

FRASER PRESBYTERY FULL COURT

Minutes of the Fraser Presbytery Full Court Meeting held on January 22, 2008
At Trinity Memorial United Church, Abbotsford, BC

Present:

Ministry Personnel:

Doug Alexander; Catherine Angus; Clayton Arkesteyn-Vogler; Bill Booth; Michael Collison; Cari Copeman-Haynes; Louise Cummings; Ken Dean; Yoko Kihara; Rod MacKinnon; David Martyn; Joan McMurtry; Neill McRae; John Miller; David Smith; Judith Stark-Sayers; Cindy Terry; Brian Tsai; Sharilynn Upsdell; Karen Verveda; Wayne Wattman.

Lay Delegates:

Heather Autio; Al Berry; Pat Bird; Linda Bouchir; Marion Carr; Diana Gardiner; Kathy Halinen; Iva Hancock; Brian Harding; Walter Hawkins; Jeff Hoff; Jill Last; Dale Laycock; Jean Macdonald; Heather Mackenzie; Tom McMath; Barbara Mason; Sylvia Mountain; Nell Rutley; Don Rutley; Marion Ryan; Mary Ann Sanft; Mary Schwanke; Keith Seale; Thelma Seale; Amy Settington; Pat Smith; Mary Turner; Carol Wagner; Fred Yano;

Regrets:

Scott Swanson; Stuart Lyster; Linda Boyd; Deb Hinksman; David Dunnigan; Heather Holness; Pat Bird; Lynda Christensen; Bill Walsh; and Jan Bulman.

Visitors:

Elaine Danvers; Betty Anne Dempsey

Invitation to Dinner – 5:25 PM

Rod MacKinnon, chair of Presbytery welcomed everyone to the evening and invited folks to take their seats for dinner. Louise Cummings and choir sang the grace [#193 God Bless to Us our Bread MV] and the assembly joined it. Beautiful.

Welcome by Host Church – Heather Autio, chair of the Board welcomed everyone and shared something of the life and work of Trinity Memorial United Church. They are celebrating their change in structure to a “Board Model” noting that it has been a very positive transition. She shared many highlights one being that their Church School & Youth programs are shared with Gladwin Heights United Church.

Marion Ryan offered **Thanks for our Meal** to the people of Trinity Memorial United Church. Good food and a great job. There were about 50+ for the meal.

Joys, Concerns and Announcements were invited and shared. Rod MacKinnon spoke briefly of the Memorial Service held on January 19th, 2008 for Curly Doan, one of our Retired Ministers who resided and worshiped in Chilliwack.

A Special Celebration Invitation

Brian Tsai from Amazing Grace United Church has invited the Court to a Special Worship Celebration for the newly formed congregation of Amazing Grace United Church. The service will be on February 10th, 2008 at 7PM at their new location: 12740 – 102nd Avenue, Surrey, BC There will be special guests from the BC Conference Ethnic Ministries staff. Please invite members from your congregation to attend.

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6:30 Move to Sanctuary for Worship Service

Trinity Memorial United Church members led the worship service. The theme focused around Epiphany and the future of Presbytery. We were invited to write a short prayer and come forth to light a candle. The Trinity Memorial Choir sang beautifully. A very moving service. [The secretary was asked to publish all the prayers in the minutes. These were short one or two lines, and have been printed as a group in no particular order.]

