

The Presbyterian Church in Canada
The Presbytery of Calgary-Macleod
Alberta, Canada

Regular Meeting February 02, 2016

GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

Constitution At Calgary, Alberta and within Centennial Presbyterian Church there, the
Called to Order Presbytery of Calgary-Macleod met in regular session on Tuesday, February 02, 2016, at 5:00 p.m.

Prayer of Adoration The Rev. Helen Smith led the court in prayer.
Invocation

Constitution Following devotions, which were conducted by Mr. Sabino Diok, the meeting was constituted with prayer by the Moderator, Mr. Tom Paasuke.

Roll Present with the Moderator, were ministers of Word and Sacrament, Peter Baek, Bertalan Bocskorás, Nancy Cocks, Peter Coutts, Dewald Delport, Grant Gunnink, Kevin Lee, Jean Morris, Dianne Ollerenshaw, Helen Smith, Robert Smith, and Mark Tremblay; and ruling elders: Jim Broadwell, Sandra Cameron Evans, Sandi Churchill, Bill Cocks, Audrey Cole, Richard Crowe, Cathy Gale, Sheila Kirkland, Marlene LaMontagne, Bob McKinnon, Mary Rosza de Coquet, and Linda Sonley.

Entering the court after the constitution, as noted in the minutes, were: Janice Hazlett, Leslie Walker, and Pat Köver (*Calvin representative elder*).

Regrets were received from ministers of Word and Sacrament: Kobus Genis, Hugh Jack, Clayton Kuhn, and Jared Miller, and ruling elders: Rose-Anne Brown, Terry Hagen, and Bill Lockley.

Appendix The following ministers from the Appendix were also present: Frank Breisch and Murdo Marple.

Also present were: Judie Coleman (secretary) and Phil Gaiser (treasurer).

Leave to Withdraw Leave to withdraw at 7:30 pm was granted to N. Cocks, B. Cocks, and L. Sonley.

Courtesies The Moderator welcomed Bob McKinnon (*equalizing elder, Centennial*).

Guests to the court included Sabino Diok, Che Napoleon, Gordon Wytsma, Cam Hunter, Doug Bonar, and Gwen Crowe.

Docket The Clerk presented the docket for the day, which included Orders of the Day:
Stated Hour:

6:00 p.m. Retirement of Rev. Smith and Rev. Dr. Smith

Changes to the Docket:

"Meeting Time" portion of the Administration Committee Report be moved to follow the Riverside Endowment report.

It was agreed that the hours of meeting be 5:00 p.m. to the conclusion of business with a break for refreshments at 7:30 p.m.

MOVED by D. Delport, seconded by Sandra Cameron Evans, that the docket be adopted. CARRIED

Being the Body of Christ

Actions of Moderator

The Moderator brought greetings from the Presbytery to the Covenanting Service at Centennial.

Nov 3, 2015

The minutes of the regular meeting held on, November 3, 2015 were presented. MOVED by D. Delport, seconded by S. Cameron Evans that the minutes be adopted. CARRIED

Nov 23, 2015

The minutes of the emergent meeting held on, November 23, 2015 were presented. MOVED by D. Delport, seconded by S. Cameron Evans that the minutes be adopted. CARRIED

Dec 1, 2015

The minutes of the emergent meeting held on, December 1, 2015 were presented. MOVED by D. Delport, seconded by S. Cameron Evans that the minutes be adopted. CARRIED

Correspondence

The Clerk presented the correspondence.

Recommendation 1: MOVED by D. Delport, seconded by S. Cameron Evans that the correspondence be dealt with as indicated below. CARRIED

Receive for Information

File #	Correspondence
15-095	From J. Bell, received Nov 2 – Rural and Remote Summer Students.
15-098	From E. Bartlett, received Nov 6 – Changes to the Presbytery Rolls – emailed to presbytery Nov 6.
15-099	From H. Chappell, received Nov 5 – Presbyterians Sharing report to Oct 2015 – emailed to presbytery Nov 6.
15-101	From H. Chappell, received Nov 11 – 2016 Expected Allocations for Presbyterians Sharing – emailed to presbytery Nov 12.
15-102	From T. Hamilton, received Nov 16 – New Associate Secretary for Canadian Ministries – emailed to presbytery Nov 17.
15-104	From S. Shaffer, received Nov 18 – E&R information re Candidates – emailed to presbytery Nov 19.
15-106	From F. Hogg, received Nov 19 – receipt of remits A & B.
15-108	From E. Bartlett, received Dec 4 – Changes to the Rolls – emailed to presbytery Dec 8.
15-111	From H. Chappell, received Dec 11 – Presbyterians Sharing up to Nov – emailed to presbytery Dec 15.
16-004	From K. Horst, received Jan 11 – Pastoral Letter – emailed to presbytery Jan 12.

Refer to Administrative Committee

15-094	From C. Smith, Clerk of Session Grace, received Oct 27 – Leading with Care and Elders – emailed to B. Smith Nov 3.
15-100	From M. Rozsa de Coquet, received Nov 9 – re: presbytery rep to Grace.
15-109	From T. Hamilton, received Dec 4 – General Assembly Nominations – emailed to Bob Dec 8
16-002	From H. Smith and R. Smith, received Jan 6 – request to retire.
16-003	From D. Roorda, received Jan 6 – Partnership between PCC and CRC – email to R. Smith & M. Tremblay Jan 16
16-007	From M. Marple, received Jan 27 – Resignation as assessor elder.

Refer to Mission and Strategy

15-110	From B. Milne, received Dec 3 – resigned from Spiritual Care Advisory Committee – emailed Mark Dec 8.
15-113	From H. Smith, received Dec 16 – Update on the New Ministry Fund project between Centennial and the Anyuak speaking ministry, emailed to M. Tremblay Dec 17.
16-001	From J. de Combe, received Jan 5 – Grants for Presbytery from the Conference Support Fund for educational initiatives that encourages people to study, reflection, and discuss issues related to sexual orientation and the church – emailed to M. Tremblay Jan 5.

Refer to the Clerk

15-096	From W. Denyer, received Nov 2 – Temporary Marriage license.
15-097	From D. Tait-Katerberg, received Nov 4 – Call to Rev. V. Kim.
15-103	From K. Mwangi, received Nov 17 – Information regarding Gladys Black Memorial Fund.
15-105	From J. Bell, received Nov 19 – Canadian Ministries decision re. Knox, Calgary Grant Applications (was send to M. Tremblay as well).
15-106	From B. Wilson, Acting Clerk Assiniboia, received Nov 23 – Presbytery of Assiniboia approved the call to Jared Miller.
15-107	From J. Miller, received Nov 25 – accepts Call to St. Andrew's, Calgary.
15-112	From I. Ross-McDonald, received Dec 11 – Ghanaian Presbyterian Church Grant Approval. Letter was CC to G. Agyemang, J. Broadwell, and D. Ollershaw.
15-115	From B. Nawratil, received Dec 23 – 2015 Stats Reports – emailed to Clerks of Session and Clergy, Dec 23.
15-116	From S. Kendall, received Dec 28 – Nomination for 2016 Moderator of Assembly – emailed biographical sketches to presbytery Dec 29.
16-005	From T. Hamilton, received Jan 15 – Presbytery Statistical Information.

