

PRESENT

Rev. Kathy Hogman (Chair), Nancy Kerr (Secretary), Scott Agur, David Allan, Gary Babichuk, Beverley Baptiste, Holly Bishop, Garth Bogart, Orilla Bogart, David Bougher, Pat Bourque, Sally Boyle, Dale Breitreutz, Karen Bridges, John Burrill, Linda Burt, Liz Carter-Morgan, Nancy Chegus, Diana Coumantarakis, Helmut Cziborr, Denise Davis-Taylor, Larry Derkach, Lynn Elliott, Ruthanna Elson, Wayne Flewelling, Tom Forgrave, Wally Fry, Lynda Gow, Delores Hanchurak, Rob Hankinson, Cheryl Hoskin, Armand Houle, Denise Hugman, Stuart Jackson, Craig Kerr, Bob Kimmerly, Joyce Kimmerly, Donald Koots, John Kuzyk, Anne Laird, Lloyd Lovatt, Catherine MacLean, JoAnne Mahood, Betty Marlin, Ralph Marshall, Don Mayne, Bruce Miller, Kathryn Moore, Agnes Morgan, Ken Morris, Carolyn Nicholson, Vi Oko, Ray Olsen, Lill Park, Shelagh Parsons, Florence Pidruchney, Mina Pool, John Punko, Kay Quon, James Ravenscroft, Candice Robinson, Christine Scoffield, Bob Settle, Doug Settle, Carol Smith, Karen Spiess, Nancy Steeves, Ann Thomas, Barbara Thornton, Susan Waldie, David Wasyk, Irene Weleschuk, Dale Wilkie, Elsie Such, Margery Wright.

REGRETS

Dianne Chalmers, Edith Harnden, Dale Irving, Dirk Jessen, Donna Krucik, Carol Loewen, Hugh MacGregor, Margaret May, Carolyn McKenzie, Valerie Oden, David Olson, V. Sauvé, Jo-Ann Symonds, Paul Verdin, John Wright, John Henry Weinlick, Larry Wright.

VISITORS

Hazel Flewelling, Basil Henderson, Gerry Dyck (Coaldale), Nikki Allan.

1. WORSHIP

Presbyters were invited to go to the basement to worship and, on the way, they were to think about what they needed to cease in their lives in order to make space for God. The worship, led by Karen Bridges and Christopher Giffen, was active and joyful involving song, a circle dance and sharing of ideas.

2. WELCOME and CALL TO ORDER

Karen Bridges and Don Koots, ministers at Riverbend United Church, welcomed all presbyters and guests to the church. The Rev. Kathy Hogman constituted the meeting with these words: "In the name of Jesus Christ and the authority of Edmonton Presbytery, I declare this meeting of Edmonton Presbytery to be in session for the work that may properly be brought before it to the glory of God".

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS and CORRESPONDING PRIVILEGES

New members to Presbytery and visitors were introduced.

MOTION 2007/2008-162: Karen Spiess/Anne Laird THAT visitors be granted corresponding privileges at this meeting.
CARRIED

AGENDA

The agenda was reviewed and accepted with minor revisions. The Workshop on Oversight Visitation (Stuart Jackson) was deferred until October, 2008. A Local and Global Justice item on Iraq (Bob Settle) was added after Gift Inventory.

3. MINUTES

MOTION 2007/2008-163: Larry Derkach/John Kuzyk THAT the minutes of the Edmonton Presbytery meeting on Feb. 23, 2008 be approved with the following changes:

1) Page 37, Message from Tom Sawyer, line 14: change the word "ordain" to "exclude" and add "from ordination" after lesbians. 2) To the Announcements section on page 39, add: 5. John Wright reported briefly on the initial contributions to *No Room in the Inn* amounting to over \$30,000. He noted that the largest contribution so far received was from McDougall United Church at \$5,900. 3) On page 39, Motion 2007/2008-138 delete the word "Carried". 4) On page 39, change Motion 2007/2008-141 to 2007/2007-138. 5) On pages 39 and 40 under Ministry Support, renumber the motions as indicated: 2007/2008-142 to 2007/2008-141; 2007/2008-143 to 2007/2008-142; 2007/2008-144 to 2007/2008-143; 2007/2008-145 to 2007/2008-144; 2007/2008-146 to 2007/2008-145; 2007/2008-147 to 2007/2008-146; 2007/2008-148 to 2007/2008-147. 6) On page 39, Communications Committee Survey Results, change sentence 2 to "A brochure is being drafted that includes useful information such as meeting dates and locations, committee contacts, and basic duties of presbyters".

