

The 100th meeting of the Synod of Central, Northeastern Ontario and Bermuda. Page 1 The meeting was held by Zoom on October 28, 2024.

Commissioners.

West Toronto. C Inksetter, M Oteng, B Flude, J Gordon, J Brewer.

Waterloo-Wellington. N Pavel, K O'Brien, K Redman, D Ogram.

Oak Ridges. Soon Huh, H Vais, A Barton, N Vanderlaag.

Temiskaming. K Scott.

Han Ca East. S Kwon.

Pickering. J Huh, B Grace, B Fejes, L Shariff.

Barrie.

Brampton. P Gushue, S Rothary, A Lorenz, E Martin.

Algoma-North Bay. S Smith, J Wilson, M Policicchio, N Webb.

Kingston.

East Toronto. WA Bisset, J Matheson.

Lindsay-Peterborough. J Quick, A Blane, S Wray, S Wallace.

The Moderator, WA Bisset, opened the meeting with devotions, prayer and the constitution of the court.

Roll of the meeting. It was moved by J Matheson/J Ogram that the roll of the Synod be the list of commissioners submitted by the various clerks of CNOB Presbyteries. Carried.

Sit and correspond. It was moved by C Inksetter/D Ogram that K Pozios, D Laity, M Veale-Parker, J Biggs, G Myers, I Camp, G Macdonald, S McAndless, D Dougall and D Kendall be invited to sit and correspond. Carried.

Minutes. After comments were received by former commissioners and Executive members, the minutes were distributed to 2024 commissioners. Their adoption was moved by H Vais/J Gordon. Carried.

Moderator. It was moved by C Inksetter/M Oteng that Janet Brewer of West Toronto Presbytery be elected moderator of the Synod for 2024. Carried. WA Bisset installed the moderator. She acknowledged the history of the lands on which we live and worship. She then asked for a moment of silence for all who suffered under residential schools and how the peoples of this land have suffered under colonialism.

She asked if she could tape the meeting. As some opposition was expressed, this was not done.

Agenda. It was moved by D Ogram/WA Bisset that the agenda and order of business be adopted as circulated. Carried.

Presbytery minutes. It was moved by WA Bisset/D Ogram that the clerk of Synod review the presbytery minutes and report the results within the Synod minutes. Carried.

NOTE: The minutes of Kingston, Oak Ridges, Algoma-North Bay, Lindsay-Peterborough and Pickering have been attested as neatly and correctly kept.

Committee Reports. It was moved by WA Bisset/K Scott that the reports be received and their recommendations considered. Carried.

1. Synod Executive. The Clerk, J Biggs, presented the report. He spoke of the makeup of the Executive and encouraged presbyteries to name a representative to the Executive. He addressed the difficult year with the retirements of our two Staff, JP Smit and T Smit. Much

discussion followed on the matter of staffing, even two extra meetings of the Synod, to ensure that the Synod could move forward in its work while being financially realistic. Hence it was decided to hire one staff person asap - the Regional Minister for Congregational Health. Because of the delay in hiring, the Synod had some extra money. Hence during the treasurer's report there will be a motion to use some surplus funds to fund some capital projects at Cairn Camp.

The four recommendations from the report were all moved and seconded by J Wilson/N Pavel.

- A. That Synod extend its thanks to the Regional Consultative Committee (RCC) for all its hard work and time in getting us through the transition in staffing and getting us ready to move forward. Carried.
- B. That the Synod Camp Board be given permission to apply for various grants within the PCC and beyond. Carried.
- C. That Synod approve an application to the Life and Mission Agency for a grant for 2025. Carried.
- D. That the Synod extend its appreciation to the Executive members who are rotating off the Executive as of this meeting. Deon Slabbert's term as moderator and past moderator is complete. He has led us with grace and dedication. Gale Macdonald is relocating and is leaving her role as chair of the RCC. Her wisdom, diligence and kindness helped us move forward on new staffing plans. Her experience and faithfulness will be missed. Carried.

