

**OTTAWA PRESBYTERY MEETING, NOVEMBER 14, 2017**

The Ottawa Presbytery was called by the Chair, Rev. Steve Clifton, to meet on Tuesday, November 14, 2017 at Woodroffe United Church, Ottawa.

**THE FOLLOWING REGISTERED THEIR ATTENDANCE:**

**Order of Ministry:** Angela Bailey, Anthony Bailey Nancy Best, Elizabeth Bryce, Erin Burns, George Clifford, Steve Clifton, Ted Colwell, Brian Copeland, Brian Cornelius, Paull Dillman, Georgina Fitzgerald, Michael Gibbons, Daniel Gilroy, Ed Gratton, Stewart Hewlett, Richard Hollingsworth, Andrew Jensen, Jennie Leslie, Don Maclean, Hilary Merritt, Robert Merritt, Anne Montgomery, Steve Moore, James Murray, Janet Nield, Stan Parkhouse, Kathryn Peate, Ken Robinson, Arlyce Schiebout, Jamie Scott, Whit Strong, Kim Vidal (33)

**Lay:** Margaret Armstrong, Pat Ashton, Eileen Ball, Charles Barrett, Nicole Beaudry, John Benson, Reg Best, Alice Black, Cam Bowes, Janice Burroughs, Molly Colwell, John Douglas, Alyce Dunnewold, Marg Eddy, Phil Fay, Jodi Fisher, Dietlind Gardell, Grant Gilliland, Beth Gutsell, Caroline Harry, Trish Hassard, Nancy Hazen, Brian Irvine, Jackie Kearns, Peggy Kinsley, Gail Kirkconnell, Charles Knight, Mary Laidlaw, Kimberly Lavoie, David Lee, Lorrie Lowes, Don Macartney, Phyllis MacRae, Norma McCord, Anne Montgomery, Sue Morrison, George Neville, David Patterson, Evelyn Perkins, Janice Péron, Kay Porteous, Barbara Reynolds, Doug Robinson, David Rockwell, Joy Ruttan, Heather Smith, Jeffrey Smith, Wendy Snelgrove, David Stafford, Maureen Stark, Cathy Stewart, Desna Sulway, Sara Surjadinata, Tom Tanner, Sandra Tompkins, Margaret Torrance, Keith Vodden, Margaret Wallace, Ron Walsh, Jim Watchorn, Joyce Williams, Joan Wyatt, Ev Zytveld (63)

**Lay Ministers:** (including the categories of DLM, DLM Applicant, DLM not recognized, Retired DLM, Retained DLM, Student Intern and Student Supply): Natalie Istead, Claire Savage, Ruth Sword

**Guests:** David Sword, Marg Wooley

**Regrets:** Rev. Elaine Beattie, Rev. Molly Bell, Rev. Karen Boivin, Rev. Susan Butler-Jones, Derek Carlisle, Rev. Gail Christy, Rev. Nancy Colton, Rev. Christine Gross, Rev. Christine Johnson, Wendy McCracken, Rev. Laurie McKnight, Rev. Grant McNeil, Rev. Stanley Ralph, Alison Sales, Rev. Carla Van Delen, Rev. Peter Woods

**Corresponding:** Wendy Mather, Michael Presley

**CALL TO ORDER**

Rev. Steve Clifton, Chair of the Ottawa Presbytery, called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm. Charles Knight was parliamentarian and quorum was met.

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### **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**Motion:** (Barbara Reynolds/Andrew Jensen) that the agenda be adopted as circulated. **Carried**

### **WELCOME TO MEMBERS OF THE COURT & GUESTS**

Rev. Steve Clifton welcomed the court and guests to the Presbytery meeting. The following guests were introduced:

- Ray Cuthbert, Chair of Council at Woodroffe United Church, and his daughter, Katie by Rev. Kathryn Peate
- Ron Walsh, new Presbyter from Shawville United Church, by Rev. Richard Hollingsworth;
- Jeffrey Smith, new Presbyter from First, by himself; and
- Michael Presley, from Rideau Park United Church, by Rev. Elizabeth Bryce.

**Motion:** (Alyce Dunnewold and Paul Dillman) that Ray Cuthbert and Michael Presley be made corresponding members for this meeting. **Carried**

### **WORDS OF WELCOME**

Ray Cuthbert, Chair of Council at Woodroffe United Church welcomed the court to Woodroffe United Church. He noted that Woodroffe had just had its most successful bazaar ever; as well as being a fundraiser, it also returns gently used items back to the community at very affordable prices. Music is an important part of life at Woodroffe; during the month of December there will be an event or concert almost every night.

Ray stated that when Woodroffe hosted a Presbytery meeting earlier in the year they had just started their revitalization journey with the help of Bob Richards and Edge. The Revitalization Team is guiding the congregation on this journey to understand more about itself and what it is being called to do as a church.