CARRIED

MOTION 2007/2008-164: Gary Babichuk/Karen Spiess THAT the minutes of the Edmonton Presbytery Special meeting on March 25, 2008 be approved. **CARRIED**

MOTION 2007/2008-165: Armand Houle/Delores Hanchurak THAT the minutes of the Edmonton Presbytery Executive meeting on March 11, 2008 be received for information. **CARRIED**

4. CORRESPONDENCE

1. From Stuart Jackson, Mar 17/08, a letter requesting a change in terms of his call to Chalmers-Castle Downs United Church and a letter indicating his intention to resign as chair of the Ministry Support Committee. (on file in Presbytery office)
2. Copy of Mar 26/08 letter from Edmonton Presbytery to Rev. Lynn Elliott with details of her employment as Animateur, effective June 1/08 (on file in Presbytery office).
3. Copy of Mar 26/08 letter from Edmonton Presbytery to Rev. Stuart Jackson with details of his employment as Administrator, effective June 1/08 (on file in Presbytery office).
4. From Earl Raeburn, Mar 20/08, copy of *Ethical Standards and Standards of Practice for Ministry Personnel* (adopted at 39th General Council, 2006) (on file in presbytery office).
5. From J.M. Smith, Apr 11/08, announcement re next principal (Oct.1/08) of Centre for Christian Studies.
6. From K. Jackson, ANWC, April 14/08, position announcement for tenure track professor of Pastoral Studies, St. Andrew's College. See www.usask.ca/stu/standrews/.
7. From General Council Office, Apr 16/08. New how-to booklet, *Greening the Church*, available to congregations wishing to reduce their ecological footprint. Contact ucrd@united-church.ca.
8. From Gail Larson, Dr. Jessie Salteaux Resource Centre, Beausejour MB. Position announcement – Ministry Program Staff/Registrar. Contact dotmckay@mts.net.
9. From Joy Kennedy, United Church of Canada, Apr 22/08. New resource on UCC website: *Always Changing, Forever Yours:Nuclear Fuel Wastes*, 3-session workshop for congregations. See <http://www.united-church.ca/ecology/energy>.
10. From Ralph Colley, message that the United church Resource Distribution Centre will be closed from July 28 to Aug. 4, 2008.

5. MINISTRY SUPPORT

Pastoral Relations

MOTION 2007/2008-166: Stuart Jackson/Sally Boyle THAT Edmonton Presbytery receive the Joint Needs Assessment Committee report for Beverly United Church and declare a half-time vacancy for a ministry person effective July 1, 2008.

CARRIED

MOTION 2007/2008-167: Stuart Jackson/Sally Boyle THAT Edmonton Presbytery receive the Joint Needs Assessment Committee report for Buchanan-Eastwood United Church and declare a half-time vacancy for a ministry person effective July 1, 2008, with the correction to reflect “one month vacation”.

CARRIED

MOTION 2007/2008-168: Stuart Jackson/Sally Boyle THAT Edmonton Presbytery establish a combined Joint Search Committee for Buchanan-Eastwood and Beverly Pastoral Charges.

CARRIED

MOTION 2007/2008-169: Stuart Jackson/Sally Boyle THAT Edmonton Presbytery approve the request of Kathryn Harton for retirement effective August 1, 2007.

CARRIED

MOTION 2007/2008-170: Stuart Jackson/Wally Fry THAT Edmonton Presbytery approve the transfer of Lynn Elliott to Red Deer Presbytery from Jan. 1 to May 30, 2008.

