

The Presbytery of Westminster met VIA ZOOM on Tuesday, March 07, 2023

CONSTITUTION

The Moderator, Rev. Laurie McKay constituted the Court and opened the meeting with prayer at 7:00pm.

Worship & reflection was led by Rev. Dr. Dale Woods.

The Moderator welcomed the following guests:

Steve Norris & Jannie Burdeti (Richmond Presbyterian Search Committee)

Brian Dennehy

Leave to withdraw: Rev. Willem van de Wall (8pm)

DOCKET

It was moved by Martin Baxter, seconded by Paddy Eastwood that the consent agenda below be adopted, with one change to the docket – the addition of the Hummingbird Ministries report (for information) at 9:15pm

CARRIED

Consent Agenda:

1. that the Docket be as indicated,
2. that the attendance be recorded as those listed on the “Active Hosts Report” for the presbytery ZOOM call,
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 January 17, 2023 be adopted,
5. that the correspondence be dealt with as indicated,
6. that reports without recommendations be received “for information.”
7. that reports with recommendations be received and their recommendations considered,
8. that Larry Eastwood, presbytery treasurer, be permitted to speak to financial issues,
9. that Ian Rokeby, convener of Property & Finance, sit in correspondence

Any presbyter may ask for an item on the consent agenda to be withdrawn from this list before it is adopted.

Constituent Roll:

Ministers

Bae Lydia, Baxter Martin, Dutcher-Walls Dr. Pat, Eastwood J. Paddy, Fraser Dr. Brian, Goble Sumarme, Howard Dennis, Kim Thomas, Lockhart Dr. Ross, MacLeod Cal, McKay Laurie, Simpson Rebecca, Snyman Gabriel, Sosnowsky Woldy, Topping Dr. Richard, van de Wall Willem, Watson Richard, Wong Dr. Morgan, Woods Dr. Dale,



Martin Baxter (clerk)

Ruling Elders

Allan Margaret, Astop Bob, Cheng Jason, Con John, Evans Isabel, Feick Bev, Patrick Kelly, Pringle Nicole, Schindell Kit, Shepansky Bev, Shields Gordon, Sonachansingh Judy, Sosnowsky Cathy, Stacey Susan, Wilson Emily, Wong Pamela, Zaine Mike, Bassani Anne, Rebosura Claudine

APPENDIX:

Garvin Bob, Tait-Katerberg Diane,

Students:

Non-voting guests: Steve Norris, Dr. Jannie Burdeti, Brian Dennehy, Young Tae Choi, Sue Harry

REGRETS:

John Allan, L Johnson, Lip Boon Lee, Kate Jordan, Ta-li Hsieh, Jeanette Zapp, Afonso Issa, Mary Fontaine, Murdo Marple, Glen Davis, Andrea Perrett.

PRESBYTERY CORRESPONDENCE - January 18, 2023 – March 07, 2023

Date	Name	Content	Action
16-Jan-23	Peter Buch	Information about a ZOOM meeting re being an IM in a congregation that is not heading towards a call	circulated
17-Jan-23	Mavis Ho	SAH 2023 Guder Scholar Program	circulated
17-Jan-23	Richard Topping	VST Event	circulated
18-Jan-23	Ruth Chueh	Application for retirement pension – for Rev. Dr. Chin Chai Wang	To be approved in March meeting
19-Jan-23	Isabel Evans	Notice of a fundraiser event	circulated
25-Jan-23	Brian Fraser	Brentwood event	circulated
25-Jan-23	Glen Davis	Notice of resignation as convener of the CEC – effective Feb 28 2023	received
25-Jan-23	Kathryn Muir	Letter re congregational cemeteries	circulated
26-Jan-23	PC Montreal	Appointment of Dr. Adrian Langdon	circulated



Martin Baxter (clerk)

30-Jan-23	Pamela Roa	RRG Application from Camp Douglas	Forwarded to CEC
31-Jan-23	Eileen Sparrow	Notice of ongoing discernment as to who will be the clerk for Trinity (Melanie Adams (rep elder) / Anne Bassani (Alt)	Noted with thanks
31-Jan-23	Jennifer Astop	Notice of \$10,000 seed grant from “New and Renewing Ministry Fund” for Church on the Road	received
1-Feb-23	Jennifer Astop	Rural & Remote Ministry Grant info	circulated
1-Feb-23	Thomas Kim	Email regarding a lady in need of a home	circulated

1-Feb-23	Living Systems	Course info	circulated
3-Feb-23	Janette Zapp	Contact info of new Rep elder from Coquitlam	noted
6-Feb-23	Terrie-Lee Hamilton	Notice that voting process for Moderator of 2023 GA has been changed	circulated
8-Feb-23	VST	VST at a glance – February 2023	circulated
10-Feb-23	Mavis Ho	SAH Lenten Devotional	circulated
14-Feb-23	Don Muir	Wedding Registry – registration details	circulated
14-Feb-23 / 15-Feb-23	PCC	REVISED 2022 stats Report now available	circulated
16-Feb-23	Terrie-Lee Hamilton	Nominations for GA Committees – reminder – due date Feb 28th	circulated
18-Feb-23	Peter Bush	Notice of transfer of Chris Clements to the care of our Presbytery Sept 2022	Forwarded to SSCC
18-Feb-23	Jon Con / VCPC	Job Posting to be circulated	circulated
18-Feb-23	Young Tae / POIEO	Notice of Charity status	circulated




Martin Baxter (clerk)

20-Feb-23	Young Tae / POIEO	Notice of their NWC grant application	SLC
22-Feb-23	Camp Douglas	Notice that staff will join the March 7 th meeting to be commissioned	Admin Cte
22-Feb-23	Susan Stacey / KPC	Letter requesting certification for Krishna Rao Durbha	Forwarded to SSCC
28-Feb-23	Rev. Gabriel Snyman	Notice of his resignation from City Centre	Cited CCPC and forwarded to Min Cte.
28-Feb-23	Camp Douglas	Notice of Upcoming work party – April 1	To be circulated
1-Mar-23	RBC	Bank Statement – Presbytery Counselling Fund	filed
1-Mar-23	Presbytery of Montreal	Certificate of Transfer – Rev. Dr. Victor Gavino	Added to the Appendix
2-Mar-23	VCPC	Invitation to Presbytery to dedicate new building on Oct 8 2023	Received
2-Mar-23	VST	March 2023 VST at a glance	To be circulated

Camp Douglas 2023 Summer Staff:-

Pamela Roa (Camp Douglas Administrator) was welcomed to the presbytery and she was invited to introduce the 2023 summer staff.

