and Christmas** - We drank apple cider and masala chai; we made popcorn garlands, paper tree decorations, decorated cookies and sang Christmas carols; we also heard some beautiful acapella vocals and some first hand stories about homelessness and friendship.
- **January - You Belong** - This meeting worked with the story of Abraham and Sara to encourage people to Talk about their own stories of belonging. It was one of the most intimate meetings we had to date. Everyone of the 18 adults present got to share something of their story.

One of the Participants, Elsie, told us about her dramatic arrival to Canada as a Vietnamese refugee in 1979 (one of the many boat people).

• **February 16- On developing our relationships** - This month we gathered again at St Andrew's Hall on the Family day weekend. Conversations centred around the five languages of love. One of the unique aspects of this meeting was the arrival of four new people, including some who are developmentally disabled. The highlight of the event was when we got to practice the "gift giving" language of love by handing out roses on UBC campus.

**c. Half Circle - Being hosted by other people outside the community**

• **Getting involved within the Community. On November 7th, 2019.** Richard was elected to the University Neighbourhoods Association (UNA) Board of directors. This is another half circle activity that contributes to the greater community while increasing connections and building relationships. His two year term started on November 19th at the monthly Board meeting. An example of the effect of this activity has been the creation of a weekly bible study for about 20 residents of one of the neighbourhoods. The bible study started after fellow director Jane Kang learned about Richard's skill set and asked him to lead their group.

• **UNA Community Connections night February 22nd, 2020.** Rev. Richard led this workshop with a dozen University Neighbourhood Residents on the Art of Neighbouring - Building Community and Positive Relationships with your Neighbours. Interesting discussions resulted as people grappled with the concept and benefits of getting to know your next door neighbour. As of March of 2020 the ministry had connected with about 80 different people through events, planning meetings, discernment meetings and email communication

**Some stories of people in the first year.**

• **Deepti and Akshay are an Hindu family.** Deepti was worried and sceptical, and once she told "I've had friends try to get me involved in their religion before and it didn't work out. I may say yes but I may still change my mind."

• **Elsie is Vietnamese with a Buddhist background.** She is the owner of the local coffee shop in the community. She decided to attend our event in January, 2020 and ever since has been a very strong supporter. She is a perfect example of how building mutually transforming relationships start with a notion of belonging and feeling welcome. Elsie just would not have even thought about

attending a Christian Worship service but she is excited about and looks forward to our monthly events.

### **Suspension of Activities due to COVID-19**

**March 14 and 15 event. Cancelled due to COVID 19** - Healing through Art: making art to heal your soul - This two day collaborative art workshop and exhibition was designed in partnership with Rev YOUNG-TAE Choi and the Poieo Centre of Art Ministry. Day one an art making workshop for adults and children was designed to use art as a medium of expressing the inexpressible wounds we may need to process. The main feature of day two would be a special exhibit featuring Artist and guest speaker Beth Stewart Ph.D. Beth's PhD work was with children, now youth, who were born into the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) in Uganda. She will be talking about her use of art with the youth as a way of communicating what cannot be expressed through words. Unfortunately it was cancelled due to the pandemic.

Restart planning began in August 2020 and

**September of 2020**, Rev. Richard Watson, now the Minister of Kerrisdale Presbyterian Church and Director of Around The Well, sent to Saint Andrew's Hall an invitation for students to engage in this New Worship Community. Four theological students joined Rev. Richard into a Collegiate Leadership Group.

### **3.3. Restart (September 2020 to August 2021)**

This is a period that (I) continued to build an intimate, non-Christians welcomed community, (II) engaged into the neighborhood to promote the common good and (III) established a multicultural leading group among theological students to spread the Gospel. The strategy is (I) creates welcoming spaces to share the gospel through words and deeds and (II) shows sympathy to broader social issues into the neighborhood.

#### **I - Intimate Circle Agendas- Perceiving ourselves as guests and Jesus as the Host.**

• **Official Connection with the Kerrisdale Presbyterian Church.** Around the Well became a ministry of the Kerrisdale Presbyterian Church in 2021, when the Session embraced this ministry as part of her mission.



- **Discernment Group.** A group of people from different congregations, including West Point Grey, Kerrisdale Presbyterian Church, and also from the Westminster Presbytery joined to discern the tone of this worship community. Based on the biblical image of the encounter of Jesus with the Samaritan woman, the group defined the mission of the new worship community.
- **Leadership Formation and Mentorship.** Weekly meeting between four theological students with diverse backgrounds (one Nigerian, one Brazilian, two Indonesian), which received mentorship, guidance, feedback and pastoral care from Rev. Richard Watson. The strongest characteristic of this close circle was the trust environment, with strong friendship created among the members of the Staff of the Around the Well team, from October 2020 to August 2021.

## **II - Perforated Circle - Offering a Space of Hospitality to the Neighbourhood**

- **Open Room.** Small group for Bible study, where people could come as they were, by Zoom or through outside gatherings, from **February 2021 to May 2021**. 9 people participated. One neighbour had suggested the study of the Book of Mark, which was partially explored during part of this period. The focus of the meeting was to offer a place of encounter during the pandemic. We realized that we need protected time to the leadership being engaged. It has ended due to lack of leaders to continue it.

