

The Presbytery of Westminster  
Regular Meeting at Richmond  
September 20, 2022

The Presbytery of Westminster met in Regular Session on Tuesday, September 20th, 2022 at 7:00pm at St. Andrew's Hall, UBC. Worship was led by the Moderator, Rev. Laurie McKay.

**CONSTITUTION**

The Moderator, Rev. Laurie McKay constituted the Court and opened the meeting with prayer at 7:40 pm.

The Moderator welcomed the following guests:

Kit Schindell, Alfonso Issa, John Carr, Ben MacRae, Helen Anderson, Ian Rokeby.

Leave to withdraw: Andrea Perrett

**DOCKET**

It was moved by Martin Baxter, seconded by Pat Dutcher-Walls that the consent agenda below be adopted.

**CARRIED**

**Consent Agenda:**

1. that the Docket be as indicated,
2. that the attendance be recorded as noted in the Roll Record Book,
3. that regrets and requests for permission to withdraw be noted as sent to the clerk of presbytery,
4. that the minutes of the regular meeting held on June 21, 2022 be adopted,
5. that the minutes of the special meeting held on August 15, 2022 be adopted,
6. that the minutes of the special meeting held on August 21, 2022 be adopted,
7. that the correspondence be dealt with as indicated,
8. that reports without recommendations be received "for information",
9. that reports with recommendations be received and their recommendations considered,
10. that Larry Eastwood, presbytery treasurer, be permitted to speak to financial issues,
11. that Ian Rokeby, convenor of P&F, sit in correspondence

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 Any member may ask for an item on the consent agenda to be withdrawn from this list before it is adopted.

**ROLL**

Constituent Roll:

Martin Baxter, Dr. Pat Dutcher-Walls, Paddy Eastwood, Mary Fontaine, Dr. Brian Fraser, Sumarme Goble, Thomas Kim, Dr. Ross Lockhart, Cal MacLeod, Laurie McKay, Rebecca Simpson, Bernie Skelding, Gabriel Snyman, Dr. Morgan Wong, Dr. Dale Woods, Woldy Sosnowsky, Margaret Adams, Bob Astop, Jason Cheng, Isabel Evans, Bev

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Feick, Lynn Lanaras, Kelly Patrick, Nicole Pringle, Kit Schindell, Ken Sewell, Bev Shepansky, Gordon Shields, Cathy Sosnowsky, Susan Stacey, Larry Yen, Nancy Counce, Anne Bassani.

Appendix:

Lip Boon Lee

Students:

John Carr, Ben MacRae, Alfonso Issa.

Certified for Ordination:

Andrea Perrett

Non-voting guests:

Ian Rokeby, Helen Anderson.

REGRETS:

John Allen, Mike Zain, G Davis, L Bae, W van de Wall, B Garvin, M Marple, J Sonachsingh, G Booy, W van der Westhuizen, K Jordan, J Con, E Wilson, Ta-Li Hsieh, L Johnson, R Topping, M Adams.

### **Presbytery Correspondence June 21 – September 20 2022**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Content</b>	<b>Action</b>
21-June-22	Pam Wong	Brentwood Session Funding Request for Brentwood Jazz All-Stars	Received
22-June-22	Rev. L Kavanagh	Question about performing a wedding in BC	replied
5-July-22	Don Laity	Notice of Presbytery standing for Rev. Dr. Sean S. Kim	received
6-July-22	Ian Ross-McDonald	Info re recording baptisms and weddings	circulated via Presbytery News
9-July-22	Glen Davis	Justice News info	circulated via Presbytery News
11-July-22	Liane Maki	Requesting confirmation re pension contributions for WVPC & St. Paul's, Mission	replied
13-July-22	Rev. Michael Blair	Invitation to send rep to installation of UCC moderator – August 7, 2022 (Rev. L McKay & Rev. Dr. P Dutcher-Walls attending)	replied
4-Aug-22	Peter Bush	Letter from Special Cte working towards a confession regarding PCC's treatment of ethnic minorities.	circulated via Presbytery News
4-Aug-22	Kathryn Muir	Info regarding overtures for 2023 GA	circulated via Presbytery News

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		Updated email sent by Kathryn on Aug 9, 2022.	
5-Aug-22	Perri Jeffery	Notice of outstanding Pension contributions	Sent to congregations concerned
4-Aug-22	Chris Gleimius	Notice of his resignation from PCC	noted
15-Aug-22	Glen Davis	Shepherd's House application for a Cooke's Fund grant for 2022	Referred to CEC / Sept 2022 presbytery
18-Aug-22	Rev. Andy Cornell	Requesting our PMV Job Description	replied
24-Aug-22	Maggie Leung	Presbyterian sharing Reports for POW congregations – July 2022	received
26-Aug-22	Gerard Booy	Job postings from Fairview	Circulated via Newsletter – Sept 6
31-Aug-22	Jennifer Astop	Fall Grant Deadlines and Req'd docs checklist	Forwarded to Admin Cte
2-Sep-22	Teresa Charlton	Synod 2022 information	Circulated via newsletter
6-Sep-22	Terry Hibbert	Requesting a letter of standing	Referred to Admin Cte
6-Sep-22	Pearl Overhill	St Paul's, Mission, announcements of their celebration of 75 years	received
6-Sep-22	Richard Watson	Notice about a Welsh Bible	Circulated via newsletter
6-Sep-22	VST	VST At a Glance – Sept 2022	Circulated via newsletter
7-Sep-22	Larry Eastwood	POW Financial statements – August 2022	received
13-Sep-22	Shelly Chandler	Requesting Ordination Certificate	replied
13-Sep-22	Larry Eastwood	Re – LOTA – email from Lawyer	received

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

### CAMP DOUGLAS COMMITTEE REPORT

*The report was presented by Daniel Martinez, Camp Douglas Director.*

*This year was marked by our return to normality and a full overnight camp schedule. We began with an upbeat staff training in which we prepared the property and our new staff for a new year. Concerning registrations, the number of campers was as follows:*

- *July 4-8, Staff Training*
- *July 10-22, Leaders in Training (5)*
- *July 10-15, Small Fry & Junior (23)*

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- July 17- 22, Intermediate I (26)
- July 24-29, Girls Camp (18)
- Break
- August 5-7, Family Camp (40)
- August 8-12, Intermediate Camp (32)
- August 14-19, Youth Camp (31)

### **Total Campers 171**

*Because there were some concerns about COVID-19 cases rising at the end of the Summer, we decided to end the Summer on August 19 with Youth Camp. We also began later on July 10 to start staff training after schools are over so we could have all our staff present.*

*The general feedback was that seven weeks of Camp are incredibly exhausting. The team suggested that if next year's Camp can normally run without the concern of COVID19, running a camp for six weeks would be ideal, having two sets of three weeks with a break in the middle. On the positive side, having five weeks of Camp allowed the staff to finish well at the end of the Summer.*

*On the positive side, we had a good combination of new and experienced staff. Like in previous years, we struggled with having very few volunteers in some weeks, which forced us to stretch our staff to do multiple tasks. We did put in extra effort, and the team worked well supporting each other. We faced a difficult challenge when right before family camp, our family got Covid19. The team united and worked exceptionally well. We also tried some new fun activities such as human Foosball and laser tag in the forest. These were very successful and proved to be a lot of fun for the children. Additionally, we found a new cook, Paul "Breaks" Nguyen, who got along with our staff, proved to be great in the kitchen and is willing to come back next year.*

*Another positive aspect was the significant support from our chaplains. For the first time in several years, we had chaplains every week. Thanks to Ross Lockhart, Richard Watson, Meghan Adrian, Paddy Eastwood, and Gabriel Snyman, who got to experience Camp for the first time! We also thank Rebecca Simpson for her significant support during accreditation week. We received the team from BC Camps Association, and besides some minor recommendations, we did well and received accreditation.*

*We also had several very encouraging messages; thank you cards and words from parents who appreciated Camp Douglas's return. One particular example that stood out is Joaquin, whose family is new to Canada. They just immigrated from Ecuador, and they have experienced difficulties adapting to a new reality. After Joaquin returned home from Small Fry camp, we received this message from his mother,*

*"I wanted to write to you because we are amazed at everything Joaquin has experienced these days. Camp Douglas has given him everything he needed right now, we thank God for putting us on the same*

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*path. Special thanks to you and Chico and all the staff members, it has been a camp full of blessings for Joaquin that we will never forget... we would love to be close to such a beautiful community."*

*Finally, we would like to thank our former presbytery, the camp committee and everyone who loves and has supported this beautiful ministry. We got involved at Camp in 2015 when I was invited to be a youth camp chaplain. Over the years, as a chaplain and director, my family and I have witnessed what a beautiful community that loves Jesus and shares his children looks like. Even though we have faced challenges and difficult moments, every step of our way, God proved to be faithful. We always experienced the presence of his Holy Spirit working among the staff and children at Camp. Our last week was lovely, with lots of joy, laughter and also some*

*tears as we moved to take God's call in Duncan, BC. We will always keep the camp community in our hearts, and we are grateful for the many years that formed our lives and the lives of our children, Felipe and Noelia. A special thanks to our staff and volunteers who came to my ordination at SASS after a hard season of work at Camp.*

*Yours in Christ,*

*Daniel "Chico" Martinez  
 Pamela "Pam" Roa*

Rev. Daniel Martinez joined Presbytery by ZOOM and gave a verbal report of the summer and a video was presented from the Youth Camp.