Andrea Bucur-Sava (Rowdy), Kitchen Assistant
 Annemeij Koedood (Winnie), Head Cook
 Cathleen Deneby (Sandy), Program Assistant
 Kate Simpson (Violet), Waterfront
 Kiran Selvaraja (K-Mart), Cabin Leader
 Mackenzie Wallace (Jitters), First Aid
 Michelle Vaughan (Llew), Program Director
 Sarah Simpson (Blueberry), Waterfront
 Christine Terblanche (Firefly) Cabin Leader
 Carson Sanguinetti (Velo), Cabin Leader



Martin Baxter (clerk)

Loure Pretorius (?) Cabin Leader

Absent tonight

Bethany Walton-Knight (Alpine), LIT Director
Daniel Persaud-Barranco (Note), Cabin Leader
Marina Salivon (Swift) Worship Director

After each staff member above introduced themselves the moderator prayed for them in order to commission them as the appointed Camp Staff for 2023.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE REPORT - PART 1

The report was presented by Martin Baxter, Administrative Committee Convener. All motions, unless otherwise noted, moved by Martin Baxter, seconded by Paddy Eastwood.

Part 1

Call to Rev. Curtis Bablitz

The Administrative Committee are bringing forth the following recommendations regarding the call from Richmond Presbyterian Church to The Reverend Curtis Bablitz

Recommendation #1 That the call from Richmond Presbyterian Church to The Rev. Curtis Bablitz be considered.

CARRIED

At this time Rev. Dr. Richard Topping will be invited to offer a brief narration of the steps taken to date, regarding this call.

Recommendation #2 That representatives of Richmond Presbyterian Church be invited to speak to the call. (to be followed by others from the presbytery)

CARRIED

Steve Norris spoke to the call, an elder at RPC and chair of the search committee. Dr. Jannie Burdeti offered her reflections and impressions on Rev. Curtis Bablitz.

Judy Sonachansingh congratulated Richmond on this call to Rev. Curtis **Bablitz**. The



Martin Baxter (clerk)

following are the terms of the call to Rev. Curtis Bablitz

We, the professing members of Richmond Presbyterian Church, Richmond, being well satisfied with your faithfulness to the Gospel and your qualifications for the ministry of Word and Sacraments and confident that the Holy Spirit has led us to you, earnestly and solemnly call you, The Rev. Curtis Bablitz, to become the minister of this congregation. In calling you we promise you all due respect, encouragement, and allegiance in the Lord as, together, we seek to use our gifts in the church and in the world to the glory of God.

In order that you, The Rev. Curtis Bablitz, may be free to devote yourself to ministry of Word and Sacraments among us, we the congregation of Richmond Presbyterian Church of Richmond, British Columbia, hereby guarantee to the Presbytery of Westminster, of The Presbyterian Church in Canada, that out of our estimated annual revenue of \$343,257.00 we promise and obligate ourselves to provide you, as a first charge thereon, the following annually:

Annual Stipend \$62,500.00
Manse
Total \$62,500.00
Cost of utilities (on voucher) \$6000.00

We agree to make payments of the above amounts on the first day of each month and agree to adjust the stipend and allowances annually in view of any changes in the cost of living or the needs of our minister.

We agree further:

- To provide two weeks for continuing education annually and at least the minimum allowance as set by the General Assembly.
- That the benefits of number 1 above shall be cumulative up to five years.
- To provide five weeks vacation annually, which shall be used in the year they are given. • To pay supply during the periods of continuing education and holidays.
- In case of disability or extended illness, to continue to provide stipend, accommodation and allowances for a period not less than that set by the General Assembly, and to pay the cost of pulpit supply. • To pay for Medical and Dental Insurance as provided through the Pensions and Benefits Board of the General Assembly and to make contributions to the Pension Plan in compliance with the terms of the plan. • To pay necessary moving expenses.
- To pay for cell phone costs, included in the cost of utilities, and to provide a book allowance of \$600.00 per annum and a laptop computer.

Recommendation #3 That the terms of the call be approved and the call be sustained as a true gospel call, and that it be forwarded to the Presbytery of Hamilton with the appropriate extract of the minutes of this Presbytery.

CARRIED



Martin Baxter (clerk)

The Presbytery of Hamilton are planning to consider this call to Rev. Curtis Bablitz, at their duly constituted meeting on March 14th 2023.

Recommendation #4 That if the Presbytery of Hamilton sustains the Call, and upon the acceptance of the Call by the Rev. Curtis Bablitz, Rev. Dr. Richard Topping, in consultation with the moderator and clerk of presbytery, arrange for the Service of Induction to be held at Richmond Presbyterian Church, in due course.

CARRIED

Resignation of Rev. Gabriel Snyman, from City Centre Church

Having received correspondence from Rev. Gabriel Snyman on February 28th 2023, the Administrative Committee are bringing forth the following recommendations.

Recommendation #5 That the resignation from City Centre Church by The Rev. Gabriel Snyman be considered.

CARRIED

At this time **Rev. Gabriel Snyman** will be invited to offer a brief explanation for his resignation.