## **Events and Partnerships to host events connecting Community and Christianity**

- **Art of Listening - January 16th 2021.** We received Cathy Marchant, an Interreligious Studies Program Student from the Vancouver School of Theology, who could share her personal spiritual journey and also introduce Listening as a strategy for reconciliation among people and groups that suffered calamities like refugees, and war victims.
- **Snow Tubing - February 20th** - 17 people, including 7 children, 5 families. We advertised that our community was going to Cypress Mountain in Vancouver to enjoy Snowtubbing with the Children outside and COVID safe space. After the time of snow tubing, the five families could interact with one another in meaningful conversation which included our spiritual journeys, and the children could start an important friendship with one another.
- **Art of Gathering - March 11th** - participation in a PCC encounter. We could participate in a National meeting, where Rev. Richard Watson could share some experiences with the Around the

Well ministry. It was inspiring for many people that said that it is a clear example of humble engagement into the community, where the church not only teaches but also learns from leaders of diverse contexts as from a group of people that promote communitarian walkings and neighbourhood associations.

- **Bread Baking Gathering - April 17th.** Four leaders of ATW could participate with Jacqueline Cleland, a leader of a community that shares recipes and time together making bread even during the pandemic, through online meetings.

- **Movie Session. July 16th.** Approximately 30 people gathered for a picnic followed by a movie session and a final time of conversation and fellowship engaging with the theme of the movie *Unbroken*, about resilience, forgiveness, and reconciliation.

### **III - Half Circle - Participation as Guests in Neighborhood Meetings and Events.**

- **COVID Coping, Connecting, and Community, February 22nd.** ATW leaders have participated in this meeting where communitarian resources and limitations could be shared. One very important insight came out from there, the importance of the community to reduce the suffering during the pandemic.

- **Inclusive Communities: Strategies for Enhancing Racial Equity and Inclusion, April 28th,** Three ATW members joined the Neighborhood Association and shared the awareness that diversity is not a synonym of inclusiveness. The importance to recognize exclusions and being intentional to include marginalized people was highlighted in this important moment for our neighbourhood.

- **Neighbourhood Meeting - May 5th** - Joined the University Chapel members to participate in research about how to improve the neighbourhood. Two leaders from ATW could hear and suggest actions to build community on the UBC campus. It highlighted the need to be aware of marginalized groups like international students' families, single moms, people with mental health challenges. The group concluded that the best resource that the churches could offer to the campus is a welcoming space where people can gain friends, share foods, feelings, and freedom.

### **IV - Some stories**

- **Leadership Team member, Afonso from Brazil, is a theology student in Vancouver School of Theology.** As a newcomer, Afonso Issa was received by Rev. Richard Watson in such a way



that he felt as part of the family. The loneliness that is commonly mentioned by foreigners was replaced by an environment where he could share dreams, fears, gifts, thoughts, and purposes. It was such a strong experience for him that even after the cycle of events in the first semester that Afonso still meets Rev. Richard every week for a time of heart accountability, and he is willing to continue the mission within the UBC community.

• **Connections with Community members.** Jane Kang is a single mother and mainland chinese immigrant living in the University Neighbourhoods Community. She is extremely involved in volunteer activities in the community and is well connected with the first generation Chinese community who represent as much as 50% of the population. Jane was elected on the UNA Board of directors along with Richard in October 2019. We did not realize we shared a common faith in Christ until we started talking. It made a lot of difference to learn from each other knowing we are both Christians but know Christ from two very different cultural origins. Jane changed Richard's original plan when she asked if he would lead a bible study for her group of about 20 chinese women from the neighbourhood. It turned out that most of them were not Christian but all were interested in finding out about Jesus from a local Christian minister.

## **STRATEGY AND LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT**

*The report was presented by Rebecca Simpson, Strategy and Leadership Committee Convener  
All motions, unless otherwise noted, moved by Susan Stacey, seconded by Martin Baxter.*

### **Strategy and Leadership Committee Presbytery Report September 21, 2021**

The Strategy and Leadership Committee met on Sept 14, 2021; our agenda included items carried over from last spring and new initiatives.

#### **Committee Membership and Convenor**

The Committee discussed possible new members to fill in the vacancy left by the departure of David Jennings. At the request of Rebecca Simpson, who asked to step down as convenor because of her increased work schedule, the committee proposed that the new convenor for the Committee be Pat Dutcher-Walls.

- **Recommendation 1:** That the presbytery approve the designation of Pat Dutcher-Walls as Convenor of the Strategy and Leadership Committee. **CARRIED**

#### **Report of Presbyter for Mission and Vision**

Dale Woods reported about several areas of work, both continuing and new initiatives.

Tasks initiated last year on which he continues to work:

1. Camp Douglas: working with the Camp Committee for an initial vision plan for the camp. There are more details to work out with the hope of bringing a proposal to the Presbytery in November.
2. Hummingbird ministries: some work with the Council done, follow up to be scheduled.
3. Making connections: continued work on building networks and relationships in the presbytery.
4. Transforming Congregations: the Presbytery asked the Committee to re-write this document in a shorter format. We will aim for the November meeting to bring this forward.
5. New Witnessing Communities: the application process has been reworked with the goal of simplifying the process. [See recommendation below.]

Initiatives that are new this fall or begun late in the summer.

1. Online ministries: Many congregations are wondering how to move forward with hybrid ministries and in our last Coffee and Conversation some indicated that they needed help. I have created an **online assessment tool for each session to complete so that we can get a sense of the needs or directions within the various congregations** before proposing specific supports and resources for congregations. Here is the link  
[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeqXVE3WrwyWl8Mc7vqOvJF566VcA5KAZ-TmT8uyJS872GpTw/viewform?usp=sf\\_link](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeqXVE3WrwyWl8Mc7vqOvJF566VcA5KAZ-TmT8uyJS872GpTw/viewform?usp=sf_link)
2. St. John's White Rock: We are working on several things including clarity over financial sustainability.
3. Haney Presbyterian: I am working with their session.
4. Learning events for 2021-2022: several learning events to build capacity and knowledge among presbyters and congregations are being planned. The following are set, and others are being planned in the winter and spring.

