

**ASSEMBLY COUNCIL****November 22-24, 2009**

The Assembly Council met within Crieff Hills Community, Puslinch, Ontario, from November 22-24, 2009. P. Sakasov led the Council in opening worship. B. Vancook constituted the meeting with prayer.

**ATTENDANCE**

33/09C

Present were:

Assembly Appointees: Ms. Janet Clapp, Ms. Heather Crisp, The Rev. J. Wesley Denyer, The Rev. R. Stewart Folster, Ms. Elaine Heath, Mr. Gordon Walford, The Rev. Bert Vancook (convener).

Presbytery Representatives: The Rev. Dr. Aubrey Botha, Mr. Barry Flude, Mr. George Fraser, Ms. Carol Glenn, Mr. Gerald Head, The Rev. Michael W.A. Henderson, The Rev. Geoffrey B. Jay, Mr. Richard Kirk, Mr. Soo-Chul Lee, The Rev. Dr. A.R. Neal Mathers, The Rev. Paul Sakasov, Ms. Joan Stellmach, Mr. Jake van Kooten, The Rev. John R. Wilson.

Synod Representatives: Mr. Ken Dahl, The Rev. J. Ross Davidson, The Rev. Ina Golaiy, Mr. Charles Greaves, The Rev. Keith A. McKee, Ms. Betty Trevenen, The Rev. Fiona Wilkinson.

Ex-Officio - Voting: Ms. Druse Bryan, The Rev. Daniel Cho, The Rev. Ian A.R. McDonald, The Rev. Cheol Soon Park, The Rev. A. Harvey Self, Ms. Ann Taylor.

Ex-Officio - Non-Voting: The Rev. Dr. Rick Fee, Mr. Stephen Roche, The Rev. Stephen Kendall (secretary), The Rev. Dr. John Vissers (principal).

Others: Ms. Terrie-Lee Hamilton (recording secretary), The Rev. Don Muir.

**Visitors**

34/09C

Members of the Maclean Estate Committee.

**Others**

35/09C

Mr. Colin Carmichael (Communications), Ms. Amy MacLachlan, Ms. Connie Purvis (Record).

**REGRETS**

36/09C

The Rev. Song Deuk Hong, Ms. Peggy Liptrott, Mr. Paul Tysdale.

Cheol Soon Park (Sunday), Ian McDonald (Sunday and Monday nights), Barry Flude (Sunday night), Soo Chul Lee (Sunday night), Elaine Heath (Sunday night), Aubrey Botha (Monday afternoon), Daniel Cho (Monday afternoon).

**WELCOME**

37/09C

Each member was welcomed to the meeting and everyone invited to share something about him/herself. A special word of welcome was expressed to the new members.

**AGENDA**

38/09C

It was moved by N. Mathers, duly seconded, and

AGREED, that the agenda and order of business as printed be adopted.

**DVDS – LIFE AND MISSION**

39/09C

The Council viewed two DVDs recently produced by the Life and Mission Agency relating to *Presbyterians Sharing...* and *Canada Youth 2009*.

**EVENING  
ADJOURNMENT**

The hour for the end of the day having arrived, the Council adjourned. B. Vancook closed with prayer.

**MONDAY MORNING****PRAYER**

B. Vancook opened the morning session with prayer.

**MINUTES**  
**Council**  
40/09C

It was moved by J. van Kooten, duly seconded, and  
AGREED, that the Council minutes of March 22-24, 2009 be adopted with the following corrections:

- 115/09C: delete “Church Architecture” and add “d” to Experimental Fund;
- 181/09C: add “Defeated” before the amendment;
- 185/09C: add “ to” before “hear” in second paragraph under ‘Educational Opportunities within the General Assembly’;
- 191/09C: change “of” to “or” between “illness” and “death”; and
- 206/09C: change “two” to “three”.

**Executive**  
41/09C

It was moved by P. Sakasov, duly seconded, and  
AGREED, that the Executive Committee minutes of May 6, 2009 and September 22, 2009 be received for information, noting the following correction:

- 220/09E: change November to March.

