

FRASER PRESBYTERY

Minutes of the Fraser Presbytery Meeting held on November 27, 2007

At Langley United Church, Langley, BC

Present:

Ministry Personnel:

Doug Alexander; Catherine Angus; Edith Baird; Bill Booth; Michael Collison; Cari Copeman-Haynes; Louise Cummings; Heather Holness; Kathleen Jones; Yoko Kihara; Rod MacKinnon; David Martyn; Neill McRae; John Miller; Judith Stark-Sayers; Gabrielle Suedfeld; Cindy Terry; Brian Tsai; Sharilynn Upsdell; Karen Verveda; Max Warne.

Lay Delegates:

Heather Autio; John Bailey; Al Berry; Pat Bird; Linda Bouchir; Linda Boyd; Jan Bulman; Marion Carr; Lynda Christensen; David Dunnigan; Diana Gardiner; Iva Hancock; Brian Harding; Walter Hawkins; Dale Laycock; Jean Macdonald; Heather Mackenzie; Tom McMath; Barbara Mason; Kathy Matusiak; Nell Rutley; Don Rutley; Marion Ryan; Keith Seale; Thelma Seale; Amy Settingington; Dara Shuttery; Pat Smith; Isabel Sokol; Mary Turner; Bill Walsh; Elizabeth Winkler; Fred Yano;

Regrets:

Connie Thompson; Wendy Gordano; Sylvia Mountain; Jeff Hoff; Kathy Halinen; Jim Chisholm; Debra Hinksman; Doug Lobb;

Visitors:

Karen Forseille; Kirstin Autio; Janice Young; Naoko Ezaki.

Invitation to Dinner

Grace, Introduction of Visitors, Joys, Concerns, Announcements & Thanks

Rod MacKinnon, our chair, invited those assembled to take their seats for dinner and welcomed all who had come. [5:15 PM] Catherine Angus led the Grace. Introduction of visitors, joys and concerns were shared during the dinner hour. Nell Rutley gave thanks for the meal and hospitality.

Host Church Greetings

Kellie Warnock, chair of the Langley United Church Board welcomed us to their Church and shared something of the life and work of this congregation. They have just recently celebrated their 80th year as a congregation. They are about 150 families and have strong youth programs. They are also the home of the Fraser Resource Centre.

Rod MacKinnon invited us to meet in the Sanctuary at 6:15 for the evening's program.

Introduction of Special Guest – The Rev. Janice Young, President of BC Conference.

Cari Copeman-Haynes introduce The Rev. Janice Young to the Court. We spent the next while enthralled with her presentation.

Janice Young spoke with heart and great eloquence about leadership and some of her experiences of being in leadership! Leadership is a priority. God calls us to have courage to risk, to have faith, and to be willing to participate in the co-creative process of living leadership. There are “no certainties”, “no answers”, however, God is with us every step of the way. We are called to be “our authentic self” willing to experience the “edge place” between “safety” and “the unknown”. Courage has said its prayers! Leadership requires risk!

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Don't be afraid, pray for courage to overcome our fear. Patience, vulnerability, a willingness to engage in reconciliation bring hope. Seeds of Hope may be found in engaging in reflection on our day. Asking ourselves – “Where has God been in my day? How has God been present? How has God supported me?”

She shared a story of being a part of a special hearing process in which the beginning of a reconciliation process unfolded; and other examples of being on “the edge” of the unknown with different cultures and how being willing to risk was so empowering for all.

In closing Janice Young taught us to sing “Know that God is Good” in the Shoshaw language of the Sechelt 1st Nations people. “Claw clay eatums ha ha”. Very moving indeed.

[I do hope I have spelled this correctly!]

Rod MacKinnon thanked Janice Young on behalf of the court for this very moving and enlightening sharing of her “authentic self” with the court.

BUSINESS MEETING - 7 P.M.

The Chair called the meeting to order at 7PM with a quorum present.

