

OTTAWA PRESBYTERY MEETING, OCTOBER 10, 2017

The Ottawa Presbytery was called by the Chair, Rev. Steve Clifton, to meet on Tuesday, October 10, 2017 at Orleans United Church, Orleans.

THE FOLLOWING REGISTERED THEIR ATTENDANCE:

Order of Ministry: Angela Bailey, Elaine Beattie, Molly Bell, Nancy Best, Elizabeth Bryce, Beverley Buckingham, Steve Clifton, Nancy Colton, Trish Elliott, Ed Gratton, Stewart Hewlett, Richard Hollingsworth, Andrew Jensen, Jennie Leslie, Eric Lukacs, Laurie McKnight, Grant McNeil, Anne Montgomery, Steve Moore, Stan Parkhouse, Kathryn Peate, Caroline Penhale, Ken Robinson, Arlyce Schiebout, Jamie Scott, Glen Stoudt, Whit Strong, Kim Vidal, Neil Wallace (29)

Lay: Margaret Armstrong, Eileen Ball, Charles Barrett, Nicole Beaudry, John Benson, Reg Best, Cam Bowes, Janice Burroughs, Derek Carlisle, John Douglas, Alyce Dunnewold, Marg Eddy, Jodi Fisher, Beth Gutsell, Caroline Harry, Marilyn Joseph, Peggy Kinsley, Gail Kirkconnell, Charles Knight, Kimberly Lavoie, David Lee, Phyllis MacRae, George Neville, David Patterson, Evelyn Perkins, Barbara Reynolds, Doug Robinson, Alison Sales, Paul Sales, Ron Scharfe, Heather Smith, David Stafford, Maureen Stark, Cathy Stewart, Desna Sulway, Sara Surjadinata, Tom Tanner, Jim Watchorn (38)

Candidate: Jessica Hetherington

Guest: Don MacArtney

Regrets: Rev. Anthony Bailey, Alice Black, Rev. Dianne Cardin, Rev. George Clifford, Rev. Brian Copeland, Rev. Brian Cornelius, Rev. Paul Dillman, Dietlind Gardell, Bryan Giffin, Rev. Daniel Gilroy, Rev. Christine Gross, Jackie Kearns, Natalie Istead, Mary Laidlaw, Rev. Alcris Limongi, Rev. Jack Lovering, Melodee Lovering, Norma McCord, Wendy McCracken, Rev. Hilary Merritt, Rev. Robert Merritt, Kay Porteous, Rev. Stanley Ralph, Christine Rhodes, Janice Péron, Joy Ruttan, Ruth Sword, Joyce Williams, Joan Wyatt.

Corresponding: Wendy Mather

CALL TO ORDER

Rev. Steve Clifton, Chair of the Ottawa Presbytery, called the meeting to order at 6:40 pm. Charles Knight was parliamentarian and quorum was met.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chair Steve Clifton noted that there was an item that should be added to the agenda:

- Staff Ministry Team: **Motion**

Motion: (Ed Gratton/Jamie Scott) that the agenda be adopted as amended.

Carried

WELCOME TO MEMBERS OF THE COURT & GUESTS

Rev. Steve Clifton welcomed the court and any guests to the Presbytery meeting. Don Macartney from Navan-Vars Pastoral Charge was introduced.

Motion: (Anne Montgomery/Alyce Dunnewold) that Don Macartney be made a corresponding member for this meeting. **Carried**

WORDS OF WELCOME

Elayne Bonnell from Queenswood United Church and Judith Tompkins from Orleans United Church welcomed the presbyters to this meeting hosted by the two congregations. They outlined a program, developed by Heather McGrath from Orleans and offered by Orleans and Queenswood, for caregivers. The first sessions were on Caring for Caregivers. The next sessions will be on grief and loss and will and will be held on five Tuesdays, November 7 to December 5, 2017 from 1:30-3:30 pm at Queenswood. Topics will include: defining grief, finding the holy in grief, First Nations' spiritual practices for dealing with grief, living with grief and speaking to children about loss and death. Anyone interested in attending should contact Heather McGrath (hmcgraths@gmail.com).

WORSHIP

Rev. Nancy Best began worship with an opening prayer that she wrote, published in the book, "A Child Laughs: Prayers of Justice and Hope" by Maria Mankin and Maren C. Tirabassi. The court sang MV #7, *Gather Us In / Rassemble-nous*. Rev. Molly Bell read Deuteronomy 8: 7 – 18; Rev. Nancy and Rev. Caroline Penhale gave a reflection, "An Abundant New Land" on the scripture reading. Nicole Beaudry led the time of prayer with a Photoméditation – *Merci!*, prepared by Claire Borel-Christen and herself. Worship concluded with the singing of *One More Step Along the Road I Go*, VU #639. Paul Sales from Orleans United provided the piano accompaniment during worship.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion: (Phyllis MacRae/David Lee) that the minutes of the September 12, 2017 meeting of Ottawa Presbytery be approved as circulated and the minutes of the August 24, 2017 and September 5, 2017 meetings of the Executive be received for information. **Carried**

CORRESPONDENCE

Rev. Steve Clifton read a thank you card from Rick Balson.