#### **ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE REPORT**

*The report was presented by Martin Baxter, Administrative Committee Convener.  
 All motions, unless otherwise noted, moved by Martin Baxter, seconded by Pat Dutcher-Walls.*

#### **Presbytery of Westminster Standing Orders & Committee membership**

At our regular meeting of presbytery, June 21 2022, two "notice of motions" were included in the Administrative Committee report.

We are therefore bringing the following recommendations before the court.

**Recommendation #1** That the Presbytery of Westminster Standing Orders (June 2022), as circulated, be adopted.

**CARRIED**

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**Recommendation #2** That the membership of our presbytery committees, for the year Sept 1, 2022 – August 31, 2023, be approved as follows.

**CARRIED**

**Ministry:- up to 10**

Paddy Eastwood  
Ross Lockhart  
Bev Shepansky  
Richard Topping  
Mike Zaine – Equalising Elder  
Laurel Gorman

**Visitation:- up to 8**

Ministers  
Dennis Howard  
Woldy Sosnowsky  
Geof Jay  
Thomas Kim  
Elders  
Gordon Shields  
Emily Wilson  
Pam Wong  
Bev Feick

**Student :- up to 8**

Brian Fraser  
Lydia Bae  
Cal MacLeod  
Jim Smith - App  
Ta Li Hsieh  
Marion Baird – congregational representative  
Jacqui Lilley – congregational representative

**Ethics:- up to 6**

**Willem Van de Wall – convener**  
Sumarme Goble – workshop co-ordinator  
Bev Feick – in a supporting roll if needed  
Bob Astop  
Isabel Evans

**SLC:- 10**

Pat Dutcher-Walls  
Martin Baxter  
Rebecca Simpson  
Bernie Skelding

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Dale Woods, PMV  
Susan Stacey  
Mike Zaine

**P&F**

Ian Rokeby – convener (congregational representative)  
Larry Eastwood  
Emily Wilson  
Rob Steward  
Richard Watson

**CEC:- 15**

Dennis Howard  
Isabel Evans  
Jennifer Martin – cong rep  
Laurie McKay  
Margaret Allan  
Miklos Szigeti  
Neil Abramson (Co-convener)  
Sumarne Goble  
Ron Miller – cong rep  
Glenn Inglis (by correspondence) - App  
Glen Davis (Co-convener)

**Camp Douglas**

Standing Orders – 5 members of Presbytery

Currently ...

**Rebecca Simpson (presbyter / convener) TRUSTEE**  
Valerie Sanguinetti (secretary & congregational rep - Kerrisdale)  
Theresa Chang (treasurer)  
Daniel Martinez  
Pamela Roa (administrator)  
**Larry Yen (presbyter) - TRUSTEE**  
Brian Dennehy (would like to continue on camp committee)  
Joyce Huang (congregational rep - Richmond)  
Meghan Adrian (congregational rep - Coquitlam)  
Katherine Allan (alumni - used to be congregational rep - Calvin)  
Nate Hartley (ministry student)  
Larry Eastwood (ex officio - presbytery treasurer - attends meetings as needed)  
**Gabriel Snyman (presbyter)**

Martin Baxter – (clerk of Presbytery) – named as a **TRUSTEE**

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**Hummingbird Ministries Council**

Isabel Evans  
Laurie McKay

**Letter of Standing**

Rev. Terry Hibbert is asking for a “letter of standing” as he has decided to resign as a minister of Word & Sacraments within The PCC.

Book of Forms section 251 states that a presbytery may grant to a minister or certified candidate for ordination, against whom are pending no matters in the way of judicial process, a letter of standing setting forth the facts of the minister’s ordination or certification and certifying to their presbyterial standing at the date of issue.

Upon the receipt of a letter of standing, the applicant ceases to be a minister or certified candidate for ordination of The Presbyterian Church in Canada; and the letter of standing can only be received by a presbytery with the permission of the General Assembly.

**Recommendation #3 That the request of Rev. Terry Hibbert to receive a letter of standing be granted and that the clerk forward this letter to Rev. Hibbert and he be removed from the Appendix to the Roll.**

**CARRIED**

**LOTA**

The Land Owner Transparency Act (“LOTA” or the “Act”) came into force in British Columbia on November 30, 2020. The Act impacts all parties who own an interest in land, regardless of whether such interest is in the form of register on-title ownership or unregistered off-title beneficial ownership. Introduced as part of the provincial government’s campaign to end hidden ownership in BC, LOTA and its regulations mandate filing transparency declarations and reports in specific situations. Certain information collected from these filings regarding off-title beneficial owners is publicly searchable in a newly formed database called the Land Owner Transparency Registry.

**LOTA mandates, among other circumstances where disclosure is required, that any reporting body who was the registered owner of an interest in land on November 30,2020 must file a transparency report in respect of such ownership interest by November 30,2022.**



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In November 2021 presbytery was informed about LOTA, and at that time Larry Eastwood offered to help with filing transparency declarations for all the churches in our presbytery. Larry connected with a lawyer to help with this, given the requirement that transparency declarations and reports must be certified.

*A transparency declaration or transparency report submitted by a transferee or reporting body must, if the transferee or reporting body is a corporation or limited liability company, be certified to be correct and complete by an individual who has knowledge of the matters certified and actual authority to certify the declaration or report on behalf of the transferee or reporting body. For example, a director or senior officer of the corporation or limited liability company may be an appropriate person to certify the transparency declaration or report.*

*A transparency declaration or transparency report submitted by a transferee or reporting body must, if the transferee or reporting body is an individual, be certified to be correct and complete by the transferee or reporting body, or an agent of the transferee or reporting body who has knowledge of the matters certified. For example, a lawyer acting for the reporting body or agent may, in certain circumstances, be an appropriate person to certify the transparency declaration or report.*

Recent communications with the lawyer indicate that the cost of filing each individual application will be approximately \$500.

To ensure that all required applications are done expeditiously we are bringing the following recommendations

**Recommendation #4** That the presbytery covers the immediate cost for ensuring all required LOTA applications are filed expeditiously.

**CARRIED**

**Recommendation #5** That the presbytery adds the cost of filing a congregation’s LOTA application to their respective 2023 presbytery assessments.

**CARRIED**

**Synod of BC – Oct 14-16, 2022**

Information about and the registration details regarding the upcoming meeting of the Synod of BC have been circulated to presbytery.

In order for all of us to become a little more informed of the content of the Synod Rev. Paddy Eastwood is going to give a short report to presbytery.

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### **Presbytery of Westminster - Directory**

The assistant to the presbytery clerk is circulating the latest Presbytery Directory as part of the package of documents for this presbytery meeting.

This directory is constantly changing so **we need all presbyters to review their own details to ensure the latest information we have is correct.** Please pay particular attention to the email address we have listed for you as email is an essential method of contact within our presbytery.

We are also asking **ministers and interim moderators** to double check the following information related to their respective congregation -

1. the details for the congregation, including webpage and email address for the office contact
2. the details of the representative elder
3. the details of the alternate elder
4. the details of the clerk of Session

Please also take note that the current “pulpit supply list” is included at the end of the directory.

### **Worship at our upcoming ZOOM presbytery meetings**

The Administrative Committee is aware of the benefits of our decision to hold presbytery via ZOOM during the late Fall / Winter months.

However we also see the limitations of ZOOM, in particular the inclusion of a traditional pattern of worship.

As we begin to plan for those upcoming meetings we are wondering about changing our pattern of how we begin with worship and then later break into small ZOOM breakout rooms for prayer. One of the ideas we are going to consider is focusing a little more on “nurturing our souls” because we think it is fair to say so many of us are struggling right now. (It is one of the reasons the Synod is being organised the way it is this year.)

If you have any inspirational ideas about what you think we could do as a presbytery to nurture our souls and feed us then please send those ideas to the clerk in the coming weeks.

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### **GA Special Committee re: Listening, Confession and Associations**

One of the items listed in our correspondence is an email from the General Assembly “Special Committee re: listening, confession and association,” dated August 4<sup>th</sup> 2022, forwarded to the presbytery via a presbytery newsletter.

Given the importance of this committee’s work the Administrative Committee felt it would be appropriate to include this correspondence below and to encourage Sessions to consider this issue within their congregation. How might we encourage stories to be told and heard?

In addition we have asked the Community Engagement Committee to consider this further.

“Dear Presbyters of The Presbyterian Church in Canada,

Greetings in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ.

The 147th General Assembly asked the Special Committee on Petitions 1 and 2, 2021 to continue its work, including continuing to **listen to stories of marginalization and racism within the church** and to develop a statement of confession to God and to marginalized ethnic groups and individuals within the church.

We have been moved by the stories we heard during our first year of work. We thank those who told us their stories. We are humbled that we would be entrusted with these stories. We have been changed by what we have heard, and we pray that the church, both as an institution and as individuals, will also be changed as we are confronted with the church’s actions and attitudes of racism and marginalization. We were asked by a storyteller, “What will be different this time?” We pray that in hearing the stories and confessing both our corporate and our individual sin we will be open to being transformed by the Holy Spirit to be a church where people of every tribe and nation and language will gather together in glorifying Jesus Christ who is Lord of all.

