

*Synodical of
Central, Northeastern Ontario and Bermuda
Women's Missionary Society*

*68th Annual Meeting
April 17-18, 2015*

**St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church
115 St. Andrew's Road Toronto (Scarborough), ON, M1P 4N2**

*Bible Study/Speaker:
Rev. Kristine O'Brien*



*Theme Scripture:
Mark 4: 26-29
"Parable of the growing seed"*

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WMS Purpose



The Women's Missionary Society is a community of Christians whose purpose, in response to the love of God in Jesus Christ, is to encourage one another and all the people of the church to be involved in local and world mission through prayer, study, service and fellowship.



68th Annual Meeting
of the Synodical of Central, Northeastern Ontario and Bermuda
Women's Missionary Society
St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church
115 St. Andrew's Road, Scarborough, Ontario
April 17 & 18, 2015

Theme: Abundant Living ~ Abundance for all
Mark 4: 26-29
"Parable of the growing seed"

<h2 style="margin:0">Agenda</h2>

Friday, April 17, 2015

3 p.m. Registration & refreshments

4 p.m. Gathering Music

4:15 p.m. Welcome ~ **Sanctuary**
President, CNOB – Joy Randall
East Toronto Presbyterial President– Katherine Allen
St. Andrew's – Carol Dabene

4:30 - Opening Worship - Waterloo Wellington Presbyterial

4:50-5:00 Update and Sharing ~ Janet Brewer

5:30 p.m. Break

6:00 p.m. Dinner **Hall**
Introduction of Guests & Greetings~ Joy Randall
Grace ~ Rev Duncan Cameron
Appreciation ~ Irene Camp

7:30 p.m. Entertainment in sanctuary ~ St Andrew's Bell Choir **Sanctuary**

8:30 p.m. Closing Prayer ~ Linda Grace

Saturday, April 18, 2015

8:00 a.m. Registration and refreshments

9:00 Gathering Music ~ Priscilla Anderson

Sanctuary

Welcome and Opening Prayer – Joy Randall

9:30 a.m. Introduction of Speaker ~ Tori Smit

Bible Study/Speaker ~ Kristine O'Brien

10:45 a.m. Book Review ~ *Tori Smit*

11.00 a.m. Synodical Business:

- WMS Purpose
- Prayer of Constitution
- Recognition of Guests and Visitors
- Roll Call *Katherine Allen*
- Review of Annual Reports
- Minutes of 2014 Annual Meeting
- Business Arising

➤ **Reports**

- Treasurers Report *Marie Glover*
 - Financial Report 2014
 - Presbyterial Objectives 2016
 - Appointment of Financial Examiner

➤ **Campership Report** - *East Toronto Presbyterial*

Recommendation from Synodical Executive to Synodical regarding future Campership offering.

12:00 Lunch ~ Grace (Knox Lawrie Cormack group, Oshawa)

Hall

1:15 Hymn Sing (Lynda Reid)

Hall

1:30 p.m. Bible Study/Speaker – Kristine O'Brien

Hall

2:30 p.m. Synodical Business (continued)

Sanctuary

➤ **Regional Staff Reports**

- Minister of Faith Formation _____ Tori Smit
- Minister of Congregation Health _____ John Peter Smit

➤ **Annual Reports - Motion to receive**

- ◆ Report Highlights

Corresponding and Glad Tidings Secretary Report __Irene Camp
 Area One Secretary Report ~ _____ Pat Ross
 Area Two Secretary Report ~ _____ Janet Brewer
 Area Three Secretary Report ~ _____ Mary Veale-Parke
 Children & Youth Secretary Report ~ _____ Bonnie Mooney
 Historian and Publicity ~ _____ Phyllis Davis

◆ **Motion to accept Reports**

New Business:

➤ WMS COUNCIL:

Recommendation from WMS Council Executive to Council 2015
 Synodical Delegates to WMS Council 2015

➤ Invitation to 2016 Synodical Annual Meeting

➤ Nominating Committee Report

3:00 p.m. Installation of Officers ~ Tori Smit **Sanctuary**
Memorial Service ~ Phyllis Davis
Closing Worship - West Toronto Presbyterial ~ Janet Brewer

Courtesies

4:00 p.m. Benediction ~ Tori Smit

OFFERING FOR CAMPERS 2015 ~ Please make cheques payable to *Kingston Presbyterial*.
 Donation of \$10.00 and over will receive an income tax receipt.



*Please take time during breaks and after meals to visit
 the Presbyterial displays and other displays.*



*Please remember to complete and return your **evaluation forms** to the box provided near the registration area.



The executive of the Central, Northeastern Ontario & Bermuda Synodical of the Women's Missionary Society wishes to thank the Session of St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Scarborough.

Appreciation is expressed to the groups of the East Toronto Presbyterial for their hospitality while hosting the 68th Annual Meeting.

Thank you to all who shared fellowship and kindness with strangers and friends alike. *Travelling blessings as you journey home.*



OPENING WORSHIP
Waterloo-Wellington Presbyterial

Call to Worship

Gathering Hymn – #410 - Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

Scripture Reading – Matthew 13: 1-9, 18-23

Meditation – Parable of the Seed (oops Sower)

Prayer

Hymn - #674 - In the Bulb There is a Flower

Charge

**To the Synodical of CNOB
Greetings from WMS President, Betty Siverns
March 26, 2015**

Dear Friends,

I am happy to send you my greetings and greetings from Council Executive. I am sorry that I am not able to be there to offer these greetings in person, but the Saskatoon WMS ladies invited me two years ago and this is the first opportunity I have had to be with them for their yearly meeting.

It is a little difficult to keep up with all that is happening in the WMS and in Canada from the other side of the world, but with the internet and Facebook one is not entirely left in the dark.

I trust I will see a few of you at Council and will look forward to catching up on your activities at that time.

May God bless all your efforts to serve him.

Sincerely

Betty

Betty Siverns, President
The Women's Missionary Society of
The Presbyterian Church in Canada

70144 Tainan City, East District
Chin Nien Road # 360-11
Taiwan.

CNOB Synodical President's Report For 2014

This year the theme for our 68th Annual Meeting
of the Synodical of Central Northeastern Ontario and Bermuda is
"Abundant Living ~ Abundance for all"
(Mark 4:26-29)

Our CNOB Synodical executive meetings were held at Willowdale Presbyterian Church in Toronto on June, 2014. Regular reports were given and the normal business items were dealt with at both these meetings. At our meeting on October 25th we have invited the Rev. Rodger Hunter to share with us about the Boarding Home Ministry.

I was installed as President at our 67th Synodical Annual Meeting that was held at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Islington, ON on Saturday April 5th.2014.

I attended the 100th Anniversary of the WMS in May at Richmond Hill both as a previous WMS missionary and the president of CNOB. Our Synodical banner was brought in by Lynda Grace and me along with the WMS National banner and one from each of the synodical across Canada.

The second National Women's Gathering followed these meetings. I was on the committee for the overseas and ecumenical guests. All of these great events were most uplifting and challenging for us today both in the WMS and as women in the Presbyterian Church in Canada.

I attended the WMS Council Executive Meeting in May. One of the most significant decisions made by the WMS Council was to close the WMS Book Room for financial reasons. I am a member of the Glad Tidings' Committee. WMS Council decided they would meet every two years. We face challenging times in the future in regards to fewer members and less finances. But we still have a call to reach out to the younger people in our national church as well as continue the various programmes we are involved in. We continue to search for new ways to meet these challenges.

The other WMS Executive Meetings this past year have and special committee meetings have been by conference calls. There are many forthcoming suggestions to this Council meeting in May 2015 both for WMS Council itself and the Synodicals.

Our Synodical is most thankful that we continue to have two synod resource persons as they are most valuable in the helping us to meet the ongoing needs and for the future of our churches, especially with the children and youth, church schools and the WMS. Their roles have changed a little and thus their new titles are Tori Smit is the Minister of Faith Formation and John Peter Smit is Minister for Congregation Health. As a member of the RCC we appreciate that the WMS continues to have three members to share in the planning with them. We appreciate the support of Synod in this continuing work before us.