PASTORAL RELATIONS MINISTRY TEAM

The Pastoral Relations Ministry Team, acting as a commission, adopted the following motions:

October 4, 2017

Aylwin Pastoral Charge - Pastoral Charge Supervisor

Motion: (*Cardin / Sweetnam*) that Ottawa Presbytery appoints the Rev. Elizabeth Bryce as the pastoral charge supervisor for the Aylwin Pastoral Charge. **Carried**

Grace Pastoral Charge – Natalie Istead – Extension of Appointment

Motion: (*Fisher / R. Merritt*) that the Ottawa Presbytery transmits with approval to the Montreal and Ottawa Conference the request of the Grace Pastoral Charge to extend the appointment of Natalie Istead, Candidate, full-time, effective January 1, 2018 to June 30, 2018 with the following terms: full-time (40 hrs/week) with an annual salary of \$55,040 plus 0% (total salary \$55,040), telephone provided; continuing education expenses reimbursed in the amount of \$1,393 per pastoral year; minimum three weeks study leave, including Sundays in each pastoral year; minimum one month (five Sundays) annual vacation in each pastoral year, participation in the Centralized Payroll Service; pension and group insurance payments as assessed; adequate office assistance described as five hours per week; travel expense reimbursement as logged based on the minimum General Council rate (currently \$0.39/km). Category Step 1 COL 3. **Carried**

Motion: (Jodi Fisher/Barbara Reynolds) that Ottawa Presbytery receive the report of the Pastoral Relations Ministry Team working as a Commission from September 13-, 2017 – October 10, 2017. **Carried**

NOMINATIONS MINISTRY TEAM

Barbara Reynolds announced that Beth Gutsell, presbyter from Parkdale United Church, has offered to be the coordinator for the church records review in 2018. She thanked Beth for agreeing to do this.

FRENCH LANGUAGE MINISTRY TEAM

Nicole Beaudry showed a video *Photomédtation – Merci!* to demonstrate a new resource from *Ministères en français*. These *photomédtations* (created by Nicole) are a series of 3-7 minute videos combining photos, music and texts, and are a resource for individual or small group prayers. They can be found in *l'Infolettre des Ministères en français* at www.egliseunie.org or on www.youtube.com.

STAFF MINISTRY TEAM

Motion: (Andrew Jensen/John Benson) that the signing authority be assigned to the Chair, Rev. Steve Clifton for the dates of October 15-22, 2017 inclusive. **Carried**

Rev. Steve Moore reported that he had spoken with Rev. David Sherwin earlier in the day. David had been doing well with his recovery at home until he fell on the stairs the day before and broke the hip he had just had surgery on. He will be having surgery in the morning and his convalescence will be longer than planned. There was a moment of prayer for David with his upcoming surgery, and for his recovery.

IN MEMORIAM: REV. DOUG HEARD

Bev Buckingham led in a remembrance of the life of Rev. Doug Heard.

See Appendix 1

IN MEMORIAM: REV. CHUCK SPICER

Rev. Steve Clifton led in a remembrance of the life of Rev. Chuck Spicer.

See Appendix 2

PRESENTATION TO PHYLLIS MACRAE

David Lee stated that it was a pleasure to speak to Phyllis MacRae's term as Chair of Ottawa Presbytery. He focused on three points:

- Her work on the issues covered by the remits, in particular Remit 1 on the new regional councils;
- Her theme of Regeneration – including a workshop on regeneration of pastoral charges or communities of faith;
- Her devotion to the cause of multifaith housing. Phyllis' work led to a large increase in support from Ottawa Presbytery for Multifaith Housing Inc.'s projects and to a spectacular success in the Presbytery's capital campaign for The Haven.

Presbyters sang the following song, written by David Lee, to the tune of *Let Us a Build a House* – MV #1:

*Let us build a house where fear is moot
And all can safely live:
A place where folks from everywhere
Can spread their wings and thrive.
Built of hopes and dreams and visions,
Rock of peace and values shared,
Here the welcome mat is ever present –
All are welcome, all are welcome,
All are welcome in this place.*

*Let us build a house Anne Squire could bless,
Could offer it her prayers;
A place where new and old can grow
From violence forbear.
Hear the past shall shed its terror,
Here the future beckon – “fore!
Here the joy of sharing ends divisions –
All are welcome, all are welcome,
All are welcome in this place.*

REV. ELAINE BEATTIE, PRESIDENT OF MONTREAL & OTTAWA CONFERENCE

Rev. Steve Clifton welcomed Rev. Elaine Beattie, minister at Manotick United Church and current President of Montreal & Ottawa Conference to the meeting. Rev. Elaine brought greetings from the Conference and noted that it is expected that the next Conference Annual General Meeting will be the last one. The theme will be “From the past will come our future”. The plan is for the meeting to be in two parts – the first will be an online business meeting and the second will be an in-person day-long celebration, with the celebration of ministries service in the afternoon.

