

January 31, 2006

Minutes of the regular meeting of the Presbytery held at St. David's United Church, West Vancouver on Tuesday, January 31, 2006 at 4:00 PM, with a quorum present, and duly called under the authority of the Chair, Rose-Hannah Gaskin.

Present:

Ministry Personnel: Shelagh MacKinnon, Bruce Sanguin, Susan Dumoulin, Deb Bowman, Philip Cable, Ruth Wright, Terri Scallon, Cheryl Black, Gabrielle McLarty, Sharon Copeman, Nancy Talbot, Robin Jacobson, Rose-Hannah Gaskin, Daniel Bogert-O'Brien, Marianna Harris, Gary Paterson, Dan Chambers, Colleen Blair, Brian Burke, Sally Harris, Ed Searcy, Gordon How, Maureen Hollins, Don Collett, Jen Richmond, Tressa Brotsky, Art Griffin, Bill Dyer.

Lay: Karen Duddy, Linda Gunn, Elinor Byers, Carole Kidd, Susan Henry, Pat Burns, Simone Carrodus, Trevor Watson, Susan Chambers, Bill Davie, Karen Millard, Trevor Harris, Barbara Matiru, Sue Parker, Phyllis Cooper, Michelle Ness, Sue Lamb, John Culter, Ellen Coburn, Laurene Lewis, Syd Lewis, Karen Wootton, Jean Moore, Judith Hardcastle.

Guests: Darryl Auten, Treena Duncan, John Freeland, Donna Dinsmore, plus 10 members of St. David's congregation for worship.

Regrets: Barry Morris, Janice Young, Cullene Bryant, Rob Pollock, Bob Burrows, Shawn Shenfield, Gloria Lawton, Joan Wyatt.

Worship:

Worship began with a time of singing led by Donna Dinsmore. Scripture reading was Psalm 133; Dan Chambers offered the sermon; Dan and Karen Millard led prayers of the people. The service included communion.

Opening: The Chair welcomed everyone and provided introductions.

Congregational Relations:

Simone Carrodus described and distributed a handout on the Oversight Visit Process and Timeline for visits to Canadian Memorial, Mount Seymour, St. Andrew's-North Van, West Van, and St. John's-West End to take place this Spring. Presbytery broke into Cluster Groups to select the visiting teams and start planning for the visits.

Dinner:

During dinner Jan McDougall, Chair of St. David's Board, described some of the activities at St. David's including completion of the chancel renovations, ongoing Out of the Cold support with dinners at First United, support for the Lookout Shelter on the North Shore, and the "Hands Across the Highway" program with Har El Congregation.

Conference President:

B.C. Conference President Darryl Auten spoke of visits to six Presbyteries where he found the church to be in great shape in spite of challenges in leadership and resources. He has visited Kootenay, Skidegate (Prince Rupert), Kamloops-Okanagan, Westminster, Victoria and now Van-Burrard. Darryl gave examples of creativity and energy at work including a small congregation in danger of closing that grew from 6 to 45 people thanks to placing an ad in a local paper. Darryl expressed excitement with the plans for the B.C. Conference General Meeting in Esquimalt in May which will have the theme of "Roots and Shoots", growing out of Job 14:7. Ten breakout groups are planned and the Hardings will share music leadership.

Announcements:

Ellen Coburn – Interspiritual Center event "Chantfest 2006" to be held February 25th starting at 10:00 AM at Shaughnessy Heights. (see also www.vancouverchants.com)

Bill Dyer – taking groups to Louisiana and Hungary with Habitat for Humanity and willing to do talks about Habitat.

Judith Hardcastle – As Intern at St. Andrew's-North Van, encouraged attendance at Vancouver Good Noise Gospel Choir concert on February 25th at St. Andrew's. Tickets \$20.

Announcements (cont'd):

Ed Searcy -

- Advised that Tom Bulman died on January 29th. Memorial service on Saturday, February 4th at Northwood at 2:00 PM.
- Both Len and June Lythgoe , members at University Hill are not doing well. June is especially in need of our prayers at this time. (more information at family's site <http://www.lythgoes.blogspot.com/>)
- Doug Goodwin, Conference Executive Secretary, will be providing logistical support for the plenary sessions at the World Council of Churches in Porto Alegre, Brazil for most of February. Gordon How will also be attending. It was suggested that Doug be invited to speak at a future Presbytery meeting about his experience there.

Dan Chambers – Music and Meditation Service at St. David's on February 5th. Donna Dinsmore invites anyone interested in a deeper exploration of Voices United music to contact her at St. David's.

Rose-Hannah Gaskin – reminder that Cheryl Black's Service of Covenant with Van-Burrard and Highlands will be held Sunday, February 5th at 4:00 PM at Highlands.