**Coffee and Conversation on October 6 at 9:30 – 10:30 - Zoom**

**A Follow Up Conversation About Online Ministry – Where Do We Go from Here?** Inviting people to join us for a second conversation around possibilities!

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82497839167?pwd=alVycjhMR2ZreHJ4bGEwTjJkNlluUT09>

**Ministry/Business Plan Workshop: Saturday Oct. 9, 9:30 am to noon - Zoom**

This workshop is being presented through partnership with the Sauder School of Business at UBC and will be led by Perry Atwal from Sauder. Perry works extensively with Executive Education in the areas of Organizational Behaviour and Strategy and has generously offered his knowledge, time and gifts to the presbytery.

**Compassionate Communication: Saturday Nov. 6, 9 -12 with Gail Donahue - Zoom**

Based on the work of Marshal Rosenberg's Nonviolent communication work, this workshop looks at the building blocks necessary in a conversation where everyone's needs are met vs winning arguments.

**Major Goals for 2021-2022**

1. Evaluating strengths of congregations: working on a proposal to create, with a group of elders and ministers who are interested, a survey that could be used to help congregations identify their gifts and their areas of challenge.
2. Highlighting the positive: the first step in transformation is the belief that it is possible. That belief comes from reflecting on the best we are doing. I have heard of new initiatives in various congregations that are exciting, and I believe should be shared with the presbytery both to encourage and to provide possible forms of networking.
3. Further learning opportunities.
4. Skills inventory: Finding some way to know the gifts of the people in presbytery, especially lay elders.

**New Witnessing Communities – updated document**

The Committee evaluated and edited the NWC document in light of the initial proposals made under the program. The updated version circulated to Presbytery is shorter and clearer about the expectations of the Presbytery for projects that might be funded. Changes to the document are highlighted in red. In particular, the changes make clear that the New Witnessing Communities funding is intended as 'seed money,' not full support for a project or community. The relevant paragraph on this states:

No grant from the Presbytery will be awarded funding of more than 80% of the required support for the initiative over the term of the initiative up to a maximum of \$100,000. It is expected that the applicant will raise the additional 20% required for the ministry. It is understood that these funds are meant to assist the in the early development of a new ministry and not for the purpose of long-term funding for the initiative. Funding is not to exceed 30% for stipends or salaries.

An additional specification is that every applicant will have taken or viewed the recording of the upcoming educational program on creating a Ministry/Business Plan.

- **Recommendation 2:** That the Presbytery approve the updated document, "New Witnessing Communities Template and Evaluation Process."

**CARRIED**

### Report from Property and Finance Sub-Committee

Property and Finance Committee (P&F) met September 7, 2021. Highlights of the business covered included:

- Confirming meeting dates for 2021-22
- Identification of potential candidates to add to the number of P&F (names referred to Administration Committee through Richard Watson)
- Correspondence from Fairview PC regarding upcoming capital expenditures
- Review of P&F responsibilities under Presbytery Standing Orders and development of priority actions for 2021-22 Committee Workplan
- Discussion of the importance of ensuring qualified tradespeople are deployed on church repairs and maintenance
- Update reports on ongoing congregational projects (Gordon, Vancouver Chinese, Central).

Highlights of the proposed P&F Workplan for 2021-22 are as follows:

| Trigger (from Standing Orders)                              | P&F Role/Action | Tools               | Status          | Next Steps                                                                                |
|-------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|---------------------|-----------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Change in legal status or cost >\$20,000 or 10% of AOB;     | Approve/Reject  | Require Development | Not Started     | Define need, find comparables, develop approval guidance                                  |
| Real Estate bought sold or transferred                      | Approve/Reject  | Require Development | Not Started     | Confirm need                                                                              |
| Borrowing secured by real estate                            | Approve/Reject  | Require Development | Not Started     | Confirm need                                                                              |
| Leasing real estate >2 years                                | Approve/Reject  | Standard Leases     | Budget approved | Initiate legal preparation                                                                |
| Structural change to buildings cost >\$20,000 or 10% of AOB | Approve/Reject  | Require Development | Not Started     | Define need, find comparables, develop approval guidance, include procurement of advisors |
| Insurance in Place                                          | Monitor         | TBD                 | Not Started     | Review, adjust as necessary, engage with congregations to provide documentation           |
| Investment of Funds                                         | Monitor         | TBD                 | Not Started     |                                                                                           |
| Financial Statements Review                                 | Monitor         | TBD                 | Not Started     |                                                                                           |
| Fund Withdrawal in excess of returns                        | Approve/Reject  | TBD                 | Not Started     | TBD                                                                                       |

Next Meeting of P&F is scheduled for October 20, or at the call of the chair.

Congregations are encouraged to become knowledgeable on the oversight of roles of P&F, and to reach out to P&F should they be contemplated actions which they feel P&F may need to be aware of.

Respectfully submitted,  
Ian Rokeby, Convener

*For the Committee,  
Pat Dutcher-Walls, Strategy and Leadership Convener*

**The Presbytery of Westminster**  
**New Witnessing Communities Template and Evaluation Process**  
New Draft September 2021

**Purpose**

The Presbytery of Westminster (referred to in this document as Presbytery) has stated, as part of its vision of renewal, to:

- 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.