We are aware that there are more stories to be told. We invite people to tell us what they have experienced and what they have witnessed. If you wish to tell your story, or describe what you have witnessed, please contact us by e-mail at [special.committee.pcc@gmail.com](mailto:special.committee.pcc@gmail.com). Your stories can help us develop a more complete understanding the impacts of racism and marginalization in the church. Thereby helping to develop a robust confession of the church’s wrong, and statement of our desire, by the power of the Holy Spirit, to be changed.”

Respectfully submitted,

**Martin Baxter**  
**Presbytery Clerk**

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Martin Baxter (clerk)

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## STRATEGY AND LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT

*The report was presented by Pat Dutcher-Walls, Strategy and Leadership Committee Convener.*

The Strategy and Leadership Committee met on Zoom on Sept 12, receiving reports from Dale Woods and the Property and Finance subcommittee, as well as other items.

### Report from PMV

1. The PMV has been working over the summer with eight congregations, mostly in visioning and problem solving. He reported, "These churches are all unique and have various challenges and opportunities."
2. Two structured learning events are coming up this fall.
  - a. One is for ministers who will engage in four 90-minute sessions with Alan Roxburgh. Following these sessions, ministers will work in cohorts to explore possibilities in their own congregations.
  - b. On September 24th, Jeffrey Mahan, author of *Church as Network: Christian Life and Connection in Digital Culture*, will present a workshop at St. Andrew's and St. Stephen's in North Vancouver from 9:00 to 2:30. This has been advertised across the PCC since it will be both in person and online.
3. New Witnessing Communities – a draft is being presented for Presbytery consultation and feedback. The PMV has worked with potential applicants to advise on their applications.
4. The PMV preaches up to twice a month, reporting, "Both the visioning work and the pulpit supply provide me with a better understanding of each congregation. This is valuable in assessing the strengths and challenges of each congregation." He undertakes other speaking engagements occasionally for the church.

### Property & Finance Report

1. As a condition of a motion recently passed by Presbytery regarding Brentwood PC building plans, P&F has been working with BPC to find a date when P&F and Brentwood are available to carry out the technical review session of their project cost estimate. At present it appears that this will be after September 22, date to be established by BPC. P&F are preparing questions that they wish to discuss with Omicron regarding the estimate of the BPC project.
2. P&F has not met over the summer and we are not aware of any emergent requests for our support. We are soliciting comments from our members on a Discussion Paper on use of Manse Funds and other legacy funds. I hope that for the following Presbytery meeting we can have a position more fully developed and ready for wider discussion, likely to include a consultation workshop with Presbytery for information and feedback this fall.

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3. P&F has developed a draft risk management guide for churches considering capital building projects. This is under review with knowledgeable experts, and it is hoped to schedule a review session for interested Presbyters this fall.

SLC will work with P&F to establish scheduled times and places for the consultation workshops on the two reports named.

### **Ongoing and Upcoming Discussions**

SLC has considered several issues that will require discussion and consultation going forward.

- One issue is the nature 'strategic' leadership – what is strategic and what's not?
- Another centers on what kind of approval if any does Presbytery give to congregational visions; what is Presbytery's role in that?
- Another current focus is looking at the availability of resources in the Presbytery to support requests for help from congregations such as requests for oversight of new projects, amalgamations, etc. Can we identify and develop the resources that exist within congregations – people with specific skills and experience that could be helpful? Can we develop a 'bank' of skilled people willing to help in specific circumstances.
- SLC is developing a list of people who would agree to be in a pool of evaluators who would be called upon to assess grant applications under the Transforming Congregations program of the Presbytery, in anticipation of monies becoming available, we hope, this fall.

### **Progress Report on the Consideration of Amalgamation - Kerrisdale and West Point Grey**

The Rev. S. Bruce Cairnie reported for the team working with Kerrisdale and West Point Grey.

The group working on the amalgamation plan, consisting of representatives set of each congregation, the pastor of Kerrisdale and Interim-Moderator of West Point Grey, has met six times between April and June. In those meetings we have had very fruitful discussions and have been able to review a couple of drafts of the plan.

The last draft that was created has been circulated in the West Point Grey congregation and they were invited to a congregational meeting in June to discuss the progress toward amalgamation and to ask their continued support as the process unfolds. I attended that meeting, along with the Interim-Moderator, so that I could represent the amalgamation process, explaining the necessary steps that must be taken, suggesting a potential timeline that would be the basis for reasonable expectations and identifying possible challenges that could be met along the way. All of this was very positively received and the outcome of that meeting was agreement to keep on with the process. A further outcome was a recommendation that when the building is sold, 20% of the proceeds be given to the national church; some specifications around which ministries and programs could be supported will be forthcoming. We were grateful for all of that.

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In addition, there was some conversation at that meeting about the visioning process that is being undertaken and the members of the congregation were invited to participate in that. I believe there was one person who indicated their intention to be present and others were thinking of it. The group was, as you will understand, very small. That is the nature of West Point Grey Church. On the other hand, we had about 90% of the members in attendance; when you look at it that way it's quite a different picture of commitment to the process. Finally, the amalgamation plan group is, at this point, awaiting the vision which will emerge from the visioning process. When we receive it we shall insert it into the document, edit the remainder of the document appropriately, and then prepare it for presentation to the two congregations for approval and a formal decision to request amalgamation.

With respect,  
Pat Dutcher-Walls for SLC

*As part of the Strategy and Leadership Committee report, above, the PMV, Rev. Dr. Dale Woods, presented the latest version of the "New Witnessing Communities" document.*

*The Document is included below.*

## **New Witnessing Communities Template and Evaluation Process<sup>1</sup>**

September 2022 Draft

### **A. Purpose**

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

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<sup>1</sup> In order to help congregations engage in a ministry plan, a workshop was held with Perry Atwal from the Sauder School of Business. If you wish to watch the video presentation you can find it at this link:

[https://player.vimeo.com/external/635603494.hd.mp4?s=b9c3478f6fa2861e0cb39915238cea204b334cee&profile\\_id=175](https://player.vimeo.com/external/635603494.hd.mp4?s=b9c3478f6fa2861e0cb39915238cea204b334cee&profile_id=175)

Please note: It is not to be shared with anyone outside of the Presbytery context in agreement with the Sauder School of Business. There is also a written summary of the workshop on the Presbytery resource page. Applicants for grants must indicate that they have read the summary notes, have watched the video, or engaged in the original workshop.

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Martin Baxter (clerk)

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- 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.

## **B. 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:

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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.

### C. 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>2</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.

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<sup>2</sup> Support for enhancing present congregational ministries may come under the congregation and leadership initiative described in strategies four and five.



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- 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

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

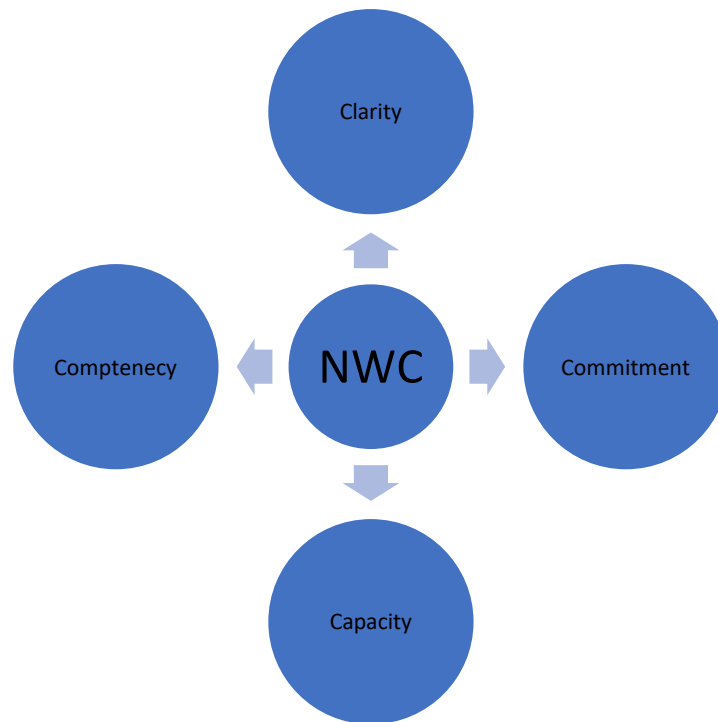
We strongly encourage selecting team members who will bring a variation of the gifts required for the ministry imagined.

#### **D. 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,

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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.

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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 the 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.

### **E. What Type of Project are We Looking For?**

The Presbytery is not looking to invest its resources in only one or two large initiatives. The reason for this is threefold:

1. Presbytery does not have large enough resources to align itself with projects that need extensive financial investment without a strong support system already in place. In most new initiatives this type of support is likely to be lacking.
2. These kinds of projects require large financial investment before there is any evidence that the ministry, as envisioned, will bear the fruit hoped for.
3. Such initiatives will likely not have other significant sources of financing and will be ultimately dependent on the Presbytery for financial sustainability.

Presbytery may consider exceptions, but, in general, these are not the type of projects that it envisions.

The Presbytery would rather support several micro-missional communities. These are new worshipping communities that may be an extension of an existing congregation, or they may be a new missional outreach that requires some initial funding as seed money to get started. These smaller missional explorations allow the Presbytery to support several initiatives rather than only a select few.

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

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In **some** cases, the presbytery may 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

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 any special area of expertise required, coaching, mentoring, teaching, or training.

## **G. 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.

## **H. Purpose of the Grants**

The presbytery is looking for people who:

- have a clear sense of vision to start a new ministry or reshape an old one
- have a detailed plan of how they will implement the vision
- ensure their gifts or the gifts of the team match their aspirations
- have developed a realistic budget
- can articulate why this new ministry is needed or will be helpful

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- can state their assumptions and describe how they will measure the difference they are hoping to make.