Corresponding Privileges:

MOTION:

Louise Cummings moved, seconded by Doug Alexander that Fraser Presbytery grant corresponding privileges to our Visitors. **CARRIED**

Approve Agenda:

MOTION:

Diann Condie-Smallman moved, seconded by Mary Turner that Fraser Presbytery approve the Agenda as circulated. **CARRIED**

Fraser Presbytery Minutes

MOTION:

Diann Condie-Smallman moved, seconded by Catherine Angus that the Fraser Presbytery Executive Minutes for November 3, 2007 and November 13th, 2007 be received for information. **CARRIED**

MOTION:

Diann Condie-Smallman moved, seconded by Pat Bird that the Fraser Presbytery Minutes of October 23rd be adopted as circulated. **CARRIED**

Correspondence Report

- Letter from Nora Saunders, General Secretary of General Council regarding a direction concerning Joint Needs Assessment Committee Reports & the implementation of Section 429 – refer to Pastoral Relations Committee.

-Email from Doug Goodwin regarding a Summary of BC Conference Executive –circulated on the Fraser Presbytery group email.

-Email Letter from Gerhard Bhil with resume – refer to Pastoral Relations Committee

MOTION:

Diann Condie-Smallman moved, seconded by Pat Smith that Fraser Presbytery accept the correspondence report as presented. **CARRIED**

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DIALOGUE – Discernment Process

Mode of Meeting Discernment – Presented by Cari Copeman-Haynes & Cindy Terry

This was a ½ hour session with people being invited to get into groups of 3 or 4 and address the questions posed on the handout. These questions were set in the context of our mission statement and were about the proposed style of meeting that had been presented in the form of a notice of motion prior to the October Presbytery Meeting. These were initiated in the hope that presbyters would think about them and if not wanting to support them, would come forth with a positive suggested style that might work.

Each group chose a recorder and at the end of the session the handout was gathered with folks responses to the questions. These will be compiled and the information will be brought back to us at the next Presbytery Meeting by our presenters.

Rod MacKinnon thanked everyone for participating and Cari Copeman-Haynes & Cindy Terry for there leadership and work with this task.

Support Team Reports

Church Development Support Team – David Martyn

Transfer of Oak Avenue Property-

Section 330 New Pastoral Charges [United Church Manual]- The Presbytery shall have power to form new Pastoral Charges, Congregations, or Missions, subject to such regulations as the General Council may pass. Before forming a Pastoral Charge, a Congregation, or a Mission, or before approving the change of site of a church edifice or manse, the Presbytery shall be required to hear and consider the representations of any Pastoral Charge or Congregation that may be affected by the proposed action.

MOTION

David Martyn moved, seconded by Kathleen Jones that Fraser Presbytery approve that the Amazing Grace congregation become a Pastoral Charge. **CARRIED**

MOTION

David Martyn moved, seconded by Bill Walsh, in pursuant of the action of Fraser Presbytery on June 26, 2007 that we approve the action of the Trustees of Oak Avenue United Church to transfer the property at 12740 – 102 Avenue, Surrey, British Columbia and legally described as.....for the sum of ten dollars [\$10.00] to the Trustees of Amazing Grace United Church. **CARRIED**

MOTION

David Martyn moved, seconded by Bill Walsh that Fraser Presbytery request the Trustees of Oak Avenue United Church to transfer all remaining assets to the Amazing Grace Pastoral Charge. **CARRIED**
[This does not include the Piano that was already given away or the money owed to Presbytery]

MOTION

David Martyn moved, seconded by Jan Bulman that for the purposes of the transfer that Scott Swanson act as minister of Oak Avenue Pastoral Charge. **CARRIED**

The trustees need to get a lawyer and register the transfer at the Land Titles Office and the Secretary of Presbytery needs to provide a certificate of Presbytery's action to approve the sale.

David Martyn spoke briefly about: -

Jubilee United Church who are in process with their development plans; that Cloverdale United Church is encountering increasing costs for their renovation plans; that Royal Heights & St. John's Strawberry Hill have been in discussion and invited Dave Dunnigan to speak to this. There will be further updating as things progress with each pastoral charge.

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Home Mission Support Grants – Bill Walsh

Bill Walsh reported in on the 2008 Mission Support Grants.

The total 2008 Grant to BC Conference from Mission & Service Fund - \$619,762.00.

Total for 13 Conferences \$5,841,000.00. -15.49% Grant cuts to Conferences in 2008 \$900,000.00.

Amazing Grace Mission – requested \$22,500.00 and received \$20,000.00

Jubilee United Church - requested \$27,000.00 and received \$22,000.00

Unspent Money Available \$43,584.30

These are monies not used for various reasons such as Oak Avenue United Church disbanded in June 2007 so part of their grant was not used.