**CORRESPONDENCE**  
**L. Duncan**  
42/09C

A letter was received from Lisbeth Duncan, previous convener of the Council, expressing her appreciation to the Council and her prayerful support for our work in the coming year.

**EXECUTIVE**  
**Report**  
43/09C

C. Greaves took the chair while B. Vancook presented the Executive Committee report.

It was moved by B. Vancook, duly seconded, and  
AGREED, that the Executive Committee report be received and considered.

**Overture No. 10, 2009 re**  
**Pulpit Supply**  
Response and Action  
44/09C

The Assembly Council was given power to issue on responding to Overture No. 10, 2009 re raising Sunday pulpit supply amount.

**Recommendation No. 1**

It was moved by B. Vancook, duly seconded, and

AGREED, that the Sunday pulpit supply amount be raised from \$100 to \$150 for both clergy and lay, plus accommodation and meals as required, effective January 1, 2010.

Regular Review  
45/09C

**Additional Motion**

It was moved by W. Denyer, duly seconded, and

AGREED, that that the pulpit supply amount be reviewed at least every five years.

**Experimental Fund**  
46/09C

**Recommendation No. 2**

It was moved by B. Vancook, duly seconded, and

AGREED, that Ms. Irma Bull be named a director of the Experimental Fund for a second three year term.

**Report**  
47/09C

It was moved by B. Vancook, duly seconded, and

AGREED, that the report as a whole as amended be adopted.

**FINANCE**  
**COMMITTEE**  
**Report**  
48/09C

G. Walford presented the report of the Finance Committee. S. Roche was also invited to provide information of this committee’s work.

It was moved by G. Walford, duly seconded, and

AGREED, that the Finance Committee report be received and considered.

**Third Quarter**  
49/09C

S. Roche led the Council through the report highlighting the third quarter financial results.

**Budget Framework**  
50/09C

The Management Team lead the Council through the various sections of the budget framework for 2010 and 2011.

**Recommendation No. 1**

It was moved by G. Walford, duly seconded

that the budget narrative framework document for temporary savings and permanent savings in the 2011 budget be approved.

51/09C

**Motion to Defer**

It was moved by J. Wilson, duly seconded, and

AGREED, that the above motion be deferred until other recommendations are considered.

(cont'd on p. 898)

**National Office Staff  
Unpaid Leave**  
52/09C

**Recommendation No. 2**

It was moved by G. Walford, duly seconded, and

that for one week in the years 2010 and 2011, the national staff at 50 Wynford Drive will take one week of unpaid leave.

53/09C

**Amendment**

It was moved in amendment by E. Heath, duly seconded, and

AGREED, that "common" be inserted between "one" and "week".

54/09C

**Amended Motion**

The amended motion having been put to a vote was carried and reads as:

that for one common week in the years 2010 and 2011, the national staff at 50 Wynford Drive will take one week of unpaid leave.

**National Office Staff  
No COLA**  
55/09C

**Recommendation No. 3**

It was moved by G. Walford, duly seconded, and

AGREED, that for the years 2010 and 2011 no COLA, as usually approved by General Assembly for the minimum stipend schedules, be applied to the salaries or stipends of the national staff at 50 Wynford Drive.

**Reorganizing Staffing**  
56/09C

**Recommendation No. 4**

It was moved by G. Walford, duly seconded, and

AGREED, that the Management Team be asked to reorganize staff at 50 Wynford Drive in order to effect permanent savings of \$226,000, starting in 2011.

**Bequest Stabilization  
Fund**  
2011 – Amount  
57/09C

**Recommendation No. 5**

It was moved by G. Walford, duly seconded, and

AGREED, that the withdrawal from the Bequest Stabilization Fund to the operating fund of up to \$440,000 starting in 2011 be approved and that the Bequest Stabilization Fund Policy be amended accordingly.

2010 – Amount  
58/09C

NOTED, approval was already given to take out an extra \$173,000 in 2010.