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, or the applicant essentially becomes an employee 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 are requesting 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 presbytery is not looking for initiatives that require the presbytery to provide funds in perpetuity. Nor is it looking to invest in land, capital assets, or property.<sup>3</sup>

### **I. 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 measurements for growth identified in the proposal or the ability to adjust such measurements 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.**

### **J. 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 and not simply the approval of the entire team.**

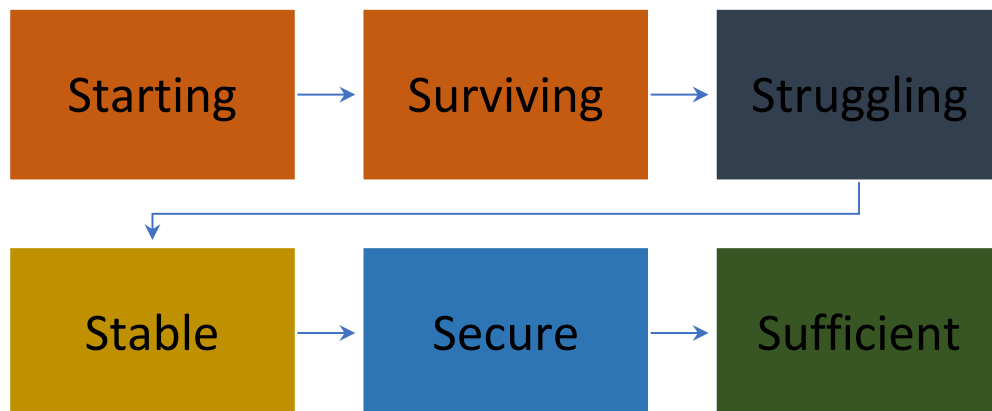
### **K. A Word About Sustainability**

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 progression:

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<sup>3</sup> Other grants are available through The PCC for congregations seeking capital improvements.

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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?

#### L. The Purpose of the Application Process

The application process is offered as a way for you to clarify your vision and goals to yourself as well as to others. We encourage you to take the time needed to prayerfully reflect on the different questions. They are meant to provide clarity around:

- What you are trying to achieve
- Who will help get you there?
- Your timeline
- How much money and other resources will it take?
- What if all does not go as planned?
- What is the difference you are trying to make and how will you know you have made it?

They will provide you the opportunity to clearly communicate your:

- **Goals** = what you want to achieve
- **Strategy** = how you can achieve the goal
- **Tactic** = the action/s you need to take to achieve the strategy

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As stated in the workshop by Perry Atwal, all strategic plans must deal with the ambiguity of the future. While it is possible to cast a vision for the next 5 years, the strategy needs to be designed for 2-3 years and the tactics need to be set for the first 1-2 years. In other words, we work backwards from vision to strategy to tactics while focusing on implementing the tactics. Tactics allow us to work with the highly probable events and as those come to fruition we achieve more of the strategy and as that is achieved, we achieve more of the vision.



Because the future is unknown, our plans must consider the “what if” of possible scenarios. Asking what could get in the way of meeting our goal is what others refer to as a sensitivity analysis. It considers the unknown variables related to the strategic plan. For example, if we have based our budget on filling 25 rental units, what would happen if we filled only 18? How would that impact the budget, and so on. If we have calculated that we will receive 30% of our funding from government agencies, what will happen if we receive only 15%? If we are depending on sources of income from various partners, what will happen if one source does not materialize?

Ministry plans should include “what ifs” related to the ministry proposal and there are questions in the application that directly address this concern.

Every ministry plan requires an action plan that sets out the major actions that need to take place with the specific dates for when they need to happen and who will be responsible. These should be a manageable number (10-15). An action plan also includes the measurements we intend to use along the way. How will progress be measured? Measuring our progress needs to align to the ministry plan and could include things such as:

- Our financial situation

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- The value for those being served
- The value for those leading – personal growth and development
- The difference we are making

Each ministry plan will need its own “score card” to determine its progress toward its preferred future. What would “a balanced scorecard” look like given the transformation or the new mission you are engaged in? What measurements matter in this ministry? The application questions also seek to address this aspect of the proposal.

In the end, we are looking for proposals that have clarity regarding these six key questions:



Responses to the questions should be of sufficient length to provide an “outsider” with clarity of the purpose and the basic plan of the initiative. Avoiding unnecessary detail will also be helpful. The detail of your plan should be commensurate with the amount of funds you are requesting. Applications will be assessed on the overall goals of the Presbytery as well as the criteria set out in the following categories of the application form.

## **M. Grant Applications**



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(In an attempt to help applicants draft a meaningful mission plan, the Presbytery hosted a workshop by Perry Atwal from the Sauder School of Business. Applicants for grants must indicate that they have read the summary notes, have watched the video, or engaged in the original workshop. <sup>4</sup>)

All applications must meet the criteria set out in the application form. Responses to the questions should be clear and concise. Applications will be assessed on the overall goals of the Presbytery as well as the criteria set out in the following categories:

### 1. Introducing Your Project

Please tell us a bit about your project:

- In a few sentences, what is the main thrust of this mission?
- What is the status of this mission? 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?

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

- What is the vision behind this proposal?
  - Who is this ministry initiative directed toward? Please be specific.
  - What specific challenge or need does this ministry address?
  - How do you anticipate lives will be changed as a result of this ministry?
  - How do you see this ministry in relationship to the mission of God?

### 3. 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 steps you will need to take to initiate this plan?
- What is the timeline? If it is expected to be more than one year, please provide a timeline up to three years.

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<sup>4</sup> A summary of the video can be found on the Presbytery website.

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#### 4. Developing Your Resources: Capacity

- What resources, other than financial, will you need for this initiative? 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 budget of all expected income and expenses. (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 beyond the Presbytery?
  - How have you factored in long-term financial sustainability for this ministry?

#### 5. Building Your Team: Competency

- Please provide a summary of who is on your team and the gifts they bring to this ministry.
- What time and other commitments do you expect from the leaders of this project?

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

- What does ‘success’ look like for this ministry?
- What are your hoped-for measurements along the way? Please be specific.
- What process will you use to get feedback?
- Who will be involved in the assessment process?

#### 7. 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, if applicable?
- How will the initiative meet any provincial and federal requirements, if applicable?

### **N. Reviewing Your Application**

Before you submit your application, take a moment to review it considering these three critical elements:

1. Financial Vitality/Sustainability—the congregation has the finances it needs to carry on for the foreseeable future; that is, at least a 5-year period with adequate provision for its ongoing ministry and mission, including any capital improvements needed. Congregations that do not have the

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financial support they need for their present ministries will find it difficult to support new initiatives, even if these initiatives are funded from other sources.

2. **Missional Vitality/Sustainability**—occurs when the mission a congregation engages in matches its gifts and resources so that the ministry it offers is effective and real needs are met. Mission sustainability is when our resources meet a real need in a way that a positive difference is made in the lives of others. So a question would be, “Looking over the next five years, do our resources (people, finances, physical, technical) match our mission?”

3. **Leadership Vitality/Sustainability**—asks key questions such as: How well informed is the leadership team about our goals, resources, and challenges? Is a leadership team well balanced, or is it primarily in one or two people? Who are we bringing alongside us to replace us as leaders? Who are we training to take over? The more complex the changes a congregation makes, the more critical it is to ensure that the quality of leadership is spread throughout the congregation.

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 and reviewed the written summary of the workshop.

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Signature

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Date

## **O. 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. Proposals will only be considered after the April deadline and will not be dealt with on a “first come, first serve” basis.

2. Who will be responsible for assessing ministry plans?

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Martin Baxter (clerk)

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The Presbytery has established a process for reviewing grant requests. That process is included at the end of this document. 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

### 3. 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 Special Committee. Applicants should pay careful attention to the issues or concerns raised by the committee since applicants will be allowed only one rewrite.

### 4. 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.

### 5. What assistance is available to those seeking to request a grant?

Applicants requiring clarification on the application process are encouraged to communicate with the Chair of the Special Committee. The PMV is also available for suggestions or comments. 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.

### 6. 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. 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. Ideally, the

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Presbytery will assign one person to each project noting that while the presbytery will work to facilitate new initiatives, it is not the goal of the presbytery to manage them.

The presbytery understands that some initiatives may be moving into 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 initiatives will share freely and openly with the presbytery regarding what they are learning and how the presbytery 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 may be terminated because of an unreasonable extension of the time or because of failure to implement the project as submitted in the application.

## **Application Process**

### **New Witnessing Communities—A Three Step Application Process**

#### **A. Assumptions:**

The assumptions in this process are as follows:

- The presbytery and every member within commits to seek those initiatives it believes will be most fruitful and faithful in its witness to the redeeming love of God in Christ.
- Applicants make their application seeking the wisdom of the community of believers rather than their own personal commitment to the project.
- The process will be open and transparent.
- The application process will be grounded in the Christian value of humility meaning that

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- Applicants who receive a “yes” will honour their commitment to steward the resources wisely according to the application.
- Applicants who receive a “no” will consider carefully the feedback provided and if desired, resubmit an application that incorporates the feedback.
- The process is open to ongoing reflection and adaptation.