It listed its short-term goals as:

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

As one step toward fulfilling this vision, the Presbytery has committed to initiate, support, partner with, and/or encourage at least 3 new witnessing communities within its bounds in the next five years.

**Vision**

Our vision is one of being intentional about connecting with God's mission in the world. Throughout Scripture that vision is expressed in different ways:

1. In the prophecy of Zechariah, it is expressed in the picture of a community that is safe for everyone, particularly the most vulnerable:

Thus says the Lord of hosts: Old men and old women shall again sit in the streets of Jerusalem, each with staff in hand because of their great age. And the streets of the city shall be full of boys and girls playing in its streets (Zech. 8:4-5).

2. Jesus expressed it by re-envisioning the words from Isaiah for people to find fullness of life:

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has appointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor (Luke 4:18-19).

3. In commissioning the disciples, Jesus envisions their ministry as a continuation of his own:

All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age (Matt. 28:18-20)

4. In the book of Revelation, we are invited to imagine a grand, cosmic vision that if we read properly, takes our breath away:

See, the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them; he will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away. And the one who was seated on the throne said,

‘See, I am making all things new.’ Also, he said, ‘Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true.’ (Rev. 21: 3-5)

All of these are expressions of God’s call to Abraham, whom God would not only bless but through whom God would bless the world. (Gen. 12:2)

Why quote these passages of Scripture? Because they show us that our temptation will not be to imagine too much, but to imagine too little. Or to imagine that God’s mission is about us, our ministries, our congregations, our Presbytery, rather than embracing the fullness of God’s vision for the world.

It may be that certain initiatives will enhance our own Presbytery, but that is not the fundamental purpose. Ultimately, we are seeking something much larger. We are seeking to be a people transformed by the love and grace of God who allow themselves to be drawn more fully into the vision and mission that is God’s for the world. In the end, we want to be a Presbytery where what matters most is changed lives.

### **Defining What We Mean**

While there are many forms of ministries, this initiative is intended to support new ventures or initiatives rather than support or enhance present congregational ministries.<sup>1</sup> It is possible that these new ventures include:

- New configurations of existing ministries, which may include amalgamations or the repurposing of existing ministries and their resources.
- The creation of new ministries that at present do not exist within the Presbytery.

By new we mean:

- Seeking to make and form new disciples of Jesus Christ.
- Taking on varied forms of ministry for our changing culture.
- Expressing new ways of deepening discipleship.

By witnessing communities, we mean:

- Gathering for worship in the name of Christ.
- Being sent by the Spirit to join in God’s mission for the transformation of the world and our own lives.

By community we mean:

- Practicing mutual care and accountability
- Developing sustainability in leadership and finances

Therefore, it is expected that these new witnessing communities will be:

- Christ centered.
- Missionally oriented.
- Signposts to the purposes of God in the world.

The expression of ministry is expected to focus on intentional models of discipleship and may be varied including:

- Opportunities for prayer and worship
- Study and learning
- Life in community
- Outreach and action

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<sup>1</sup> Support for enhancing present congregational ministries may come under the congregation and leadership initiative described in strategies four and five.



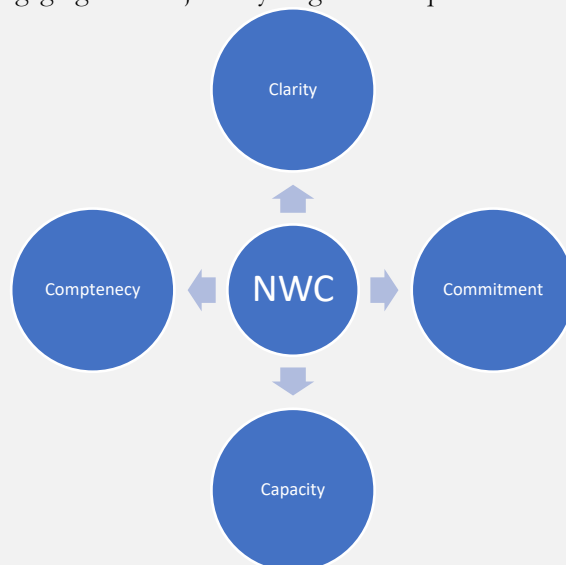
Leaders of such groups may be lay, ordained, clergy, co-vocational, part or full time. While an individual may be the catalyst for envisioning a new witnessing community, it is expected that such communities will be developed through some form of team ministry. These team members may be from:

- One's own congregation
- Members of other congregations
- Christians from other denominations
- People from the community

We strongly encourage selecting team members who will bring a variation of the gifts required for the ministry imagined.

### **Engaging on a Journey of Growth**

Engaging in a new venture is engaging on a journey of growth. Typically, new ventures begin with an idea or vision, they develop relationships by gathering others who are equally committed to the vision, and they engage in the steps to achieve the vision. Engaging on that journey of growth requires four things:



**Clarity:** Clarity means knowing where we want to go, why we want to go there, and some idea of strategy in how we might get there. Clarity paints a picture of the change we hope to make. Clarity is not defined by a mission statement as much as it is by a passion for a different world.

**Capacity:** Capacity is about the resources we have or need in order to achieve the mission. These resources include the resources of time (Is it a priority?), finances (Are people willing to invest in this?) and people (Do we have the gifts to achieve this?). Building a ministry is different than managing a ministry. Have the people on the team demonstrated the giftedness to build something new? Are they prepared to pay the cost of building something new? Financial resources will be required in most new ventures. What personal investment are people willing to make and what partnerships have been developed or imagined? How has sustainability been factored into the mission plan? Capacity is also linked to creativity. If we have the passion, we will often find the creativity required to get the resources we need.