### **WORSHIP**

Rev. Kathryn Peate, Minister at Woodroffe United Church, led worship. The Call to Worship was inspired by Psalm 98, Acts 10:44-48, and John 15:9-17. Tour de Four, a barbershop quartet who practice at Woodroffe, sang *Can You Feel the Love Tonight?* The scripture reading was Psalm 100. Rev. Kathryn Peate and Joe Smarkala read, *Balloons Belong in Church*, from *Reaching for Rainbows* by Ann Weems, responsively. Following a prayer and the Lord's Prayer, Tour de Four sang Leonard Cohen's Hallelujah. Rev. Kathryn gave a benediction and the court sang *May the God of Hope*, VU #424.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**Motion:** (Andrew Jensen/Barbara Reynolds) that the minutes of the October 10 2017 meeting of Ottawa Presbytery and the Covenanting Services on October 22, 2017 and November 5 and 12, 2017 be approved as circulated, and the minutes of the September 23, 2017 and October 6, 2017 meetings of the Executive be received for information. **Carried**

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**CORRESPONDENCE**

Rev. Steve Moore reported that, due to an infection, Rev. David Sherwin had had surgery (the third time for his hip) last week. David is now recovering at home with antibiotics. Barbara Reynolds has provided several birthday cards for presbyters to send to David; his birthday David's birthday is the week following the Presbytery meeting.

**PASTORAL RELATIONS MINISTRY TEAM REPORT**

Barbara Reynolds, Co-Chair of the Pastoral Relations Ministry Team, reported that Pastoral Relations had met as a Commission just prior to the Presbytery meeting. The report will be brought to the December Presbytery meeting.

**FAREWELL**

Barbara Reynolds noted that Rev. Nancy Colton retired at the end of October as a military chaplain; she will be continuing as Ministry Personnel (in search of a call or appointment) in Ottawa Presbytery. Nancy was unable to attend this meeting but will be recognized at the December Presbytery meeting.

Barbara Reynolds stated that Rev. Anne Montgomery had retired from Metcalfe United Church at the end of October. She recognized Anne's contributions to Presbytery over the years, including serving on the Education and Students Committee, as Chair of Presbytery, on Executive Committee and as Ottawa Presbytery representative on the Montreal & Ottawa Conference Executive. Barbara noted that she and Anne had usually stopped at Tim Horton's when they had travelled together to Executive meetings, so she presented her with a mug and gift card. Rev. Anne Montgomery thanked Barbara for her kind words.

**ORGANIZATIONAL CHANGE, LED BY MICHAEL PRESLEY**

Rev. Steve Clifton reminded members of Presbytery's theme for 2016-2017, Threshold. The Presbytery is definitely in a threshold – in 58 weeks it is expected that Presbyteries and Conferences will cease to exist. He introduced and welcomed Michael Presley, who is an active member of Rideau Park United Church. Michael is currently the director of the certificate program in regulatory leadership at the Centre for Public Management and Policy (Odell House) at the University of Ottawa. Before joining the University of Ottawa, he was Assistant Deputy Minister (Regulatory Affairs) at the Treasury Board Secretariat.

Michael gave seven broad observations about organizational change and illustrated these with his own experiences:

1. Organizational change is hard;
  2. Good qualities for leaders managing transition are experience, confidence, ethos and energy;
  3. "Culture eats strategy for breakfast...doesn't even wait for lunch or dinner";
  4. Are you betraying the deal you made when you entered the organization with this change?
  5. It is important to honour the past. Give space to grieve losing the status quo;
  6. Establish a new vision that is viable and implementable: Don't be Pollyanna; and
  7. The change management plan will take twice as long to implement as you expect.
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Michael Presley asked presbyters to consider the following questions in small groups (some of the answers are included below):

1. What are the three words that you would use to describe the culture of United Church of Canada (Ottawa Presbytery)?
  - aspirational, democratic and uniting
  - broadminded, courageous and inclusive
2. How would that culture affect you to make organizational change?
3. What worries you the most about leading this change?
  - What if we do all this work and then everyone leaves?
  - What is it going to look like?
  - Do we have enough courage to engage in the degree of change needed
4. If you could have three things to make this task easier, what would they be?
  - faith, courage, patience, forbearance and vitality.

Michael Presley stated that the comments of presbyters were well aligned with those of the Executive Committee in June. He concluded that members of Ottawa Presbytery understand the culture and this will help with success in the transition.

### **REGIONAL BOUNDARIES WORKING GROUP**

Rev. Steve Moore summarized the Regional Boundaries national process, starting from the General Council meeting in Ottawa 2012, when the Comprehensive Review Process was initiated, through to the remit process with presbyteries and pastoral charges. Presbyteries and pastoral charges voted yes to Remit #1: Three Council Model resulting in Conferences & presbyteries evolving into Regions. On September 30<sup>th</sup> the Boundaries Commission was struck with the mandate to (i) identify the number of regions and (ii) define the boundaries of these regions. Significant upcoming dates are:

January 10, 2018 - Interim Report of Boundaries Commission

January 24, 2018 - M&O Conference Executive convenes to discuss Interim Report and possible response; and

March 15, 2018 – Final Report with designated number of regions and their boundaries

Rev. Steve Clifton and Phyllis MacRae noted that much consultation had gone into the recent draft proposal submitted by Ottawa Presbytery's Regional Boundaries Working Group to the Boundaries Commission. This included an all-day Regional Boundaries Workshop where more than 50 Presbyters deliberated on such topics as the affinities of congregations, functional considerations including travel and financial viability. On November 9<sup>th</sup> the Chair of Ottawa Presbytery and four presbyters presented these findings to two of the Commissioners at a Montreal & Ottawa Conference meeting. Due to timing, this proposal was submitted as a draft. Presbytery now has the opportunity to finalize the submission.

