

Minutes of the Emergent Meeting of the Synod of Central, Northeastern Ontario and Bermuda.
Held by Zoom on Wednesday November 26, 2025 at 7 pm.

The Moderator, K Pozios, constituted the court with prayer.

The list of commissioners is basically the same as for Synod's annual meeting, held October 8, 2025.

Present were T Mason, A Blane, C Inksetter, D Ogram, Ferenc, G McIlwrath, H Weening, K Pozios, H Donnelly, I MacCready, J Jamieson, J Wilson, L Odland, M Wright, L LaFramboise, M Policicchio, N Ellis, N Webb, R Manafo, R MacEachern, S Astop, S Chandler, S Smith, S Boose, D Douglas, L Campbell, D Williams, D Lee, M Veale-Parkerb

Regrets were received from A Bisset and E Bisset.

Sit and correspond. D Dougall, J Tait, D Laity, R McMaster, K Ward, G Myers, M Roberts, J Brewer, J Biggs and I Camp were invited to sit and correspond, moved by C Inksetter/ J Wilson. Carried.

C Inksetter/J Wilson moved that the circulated agenda be adopted. Carried.

It was moved by C Inksetter/J Wilson, that Dave Dougall, Chair of the Cairn Camp Board, receive the thanks of the court for all he has done to build up the life of the Cairn community over his years on the board. As his term is up and he rotates off the board, Dave will be remembered for his hard work, his wisdom, his kind heart and his love for Jesus. Executive also recognizes his dedication to its overall work over these past six years. Carried.

It was moved by R Manafo/C Inksetter that Janet Brewer, Past Moderator of Synod, be thanked for her excellent leading of Synod 2024 as well as Executive meetings since. Her dedication to this task has been wonderful. She has led with a true heart for Jesus and His Church. Executive will benefit greatly this coming year from her continuing service as Past Moderator. Carried.

C Inksetter/J Wilson moved that the thanks of the court be extended to George Myers, retiring Treasurer. George has faithfully served in this role for 14 years! His work required much attention to detail, facts and figures, but he never lost sight of the big picture - serving Christ and building up His Church. Congratulations on your retirement, George. Well done, humble and faithful servant. Carried.

C Inksetter/ J Wilson moved that the report of the Task Force appointed at Synod in October be received and its recommendations considered. Carried.

C Inksetter spoke about the report and the situations it was trying to address. She then presented the motions, seconded by J Wilson. The treasurer, G Myers, spoke to how these motions would affect the budget

1. That Synod budget an additional \$61,000 to be able to offer the seasonal staff at Cairn Camp compensation of \$75 per day with a goal to increase compensation in the next few years incrementally until minimum wage is achieved. Carried.
2. That Synod budget an additional \$15,972 to be able to increase all Permanent Staff compensations, by 10% plus COLA (which is set at 2.1% at the General Assembly) for 2026 with a goal to increase compensation in the next few years incrementally until industry parity is achieved. Carried.

3. That the cost of staffing increases be drawn in part from the Synod Ministries Fund, being \$22,097 in 2025 and \$33,588 in 2026. Carried.
4. That Synod direct the Presbyteries within their bounds to prayerfully consider gifting the Synod Ministries Fund with 5% of the proceeds received from closed, dissolved or amalgamated congregations going forward. The closing words of the recommendation (specifically for capital upgrades at the camp) were withdrawn as a friendly amendment. Carried.
5. That Synod direct the Presbyteries within their bounds, to prayerfully consider gifting the Synod Ministries Fund with 5% of the funds that may have been realized from the sale of previously closed congregations that was dedicated to the missions of the church and that might still be available for these purposes (ie in investments controlled by the Presbyteries). These would specifically go to the Camp for capital upgrades at the camp. Carried.
6. That the Synod immediately strike a permanent Funding and Marketing Committee to undertake the work of soliciting funds from a variety of sources for the work of ministry within the Synod. This would include but is not limited to work of Camp Cairn and that this group be encouraged to determine the cost benefit of hiring a professional grant finding company and/or marketing company that might result in donations within the church and in the wider world. Carried.
7. That Executive be given power to issue in establishing this committee within three months. After much discussion about the efficacy of this motion, several people volunteered to start up the committee - Sheryl Smith, Cherie Inksetter, Sean Astop. Synod agreed to give them power to add to the group.

The report concluded with the following statement.

“We, as a Synod, and as Camp Cairn, are committed to reaching the next generation with the Good News of Jesus Christ, to bring young people to faith, to maturing their faith and connecting young people, children and their families with God and with their local Presbyterian churches. This will only serve to strengthen our churches and our denomination for the future”.

Motion by J Wilson/H Weening that the treasurer and clerk and moderator be named co-signing officers regarding the funds of the Synod. Two of the three must sign. Carried.

Motion to adjourn. J Wilson/S Chandler. Carried.

Moderator.

Clerk of Synod