Refer to Treasurer

15-114	From P. Coutts, received Dec 22 – Expense Claim for last half of year, email to P. Gaiser Dec 23.
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Dinner Break At 5:30 pm the Court broke for a light supper supplied by the congregation of Centennial.

Roll Jan Hazlett, Leslie Walker, and Pat Köver entered the court.

Overture from Valleyview Overtures from Valleyview

**Overture to the 142nd General Assembly of The Presbyterian Church in Canada
From the Session of Valleyview Community Church Calgary
Regarding a Reformed Confessional Hermeneutic**

WHEREAS the Presbyterian Church in Canada (PCC) is united in agreement to be guided on matters pertaining to conducting meetings, the operation of its courts, and proper procedure for decision making by the Book of Forms, it, nevertheless in its confessions and procedures has no formal guidelines adopted, such as an agreed to Reformed confessional hermeneutic¹, which might create agreement, and provide guidance on matters pertaining to the interpretation and application of the scriptures; and

WHEREAS the PCC declares in its subordinate standard *Living Faith* that Scripture is to be "the rule of faith and life...the standard of all doctrine by which we must test any word that comes to us from church, world or inner experience" and further, that we are to "subject to its judgment all we believe and do"; and

WHEREAS Western culture now reflects a secular humanistic, post-modern worldview derived from Enlightenment philosophy, most noticeably in issues relating to anthropology, epistemology, and soteriology, and Canadian society is following this trend; and

WHEREAS this has resulted in the issue of human sexuality and orientation persistently presenting itself to the PCC since 1987; and

WHEREAS the contradictory appeals to Scripture with regards to this issue, due to lack of a common Reformed confessional hermeneutic guiding the PCC, have revealed that the Scriptures cannot fully function as the only rule for faith and life in a unifying manner for our denomination; and

WHEREAS the issues of human sexuality and orientation are only the first of many issues that the PCC will have to deal with as our society continues to develop as a secular humanistic, post-modern society; and

WHEREAS without a common Reformed confessional hermeneutic in place the PCC will only experience further contradictory appeals to scripture, resulting in deep dividedness on many issues, and a regular practice of setting scripture to the side, as we make our collective decisions, define our identity in the midst of Canadian culture and outline our mission as Christ's Body in the world;

THEREFORE, the Session of Valleyview Community Church Calgary humbly overtures the Venerable, 142nd General Assembly to consider pausing the current discussion and study on Human Sexuality and orientation, and deferring

¹ An example of such a confessional hermeneutic can be found in Dr. Gordon Spykman's book Reformational Theology: A New Paradigm for Doing Dogmatics, pg. 128-133.

any recommendations stemming from this issue, in order to focus on the development and adoption of an explicitly Reformed confessional hermeneutic, or do otherwise as the General Assembly, in its wisdom, may deem best. We further request that this matter be referred to the Committee on Church Doctrine.

Recommendation 2: MOVED by D. Delport, seconded by G. Gunnink that presbytery transmit the Overture from the Session of Valleyview to the 142nd General Assembly with disapproval. CARRIED

Overture from
Valleyview

Overtures from Valleyview

**Overture to the 142nd General Assembly of The Presbyterian Church in Canada
From the Session of Valleyview Community Church Calgary
Regarding Process of Gracious Dismissal**

WHEREAS issues related to Human Sexuality and Sexual Orientation have been almost constantly before the Presbyterian Church in Canada (PCC) since 1987; and

WHEREAS the PCC has over the course of that time been significantly divided on various statements, studies and decisions presented to and/or approved by the General Assembly; and

WHEREAS the expenditure of the resources of the PCC in terms of time, finances, cost to relational harmony, membership and spiritual energy has clearly been extensive; and

WHEREAS it appears that, whatever future decisions are made related to the issues involved, significant division will remain; and

WHEREAS the possibility exists that congregations on either side of this division may seek to leave the denomination as a result of these decisions; and

WHEREAS, there is no present provision whereby a congregation dissenting from a majority decision within the PCC can withdraw from the PCC and expect to keep its property; and

WHEREAS legal battles over property which are likely to be lengthy, costly to our resources of time, talent and treasury will be a poor witness to the world; and

WHEREAS such legal battles and sharp and prevailing division neither honours Jesus Christ nor provides vital witness to the gospel; and

WHEREAS the Presbyterian Church (USA) has made allowance for "gracious dismissal" of dissenting congregations whereby congregations may withdraw and become members of other denominations in the Reformed tradition, and be able to retain the title to their property and other material assets; and

WHEREAS the PCC has set a precedent of sorts with Lachine Quebec in allowing a dissenting congregation to leave the denomination around matters of Human

Sexuality and make arrangements which allowed them to retain their property;
and

WHEREAS the development of a gracious process to divide, dismiss or dissolve churches in consultation with their members which exercises consistency, pastoral responsibility, transparency, and compassionate witness should be our desire:

THEREFORE, the Session of Valleyview, humbly overtures the Venerable, the 142nd General Assembly to establish a policy of gracious dismissal for those congregations who in good conscience are not able to continue as a part of the PCC, as a result of decisions made by the General Assembly with respect to human sexuality; allowing such congregations to graciously exit the denomination without due encumbrances, with their property, buildings, endowments and assets intact, or to do otherwise as the General Assembly in its wisdom may deem best. We further request that this matter be referred to the Clerks of Assembly, in consultation with the Trustee Board, Assembly Council and the Pensions and Benefits Board, to report the steps that would be necessary to implement this policy.

Recommendation 3: MOVED by D. Delpont, seconded by G. Gunnink that presbytery transmit the Overture from the Session of Valleyview to the 142nd General Assembly without comment and that it be referred to the Clerks of Assembly, in consultation with the Trustee Board, Assembly Council and the Pensions and Benefits Board.

After discussion, the Moderator ruled the Overture out of order. This decision was challenged. A vote was taken by the court and the decision stood.

Order of the Day **Order of the Day** – 6:00 pm

Retirement of Rev. Helen Smith and Rev. Dr. Robert Smith

Rev. Helen Smith and Rev. Robert Smith have written to the presbytery requesting permission to retire. Their two congregations have been made aware of this and the clerk has cited them to be present at this meeting so that they can be heard.

Recommendation 5: MOVED by M. Rosza de Coquet, seconded by J. Broadwell that the action of the clerk in citing Varsity Acres and Centennial Presbyterian Churches to be present at this meeting be homologated.
CARRIED

Recommendation 6: MOVED by M. Rosza de Coquet, seconded by J. Broadwell that the representatives of these two congregations be heard.
CARRIED

Cathy Gale, Sandi Churchill, Gordon Wytsma, and Cam Hunter from Varsity Acres and Doug Bonar, Gwen Crowe and Richard Crowe from Centennial gave thanks for the ministry of Bob and Helen Smith and wished them well in their retirement.

