

Minutes of the Synod's 151st Annual Meeting, held October 8, 2025 at 7 pm by Zoom.

7 pm. Devotions led by the Moderator, J Brewer.

7:15 Business

9 pm. Adjournment

Commissioners were:

Waterloo-Wellington. F Szatmari, H Donnelly, G McIlwrath, D Ogram

East Toronto. A Bisset, E Bisset

West Toronto. C Inksetter, L Odland, M Wright, L Soobrian

Pickering. I Wahby, S Astop, L Laframboise, I MacCready

Barrie. T Mason, S Chandler, D Williams, M Veale-Parker

Lindsay-Peterborough. C Kim, N Ellis, R MacEachern, S Smith

Brampton. S Boose, K Pozios, L Campbell, D Douglas

Oak Ridges. J MacDonald, R Manafo, H Weening

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

Temiskaming. J Jamieson

Eastern Han Ca. J Kang, J Bae, D Lee, J Sohyoung (did not attend)

Kingston. No commissioners.

1. Roll of the meeting. It was moved by S Boose, duly seconded, that the roll of the Synod be the list of commissioners submitted by the various clerks of CNOB Presbyteries. Agreed.

2. Also present at the meeting were Executive members (D Laity, J Tait, G Myers, J Biggs, M Veale-Parker, D Dougall, S McAndless, I Camp, D Kendall, M Roberts, R McMaster who is scheduled to become Treasurer on January 1), A Szuks, K Ward (incoming Cairn Board Chair), J Borthwick. It was moved by I MacCready/D Ogram that those listed be invited to sit and correspond. Agreed.

3. Minutes. After comments were received from last year's commissioners and the Executive, the minutes of the 151st Meeting of the Synod of CNOB were amended to correct the spelling of D Ogram. The adoption of the corrected minutes was moved by D Ogram/A Bisset. Carried.

4. Moderator. It was moved by S Boose/D Douglas that the Rev K Pozios of Brampton Presbytery be elected moderator of the Synod. Carried. J Brewer proceeded to induct K Pozios to her office. She then assumed the chair.

5. Agenda and order of business. It was moved by D Douglas/C Inksetter that the agenda and order of business be adopted as printed. Agreed.

6. Presbytery minutes. It was moved by A Bisset, duly seconded, that the clerk of Synod review the Presbytery minutes and report the results within the Synod minutes. Agreed.

The minutes of Algoma/North Bay, Lindsay-Peterborough, Kingston, Oak Ridges, Brampton, Pickering, West Toronto have been attested as neatly and correctly kept.

7. Reports from committees and staff. It was moved by L Campbell/J Wilson that reports be received and their recommendations considered. Agreed.

A. Executive. J Biggs, Clerk of Synod, presented the report. He spoke of the process in hiring J Tait as the Regional Minister for Congregational health. Much discussion over several

meetings led to an acceptable job description. The search began and the result was the hiring of the Rev Jonathan Tait. A recognition service was held by Zoom and he began work June 1, 2025. The clerk also spoke of the response of several Presbyteries to Synod's request that all presbyteries consider using 5% of whatever comes to presbyteries through the sale of church properties to contribute to the Synod Ministry Fund. This fund is there to support the ministries of the Synod, particularly camping and staff. The fund is growing at a good rate. As we begin to use it to support our ministries, it remains important to continue to grow the fund in this way and others.

Motions. 1. Moved by L Campbell/S Boose that the Regional Consultative Committee be congratulated and thanked for all their hard work over the past two years in preparing the Synod for the beginning of the ministry of the Rev Jonathan Tait, Regional Minister for Congregational Health. Carried

2. Moved by C Inksetter/D Ogram that the Cairn Camp Board be commended for finding new ways to minister as well as build up camper numbers again after COVID. We also offer congratulations on their 95th Anniversary. Carried.

3. Moved by A Bisset/L LaFramboise that Cairn be permitted to apply for various grants within the PCC and beyond. Carried.

4. Moved by D Odland/G McIlwrath that Synod endorse the application to the Life and Mission Agency for a grant for 2026 to support Regional Staff. Carried.

5. Moved by M Veale-Parker/D Ogram that Synod thank George Myers for his many years of faithful and skilled work as our treasurer. George is retiring from his position at the end of 2025. He is already working on transition with his proposed successor, Rob McMaster, a chartered accountant and elder at St Andrew's Whitby. Carried.