Rev. Brian Cornelius stated that the draft proposal outlined:

1. Four general considerations for determining Regional Boundaries:
    - (i) Diversity within Regions as a benefit
    - (ii) Primary affinity be geographical proximity and connectedness
    - (iii) Functional effectiveness when considering size of Regions
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- (iv) Financial capacity for regional operations and mission possibility.
2. Three specific considerations that impact the Ottawa Presbytery:
  - (i) that the Outaouais remain in the same Region as the City of Ottawa;
  - (ii) widening the connection between Ottawa and the smaller Eastern Ontario cities and towns that are within a reasonable commute of Ottawa; and
  - (iii) that provincial boundaries not be a primary factor in determining the boundaries of regions.
3. Two boundary proposals
  - (i) Eastern Ontario Outaouais Region
  - (ii) Eastern Ontario Quebec Region

Presbyters divided into small groups to discuss the draft submission. Members of the Regional Boundaries Working Group circulated and answered any questions. Presbyters were then invited to report back on the discussions in their groups, if they so wished.

Presbyters were then asked to vote for one of three preferences:

- Eastern Ontario Outaouais; or
- Eastern Ontario Quebec; or
- Either option.

While both options were deemed viable and workable, Presbyters indicated a strong preference for the Eastern Ontario Outaouais option. This option received 68% support of the Presbytery while 12% preferred the Eastern Ontario Quebec option and 20% indicated satisfaction with either option. In the discussion it was noted that, while the Eastern Ontario Outaouais option was preferred because it seemed to best reflect the general and specific considerations, it was also clearly affirmed that if Quebec as a region by itself was not deemed viable or wise given cross country considerations, there was readiness to embrace the Eastern Ontario Quebec option either immediately or at a future date. The Ottawa Presbytery would support a review of the boundaries after the church has lived with them for at least five years.

**Motion:** (Brian Cornelius/Phyllis MacRae) that Ottawa Presbytery adopt the submission to the Boundaries Commission as amended. **Carried**

The members of the Regional Boundaries Working Group were thanked for all their work on this issue over the last two years.

**Motion:** (Norma McCord/David Stafford) that the Ottawa Presbytery meeting be extended until 9:15 pm. **Carried**

### **FINANCE MINISTRY TEAM REPORT**

Rev. Paul Dillman, Chair of the Finance Ministry Team, presented the draft 2018 Presbytery Budget, including Pastoral Charge Assessments, as a notice of motion. A vote to approve the 2018 budget will be held at the December 12, 2017 Presbytery meeting. He noted that assessments are calculated at 4% of a pastoral charge's average revenue; the Montreal & Ottawa Conference assessment has increased by 10% for 2018; total office costs have been reduced

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because of the change in lease with City View; the budget includes 2% savings “somewhere; and \$50,000 in unrestricted funds to be used for contracts for the transition.

Rev. Paul Dillman thanked the treasurers of pastoral charges for assisting the Finance Ministry Team by completing and submitting the assessment calculation forms.

### **Church Extension Committee Annual Report and Election of Members and Officers**

**Motion:** (Barbara Reynolds/Margaret Armstrong) that Ottawa Presbytery approve the slate of Officers and Directors of the Church Extension Committee as circulated. **Carried**

The lack of gender diversity (with the exception of an ex-officio position) on the Church Extension Committee was noted.

**Motion:** (Ruth Sword/Elizabeth Bryce) that Ottawa Presbytery receive the audited 2016-2017 Church Extension Committee Financial Statements as circulated. **Carried**

The Chair reminded the court that Nicole Beaudry, a presbyter from Bells Corners United Church, is one of the nine members of the Boundaries Commission. Nicole stated that the Commission has had many meetings and is receiving a lot of information. She noted that the United Church of Canada is a consultative church and asked for presbyters' prayers and trust as the members of the Boundaries Commission do their work. She concluded with a prayer.

### **MOTION TO GIVE FULL POWERS**

**Motion:** (Andrew Jensen/Ed Gratton) 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**

Rev. Steve Clifton asked the court to reflect on this meeting and led in prayer.

### **CONCLUSION BY THE CHAIR**

Rev. Steve Clifton, Chair, closed the meeting at 9:15 pm.

*The next regular meeting of Ottawa Presbytery is called for Tuesday, December 12, 2017 at Emmanuel United Church; the Executive next meets on Thursday, November 23, 2017.*

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Rev. Steve Clifton  
Chair

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Rev. Steve Moore  
Acting Presbytery Minister

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Wendy Mather  
Recording Secretary

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