Recommendation 7: MOVED by M. Rosza de Coquet, seconded by J. Broadwell that the application of the Reverend M. Helen Smith and the Rev. Dr. Robert Smith to retire from the ministry of The Presbyterian Church in Canada be granted, as of August 1st, 2016. CARRIED

Recommendation 8: MOVED by M. Rosza de Coquet, seconded by J. Broadwell that a vacation period for Revs. Smith begin on June 27, 2016, that their resignations be effective August 1st, 2016, and that their names be moved to the appendix to the roll at that time. CARRIED

Recommendation 9: MOVED by M. Rosza de Coquet, seconded by J. Broadwell that the Interim-Moderator for Varsity be Rev. Kobus Genis and for Centennial be Rev. Ena van Zoeren. CARRIED

Riverside
Endowment

Riverside Endowment Terms of Reference – N. Cocks
Presbytery of Calgary-Macleod
Draft – Feb 2016

Purpose: The purpose of the Riverside Endowment is to provide financial support to encourage the participation of youth and young adults who belong to one of the congregations within the Presbytery of Calgary-Macleod in events sponsored or endorsed by The Presbyterian Church in Canada, the Presbytery of CM, or the Synod of AB & the NW.

Who is eligible to apply? Youth and young adults refers to those between the ages of 15 and 25. Eligible young people do not have to be professing members of the PCC but must be active participants in one of the congregations within the Presbytery of Calgary-Macleod or a student from one of those congregations enrolled in an education program while away from home. Affiliation with the applicant's home congregation must be endorsed by a letter provided by the Clerk of Session or Minister of that congregation.

What kinds of events qualify? The Riverside Endowment supports participation in events which expand a young person's experience of The Presbyterian Church in Canada and its witness in the world and which provide opportunities for young people to deepen their faith in Christ and understanding of God's gospel purposes.

For example, applications could be made to attend Canada Youth events, Youth in Mission trips, World Council of Churches steward programs or other ecumenical opportunities sponsored by networks in which the PCC is a member.

What kinds of programs are not eligible? The Riverside Bursary is not a scholarship program for those engaged in church-related studies. It is not intended to support congregational undertakings for youth nor is it intended to supplement the campership program for Camp Kannawin.

How much can I apply for? Applicants should provide a letter outlining the full cost to them to participate in the event for which a grant is sought and identify all sources of financial support being sought. Requests for up to half of the costs of

participation will be considered but the final amount of a grant will depend on the number of requests made in a year.

For events like Canada Youth in which a large number of applications are expected for the same event, all applicants will be eligible to receive the same amount. An applicant is eligible for no more than one grant in the same calendar year and no more than 3 grants over the applicant's years of eligibility.

How do I apply? A letter of application outlining the event, costs of participation, all sources of financial support, and the applicant's reasons for wanting to participate in the event should be submitted to the Clerk of Presbytery at least six weeks before the event takes place. The applicant's letter should be accompanied by a letter of reference from either the Minister or the Clerk of Session of the applicant's congregation.

(For those planning to attend Canada Youth, the Presbytery Youth Committee will facilitate applications for all participants in a given year.)

Who makes the decisions? Two designated members of the Presbytery Youth Committee in consultation with the Clerk & Treasurer.

How is the fund maintained?

The Presbytery will disperse up to 10% of the Riverside Endowment Fund each year. Any money not dispersed in a calendar year will be returned to the Fund to maintain the capital.

Recommendation 1: MOVED by N. Cocks seconded by J. Hazlett that presbytery approve the Terms of reference for the Riverside Endowment Fund.

Recommendation 2: that the Riverside Endowment Fund be added as Appendix M in the Standing orders.

Recommendation 3: that the Riverside Endowment Fund be added to the Presbytery website under "Presbytery Documents."

Morris Motion to refer: MOVED by J. Morris, seconded by M. Rosza de Coquet that the Riverside Endowment Terms of Reference draft be referred to the Presbytery Youth Ministry Committee. CARRIED

Administration

ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE – Robert Smith

Meeting time for presbytery

As Presbyters are aware, the change in the presbytery's time of meeting to 5:00 pm created problems for members in Medicine Hat and Lethbridge to attend. Letters of concern were received from Rev. Nancy Cocks and Rev. Hugh Jack, and in response to them, the committee conducted a poll of all members of presbytery asking them to rank various meeting time arrangements. The results of that poll will be shared at the presbytery meeting. We propose having a debate at that time with the view to seeking the best time for the most people. A possible result could be a notice of motion being given to change the Standing Orders.

Smith Motion: MOVED by R. Smith, seconded by J. Broadwell that the court move into Committee of the Whole. CARRIED

The court came out of Committee of the Whole. R. Smith stated the decision was made to move back to the previous meeting times with lunch at noon and the meeting beginning at 1:00 pm.

Notice of Motion: R. Smith will move or cause to be moved at the May meeting of Presbytery that the Standing Orders of Presbytery be changed to reflect the decision to meet for lunch at noon with the regular meeting beginning at 1:00 pm.

Discerning the Future of our Presbytery

R. Smith led us in the Prayer of Invocation.

Enthusiasms

Enthusiasms and Concerns Regarding the Ministries of the Presbytery

- Helen Smith noted that Centennial will be celebrating Africa Day on February 22nd with Tumekutana – a conference bringing together women of Africa to discuss common concerns and issues. See the WMS report for more details.
- Marlene LaMontagne noted that St. Andrew's Calgary will host World Day of Prayer March 4th.
- Grace is hosting Presbyterians Gathering April 16th.
- Nancy Cocks reported that St John's anticipated 2015 shortfall, noted in the Visitation Report, was actually only \$14,000. At the same time, the congregation received over \$40,000 to help sponsor a Syrian family coming to Medicine Hat shortly. St John's is working with five other local churches to support this sponsorship.
- Bob and Helen Smith have a new granddaughter.
- Jean Morris noted that Grace is hosting the inaugural Preaching Grace conference May 27-29 with The Rev. Dr. Thomas G. Long.
- Sandi Churchill is on the Committee to Nominate for the National Church, and encouraged Presbyters to send names of individuals who might be considered as candidates for National Committees.

Theological Reflection

Theological Reflection Period – *Mark Tremblay*

A Case Study

At the Monthly Staff meeting of Knox Church, the Senior High Youth Group Leader wants to talk about the upcoming youth service. She reports on the recent study on the book of Daniel and the absolute excitement of the group when they found a Biblical precedent for vegetarianism. The group has been having prolonged discussions about animal and environmental rights and activism particularly as they feel it is expressed in the Declaration of Faith Concerning Church and Nation. They have created their own PETA themed Service. She further reports that many of the young people are now vegetarian and that they have a deep conviction and passion for animals and the environment. Moreover, they are truly excited about the theological support they have found in Scripture and the subordinate standards of the Presbyterian Church. She assures those present that, although the service is PETA inspired, there will be no nudity. They also have planned a demonstration at some of the Supermarkets and a local Butcher's to raise awareness before the Service happens.

Outline two sets of steps; one that you would take to support this effort and one to oppose it.

Roll N. Cocks, B. Cocks, and L. Sonley withdrew from the court at 7:30 pm.

