

Minutes of the 147th meeting of the Synod of Central, Northeastern Ontario and Bermuda. Wednesday November 4, 2021 at 7 pm. The meeting was conducted by Zoom.

The meeting was constituted with prayer by the Moderator, S Kwon. He then led in devotions. JP Smit and T Smit gave an orientation to the Zoom meeting.

BUSINESS

1. Roll of Synod. It was moved by W Bisset/D Laity that the roll of the Synod be the list of commissioners submitted by the clerks of CNOB presbyteries. Carried

Commissioners.

Kingston Presbytery: E Wilson, C Baker (regrets J Cameron)

Brampton Presbytery: K Pozios, N Ramsey, T Bell, R Kennedy

Temiskaming: A Jamieson (regrets J Ko)

East Toronto: M Sams, A Bisset, W McGowan

Algoma-North Bay: S Smith, S Kim, N Webb, D Laity

Waterloo-Wellington: K O'Brien, R Thomas, P. Lennox (regrets M Gaskin)

West Toronto: R Mitchell, J Ryu-Chan, J Brewer, C Cudjoe

Oak Ridges: L Leung, J Hong, J Allan, M Foster

Lindsay-Peterborough: C Kim, R McEachern, L Park, S Wallace

Eastern Han Ca: S Kwon

Pickering: A Cluney, A Kim, L Stark, H Sukhu

Barrie: D May, H Malick, G Schenk

Also present were J Terry (WMS), D Dougall and M Roberts (Cairn), G Myers (treasurer), G Macdonald (Regional Consultative Committee), J Biggs (clerk), JP Smit and T Smit (staff), D Kendall (Music Camp)

2. Sit and correspond. It was moved by J Ritchie/A Cluney that Synod Staff (JP and T Smit), Synod Executive members (G Myers, J Biggs, J Terry, D Dougall, G Macdonald) along with M Roberts (Cairn Camp) and D Kendall (Music Camp) be invited to sit and correspond. Carried

3. Minutes. After receiving comments and suggestions from last year's commissioners and Executive, it was moved by D Laity/N Ramsey that the minutes of the 146th Meeting of the Synod of Central, Northeastern Ontario and Bermuda, held by Zoom on November 18, 2020, be adopted as printed, with the addition of page numbers. Carried

4. Moderator. It was moved by S Wallace/L Park that the Rev Caleb Kim of Lindsay-Peterborough Presbytery be elected Moderator of the 2021 meeting of Synod. Carried

5. Agenda. Moved by R Thomas/D May that the agenda and order of business be adopted as printed, subject to change. Item J was added: a report from K O'Brien of Crieff Hills Community. Item K was added: Approval of all reports. The motion carried.

6. Presbytery Minutes. Moved by J Hong/G Schenk that the Clerk of Synod review the Presbytery minutes that have come in and report the results within the minutes. Carried. The Clerk notes the minutes of Oak Ridges and East Toronto have been neatly and correctly kept.

7. Reports from Committees and staff. Moved by J Ryu-Chan/G Schenk that the reports be received and it's recommendations considered. Carried

A. Executive Committee report. The clerk reported on the work of the Executive since the last meeting of Synod. It considered the benefits vs drawbacks of holding Synod by Zoom. As

a result, it gives notice of motion to amend its Standing Orders to state that “The Synod will normally meet virtually during the fall”. Executive also spent considerable time with the proposed budget. This budget would mark the last year of the annual \$20000 put into the Synod Ministries Fund from Synod dues. Due to the financial issues in congregations brought about by COVID, Executive decided to present a budget that would add \$10000 this year and \$10000 next year instead, thus giving congregations a bit of a break. Synod would then decide when the budget is presented. Executive also wishes to indicate its thanks to Colleen Walker, past Moderator, who stepped up and moderated a second Synod meeting when the Moderator Elect broke a foot right before Synod. She has led the Synod and it's Executive with wisdom and grace. We are truly grateful!