Requests for the unspents:

First United United Church	\$14,900.00
Bethany-Newton United Church	3,900.00
Amazing Grace Mission	4,000.00
Jubilee United Church	5,000.00
Total Requested	\$26,900.00

Our Grants in 2008 have been good. He cautioned that next year will be different. The 2009 Budget will be cut by about 14%.

Discipleship Support Team Report – Mary Turner

Movie License for Fraser Presbytery

David Martyn was invited to speak to the matter of a Movie License for the Presbytery. The matter licensing is an important one given that many of our churches like to show movies at various times and not run the risk of being sued! The cost would be approximately .50 cents per average attendee per year.

MOTION:

David Martyn moved, seconded by Barbara Mason that Fraser Presbytery obtain an annual licence from Audio Cine Films Inc. **CARRIED**

Mission and Service Report – Scott Swanson

Scott Swanson said that our commitment for our M&S givings at this point is at 70% of our stated goal. There will be a letter coming explaining how to fill in the forms for our M&S givings goal for 2009. It will be a little different than it has been so please read carefully. If there are any questions do contact Scott Swanson.

2008 Fraser Presbytery Budget Presentation

Our treasurer, Stuart Lyster continues to be away on medical leave, however, also continues to serve us in his capacity as the Presbytery Treasurer and Web Master. We are indeed fortunate that he is able to help us in this very important ministry.

A paper copy of the 2008 Budget dated November 26, 2007 [Buff Colour] was available on the registration table at our November 27th 2007 meeting and is attached to these minutes.

Stuart Lyster also prepared a detailed Power Point presentation to walk us through the Budget at the meeting. Scott Swanson took us through this presentation and the subsequent motions.

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MOTION:

Mary Turner moved, seconded by Scott Swanson that subject to Section 328 of the United Church of Canada Manual, Fraser Presbytery assess \$197,300 to the pastoral charges within its bounds for the purposes of meeting projected 2008 expenses including the Conference Assessment. **CARRIED**

MOTION:

Mary Turner moved, seconded by Pat Bird that subject to Section 384(ii) of the Manual that the basis of assessment to the pastoral charges be prorated according to the relative size of the Line 40 Expenditures of each pastoral charge as reported and printed in the Yearbook Statistics.

[4b] further that Fraser Presbytery use a prorated average of the last three years of reported Line 40 expenditures [Yearbook 2007, 2006 and 2005.]

[4c] further that any pastoral charges' line 40 expenditure be reduced by any monies received as grants or loans for pastoral charge operations. **CARRIED**

MOTION:

Mary Turner moved, seconded by Sharilynn Upsdell that subject to Sections 384 b(iii,iv) the Treasurer of Presbytery be authorized to transmit the assessments to individual pastoral charges and collect their contributions. **CARRIED**

MOTION:

Mary Turner moved, seconded by Kathleen Jones that subject to Section 384 b(v) the treasurer be authorized to make disbursements in 2008 in accord with the budget as approved or amended by Fraser Presbytery or its Executive, or as otherwise directed by Presbytery. **CARRIED**

Fraser Presbytery Financial Statement to November 26, 2007-11-29

Please find a copy of this financial statement attached to these minutes.

MOTION:

Diann Condie-Smallman moved, seconded by Cari Copeman-Haynes that Fraser Presbytery received the Fraser Presbytery Financial Statement to November 26, 2007 for information. **CARRIED**

YAYA Ministry

Sharilynn Upsdell, Youth & Young Adult Minister spoke briefly about the Bursary Month promotion and the hope that this will be supported by pastoral charges within the bounds of Fraser Presbytery. A very positive way that we can contribute to a fund that is designed to enable young people to have access to funds that will help them attend the various special retreat/educational experiences offered.

Ministry and Personnel Support Team Reports – Barbara Mason

Barbara Mason noted there would be brief reports from Pastoral Relations, Education & Students, Pensions and Oversight.

