

**February 22, 2005**

Minutes of the meeting of the Presbytery held at Renfrew United Church on Tuesday, February 22, 2005 at 4:00 PM, duly called and with a quorum present, Rose-Hannah Gaskin, Chair.

**Present:**

Ministry Personnel: Philip Cable, Rose-Hannah Gaskin, Terri Scallon, Mollie Williams, Barry Morris, Sharon Copeman, Nancy Talbot, Marianna Harris, Gary Paterson, Dan Chambers, Brian Burke, Cullene Bryant, Cheryl Black, Jennifer Richmond, Tracy Murton, Bob Burrows, Art Griffin, David Anderson.

Lay: Linda Gunn, Carole Kidd, Susan Henry, Pat Burns, Shawn Shenfield, Simone Carrodus, Brian Baybay, Susan Chambers, Geoff Wilkins, Robin McGauley, John Bessuille, Trevor Harris, Barbara Matiru, Ivy Thomas, Sue Parker, Phyllis Cooper, Michelle Ness, Sue Lamb, Katheryn Karst, Gloria Lawton, Laurene Lewis, Syd Lewis, Karen Wootton, Jean Moore, Sheila Stanway.

**Regrets:**

Christina Atkinson, John Culter, Robin Jacobson, Shelagh MacKinnon, Gabrielle McLarty, Ed Searcy, Maureen Hollins, Don Collett, Susan DuMoulin, Sally Harris, Janice Young, Trevor Watson, Bayani Baybay, Eleanor O'Neill.

**Guests:** Ann Rowan, Director of "Sustainability Within A Generation" program of the David Suzuki Foundation and David Dranchuk of the Anglican Church.

**Presentation:**

Barry Morris of the Faithful Public Witness Committee opened the meeting with a presentation by three people designed to answer the questions : what is happening of ecological concern now, what are some of our current responses, and what are our faith responses?

Ann Rowan – mentioned the impact of global warming on the North, risks to water quality and supply, and indications that economies with strong ecological policies are also strong economically.

David Dranchuk– gave examples of practical, spiritual and political strategies from the Anglican Church perspective. These ranged from church energy audits , the role of environmentalists as current prophets, and the long tradition of faith communities being involved in political action. References included the "Greening Congregations Handbook", the "Footsteps File", and the KAIROS "Energy Workbook for Religious Buildings".

Brian Burke- provided information on the steps being taken by St.John's West End congregation as it works with the Suzuki Foundation resource book "Sustainability Within A Generation". They are considering the spiritual links between faithful living/the economy/ the environment and have used Sallie McFague and Thomas Berry resources.

**Other Faithful Public Witness Items:**

Susan Henry reported that the Lenten Vigil for the Silenced has been a worthwhile event attracting support from a variety of faith groups and attention from the media. She also reported that First United Church Mission is one of fifteen groups, concerned with the plight of low-income people across the province, registering a complaint with the Office of the Ombudsman.

David Dranchuk reported that on the last Friday in June there will be gathering of bicycles in large numbers in front of Christ Church Cathedral to tour the city and raise awareness about alternative transportation methods. It will be called a "Bicycle Mass".

Simone Carrodus reported that B.C.Conference has commissioned Derek Evens to work with Simone and Leslie Windsor to write a document about the theological rationale for involvement in the upcoming provincial election. Issue papers will be created to give people in congregations confidence to ask questions that test the values of candidates at candidates' meetings.

Philip Cable suggested we challenge Presbyters to see how little energy can be used to travel to a Presbytery meeting.

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**Welcome:** The Chair welcomed everyone to the business portion of the meeting and especially welcomed the Rev. Gary Paterson to his first meeting since accepting the call to St. Andrew's-Wesley Church. Gary was formally introduced by Sue Parker.

**Minutes:**

M/S/C by S.Carrodus/B.Matiru

That the minutes of the Presbytery meeting held on January 25,2005 be adopted.

M/S/C by S.Carrodus/S.Henry

That the minutes of the Executive meeting held on February 9,2005 be received.

**Business Arising:**

M/S/C by C.Black/M.Harris

That the report of the Section 333 Team regarding Renfrew United Church come back to the whole court of Vancouver-Burrard Presbytery at the April meeting.

**Committee Reports:****Congregational Relations:**

Tracy Murton reported that five congregational visits are under way with First United Congregation having been completed.

The report from Ray McGinnis regarding Campus Ministry has been delayed due to computer problems and will be received by the Committee in March and presented to the Presbytery in April.