She gave an update on the Remits, noting that, if Remit #1 passes at GC 43, on December 31, 2018 presbyteries and Conferences will cease to exist and there will be new regional councils. A

regional council Boundaries Commission was established on September 30, 2017 by General Council Executive. As a Commission, it will be empowered to take final decisions on the number and boundaries of the regional councils, among other matters. Nine members were appointed to the Boundaries Commission, including Nicole Beaudry from Ottawa Presbytery. Members are to issue an interim report not later than January 10, 2018. After receiving and considering the responses, they will issue a final report by March 15, 2018. A member of the commission will be attending the Montreal & Ottawa Conference retreat in November.

Presbyters were then invited to ask questions or offer comments. These included:

- a request to have an in-person business meeting at the Montreal & Ottawa Conference AGM;
- concern that candidates might not be allowed to continue following the same process as they had begun;
- support for the division of the AGM into two parts – business and celebration;
- when information about implications for congregations themselves might be available; and
- how much information has been shared from areas that have piloted new models, e.g. BC Conference.

Rev. Elaine Beattie will share these comments with Montreal & Ottawa Conference. She noted that for more information about remits, the updated website is: <http://www.united-church.ca/leadership/church-administration/remit-implementation> and the email is: remits@united-church.ca.

THE HAVEN: MEMORIAL PLAQUE

Phyllis MacRae reminded presbyters that the dedication of the memorial plaque at The Haven will be held on Sunday, October 29th at 2:00 pm. An invitation will be sent to all presbyters.

ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE MINISTRY TEAM

Jessica Hetherington and Rev. Caroline Penhale, Co-Chairs of the Environmental and Climate Change Working Group, gave a report including the following information:

- In 2015, Ottawa Presbytery voted to reduce its carbon footprint by 25% by 2020, for an annual reduction of 5% per year.
 - In 2016, two small working groups were created: an Education and Advocacy group and a Carbon Emissions project group, Project Footprint.
 - In 2017, these two groups merged. The other members are David Lee, David White and Guy Faubert.
 - In 2017 Embracing the Spirit funding to create a website and hold a resourcing event was received. The committee is still in the planning stages with the event; the website has been launched, www.eccottawa.ca.
 - The Project Footprint group set out to create a baseline of energy use that would be needed to measure the reductions in the churches' carbon footprints. It was hoped to get a minimum response rate of 80% in order to get a fairly accurate baseline. The response rate was 33%. It will be possible to construct a baseline of the churches that provided data or access to data; that information will be available on the website. The response rate was not high enough to provide a baseline for the Presbytery as a whole.
-

- Collaborative relationships were formed with other environmental organizations including Citizens for Public Justice, Ecology Ottawa, and Faith and the Common Good.

Due to time and workload constraints, Jessica Hetherington and Rev. Caroline Penhale will be stepping down from this committee at the end of December and are seeking wisdom on the next steps for environmental and climate change work in Ottawa Presbytery. There was an opportunity for presbyters to comment and ask questions. It was noted that congregations can obtain information from the website: www.eccottawa.ca, which also includes links to other local organizations working in the area of environment and climate change.

The Chair expressed profound gratitude to Rev. Caroline Penhale, Jessica Hetherington and members of the Environmental and Climate Change Working Group on behalf of the presbytery. There was a round of applause.

REGIONAL BOUNDARIES WORKSHOP

There will be a regional boundaries workshop on Saturday, October 14th at City View United Church to share information; identify and reflect upon key issues and questions and develop views/positions on any issues and concerns that Ottawa Presbytery decides are important to convey to the Commission on a timely basis in its work. This is open to all presbyters and also to any others from congregations who may wish to engage in a comparable consultation within their church.

REMIT #6: ONE ORDER OF MINISTRY

Rev. Jamie Scott reminded Presbyters that Remit #6 – One Order of Ministry is a category 3 remit, i.e. presbyteries and pastoral charges are to vote on it. Results of voting are to be submitted by February 28, 2018. Ottawa Presbytery is offering two identical Remit #6 workshops. Presentations will be given on each of the three categories - Ordained, Diaconal and Designated Lay Ministers, followed by a short Q&A session. The workshops will be on Wednesday, November 1, 2017, 6:30-8:30 pm at Rideau Park United Church and on Saturday, November 4, 2017, 9:30-11:30 am at City View United Church. The workshops are designed to provide information on the evolution of each category, how each function today and what will be their development in the future if Remit #6 is passed. Presbytery will be voting on Remit #6 at its meeting on December 12, 2017.