**Commitment:** Commitment is not only commitment to start the journey but to see it through. It is energized by the passion that lies behind the mission. Is the leadership team that will start this new venture able to stay with this venture long enough to see it well established? Because commitment involves commitment for the journey, it includes celebrating small steps along the way, making necessary corrections (we are unlikely to get everything right the first time around),

and building the community required along the way. It includes making excellent mistakes—those mistakes from which we learn and provide the necessary corrections needed.

**Competence:** Competence is the capacity to do what is required and to do it at a level that is required. It includes having the skills and ability required, collaboration (building a team), creativity (new ways of thinking or imagining), and organizational planning (clarifying vision, steps along the way and reasonable financial goals).

**Communication:** Communication is not listed as a separate category because it is essential in each of the other factors. Without clear, compelling, and transparent communication, none of the other factors can succeed.

**NOTE:** These are not linear paths. They are all interconnected, and each plays its own role as we undertake a journey of growth. They do not all happen at once. For example, commitment may come before capacity is fully developed. Each category influences the other and so the movement is one of fluid change rather than a linear path. It is important that ‘new witnessing communities’ initiatives indicate they have carefully and prayerfully thought through and planned for all four areas.

### **What do we Mean by Initiate, Encourage, Support and/or Partnership?**

In most cases, it is expected that the Presbytery will be one of several partners. These partnerships may come from multiple sources:

- Other congregations
- Other denominations
- Individuals
- Community groups
- Other agencies within the PCC
- Government agencies
- Foundations

These multiple partnerships will be necessary to provide the support and financial resources for sustainability. No application should depend entirely on the support of the Presbytery. No grant from the Presbytery will be awarded funding of more than 80% of the required support for the initiative over the term of the initiative up to a maximum of \$100,000. It is expected that the applicant will raise the additional 20% required for the ministry. It is understood that these funds are meant to assist in the early development of a new ministry and not for the purpose of long-term funding for the initiative. Funding is not to exceed 30% for stipends or salaries. Grants may be renewable based on the effectiveness of the ministry.

While the variety of partnerships are possible, only partnerships in which funding and accountability to the Presbytery are clearly linked will be considered. It is also possible that the Presbytery may initiate a new ministry of its own. If so, these initiatives will follow the same criteria laid out in this document and, if accepted, will be recognized as a ministry of the Presbytery and directly accountable to the Presbytery’s governance structure.

While financial support will be key for many initiatives, it may not be the only support required. In as much as possible, the Presbytery will seek to make available other resources such as a special area of expertise required, coaching, mentoring, teaching, or training.

### **Governance**

New ministries are expected to describe their relationship with the Presbytery. In some cases, the accountability structure may include other groups or agencies. For example, if the project is multi-denominational in nature, it may be structured differently and while reporting to the Presbytery, it may require additional accountability structures. Some initiatives may be required to come under the governance structure of the PCC and be accountable to the Presbytery. The governance structure should further articulate how the initiative will respond to any provincial and federal requirements as applicable.

### **Purpose of the Grants**

The Presbytery is looking for people who:

- who have a vision to start a new ministry.
- who have a vision to take something old and reshape it into something new.
- whose gifts match their aspirations.
- who have a clear plan of sustainability beyond sources from the Presbytery of Westminster.
- have taken into consideration the local context and culture.
- have done adequate research to demonstrate a particular need to be addressed.
- are able to describe their assumptions and establish benchmarks for growth.

The Presbytery is not looking for initiatives that require the Presbytery to provide funds in perpetuity. Nor is it looking to invest in land or property.<sup>2</sup>

The goal of the NWC is to generate as many forms of ministry as possible with the understanding, that while some will fail, some will prosper. Therefore, the goal of this initiative is to provide smaller amounts of support to several initiatives rather than large amounts of support to only a few initiatives.

Applicants should understand that the goal of this initiative is not to tie the presbytery to the initiative in such a way that the ministry becomes the responsibility of the presbytery. While the initiative will be accountable to the presbytery, it will not be regarded as a ministry of the presbytery in such a way that the presbytery becomes responsible for its financial survival or long-term sustainability. Therefore, projects that require funding for long-term staffing needs must demonstrate how the level of funding for staffing will be sustainable within the project. This may include other financial partners or bi-vocational ministry etc.

### **The Structure of Grants**

Grants will be based on the needs of the proposal, number of grants submitted, and the resources available.

Some proposals may require only one-time funding. For proposals that require more than one year of funding, the support structure will be based on its ability to meet the benchmarks for growth identified in the proposal or the ability to adjust the benchmarks based on the unknowns encountered in the work. **Initiatives that require more than one year of funding must provide a budget for the term of the funding requested, not to exceed three years.**

### **Criteria for Support**

It is not the Presbytery's intent to make the grant writing process arduous. It is, however, meant to help those initiating new ministries to think through carefully and prayerfully the ministry they are seeking to start. **Where a team is involved, it is expected that the application will have the input of (not simply the approval of) the entire team.**

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<sup>2</sup> Other grants are available through The PCC for congregations seeking capital improvements.

The presbytery recognizes that some people have more experience in writing these kinds of proposals. In order to address this need, the Presbytery has created a video on developing a ministry plan. Any submission for a grant request must indicate they have watched the video or attended the original workshop.