2009 – Amount  
59/09C

**Recommendation No. 6**

It was moved by G. Walford, duly seconded, and

AGREED, that in order to accommodate a possible drop in *Presbyterians Sharing...* in 2009, a withdrawal, if necessary, from the Bequest Stabilization Fund of up to \$200,000 over and above what the current policy provides (\$200,000), be approved.

**New Congregation  
Capital Fund  
60/09C**

**Recommendation No. 7**

It was moved by G. Walford, duly seconded, and

AGREED, that the transfer of interest income generated in the New Congregation Capital Fund of up to \$200,000 each year to the operating fund for the funding of Canada Ministries grants for creating new ministries be approved, commencing in 2011.

**College Grants  
61/09C**

**Recommendation No. 8**

It was moved by G. Walford, duly seconded, and

AGREED, that percentage rate used to calculate the college grants be revised from 10.13% to 9.88% to be effective 2011.

62/09C

NOTED, as usual, the 2011 grant will be based on 2009 actual total revenue and so on.

(cont'd below)

**LUNCH RECESS**

The hour having arrived for lunch, the members offered grace together through song.

**MONDAY AFTERNOON**

**PRAYER**

B. Vancook opened the afternoon session with prayer.

**FINANCE  
COMMITTEE  
(cont'd from above)  
Deferred Bequests  
2009-2012  
63/09C**

**Recommendation No. 9**

It was moved by G. Walford, duly seconded, and

AGREED, that, in order to achieve necessary temporary savings, up to \$200,000 of deferred bequests for 2009, 2010 and 2011 be left in the operating fund and not transferred to restricted funds.

**Budget Framework  
(cont'd from p. 897)  
64/09C**

The Council returned to Recommendation No. 1 regarding the budget framework that was deferred.

**Recommendation No. 1**

The recommendation having been put to a vote was carried as follows:

that the budget narrative framework document for temporary savings and permanent savings in the 2011 budget be approved.

**Alternate Funding  
Sources  
65/09C**

**Additional Motion**

It was moved by W. Denyer, duly seconded, and

AGREED, that the Finance Committee consider alternative methods of funding the work of the national church of The Presbyterian Church in Canada and report back to the March 2010 meeting.

**Evaluating Ministry  
Priorities  
66/09C**

**Additional Motion**

It was moved by K. McKee, duly seconded, and

that, in light of declining revenue to *Presbyterians Sharing...*, the Assembly Council evaluate the priorities of the ministries supported by *Presbyterians Sharing...* consulting with sessions, presbyteries and synods and reporting to Assembly Council in November 2010.

67/09C

**Motion to Defer**

It was moved by J. Wilson, duly seconded, and

AGREED, that the above motion be deferred until Tuesday morning's session.

(cont'd on p. 902)

**Press Release**  
68/09C

The Council previewed the press release regarding the budgetary decisions.

**Additional Motion**

It was moved by W. Denyer, duly seconded, and

AGREED, that the press release be sent to all clerks of session.

(report cont'd on p. 902)

**REPORTS WITHOUT  
RECOMENDATIONS**  
69/09C

It was moved by G. Walford, duly seconded, and

AGREED, that the following reports be received for information:

- Archives and Records Management Committee
- Church Architecture Committee
- Lending Funds Committee
- Personnel Policy Committee
- Experimental Fund

**Executive Stipends**  
70/09C

B. Vancook noted that the Personnel Policy Committee wished for further direction on the decisions made by the General Assembly regarding executive staff stipends. He will communicate with the convener noting that a suggestion was to recommend that a percentage increase be studied.

**MODERATOR,  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY**  
71/09C

The convener welcomed Harvey Self, Moderator of the 135th General Assembly, to share with the Council about his moderatorial term. He spoke of attending CY'09, Camp Geddie and the dedication of the Smith House, visiting Presbyterian College and Canadian Forces bases and chaplains, participating in an opening event of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission at Rideau Hall, and the international trip to Ghana.