I am sorry I have not visited any of our Presbyterials this year both because of conflicts of the time of their request but hope to do better in the future.

I appreciate the dedication of all the members of Synodical Executive and the Presbyterials as they continue to be faithful in their commitment and dedication to WMS and God in their lives and groups.

It is my prayer that as we work together in our Synodical that God will continue to bless, strengthen and guide us to do God's work. We are thankful for the abundance we have had over the years but realize there are many more challenges today. We trust we will be faithful to the promise of the WMS. and we continue to strive towards providing abundance for all in God's world.

Joy M Randall, President

Minutes

67th Annual Meeting of the Synodical of Central, Northeastern Ontario and Bermuda Women's Missionary Society

*St. Andrew's Islington Presbyterian Church
3819 Bloor Street West, Etobicoke, Ontario,
Saturday, April 5th, 2014*

THEME: *"For a time such as this"*

Welcome: Linda Grace, President, welcomed everyone to the 67th Annual Meeting of Central, Northeastern Ontario and Bermuda Synodical.

Gathering music and hymn sing was led by Joy Randall and Janet Brewer.

Greetings: Janet Brewer, President of West Toronto Presbyterial, brought greetings on behalf of the Presbyterial. Susan Norman, brought greetings on behalf of St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church.

Opening Worship ~ The opening worship was prepared by Victoria Presbyterian Church, Sault Ste. Marie on behalf of Algoma Presbyterial. No one was able to attend from Algoma, so the worship was led by Janet Brewer, President of West Toronto Presbyterial. The worship was based on the scripture Esther 4. Janet compared the story of Esther with the Women's Missionary Society and its 100 years of mission work.

Linda Grace thanked Janet for leading the worship, Joy Randall for playing and Angela who did the power point.

Campership Offering was taken up, concluding with prayer led by Linda Grace, President.

Synodical Business

➤ **WMS Purpose:** Everyone repeated the WMS Purpose.

➤ **Prayer of Constitution:** Linda Grace constituted meeting with prayer.

➤ **Recognition of Guests and Visitors:** Linda welcomed Tori Smit, and Rev. Barney Grace.

➤ **Human Trafficking report:** June Campbell presented a report on the Human Trafficking. Parliament has been given a year to review the laws for prostitution and Human Trafficking. A petition is available for everyone to sign. June has provided information to be picked up and read.

➤ **Roll Call:** Katherine Allen presented the roll call. Names of members of the executive and presbyterials were called. After each presbyterial was called, the members of the presbyterial were asked to stand and be counted. The following count includes the executive:

Algoma ~ 0	Peterborough ~ 7
Barrie ~ 6	East Toronto ~ 7
Brampton ~ 2	West Toronto ~ 16
Han Ca East ~ 0	Kingston ~ 3
Lindsay ~ 10	Waterloo-Wellington ~ 7
Oak Ridges ~ 1	Special guests ~ 1

➤ **Minutes of April 19 & 20, 2013 Annual Meeting**

Motion: Moved by Elaine Steele, and seconded by Eileen Smith that the 66th Annual meeting minutes for April 19 & 20, 2013 be accepted. CARRIED.

➤ **Business Arising**

- Linda Grace reported that Jeff Crawford has left the regional staff to become a full time minister at Trinity-Oro Presbyterian Church. Tori and John-Peter Smit have taken over the sharing of the Youth Consultants job. Anything to do with PYPS is taken over by the camp board.

- **WMS 100th Anniversary** is on Thursday, May 15. Joan Smith presented a report on the anniversary celebrations to be held at the Sheraton Parkway Hotel in Richmond Hill. The date is exactly 100 years since the three societies joined together to become the Women's Missionary Society. Each group should have received brochures last fall. The event will begin at noon for a time to meet and greet followed by lunch at 1 p.m. This date was chosen to coincide with the approximate 30 international guests who will be with us at that time.

From 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. there will be a time to meet with the international and other guests. Former missionaries who were once employed by the WMS will also be present.

Cost is \$30.00 to help cover the price of the lunch. CNOB is the only synodical who already has a banner; and the other synodicals will be creating their own banners. There will also be a national banner.

Reports:

➤ **Correspondence:** *Irene Camp* presented the Correspondence report.

Motion: Moved by Irene camp and seconded by Pat Ross that the Correspondence report be accepted. CARRIED.

➤ **Treasurers Report:** *Marie Glover* presented the Treasurers report.

Balance for Brampton is included in the total income.

Total costs is \$8,131.39 (not including the Brampton) instead of \$8,307.70.

Motion: Moved by Marie Glover and seconded by Bonnie Mooney that the Financial report be accepted as corrected. CARRIED.

A question of why CNOB Brampton is kept. There is no treasurer for Brampton so the synodical acts as their treasurer. Many of the groups send their money in directly.

Marie reported that the Objectives are listed of what has been received. Marie asked presbyterials provide her with their objectives.

Examiner: Marie has asked that we appoint Paula Gilthorpe as examiner of the books.

Motion: Moved by Mary Veale Parker and seconded by Eileen Mennell that Paula Gilthorpe be appointed to examine the books. CARRIED.

➤ **Campership Report:** *Barrie Presbyterial*

Mary Veale Parker presented a report on the use of the Campership funds for Barrie Presbyterial. She read a story of a young boy who really enjoyed attending camp.

Motion: Moved by Eileen Smith and seconded Evelyn Horne the acceptance of the Campership Report. CARRIED.

Cairns will allow the early bird rate for WMS and churches.

➤ **Presentation of WMS Proposal** ~ *Janet Brewer and Joan Smith*

Joan Smith expressed the opportunity to look briefly at the future of WMS and outlined some background to help people get a better understanding of the process. Several years ago the WMS did a future envisioning. With declining aging membership, a proactive approach will need to be explored. It was noted that the younger women were not joining the WMS. In the survey women were asking for a change. We need to reach out to women of the church to try and meet their needs. Being autonomous, we are able to make decisions for the society.

Janet Brewer presented a financial review of the WMS finances which is getting lower every year. The WMS focus changed in the 1970s when we no longer hired mission staff. The finances for supporting Regional Staff will no longer be provided the end of 2014.

WMS Council in 2013 agreed to hold the Annual Council Meeting every two years. Council Executive and Council tried to envision a new direction for WMS. The idea is to try to include every woman in the church. The WMS will have to make changes in order to survive.

Two task forces were developed: Janet convened the Financial Task Force and Joan convened the Future Task Force.

Joan presented a diagram of the difference between WMS, Presbyterians Sharings, (Life and Mission) and PWS&D.

The definition of mission needs to be changed.

- Women still giving towards mission and the numbers are decreasing. Council Executive agreed to the formation of an umbrella organization that would include: WMS, Women's Gathering and other groups.
- A recommendation to General Assembly is to be approved in principle before a decision could be made to approach groups. After the November (2013) Council Executive meeting, a delegation visited the Atlantic Mission Society to discuss this proposal. They expressed their desire to become part of this organization. This same delegation has travelled across the country to visit the synodicals. The findings of these meetings will be taken to the May Council Executive meeting.
- Janet spoke about the use of social media to reach out. She talked about the connection with groups that are part of presbyterials that have closed.

Question time

- One suggestion was made that the name be more inclusive.
- How to perceive the financial end. Janet spoke about the financial possibilities. Gave a few ideas of how she perceives the PCW particularly at the administrative level.
- A comment was made that the young people may not always afford a membership fee so perhaps the church can pay a fee if this is the route we take.

Linda Grace thanked Joan Smith and Janet Brewer for their presentation.

Linda spoke briefly that Marlene Cribar is listed as 1st Vice President and is not well enough to take on this office. She has asked for prayers for everyone to consider who could be elected as 1st and 2nd vice presidents, and to speak with Pat Ross.

> Introduction of Guests:

Linda Grace welcomed Bill McGowan, Moderator of CNOB synod and his wife Maureen, and Tori Smit introduced Rev. Karen Dimmick, Moderator of West Toronto Presbytery.

Lunch: Barney Grace said grace for lunch.

Introduction of head table: Bonnie Mooney introduced those sitting at the head table.