The following are the prayers offered: -

Invite team work as we do the work that comes before us. My prayer is to recognize what God wants of me and find a way to do it. Lord make us instruments of your support and comfort to each other. Deeper relationships with God and each other to ground our faith-full actions. I pray for God's guidance in finding ways to cut costs so more of the church's funds can go to those in need. I pray the Holy Spirit will fill me with joy and a clear purpose as I work to serve in and through Fraser Presbytery. We look forward to support for Cultus Lake Camp so that it may continue to offer so much. I would like to see a strong support for Cultus Lake Camp and all the churches last, Abbotsford be strengthened, I would like to see all the ministers who are off on leave receive the healing they need. Meaningful discipleship within the Presbytery. To mend broken relationships, to build trust and compassion for each other. To serve God in the way of Jesus. Respect for each other. Bless those who wander, let them find their way home. That we place God's wishes before our own. As an overseas minister from Japan, I want to find who I am more clearly, and contribute to Fraser Presbytery as a minority ethnic minister and congregation, please help me, God of small Israel. My prayer is that Fraser Presbytery would find the committed & faithful & gifted leadership required to take us into the future. That we keep God's vision of this valley alive always. To be an authentic & prophetic voice for Joy, Peace, & Grace. Prayer for all who Minister to us, special pray for Ken. Peace not animosity, support in exploring the ways we can live to proclaim God's love to each other & the wider community, faith in organizations of UCC its courts, not suspicion or cynicism. The worship part of our evening has special meaning for me. Prayer for Unity, look at what congregations need, regain their trust. We pray that whichever road we choose to travel as a Presbytery that we will endorse it 100% and make it work! My prayer is that we'd learn to support each other in our varied ministries. God is calling us to be a light in our region, God calls us to be the church, liberal justice seekers, the healthy strong vibrant people of God. May we celebrate as the united body of God's people, give us time together to become sisters & brothers. Find more connection as a presbytery retreat together, give some power to lay folk to "take over" for a weekend, let those with gifts offer them to congregations so clergy may find the gift of connection to the spirit with much needed R&R. May we share our faith and live as we speak, or have actions to sow what we believe. To courage of our convictions. My hope is that in our presbytery we will be faith filled and joy filled in our work, supporting one another in love. My prayer is that however we meet together, we may now deepen relationships with one another and with God, so that we enable congregations & ministry personnel to share the good news of the Gospel. Help us find our vision, and move to make it happen. To work together to build a stronger, more unified presbytery carrying out the work of the United Church in the Fraser Valley. May Crescent experience new life and directions, and enthusiasm, such as we experienced at Epiphany Explorations. A prayer that Presbytery be lit with a flame for renewal, illuminated to see that change is growth, and be open to the call from church and committees around us. Pray for peace, bring hope for the world. Thankful for our privilege to make meaningful decisions, we need blessings. Our God, show our love without boundary in our presbytery. O Holy One, take us to your mountain top to see and be able to do your will in our presbytery. That we may see ourselves as you see us. My prayer is for the worship service that we have enjoyed so much & felt very moved by may be continued. Help me affirm others and not be defensive. I am called to be a giving caring and sharing person in our community. We pray for a renewing of God's Spirit among us, and an openness of heart among us. To continue to raise awareness of the United Church within our Community.

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7:05 PM Business Meeting

Rod MacKinnon called the meeting to order, noting that we had a quorum present. He thanked Connie Thompson and the folks from Trinity United Church for their hard work in providing the court with a very good worship service.

Corresponding Privileges

MOTION:

Clayton Arkesteyn-Vogler moved, seconded by Heather Autio that the court grant corresponding privileges to our visitors. **CARRIED**

Fraser Presbytery Agenda:

MOTION

Diann Condie-Smallman moved, seconded by Pat Smith that Fraser Presbytery approve the Agenda as amended. **CARRIED**

Fraser Presbytery Minutes:

MOTION

Diann Condie-Smallman moved, seconded by Catherine Angus that Fraser Presbytery approve the November 27th, 2007 Fraser Presbytery Full Court Meeting Minutes as circulated. **CARRIED**

MOTION

Diann Condie-Smallman moved, seconded by Cari Copeman-Haynes that Fraser Presbytery receive the Minutes of the January 8, 2008 Fraser Presbytery Executive Minutes for information. **CARRIED**