Break The court took a 15-minute break at 7:40 pm

Motion to Receive MOVED by M. Rosza de Coquet, seconded by H. Smith, that the reports be received and considered. CARRIED

Roll **Cameron Evans Motion:** MOVED by S. Cameron Evans, seconded by R. Crowe that G. Gunnink be granted permission to withdraw to attend a prayer meeting. CARRIED

**Mission &
Strategy**

MISSION AND STRATEGY COMMITTEE – Mark Tremblay (Convenor)

The committee met on January 15. It was noted that we are two members short on the committee and need more personnel if we are to fulfill our mandate. We talked about plans for the Retreat in May and our various ministry partnerships. We tried to review the nature of the partnership and the human and financial resources allocated to them. The Standing Orders of Presbytery list seven ministry and ecumenical partnerships. However, the actual number of partnerships supported by the Presbytery through personnel and finances is ten. We have representation on the Calgary Interfaith Council, the Metro Alliance for the Common Good and the Indigenous Gather Place and have committee money to the chaplaincies at Medicine Hat College and the University of Lethbridge. The committee is convinced that this is too many and that we do not have the personnel or finances to continue this many relationships. We feel a more concentrated focus is required.

Chair of Christian Thought Advisory Council

The Chair of Christian Thought has a twofold mission: to serve Calgary Christians and churches through programs that apply Christian values to questions and issues they face today, and to serve the university through teaching and research that examine the Christian tradition and its cultural relevance in past and present. The Chair of Christian Thought at the University of Calgary is an academic resource for the promotion of Christian Thought in the University and the larger Calgary Christian community. The Chair's mission is to bridge the academy and faith communities, bringing the academic study of religion to the communities and representing Christian interests by providing for the teaching of Christian Thought in the university. The Chairholder undertakes all the normal activities of a university professor: teaching undergraduate and graduate courses, research, and publication. The Chairholder also organizes community events such as lectures and symposia devoted to explorations of Christian Thought. The Committee feels that continued support of this unique bridge between the University and the community is important. Kevin Lee has agreed to be the Presbytery's representative on the Council.

Calgary Council of Churches

Our participation in the Calgary Council of Churches is longstanding and I believe that we are one of the original denominations represented on the council. Our representation is based on how many congregations we have in Calgary and at

this time we are allowed up to three seats (I believe) on the council. The CCC's major work revolves around working together ecumenically to promote events and services that would help mainline, progressive Christians to be united around key issues. At one point the CCC's function was to act as an advocate within the political structure of our city. It seems that with other organizations arising, such as MAC-G, Interfaith Council of Calgary, etc, that the function is more restricted to celebrations such as the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, which takes place annually. The CCC also has spoken publically around particular issues, such as when we hosted Karen Hamilton, President of the Canadian Council of Churches, who spoke around the publication of the Canadian Council's guide for churches on human trafficking.

The Committee feels that continued support and representation on the CCC is important as it is the ecumenical body that brings us closer to other denominations. Though we have had up to three representatives on the council in the past, both Victor and Jean have resigned from this. Kobus Genis has agreed to represent the Presbytery on the council and it would be good if we could have another volunteer to join with him.

Abraham's Tent

We received no report about Abraham's tent but it is our understanding that they have agreed to take a six-month break from meeting.

Calgary Council of Christians and Jews

The Council seeks by educational and social means to promote justice, friendship, understanding and cooperation between Christians and Jews. The Council opposes proselytizing and counteracts intergroup prejudice which distort the standards of peaceful and just human relationships.

The committee discussed the various interfaith work opportunities including the **Calgary Interfaith Network** which is an affiliation of 60 + leaders from Calgary's diverse interfaith landscape – though attendance at meeting range from 15-30. Participation on every and all interfaith body seems counterproductive and impossible to maintain given the reality of human and financial resources. There is a proposal put forward by the CIC that all interfaith bodies in Calgary, of which there are seven, join under the umbrella of the CIC to enable interfaith efforts to be more effective. The committee is supportive of the amalgamation proposal and would recommend that pull back support from CCCJ and Abraham's Tent as the amalgamation proposal moves forward. Mark Tremblay has been the point person to the CIC and it would be good if another member would be interested in being present at this council.

Chaplaincy

The committee did not receive a report about any of the chaplaincies that the presbytery supports. The Presbytery has had three representatives to the University of Calgary Chaplaincy and has given financial support to the chaplaincies at the University of Calgary, University of Lethbridge and Medicine Hat College. While the committee could remember reports from the chaplains in Calgary questions were raised about our support of U of Lethbridge and Medicine Hat College. The committee agreed that we should be supportive of the chaplaincies within our bounds but feel a better understanding of support and report is desirable, particularly for U of Lethbridge and Medicine Hat College. If

these are partnerships, then the congregations closer to the chaplaincies should play a greater role. If these are simply beneficiaries of our benevolence, then more some annual reporting is required. The committee doesn't understand why we have three representatives to the Calgary chaplaincy and none for the other two campuses. It would be desirable if we had someone from each of our congregations in those cities to be more active with those chaplaincies to report to the presbytery.

Metro Alliance for the Common Good (MacG)

The Metro Alliance For the Common Good brings together organizations and communities of Calgary to transform the City of Calgary into a community which acts justly and respects all.

Its objectives are:

- Create a network involving people from diverse religious, non-profit, labour, neighbourhood and ethnic groups to foster meaningful relationships between and within these communities.
- Develop leaders who can promote healthy and effective civic life.
- Effectively address the key justice issues facing Calgary.
- Harness the voice and the power of the people of Calgary to transform our city by addressing the systems, policies, and underlying causes of poverty and injustice.

MACG is directed by a team of leaders from participating institutions. It is affiliated with the Industrial Areas Foundation (IAF), the oldest and largest network of broad-based organizations in North America.

Dianne Ollerenshaw has been representing the Presbytery at the meetings over the past year. At some point a membership will have to be paid; they are currently operating on an organizational fee based on the number of members. MacG is also part of the amalgamation discussion with the CIC. While the committee is supportive of Dianne being at the table for the time being, it is not convinced what the longer term recommendation of the partnership with MacG should be.

Indigenous Gathering Place

We received these comments from Dianne: "The City of Calgary declared a Year of Reconciliation on March 28, 2013. There was a consultation held in May 2013 of leaders in Calgary under the leadership of Chief Bobby Joseph and Reconciliation Canada. I attended one of the 2 day consultations. From this gathering, I agreed to journey with people interested in exploring the formation of an Indigenous Gathering Place.

"A group of leaders from the Calgary area met often monthly. It was difficult to find a consensus of purpose and direction. Some people have moved on, yet there is still a nucleus wondering how might Calgary explore the development of an Indigenous Gathering Place "for all nations."

"There are more agencies being represented on this group than in its first year. I am the only person not from an agency and they know I am with the Synod of Alberta and the Northwest and a Presbyterian Minister. I think they welcome my presence and know if this project goes forward I may be a resource to reach out to ecumenical and faith partnerships. I am the only "church" representative."

The committee is supportive of maintaining this work by Dianne and would seek further information as it become available.