CARRIED

Because Jacqueline Switzer is not seeking a renewal of appointment at Southminster-Steinhauer, the following motion was made:

MOTION 2007/2008-171: Stuart Jackson/Wally Fry THAT Edmonton Presbytery establish a Joint Needs Assessment Committee for Southminster-Steinhauer United Church.

CARRIED

Stuart Jackson has requested a change in terms of call at Chalmers-Castle Downs United Church from full time to 0.6 FTE (full time equivalent), effective June 1, 2008;

MOTION 2007/2008-172: Wally Fry/Sally Boyle THAT Edmonton Presbytery approve the change in terms of call for Stuart Jackson at Chalmers-Castle Downs United Church from full time to 0.6 FTE, effective June 1, 2008, and that the requirement for 90 day's notice be waived for this change. **CARRIED**

MOTION 2007/2008-173: Wally Fry/Sally Boyle THAT Edmonton Presbytery establish a Joint Needs Assessment Committee for Chalmers-Castle Downs United Church. **CARRIED**

MOTION 2007/2008-174: Stuart Jackson/Sally Boyle THAT Edmonton Presbytery retain Peggy McDonagh on the Roll, available for call. **CARRIED**

MOTION 2007/2008-175: Stuart Jackson/Sally Boyle THAT Edmonton Presbytery approve a request from Armand Houle at Trinity United Church for a change in Pastoral Relations, effective July 1, 2008. **CARRIED**

MOTION 2007/2008-176: Stuart Jackson/Sally Boyle THAT Edmonton Presbytery establish a Joint Needs Assessment Committee at Trinity United Church. **CARRIED**

Stuart Jackson gave notice that he is resigning as chair of the Ministry Support Committee. The Committee discussed the potential conflict of interest with Sally Boyle as Pastoral Relations Convenor and Lynn Elliott as Presbytery Animateur and was satisfied that the potential is manageable. The Committee also approved expenses for training programs offered by the Office Administrators Association.

Chaplain's Report

Ken Morris, with Co-chaplain Betty Marlin, reported on the health and well-being of a number of ministers and related people and asked that Presbyters remember these people in their prayers.

6. GIFT INVENTORY

Kay Quon urged presbyters to complete a Gift & Talent Inventory and return it to her. The talents of each presbyter could be useful in carrying out the work of Presbytery.

7. LOCAL AND GLOBAL JUSTICE

Bob Settle distributed three pages on the Iraqi refugee crisis and spoke briefly of the need for resettlement of 2.2 million Iraqi refugees now living in Jordan and Syrian camps. The three pages included background information, a proposal that Edmonton Presbytery and Alberta and Northwest Conference contact the Hon. Diane Findlay, Minister of Citizenship and Immigration and request an increased Canadian response to the refugee crisis as described on the third page.

MOTION 2007/2008-177: Bob Settle/Rob Hankinson THAT Edmonton Presbytery endorse the Canadian Council of Refugees' Call to the Canadian government for increased Canadian response to the Iraqi refugee crisis, and forward this motion to Alberta and Northwest Conference to invite Conference to endorse the call. **CARRIED**

8. ANNOUNCEMENTS:

1. Request for nominations of lay persons for Honorary Membership in Edmonton Presbytery. This type of membership provides an ongoing connection with Edmonton Presbytery for lay persons who have provided exemplary service in the past. Application forms available from Presbytery office.
2. Request for three churches to host meetings in 2008/2009. Contact Marg May (454-9226) for Presbytery meetings needing host churches.
3. Denise Davis-Taylor (InterChurch InterFaith Committee) asked if anyone was interested in attending a conference in San Francisco, NAIN Connect 2008, July 24-28, 2008 put on by the North American Interfaith Network. The ICIF committee has funds to send one person to this conference called *Embracing an Interfaith Future*. Contact Denise Davis-Taylor at 462-1439 (h), 436-1555 (o).
4. Men were encouraged to register for the Banff Men's Conference, Oct. 17-19, 2008. Theme: *Two Faiths One God*; key speaker: Dr. Amir Hussain, a practicing Muslim and United Church of Canada adherent. (www.banffmen.org).
5. *Greening Our Spirits*, Pathways Centre, May 2-3, 2008 at Robertson Wesley United Church. Keynote speaker, Dr. Sallie McFague.