Fraser Presbytery Correspondence Report

- Email Correspondence from Carman United Church for Pastoral Relations.[referred to PR]
 - Email Correspondence from St. Andrew's Mission UC for Church Development.[referred to CD]
 - Email Letter from Mt. Lehman UC requesting information on LMME Funds.[for information]
 - Email instructions from National Church re submitting final M&S donations.[for information]
 - Email from Tom Broadhurst of National Church regarding Statistics Forms.[for information]
 - Email from Clair Woodbury with Congregational Life Newsletter.[for information]
 - Email from National Church with "Admission Circulation List [Secretary to read]
- Carl Nelson Emke, Baptist Convention of Ontario & Quebec, Niagara Presbytery; James Grant Ravenscroft, Roman Catholic Church, Edmonton; Maki Fushi, Japan Baptist Convention, Van South; Scott Kerr Hunter, Baptist Convention of Ontario & Quebec, Montreal Presbytery.
- Email Memo from E & S Committee regarding the Interview Process, referred to the Executive.

MOTION

Diann Condie-Smallman moved, seconded by Clayton Arkesteyn-Vogler that Fraser Presbytery approve the Correspondence Report as presented. **CARRIED**

CHURCH DEVELOPMENT SUPPORT TEAM – David Martyn

[1st Half of Report]

Oak Avenue United Church

David Martyn reported that the lawyers looking after the actual disbanding process that it is necessary to put another motion on the floor to enable this process to continue. Once everything is in order, it will come back to the Court.

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MOTION:

David Martyn moved, seconded by Brian Harding that Fraser Presbytery agree that the disbanding of the Oak Avenue Pastoral Charge be postponed indefinitely. **CARRIED**

St. Andrew's Mission United Church

David Martyn said that this congregation is in a discernment process to determine its future direction. Their diminishing numbers, revenue and a property that is in dire straights have necessitated this process. They are considering the possibility of disbanding the congregation. They are requesting permission to use Manse funds in the meantime. Their Treasurer, Glen Robertson said that they have \$130,000 in their Manse fund. He confirmed that the interest from the Manse fund presently pays their minister's housing allowance.

MOTION:

David Martyn moved, seconded by Brian Harding that Fraser Presbytery allow St. Andrew's Mission to use up to \$60,000. 00 of their Manse Fund for operating costs to the end of June 2008. **CARRIED**

This report to be continued later in the meeting.

MODE OF MEETING FOR FRASER PRESBYTERY – DISCERNMENT PROCESS

Reporting and leadership by Cindy Terry and Cari Copeman-Haynes

Cindy Terry spoke of the process to date and drew the courts attention to the document that was included in this month's minute package. She explained that to enable us to work through the presentation and discussion of a proposed motion we would move into a "Committee of the Whole", and when we are ready to put the reworked proposal and motion on the floor, we will come out of the "Committee of the Whole"

MOTION:

David Martyn moved, seconded by Barbara Mason that Fraser Presbytery move to the Committee of the Whole for the purpose of discussing the motion, looking for areas of common agreement and areas that need clarification and or change; that Cindy Terry as chair and Cari Copeman-Haynes as secretary.

CARRIED

There ensued a detailed presentation, discussion, questions for clarification and many suggestions. When the court was ready to move forward the following motion was put forth.

MOTION:

Barbara Mason moved, seconded by David Martyn that Fraser Presbytery move out of the Committee of the Whole and return to the Full Court of Fraser Presbytery. **CARRIED**

MOTION:

Cari Copeman-Haynes moved, seconded by Cindy Terry that -

Whereas:

There is an expressed desire for deeper relationships, deeper engagement on the issues of ministry and more effective and efficient work, and the desire to form stronger bonds of trust within Fraser Presbytery;
And

Whereas:

Fraser Presbytery engaged in a process of gathering information, asking clarifying questions, collating responses and offering recommendations to change the mode of meeting;

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Therefore be it resolved that:

Fraser Presbytery will meet three times a year; in October for two nights, in early March for 1 night, and early June for 1 night. In a year when BC Conference meets, Fraser Presbytery may also convene during the meeting;

And

Fraser Presbytery meetings in March and June will convene with Friday evening meal and conclude on Saturday at 4:30 PM [We strongly recommend that congregations make provision for pulpit supply or lay leadership on the Sunday of Presbytery Meetings.]