The next meeting of the Mission and Strategy committee will be on 14 April 2016 at Knox Church, Calgary

Retreat May 30-31 at St. Andrew's Lethbridge
Rev. Will Ingram will be the speaker – 4 values in Mission Statement.

D. Ollerenshaw led us in Prayers for the Future of the Presbytery of Calgary-Macleod

Reports on the Ministries of our Presbytery

Clergy and Congregational Care

CLERGY AND CONGREGATIONAL CARE- *Helen Smith*

1. Applicants for Ministry of Word and Sacraments

- a. Rev. Che Napoleon – Che has completed the requirements of the Committee on Education and Reception.

Recommendation 1: MOVED by H. Smith, seconded by C. Gale that the Clerk report to the Committee on Education and Reception that Che Napoleon has completed the requirements for acceptance as a minister of The Presbyterian Church in Canada and that Che be added to the Appendix to the Roll. CARRIED

- b. Rev. Joel Yu – Joel has completed the polity part of the requirements of the Committee on Education and Reception. Dianne Ollerenshaw is overseeing his work on church history.

- c. Rev. Sabino Diok, minister, Presbyterian Church of South Sudan. Sabino has applied to be received as a minister of the PCC and has asked that the Presbytery endorse his application. We have interviewed Sabino and received references from Leslie Walker and Victor Kim.

Recommendation 2: MOVED by H. Smith, seconded by C. Gale that the Presbytery endorse the application of Rev. Sabino Diok to be received as a minister of the PCC. CARRIED

2. **Breakfast for Retired Clergy:** We are grateful to Dianne Ollerenshaw for arranging a breakfast for retired clergy in our Presbytery. This was much appreciated by those who attended.
3. **Clergy Review Process:** The following are due to carry out a review in 2016 – Dr. Nancy Cocks, Rev. Grant Gunnink, Dr. Bob Smith, Rev. Dewald Delport, Rev. Helen Smith, Rev. Jan Hazlett, Rev. Kobus Genis, Rev. Peter Baek, Rev. Kevin Lee. The following are review assistants: Rev. Bob Cruikshank, Rev. Diane Beach, Rev. Dianne Ollerenshaw, Rev. Fiona Wilkinson, Rev. Murdo Marple, Dr. Peter Coutts, Rev. Tom Brownlee.
4. **Study Leave:** Rev. Leslie Walker, November 9-14, with focus on reading in three areas - Mission, Growing in faith and Human Sexuality/Homosexuality. Approved by the Committee.

5. Report of the General Presbyter:

St. John's Presbyterian Church, Medicine Hat

Visitation Report – 2015

The members of the visitation team were Teddy Pickett (Gem) and Peter Coutts. The Presbytery's traditional visitation process was used, beginning with questionnaires completed by the Session, the Board of Managers and the Minister. St. John's was visited on Sunday November 22nd, and team members had an opportunity to talk with worshippers, the Session and Board. An interview of the Minister took place the same day. The team debriefed the visit and provided helpful comments on the first draft of this report.

Worship

There were 100 people in attendance, including 11 in the choir and 12 children and teens. The service, including Communion, generally reflects a typical Presbyterian liturgy. The children's story took the format of a serialized storybook story featuring a puppet as the main character. The story was the foundation for a faith reflection, and it had a cliff-hanger ending to keep listeners in suspense until the next week's episode! The sermon reflected on the idea of mission and vision statements, posing the question: 'What if "Jesus is Lord" was our mission statement? How would that affect our daily lives?' It was a thoughtful, encouraging and challenging sermon. The worship leadership and preaching of Rev. Cocks is widely and deeply appreciated by the people of St. John's Church. St. John's worship continues with innovations such as "Jazz Vespers" (a few times per year) and "God's Family First" (monthly inter-generational worship services).

Congregational Life

The congregation continues to enjoy a number of diverse activities as noted in the 2013 visitation report. Rev. Cocks has been influenced by the book "Slow Church", which calls congregations to make a shift from an over-emphasis on organization and activities to a greater sense of relationship in community. This has led St. John's to create a "Tea and Talk" group as well as a Men's Fellowship group (which is brand new this fall, with 20 attending the first gathering). The goal for St. John's is to help congregants know and enjoy each other more.

In recent months the weekly Bible study group has outgrown the number of chairs in its meeting room. The group notes and celebrates how five people have become part of the congregation through this study group. 2013 and 2014 saw some challenges with staff. These issues have been resolved, new staff are in place and the choir is once again unified and moving forward with its new music director. The Session, Personnel Team and Minister of St. John's Presbyterian Church are to be commended for their thoughtful and pastoral efforts in this regard. Moving ahead the Personnel Team is thinking about formalizing some of its activity in policy and practices. The General Presbyter has provided the congregation with examples of congregational staff guidelines and a congregational staff performance review process.

The congregation is very enthusiastic and grateful for the ministry of Maren McLean Persaud, their one year intern from Knox College. As a result of this positive experience the congregation this year has engaged a "graduate assistant" in the person of Ms. Nam Ok Yoo, whose position has been made possible through the financial support flowing from the Riverside Church Fund.

Congregants report that the overall mood in the congregation is very good. The congregation feels active with many people willing to help with its organization and activities. The relationships between the Session, Board and Minister are all very strong and it is evident that all work well together. The pastoral tie is strong.

Pastoral Care

Pastoral care in the congregation is provided by the minister, by elders through their districts, and through a caring ministry for those who are ill, bereaved or homebound. A few of the elders expressed their discomfort with visiting congregants in their district. The General Presbyter provided the Session with a study paper that gives an overview of different models for care being used in Presbyterian congregations as alternatives to the district system. After reviewing the paper the elders decided to retain the traditional district system. It may be that some elders of St. John's—like many in our denomination—do not feel personally confident in their ability to conduct this ministry of care. If this is the case elders are encouraged to adopt and use a simple reflection exercise around their pastoral visits. Before a visit ask yourself:

- What is it about visiting (or this specific visit) that makes me feel uncomfortable?
- What small thing can I do in my next visit to help me deal with that issue, or to demonstrate to myself that it is not an issue?
Reflect on your experience after the visit:
- How did the visit go? Did it feel more comfortable? Am I feeling more capable in this ministry?
- Given this experience, what should I do on my next visit?
Having a simple, intentional practice of reflecting on one's experience can help a person in any kind of ministry to become more able and confident.

The Session

The Session continues to be a group of faithful elders who strive to manage congregational life well and share a desire that the congregation has a healthy future. Two new elders were added to the Session in the fall of 2015. Since the last visitation report the Session has found itself dealing more with staff issues and emerging concerns (such as the flood in the lower level). They perhaps now have more time to reflect more intentionally on the congregation's future. The challenges elders name in St. John's future are very common to so many Presbyterian congregations: attracting new members, maintaining the facility and meeting the budget.