### A Word About Sustainability

Sustainability relates to whether the new ministry will continue after the period of external assistance has ended. It does not mean that the ministry is self-supporting, but it is sustainable without long-term presbytery commitment. Some ministries may require more flexibility regarding sustainability than others. New initiatives have challenges and often move through a particular progression:



It is helpful to consider the following questions:

- Where would you locate your initiative on this grid?
- What plan do you have to move to the next stage?
- What resources do you require to see your initiative reach a stage of being secure or sufficient?
- What is your hoped-for timeline to move through these various stages?

### Grant Applications

All applications must meet or exceed the criteria set out in the application form. Grant applications will be assessed on the overall goals of the Presbytery as well as the criteria set out in the following categories:

#### A. Introducing Your Project

Please tell us a bit about your project:

- What is the status of this project? For example, is it in the early planning stages? Has it already started? If so, have any early goals been met?
- Is this project being done in collaboration with anyone else? For example, a local congregation, an agency of The PCC, a community group?

#### B. Clarifying Your Vision: Clarity/Relevance

- What is the vision behind this proposal?
  - Who is this ministry initiative directed toward?
  - What is the specific challenge or need does this ministry address?
  - How do you anticipate that lives will be changed as a result of this ministry?

- How do you see this ministry in relationship to the mission of God?

#### C. Creating Your Plan: Feasibility

- What are the specific goals and how will they be achieved through this initiative?
  - What are the assumptions this initiative is making?
  - Have these assumptions been tested? For example, is there research that can be utilized? Has another group done similar work elsewhere in the same or similar type of ministry initiative? Have the needs of the people the ministry is seeking to reach been sufficiently described and analysed?
- Where will it take place?
- What are the next steps?
- What is the timeline? If it is expected to be more than one year, please provide a timeline up to three years.

#### D. Developing Your Resources: Capacity

- What resources will you need for this initiative to be fruitful? Consider:
  - physical resources (What facilities will you need, if any, and how will you get them?)
  - people resources (Who will help you? How will you bring people into this ministry?)
  - technical resources (What technical skills or resources will this ministry require, if any?)
- What financial resources will you require?
  - Provide a detailed balanced budget of where your finances will come from and where they will be expensed. (If this is a multi-year project, please provide the budget for the first three years.)
  - What is your plan for securing the necessary funds with realistic goals?
  - How have you factored in long-term financial sustainability for this ministry?

#### E. Building Your Team: Competency

- Please provide a summary of who is on your team and the gifts they bring to this ministry.

#### F. Evaluating Your Progress and Your Learning:

- What have you learned about this ministry that can help you plan for the future?
- What does 'success' look like for this ministry?
- What are your hoped-for benchmarks along the way?
- How will you assess this ministry?
- Who will be involved in the assessment process?

#### G. Establishing Accountability

- What accountability structures will be built into this initiative, specifically to the Presbytery, and how will those structures relate to any other partner?
- How will the initiative meet any provincial and federal requirements, if applicable?

### Questions Regarding the Allocation of Grants

1. When do applications need to be submitted?

Application Deadlines: Applications must be received by April 1 or October 1. Funds available in October of each year will be dependent upon funds remaining after any proposal disbursements in April.

2. Who will be responsible for assessing ministry plans?

Correspondence should be directed to the Chair of the SLC. All grants will be received and reviewed by the SLC at its next scheduled meeting. In order to receive a positive recommendation, ministry plans must meet the above criteria including plans for financial sustainability. A letter or email will be sent to the applicant within 10 days of the review of the application from the Chair of the SLC indicating the committee's decision or any concerns or questions the committee may have about the application. Positive recommendations will be forwarded to the next available Presbytery meeting through the SLC. Only upon approval by the presbytery will the applicant receive funds. Applicants should be aware that the process could take two months or longer if there are issues that need to be addressed. Submitting applications well ahead of when the finances are needed is highly encouraged.

In addition to the above criteria, grants will also take into account:

- Terms of the funds held by the Presbytery
- Priorities of the Presbytery of Westminster
- Availability of funds

## 2. How will a 'no' be delivered?

Applications that do not receive a positive recommendation will have their application returned and may be invited to resubmit their plan addressing issues identified in their initial application. Applicants will be notified by email from the Chair of the SLC. Applicants should pay careful attention to the issues or concerns raised by the committee since applicants will be allowed only one rewrite.

## 3. What are the Presbytery timelines with respect to funding requests?

Applicants should apply for funding at least six months before the funding is required. Applications submitted in time to be considered for the October deadline and receiving a positive recommendation from the SLC will be brought to the December Presbytery meeting. Applications received in time to be considered for the April deadline and receiving a positive recommendation will be presented in the May Presbytery meeting. Applications requiring revision, can be resubmitted at anytime and will be considered during the closest deadline date.

## 4. What assistance is available to those seeking to initiate a new witnessing community?

Applicants requiring clarification on the application process are encouraged to communicate with the Chair of the SLC. Applicants should understand, however, that being able to produce a viable ministry plan is a basic expectation of the leadership engaging in such a ministry. For team ministries, it is expected that all team members have participated in the development of the ministry plan.

## 5. What are the expectations after receiving a grant?

The Presbytery will stay in communication with those with whom it is partnering, to pray for them, to offer encouragement, to provide other areas of support such as mentoring or coaching as resources allow. In order to maintain a consistent level of support toward success of each initiative, the presbytery will engage in an appreciative evaluation every three months to ensure early nourishment of new projects. While the presbytery will work to facilitate new ministries, it is not the goal of the presbytery to manage new ministries.

The presbytery understands that new ministry initiatives are moving in uncharted waters. It will be a matter of having successes and failures, both of which provide valuable learning opportunities. One of the goals of the presbytery is to become a learning presbytery. Therefore, it is expected that new witnessing initiatives will share freely and openly with the presbytery regarding what they are learning and how the presbytery as a whole can benefit from that learning.