Recommendation #6 That representatives of City Centre Church be invited to speak to the resignation. (to be followed by others from the presbytery)

CARRIED

Bob Astop, rep elder for City Centre, spoke about the merits of Gabriel's passion for Christ and leadership.

Ross Lockhart said it has been a gift to have Gabriel and his missional engagement in the community and praised Gabriel's leadership at City Centre during the pandemic.

Emily Wilson, rep elder St John's, said Gabriel has done an amazing job of bringing everyone together and helping them to heal, as interim moderator at St John's.

Rev. Gabriel Snyman has not yet agreed his final date with City Centre Church, but he believes he will be starting his new role in early June 2023. We trust that Rev. Gabriel Snyman and City Centre Church, having agreed on an effective date for this resignation, will inform the clerk of presbytery, as soon as possible.

Recommendation #7 That the presbytery accept the resignation of Rev. Gabriel Snyman from City Centre Church, with thanksgiving for his faithfulness and our sincere blessing for his new role as a chaplain in the CAF.



Martin Baxter (clerk)

CARRIED

The moderator prayed for Rev. Snyman and his family.

STRATEGY AND LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT

The report was presented by Pat Dutcher-Walls, Strategy and Leadership Committee Convener. All motions, unless otherwise noted, moved by Pat Dutcher-Walls, seconded by Mike Zaine.

Revisoning Presbytery Strategic Priorities

On February 11, 2023, Dale led the Presbytery in a day-long discussion meeting to consider our revisoning process. This was envisioned as the first of two such workshops and the Committee will be bringing a proposal for a second workshop on April 22, 2023 to continue the work. *Please save that date.*

New Witnessing Communities Grant Program Evaluators

With this program now approved by Presbytery, SLC has assembled a pool of evaluators, in accordance with the NWC document. For any application period, five from the evaluator pool will serve as the Grant Selection Committee, aiming for three elders and two ministers. 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.

Those who have graciously agreed to let their names be in the pool of evaluators are:

- Andrea Perrett - Director of Cyclical Vancouver, Associate in New Witnessing Communities, Centre for Missional Leadership at St Andrew's Hall
- Richard Watson - minister at Kerrisdale Presbyterian Church
- Thomas Kim - minister at Calvin Presbyterian Church
- John Con - elder at Van Chinese Presbyterian Church retired since 2014 from position as Program Manager for Community Home Health with Vancouver Coastal Health
- Doug McKellan is an elder and Missionary to Youth at St. Paul's Mission and works with Greater Vancouver Youth Unlimited. He is also president and coach with the Mission Soccer Club

As needed to assemble teams for NWC proposals, we may borrow evaluators from the larger list of those who agreed to do evaluation for the Transforming Congregations grant program. In all cases we will be sure to check for any conflicts of interest on the part of those on evaluation teams with the proposal(s) being evaluated by that team.

Recommendation: That Presbytery establish the pool of evaluators for the New Witnessing Communities grant program to include the named individuals, with thanks for their willingness to serve the Presbytery in



Martin Baxter (clerk)

this way.

CARRIED

By the evening of the March Presbytery meeting, we hope to have affirmations from five evaluators to serve as the team for the POIEO application – stay tuned.

At the meeting they were confirmed as

THOMAS KIM,

JOHN CON,

DOUG MCKELLAN,

EMILY WILSON,

NICOLE PRINGE

With respect,

Pat Dutcher-Walls for SLC

NEW WITNESSING COMMUNITIES – GRANT APPLICATION

At this time Rev. Dr. Dale Woods was invited to summarise the process for dealing with an application for a New Witnessing Communities grant.

Following that Rev. Young-Tae Choi, director of POIEO, was invited to present his application. Presbytery were invited to ask questions following the presentation.

Rev. Dr. Dale Woods then opened a JamBoard for online comments to be posted in regard to three questions.

- What, if anything, did you find exciting about this initiative
- What concerns, if any, do you have about this new initiative
- Do you think this is a wise use of our resources

These comments / responses would be sent to the committee, named above, that are being tasked to discuss whether or not to recommend to presbytery that we grant the application, or not, at a future meeting of the presbytery.

STUDENT SUPPORT & CERTIFICATION COMMITTEE REPORT (SSCC)

The report was presented Brian Fraser, SSC Committee Convener.

All motions, unless otherwise noted, were moved by Brian Fraser, seconded by Cal MacLeod.



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A report with one recommendation was considered. However, after some discussion the mover and seconder withdrew their recommendation.

The moderator called a meeting of Presbytery to be held on March 28th, 7pm, via ZOOM, to deal with the items included in the original recommendation, of this report.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE REPORT

The report was presented by Sumarme Goble, Community Engagement Committee Member .

All motions, unless otherwise noted, were moved by Sumarme Goble, seconded by Isobel Evans

Grant Applications

Camp Douglas has applied for a Regional Resourcing Grant of \$7,500 for hiring a Worship Leader for 2023. The application details are in the attached document.

Recommendation 1 That the Presbytery of Westminster endorse the Camp Douglas Committee's application for a Regional Resourcing Grant of \$7500 to hire a Worship Director for the 2023 season, and that the Clerk forward presbytery's decision to the Life and Mission Agency.

CARRIED

Hummingbird Ministry has requested a Regional Resourcing Grant of \$4,000 for its program work on Reconciliation in 2023. Because of a misunderstanding of how Hummingbird grant applications should be handled by presbytery, no application was sent to CEC for its review. However, in order to ensure that this request get included in the presbytery's recommendation to the Life and Mission Agency for this year, CEC recommends the following:

Recommendation 2 That the Presbytery of Westminster endorse Hummingbird Ministry's request for a Regional Resourcing Grant of \$4,000 for its 2023 programs, and that presbytery forward this endorsement to the Life and Mission Agency, conditional upon receiving a satisfactory application form from Hummingbird Ministry.