The Session is encouraged to develop a planned giving program. The fact that St. John's has an endowment fund in the order of \$1 million demonstrates that the congregation over the decades has seen many congregants remember their church through bequests. This is an aspect of the congregation's culture historically that not all churches share, and that legacy can be built on in a planned giving program. St. John's will have a rich story of generous congregants who have made so many valued things possible. Additionally, in recent history the congregation has seen the benefits of the Riverside Fund, which has allowed them to do several creative and meaningful things in ministry and mission. St. John's benefits financially from its endowment every day. The congregation's history and recent experience provides an excellent story to form the core of a planned giving program. Rev. Herb Gale provided

some initial education in this regard, and further resources are found in the national offices and the congregations of our Presbytery.

Recommendation 3: MOVED by H. Smith, seconded by C. Gale that St.

John's Presbyterian Church create a planned giving program to encourage congregants to be good stewards of the future of their congregation.

CARRIED

The Board of Managers

The Board continues in its very conscientious maintenance and refurbishment of their facilities. A few people in the survey commented on the Board's "get it done" attitude. Recent work included replacing doors in the Christian Education spaces to make them compliant with Leading with Care, as well as restoration work on the sandstone and repointing of the brickwork outside.

This past year a feedline for a toilet sprung a leak that subsequently poured water throughout the Christian Education area all night long. This caused \$50,000 in flood damage that was covered by insurance. While the flood was a great nuisance the upside was the installation of new high quality flooring throughout that section of the building. Looking ahead the Board is anticipating the replacement of some old windows, the installation of a new lift, and replacement of the dishwasher. Additionally there will be continuing work on the outside stone and brick. For this last on-going project St. John's has been the recipient of grants from both the city and the province that has paid for a good portion of the cost of this work.

The Board is to be commended for creating the first draft of a long term planned maintenance schedule for the facility, in response to the last visitation report.

Members of the Board are concerned about congregational finances. Typically the congregation draws about \$20,000 annually from its endowments to cover annual expenses (for 2015 a \$40,000 draw is anticipated). There is a sense among some in the congregation that it would be better if St. John's did not have to rely on its endowment to cover costs. This point-of-view is pretty traditional. For many years the common wisdom in the congregational management literature was that it is not healthy for a congregation to rely on its endowed funds. More recently the thinking has changed, however, and the emerging view is that endowed funds can provide a congregation with resources to strengthen congregational vitality. The use of the Riverside Funds is an excellent example of this as it has helped the congregation step out in mission (supporting the chaplaincy of Medicine Hat College, for example) and congregational development (having an intern from one of our colleges, for example). It is noteworthy that during 2014 the total assets of the endowment fund increased despite expenditures from it. This is another "good news" story about the congregation's endowment that can be used in a planned giving program.

Moving forward we suggest what is perhaps a different point-of-view for congregants to have regarding its endowed funds. These funds are the legacy of past congregants who desired their church to have a healthy future. St. John's today is benefiting from the thoughtfulness and generosity of past generations who were sufficiently concerned for the future that they would set aside funds to ensure the well-being of the generations of St. John's Church that followed them. Today's congregation could adopt a similar commitment to help the congregation that follows it to have the best opportunity to thrive in these changing times for Canadian churches.... and these funds can be a financial resource to help you do this.

The Minister

Rev. Cocks still finds her ministry in St. John's a rewarding one. Leading worship, preaching and the Bible study group are particularly meaningful for her. She finds the commitment of volunteers "amazing" and appreciates the personal support she receives in its many forms from congregants. She found the personnel issues of 2013 – 2014 a particular challenge and stressful work, but she is confident that the new staff in place now will serve the congregation well.

Congregants are very affirming of Rev. Cocks' gifts and abilities. They speak of her cheerful demeanor, her dedication, and her strengths in leadership, speaking, pastoral care as well as organizational skills.

The emerging future focus of Rev. Cocks is anticipating and planning for her own retirement, of which the congregation is aware. She is encouraging the congregation's leadership to use the time ahead as a period of reflection to discern the kind of church they wish to be in the future. This reflection work, in turn, will help guide the congregation in the search for its next minister.

Mission and Congregational Growth

In recent years the congregation has been fairly stable numerically and financially.

	2014	2012	2009
Members	161	168	147
Adherents	81	90	112
Attendance	86	84	85
Church School	18	26	17
Revenue from Congregation	226,992	\$273,967	\$263,777
Normal Expenditure	302,691	\$232,902	\$226,232

St. John's has many mission engagements: the ecumenical chaplaincy at Medicine Hat College (financial and board membership), Project Connect (an event hosted in the St. John's facility that brings many kinds of social services to those in need; last year there were over 50 volunteers from St. John's), Community Kitchen, Salvation Army Christmas Kettle drive, "Campus Care" in support of college students at exam times. It is clear that St. John's has a heart for the needs of people in the community.

Growing Edges and Recommendations

As suggested above, the anticipated retirement of Rev. Cocks provides in the interim an opportunity for the leadership of St. John's Church to reflect on its future. In the short term this will prepare the way well for a search process for your next minister. But this is an exercise important to all churches in our day and age in Canada, and not an easy one. Congregations—and its members—are the evidence for the existence of God, and that evidence century after century has helped generation after generation understand and embrace the Christian faith. However we are becoming more and more aware that over the past five decades the evidence that we have traditionally shown forth is seen as less and less compelling in our changing society. This raises a challenging question for congregational leadership to contemplate: what is the evidence for the existence of God that we can provide in our life that will spark the imagination of people today? The sightline for our future vision for our congregations needs to extend beyond simply maintaining what we have. Our focus needs to dwell on the community of faith that follows us, and what we can do today to give it the best chance to thrive tomorrow. Your forebears in

faith have done this for you in providing you with substantial financial resources that are significantly greater than most congregations of our denomination. Using these resources, what can St. John's do today in faithfulness to our Lord for the sake of the congregation that will follow you? Embarking on this journey can be the legacy of this generation, for which the congregation that follows you as St. John's Church can be truly grateful.

Recommendation 4: MOVED by H. Smith, seconded by C. Gale that the Session reflect on our calling to be evidence for the existence of God, and what the congregation can aspire to do for the sake of the next generation of St. John's Church. CARRIED

Recommendation 5: MOVED by H. Smith, seconded by C. Gale that the Session with its Minister, the Board of Managers and the members and adherents be commended for the life and witness of St. John's Presbyterian Church, Medicine Hat. CARRIED

Respectfully submitted,
Peter Coutts, Convenor

Involvement with Calvin Hungarian Presbyterian Church

In November I attended a Session meeting for Calvin Church to present the visitation report. The elders found the report uncomfortable and challenging, but fair. The resources promised in the report were provided to the Session. Notably, elders expressed appreciation to Presbytery for one recommendation in the report: "that the Session of Calvin Hungarian Presbyterian Church with its minister be commended for their conviction that the organizational style of the congregation needs to change, and are encouraged to continue pursuing this change."

From the beginning the approach in the conflict has been to look past the presenting issue (criticism of the minister) to focus on the substantial underlying issue: "What style of congregation do you want?" It appears that the elders are solidly in favour of an organizational style that cares for responsibilities in a more open, democratic and collaborative way, with the Session more clearly providing leadership. This consensus has resulted in one elder submitting his resignation from Session and committee responsibilities.