The team carrying out the Section 333 process with Renfrew United Church is Simone Carrodus, Geoff Wilkins, and Harry Oussoren.

**Treasurer:**

Philip Cable reported on the need for supplementary assessments to cover the Maternity Leave of Youth and Young Adult Minister Tracy Murton. The amount represents about 4.7% of the original assessment.

**First Celebration:**

Philip Cable also reported on the successful celebration of 120 Years of Ministry at Hastings and Gore held on the previous Sunday. There was a full sanctuary plus the 80 voice Good Noise Vancouver Gospel Choir.

**Appreciation:**

The Chair expressed appreciation on behalf of Presbytery for all the work done by Sue Parker and Maureen Hollins to assure a highly successful Moderator's Visit Event.

**Camp Fircom:**

The Chair reported that B.C.Conference had covered the outstanding accounts payable of \$57,000 for the Camp Fircom Society with a loan, and that consideration is being given to finding additional funding to assure that the 2005 summer camping season may proceed.

**Long Range Planning:**

Syd Lewis reported that the Task Force on Presbytery Boundaries had completed its report and presented it to the Chairs of the Lower Mainland Presbyteries. A copy is available on line at [www.vanburrard.org](http://www.vanburrard.org)

The Chairs had asked the Task Force to do presentations at Presbytery meetings but members were unable or unwilling to do so. Instead the Task Force will meet with the four Long Range Planning Committees and have them be responsible for using the information. The next Committee meeting will be March 9<sup>th</sup> and it is hoped that other Long Range Planning Committees will attend to start the discussion.

**Education and Students:**

Terri Scallon attended the Conference Education and Students meeting and found it helpful in learning about the bigger picture. She reported that there are currently 24 women and 8 men enrolled at Vancouver School of Theology from the United Church of Canada, with 29 participating in the Master of Divinity Program and 3 in the Master of Arts in Theological

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Studies Program. Terri celebrated the Admission From Another Denomination of Robin Jacobson. The court also expressed appreciation to Nancy Talbot for taking on the role of Chair of Conference Education and Students Committee, succeeding Edith Baird.

**Youth and Young Adult Ministry:**

Tracy Murton reported that an unprecedented 38 youth had already signed up for the Bowen Island Retreat with 2 spots still available. A week after the Retreat a "Walking the Talk Event" will be held. Presbytery was asked to hold Sharon Copeman and Brian Baybay as well as the Youth and Young Adult Ministry Planning and Support Committee in their prayers as they cope with the resignation of the support person as well as the Maternity Leave issues.

**Welcome Back:**

Art Griffin was welcomed back after an illness.

**Mission and Service Fund:**

Jean Moore indicated that all Covenant Forms for Mission and Service Support are in the hands of the congregations. Over the last two years the Mission and Service Fund has been under funded by \$250,000 each year. Increased support is needed for 2005 and there are good resources available on the national church website to support congregations in sharing information about the work and the need.

**Announcements:**

- 1) The March Presbytery meeting will include a panel discussion with Rev. Dr. Patricia Dutcher-Walls and Rev. Dr. Ed Searcy on the topic "What does it mean to be prophetic in our own time?"
- 2) B.C.Conference General Meeting Registration Kits for the meeting in Courtenay, May 26-29,2005 were distributed to those present. They will also be distributed at future meetings and are available to be mailed by the Secretary upon request or by registering online at [www.bc.united-church.ca](http://www.bc.united-church.ca)
- 3) The Seventh Annual Camps&Cans Golf Tournament to benefit Camp Fircom and the Greater Vancouver Food Bank will be held Monday, May 30,2005 at 1:00 PM at the University Golf Club. Contact Bob burrows for information and to register at 604 224-5162 or [bob\\_burrows@telus.net](mailto:bob_burrows@telus.net)
- 4) Six Letters of Support are needed by First United Church Mission to support a new Alcohol and Drug initiative. Contact Rose-Hannah Gaskin for more information at 604 681-8365.
- 5) St.David's – Pemberton is holding a Linnea Good Concert at 7:00 PM on Sunday evening March 6<sup>th</sup> in Pemberton. Presbyters were encouraged to attend.

**Worship:**

Mollie Williams led worship based on Exodus17:1-7 to close the evening with the support of Simone Carrodus, Sheila Stanway and musician Julian Pattison.

**Next Meetings:**

Executive – March 9,2005 at 3:00 PM at Canadian Memorial

Presbytery – March 22,2005 at 4:00 PM at West Point Grey

**Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 7:50 PM

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Rose-Hannah Gaskin, Chair

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Pat Burns, Secretary