Bill McGowan brought greetings from CNOB Synod. He talked about the church having to look at the changes that have taken place over the last 100 years. A task force was set up to look at Synod Givings from churches. A plan is being put into place to look at what resources are available.

Bill indicated that God is asking us to be still and see God's will in becoming more aware of possibilities.

Rev. Karen Dimmick, minister at Morningside High Park. She brought greetings as Moderator of West Toronto.

Appreciation: Janet Brewer thanked the kitchen staff for providing the meal.

1:45 p.m.: **Bible Study and guest speaker** ~ Rev. Dr. Emily Bisset

Introduction: Linda McNinch introduced Rev. Dr. Emily Bisset.

Emily gave a synopsis of the book of Esther. It is the only book in the bible that does not make reference to God. Another version of Esther in the Apocrypha refers to God. She made reference to the Festival of Purim as told in the book of Esther.

Emily narrated the story of Esther with Marie Glover portraying Esther.

Emily went on to say that our religious life infringes on our private life and that God is in control of everything. *What possibilities are there for the WMS?* God needs us now to further God's work in the world. Emily concluded her presentation with prayer.

Thanks: Mary Veale-Parker thanked Emily for telling the story of Esther.

Synodical business

Linda Grace, President, resumed our business at 3 p.m.

Announcement: Wilma Welsh announced that the women from overseas partners are coming to attend the Women's Gathering in May. Two of the visitors will be speaking at the Waterloo-Wellington Presbyterial Spring Rally on Saturday, May 10 at 1 p.m. at Duff's Presbyterian Church, Puslinch.

Waterloo-Wellington Presbytery hosting the 140th General Assembly in June 2014. The opening worship/communion will be Friday night at St Andrew's Kitchener. Sunday, June 1st evening there will be a dinner costing \$30. Wilma extended the invitation that if anyone wishes to come to the dinner let Waterloo Wellington Presbytery know. General Assembly begins May 31.

Reports:

> Regional Staff Reports

Tori Smit ~ spoke to her report and for the report from John-Peter Smit.

~ spoke about some of the Christian education events taking place. Would like to be invited to come and speak about children's ministry. There is a shift in the training of Children's Ministry. The best Christian educator is their parent. Parents are getting more involved in the workshops.

~ people are very busy and do not have time to attend workshops. Tori is finding she is doing a lot of work on the phone and via email.

~ Jeff Crawford's job has been divided between Tori and John-Peter. Both John and Tori are available to speak at WMS meetings.

~ common request is people asking about broadly graded curriculum. What can we do for children when there are so few of them? There are things congregations can do for the children they have.

John-Peter deals a lot with congregational health. He is available to come and help with visioning and care for clergy etc.

Tori thanked everyone for the prayers and support.

Reports:

Linda Grace asked that those who prepared the reports to come forward and introduced each one. She asked if there are any questions regarding each report.

Area 1 Secretary Report ~ Pat Ross presented the Area 1 Secretary report. Kingston Presbyterial should total 146

Area 2 Secretary Report~ Janet Brewer presented the Area 2 Secretary report.

Area 3 Secretary Report ~ Lenora Arbuckle presented the Area 3 report indicating there are no total of membership listed.

Children & Youth Secretary Report ~ Bonnie Mooney presented the Children and Youth Secretary report. There are no statistics available of the number of youth and children's groups.

Historian and Publicity Report

Membership Report. Under "Honorary Memberships 2013", the names for West Toronto (Marguerite Milne) and Peterborough Presbyterials (Marion Barker and Helen Fowler-Bennett) are to be removed.

In Memoriam

Lindsay Presbyterial – In Memoriam 2013 two names to be removed as they were on last year's list.

Regional Consultative Committee Report – Linda Grace presented the Regional Consultative Committee Report.

➤ **Annual Reports**

Motion: Moved by Irene Camp and seconded by Linda McNinch that the reports be accepted as corrected. CARRIED.

➤ **Invitation to 2015 Synodical Annual Meeting:** Katherine Allen extended an invitation on behalf of East Toronto Presbyterial to host the 2015 synodical annual meeting.

➤ **Nominating Committee Report** – Pat Ross presented the Nominating Committee Report. Pat asked that we keep Marlene Cribar in our prayers. We need a 1st and 2nd Vice Presidents.

Motion: Moved by Jeanette Globe, Kingston, and seconded by Marie Glover, that Irene Camp be nominated as 2nd vice president. CARRIED.

Nomination for 1st vice president

Pat asked that everyone go home and pray that someone will agree to become 1st Vice President.

Motion: Moved by Pat Ross, and seconded by Mary Veale-Parker that the Nominating Committee report be accepted. CARRIED.

➤ **Election and Installation of CNOB Synodical Officers:** Tori Smit installed the officers. She referred to Isaiah 34 which is the theme for the Women's Gathering. Our call and hope, is to trust in God.

Joy Randall, newly installed president, thanked everyone for attending the synodical annual meeting.

Closing Worship – Barrie Presbyterial

Closing worship was led by June Campbell, Evelyn Horne, Jill Purdy.

Jill Purdy did a meditation on “*For a time such as this*”. We need to be mindful for the weight of time. Do we take the time to thank God? She gave an historical outline of Canada and the church and the WMS. Talked about how the women got together and eventually formed the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society (WFMS) 1876, and Montreal WMS (1864); Women's Home Missionary Society (WHMS) formed in 1903. Jill talked about the establishment of some of the work of the women in the church particularly in the formation of the Women's Missionary Society in 1914.

Jill concluded that we have come a long way and still the journey has not ended.

Evelyn Horne closed the worship with prayer. Worship concluded with hymn *We are God's People*.

Camperships: Offerings received for Camperships were \$932. Synodical will top this up to make a total of \$1400.

Service of remembrance

Phyllis Davis led the Service of Remembrance assisted by Bonnie Mooney.

Courtesies: Wilma Welsh thanked everyone who made this day possible. She thanked Linda Grace for her years as president. Thanked Gerry Waugh for the book display from The Book Room. Wilma also expressed appreciation to Janet Brewer as president of West Toronto and for her presentation with Joan Smith, Katherine Allen for transcribing the minutes. Other members of the synodical executive were also thanked for their participation. Thanked Tori for being present and is a blessing.

Joy Randall, newly elected president, closed the meeting with prayer.

Linda Grace, President

Katherine Allen, Recording Secretary

2014 Synodical Report for Corresponding Secretary

The Corresponding Secretary has mailed out 5 cards this year, both sympathy and get well, as well as emailing the invitations to the appropriate people for 2014 Annual Meeting CNOB.

As for Glad Tiding the Waterloo/Wellington Presbyterial reports that their groups
81 regular print subscriptions, and 7 large print subscriptions.

In Picton we have disbanded but still get 6 regular print subscriptions.

As we all know by now The Book Room has closed, and so for meetings and events we get books and other items from local Christian book stores if there are any. These book stores are becoming less available as well. Members do still appreciate the opportunity to buy books, cards and other small items.

Respectfully submitted
Irene Camp Corresponding Secretary/2nd Vice President

Treasurers Report ~ Marie Glover

**Synodical of CNOB Financial Report
Jan.1, 20144 - Dec. 31, 2014**

	CNOB	Brampton
Income		
Balance Forward	\$ 4,886.62	176.31
Folders income	\$ 12.00	
Membership	\$ 2,834.00	27.00
Total Income for year	\$ 2,846.00	27.00
Income Balance	\$ 7,732.62	203.31
Expence		
Investment	\$ -	
Bank S/C	\$ 46.80	
Campership(total =1400.)	\$ 468.00	
Guest Speaker	\$ 100.00	
Annual Meeting	\$ 185.00	
Office Supplies	\$ 227.22	
Special Projects	\$ 100.00	
Travel AGM	\$ 809.28	
Travel Executive	\$ 1,111.91	
Travel Guest Speaker	\$ -	
Total Expenses	\$ 3,048.21	0.00
Deficit\income for year	-\$ 202.21	\$ 27.00
Closing Balance	\$ 4,684.41	203.31

Prepared by **Marie Glover**

Verified by **Paula Gilthorpe**

Marie Glover
Paula Gilthorpe

Objectives 2015

	OBJECTIVE 2015	GIVINGS for 2014
Algoma	2,500	2,962
Barrie		28,435
Brampton		11,806
Kingston	14,000	14,500
Lindsay	14,000	18,550
Han Ca East	0	0
Oakridges		5,890.
Peterborough	14,000	12,869
East Toronto	25,000	22,414
West Toronto	7,800	8,583
Waterloo-Wellington	22,000	20,500
Total	132,100	146,509

<p>REPORT ON CN0B SYNODICAL CAMPERSHIPS 2014 EAST TORONTO PRESBYTERIAL ~ Marjorie Ross, Treasurer</p>
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East Toronto Presbyterial received \$1400 from the Synodical in April to use for camperships for children in the congregations in our area (roughly corresponding to East Toronto and Pickering Presbyteries). At our meetings we urged our members to identify children who could be encouraged to attend Cairn Camp. This resulted in Knox Church Oshawa asking for \$100 each for four of their children who planned to attend. As treasurer I sent a cheque for \$400 to Knox Church in June.