6. The final tally of *No Room at the Inn* donations for the Rotary Centre for Newcomers was \$54,500, the major donor being Southminster -Steinhauer United Church.
7. Garth Bogart announced that the name Gilchrist United Church will come to an end. The new name chosen by the combined congregations is Spirit West United Church.
8. Choral concert at Robertson Wesley United Church, April 26, 2008 at 7.30pm: Vivaldi and Poulenc's *Gloria* with music by a small orchestra and the combined choirs of Robertson Wesley and Knox Metropolitan United Churches.
9. Wayne Flewelling asked for more volunteers to be stewards at Conference, May 29 to 31, 2008. Call 467-2048.
10. A questionnaire, *Sacred Emerging: Opportunities for Sabbath*, was distributed by Shelagh Parsons, Catherine MacLean, Bob Hetherington and Nancy Steeves. They seek people interested in engaging the sacred through a variety of worship experiences.

9. NEW POSSIBILITIES PROJECT

One objective of the New Possibilities Project is to increase the United Church's presence in areas where it is lacking. Six church groups participated in demographic research based on a research tool developed by Environics. They collected data on people living in four sectors of Edmonton and wrote a report which may be presented at the June Presbytery meeting.

10. HOME PROJECT UPDATE

Shelagh Parsons, chair of the Congregational Program Support Committee, indicated that the committee has adopted the three-month pilot project (*Experiments in Faith, Justice and Creativity*) and the longer term *Home Project*. Funding from several sources has been received for the short term project. Thirteen meetings between April and June will take place on Sundays from 3 to 5pm at Garneau United Church.

MOTION 2007/2008 – 178: Shelagh Parsons/Nancy Chegus THAT Edmonton Presbytery approve the weekly series of *Experiments in Faith, Justice and Creativity* as a three month presbytery project. **CARRIED**

11. PRESBYTERY EFFECTIVENESS

Catherine MacLean, Larry Derkach, and Betty Marlin presented the following recommendations for enhancing Presbytery effectiveness:

1. For the year beginning in September, Presbytery meetings should open with theological reflection rather than worship, and that Executive examine this process at the close of that year. [One or two persons could be appointed to serve as theological reflectors. The theological reflectors would keep abreast of the issues facing Presbytery and during discussions ask guiding questions to lead deliberations or return presbyters' attention to the theological context of the issue].
2. The Executive is responsible to see that the work is accomplished and that questions are ready to be brought forward to Presbytery. Executive ensures that reports articulate questions for which the court is prepared. The role of the Executive could be more clearly defined to that of analysis, synthesis and framing of the matters facing the Presbytery. This would enable presbyters to engage in focused, intentional discussion on questions before it.
3. A Parliamentarian should be appointed for each meeting.

12. EXECUTIVE ACTING ON BEHALF OF PRESBYTERY

MOTION 2007/2008-179: Ray Olsen/Armand Houle THAT Edmonton Presbytery Executive be empowered to act on behalf of Presbytery. **CARRIED**

13. THEOLOGICAL REFLECTION AND CLOSING PRAYER

Kathy Hogman announced that there would be no Executive meeting or Presbytery meeting in May. Given the heavy snowfall, she prayed that Presbyters would get home safely.

14. ADJOURNMENT

Kathy Hogman declared the meeting finished at 9.15pm.

NEXT PRESBYTERY MEETING

Tuesday, June 24, 2008 ----- Barbeque 6:00 PM ----- Meeting 7:00 to 9:30 PM
St. Paul's United Church, 11526 – 76 Ave, Edmonton

Rev. Kathy Hogman, Chair

Nancy Kerr, Secretary