## **B. Goals:**

The application process has three goals:

- To effectively steward the resources of the presbytery in achieving its goals.
- To further develop the culture of innovation and vitality within the presbytery.
- To create a process that enables a high level of accountability without creating unnecessary barriers.

## **C. Steps – Establish, Engage, Evaluate**

To achieve these goals, the following steps will be necessary:

1. Establish a transparent application process which highlights missional vitality/sustainability, leadership vitality/sustainability, and financial vitality/sustainability.
2. Engage the broader presbytery in the evaluation process to develop further a culture of transformation within the presbytery and provide broad involvement and feedback in the process.
3. Evaluate the vision and goals of the application through a committee of five members of the presbytery made up of three elders and two clergy. The Grant Selection Committee has the prerogative to include an additional person or persons, either from within or outside of the Presbytery, who they believe may bring a particular area of expertise to a specific application to advise without vote. Two-thirds of the committee will change annually.

## **D. Process**

1. The Presbytery approves the application form and the process. These are to be reviewed annually and adjusted as needed. Evaluation will consider things such as:
  - How many applications are approved or not approved? What might this feedback tell us?
  - What is the average size of grants provided?
  - What are the primary reasons applicants are turned down?
  - What are the primary criteria used in the approval process?
  - What is working well?
  - What could be improved?

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The evaluation process will include feedback from applicants, members of the committee, and the presbytery as whole.

2. Applicants complete the application form.

3. The PMV reviews the applications and makes any suggestions that might be helpful. Applicants may or may not adjust their proposal based on the PMV's suggestions.

4. Applicants make a 20-minute presentation to the whole presbytery including the overall vision of the project, the goals they hope to achieve, and the financial support requested. The presbytery is given 10 minutes for questions. The presbytery responds with an online poll to three questions:

- What, if anything, did you find exciting about this initiative?
- What concerns, if any, do you have about this new initiative? (Concerns could be things such as a lack of clarity in the proposal, financial contributions required, the desired outcome, etc.)
- Do you think this is a wise use of our resources? “yes”, “no”, or “unsure”.

This feedback is gathered and made available only to the Grant Selection Committee for input to help in their review. It will not be shared with the applicant to avoid the possibility of intervening between the presbytery and the committee.

5. The committee meets and makes recommendations which may be:

- “Yes, as is”
- “No”, explaining what changes are required and inviting resubmission if the applicant so desires.
- “No”, the application does not fit within the goals of the presbytery or its available resources required for the totality of its key strategies and a re-application will not be considered.

Applicants cannot appeal the decision of the committee given that the committee has thoroughly reviewed the application with the broader input of the presbytery.

### **Committee Review – An Evaluative Tool**

Below are some criteria and questions the committee may find helpful as they review applications. These are suggestions only and the committee is encouraged to review each application on its own unique merits.

The presbytery invites applications from congregations using the following criteria. The grant request:

- Clearly articulates the initiative including the rationale and the goal/s of the initiative

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- Describes some form of measurement toward achieving those goals
- Is missional in nature; that is, they reach out to new people in the community
- Describes the resources (time, talent, finances) required for this new initiative
- States how the initiative will be accountable to the Presbytery, including how they will share what they have learned
- Does not commit the presbytery to long-term financial commitments or engage in an employee/employer scenario

Given the above criteria, the following questions may be used as guidelines in reviewing grant applications:

1. Does this proposal describe a clear vision of what it wants to achieve?
2. What need is it hoping to address? How did it discern this need?
3. Does it have any way of measuring the change it hopes to bring about?
4. Does the proposal fit within or help address the strategic goals of Presbytery?
5. In what way does this initiative understand its participation in the mission of God in the world?
6. How does this initiative relate to discipleship?
7. Is the financial forecast reasonable?
8. Is this proposal in line with the gifts of the person/people making the request?
9. It is clear how the initiative will be accountable to the presbytery including sharing what is learned through the mission?

#### **SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORT    Re - DISSOLUTION OF THE PASTORAL TIE AT ST. JOHN'S**

*A verbal report was presented by Rev. Rebecca Simpson, Convenor.*

*September 30th 2022 is the agreed date of dissolution and an Interim Moderator has been appointed, as of October 1 2022.*

#### **MINISTRY COMMITTEE REPORT**

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

*All motions, unless otherwise noted, were moved by Paddy Eastwood, seconded by Ross Lockhart.*

The Ministry Committee met on Tuesday September 13, 2022 at 7pm on Zoom.

#### **Assessor Elder for West Point Grey Presbyterian Church**

The Rev. Bev Shepansky has served as an assessor elder to West Point Grey Presbyterian Church since September 2019. She has indicated her desire to resign from this position.



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**Recommendation 1:** that the Presbytery thank the Rev. Bev Shepansky for her work with the session of West Point Grey Presbyterian Church.

**CARRIED**

West Point Grey is in the process of amalgamating with Kerrisdale Presbyterian. At the present time, West Point Grey has one active elder, Ms. Kelly Patrick and one remaining Assessor elder, Ms. Shirley Carleton.

**Recommendation 2:** that the Presbytery appoint Ms. Judy Sonachansingh as assessor elder to West Point Grey effective September 20, 2022.

**CARRIED**

### **Interim Moderator for St John's Presbyterian Church**

The pastoral tie between St John's Presbyterian Church and the Rev. Willem van der Westhuizen will be dissolved on September 30, 2022. This is a very painful time for all concerned. Please keep Mr. van der Westhuizen and the congregation in your prayers.

The Ministry Committee has appointed the Rev. Gabriel Snyman as Interim Moderator for St John's, Presbyterian Church, White Rock, effective October 1, 2022.

### **INTERIM MODERATOR REPORTS**

This month there are reports from Bradner, Brentwood, Burnaby Taiwanese, Central, Fairview, First New Westminster, Knox/Growing Together, Langley, Richmond, St. Columba and West Vancouver Presbyterian Churches.

#### **Interim Moderator Report Bradner Presbyterian Church September 20th, 2022**

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

On July 17th, after Sunday service, Bradner had our annual BBQ picnic. Before Covid-19, about 100 people - families, friends, and neighbours - gathered and had a great fellowship. However, this year only 18 people were able to join. Even though it was very small in number, those who came had a wonderful

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time. One of the members, especially, roasted a pig from 6:00 am at the church backyard, and it was fantastic.

On August 27th, Bradner had the third congregational meeting with Rev. Dr. Dale Woods, PMV. It was again a very beneficial meeting. Even though Bradner faces several challenges, they do not think it is the time to close down the church yet. They're willing to share other people's responsibilities and to face changes for the good of the church.

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

The challenge Bradner faces is that the members/adherents are aging and there are not many younger people who can take over some of the responsibilities the leadership has been handling. But the good news is that we have a new treasurer now.

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

For the past 2 years, Rev. Dr. Bobby Ogdon, Rev. Robin Ross, and myself have taken turns for Sunday Worship services. From December on, Rev. Dr. Bobby Ogdon will not be able to provide pulpit supply. It is getting more difficult to find a pulpit supply who can drive all the way to Abbotsford.

4. Is there anything for your congregation for which you would like the Presbytery to pray in particular? We ask you to pray for Bradner as they continue navigating different ways to impact its community.

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. Lydia Bae

### **Report of the Stated Supply Minister with Brentwood Presbyterian Church**

What ministries have taken place since your last report?

We continue to adapt our welcoming, worshiping, learning, and serving to the shifts in our context brought on by living with COVID. Both of our services are being live streamed on YouTube and posted to our YouTube channel for later participation. Currently, about 2/3 of the average of 30 people attend in person and 1/3 live online. The Sunday morning service gets 20-30 views and the jazz service on Wednesdays nights 50-100 views over the next week or so on YouTube. Givings and other revenues have, thankfully, increased over the pandemic period.

We have received 5 new professing members this year. The Rev Jim Smith, our minister-in-association, was elected and inducted as a ruling elder on Sept 11, 2022.

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Martin Baxter (clerk)

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We have just begun conversations with the Rev. Lip Boon Lee about ways Brentwood can best support her new worshipping community initiative, Church on the Road. We have completed the first 11 songs in our 52 Songs Project, tested them in the Christian Urban Music Camps done with the Collaborating Churches of New West and Burnaby this summer, gotten very good feedback on their impact, and have secured funding for 13 more songs to be composed during the fall. They will be tested in churches across the country. We look forward with hope that a major initiative in innovative congregational missioning, our big band under the direction of Ben MacRae, will be approved for Presbytery funding this fall and get back on track in the new year. The application has been submitted.

We are working on our succession plan, as requested by the Presbytery, and will have a draft for consideration by the November meeting of the court.

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

In my view, and I am speaking primarily for myself here, our key challenge at this point is our relationship with the Presbytery. An initial conversation has taken place between me and key Presbytery leaders about our mutual frustrations. You will find a report on that conversation in the Strategy and Leadership Committee report. While this was clarifying, there are lots of perceptions and assumptions about responsibilities, permissions, and systemic dynamics left to be discussed and, hopefully, resolved into different ways of working together for the benefit of Brentwood, its missioning, and its contributions to the vision and strategic priorities of the Presbytery. The key issue, again speaking for myself, is whether congregations are genuinely consulted as partners in co-creating missioning or simply told what will happen and expected to comply. Under that broad heading a number of specific frustrations have arisen, but we are hopeful that ongoing conversations with the Presbytery will lead to beneficial changes.

Do you require any support from Presbytery at this point?

Yes, and this support is being discussed as indicated above.