2. Women's Missionary Society Synodical. I Camp, President, reported. She spoke with excitement about the three day 110th Anniversary Celebration of the WMS in Mississauga. She spoke of a conscious effort to move forward as an organization. Another event is in the works. Some of the members are going on an awareness trip to Cuba together.

3. Sexual abuse and harassment. No report.

4. Regional Consultative Committee. G Macdonald presented the report, highlighting the ongoing work of the committee, particularly re the hiring of a staff person. The committee is facing a big turnover as it prepares for the hiring process.

5. Cairn Camp Board. The Chair, D Dougall, spoke with great gratitude to the Synod, Presbyteries, congregations and all the individual donors for their generosity in making Cairn work so well. M Roberts, Executive Director, told us about the over 600 campers and their experiences at camp. Over 300 others attended conferences and retreats. K Pozios spoke about the many positives of camping. She also highlighted how summer staff are vastly underpaid compared to other camps, about half of minimum wages. D Dougall informed us of the capital projects that have to be deferred because of costs, as well as the need for higher wages for summer staff. He pointed to his report to show some dreams and plans for the future.

6. Presbyterian Music Camp. D Kendall reported that the event was held at Camp Kintail for the first time. It is fully accessible. The extra distance did not create an issue as there were 170 campers. The theme was Come to the Banquet.

7. Treasurer. G Myers presented his report. He gave a synopsis of the year, indicating that since there were no staff the finances allow Synod to support two other areas of ministry more - Camp Cairn and the Synod Ministry Fund.

Recommendation 1. To receive the report and consider its recommendations. This has already been passed.

Recommendation 2 was moved by WA Bisset and duly seconded, that the Synod approve the current 2023 Reviewed Financial Reports to December 31, 2023, as reviewed by the reviewers, Smith, Sykes, Leeper and Tunstall and approve their report. Carried.

Recommendation 3 was moved by WA Bisset/D Ogram, that the reviewers, Smith, Sykes, Leeper and Tunstall be reappointed for the 2024 review. Carried.

Recommendation 4 was moved by WA Bisset/D Ogram, that the proposed interim budget and assessments for 2025 be approved. Carried.

S Kwon spoke of the limited use of camps and Synod staff by Eastern Han Ca Presbytery. He requested conversations take place to build up the relationship between Eastern Han Ca and Synod.

After the vote, D Laity spoke of requesting that the Executive add to the \$20,000 increase in the budget figure for Camp Cairn if there is room in the budget. J Wilson moved, duly seconded, that if there is a surplus in 2025 Cairn's special grant of \$20,000 be increased. Carried.

WA Bisset reported that the \$61,000 Life and Mission Agency for 2024 was for Synod staff. LMA has agreed to Synod's using this money for Cairn staff.

It was moved by C Inksetter/A Blane that a working group be established to consider the funding needed for Cairn staffing as well as Synod staff, and to report back to Executive at its earliest convenience. C Inksetter volunteered to be part of this group. Carried.

Recommendation 5. WA bisset/J Wilson moved that Synod approve an additional one time grant of \$74,000 for emergent capital site projects at Cairn. Carried.

8. Business not dealt with. It was moved by A Blane/K Scott that Synod Executive be given power to issue in dealing with any business not dealt with during this Synod meeting, as well as any emergent business until Synod meets again. Carried.

9. Next meeting. It was moved by H Vais/J Matheson 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 (normally in the fall by Zoom). Carried.

D Laity spoke kind words of thanks to the clerk, former moderator and treasurer for the uncharacteristically busy year of 2024.


10. It was moved by J Wilson/D Ogram that all the reports with their approved motions be adopted. Carried.

11. It was moved by P Gushue/Soong Huh that the meeting be adjourned. Carried.

12. The moderator closed the meeting with prayer.

Moderator.

Clerk.


James F. Bisset