After a question was raised, it was accepted that the CEC would be the reviewers of the above application to determine if it meets with the requirements for a RRG.

CARRIED



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Note: In the event that the PoW's allocation of RRG funds for 2023 (currently projected to be \$10,166) is not sufficient to cover the total amount for these two grants, we suggest that the small shortfall be shared equally between these two ministries.

Convener's Appointment

Because Glen Davis has decided to resign as convener of CEC, the Committee has agreed to appoint Sumarme Goble and Isabel Evans as Co-conveners, effective March 7, 2023. We appreciate their willingness to serve the Presbytery in this way.

Respectfully submitted,
Glen Davis (Now happily retired Convener!)

HUMMINGBIRD MINISTRIES COUNCIL REPORT

The report was presented for information.

The PCC moderator Rev. Dr. Bob Faris was hosted at Mary's home along with the Hummingbird Council and supporters. Sharing words of encouragement and personal stories was recorded, after enjoying a bountiful lunch with a number of elders and friends. We continue to learn from and support each other in this important work through tears and laughter. A beautiful drum and embroidered drum bag were presented to the PCC Moderator by Rev. Mary Fontaine.

Mary's work continues with her pastoral care of the Indigenous community, writing a grant for the Cooke's Fund, and attending several meetings with the Indigenous network.


Unfortunately, this has caused much stress on Mary and currently she is on a 2 week medical leave as she navigates her way through shingles – a condition usually brought on by stress.

Grant Process in Question:

In November 2022, it was moved and carried that Presbytery approve Hummingbird Ministries' application to the Cooke's fund in the amount of \$7,500 for 2023. This grant has been submitted to Canadian Ministries after being reviewed by the Hummingbird Council without going to the Presbytery or CEC for review of the details.

In November we also recorded in our report:

“Healing and Reconciliation projects include: the Church Community project; the Nature Walks;



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and the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation project; These projects which include the education of the Church through their participation total \$4000. The 2023 budget indicates our intention to request \$10,000 from the Synod of BC, for our film projects and \$4000 for Reconciliation Projects.

Given that Synod may not approve two grant requests from one ministry, we recommend that the Presbytery approve \$4000 from the Regional Resource Funding grant. ACTION - Not presented as a recommendation. The Clerk will note this as a request for a LMA Regional Resourcing Grant, to be considered at our regular meeting of Presbytery, in March 2023. “
(Presbytery minutes November 2022)

We received information through the convenor or CEC on March 1 that the grant was to be sent to Community Engagement Committee for review prior to the Presbytery meeting March 7th. Since the HM convenor was away until the 6th and Mary is currently on medical leave, the **council supports the CEC to have power to issue regarding reviewing and forwarding the grant application to the Regional Resource Fund**. Further clarity regarding the process of future grant applications for the Hummingbird Ministries is needed as usually the applications are approved by Presbytery directly as the presbytery acts as the congregation for the work. Our Annual General Meeting will be at the Presbytery meeting on May 1st.

For further clarity to the Presbytery about the Hummingbird Ministries, here are the typical duties that this unique ministry requires of Mary – the only staff of this Presbytery sponsored ministry. ▪ All aspects of the work at HM is done by one person, the director. Each HM project, event and program requires grant writing, budgeting, planning, purchasing, initiation, scheduling, booking venues, child management, registration, PCC photo permission signatures, getting volunteers, operation, publicity (posters), emails, and reporting. And there are several projects and events operating at HM every year. And pastoral care is also demanding.

- As a mobile healing and reconciliation ministry, this means, depending on which project; packing up and loading supplies into the vehicle, bringing the food, the project supplies like musical instruments and supplies. dance regalia, music systems, drama props, preparing the food, setting up for the Circle, sometimes cleaning before we start, packing up the stuff into the car, cleaning the room when done. And the putting all back in its place when the director gets home.
- Even though others like instructors and elders help at Circles and programs and volunteers help at events, the work is done by the director. It is demanding and time



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consuming.

- For the children's events it means packing up the dance regalia, ensuring we have the music, checking the host's sound system, pick up the children who need rides, bring the camera, take photos if no one else can take photos, help dress the children, monitor behaviour, help children to take off dance regalia, pack it up, load it up, take children home. And before this there is all the training and planning with the families etc. Ensuring their children can come and have rides. etc. Some families have no vehicles and sometimes not enough of a budget to pay for fuel. So we often have to look for people to help us with rides or provide funds for fuel. We work with people who live in subsidized housing and live below the poverty line.
- Another detail is ensuring both the adult and children performers get their honorarium and making sure they are not dancing hungry. So snacks and water are part of the packing.
- Events like the festival and the Christmas Circle have their own unique details to take care of like shopping for auction items, groceries for meals, finding cooks and volunteers and honoraria for artists and volunteers. And of course, the bookings, the packing, the cleaning and unloading.
- This is just to portray the scope and the extent of the details that have to be taken into consideration when more is being demanded of the director.

It would be helpful to not add the expectation (and added time) of extra consultations with the CEC to the grant writing process for any other than this Regional Grant – as directed by Life and Mission Agency (LMA).

Thanks to Larry Eastwood for work as treasurer!

We so appreciate the competent and faithful work done by Larry over many years service with the Hummingbird Ministries. We are now looking for a new treasurer so would appreciate the Presbytery's network to spread the word.

Position: Hummingbird Ministries' treasurer

Hummingbird Ministries is seeking a treasurer to begin as of May 1, 2023.

Duties include paying invoices, salaries, remittances to CRA and PCC, monthly statements to HM Council and the annual Charities Report. Qualifications include Familiarity with the PCC Handbook for Treasurers and a background in bookkeeping.