NOVEMBER PRESBYTERY MEETING

Chair Steve Clifton reminded the court that the next presbytery meeting, November 14th at Woodroffe United Church, is a program meeting. There will be a facilitated discussion on organizational change, led by Michael Presley from Rideau Park United Church. There will also be an update from Presbytery's Regional Boundaries Working Group at the November meeting.

MOTION TO GIVE FULL POWERS

Motion: (Andrew Jensen/Caroline Penhale) that the Presbytery Executive be given the full powers of the Presbytery in all matters including property between the end of this meeting and the next meeting of Presbytery. **Carried**

CLOSING WORSHIP

Paul Sales gave a theological reflection through piano music - including *In the Bulb There is a Flower*, *God of the Sparrow* and *What a Friend We Have in Jesus*. The court sang *The Day You Gave Us Lord, is Ended*, MV #437. Rev. Molly Best gave a benediction.

CONCLUSION BY THE CHAIR

Rev. Steve Clifton, Chair, closed the meeting at 9:10 pm.

The next regular meeting of Ottawa Presbytery is called for Tuesday, November 14, 2017; the Executive next meets on Thursday, October 26, 2017.

Rev. Steve Clifton
Chair

Rev. Steve Moore
Acting Presbytery Minister

Wendy Mather
Recording Secretary

Appendix 1

The United Church of Canada
L'Église Unie du Canada

Ottawa Presbytery
Consistoire d'Ottawa

2017-159
Ottawa, Ontario
October 10, 2017



Appendix 2

Reverend Charles Ernest "Chuck" Spicer. 1943-2017

Shared by Rev. Steve Clifton, Ottawa Presbytery, October 10, 2017

On September 8, family and friends gathered at Rideau Park United Church to celebrate the life of the Rev. Charles Ernest **Chuck** Spicer.

In the days before the service, as the news of Chuck's passing was shared, wherever I went in Ottawa United Church circles, people remembered Chuck to me. At a telephone meeting of the Presbytery Executive for instance, when business concluded, we remembered Chuck together; many stories were shared and many connections were spoken of.... Chuck had touched many of us in his life and in his ministry.

Chuck was a friend to many of us in Ottawa Presbytery. He was a pastor, a colleague, a chaplain...Whenever he was remembered among us, it was with warmth and appreciation. Remembering Chuck brought a smile with the memories because in life Chuck had that effect on people: his sense of humor, his kindness, his openness to those he met made him beloved among us.

Chuck spent most of his years in Ottawa Presbytery as Chaplain at the Royal Ottawa Hospital. The first time that I met Chuck was in that capacity. My brother-in-law James participated in some outpatient groups at the ROH that Chuck coordinated. James admired Chuck for his kindness and his compassion. He spoke of him with gratitude. For the patients of the ROH, Chuck brought to them in his unique way, a sense that they were valued, an open heart, a listening ear and a ready smile. For those on the margins of society, the vulnerable or the wounded Chuck was a balm of healing, an oasis of ready acceptance and warmth.

Chuck served in a number of pastoral charges in our Presbytery, at Emmanuel, Rideau Park and Dominion-Chalmers. He was part of our ministry team at Rideau Park from 2005 through 2008 and part of our faith community in his retirement.

The people of Rideau Park loved Chuck. As Minister of Pastoral Care he was a devoted care giver, compassionate and attentive to our people when they were in a vulnerable time. As a colleague he was a gift. He asked great questions from his unique perspective. He was wise and insightful and he was funny. Always and everywhere he was compassionate.

Chuck Spicer had many gifts that made him a great pastor and friend. But one that I would lift up tonight is Chuck's remarkable openness, his courageous vulnerability.

Henri Nouwen wrote that the way that darkness makes progress in the world is by convincing us that we should not be vulnerable. We learn to keep our brokenness, our struggles to ourselves. Nouwen wrote too that the darkness recedes when we are able to share vulnerability. Then, in shared weakness, we find strength in one another.

Chuck Spicer lived life and ministry with a most remarkable openness. He risked being vulnerable in such a way that people could be open and vulnerable with him. For someone who dedicated his life to people in vulnerable circumstances, his was a most welcome and unique gift.

We are grateful for the life of Rev Chuck Spicer and for the great gifts he shared in life and ministry.

Chuck will be deeply missed by Karen Spicer, Allison and Paul Tomka, and his grandson, Jamison Tomka, as well as by many friends and colleagues.

For Chuck we say these words of blessing: The Lord bless you, and keep you: May the Lord make his face shine upon you, and be gracious unto you: May the Lord lift up his countenance upon you, and give you peace. Now. And always. **AMEN**