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

Please pray for a courageous openness as the conversations mentioned above continue and expand in their scope. Pray that all the participants are heard with respect, honoured for their concerns, and contribute constructively to changes in the attitudes and actions that are undermining effective ministry, as our Book of Forms (Section 324) frames the principles underlying these dynamics. Another way to consider it might be whether our core value is efficiency or engagement. Canadian Presbyterian polity encourages and enables the latter when it is practiced faithfully, again, as I see it. Someone said, in our conversations with the Property and Finance Committee, that the system wasn't working. My

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response was that the system the way we are working isn't working. That's a crucial distinction, again speaking only for myself.

In the end, please pray for the success of Brentwood in its enterprising missioning and that barriers and delays to that success soon will be removed.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Brian Fraser

**IM REPORT OF BURNABY TAIWANESE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
**September 5<sup>th</sup>, 2022**

Since my last IM report in March, 2022, many things have happened. One of the accessory elders, Brian Dennehy, resigned as of June, 2022 due to personal reasons after four years of serving our Session. The session appreciated his faithful service and sound advice. He will be missed. Presbytery has appointed elder Pam Wong from Brentwood PC. We look forward to her participation.

Praise the Lord! Since the church re-opened for in-person worship service, the attendance continued to grow steadily. The last communion service on August 7 had 40 adults and 2 children attended and received the sacraments. Other church activities remain vibrant. The Session thanked the leadership of Rev. Sidney Chang for his preaching and Bible study. Mr. Chang will continue to fill the pulpit and take a leave of absence in the months of November and December. The preaching ministry will be replaced by other Presbyterian ministers. The financial support from members and adherents continues to be healthy. On average, there is a small surplus each month.

With great regret, I would like to inform the Presbytery of the passing of elder George Yen on August 13. His Memorial Service will take place on September 11, after the regular worship service. We will miss his smile and sense of humor, his wisdom and dedicated service to both the church and our Presbytery.

Sincerely yours,  
Morgan Wong  
(Interim Moderator)

**Report from Central Presbyterian**

**September, 2022**

Our work with Central Presbyterian has been largely in connection with the Commission. However, a brief report to the Ministry Committee may be helpful.

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The first priority for Central was to get its financial operation under control. We are almost there. There is an unfortunate oversight regarding city taxes which arose because of the timing of the change over of the church property from Bosa. The church was levied a tax of \$136,000. People at Central, believing the church was tax-exempt, did not pay the bill and now it must be cleared by the end of September. This will be a challenge but we're working on it.

Central has taken its mission as being a mission of stewarding Christian space in the downtown of Vancouver. To that end, they have partnered with The Way church and First Baptist Church. They have also used their space to accommodate other ministries. Given the size and age of Central congregation, this mission seems appropriate to the congregation and is much needed in this part of Vancouver. It is also a testament to the gospel that we are one body in Christ.

Central has also hired a part-time business manager for 10 hours a week to help with daily operations. Leadership is an issue in the congregation and we are hoping that by mid 2023, the congregation may consider a half-time call. More time and energy needs to go into caring for the congregation and developing the mission of the congregation. Once the financial matters are resolved and the by-laws are clarified, that will be the next step.

Respectfully submitted

D. Woods

### **Interim Moderator Report – Fairview Presbyterian Church**

**September 6, 2022**

This is my first report since my ministry with Fairview began on May 1, 2022. I appreciate the opportunity to come alongside them during this time of transition and discernment. They have welcomed me in a generous and warm way for which I am very grateful.

There is much to celebrate in Fairview. I have witnessed a deep faith and love for God, a strong commitment to be the Body of Christ in their community, strong spiritual leadership, a hospitable and generous spirit, love for one another, contagious joy in worship and in fellowship, and a collective willingness to welcome the stranger.

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

This is in more than one way a transitional period; the obvious transition of being vacant and having lost their previous minister, but also the transition back to worshiping in person with all the

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adjustments that come with that. In addition, they have also lost their long-time director of music, as well as their leaders for youth and family ministries within the last year.

Much of the ministry during these first few months have been focused on working through some of the adjustments and establishing practical ways of doing ministry together during this time.

A hopeful note is that there are new people in worship almost every Sunday. Some are visitors who happen to be in town and are looking for a church, but others are people from the neighbourhood. Some come and go again, but others are choosing to stay. All are welcomed with open arms.

I would like to mention the music team who serve the congregation with joy and have stepped up in a big way to lead the congregation. On that note, the congregation received the gift of a drum set in memory of the father of our previous music director. The drums have not been dedicated yet, but we are planning a special service of thanksgiving for God's faithfulness to Fairview on September 18 at which time the drums will be dedicated as well.

The drum set is just one of the outstanding matters that the session is trying to address at this time. Another is the election of elders. Two elders resigned at the end of June, leaving the Session with six elders who are all very involved and committed, but also tired. Session decided a year ago to proceed with the election of elders, but it hasn't happened yet. It is on our agenda as a priority as we move forward.

During the month of August, we facilitated a series of listening circles, following an appreciative inquiry approach. People were invited to share how they experienced God's presence and work in the congregation. Remembering our stories is an important part of the process of growth and healing, and it prepares us for recognizing signs of God's presence in our current situation so that we may respond faithfully and creatively to God's invitations in our present context. The three circles were well attended and the session is committed to continue working with what was shared as we seek the guidance of the Spirit for moving forward. Our hope is that themes will emerge that will eventually assist us in our discernment about the future ministry of the congregation. Session has scheduled two evening workshops to continue this work.

One other exciting new development is the Wednesday morning coffee and conversation ministry that is starting up again in September.

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

The small number of elders who are all working very hard is a significant challenge. Apart from the election of new elders that will follow soon, we also need to look for ways of ministering that are sustainable and life-giving.

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We still haven't been able to fill the two vacant positions of Worship leader and Leader for Youth and Family Ministries. We have circulated the postings again and are hopeful. In the meantime, we are extremely grateful for the music team as well as everyone involved in our ministry to children and youth on Sundays. It does place a heavier burden on our church members, but it may also be a necessary part of our discernment about ways of being church in this season.

Other conversations that haven't happened yet have to do with human sexuality. There have been many items on our agenda, current and outstanding, that required our attention. But in time, we will have to make space for these conversations as well.

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

We are grateful for a number of ministers from Presbytery who are always willing to provide pulpit supply. Thank you for leading us in worship and for opening the Word so faithfully with us.

We mostly need your prayers during this season.

We are looking forward to be able to use a new congregational profile form when we get to that stage, and to engage in a process that is better suited for the current context of the church.

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

Please pray that God will sustain us for our ministry together. We also would appreciate your prayers as we engage deeper in appreciative listening and inquiry, that we will be able to discern the guidance of the Spirit. Pray for the election of elders, as well as for the two positions that we are hoping to fill – Worship Leader and Leader of Youth and Family Ministries.

Respectfully submitted

Gerard Booy

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
INTERIM MODERATOR'S  
REPORT TO PRESBYTERY  
September 5, 2022**

Here are my responses to the guiding questions Presbytery has asked us to respond to:

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

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First Church has continued to offer Sunday worship services using various ministers in the pulpit. Our after service fellowship time continues to bless all who attend.

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

We, like many other churches in our presbytery are challenged by the numbers attending services. Although we are pleased that we continue to meet our financial obligations.

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

We hope to improve our attendance numbers. To this end we have engaged the services of Rev. Dale Woods to help us begin the process of discerning (as Dale puts it) our preferred future. We appreciate that presbytery has provided Dale's valuable service to our and other congregations.

Is there anything for your congregation for which you would like the Presbytery to pray in particular? Please pray for our continued growth in faith and in numbers, so our ministry can expand out into our community. Please also pray for our wisdom and compassion for one another as we begin the process of discerning our preferred future.

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. Dennis Howard

Interim Moderator, First Presbyterian Church

### **Report from Knox Presbyterian Church/ Growing Together Churches**

1. What ministries have taken place since your last report?

The Knox congregation has enthusiastically continued to both lead and participate in the activities and ministries of the Growing Together churches; all activities are coordinated with the congregations of Gordon and St. Aidan's. In particular, the joined congregations finished their 're-visioning' process between Easter and Pentecost, concluding with a worship service two weeks after Pentecost that praised God for the good participation, good spirit, and good content of the re-visioning. The elders of Knox, St. Aidan's, and Gordon sessions met in a retreat on July 17; we used the feedback from the 7 week re-visioning process to begin to plan more specific initiatives. The main agenda items for the meeting were key steps towards amalgamation:

- Articulating our mission statement: "Trusting in the grace of Christ, we are an inclusive worshipping community, called to serve God's world with love."
- Creating a motto: "... thoughtful minds... compassionate hearts... generous hands..."
- Developing five suggestions for the name of the new congregation.

The retreat ended with a celebratory dinner at a restaurant overlooking the Fraser River.



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The three congregations are following up on the Joint Session retreat by holding a Naming Sunday, Sept 11, at which we hope to use collaborative discernment to identify our name. As well, the Property Development Team of the GT churches, which will guide our discernment about the best and most faithful uses for our three buildings, has asked the Session and the congregation to specify how the vision developed in May-June can be further refined in specific ministry and program opportunities. The pastors will lead a service of worship one Sunday in October to engage the congregation in the question, How do we move from vision and vitalities to embodied ministries?