There has been some ongoing behind-the-scenes communication by a few that appears to be intended to discredit the minister in some ways. Again, the approach taken from the beginning by the Interim-Moderator and the General Presbyter has been to educate the congregation regarding appropriate behaviour with the goal of shifting the congregation's culture in this regard. The good news is that the congregation is not reacting as it has in past incidents of this kind of behaviour. I believe the reasons for this are three-fold: the education provided by the Interim-Moderator has had an impact, there is widespread respect for Rev. Bocskorás (so the agitation is not having the desired effect) and there is a better appreciation today among congregants about how destructive divisiveness can be. I had a personal conversation with one individual about his behaviour, and the Session together had a conversation with another individual about her behaviour.

The three year term for Rev. Bocskorás as stated supply comes to an end in May 2016. This requires the Presbytery to consider whether to grant the congregation permission to engage in the call process. I concur with the Interim-Moderator's recommendation that this permission be granted.

Visitation to Ghanaian Presbyterian Church Calgary

In December the Interim-Moderator of Ghanaian Presbyterian Church Calgary called a meeting of Presbytery committee conveners and office holders to discuss emerging concerns in this congregation. Consequently the typical visitation process was laid aside and replaced by something more directive. With the assistance of the Interim-Moderator and one Assessor Elder I prepared a report for their Session outlining the concerns and specific examples for why they are concerns. A second Assessor Elder provided helpful suggestions as well. The report became the basis of a two-hour long interview of the Session on 4 January 2016.

The report was introduced by the following summary: "As we move towards the completion of the Memorandum of Understanding (with the Presbyterian Church of Ghana for the appointment of a Minister) and the settlement of a Minister there are several things that must be addressed to ensure the congregation's readiness to function as a congregation of The Presbyterian Church in Canada. At present we wonder if you have the capacity. There are two main concerns are:

- If you have a minister come from Ghana, then your congregation will need to be the expert on how to be a congregation of The Presbyterian Church in Canada and to be a congregation in Canada. We do not yet see enough of an understanding or practice in this regard.
- A minister coming from Ghana is taking a great leap of faith to be your pastor. Is the life of your church strong enough to support a minister, or will the conditions of your congregation become obstacles to that person's ministry?"

This visitation is still an ongoing process at the time of writing this report, and a fuller report will be provided to the Presbytery later. That being said, some of the concerns are:

- The involvement of Ghanaian Presbyterian Church, Presbytery of West Toronto.
- The decline in worship attendance in 2015, from around 60 to 25 persons.
- That a second Ghanaian Presbyterian Church has been established in Calgary, in part from people who once attended our congregation, and that the new congregation claims a connection with The Presbyterian Church of Ghana.
- The lack of progress implementing Leading with Care.
- A concern regarding the congregation's financial sustainability.
- The congregation's dependency on a few people to carry the organizational load.
- Their temporary, conditional occupancy permit from the city is good for one more year.

The Ghanaian Elders on the Session have been directed to form plans on eight issues and to provide a preliminary report to the March Session meeting:

- 1] How will you shift more responsibility from presbytery people to people of the congregation?
- 2] How will you share responsibilities more widely among more people in the congregation?
- 3] How will you move forward in implementing Leading with Care?

- 4] How will you organize your annual meeting this year?
- 5] How will you build greater unity as a Session and more determination to follow our Presbyterian practices as provided in the Book of Forms?
- 6] How will you improve your ability to complete the needed work of the church in a timely way?
- 7] How will you create the financial sustainability needed for your long-term success?
- 8] How will you become independent from the Toronto Ghanaian Church?

While the Interim-Moderator and Assessor Elders will provide some support in this exercise, the intention is to have the Ghanaian Elders assume direct responsibility in this exercise in part to assess their leadership capacity. The General Presbyter will be meeting with the Interim-Moderator and the Assessor Elders on 12 January 2016 to further the assessment and to determine what inquiries need to be made in order to develop a complete picture of how things are at Ghanaian Presbyterian Church Calgary. A pressing concern is the ongoing involvement of the Ghanaian congregation in Toronto. It appears that they view Ghanaian Presbyterian Church Calgary as their daughter congregation and thus they express ongoing influence. This involvement has not always been helpful or respectful of Presbyterian polity. For example, the on 29 October 2015 the Session of the Toronto Church wrote to inform the Session of our congregation that they were sending an elder to Calgary to lead worship and preach over Christmas. No discussion with either the Interim-Moderator or the Session was held before the Toronto Session made its decision. Additionally, the elder in question is a ministry student studying at Knox College. Despite this he has acted outside our polity in his engagement with our congregation.... something he should not be doing as a person looking forward to ordination as a minister in our denomination. The Interim-Moderator and Assessor Elders believe that the Presbytery of West Toronto should be informed of the above.

Recommendation 6: MOVED by H. Smith, seconded by C. Gale that the Clerk write (with the assistance of the Interim-Moderator and General Presbyter) to the Presbytery of West Toronto informing them of the actions of the Ghanaian Presbyterian Church Toronto and requesting the Presbytery to instruct the congregation to cease its inappropriate influence in the life of Ghanaian Presbyterian Church Calgary. CARRIED

Tremblay Motion: MOVED by M. Tremblay, seconded by J. Hazlett that the clerk, with the assistance of the Interim-Moderator and General Presbyter, write the Ghanaian Church directing them to cease all correspondence with the Ghanaian church in Toronto. CARRIED

Records Checking

Recommendation 7: MOVED by H. Smith, seconded by C. Gale that the records of the following congregations be attested as neatly and correctly kept: St. Paul's Banff, Knox Bassano / Gem, St. Giles Calgary, Valleyview Calgary, Westminster Calgary, St. Andrew's Lethbridge, St. John's Medicine Hat. CARRIED

Report of Activities 1 September to 31 December 2015

1] Coach and Resource Ministers, Sessions and Congregation in Ministry and Mission:

- a) Develop a comprehensive knowledge of our ministers, sessions and congregations as to their strengths, needs and opportunities for ministry and mission.

Tasks:

T1: attend one meeting of Session in each congregation to: 1] provide encouraging feedback to for greater effectiveness in their work, and 2] to assess the needs of the Session for support, education and resourcing.

1 September to 4 January 2016	1 June 2015 to 31 May 2016
Calvin Hungarian, Westminster, Ghanaian	Calvin Hungarian, Westminster, Ghanaian

T2: meet with each minister on the constituent roll at least two times, in part to assess the needs of the minister, Session and congregation for support, education and resourcing.

1 September to 31 December 2015	1 June 2015 to 31 May 2016
3 and more meetings: Bertalan Bocskorás, Dianne Ollerenshaw	3 and more meetings: Bertalan Bocskorás, Kobus Genis, Mark Tremblay, Leslie Walker, Dianne Ollerenshaw
2 meetings: Mark Tremblay, Dewald Delpont, Kobus Genis, Leslie Walker,	2 meetings: Victor Kim, Bob Smith, Jean Morris, Dewald Delpont
1 meeting: Clay Kuhn, Victor Kim, Hugh Jack, Grant Gunnink, Bob Smith, Jean Morris	1 meeting: Hugh Jack, Clay Kuhn, Grant Gunnink
	0 meeting: Helen Smith, Nancy Cocks, Peter Baek

T3: by 31 March 2016, receive annual reports from all congregations.