Martin Baxter (clerk)

The Presbytery of Westminster
Regular Meeting via ZOOM
March 07, 2023

2023-March 07-14

Approximately 12 hours per month, \$300.00/month

Please contact:

Mary Fontaine, Director director@hummingbirdministries.ca (604 828-0989) or Laurie McKay, Convenor, Humm Ministries Council, lauriemckaydeacon@gmail.com (604 836-8400)

Prayers Requested

It was our desire to have Mary present at every presbytery to engage and educate presbytery on this important presbytery ministry of Healing and Reconciliation provided by Hummingbird Ministries. Due to Mary's medical leave, we ask instead this month for your continued prayers for the ministry and for Mary's complete healing so that she might focus on the filming of elders, connections with the Indigenous network and building relationships of understanding and healing. We also pray for discernment as she once again is nominated as moderator of the Presbyterian Church.

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. Laurie McKay

Convenor, Hummingbird Ministries

MINISTRY COMMITTEE REPORT

The report was presented by Paddy Eastwood, Ministry Committee Convenor.

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

The Ministry Committee met on Tuesday February 21, 2023 at 7 p.m. via

Zoom Interim Moderator for First Presbyterian Church

The current Interim Moderator (IM), Rev. Dennis Howard has submitted his resignation effective the date a new IM is assigned or March 26, 2023, whichever occurs first. We thank Reverend Howard for the prayerful work he has done to support First Presbyterian. The Ministry Committee is in the process of finding a new IM.

Burnaby Taiwanese Presbyterian Church

BTPC submitted a proposal to have the Reverend Sidney Chang (Retired PCC and PCT Minister) serve as a Co-Interim Moderator with the current IM, Reverend Morgan Wong. Reverend Chang is to focus on congregational life, including overseeing pulpit supply, pastoral care as well as assisting in any specific



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programs and ministries if requested. Reverend Wong will focus on the administrative roles of the Interim Moderator, including relating to the courts of the church and to Brentwood's session. The Ministry Committee reviewed this proposal and are in support of it.

Revs Sidney Chang and Dr. Morgan Wong began this Co-Interim Moderator relationship on March 1, 2023.

Langley Presbyterian Church

As part of Presbytery's oversight of Calls, the finances of Langley Presbyterian Church were reviewed by the Presbytery's treasurer, Larry Eastwood. Based on the report received from Mr. Eastwood, and with the support of the Rev. Dr. Dale Woods (PMV) and Mr. Ian Rokeby (Property and Finance Chair), the Ministry Committee is pleased to support and endorse what we consider to be a "Call for Growth" for Langley Presbyterian Church. We commend the congregation of Langley for taking a risk to pursue this plan of growth for Langley Presbyterian Church.

Vancouver Chinese Presbyterian Church

We are delighted to report that Vancouver Chinese Presbyterian Church's new building should be completed this May. Since Thanksgiving Sunday is the 128th anniversary of this congregation, we support their request

Recommendation 1: that the Presbytery hold a Service of Dedication on Sunday October 8, Thanksgiving Sunday at 3pm.

CARRIED

Interim Moderator Reports received were from First, St. Columba and St. John's Presbyterian churches

*First Presbyterian, New Westminster
Interim Moderator's Report to the AGM*

I have been honored to serve as the Interim Moderator at First Presbyterian Church since May of 2022. In this short time, I have been impressed by the warmth of the people here as well as the vibrant worship life of this congregation.

Many of you step forward to assist in worship. Many more step up to do the equally needful work of



Martin Baxter (clerk)

providing and preparing the meals we enjoy after worship. These meals, this table fellowship, is a powerful testimony to the welcoming nature of First Church. This table hospitality is also a great way to express our faith in Jesus; a way that demonstrates to others the people in this church live their faith. For the folks of First Church faith is a lived thing, not just an idea that does not move us to action in caring for others.

Another encouraging observation I have made since serving here is that as a congregation the folks at First are younger, on average, than many other congregations that I know of in our presbytery. This is an important factor when we consider our future as a congregation. We deeply value our senior community members and thank them for all the work they have done to preserve the life and mission of First Presbyterian over the years. Without them we would not be here. Having said that we need to acknowledge that having younger people in our midst gives us the opportunity to do more of the work that the gospel in our neighborhood demands. And let us face it young people like to be with other young folks and as they say, "Our youth are our future."

Concerning that future let me say that early on in my time here I frequently heard one comment from both the people and the session, "We wish that we had more continuity in our pulpit. We think having different preachers each week may be standing in the way of our spiritual and numeric growth."

This may well be the case. It seems as if it might be harder to attract new worshippers to our community if no one knows who will be leading worship from one week to the next. To solve this issue it would be ideal if First Church could fund a call to a minister. Unfortunately, our financial situation prevents us from making a gospel call. The alternative that could help in the direction of pulpit continuity is the less expensive idea of engaging in a stated supply contract with a minister. Stated supply would provide consistency in the pulpit as well as a few extras at a fraction of the cost of calling a minister. Even a part time call is more costly to the congregation than a stated supply arrangement for equal hours of service per week.

To this end your session is presenting for your approval two budgets at our Annual General Meeting. One budget is based on using pulpit supply as a means of filling our pulpit. The second budget is based on entering into a stated supply agreement with a minister. You can see from comparing the bottom lines of these two budgets that the pulpit supply budget is less expensive than the stated supply one.

However, there is a saying in the business world that goes like this, "If you stare at your bottom line long enough it will disappear." What this saying means is if you focus solely on your bottom line, your profit and loss statements, and forget about your values, why you are in business in the first place, then you will go broke because you will fail to focus on your customers' needs. If you go broke because you forgot



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why you are in business in the first place, you will not have a bottom line to focus on. The same applies to congregations. We certainly need to be prudent with the way we use the resources God has given us.

At the same time, we need to remember why we exist; to further the gospel. In order to grow our gospel ministry, we need to take risks at times. Yes, we need to be prudent with our resources. But we also need to stretch ourselves at times so as not to become stuck in a cycle that ends in our demise as a congregation.