Unfortunately, the two possible leads we had for children from other congregations attending Cairn came to nothing. In one case, transportation was the problem, and in the other case one

girl might have gone, but only if she had someone to go with her. This meant that we had \$1000 still to allocate.

Then the Presbyterian executive received a request from *Rosedale Presbyterian Church* to consider a grant to make possible a week long day camp in St. James Town operated by the *Yonge Street Mission*.

The background to this request is as follows:

Rosedale Presbyterian Church and the **Yonge Street Mission** are in a coalition with three other churches and church related organizations to offer support to the families of St. James Town, a very densely populated immigrant community in downtown Toronto. Together they have operated a homework club there for the past eight years serving twenty five children and their families. I am a member of the coalition board, and at a meeting I asked the representatives of the Yonge Street Mission (and another agency) if they could identify children in the community to attend Cairn Camp using the presbyterial campership money. In response I was told that the immigrant families would be extremely reluctant to let their children go away to a strange camp for a week. Their alternative, which has worked well over a number of years, is to provide day camps in the community so that children can stay in familiar surroundings. (From our perspective, it would be wonderful if the children could get out of the city, but parents' concerns stand in the way.)

Yonge Street Mission had already scheduled several week-long camps but hoped for an additional camp. They said that if more funding were provided they would hold an additional camp, in which they would make a special effort to involve children of Roma families who are amongst the most disadvantaged in the community. Their request was for \$1300; Rosedale Church said that if the Presbyterian approved using the \$1000, the congregation would put up the additional \$300.

I took this request to the Presbyterian executive, where it was approved. Early in August I sent a cheque for \$1000 to Ms. Jeanie Son who directs the St. James Town office of the *Yonge Street Mission*. Rosedale Church also sent their money.

In early September I was given a large "thank you" card with photographs made by the children and was told that a report would follow before the end of the year. I will make this report and the photographs available to both the Presbyterian and the Synodical.

Knox Presbyterian Church, Oshawa, Ontario

Knox Church, Oshawa had a time on Sunday for the kids to report on camp and Canada Youth experience. The money the Presbyterian/Synodical gave to Knox supported these 6 kids. Here is a report for the two groups.

Camp Report (Catriona and Marisa Capucho: Grace and Isabella Butland)

We wanted to thank everyone at Knox for helping to send us to camp this past July. Your generosity and support were greatly appreciated.

We spent a wonderful week at Glen Mhor camp, near Muskoka, where we swam, rock-climbed, did archery, canoed and kayaked. We made a lot of new friends who we still keep in contact with.

Although the weather was cold and the bugs liked to bite, we had a fantastic experience – thanks to our Knox family.

All in all, we learned S'More about God, our faith and each other.

A special thank-you to Reverend Kathy [Firth] for writing us each a letter to encourage us in our journey at camp.

Thank you all for unforgettable opportunity.

Canada Youth 2014 – Ama Mambe

Canada Youth was an amazing experience and was the highlight of my summer. This experience allowed me to have more faith in God. Through Monday, July 7th to Saturday July 12th, at Brock University in St. Catharines, I met with 500 teenagers from all over the country and 20 people from international countries such as Ukraine, Nicaragua, Malawi and Taiwan. This conference was full of fun, a great learning experience and always kept you on your toes. Every day was just as busy as the previous: waking up at 6:00am meeting with your new friends to go and get breakfast at 7:15am, followed by a morning energizer to help those who were still half asleep. Once the energizers were complete, you would walk to the other side of the campus to receive a keynote, which always had something to do with being face to face with many things such as doubt, fear and faith. After receiving your Keynote, you would meet with your F.A.C.E group composed of 16 people from all over the country. This would be a time where we would talk about being face to face in our own lives. After you have finished meeting with your F.A.C.E group, you would go back to the dining hall to get lunch at 11:45 am.

Next, was your workshop and I chose one based on mission trips. I learned that mission trips can have an effect on your relationship with God and with others around the world. In March 2015, the Presbyterian Church in Canada is planning a mission trip to Ghana to build schools. Following your workshop, you would go back to meet with your F.A.C.E group. Once your meeting was over, you would go back to the dining hall at 5:00pm to get dinner.

7:00pm was the worship service which was always the best part. My favorite part of the worship was the scripture reading because they would read it in English, then they would read it in another language like Spanish or Ukrainian. After the scripture, someone acting as the apostle Paul would come and give a five minute monologue based on his days in jail and all of the letters that he wrote. After Paul had left, the sermon would begin. The service was finished at 9:15pm, we would have an activity every night such as Tropical Face Off, Tele-Vision, Reflecting in the Stars, Clearly talented and The Mirror Ball. Once the nightly activity was complete, we would go back to our dorms and meet with our covenant leader and our covenant group and talked about the different things that we learned throughout the day. At this point, it would be 12:30 am and you would try and get some sleep.

Going to Canada Youth, they asked for socks and underwear to donate to the First Nations community in St. Catharines. We learned about the assimilation of the natives and residential schools. What many people like myself didn't know was that not only the Roman Catholic church was involved in the residential schools, but also the Presbyterian Church which was just as responsible. At the end of the lesson, we found out that as a whole group that we had donated 2,500 items of socks and underwear to the Iroquois tribe.

The main verse for the week was 1 Corinthians 13:12-13 ¹² “For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part, but then I shall know just as I also am known. ¹³ And now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these *is* love.” This verse taught us that the perfections and glory of God's nature, the riches of his grace and goodness, are displayed through Christ. We may only see his good works if we are able to accept God face to face.

This was a great experience for me as I affirmed and strengthened my faith, made new friends and would recommend it for any youth. I would like to thank the congregation of Knox and the Presbytery of Pickering for supporting me and allowing me to attend Canada Youth.

Colin Cooper's Camp Experience

This summer I went to JOY Bible camp in Bancroft. I went with a friend of mine from school who goes every year. It was a lot of fun. The theme for this year's camp was "Chitty Chitty Bang Bang".

We slept in bunkbeds in cabins. Each cabin would hold 10 boys plus 2 counsellors. The food was good. Breakfasts consisted of eggs, pancakes, cinnamon buns, toast and cereal, or other normal breakfast things. Lunch was normally sandwiches and chicken burgers. Dinner generally consisted of something like hamburgers, wraps, panzerottis, or some other kind of main dish. There was also salad, rolls and vegetables available. There was always some sort of juice or pop and water at the table.

Each day, the first thing we did was eat breakfast. After breakfast we went to chapel for about 1-2 hrs. There was always a speaker and people would do readings. There was also a small band with guitars, a banjo and piano.

We had lots of outdoor activities and games. We played soccer, dodge ball, basketball, kickball, Ultimate Frisbee, volleyball, and a game called greased pig. Greased pig is when you have full contact football in the water with a greased watermelon. Each day after lunch was cabin cleanup. More activities happened after lunch such as archery, riflery, mini-frisbee golf, tubing/waterskiing, jumping off high rocks into the water, scavenger hunts, and low ropes and hiking. My favourite was the archery and riflery. We also had competitions between the different cabins. One activity involved making an invention out of basic junk. We also had team building activities such as when we had to retrieve a bunch of items while the whole team was hanging on to a rope. We then had to swim out to the floating dock, retrieve another item, and swim back. Capture the flag was another favourite. After dinner, there were more activities and it was nice not to have to do any dishes for a week! At about 9:00 p.m. each evening, there was campfire with singing. Lights out was 11:00. I had a great experience at JOY, and I would definitely go back.