Fraser Presbytery meetings in October will convene with the Friday evening meal and conclude following worship on Sunday morning.

And

Fraser Presbytery will determine the parameters or “limiting conditions” of Fraser Presbytery Executive;

And

Fraser Presbytery will form clusters of pastoral charges to host Fraser Presbytery Meetings and organize billets;

And

Fraser Presbytery will appoint a 7 person Agenda and Planning Team; including the Presbytery Chair and Secretary, a representative from Executive, and two representatives from the general membership. There will be at least one lay representative and one ministry personnel on this team. Two people from the cluster where Presbytery will be hosted will be added to make a team of seven;

And

Fraser Presbytery Ministry and Personnel will meet in regional groups of about ten people every two months for support, encouragement and counsel;

And

Fraser Presbytery will use Lower Mainland Mission Enhancement funding to facilitate education and spiritual development goals.

The Motion Carried.

CHURCH DEVELOPMENT SUPPORT TEAM – Part two – David Martyn

David Martyn gave some background around concerns this support team has for various congregations within the bounds of Fraser Presbytery. Many pastoral charges are struggling with diminishing numbers; old buildings and challenges in discerning direction for the future.

MOTION:

David Martyn moved, seconded by John Miller that Fraser Presbytery contract with Derek Evans to do a thorough investigation and assessment of the Pastoral Charges and Ministries of Fraser Presbytery. This would include, but not be limited to, an evaluation of properties, the viability of congregations and ministries, the potential for growth and development. The Cost would be about \$25,000.00.

David Martyn said that the \$25,000.00 could come from the Lower Mainland Mission Enhancement Fund and that it could be split into two parts, being a part of the 2008 LMME budget and then part from the 2009 LMME Budget.

Discussion and Questions concerning the motion: -

Derek Evans would be available. Terms of reference would need to be set up. Do we have the capacity as a Presbytery to actually take action when a report came in? There were questions asked about a similar report that was done sometime in the 80's, wondering if looking back to this might be helpful? There was

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mention of a recent article in the Globe & Mail concerning another church engaging in a similar consultation concerning the viability of congregations.

A Motion to Table the Motion

MOTION:

Al Berry moved, seconded by Ken Dean that we table this motion. 21 were in favour and 15 were opposed. **The Motion to table Carried.**

THE CHAIR'S COMMENTS & DIRECTION – Rod MacKinnon

Rod MacKinnon addressed the Court about a variety of matters. He commented on the tabled motion and recognized the concerns that were expressed. He spoke of the fact that we have many unsettled challenges. Our Mission Statement is still a work in progress. We have been seeking a clear direction for the future of our Presbytery. Many of our members are wondering if we have the capacity to continue with ministries such as the camping ministry within our Presbytery.

He went on to say that the Executive has the responsibility of determining how we will use the \$25,000.00 Lower Mainland Mission Enhancement Fund/Budget each year. Rod MacKinnon said we need to set some goals and define our direction. We need to develop a workable process for doing this very important work at our February Full Court Meeting. There will be an extensive planning session at the February Executive Meeting to prepare for the February Full Court Meeting.

Financial Audits:

David Martyn noted that the Presbytery needs to address the matter of obtaining past and current Financial Audits and that this needed to be noted in the minutes.

DISCIPLESHIP SUPPORT TEAM REPORTS - Mary Turner

Mary Turner said there was only the Treasurers Report, copies were on the registration table and the secretary would present the motions.

The secretary referred the Court to the Final 2007 yearend report which was provided by our Treasurer Stuart Lyster.

MOTION:

Diann Condie-Smallman moved, seconded by Clayton Arkestylen-Vogler that Fraser Presbytery receive the final 2007 year end unaudited funds statement as presented. **CARRIED**

The secretary referred the Court to the Fraser Presbytery financial statement for the period ending January 21, 2008 which was provided by Stuart Lyster.

MOTION:

Diann Condie-Smallman moved, seconded by Tom McMath that Fraser Presbytery receive the financial statement to January 21, 2008 as presented. **CARRIED**

Copies of the financial statements will be attached to these minutes.