In summary as your interim moderator I am recommending to session and to the congregation here at First that you adopt the budget for 2023 that includes the stated supply option. I believe that this option will provide your best opportunity for both spiritual and numeric growth in the congregation. Because this option as well as providing continuity in the pulpit may also provide the congregation with other benefits such as: Bible studies, a minister in attendance at the church for set times during the week, perhaps development of some community outreach activities, as well as a degree of administrative support to the secretary. Of course these possible additional benefits would be negotiated amongst session, presbytery and any candidates who may apply for the position.

Respectfully submitted by,

Rev. Dennis Howard

*St. Columba Presbyterian Church
Ministry Report*

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

We continue to worship in person each Sunday. On Christmas day we had a joint service with the Jireh Korean Presbyterian Church that rents space from St. Columba. This was well attended and a great way for the two congregations to get to know each other as the latter is new to our building as of last year.

The session and congregation has taken a 'prayer initiative' to pray specifically for the neighbourhoods around St. Columba. Each week the congregation prays for a designated street each day for five minutes. The prayer follows a standard format outlined at the start of this year.

This Sunday we have two parents transferring their membership from a Presbyterian church in Mexico. Also, in the service, their two young boys will be baptised. This is the second Mexican family to join us in the last year. Praise God our little church is growing!



Martin Baxter (clerk)

Bible study continues to take place online every second Friday.

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

Not at this time nor in the foreseeable future.

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

Not at this time nor in the foreseeable future.

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

We ask that you pray for our pianist, Ruth Cheung, who has had to take a leave for several weeks due to her father's failing health. We miss her and her ministry. It's a large hole in our worship and church family.

St John's Presbyterian Church, White Rock, B.C
February 2023

This is my first report since fulfilling the role of Interim Moderator of St John's at the end of last year. St John's has been through a recent and painful parting of their ways with the previous minister. This not only lead to emotional and pastoral scars but also a huge financial burden to the congregation. In my time with them thus far, I experience them as deeply appreciative of the simplest of gestures and help. St John's is like many Presbyterian churches, aging and declining compared to previous numbers but they are also ideally situated in White Rock with an affluent and fairly religious community.

Ministries

Knowing the rejuvenating effect of a missional approach and projects in a congregation, I inquired about current and past ministries. Something most mentioned with good memories is a food hub ministry that were ran from the church in the past. This was done in collaboration with other churches and role players and the congregation even received an award for it from the city.



Martin Baxter (clerk)

I invested some time in locating the names of role players in and outside of the congregation who were part of this ministry. We are currently getting these leaders into conversation, exploring the possibility to restart this ministry. The idea goes off well with the congregation. Valiant efforts has been made to declutter and revamp the kitchen to meet health and safety requirements and some members from a local Anglican church that shares the facilities has also pitched in. This venture holds promise.

A woman's group has since reconvened with good feedback. I also find a great degree of both formal and informal pastoral care for members among each other, especially those sick or in mourning.

Worship services continue with fair attendance and good pulpit supply as well as excellent music.

Challenges

The challenges St John's face is big given the capacity and strength of the congregation. The severance package that needs to be paid to Willem doesn't leave much funds at their disposal for ministry. We have written a request for help to Presbytery and eagerly await a response. Should St John's be able to soldier through the months remaining of Willem's severance package, it opens up many opportunities for growth and ministry.

Apart from this they share other common challenges like aging, numeric decline and a decline in offerings received.

Support from Presbytery required

As stated, a letter has been written to presbytery in this regard and is seen as a matter requiring urgent attention.

Prayer requests

I think St John's can do with prayers for inner healing, discernment, revival, provision and growth. Pray that partnerships will be forged that can keep ministry going in spite of the difficult season the congregation finds itself in. Pray for a missional vision as it is ever so tempting for a congregation to become too inwardly focused in a season such as this.

Thank you

Gabriel J Snyman



Martin Baxter (clerk)

The Presbytery of Westminster
Regular Meeting via ZOOM
March 07, 2023

2023-March 07-20

Interim Moderator: St John's Presbyterian Church
February 2023

The Ministry Committee will meet again on Tuesday March 21, 2023 on Zoom.

Respectfully submitted,
The Rev. Paddy Eastwood,
Convener,

With gratitude to Mr. Mike Zaine for convening the February meeting of the committee.

VISITATION COMMITTEE REPORT

The report was presented by Bev Feick, Visitation Committee Convener.

All motions, unless otherwise noted, were moved by Bev Feick, seconded by Woldy Sosnowsky.

Presbytery of Westminster Visitation

First Hungarian Church

January 23, 2023

Rev. Woldy Sosnowsky and Bev Feick (Lead) were given a tour of the sanctuary, renovated areas and the classroom for the Calvin classes, prior to our meeting with five Ruling Elders (7 in total)– two are a married couple. They practise a type of term Eldership – 4 year term – 2021 to 2025. The Clerk retired & was replaced by an additional Elder in 2022. The Elders permit their names to be nominated for the subsequent 4 year term which essentially is a continuum of service. A separate meeting was held with Rev Szigeti & his wife.

The Session and congregation are from a very wide geographical area. One Elder lives in Rosedale. Session meetings were held after Sunday worship.

The Calvin School is a Hungarian outreach program which teaches in native tongue to a high level. Several students use this as a provincial education second language. Initially the Calvin school was connected with the church but now is a separate entity. Some students do not attend the Sunday School program.

In discussion, the team was interested to have conversation with Minister and Elders about the following:

Please reflect upon the following areas of your congregation's ministry and tell of the strengths, challenges, and hopes for moving forward in these areas that you might have. We are interested to know-

- **Prior to May 2020**
- **During pandemic to present**



Martin Baxter (clerk)

- Highlight the positives
- What is new?