- B. WMS Synodical. J Terry, President, reported on the ongoing work of Synodical and Presbyterials during the COVID struggles. She also spoke highly of the work of our two staff in supporting the work of the WMS in the Synod.
- C. Sexual abuse and harassment. No report.
- D. Regional Consultative Committee. G Macdonald, Chair, reported. She began by offering words of thanks to our staff, JP Smit and Tori Smit, for their great work, especially during the pandemic. She commented on the web site and the blog and how they have grown and approved. She spoke of the travel policy for staff and of having discussions on how to be good stewards as we move back to more in-person meetings. It was moved by A Bisset/K Pozios that funding in the amount of \$61000 be requested from the Life and Mission Agency for the CNOB Synod for 2022 to support the funding of regional staff. Carried
- E. Regional Minister for Faith Formation. T Smit thanked the Synod for its support as she does her work. She spoke about the web site and its content and its growth. She also spoke about the difficulties encountered in reopening churches and Sunday Schools, vaccine mandates and other COVID related issues. She indicated the availability of Advent resources, including the daily devotional “Unto us a Child is born” and an interactive Advent calendar.
- F. Regional Minister for Congregational Health. JP Smit talked about how COVID and reopening churches is a very different struggle than we have previously faced. So many churches wonder “Can we make it?” Two years is a long time to be closed. COVID has brought so much change, like on-line worship and meetings. We have found out what is truly important and what doesn't matter so much. Ministers and elders are exhausted but truly have been shepherds of their sheep. Congregations are ready to change and move forward. No one is pretending that all is well.
- G. Cairn Camp. D Dougall spoke of another challenging COVID year at Cairn, with no regular camping programs. Still, there was no COVID on site. He expressed gratitude for the faithful financial support from the Synod and many other sources. Regarding fundraising, a Cornerstone Group has been established to seek monthly support from donors. He also reported that their charitable status has been reestablished. M Roberts described the Away At The Lake program that was a family-based camping model, therefore less risky re COVID. Sixteen people took part in the Leader In Training program. There was also a program for adults with special needs. Plans are well underway for in-person camping this summer.
- H. Music Camp. D Kendall reported on their 50th Anniversary celebrations in 2022. Music Camp is a one-week camp staffed by volunteers that is very family oriented. The last two years were done on-line with about eighty campers taking part in music workshops and Bible Study. It is anticipated that 2022 will again be in-person camping.
- I. Treasurer. The treasurer, G Myers, presented the financial reports. It was moved by A Bisset/D Laity to accept the balance sheet and income statement. Carried. A Bisset/D Laity then moved that the 2020 report re the financial review be accepted, and that the same firm be contracted for 2021. Carried. G Myers then presented the proposed budget. The main change from the usual was to reduce the Synod Ministry Fund amount from \$20000 to \$10000 this year. The remaining \$10000 would be added to the next year's budget. This move is to reduce the commitment of the congregations during this difficult COVID year.

This change reduces the per unit rate from \$9.99 to \$9.5. With this change, A Bisset/D Laity moved that the budget for 2022 be approved. Carried.

- J. Crieff Hills Community. Kristine O'Brien spoke of all the love and encouragement that both she and Crieff have received during the difficult COVID years, from across the PCC and the country. They have begun a farming program involving quail, sheep and chickens. They have provided weekends away for front line workers. She spoke of their goal being to serve the Church by connecting with nature and offering the opportunity for rest.
- K. A Bisset/D Laity moved the approval of all the reports as a whole. Carried

8. Business not dealt with. It was moved by R Mitchell/E Wilson that Synod Executive be given power to issue on business not dealt with during the Synod meeting, as well as any emergent business until Synod meets again. Carried

9. Next meeting. It was moved by A Jamieson/S Wallace that the Synod of CNOB next meet as a commissioned court of the Presbyterian Church in Canada at a time and place to be determined by the Executive. Carried

10. Motion to adjourn. Moved by J Ryu Chan/A Bisset. Carried

11. The Moderator, C Kim, closed the meeting with prayer and the benediction.