Initiatives that receive funding from the Presbytery will be expected to regularly communicate with the Presbytery by:

- sharing what it is learning including celebrating the small victories along the way.
- identifying new challenges and opportunities it is experiencing.
- reporting any significant changes to the proposal including changes in leadership etc.
- providing full financial reporting.

One-year grants will require a final report to be submitted including a summary of the project, financials, key insights, and outcomes within four weeks after the project has been completed.

Grants requested up to three years, will be expected to provide reports at each 6-month interval. Funding assessments of the project will be made on an annual basis for projects extending beyond one-year, detailing progress in the areas of identified goals and benchmarks. A grant can be terminated because of an unreasonable extension of the time, or because of failure to implement the project as submitted in the application.

1. By submitting this grant request, you covenant to:
  - Keep the Presbytery regularly updated on the work of this ministry?
  - Inform the Presbytery within a timely manner should unforeseen challenges negatively impact the fruitfulness of this ministry?
  - Share your learning with the Presbytery so that we can grow together?
  - Share your successes along the way so that together we can give thanks to God?
  - I/we have attended the ministry plan workshop or watched the presentation online.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

### Questions for Evaluating Proposals

The SLC will use the following questions as guidelines for evaluating proposals.

1. Is the purpose and vision of this new ministry clear?
2. How does the applicant see the work of God in this ministry?
3. Is there any evidence that research has been done to assess the need for this ministry?
4. Has this ministry developed any outside support or collaboration?
5. Are the goals and timeline clear as well as realistic?
6. Does the initiative show evidence of resourcefulness?
  - a. Is the financial picture reasonable?
  - b. Are the funding requests reasonable for the design and work involved?
  - c. Is there a detailed budget for the total timeline for the initiative?
  - d. Are the funding requests within the budgeted funds of the Presbytery?
  - e. Is there any indication of how this ministry might achieve long-term sustainability?
7. Are there clear ways in which the fruitfulness of this ministry will be measured?
8. Is there any relevant information missing from this application? If so, what further information is required?



9. Has a team been established, and does it have the giftedness required for this ministry?

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

*The report was presented by Bernie Skelding, Visitation Team Convener for information only.*

### **St. John's, White Rock Visitation Team Update – September 2021**

The Visitation Team continues to engage regularly with St. John's since beginning its work in the spring. Gray Finlayson, one of our team members from Property and Finance, has reviewed the congregation's financial situation and presented the Session with some options for future budgeting. Gray stepped down from the Visitation Team at the beginning of the summer for reasons unrelated to St. John's. We are waiting to hear who will replace Gray, so the Team can continue to assist St. John's in moving towards financial stability. St. John's has some difficult decisions to make around budgeting, and the prayers of the Presbytery would be appreciated. Glen Davis continues to be a help and support to Willem in the role of 'mentor to the minister'. Mike Zaine continues to sit on St. John's Session as an Assessor Elder (along with fellow Assessor Elder Susan Stacey) offering valuable help and support to both St. John's Session and the Visitation Team from an Elder's perspective. Dale Woods has been working closely with St. John's Session to assist them in discerning ways to restore congregational stability in the short-term and to decide how to position themselves for renewal and a positive future. St. John's Session has been encouraged to participate in the Presbytery-led Elder's Training workshops this fall.

Any process to encourage congregational renewal is not a quick fix. While the Minister & Session have been quite willing to engage the process, the decisions ahead, especially with regard to the budget, are understandably daunting. Complicating matters further is the impact of the Covid pandemic as well as the recent decisions of General Assembly regarding Remits B & C.

Please keep St. John's and the Visitation Team in your prayers.

*Respectfully,  
Bernie Skelding, Team Convener*

## **MINISTRY COMMITTEE REPORT**

*The report was presented by Paddy Eastwood, Ministry Committee Convener for information only.*

**Ministry Committee Report to Presbytery**

**September 21, 2021**

The Ministry with Ministers Task Force met on September 1<sup>st</sup> at 7:00 on Zoom.

### **Medical Leave for The Rev. Heinrich Botha**

The Rev. Heinrich Botha is on one-month medical leave effective August 27. The clerk of session of West Vancouver Presbyterian Church, Ms. Kaireen Morgan, has arranged for pulpit supply. The Rev. Woldy Sosnowsky

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Victor Kim

moderated the session's September meeting. The Ministry Committee has appointed the Rev. Dr. Ross Lockhart to provide pastoral care for Heinrich and Linda Botha.

Heinrich is Interim Moderator at Central Presbyterian Church. The Ministry Committee has appointed the Rev. Bev Shepansky as Interim Moderator at Central for the duration of the leave. She is a member of their session and is familiar with the congregation, the session and the work they have done so far with Heinrich. We express our gratitude to Bev for her willingness to step in.

Should this medical leave extend further than two months, the Ministry Committee will appoint an Interim Moderator to West Vancouver Presbyterian Church.

### **Reports**

There are reports from Bradner, Brentwood and Burnaby Taiwanese Presbyterian Churches.

#### **Bradner Presbyterian Church    The Rev. Lydia Bae, Interim Moderator**

Bradner Presbyterian Church is continuously gathering and worshipping via Zoom. It works well because it gives an opportunity even to those who have health issues OR who live far (Sunshine coast or Calgary) OR who do not have rides to attend worship service and have fellowship.