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MINISTRY & PERSONNEL SUPPORT TEAM REPORTS – Barbara Mason

Barbara Mason said there would be reports from Pastoral Relations, Education & Students Committees.

Pastoral Relations – Connie Thompson

Connie Thompson said that each year we call for Congregations to submit the names of persons who may conduct Marriages within their midst. There is a form for this and the process is to submit this request to Sylvia Mountain who will be co-ordinating the list that will be sent to BC Conference in June 2008. In the meantime, given that the Rev. Doug Ireland of Chilliwack United Church is on Long Term Disability there is a need to have Carolyn Gaunt licensed to perform marriages immediately.

Chilliwack Untied Church

MOTION:

Connie Thompson moved, seconded by Sylvia Mountain that Fraser Presbytery recommend Carolyn Gaunt be licensed to perform marriages on behalf of Chilliwack United Church. **CARRIED**

Carman United Church

Connie Thompson reported that Carman United Church have completed their Search for a new Minister and thanked Neill McRae and Linda Bouchir for their work with the Search Committee.

MOTION:

Connie Thompson moved, seconded by Sylvia Mountain that Fraser Presbytery concur with the request from Carman United Church to Call the Rev. Dianne Astle commencing May 1st, 2008 with the following terms:

Full Time Ordained Minister

| | |
|---------------------------------------|-------------|
| Annual Salary | \$39,000.00 |
| Annual Housing Allowance | 14,400.00 |
| Continuing Education & Book Allowance | 1,200.00 |
| Telephone & Internet | 720.00 |
| Medical | 324.00 |

Motion carried.

Nominations Committee Report - Sylvia Mountain

MOTION

Sylvia Mountain moved, seconded by Joan McMurtry that Fraser Presbytery appoint Jean MacDonald to serve on the Pastoral Relations Committee effective immediately. **CARRIED**

Education & Students Committee Report – Marion Carr

Marion Carr said that it is required for persons in the Lay Pastoral Training process to be confirmed by the Presbytery each year as they proceed and offered the following motion concerning Heather Holness.

MOTION:

Marion Carr moved, seconded by Karen Verveda that Fraser Presbytery confirm the status of Heather Holness as a Designated Lay Pastoral Minister in Training [LPMIT]. **CARRIED**

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Marion continued with comments about Kimberly Arthur Brandt whom we know as a member of the YAYA Support Board and a person who has been part of a one year Discernment process. That the Education and Students committee of Fraser Presbytery having interviewed and reviewed the reports on Kimberly would move the following:

MOTION:

Marion Carr moved, seconded by Karen Verveda that Kimberly Brandt be received as a candidate for Diaconal Ministry, and agree that he has demonstrated the capacity to undertake the Diaconal program of studies at the Centre for Christian Studies in Winnipeg. **CARRIED**

Marion Carr explained that as she and Karen Verveda are sharing the responsibilities of chairing this committee, and that as one or the other may be away from time to time, that persons wishing to email, or send information to the committee, please send to both Marion Carr and Karen Verveda at the same time.

WORSHIP & HOSPITALITY SUPPORT TEAM – Clayton Arkesteyn-Vogler & Louise Cummings

No Report.

YAYA MINISTRY REPORT – Sharilynn Upsdell

Sharilynn Upsdell reported that she had put a variety of notices of upcoming events and programs for youth in our Presbytery. An important Youth Faith Initiative Program that will benefit all congregations who choose to participate. Please encourage the youth in you congregation and if anyone has questions contact by Phone at 604-607-7244 or by email at fraseryaya@telus.net or visit the Web Page and follow the links. [Fraser Presbytery Youth and Young Adult Ministry.]

There were no further reports or items of business at this time.

CLOSING MOTION:

Doug Alexander moved, seconded by Cindy Terry 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 8:57 PM with Connie Thompson closing in prayer.

Rod MacKinnon, Chair

M. Diann Condie-Smallman, Secretary