I would like to thank Knox for contributing to my stay at Joy Bible Camp.



Recommendation from CNOB Synodical Executive

Camperships Recommendation: Camp Cairns - has *Camp on the Road*, and a Campership Fund *that will pay up to 50% for anyone who is in need. For this year the Campership offering will go through Kingston Presbyterial.* If we want to make a change to the Campership, we have to take a recommendation to the annual meeting of synodical.

The synodical executive decided that we only provide the offering money collected at the annual meeting and not be topped up.

Recommendation:

Moved by Irene Camp, and seconded by Marie Glover, the synodical executive recommends that as of 2016 the Campership offering collected at the Annual Meeting, if there is no children available from the designated presbyterial, the funds will go directly to Camp Cairns for its Campership Fund. CARRIED.

Area One Secretary Report 2014

PRESBYTERIAL	GROUPS	ACTIVE	ASSOCIATE	TOTAL
KINGSTON	9	87	11	98
LINDSAY	10	99	30	129
PETERBOROUGH	11	95	38	133
TOTALS	30	281	79	360

Membership in Area One has decreased from last year. It was with sadness that Kingston reported two groups disband from their Presbyterial. St. Andrew's, Picton and St. Columba, Belleville.

There were two groups that haven't sent reports at this time from Kingston. We look forward to hearing from them.

The members continue to follow the WMS purpose in their groups.

In Response to the love of God in Jesus Christ... to be involved in local and world mission through:

Prayer:

- Active prayer chains throughout the Presbyterials praying for congregational needs and Presbyterial needs.
- Prayer as an important part of their devotionals during meetings at Presbyterials and local groups
- World Day of Prayer participation

Study:

- Groups in all presbyterial used the Glad Tidings for study material
- Groups in all presbyterial used guest speakers to make aware the importance of mission
- Groups were active in Mission Awareness Sunday Services
- Resources from the Presbyterian Church in Canada e.g. "Journey towards Healing and Reconciliation" and "Children in Poverty in Canada" were used

Service:

- One group prepared 120 personal care packages for Haiti
- Another group made socks for the homeless
- Another donated money to help buy baby bottles for Lindsay Pregnancy Centre
- Others collect used stamps for Leprosy Mission
- Groups in all presbyterial, active in their local communities with suppers, prayer services and nursing home visits, youth activities and Sunday School
- Groups in all presbyterial supported Evangel Hall

Fellowship:

- Groups in all Presbyterials used potlucks and meals to have fellowship together
- Groups in all Presbyterials used visits to nursing homes and shut-ins for time of fellowship with those that can't come to the meetings

Our groups are getting smaller. Some are closing and others are thinking of closing their local groups. The CNOB Synodical would like to thank those women for faithful service who gave of their time, talents and financial gifts to follow God's call to go and tell. They have baked and knitted, they have studied, prayed. They will continue to leave their imprint of discipleship with us as we also go and tell.

Respectively Submitted,
Pat Ross
Area One Secretary

Area Two Secretary Report 2014

East Toronto Presbyterial, Oak Ridges Presbyterial and West Toronto Presbyterial

It is my pleasure to report on East Toronto, (former) Oak Ridges and West Toronto Presbyterials. At this time the Han Ca East Presbyterial has not reported.

Presbyterial	GROUPS	Active	Associates
East Toronto	6	99	9
Han Ca East	n/a	n/a	n/a
Oak Ridges (Presbyterial has closed - only 3 Groups reported)	3	43	21
West Toronto	2	20	3
TOTALS 2014	11	162	
2013	16	232	33

Presbyterial	GUILDS	Active	Associates
West Toronto	2	26	3

If you compare this year's report to last year you will see that a number of Groups have closed (Trinity WMS at Trinity Presbyterian Church, York Mills in June 2014, Semper Fidelis, Knox Presbyterian Church, Agincourt, Elizabeth Heath Group at Weston Presbyterian Church in June 2014 and Margaret Wilkie Group at Bonar-Parkdale PC) and the membership is down in each of the Presbyterials as a result. This is disappointing but seems to reflect what is happening across the country. Perhaps it also reflects the manner in which people are being counted.

Groups are using the Glad Tidings Study (Children in Poverty and Maternal and Child Health Care) and also other studies – For Everything There is a Season, Stories of Mission, Unglued – Making Wise Decisions in the Midst of Raw Emotions by Lysa Terkeurst John, The Gospel of Life and Jewish Roots: The Heritage of Christian Faith.

Groups promote the W.M.S. by placing notices in their weekly bulletins, inviting friends to meetings and special activities. Personal invitations are considered the best way to bring new members into the Group.

Groups hosted the Burns Supper, several Seniors Lunches, Presbytery dinners, Bake and Garden Sale and funeral teas. Groups participated in the local Strawberry Festival, Fall Bazaar, Games & Pizza Night. Groups collected for Operation Christmas Child, Canadian Tire Money and clothes for Evangel Hall, stamps for the Leprosy Mission, used glasses for third world countries, groceries and money for food banks, Cairn and supporting Sleeping Children Around the World, Christian Blind Mission and the Salvation Army. Some women volunteer at places such as Armagh and community "Twonie Lunches".

One Group honours young teen members of their Church School with Certificates of Recognition. This was their 30th year doing this and 42 have been thus honoured over the years.

Groups worked, in many ways, to promote the WMS. Groups also encouraged women to register for the WMS 100th Anniversary, Women of Faith Dinner and Burst Forth 2014 Women's Gathering.

Tremendous work!!

Respectfully submitted,
Janet Brewer, Area 2 Secretary

Area Three Secretary Report 2014
Algoma, Barrie, Brampton, Waterloo-Wellington

Presbyterial	Groups	Members	Associate Members	Totals
Algoma & North Bay	3			
Barrie	13	104	46	150
Brampton	6	85	14	99
Waterloo-Wellington	10	140	56	196
	32	329	116	445

* Algoma no report

** Collingwood (Barrie Presbyterial) disbanded in June 2014

Prayer:

Prayer is an essential part of each meeting, to open and close meetings, as part of the worship service and to dedicate the offering. Prayer is used to reach out to members, congregations, community, W.M.S. at all levels and also participation in a community prayer chain.

Study

There was countless sources for mission study material such as...'Glad Tidings' particularly for Easter, Thanksgiving, Christmas worship services, Maternal health and welfare in Malawi; also articles in 'The Presbyterian Record', 'The Message', PWS&D material and Canada Food Grains Bank leaflets. Studies on the Bible and Human Trafficking along with social justice, Child poverty in Canada and the world. **Glad Tidings available in regular and large print.** Often meetings hosted special guest speakers: one group had a local Immigration Officer speak about her work and another group based a program on a synopsis of the speech 'Challenges Facing Women around the World' given by Dr. Samantha Nutt, at the Women's Gathering last May in Toronto; Dr. Dutta and Dr. Wilson of the hospitals in the Bhil region of central India spoke about their work; Ken Kim (P.C.C.); Nancy Greer (Children's Aid); Cathy Finlay (Fair Trades); Barbara Horne (dentistry in the Dominican Republic); June Campbell(Human trafficking); Steve McInnis (Canadian Food Grains Bank).

Service

Many groups lead worship services at local nursing/retirement homes or conducted a 'lay' service at their own church for 'Mission Awareness Sunday' to remind congregations of the role of the church in the world and at home. Members volunteer and serve in the community! We support Salvation Army and Evangel Hall with money and clothing. We support nursing homes and hospitals and food banks, homeless shelters and crises centers. We support Sunday School programs and Vacation Bible Schools. We support the Leprosy Mission by collecting stamps. We deliver packages, we have made for new moms and for those home bound and 'care packages' are given to college/university students at exam time in early December. Cards are sent to mark special occasions and also at times of bereavement. Socks were collected for the 'Out of the Cold' program. W.M.S. groups made donations to 'My Sister's Place', Angus Tornado Fund, Interval House (Shelter), PWS&D.