**MANAGEMENT TEAM  
Report**  
72/09C

S. Roche presented the written report of the Management Team.

It was moved by N. Mathers, duly seconded, and

AGREED, that the report of the Management Team be received for information.

**SUPPORT SERVICES  
Report**  
73/09C

S. Roche gave a verbal report on Support Services.

It was moved by N. Mathers, duly seconded, and

AGREED, that the report regarding Support Services be received for information.

**RESIDENTIAL  
SCHOOLS**  
74/09C

A verbal report updating items relating to Residential Schools was presented by S. Kendall.

S. Kendall updated the Assembly Council on the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, including the responsibility of providing church documents to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, and our ongoing role on the Independent Assessment Process and the National Administration Committee.

It was moved by B. Trevenen, duly seconded, and

AGREED, that the Residential School report be received for information.

**LONG RANGE  
PLANING  
Emmaus Project**  
75/09C

W. Denyer, a member of the Long Range Planning Committee, presented its report. He provided an update on the design team noting that their next focus is selecting the participating presbyteries. There has been a good response to the Emmaus Project. The event will be held April 29 to May 2, 2010 at the Nottawasaga Inn.

**COMMISSION ON  
ASSETS OF  
DISSOLVED AND  
AMALGAMATED  
CONGREGATIONS**  
76/09C

S. Kendall gave a verbal presentation on the Commission on Assets of Dissolved and Amalgamated Congregations providing background on its responsibilities. The commission has prepared a guideline booklet to assist presbyteries as they deal with congregations in times of dissolution or amalgamation.

**OVERTURE NO. 14, 2009  
RE IRAQI REFUGEES**  
77/09C

Overture No. 14, 2009 re sponsorship of Iraqi refugees was referred to PWS&D in consultation with the Assembly Council. R. Fee and P. Kang were appointed to consult on behalf of the Council. The response was presented for Council's consideration.

It was moved by K. Dahl, duly seconded, and

AGREED, that the Council concur with the response to Overture No. 14, 2009.

**CRIEFF HILLS  
Building Campaign**  
78/09C

Members of the Maclean Estate Committee were welcomed with David Phillips and Lawrence Pentelow presenting a report on the current building program. They currently have \$318,000 of the \$600,000 funding level for the first phase of the building program.

**DINNER RECESS**

The hour having arrived for dinner, A. Taylor offered grace for the evening meal.

**MONDAY EVENING**

**PRAYER**

B. Vancook opened the evening session with prayer.

**LIFE AND MISSION  
AGENCY  
Report**  
79/09C

The Life and Mission Agency Committee report was presented by D. Cho and R. Fee.

It was moved by D. Cho, duly seconded, and

AGREED, that the report be received and considered.

**Stewardship, Associate  
Secretary**  
Position Description  
80/09C

**Recommendation No. 1**

It was moved by D. Cho, duly seconded, and

AGREED, that the position description for the Associate Secretary for Stewardship be received for information.

K. Plater, Contract  
81/09C

**Recommendation No. 2**

It was moved by D. Cho, duly seconded, and

AGREED, that the extension of the contract for Karen Plater, Interim Associate Secretary, Stewardship be noted.

**Mission Priorities**  
Overseas Missionary and  
Pastoral Excellence  
82/09C

**Recommendation No. 3**

It was moved by D. Cho, duly seconded, and

AGREED, that the two new Mission Priority Funds: Overseas Missionary Fund and Sustaining Pastoral Excellence Fund be approved.

**Long Range Planning  
Member**  
83/09C

**Recommendation No. 4**

It was moved by D. Cho, duly seconded, and

AGREED, that the appointment by the Life and Mission Agency of Mr. William Ashby to the Long Range Planning Committee be noted.

**Overture No. 14, 2009  
Re: Iraqi Refugees**  
84/09C

**Recommendation No. 5**

Since the Council earlier in the meeting dealt with the response for Overture No. 14, 2009 re sponsorship of Iraqi refugees, Recommendation No. 5 was not presented. (see Min. Ref. 77/09C)

**Canada Ministries  
Advisory Committee  
85/09C**

**Recommendation No. 6**

It was moved by D. Cho, duly seconded, and

AGREED, that the adjusted structure for the Advisory Committee of Canada Ministries be noted.