If your congregation has a vision or purpose statement, please share how this helps shape your ministries. In what ways might the Presbytery be of assistance to you in furthering them?

Rev Sosnowsky opened with Mark 1:14--18 As Jesus was walking along the lakeshore the men were on shore with their nets. They were “mending the nets”. Often our work in the church is not “fishing” – but “mending” , so we are able to fish when the fishing season/opportunity presents itself. So, our visit was with the “net-menders,” so to speak.

Worship & Sacraments

Before the pandemic March 2020, First Hungarian FHC had a decreasing but still very vibrant community with weekly regular worship services at 11AM followed by fellowship times with an average of 30-40 adults and 5-12 children attending on Sundays. In addition, the church life included sacraments, bible studies, East Hastings food and gospel services, bible camps, children’s baptisms, weddings.

When the pandemic arrived, church and social gatherings closed. Rev Szigeti prepared and shared daily short devotions and prayers (in Hungarian) to 124 e-mail addresses (members and adherents) for more than one and half years. Also, they established a YouTube online streaming channel for Sunday worship with the assistance of an Elder (John Szucs) who is an IT engineer. In addition, a Hungarian Canadian Reformed Minister’s online common worship from Nova Scotia to BC with 9-12 ministers was organized once a month (most of them Presbyterian ministers). An Elder said that they were very grateful that no Sunday worship was skipped since they were able to set up online streaming very quickly. The congregation was able to have the Lord’s Supper Communion as well online, with the bread and wine taken in everyone’s home. Bible studies were offered zoom online. In addition, there were special celebrations with video recorded puppet play shows for children and adults at Christmas and Easter.

After restrictions were lifted, FHPC celebrated the hybrid model of worship - continued with the online streaming and YouTube channel live with an average over 100 views registered (not real time but after a week). Church in person attendance decreased to approximately 20 adults and 2-6 children per Sunday. They returned wearing masks, no singing, pre-packaged sacrament, and physical distancing in the pews . They are trying to attract people to organize special events (as jazz and classical music concerts), but finding it difficult to call them for worship in person. They re-started cooking and making pastries (Bazaars), selling them like a curb side pick up to keep church financially alive.

Pastoral Care

Rev Szigeti visited members regularly while in care homes, hospital, or palliative care on a regular basis prior to



Martin Baxter (clerk)

Covid. During Covid, this was maintained by telephone or online. Some members have no immediate family in the area & Rev Szigeti is often named as the contact.

First Hungarian does not have Elders' Districts per se. Their culture leans more to the minister being the sole pastoral care giver.

Christian Education

Before Covid, there was a monthly bible study hosted by a congregant. Attempts were made during the pandemic to have zoom bible studies. A weekly prayer group met at 9PM on Fridays during the pandemic, by zoom. After restrictions were lifted, in-person Bible Study reconvened, and have been hosted by different congregation members in their homes, or at the minister's home. They are working hard to rebuild the congregation. Some beloved, long time, faithful members have died – also a reason for the decrease in numbers.

There is regular Sunday School in the church classroom, (children leave the sanctuary just before the sermon), but was not offered during the pandemic. During the pandemic, Rev Szigeti led 3 youth weekly, to prepare for their confirmation of faith. Their families attended a closed ceremony – described as a heartwarming blessed event during summer 2021 when restrictions was eased somewhat. Currently there are no confirmation aged children in the congregation.

First Hungarian is considering an invitation to a famous Hungarian psychologist; a devoted Christian, and elder Dr. Eموke Tapolyai, to teach about family conflicts management and social behaviour issues.

Finances/Stewardship

Regular fundraising activities (bazaars/lunch/sausage/bake sales) stopped during the pandemic. Some prepared goods before the lock-down were delivered to those who ordered them. These sales resumed in November 2022.

Prior to covid, 3 congregations rented the church building and provided stable income for a long term. During the pandemic lockdown, rent was not collected for 7 months, however they did receive the government subsidy.

They lost one of their long-time renters, a Korean congregation, which caused some financial concern. They continue to search for other renters as it is a significant part of their financial stability.

Since the visit, a Filipino Penecostal congregation began to meet at FHC in February 2023. The church is operating with a balanced budget, again.

In the annual meeting minutes February 2022, it is noted that there were additional expenses reported from a break- in October /21. Permission was given from Presbytery to use \$12,000.00 from proceeds of manse sale to compensate.



Martin Baxter (clerk)

Land Owner Transparency Report LOTR was discussed. All is compliant.

Renovations (Hall, washrooms, sanctuary) were funded by \$50,000 from an adherent donor, a business owner, and a successful application of \$32,000 grant from the Hungarian Government Diaspora Fund. .

"It is a miracle as we had opportunity to renew all the building during Covid pandemic. From these sources we have accomplished an entire, full inside renovation of the church building. New floors, remodelled modern washrooms, remodelled kitchen with brand new kitchen furnitures, paintings... etc. We got all the highly trained and working professionals from our community working from their heart and on a very reasonable price."

Mission/Outreach

Before Covid, the church participated in a mission on east Hastings providing monthly service and meals to homeless and all those who needed it. This mission stopped due to the pandemic. They plan to resume this in the near future.

During the pandemic with online sharing, they organized puppet shows with a Christian message and a Christmas play as well.

Early in 2022, they sent financial support to 2 congregations dealing with refugees from Ukraine close to the Hungarian border. Rev Szigeti "had four classmates from Ukraine during five years theological education in Gaspar Karoli University, Budapest. They went back to serve as ministers in Hungarian Reformed Churches in Ukraine Sub-Carpatian region. They had ongoing contact with them during war.

In addition they sent a donation to Bótrágy Ukrainian: Батрадь, five kilometers away from Hungarian border. The congregation is overwhelmed with refugees, most of them heading to Hungary but few staying behind when it is safe. The minister is Rev. Ferenc Kaszonyi.