Fellowship

In many instances, service and fellowship overlap as there is an interaction between the two. Sharing time with others, be it at a catering or serving at a dinner, meeting or potluck meal, coffee time after church.

'Day Apart' in Barrie, when Tori Smit, Synod Consultant had presented the topic "What's On Your Bucket List - Laugh Like You Never Have and More?" Be 'your very best self' with reference to the book of Job and group creation of a limerick, was a fun day!

This report would seem incomplete if I did not mention the wonderful 'Burst Forth', May conference ...the speakers, music, leadership and meditations were outstanding. The celebrating of 100 years of WMS!

We are constantly aware of our numbers and yet remain steadfast in our service. What joy in that service! In thankfulness to all the groups for their work and support.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Veale-Parker
Area 3 Secretary

Children's And Youth Report 2014

For many years, the WMS at Thornhill Presbyterian Church have presented Certificates of Recognition to young people in our congregation who are graduating from High School and who have made a significant contribution to the life of our congregation. It is our way to say 'Thank You' for the extra effort they made here, at their school and in the community to make a difference.

We have also presented Certificates of Recognition to mark a special event, milestone or achievement.* (see Historian's Report)

Submitted by Bonnie Mooney

Report of the Regional Minister for Faith Formation, 2014-2015
Tori Smit

Thank you for your support, encouragement, and continued prayers for this ministry and my part in it. I am now midway through my third year with the synod/synodical and find myself continually thankful for the privilege it is to serve the Presbyterian Church in this place with such caring, faithful and concerned congregations, groups and leadership.

Christian Education

During this year I have continued to experience an increased focus on Christian education (CE) workshops and consultations throughout the synod. While some presbyteries have taken advantage of my availability more than others, the number of congregations inviting me to help them plan and prepare themselves for CE ministry continues to expand. Between our 2014 synodical meeting and this meeting I have conducted 39 Christian education workshops throughout the synod and sometimes even beyond the synod. Each workshop has been planned with the specific concerns and needs of the inviting group in mind, and I hope that each has been an opportunity for those involved to be engaged and stretched in their consideration of the CE ministries they participate in. I have been blessed by the wonderful stories I have heard and the dedication of those I have met.

Many of our congregations are experiencing pain, grief and anxiety as the number of children and young adults in their midst continues to dwindle to a handful of children and youth. They find themselves struggling to determine how they might move forward, faithfully in this new age in our church. Many are trying to hang on tightly to models meant for large Sunday Schools, fearing that any change might invite someone else to leave. Alternatively, some grab at every new thing that comes down the pike in CE ministry, bopping from one theology, program, and/or educational methodology to the next on an almost monthly basis, hoping that this one will be the magic bullet that will turn everything around for them. All are being challenged to consider prayerfully and carefully consider the best that they could be doing to pass their faith on to future generations in a manner that is transformational for their children and grandchildren.

During this past year I have been delighted to work with a number of congregations, coming alongside them to help them make decisions for their future CE ministries based on solid best practices and a position of confident hope and commitment to long-term, consistent, sustainable ministry. There is a growing belief that intergenerational worship needs to be explored, parenting and grandparenting courses are greatly needed and intentional intergenerational activities have great potential in our congregations. One of the greatest challenges is for congregations to imagine taking the risk of considering new models for Sunday School to replace of the current situation we now have.

Since youth ministry has become a part of my job description I have not experienced a significant influx of requests for help in this area. I am not surprised by this, as fewer and fewer congregations have the number of youth needed to consider requesting any help. I have done a

couple of workshops on Millennials at the presbytery level and have also led an annual workshop in Oakridges Presbytery specifically for youth leaders.

Apart from these occasions I more often find myself chatting in casual ways with ministers and leaders about their youth options. When youth have been discussed, it has most often been as a part of a wider conversation about CE for all ages, focusing on how they might integrate small numbers of youth in meaningful ways into the wider life and ministry of the whole church.

A growing trend in my work has been a significant increase in doing CE consultation over the phone and by email. The balance of time spent leading workshops and time spent working with individual leaders and ministers discussing smaller and more specific topics is shifting. One area of concern which has been raised frequently this year has been the question of content and curriculum availability for confirmation/affirmation of faith classes. It has been over twenty-five years since the PCC has published curriculum for confirmation and there is a clear desire by ministers to lead meaningful classes with youth that embrace a broad range of educational/experiential activities such as elder mentors, mission trips, worship participation and leadership, and fellowship in addition to the traditional theological discussion of what it means to 'join the church'. Other areas of concern represented by these phone/email conversations have been in the areas of curriculum selection, intergenerational worship, small Sunday schools, and mid-week children's and youth ministry.

Women's Missionary Society

Working with the WMS is a delightful part of my work. It was a special joy to be a part of the Women's Gathering this past spring; meeting and worshipping with so many women from across the PCC. I served on the Worship Planning Team for the Gathering and was also pleased to be invited to lead a workshop entitled, "Please Pass the Faith: Best Practices for Sharing Your Faith with Your Children and Grandchildren" and have since been asked to speak with a few WMS groups on that topic as a result. I am happy that I have been asked to serve on worship committee of the 2017 Women's Gathering planning team and so look forward to participating in that event to come.

I was able to be a part of the activities of five of our presbyterials throughout the year, attending presbyterial executive meetings, fall and spring rallies, while also attending synodical executive and planning meetings. While CE continues to be the priority of my work, I hope that all presbyterials will feel free to let me know when they are meeting and invite me to participate as I am able. If the date is free for me, I would love to come and be a part of your activities. Please put me on your presbyterial's email list so I can keep up with all the goings on. I also love to visit groups and have been thrilled to be guest speaker at a few WMS group meetings as well as speaker for one of our presbyterial fall gatherings.

The WMS continues to be anxious about its future as their membership ages and younger women are not as attracted to join existing groups. I continue to be concerned that the historical structures of the WMS at the local, presbyterial, and synodical level as outlined by Council are weighing down our members in ways that are overly burdensome and not permission-giving to our groups as they try to adapt to their aging and shrinking membership. Our synodical is responding to these concerns and invites groups to consider some new structural models for

groups that would make it easier for groups to function and thrive. Please consider contacting Joy Randall or myself to explore these possibilities for your group.

Synod Website: www.cnob.org

The wonderful new thing in my work this year has been the development of a new resource website for the synod. This website was envisioned as a place where resources developed by the Regional Minister for Congregational Health and myself could be made available for the whole synod to use. The website uses a blog format with new articles/resources appearing as they are available and then archived under the categories of CE, Congregational Development, or WMS. You will find seasonal intergenerational resources for congregations and families, stewardship resources, thematic study options and special services all there to be printed off and used in your churches and groups. We hope you come and visit the website often and point others to this new resource.

Continuing Education

I am beginning my last year of my doctoral studies at Columbia Theological Seminary in Decatur, Georgia. I have been working towards my Doctor of Educational Ministry degree over these past three years and am now moving into my dissertation year. Over the past year I have completed my practicum on, “Best Practices for Ministry With Children For Congregations With Ten Or Fewer Children”, have completed three courses: Advanced Studies in the History, Theology and Philosophy of Christian Education, The Bible and the Ecology of Wonder, and my Project Proposal Workshop, and am now partway through my final course on A Theology of ‘Orchard Planting’ as Found in the Book of Jeremiah for Planting A Ministry With Children. I am looking forward to this last year and am thankful for the interest and support of the synod as I work towards this goal.

I am blessed with the opportunity to do what I do with this synod/synodical. It is a joy for me, and rarely feels like work. I delight in my calling to Christian education and am forever thankful for the deepest desire of our people to pass their faith on to their children, their children’s children and those that we rub shoulders with each and every day. As we all continue to live out our calling by God I am...

