

Report of the Executive to the 149th meeting of the Synod of Central, Northeastern Ontario and Bermuda, October 4, 2023. Submitted by J Biggs, Clerk.

The main tasks of the Executive are to prepare a budget for Synod's consideration, as well as overseeing the work of our camping program and our regional staff members. It also deals with emergent business between our annual meetings. The Executive normally meets twice per year, as well as a short preparatory meeting right before the Synod meeting begins.

The Executive is made up of the Moderator, Past Moderator, Clerk, Treasurer, the chair of the Regional Consultative Committee (re staff), the Women's Missionary Society Synodical President, the Chair of the Cairn Camp Board, as well as representatives of Several Presbyteries. Other attendees include the chair of the Presbyterian Music Camp, Cairn Camp director, our two staff members. The chair of the Sexual Abuse and Harassment Committee attends as necessary.

This will be Synod's fourth meeting held by zoom. It has worked well enough that last year's Synod meeting amended its Standing Orders to state that we will now meet normally by Zoom.

Executive faces the formidable task in the upcoming year dealing with the retirements of our two amazing Regional Staff, JP Smit and Tori Smit, as they are retiring at the end of 2023. They have served the Synod, its congregations and Presbyteries, the WMS and this Executive incredibly over the years. Their wisdom, faith, kindness and diligence have touched all of our lives in many different ways. We will truly miss them. We wish them God's richest blessings in their retirement.

We will also miss the gifts of several Executive members who have finished their terms. Janice Terry, WMS President, has been replaced by Irene Camp. Darrell Clarke, rep of Waterloo-Wellington Presbytery has stepped down and has been replaced by Scott McAndless. Past Moderator, Caleb Kim, rotates off after his term. The Synod Executive would like to express its appreciation formally.

As you may be aware, the five year period for increasing the Synod's Ministry Fund through Synod dues has ended. Executive feels that it must move on beyond this method of building up the fund so individual congregations are not overburdened. The fund's committee has recommended that we continue to grow the fund to support our staffing and camping ministries into the future. How to do this without creating undue financial stress on congregations and Presbyteries is a challenge. The proposal of the Committee and the Executive is this: that Synod recommend that Presbyteries allot at least 5% of the value of assets available for distribution from all dissolutions and amalgamations for the Synod Ministries Fund. This would allow the fund to grow without an impact on congregations' budgets. This would also allow the closing congregation to see a positive impact their congregation can have on the future of the work of Christ in our Synod.

Motions. 1) That the Synod extend its appreciation to JP Smit, Tori Smit, Caleb Kim, Janice Terry and Darrell Clarke for their dedication to serving Christ within the Synod.
2) That the terms of reference of the Synod Ministry Fund Committee be amended to say that that the two Synod appointees be open to both clergy and lay. Currently the Terms of Reference say it is to be one of each.
3) That John Buie be named to the Synod Ministry Fund Committee as a Synod appointee.
4) That Executive be given power to issue in naming the other SMF Committee member.
5) That Presbyteries allot at least 5% of the value of assets available for distribution from all dissolutions and amalgamations to the Synod Ministries Fund for the ongoing work of the Synod in its staffing and camping ministries.