6. Moved by M Veale-Parker/L LaFramboise that A Bisset, Past Moderator be thanked for his two year term on Executive. His wisdom and experience and kindness marked this period. Executive is grateful also for all the years he has served as representative of East Toronto Presbytery (he will continue in that role) as well as Camp Board Chair. Carried.

C Inksetter then addressed the court on the Report of the Working Group re Cairn finances. It was moved by S Boose/S Chandler that the report be received and considered. Carried. It was moved by L Campbell/S Boose that a task force be established to deal with the report and its recommendations. Carried. C Inksetter indicated her availability to serve and this was accepted. Others came forward to serve as well.

It was moved by S Boose/S Chandler that an emergent meeting of Synod be held on Wednesday November 26, 2025 at 7 pm by Zoom or receive the report of this Task Force. Carried.

B. Women's Missionary Society. I Camp, president, presented the report for information. She spoke of the Synodical meeting, attended by new staff person J Tait, as well as S Kim.

C. Sexual Abuse and Harassment. No report.

D. Regional Consultative Committee. M Veale-Parker presented the report, speaking of the long and helpful process in finalizing a job description for a new Regional Minister for Congregational Health - and how this led to the appointment of the Rev Jonathan Tait to the position. He began his duties in June of 2025.

E. Regional Minister for Congregational Health. J Tait reported on his first few months in this new task. He highlighted his report and then emphasized his availability to congregations, Presbyteries, clergy and elders.

F. Cairn Camp Board. D Dougall reported on the year at Cairn and its 95th anniversary celebrations. He thanked the many supporters of Cairn - congregations, presbyteries and individuals. M Roberts then spoke about camping in 2025. She highlighted the need for higher pay for summer staff in order to compete with other camps and attract students who need jobs that will help support them in their upcoming school year. Capital projects are being done, like accessible washrooms. Rick Shaver (treasurer) and Karen Pozios are transitioning off the board. D Dougall will also be finishing his work with the board.

G. Presbyterian Music Camp. D Kendall reported that Camp Kintail has been its home for the past three years. The theme was Joy in Generosity. 175 (the maximum) participants attended. The event also includes a mental health worker as a resource. It was moved by A Bisset/I MacCready that the Presbyterian Music Camp be transferred to the care and oversight of the Synod of Southwest Ontario, effective October 17, 2025, with the blessings and prayers of the Synod for its continued success. Carried. D Kendall thanked the Synod for its support over the last 29 years.

H. Treasurer. G Myers presented his report. He began by recommending that more presbyteries consider financially supporting the Synod Ministry Fund in order to secure the futures of our camping and staffing ministries.

Recommendation 1 was withdrawn.

Recommendation 2. A Bisset/S Boose that the Synod approve the current 2024 Reviewed Financial Reports to December 31, 2024, as reviewed by the reviewers Smith, Sykes, Leeper and Tunstall, and approve their report. Carried.

Recommendation 3. L Odland/S Chandler that the reviewers, Smith, Sykes, Leeper and Tunstall be reappointed for 2025. Carried.

Recommendation 4. A Bisset/ L Campbell that the proposed interim budget and assessments for 2026 be approved. The unit rate of \$10 as amended became part of the motion. After considerable discussion, J Wilson moved an immediate vote be taken. The motion carried and the budget and assessments were accepted.

Recommendation 5 was presented because Synod only paid its staff person, J Tait, for seven months of 2025 and thus a budget surplus. Hence the motion, L Odland/D Ogram, that Synod approve a one-time grant of \$60,000 to Cairn for emergent capital site projects. J Willson/C Inksetter moved to refer this recommendation to the newly established task force to report back on November 26. Carried.

Recommendation 6. Withdrawn.

8. Business not dealt with. It was moved by S Boose/L Campbell 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. As earlier decided, the Synod will meet in emergent session on Wednesday November 26 at 7 pm by Zoom. It was then moved by L Odland/S Boose that the next commissioned annual meeting of the Synod of CNOB be at a time and place to be determined by the Executive. Carried.

10. A motion to adopt the reports with their approved recommendations as a whole was made by A Bisset/L Campbell. Carried.

11. Motion to adjourn was made by S Chandler.

The Moderator, K Pozios, closed the meeting with prayer.

Moderator

Clerk of Synod