With you in Christ’s service,

Tori Smit,
Regional Minister for Faith Formation, CNOB Synod.
56 Thirty Third Street, Toronto, ON M8W 3H3
Website: www.cnob.org

647 348 0879
torismit@gmail.com

<p style="text-align: center;">Congregational Development Consultant Report 2014 John-Peter Smit</p>
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“How could we sing the LORD’s song in a foreign land? ~ Psalm 137: 4

*“O sing to the LORD a new song; sing to the LORD, all the earth.
Sing to the LORD, bless his name; tell of his salvation from day to day.
Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous works among all the peoples.”*

Psalm 96: 1-3

In many ways, this year’s review can be described as living between these two verses. On the one hand knowing that we are not just called, but privileged to sing to the Lord a new song, and on the other hand struggling to know what that song is and how to sing.

In this struggle, I have worked with an increasing number of congregations (about 10) who have come to the point where they can no longer afford a minister. Helping these congregations find options has met with varying levels of success. It is discouraging to see how big an issue this is becoming and how attached individuals and congregations are to old buildings and old habits. On the other hand it has been very encouraging to see the number of people, particularly laity who want something different for their churches and who want to be faithful to God an relevant to their communities but don’t know how. It is a thrill to be a part of those conversations.

Many in the synodical will be aware that the WMS no longer support the Regional Staff financially. One significant response to this decreased funding is that the Synod at their annual meeting, created a fund through which individuals, congregations and presbyteries can support the camping ministries and the regional staff ministries of the synod. To date, the financial arrangements have been made and we expect the promotional materials to be forthcoming this spring or summer.

As I consider how we as a Synod might respond to these challenges, I am also aware that this is uncharted territory for the Presbyterian Church and that there is a real challenge to finding our way where no one has gone before. To address this, I have been reading about and looking at missional churches in other traditions to understand how they might help us move forward. As well, Tori and I attended the Faith Forward event in Nashville Tennessee. While this event was particularly relevant to children and youth ministries, it was extremely helpful to consider the issues of congregational ministry from another perspective.

This year I have cut back some of my work with Natural Church development. While I continue to be active with NCD Canada, I have resigned from the Board and will be playing a much lower key role moving forward. While this is mostly a personal decision, it also reflects the ebb and flow of NCD in the synod. I am also, no longer the Assessor Minister for the Presbytery of Temiskaming as they now have two ministers in the presbytery. This means I am currently not the Interim Moderator of any congregations.

As I consider the upcoming year, my particular area of focus will be a slightly refined version of last year’s goals:

1. To continue my work in identifying and implementing change strategies for congregations and presbyteries within the synod.
2. To continue to provide resources for ministry which they do not have time to develop themselves. As indicated last year, this year I have introduced stewardship resources for congregation who lack the time to develop their own. These will be provided through the **Synod website (www.cnob.org)** and are easily accessible, and free for any who wish to use them. I am hoping to continue to assemble resources – particularly those which do not require personal visits to assist and empower ministers and congregations.
3. To continue to work with leaders within and outside the denomination in areas of health and vitality.

I am truly blessed to be a part of this Synod and this ministry of Jesus Christ. I am grateful for the work of the Regional Consultative Committee in both care and oversight. It is hard to express how much I appreciate the guidance and support of this body. Again, I am particularly thankful for the ministry and support of my colleagues. I am especially honoured to be moving forward in ministry with Tori. We are truly blessed!

Thank you again for this opportunity to minister.

Sincerely,

John-Peter Smit,
56 Thirty Third Street, Toronto, ON M8W 3H3

647 348 0879,
johnpetersmit@gmail.com

“Equipping the people for works of ministry for building up the body of Christ.”~ Ephesians 4:12

HISTORIAN REPORT FOR 2014

In Memoriam 2014

ALGOMA PRESBYTERIAL

Not received

BARRIE PRESBYTERIAL

St. Andrew's Barrie _____	Margaret Donnelly
St. Andrew's Barrie _____	Elizabeth Sutherland
Elmvale _____	Mary Ritchie
Huntsville _____	Corry Eygenraam
Huntsville _____	Ruth Forde
Huntsville _____	Glenys Puffer
Huntsville _____	Virginia Wilkes



KINGSTON PRESBYTERIAL

Not received

LINDSAY PRESBYTERIAL

Cresswell _____	Eileen Drury
Cresswell _____	Joyce Stableford (Life member)
Cresswell _____	Lillian Nixon
Bolsover _____	Betty Saunders

FORMER OAK RIDGES PRESBYTERIAL

Richmond Hill WMS Group _____ Margaret Carrington

PETERBOROUGH PRESBYTERIAL

Not received

EAST TORONTO PRESBYTERIAL

Knox Presbyterian Church Spadina, Mildred Gehman Auxiliary
Nellie Turner
Jean Constable
Dorothy Coffee

Queen Street East Presbyterian Church, WMS/Women's Association
Jean Forrest

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church Scarborough, St. Andrew's Presbyterian Women
Noreen Anderson
Verna Barrett
Ida Blackwell
Dora Codd
Margaret Duthie
Audrey Fernie

Trinity York Mills Presbyterian Church, WMS _____ Isobel Benevides

Willowdale Presbyterian Church, Anna Cooper Auxiliary _____ Kim Tan

WATERLOO/WELLINGTON PRESBYTERIAL

St. Andrew's, Kitchener _____	Shirley Brown
St. Andrew's, Kitchener _____	Morag Thompson
Knox, Guelph _____	Audrey Davis
Duff's, Puslinch _____	Janet Hamilton
Eden Mills _____	Marion Tubman
St. Andrew's, Guelph _____	Sandra Wilkinson

WEST TORONTO PRESBYTERIAL

Mary Weatherall WMS, Runnymede _____ Myra Fleming

WMS ANNIVERSARIES

Barrie Presbyterial
Oro-Esson 121st
Jubilee, Stayner 125th



DISBANDED:

Barrie Presbyterial: Collingwood, in June 2014

East Toronto Presbyterial: Sadly we announce the closing of *Trinity York Mills WMS* and *Knox Agincourt Semper Fidelis*, Fall 2014.

We thank them for their dedication and support. Blessings to All.

CERTIFICATES

Certificate Of Recognition

Presented by Thornhill Presbyterian Church WMS Afternoon Auxiliary to Cory Gargano, Majid Ghagaunfary, Ross London, Eva Pandy and Brett Vais who are high school-aged Sunday School members. 2014 was the Group's 30th year of presenting Certificates of Recognition. They have honoured 42 high school students and three adults in this time.

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***Nominating Committee Report
Proposed Slate Of Officers CNOB Synodical
2015-2016***

Nominating Committee: Pat Ross, Eileen Smith, Mary Veale-Parker, Linda McNinch

OFFICE	PERSON	YEAR
Honorary President	Betty Severn	2013
Past President	Linda Grace	2014
President	Joy Randall	2014
First Vice President	Mary Veale-Parker	2015
Second Vice President	Irene Camp	2014
Recording Secretary	Katherine Allen	2012
Corresponding Secretary and Glad Tidings	Irene Camp	2014
Treasurer	Marie Glover	2012
Area One Secretary	Joan Smith	2015
Area Two Secretary	Janet Brewer	2013
Area Three Secretary	Marion Hunter	2015
Historian/In Memoriam	Elaine Steele	2015
Member without Portfolio #1	Eileen Smith	2013
Member without Portfolio #2	Joyce Wagg	2014

Closing Worship

Opening Hymn: #807 - *We plough the fields and scatter*

Scripture Reading: Mark 4:26-29 (The Message)

Meditation: Mysterious Growth

Act of Remembrance

Do not stand by my grave and weep.
I am not there, I do not sleep.
I am a thousand winds that blow,
I am the diamond glints upon the snow.
I am the sunlight on ripened grain and
I am the gentle autumn rain.
When you awaken in the morning's hush,
I am that swift uplifting rush,
Of quiet birds in circled flight.
I am the soft star that shines at night.
Do not stand by my grave and cry,
I am not there, I did not die.

(Author unknown)

Please sing together: *In the bulb there is a flower* (verse one)

In the bulb there is a flower, in the seed an apple tree,
In cocoons, a hidden promise: butterflies will soon be free!
In the cold and snow of winter there's a spring that waits to be,
Unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.

Reader: We light a candle today in honour of you,
Remembering your life, and all the times we've been through.
Such a small little light the candle does take
Until we realize how much in darkness the light can make.