Minutes:

The Secretary provided the following amendments to the October 25,2005 minutes (page 05-54):

Camp Fircom: change *Conference has approved...* to *Conference has given the initial approval to put forth a submission for...*

Long Range Planning: change *has been sold...* to *date for completion of sale has been moved to November 30,2005.*

Moved by Pat Burns, seconded by Michelle Ness

That the Vancouver-Burrard Presbytery Minutes of October 25,2005 be adopted as amended. Carried.

Moved by Pat Burns, seconded by Trevor Watson

That the Presbytery Executive Minutes of November 16,2005, December 14,2005 and January 11,2006 be received for information. Carried.

Treasurer:

Philip Cable indicated that due to cancellation of the November Presbytery meeting Executive had approved the 2006 Budget and copies of the Pastoral Charge allocations had been mailed. He also circulated copies. Philip is seeking up to date contact information about each Pastoral Charge Treasurer.

Committee Reports:

Pastoral Relations:

Marianna Harris indicated that a draft Compensation Study, to be discussed at General Council, will be circulated to Presbyters.

Marianna reviewed a background information statement regarding a Housing Allowance matter at West Vancouver United Church and made the motion below, both of which had been emailed to Presbyters prior to the meeting.

Moved by Marianna Harris, seconded by Ruth Wright

That Vancouver-Burrard Presbytery requires West Vancouver United Church to pay its staff associate the same monthly housing allowance as it pays its order of ministry personnel effective January 1,2006.

Moved by Don Collett, seconded by John Culter

That the motion above be postponed definitely for one month. Carried.

On a point of order Don Collett asked the Chair to rule on whether the original motion was in order expressing concern about the process. A brief discussion ensued until Brian Burke, on a point of order, reminded the Chair that the court had agreed to postpone the discussion of the motion and further discussion at this time was not appropriate.

Youth and Young Adult Ministry:

Tressa Brotsky provided a report, which included the following, highlights:

- A reminder to all Pastoral Charges that prayerful support and encouragement of Youth and Young Adult Ministry is needed even from those with no active youth group at present.
- Tressa's office contains a well-stocked library of books and other resources including worship, fundraising, and outreach ideas. Contact Tressa to access these.
- A number of training opportunities are coming up including The Art of Facilitation workshop with David Hatfield on February 18th, 9:30 – 3:30 at Conference Office.
- Deadline extended for applications to Youth Forum at General Council in August. Contact Tressa ASAP with youth delegate suggestions.
- Representatives to Youth Council are still needed from Van-Burrard.
- Wandering Worship will take place at Knox, St. John's-Sunshine Coast, Longhouse, and Renfrew in the near future.
- The newsletter will be coming out at the end of February and will be of interest to all people not only youth.

Long Range Planning:

Syd Lewis provided background for the following motion:

Moved by Syd Lewis, seconded by John Culter

That Presbytery adopt a policy that asks the Pastoral Charge to get Presbytery approval for major renovation to real property and major personal property based on a percentage of the Total Amount Raised, Line 32, for that Pastoral Charge. For real property the guideline would be 10% and for personal property it would be 25%. If the Pastoral Charge has any outstanding debt they would need approval for any project over \$5,000.

Carried.

Syd provided a handout showing the threshold amounts for each Pastoral Charge using the criteria above and based on 2004 figures.

Syd reported that six meetings of the Trinity/St. Mark's Group of Eight committee had been held and that rebuilding of the relationship is progressing.

Faithful Public Witness:

Susan Henry indicated that another Vigil For The Silenced will be held during a week in Lent; First United will be involved in an education campaign to share information beyond the downtown Eastside; and she circulated information on welfare and minimum wage concerns.

Susan was thanked for her work to clarify, for Presbyters, misleading emails about the rates of assistance available to refugees.

Mission and Service:

Jean Moore expressed appreciation for the good work done in supporting M&S, but pointed out the differences in levels of support between churches and the problem of late forwarding of contributions. She encouraged congregations to remit quarterly. Jean reviewed some of the ways M&S proceeds are distributed within B.C. and indicated our goal for 2006 is \$2,500,000. M&S commitment forms are needed back within 6 weeks. Bill Dyer, on a point of order, advised the Chair at 8:15 PM that the Order of the Day had passed.

Camp Fircom:

Karen Duddy indicated that much good work is being done to improve the Camp's situation and that approval had been received to proceed with the Summer 2006 Camping Season. The spirituality and faith component is being strengthened and more information on programs is available at www.campfircom.ca

January 31,2006

Camp Fircom (cont'd):

Karen expressed appreciation for all the support received and asked that Presbyters help distribute information about the camping ministry at Fircom as widely as possible, with the goal of increasing the number of campers. She also mentioned the need for volunteer resident Chaplains each week over the summer to work with the regular Summer Chaplain.

Next Meetings:

Executive: Wednesday, February 8th at 2:00 PM at Renfrew United.

Presbytery: Tuesday, February 28th at 4:00 PM at a location to be advised by email.

Closing:

The Chair led prayer to close at 8:22 PM.

Rose-Hannah Gaskin, Chair

Pat Burns, Secretary