One important and beautiful program originally known as the Knox Festival of the Arts became this year the Growing Together Festival of the Arts. Featuring art displays from water colours, photography and weaving to dance, rock-n-roll, and several types of choral music, the Saturday afternoon Festival showcased creative and performing arts for 100+ folks from the churches and the neighbourhood. The inspiring hard work of the Knox organizers was in its own right a work of leadership artistry worth celebrating.

The organizational vitality of the new worshipping community is being expressed in the formation of new teams of members from across the congregations to undertake significant tasks such as Sunday greeters, planning social events, creating a prayer chain and hospitality of several kinds. Individuals who want to start specific small group events or ministries, such as a walking group or fun golf day, are supported by a Social Gatherings Team.

2. Are you facing any key challenges and if so, what are they?  
In our continued start-up phase, we are trying to balance the considerable work of forming an innovative and collaborative ministry with having fun and rejoicing in the rich blessings of God we experience and share with our neighbours. Don't Go Hungry is now regularly providing food for over 1,000 every Saturday and such growth entails hard work and requires lots of planning and thinking forward. Finding good sources of funding is an ongoing project for the main organizing group. Another challenge for the new congregation as a whole and for the leadership is making sure we're not trying to do too much at once, so we are trying to be aware of setting priorities.
  3. Do you require any support from Presbytery at this point?  
We continue to work on our implementation process towards our actual amalgamation date and will continue to work with the Admin Committee on that.
  4. Is there anything for your congregation for which you would like the Presbytery to pray in particular?
-

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That we continue to seek the welfare and blessing of all the members of these three congregations and the lives of all the people with whom we interact in our Don't Go Hungry mission program, as we continue to explore what 'growing together' will mean for our journey as God's people.

With respect,  
Pat Dutcher-Walls, IM for Knox

**THE PRESBYTERY OF WESTMINSTER**  
**Interim Moderator's Report – Langley Presbyterian Church**  
**September 20, 2022**

Langley Presbyterian Church has now been vacant for almost 2 years. The congregation continues to be God's voice and has shown their commitment to Him and one another. With the challenges they face like all church communities it's commendable to see how LPC's people stand together and find solutions to their problems.

There are some areas I would like to report on:

- **Session** – The elders continue to provide strong leadership in all aspects of the congregation's life. There's always good communication and people are aware of one another's needs. Session continues to meet on a regular basis and in spite of committees not meeting in person, the ministries continue as before.
- **Membership** – In the recent months some people decided to leave the congregation, but it's wonderful to report that some previous members returned and were welcomed back into full membership. The Session, and in particular the Clerk, has worked hard to bring the Membership Roll up to date. Unfortunately with the reality of Covid-19 some people haven't returned to church and that affected the membership of the congregation. It's with regret to report that one elder and his wife left the church. A void was left in the congregation as they were prominent in providing leadership.
- **Recognition** – There were people who received cards and gifts during a worship service for their dedication over years. The people of LPC are good in acknowledging one another.
- **Pastoral Care** – The Pastoral Care Committee continues to be in close contact with those who are sick or face challenges and reports about that have been made to Session.
- **Worship** – Pulpit supply has become a bit of a challenge as there are quite a number of vacancies in Presbytery and Clergy aren't so much available any more. The plus side to this is that elders and other people in the congregation have stepped up to be involved in Laity services. Sermons and Orders of services are sent when there are Laity services.

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- **Search Committee** – The Search Committee composed of elders and 2 people from the congregation has continued to meet, but the sense was that the search has to continue, because the profiles that were received so far haven't been seen as a match for LPC.
- **Church Administrator** – The Church Administrator has been with LPC for a few months now and there are good reports about how she fulfills her tasks. Session has been very helpful in assisting her about the functioning of the church.
- **Rentals and Maintenance** – Session has received requests from different organizations and decisions have been made with the right Covid-19 protocols in place. The maintenance of the building and property is done with the necessary care.

The congregation of Langley Presbyterian Church is to be commended for the diligence in which they fulfill their calling as a people of God. The prayers of Presbytery for Langley Presbyterian Church are appreciated as they go forward in God's grace.

Respectfully submitted,

**Rev. Willem van de Wall**

### **St. Columba Presbyterian Church, Vancouver Stated Supply Report**

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

Just coming out of summer not much has been happening. We have church in person each week and meet downstairs following the service to share a lunch. Communion has been served once over the summer. We had a visit from some of our adherent's larger family from Mexico to the congregation. They took part in a music ministry for two of the three Sundays they were visiting.

On the last Sunday of their visit we had a garden lunch following service at two of our members' houses. Indeed flowers all around. Rev Crichton led a service at Potters Place Mission on East Hastings and will preach there again this evening.

2. Are you facing any key challenges and if so, what are they?  
None at this point
3. Do you require any support from Presbytery at this point?  
Not at this point

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Martin Baxter (clerk)

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

Prayers as we minister to each other and the wider community

Respectfully Submitted,  
Calvin Crichton

## **WEST VANCOUVER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

### **INTERIM MODERATOR'S REPORT    September 7, 2022**

I began in my role as Interim Moderator at WVPC on May 1, 2022. The church had been going through a very challenging and difficult couple of years, after what seemed like a relatively uplifting period of two years with a newly-placed minister. From mid- March of 2020 through to Advent of 2021, in-person worship services were suspended in accordance with the COVID -19 restrictions on social gatherings. The change from in-person worship to media-programmed worship presented many challenges at WVPC. From the outset, the church's technology delivery model was inadequate. As well, there were recurring issues with bringing people together for the staging and recording of services. This caused much anxiety for everyone, especially the worship leader. A combination of these technological and personnel factors coupled with issues related to the well-being of the minister, led to a mental health crisis which left the church without direction at a very crucial time. As a result, when the situation began to return to more pre-COVID conditions, (somewhat normal), the church was at a low point, plagued by uncertainty, low in vitality and even questioning its viability.

With the official resignation of the minister set for the end of April, I was placed as IM by the Ministry Committee, at the request of the WVPC session, beginning in May. Since I had been asked to moderate a couple of session meetings during the minister's absence, I was aware of the issues that were facing the church. When I came on as IM, to moderate the first meeting of the session following the minister's resignation, the mood of the group was bleak. It was focussed mainly on maintenance . There was little enthusiasm for re-energising the worship community or preparing to call another minister. Other options were being explored by some. As I contemplated my role as the IM, I believed that for the first few months there was a need to go through a period of reflection, self-evaluation and re-grouping. As I looked ahead toward the summer and autumn months, I could see that May and June would be a time for the session to reengage with the promises found through Scripture and prayer. After all ,we were a Faith community . We needed to strengthen that Faith. I recognized that even as these needs were vital , the calendar was laying out a traditional "slow down " during the summer months, July and August.

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The tradition for WVPC over the past six years had been to join with St. David's United Church for the summer months in combined worship. July would be hosted at WVPC . St. David's would host August. All these factors played into the critical need to rebuild the spirit and vitality that was needed to move forward. In discussing these issues with Session, it was clear that we were going to need some help from the current leadership group. However, some members of that group were moving on and no longer available. The Clerk of Session and two or three other people had carried a great deal of the burden sustaining both the church and the dispirited minister. What was needed were some fresh faces and some redistribution of the work-load. To that end two former elders were asked to return to serve the Session. Also, a new representative Elder to Presbytery was appointed. This gave more breathing room. The Elders' induction took place at the end of July, when the IM took the fifth Sunday service following four Sundays of excellent worship leadership by a summer student, Jamie Anderson – Reid. On July 31<sup>st</sup> , the regular worship service included the Elder inductions as well as Holy Communion. Following the service, a quickly organized in-house "Church Picnic" was held in the church hall. BBQ'd hamburgers were served along with various salads and side dishes that had been brought by congregants. The main entertainment was a "Beatles" band led by a church member and friends. Bible trivia contests and other games livened up the forty or more who had gathered. As the people left to worship with the United Church for the remainder of the summer, there appeared to be a new and refreshed feeling, an optimistic outlook for the future.

Worshipping with St. David's proved to be a real blessing. Their newly inducted minister, Rev. Philip Francis and the people of the church made everyone feel very welcome. Worship services, both message and music, were extremely well presented and well received.

The pastoral care needs of the church were well attended to by myself and Philip. Jamie was made available during the absence of ministers.

As the summer draws to a close and the church looks forward to the Fall and Advent seasons a feeling of renewal is clearly evident. The prospects of calling a minister sooner than later are still being discerned. My feeling, and one that I have openly shared, is that the congregation should be informed that the Call is proceeding and that they can look forward to a minister. However, the Presbytery is presently re-evaluating the traditional forms and "Profile / Call" materials that had been the standard for proceeding with the Search and Call for the past twenty years. Dale Woods is leading a group through and examination and revision of these documents. It would be prudent for WVPC to wait for these new materials to guide them in the forthcoming search process. Since this process could take a few months, the search would begin in earnest in the New Year.

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The church's physical space and finances are all in excellent shape. A new stream of revenue, which will add to this stability, is being developed through a contract with a day-care operator, who will be renting the lower hall and some other areas of the building for a Five – Day a week Day Care program.

Please pray for the continued "health" of WVPC. Several key members of Session are facing personal and family health challenges. There are younger people in the congregation whose present demands at work and family prevent them from taking up the leadership that the church needs to go forward. Please pray that these potential leaders will find ways in which they can become more involved.