Bradner is planning to reopen on Sunday, September 19th led by Rev. Bobby Ogdon. It will be quite a celebratory service for all of them. The church doesn't have internet service or any other technical equipment to have hybrid services for those who cannot come. So the session and the board applied for grants and received one of the grants to purchase some necessary items and to install internet service. Praise the Lord!

The session and the board members have been praying and discussing together how they would restart in-person gatherings from September. The leaders are planning to meet for the first time since the beginning of the pandemic at church on Thursday, August 26 to clean up the building and get ready for the new beginning. It is exciting.

The pulpit has been supplied regularly by Rev. Bobby Ogdon, Rev. Robin Ross, and myself, and occasionally by Rev. Gerard Booy and Rev. Bob Paul. Many thanks to each of them for their commitment and wonderful messages.

Financially, they are in a good condition. Recently, they received a very generous gift. Thanks be to God. The session has not decided what to do with the vacant minister position yet. We pray that the session would come up with a united vision for Bradner.

Like many other churches, Bradner doesn't know how it's going to be from September once in-person gatherings begin. But Bradner will not give up meeting together and encourage one another in the name of Jesus Christ. (Hebrews 10:25)

Respectfully submitted, Rev. Lydia Bae, August 20th, 2021

Lydia Bae will be in St. Jean, Quebec from September 2<sup>nd</sup> to October 2<sup>nd</sup> to complete her training (Basic Military Officer Qualification) to become a military chaplain. We wish Lydia God's blessing as she enters this new ministry and ask you to keep Lydia in your prayers.

**Brentwood Presbyterian Church**

**the Rev. Dr. Brian Fraser, Stated Supply**

1. What ministries have taken place since your last report? (You may wish to highlight one or two in particular.)

We have continued to adapt to pandemic conditions with prudence. We decided on Sept 5 to not return to in-person worshiping until Phase 4 is declared by public health officials. Sunday morning will continue on Zoom, with the recordings posted on YouTube and Facebook. Jazz Evensongs on Wednesday nights will begin on Sept 8, but only with the musicians, the presider, and the live streamers in the sanctuary. We received funding from our national church to upgrade our equipment to do this. We have organized new programs in yoga, conversations about aging in grace, and devotional jazz. We continue to commission and record Sacred Jazz Suites with funding from a Presbyterian Innovative Ministries grant in 2019. This program will continue in 2022 with other funding for four suites. Our Gospeling with Guitars program with Inner Hope Youth Ministries, funded in part by the Cooke's Fund, is postponed until we can gather more safely, as is a new Companioning with Ukuleles program. All of these programs are being composed and offered by participants in Brentwood's missioning. Our feasibility study for our expansion and renovations continues, with great input from surveys of potential users of the space done this summer under a Canada Summer Jobs Grant.

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

We have flourished well through the pandemic conditions. Givings are up. Grant funding has increased. Attendance on Sunday morning is up. New people have associated with Brentwood. New programming has been imagined and implemented. New collaborations in connecting church with jazz have been funded and initiated. More musicians have connected with and begun contributing to our missioning. So, our key challenges have to do with responding faithfully, wisely, and effectively to what our triune Creator is making possible. So far, by the mercy and grace of our triune Creator, we appear to be up to those challenges.

3. Do you require any support from Presbytery at this point?

We have kept in close touch with Property and Finance as our explorations of our renovations and expansion have progressed. We are working with Omicron (with Angus Beattie involved) to determine what can be done to make the space work better for the churches, the day care, and the arts communities that need space of this kind. The pandemic has slowed our considerations, but not halted them. We require the continuing prayers of the Presbytery and eventually will be seeking financial support for equipping us for missioning in a neighbourhood that will welcome 35,000 new residents in the next 15 years. Our renovated church will be unique in North Burnaby in its ability to connect in creative ways of with-nessing and witnessing with our neighbours in multiple communities.

4. Is there anything for your congregation for which you would like the Presbytery to pray in particular?  
Please see above.

Respectfully submitted, the Rev. Dr. Brian Fraser, September 2021

**Burnaby Taiwanese Presbyterian Church - The Rev. Dr. Morgan Wong, Interim Moderator**

BTPC stopped physical worship and other activities since March of 2020. During this one year and a half, the operation of the church was maintained in her minimum level. The average participants of Sunday worship remained between 20 – 30 people with different preachers from greater Vancouver and overseas.

As BC Health authority has relaxed the restriction, the Session has decided to resume physical worship starting September 12, 2021. Some of the people, especially the elderly, still skeptical about going back to the church and prefer to stay home to watch the pre-recorded worship. It will take more time for people to feel confident before they return to church. Instead of having different speakers every Sunday, the Session has invited the Reverend Sydney Chang as the stated pulpit supply from September to the end of this year, and possibly leading the weekly Bible Study.

Two of the current Session members will reach their term by the end of the year. It is a challenge to invite people to serve in this capacity. The church is thankful for the two accessory elders assisting them to make sound decisions.

Please continue to pray for the safety of our members, the implementation of virtual worship and other church programs as well as the search for new elders.

Sincerely yours,  
Morgan Wong September 21, 2021

*Respectfully Submitted,  
The Rev. Paddy Eastwood, Convener*

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**ADJOURNMENT**

Moved by Paddy Eastwood, seconded by Laurie McKay to adjourn the meeting.

**CARRIED**

- The next **regular scheduled meeting of presbytery** is **November 2, 2021**, either in person starting at 6:00 pm or via Zoom starting at 7:00 pm, at the call of the Moderator.

**The Moderator offered a closing prayer.**

The Moderator closed the court with a benediction 9:15pm.