Pastoral Relations – Linda Boyd

Gladwyn Heights United Church – Dorothy Jeffery

MOTION

Linda Boyd moved, seconded by Lynda Christensen that the minutes record that the Rev. Dorothy Jeffery is on ½ time medical leave effective November 5, 2007. **CARRIED**

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Fraser Valley Japanese United Church – Yoko Kihara

MOTION:

Linda Boyd moved, seconded by Marion Carr that Fraser Presbytery concur with the request of Fraser Valley Japanese Pastoral Charge to re appoint the Rev. Yoko Kihara for 2 years on a part-time basis [20 hours per week], ordained supply with a salary of \$20,400.00 annually, a housing allowance of \$10,800.00 annually, a telephone allowance of \$420.00 annually, effective July 1, 2008. **CARRIED**

MOTION:

Marion Carr moved, seconded by Linda Boyd that Fraser Presbytery concur with the request from Fraser Valley Japanese United Church to spend up to \$50,000.00 from their Manse Fund to support their ministry from July 1, 2008 to June 30, 2010. **CARRIED**

Education and Students – Karen Verveda

MOTION:

Karen Verveda moved, seconded by Marion Carr that Fraser Presbytery receive Bea Cripps as a Designated Lay Minister effective November 27, 2008. **CARRIED**

If Bea Cripps appointment is to be renewed, the Education and Students Committee recommends that a program of study to enhance her ministry be commenced at that time.

Pensions Committee Report – Edith Baird

Edith Baird reported that she had been successful in recruiting members for this committee.

MOTION:

Edith Baird moved, seconded by Bill Booth that Fraser Presbytery appoint the following persons to the Pensions Committee: Art Anderson; David Smith; Gabrielle Suedfeld, Merv Lutes and Rod Booth.

CARRIED

She reminded all those who are receiving United Church Pensions that the Christmas Luncheon is being held this year on December 6th at Ladner United Church.

Oversight Committee Report – Bill Booth

Discussion of Tabled Motions-regarding Cultus Lake United Church Camp

Bill Booth spoke of the motions that Dorothy Jeffery had put forth at the October 23rd meeting, from the Oversight Visit Team report, and that were tabled to the November meeting of Presbytery. It was decided that a motion was not required to leave them on the table until January, that the motions would remain on the table until they are lifted.

Dale Laycock spoke at length about the need for support for Cultus Lake United Church Camp, asking why there was not a significant amount in the 2008 Budget for this important ministry. [It was noted that there is a \$1200.00 item in the 2008 Budget for this ministry.] The secretary explained that if we as a presbytery wished to initiate a proposal to significantly increase this budget, it would need to be brought to the Discipleship Support Team and discussed. The Presbytery Treasurer is a part of this support team, and would then be instructed to include the request in the budget preparations for that year if the team supported the proposal. A representative of the Discipleship Team could speak to this budget amount at the time of presentation. When the budget was presented to the Court, it would then be accepted or defeated.

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Bill Booth felt that we ought to have a motion to lift the motions from the table and discuss them that they ought not wait until the January meeting.

MOTION:

Bill Booth moved, seconded by Jean Macdonald that the three motions tabled at the October 23, 2007 meeting be lifted for discussion.

The motion was defeated.

Bill Booth has agreed to do some further work regarding this matter and will come forth with a proposal at the January meeting.

BC Conference Report – Cari Copeman-Haynes

Cari Copeman-Haynes spoke to the report that has been circulated on the Fraser Web page and that was available on our registration table. [Janice Young provided copies and the secretary had place copies in the correspondence file] She referred to the review of the governance model and to matters of accountability in the context of promoting health congregations. It is a growing ongoing process for both the Executive Secretary and the Executive of conference. The 2008 Budget for BC Conference is a balanced budget. If you do not have access to a computer and would like to read a copy, contact the secretary and one will be mailed to you.

The chair recognized that we had passed the order of the day and called for our closing motion prior to the commencement of our Worship Service.

MOTION:

Sharilynn Upsdell moved, seconded by Jan Bulman that the Executive of Fraser Presbytery be authorized to transact appropriate Fraser Presbytery business until the next meeting of the full court of Fraser Presbytery. **CARRIED**

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 9 PM

WORSHIP AND COVENANTING SERVICE

The Worship & Covenanting Service was led by members of the Host Church and the Presbytery. Scott Swanson presided, introducing two persons who are enquirers Kim Bryant and Jennifer Purych and the musician Greg Caisley of Langley United. Participants from Presbytery were our chair, Rod MacKinnon, Bill Booth, Dara Shutty and our Youth & Young Adult minister, Sharilynn Upsdell. This was a very meaningful service and a perfect way to conclude our Presbytery Meeting. We will remember the reflection around “The Colour Blue” the Season of Advent. After we travel through this time of inbetween! We are indeed an inbetween people! An inbetween world!

Rod MacKinnon, Chair

M. Diann Condie-Smallman, Secretary