The names of those who have passed into glory are read as the candles are lit

Please sing together: *In the bulb there is a flower* (verse 2)

There's a song in every silence, seeking word and melody;
There's a dawn in every darkness, bringing hope to you and me.
From the past will come the the future; what it holds a mystery,
Unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.

Reader: We light these candles to remember; may they burn ever bright,
As we look to the heavens with these very lights,
Beyond the stars, our dear ones soar, forever more embraced
By our Saviour, and there forever more – with his love is graced.

The final candle is lit for those gone, but unnamed

By our saviour, and with His love is grace.
As the angels protect them and call out their sweet names.
We'll honour their lives with the glow of these flames.
So we light these candles for our friends.
These candles – a symbol of our love and care – with them our blessings send.
We honoured you for whom you were
and the special things you've done...
that made your lives so rewarding
and made you such special women.
Your memories are ours to cherish
as we fondly remember your ways...
keeping you safely tucked in our hearts
is where you'll always stay.

Prayer: Dear Lord, we bear your image in weakness or in strength. We pray for those we love who now live with you. Hold them in you everlasting arms, and grant to those who care, strength to serve, patience to persevere, love to last and peace that passes human understanding.

Hold us in your everlasting arms, today and for all eternity...through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Please sing together: *In the bulb there is a flower* (verse 3)

In our end is our beginning, in our time, infinity;
In our doubt there is believing, in our life, eternity,
In our death, a resurrection, at the last, a victory,
Unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.

Installation of the 2015-2016 Officers of the Synodical

Introduction of the officers

Leader (to the officers): You have been called to special service, tending to specific responsibilities within this group/presbyterial/synodical. You have been called to live into the kingdom of God by bringing the best that you are to this task while trusting in God's promise of a bountiful harvest. Will you serve with energy, imagination, dedication, and faithfulness relying on God's promises revealed through Jesus Christ and guided by the Holy Spirit.

Officers: I will

Leader (to the members): You have been called to assist, encourage, and support these leaders called from among you. Will you uphold them in prayer, help them tend to the tasks before them and even take over when they are in need of rest.

Members: We will

Leader: The executive is now duly installed. I charge you to work together caring for one another, encouraging one another, and reminding one another of the assurances of God's love in all that you do.

Unison Prayer: God of grace, you have called us to be servants of Jesus Christ, and share in his ministry of love and compassion with all of creation. Renew us this day to serve you with joy and energy. Direct us by your Spirit and give us gifts of grace to serve wisely and well. Chasten us when we become too dependent on ourselves and ignore the good news that the harvest comes at your hand, not ours. Give us rest when we need it, encouraging us to sleep confident of your promises; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Closing Hymn: #773 Jesus bids us shine

Benediction

(Prepared by Phyllis Davis (Historian), Janet Brewer (West Toronto Presbyterial) and Tori Smit)



Bio of Rev. Kristine O'Brien, Bible Study/Speaker



Rev. Kristine O'Brien is minister of Trafalgar Presbyterian Church in Oakville, ON. In her ministry, she brings her passion for hospitality in the name of Jesus Christ. Welcoming those who are worshipping for the first time, encouraging strong community relationships, and making the Bible connect with everyday life are just some of the gifts she brings to ministry.

In 2011 she was awarded a Sabbatical Grant for Pastoral Leadership by the Louisville Institute. During this 16-week break from pastoral ministry, she explored several gardens and the way the natural world can enhance ones spiritual journey.

At Burst Forth, National Presbyterian Women's Gathering in May 2014, Kristine spoke about a spiritual pilgrimage she took recently in Britain. She also led a workshop on Exploring God's gift in the Garden.

Kristine lives in Oakville with her husband and four children.



Some Recommended Reading from Tori Smit

Books for Children



Sasso, Sandy Eisenberg, *Creation's First Light* (Indianapolis: IBJ Publishing, 2013).

Sasso, Sandy Eisenberg, *God's Paintbrush* (Woodstock, Vermont: Jewish Lights Publishing, 10th Anniversary edition 2004).

Sasso, Sandy Eisenberg, *The Shema in the Mezuzah: Listening to Each Other* (Woodstock, Vermont: Jewish Lights Publishing, 2012).

Rabbi Sasso is a wonderful writer and speaker. Each of these books are visual and storytelling masterpieces that invite the reader into the story and help them apply it to their own experience. Each of these books also include conversational material for parents and teachers discuss further the ideas presented. With *God's Paintbrush* questions for conversation are built right into the story and readers can break the story into small units for greater reflection.

Peifer, Jane Hooper, *The Family Song* (Scottsdale Pennsylvania and Waterloo, Ontario: Herald Press, 2008).

Jane Hooper Peifer wrote this book as a sermon illustration for her Mennonite congregation. The family in the story embrace their own family song that they sing before every meal, regardless of who is there. As the people invited to the table grow and expand, and the events become more complicated the song becomes the ritual that reminds them of God's presence with them no matter what. This book includes a CD of the story, the song and the accompaniment for families/churches to sing-along.

dePaola, Tomie, *Nana Upstairs and Nana Downstairs* (New York: G.P. Putnam's Sons, 1998).

Yoemans, Ellen, *Jubilee* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2004).

These two books invite young children into a conversation about death and heaven. dePaola's book compares two loved, but very different grandmothers and gently tells the story of Tommy's experience of Nana Upstairs death clearly and with grace. Yeoman's book is a picture of heaven using the biblical word 'Jubilee' throughout the text when speaking of heaven. This story represents heaven as a grand banquet with a southern flavour. Both are great conversation starters.

Boling, Ruth L., Lauren J. Muzzy and Laurie A Vance, *A Children's Guide to Worship* (Louisville: Geneva Press, 1997).

This book should be bought in bulk by congregations to be placed at the back of the sanctuary for children to pick up on the way into worship with their families. A congregation of church mice clearly and simply explain the liturgical parts of Presbyterian worship so that children can be educated and feel engaged in worship preparing them for their meaningful participation in intergenerational worship. Parents and grandparents may also want to buy this book for conversation at home.

Books for Christian Education Leadership

Allen, Holly Catterton and Christine Lawton Ross, ***Intergenerational Christian Formation: Bringing the Whole Church Together in Ministry, Community and Worship*** (Downer's Grove, Illinois: IVP Academic, 2012).

Csinos, David M., and Ivy Beckwith, ***Children's Ministry in the Way of Jesus*** (Downers Grove, Illinois: IVP Books, 2013).

Keeley, Robert J. ed., ***Shaped by God: Twelve Essentials for Nurturing faith in Children, Youth, and Adults*** (Grand Rapids: Faith Alive, 2010).

Tye, Karen B., ***Christian Education in the Small Membership Church*** (Nashville: Abingdon, 2008).

These four books look holistically at faithful ministry with children, youth and adults with special attention to building opportunities for faith formation through community intergenerational relationships and practices.

Smith, Traci, ***Seamless Faith: Simple Practices for Daily Family Life*** (St. Louis: Chalice Press, 2014).

This book is a great resource for families helping them in establish and enrich the practice of faithful conversations and rituals at home. This book is filled with easy and great practical practices for families at home.

Dean, Kenda Creasy ed., ***OMG: A Youth Ministry Handbook*** (Nashville: Abingdon, 2010).

DeVries, Mark, ***Family-Based Youth Ministry*** (Downers Grove, Illinois: InterVarsity Press, 2004).

Both of these books represent the recent shift in youth ministry towards a philosophy that youth ministry must involve the whole church if we seek to provide a relational and transformational ministry that grows faithfulness that is meaning-filled and rich in experience.

Additional Resources for WMS Study

Horizons Bible Study (<http://horizons.pcusa.org>: Presbyterian Church USA, annual publication)

Each year the PCUSA Presbyterian Women's organization bring out an excellent study guide for

their women's groups to use throughout their year as a part of their monthly meetings. Recent themes are: Come to the Waters (2015-16),and Reconciling Paul (2014-15). Years of past issues are available.

Thoughtful Christian (<http://www.thethoughtfulchristian.com>: Presbyterian Church USA).

This online resource allows you to purchase studies representing a wide variety of themes and lengths individually as you wish.