I am thankful for the support and confidence that the Session and congregation have shown towards me. I'm grateful for the helpers and the members of the Board that have come forward to upgrade the technology and relieve much of the anxiety around the live streaming and distribution of the worship life of WVPC. A Book study group is active. As well, a knitting group is being reconstituted.

Please pray for me, as well as the Clerk, Kaireen Morgan, and the whole WVPC Session as we work together to lead our church to a future which serves our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ in word and deed..

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. Woldy Sosnowsky

## **STUDY LEAVE**

The following study leave was approved:

The Rev. Laurie McKay to do reading and self-discernment. She will read the following on leadership:

Susan Beaumont's course material called "Stepping up to Supervision", [When Moses Meets Aaron: Staffing and Supervision in Large Congregations](#)  
[How to Lead when you don't know where you're going - Leading in a Liminal Season](#)

The Ministry Committee will meet again on Tuesday October 18, 2022 at 7pm on Zoom.

Respectfully submitted,

The Rev. Paddy Eastwood

Ministry Committee Convener

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## COMMISSION TO CENTRAL PRESBYTERIAN COMMITTEE REPORT

*The report was presented Ian Rokeby and Dale Woods (FOR INFORMATION ONLY)*

### 1. The GST and Meetings with BOSA

We have had three meetings with the Bosa team. These meetings were for the purpose of clarifying the GST issue and the long-term viability of Central. Bosa has offered their various staff members to help work through financial issues including offering ways to reduce expenses and increase revenue in all three air space parcels. We have developed three financial projections through 2026, one for each of the airspace parcels.

We engaged Myers, North and Penny to review all issues related to the GST and now have confirmation of all documents related to the expense belonging to Central Presbyterian Church. A rebate of \$485,000 has been received, leaving a balance of approximately \$650,000. Bosa has indicated in a letter that it is prepared to offer bridge financing for the remaining amount so that we can settle the GST issue.

We have reached out to RBC and to Van City to consider the possibility of mortgaging the commercial property to pay back the bridge loan. We have a letter of intent from Van City dependent upon receipt of financials. We are now reviewing the engagement of a company to review and prepare financials for all three air space parcels. The commercial property was recently appraised at 3.9 million up from 1.8 million in 2018. If necessary, Central may need to sell the commercial property but we are hoping that, over time, we will be able to manage the mortgage.

We have asked Bosa to compare their own figures for the contingency reserve fund with the figures that we received from Morrison Hershfield. Bosa has reviewed those figures and we are reworking them to gain a clearer picture of the long-term costs of the facility.

### 2. Daily Operations

The congregation continues to look for creative ways to steward its largest asset, which is the building. Lease agreements have been entered into with two other congregations bringing necessary revenue into the life of the congregation. A part-time business manager has recently been employed. We continue to look for alternatives to strengthen the vision and mission of the congregation. The goal is to look for halftime ministry by the middle of 2023, dependent upon the financial realities of the congregation at that point. Our goal is to have the GST issue finalized by the end of October so that energy can go into developing and growing the mission of the congregation.

### 3. City of Vancouver Taxes

The delay of transferring the property back to the church in 2018 led to a taxation assessment of ASP 2 for \$136,000. This tax notice was apparently misunderstood by the church since it believed that it was tax

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exempt as a church. This assessment is now significantly overdue and must be paid in September or else the property will be in jeopardy of being sold by the city. There may be funds available but in the short term Central may need to look for alternatives as soon as possible including asking the City for a payment plan.

**D. Woods**

**R. Simpson**

**I. Rokeby**

**L. Eastwood**

#### **HUMMINGBIRD MINISTRIES COUNCIL REPORT**

**Rev. Laurie McKay, Convener, Hummingbird Ministries Council**

**Rev. Mary Fontaine, Founding Director, Hummingbird Ministries**

Hummingbird is planning our Peace through the Arts Festival at the Gilmore Park United Church in Richmond this year, Nov. 4-5. Brian Fraser has requested jazz blues artist Delannah Gal Bowen to do the fundraiser on Nov. 4<sup>th</sup>. Details to be announced.

A healing and reconciliation event with the Chinese community is being planned for November 18 or 19, with Hummingbird's good friend and hostess, Esther Leung.

Elder Gene Harry of the Malahat First Nation is leading a Cedar Walk near UBC, with a group from the BC Synod October 15<sup>th</sup>.

Hummingbird has been invited to host a healing and reconciliation event for Telus employees for National Truth and Reconciliation Day in October.

Our Christmas Circle is planned for December 10/22 at the Richmond Presbyterian Church.

Mary has been busy interviewing elders for the docudrama film project she's been working on over the past few years as funding has permitted. She has interviewed elders in the prairies, the Nass Valley, Ahousat on Vancouver Island and Vancouver. With help from John Carr and others, she hopes to complete the project in the next two years as funding permits.

Mary continues to serve as convener for the National Indigenous Ministries Council (NIMC) of the PCC and for the NIMC General Assembly Standing Committee. She also serves as a member of the Special



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Committee. An in-person NIMC and its first Standing Committee meeting and retreat is planned for November 8 to 11, in Winnipeg. John Carr is one of the new members.

Indigenous parents living at a Surrey Kekinow Housing site are requesting Hummingbird's children's program.

Mary is grieving the loss of three of her siblings and numerous relatives in the past year and a half. Since her return from her brother's funeral Sept. 17/22, Mary is focussed on completing grants, including the Canadian Ministries grant due October 1. Rev. Lipboon Lee and two others are likely to help complete the planning and organizing of the festival and events. But there is much work and we have more hands to help and ongoing prayers.

To support our ministry, please consider volunteering/attending our events as you are able. We are still hoping another member of Presbytery will join our Council.

With gratitude and special blessings

Laurie & Mary

#### **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

*The report was presented by Sumarme Goble.*

*All motions, unless otherwise noted, were moved by Isabel Evans, seconded by Sumarme Goble.*

#### **Grant Application**

The Shepherds House Ministry submitted an application for a grant of \$3,000 from the Cooke's Fund for their fiscal year of 2022-2023. Its year ends in June of each year and its board holds its annual meeting in June as required by B.C. Society regulations. The application was accompanied by its 2022-23 budget, a written presentation of the ministry and an application letter. The CEC has reviewed the application (by email) and finds it to be in compliance with the requirements of the Cooke's Fund. The CEC continues to see Shepherd's House as a valuable ministry that is meeting both social and spiritual needs of marginalized and poor residents of the Surrey area and beyond.

The Cooke's Fund also requires an extract from the minutes of the session of a related church or its governing body. Because Shepherd's House is no longer associated with Langley Presbyterian Church, the SH Board, which is made up of members of congregations within this presbytery, approved the following statement at an online meeting held on August 12: **"The governing Board of the Shepherd's**

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**House Society hereby approves the application for a \$3,000 grant from the Cooke's Fund for its 2022 budget."**

**Recommendation 1** That presbytery approve this application and forward it to the administrator of the Cooke's Fund.

**CARRIED**

### **Brentwood Presbyterian Church**

The Brentwood Jazz All-Stars are applying for a Supporting Ministry Grant, under the category of "Sustaining Ministries", through Canadian Ministries.

Part of that application requires a Presbytery endorsement of the application. The Brentwood Jazz All-Stars (BJAS) will be applying for a matching grant from the Presbytery as part of our "Transforming Congregations" initiative. That application has not been processed at this time. Endorsing their application to Canadian Ministries in no way influences our own presbytery process. However, the community engagement committee, having reviewed the BJAS' proposal, are recommending that presbytery endorse their application in time for the October 1 2022 deadline, as laid out on the funds application pages of The Presbyterian Church in Canada.

**Recommendation 2** That presbytery endorses the application for a Sustaining Ministry grant for the Brentwood Presbyterian Church Big Band ministry "Brentwood Jazz All-Stars".

**CARRIED**

### **Collaboration with Hummingbird Ministries**

The CEC and Hummingbird Council have not yet been able to meet together to consider ways in which we might be able to collaborate on justice issues. That meeting will take place this fall.

### **How to keep up to date on the PCC's work on justice issues**

The Justice Ministries office of the Life and Mission Agency has developed a new website called the Social Action Hub. This is now the web home for all information, resources and tools related to the church's mission to seek justice in the world through social action. We encourage presbyters and congregations to make use of this valuable resource.

Social justice information is also a regular feature in the Presbyterian Connection newspaper.

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### **Ministry to Generation Z**

The CEC is working with the SLC and the Presbyter for Mission and Vision to develop a report on this matter for a future meeting.

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Glen Davis**

### **Additional Motions/Announcements**

Dale Woods spoke about the workshop planned for Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> September 2022.

Rebecca Simpson indicated that Camp Douglas are contemplating searching for a full time Camp Douglas Director, possibly with a track to ordination. She invited Presbytery to hold this in our prayers.

Rebecca also announced that she will be hosting a “Women in ministry retreat” October 13<sup>th</sup> 2022, @ St Andrew’s Hall. \$50 / person

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Moved by Bev Shepansky, seconded by Bob Astop to adjourn the meeting.

**CARRIED**

### **Time and Place:**

- The Synod of BC will meet between October 14-16, 2022, Kerrisdale Presbyterian Church.
- The next regular scheduled meeting of presbytery is November 1, 2022, 7:00 pm, via ZOOM.

**The Moderator offered a closing prayer.**

The Moderator closed the court with a benediction at 9:15PM

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**Rev. Laurie McKay** (Moderator of Presbytery)

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Martin Baxter (clerk)