**Biennial Assemblies  
86/09C**

**Recommendation No. 7**

It was moved by D. Cho, duly seconded, and

AGREED, that the observations of the Life and Mission Agency Committee regarding biennial Assemblies be noted.

**2010-2012 Budget  
87/09C**

**Recommendation No. 8**

It was moved by D. Cho, duly seconded, and

AGREED, that the comments of the Life and Mission Agency Committee be noted regarding the 2010, 2011 and 2012 budgets discussion.

**Report  
88/09C**

It was moved by D. Cho, duly seconded, and

AGREED, that the report as a whole be adopted.

**BIENNIAL  
ASSEMBLIES  
89/09C**

There was a brief discussion on the referred report of Biennial Assemblies. The Council will have a fuller discussion in March following the responses from the courts and committees of the church.

**EVENING  
ADJOURNMENT**

The hour having arrived for evening adjournment, B. Vancook closed with prayer.

**TUESDAY MORNING**

**PRAYER**

B. Vancook opened the morning session with prayer.

**NOMINATING  
COMMITTEE**

The Nominating Committee report was presented by F. Wilkinson.

**Report  
90/09C**

It was moved by F. Wilkinson duly seconded, and

AGREED, that the report of the Nominating Committee be received and considered.

**Committee Appointments  
91/09C**

It was moved by F. Wilkinson, duly seconded, and

AGREED, that the following be appointed to the following committees:

-	Audit Committee	Ed Baskier
-	Finance Committee	Keith McKee
-	Personnel Policy Committee	Gerald Head
-	Life and Mission Agency	Aubrey Botha
-	Overture No. 13, 2009 re escalating moving costs fund	Paul Sakasov, George Fraser, Betty Trevenen
-	Overture No. 18, 2009 re ethnic/ racial leadership involvement	Ina Golaiv, Stewart Folster, Paul Tysdale
-	Fund for Ministerial Assistance	Carol Glen
-	Overture No. 3, 2007 re biennial Assemblies	Barry Flude

**Report  
92/09C**

It was moved by F. Wilkinson, duly seconded, and

AGREED, that the report as a whole be adopted.

**FINANCE  
COMMITTEE**  
(cont'd from p. 899)  
**Ministry / Mission  
Priorities**  
93/09C

The Council participated in a discussion on ministry and mission priorities for the denomination based on the following questions that they discussed in table groups:

- What priorities do you think are important for the ministry and mission of The Presbyterian Church in Canada?
- How do you see those priorities being carried out?
- How do you see them being financed?

Each table reported to the full group items from their discussions.

94/09C

**Deferred Motion** (cont'd from p. 898 and reworded)  
It was moved by K. McKee, duly seconded, and

DEFEATED, in light of declining revenue to *Presbyterians Sharing...* the Assembly Council evaluate the priorities of the ministries supported by *Presbyterians Sharing...* consulting with sessions, presbyteries and synods to report to Assembly Council by March 1, 2010.

**Table Discussions and  
March Agenda**  
95/09C

AGREED, that the feedback from table groups be compiled for members of Assembly Council, be forwarded to the Long Range Planning Committee and the Life and Mission Agency Committee, and that it be part of the agenda for the March Assembly Council meeting for further discussion.

**Report**  
96/09C

It was moved by G. Walford, duly seconded, and

AGREED, that the report as a whole as amended be adopted.

**MEETINGS**  
97/09C

The future meetings of the Council will be March 21-23, 2010 and November 21-23, 2010.

The Executive will meet on January 14, 2010 at 10:30 am.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business the council adjourned with worship.

**WORSHIP**

Wes Denyer led the Council in closing worship.

The Rev. B. Vancook  
Convener

The Rev. S. Kendall  
Secretary