The other donation was a contribution to a shipment to the frontline through a Ukranian Christian aid organization. They delivered basic conserve food and hygiene supplies from Hungary to Ungvár (Uzhhorod, Ukrainian: Ўжгород) They reloaded these to smaller trucks to deliver it to war effected zones. The organizer minister is Rev. Gusztav Fodor."

First Hungarian is hoping to renew their concerts with community lunch after Sunday worship.

Administration/Communication

Prior to Covid the session met in person after the Sunday service. During the pandemic the meetings moved to zoom and were held on a monthly basis. In 2022 the session meetings continued as hybrid after the Sunday service. Ongoing Session communication continued with email and phone calls.

"The communication – outreach intensified through pandemic. Our minister wrote daily emails with prayers to the



Martin Baxter (clerk)

members of the congregation; this way the congregation was in daily spiritual community and we prayed for the end of the pandemic.”

90% of congregants have e-mail addresses and also are able to participate via zoom when necessary.

Leading with Care

Although the term is somewhat familiar, it is not formalized. It will be pursued further following the visit.

Other areas you might like to comment upon:

- Skills inventory – this is not a topic of discussion at FHC but with such a closely bonded family, no doubt all are aware of the special skills within the congregation.
- Virtual services – will these be ongoing? –
Yes, they find that they can reach a broader audience, although it is an ongoing concern for some who feel that it is a detractor to in person worship service attendance & who also feel that it impacts their finances. This led to our discussion of PAR. Although there was not a clear understanding of PAR ie form through United Church, Session did not expect that there would be a great acceptance of PAR.
- The Remits are a major concern for First Hungarian Church. Although the explanation of “freedom of conscience” seemed to be a clarification for some, the inch by inch process to the current stage of the remits continues to be a concern for some.

● Highlight the positives

“We are amazed as God has sent and ordered people to the tasks and services. We are shrinking in numbers, but we have still many servants to operate different fields of services. We had an elder’s election during covid. But... the church membership became small. Many faithful are missing.

● What is new?

We have started puppet show ministry for children and adults during covid – and it was received very well in the community. We want to continue it. We are organizing concerts after worship – it is also a success. It is not new – but we are trying to re-establish our home bible study circle from UBC till Chilliwack and North Vancouver to White Rock.”

The Elders are very positive about the Ministry of Rev Szigeti and the effectiveness of the church. It was noted during the Elders’ discussion that Rev Szigeti vacations only 3 weeks annually. Rev Szigeti’s health has improved



Martin Baxter (clerk)

greatly since his illness in 2021.

Recommendations:

1. That Elders ensure that Rev Szigeti takes all entitled time away from the pulpit annually. CARRIED
2. To give thanks for the inspiring work of First Hungarian's Minister and Elders during a very difficult era for the special culture of Hungarian Christians.

CARRIED

Respectfully submitted

Rev Woldy Sosnowsky

Bev Feick

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE REPORT-PART 2

The report was presented by Martin Baxter, Administrative Committee Convener. All motions, unless otherwise noted, moved by Martin Baxter, seconded by Paddy Eastwood.

Part 2

Notice of Upcoming Presbytery Meetings - REVISED

March 28, 2023 Meeting of Presbytery via ZOOM, 7pm

April 22, 2023 Follow up meeting from Feb 11th 2023

9am-3pm

@ St Andrew's & St Stephen's, North Vancouver

May 2, 2023 In-person Presbytery meeting

@ Calvin Presbyterian Church

Dinner 6pm

Constitution 7pm

June 20, 2023 In-person Presbytery meeting,

@ Trinity Presbyterian Church (TBC)

Dinner 6pm



Martin Baxter (clerk)

Constitution 7pm

Notice of Upcoming Synod of BC meeting

Calvin Presbyterian Church have volunteered to host the upcoming SYNOD meeting in October 2023. Thank you Calvin.

Moderator-Elect for June 2023-June 2024

The Administrative Committee are please to make the following recommendation

Recommendation # 8 That Rev. Dr. Ross Lockhart be nominated as moderator-elect of the Presbytery of Westminster, for June 2023-June 2024

CARRIED

Application for Retirement Pension

As per the process set by the Pension & Benefits office of the Presbyterian Church in Canada, and at the request of Rev. Dr. Chin Chai Wang, we are bringing forth the following

Recommendation # 9 That the application of Rev. Dr. Chin Chai Wang to retire from the ministry of the Presbyterian Church in Canada be granted.

CARRIED

GENTLE REMINDERS ...

1. Land Owner Transparency Registry - At your "upcoming" congregational meetings remember to "homologate" the decision to have one of your trustees sign off on your transparency report in 2022. (refer to Administrative Cte report to Presbytery, Nov 1 2022)
2. Land Owner Transparency Registry - If any change occurs to your congregational appointed trustees from 2022 to 2023 you **MUST** file update transparency reports. Katrina can help with that. (*You do NOT need to update / re-sign your latest Trust Deeds*)
3. 2022 Congregational Statistical Reports - Here's the link to complete your report. <https://form.jotform.com/90035760522955>

PLEASE forward a copy of your completed reports to the Presbytery Clerk, on completion.

4. Online voting for Moderator of the 2023 GA - Presbyters on the Constituent Roll of Presbytery, as of Jan 15th 2023, should have received an email on Tuesday 21st February, regarding voting



Martin Baxter (clerk)

instructions. Please double check your SPAM folder if you can not find the email in your inbox.

Respectfully submitted,

Martin Baxter
Presbytery Clerk

ADJOURNMENT

The Moderator reminded the court of the upcoming meetings of presbytery, detailed in the Admin Cte report.

Then, the Moderator offered a prayer to adjourn the meeting, at 9:50pm.

Rev. Laurie McKay (Moderator of Presbytery)



Martin Baxter (clerk)