- b) Provide leadership for the biennial Presbytery visitations to congregations, maintain records of visitations and ensure that recommendations arising from visitations are achieved in a timely manner.

Tasks:

T1: conduct Presbytery visitations to the following congregations: Calvin Hungarian, Calgary; Grace, Calgary; Ghanaian, Calgary; Knox, Calgary; St. Giles, Calgary; St. John's, Medicine Hat; St. Paul's, Banff.

1 September to 31 December 2015	1 June 2015 to 31 May 2016
Calvin Hungarian, St. John's	Calvin Hungarian, St. John's, Ghanaian

Scheduled visitations: Ghanaian (underway), St. Giles (7 February 2016), Knox Calgary (6 March 2016)

Postponed visitations: Grace Calgary: the clergy team requested the visitation be postponed as they anticipate that an interim minister will conduct an equivalent assessment of the congregation.

- c) In consultation with the Director of Regional Ministries, support and / or arrange for resources for ministers, sessions and congregations as needed so they might develop in ministry and mission.

Tasks:

T1: meet with the Director of Regional Ministries at least twice per year to coordinate ministries.

- Already exceeded, and ongoing

T2: present a workshop for the Presbytery on how the wider church is evolving in response to our changing society.

- Workshop anticipated to take place at Grace Church in November was not held. Will be re-arranged at another congregation.

T3: develop and deliver a leadership training program for elders and other congregational leaders.

- First offering of such a workshop held at Westminster in the fall

- d) Complete the annual records check for all congregations, following up to ensure the standards of The Book of Forms are maintained.

Tasks:

T1: by 31 December 2015, complete records check for all congregations.

T2: report on the annual records check to the regular February 2016 meeting of presbytery.

To date records check completed at: St. Paul's Banff, St. Giles, Valleyview, St. John's

T3: by 30 April 2016, complete follow-up on records check.

- e) Encourage ministers in increased pastoral effectiveness, helping them identify areas for professional growth and supporting them in their development.

Tasks:

T1: by 31 December 2015, focus one face-to-face conversation with each minister on the constituent roll on professional development.

- To date conversations held with: Clay Kuhn, Kobus Genis, Victor Kim, Leslie Walker, Bertalan Bocskorás, Hugh Jack

T2: by 30 June 2016, inquire of each minister on the constituent roll about steps taken to meet their identified professional development needs.

T3: with each minister on the constituent roll, explain the nature and value of a 360 review, and offer to coordinate such a review if desired.

- Initial introduction given through the GP's September presbytery report.

T4: complete coaching engagements (composed of a series of sessions) with at least four clergy on the constituent roll.

- during the fall engaged in coaching with 4 clergy
- engaged in a coaching session with one elder who called me regarding an issue in their congregation

f) Provide pastoral care to ministers on behalf of Presbytery.

2] Encourage Relationships of Mutual Trust and Respect:

- Promote and facilitate dialogue, friendships and stronger relationships between the ministries of the Presbytery: with each other and with the court of Presbytery.
- Discuss the role of Presbytery and PCC polity with sessions, congregational leaders, members, and leaders in pastoral ministries to provide clarity and increased understanding.
- Attend events of significance in the life of congregations and pastoral ministries as time allows.

Tasks:

T1: attend one meeting of Session in each congregation to: 1] discuss with them the role of Presbytery and PCC polity, and 2] to determine any need for education or resourcing regarding the role of Presbytery and PCC polity.

1 September to 31 December 2015	1 June 2015 to 31 May 2016
Westminster, Calvin Hungarian, Ghanaian	Westminster, Calvin Hungarian, Ghanaian

T2: attend at least six events in different congregations.

1 September to 31 December 2015	1 June 2015 to 31 May 2016
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Varsity Acres: attended a noon hour concert with lunch • Centennial: attended the Covenanting Service between the Anyuak speaking ministry and the English speaking ministry • Grace: attended and spoke at the celebration dinner for Victor Kim 	As noted in the left hand column

T3: preach once in each charge, for no honourarium.

- None in the fall

T4: at one worship service at each charge, following the service, the GP will make himself available in a formal way for discussion with congregants, regarding the role of the GP and work of the Presbytery.

- Not yet initiated

3] Facilitate and Develop Effective Communication and Information Flow to and from the Presbytery:

- a) Share the life of the congregations and ministries within the Presbytery, telling the story of their successes, needs, and opportunities in ministry.
- b) Foster ongoing information networks and partnerships among the congregations and pastoral ministries. Collect information about their resources and those willing to share it.
 - Provided Calvin Hungarian with examples of facility use contracts used by other congregations in the presbytery
 - Provided St. John's with a copy of the Personnel Guidelines document and staff performance review process from St. Andrew's Calgary
 - Provided Grace with information regarding clergy stipends
- c) Make use of and promote social media activity and other innovative information technologies as communications tools.

Tasks:

T1: continue to utilize Facebook and blog to tell the stories of our congregations and share information.

- Not utilized

T2: by 30 April 2016, write three articles and submit them to all congregations for use in their congregational newsletter. The focus of the articles will be: the news and needs of other congregations in the Presbytery and education regarding the role of Presbytery and PCC polity.

- None created

4] Respond to Critical Situations:

- a) Act as Presbytery's "first responder" in consultation with the Clerk and the Convenor of the Clergy and Congregational Care Committee to gather an initial assessment of the situation for the Clergy and Congregational Care Committee.
- b) Intervene in the critical situation as directed by the Clergy and Congregational Care Committee.
 - Calvin Hungarian, Calgary: a significant amount of time given to this congregation. The presenting issue was a conflict between a few members and the minister. This evolved into an intervention to encourage the congregation's culture to embrace a new form of organization that disperses responsibility more widely among its membership, and more resilient to conflict.
 - Ghanaian Presbyterian Church Calgary: invited to be a part of a presbytery intervention

5] Other Activities

- Life and Mission Agency: in response to their request, provided information on our presbytery's process for congregational visitation that will be used in a forthcoming resource prepared by that agency.
- Trustee Board of The Presbyterian Church in Canada: in response to their request, provided current data on and forecast regarding membership decline and closure of congregations in our denomination

Time Use Summary

Congregations and Activities	1 Sept 2015 to 31 Dec 2015	1 June 2015 to 31 May 2016
Banff, St. Paul's	1.0	6.5
Bassano, Knox & Gem	0	0
Calgary, Calvin Hungarian	105.2	130.4
Calgary, Centennial	2.4	2.4
Calgary, Ghanaian	15.7	15.7
Calgary, Grace	20.0	50.5
Calgary, Knox	4.6	7.6
Calgary, St Andrew's	0.0	0
Calgary, St. Giles	13.4	28.7
Calgary, Valleyview Community	6.5	31.9
Calgary, Varsity Acres	7.2	20.7
Calgary, Westminster	22.9	51.3
Lethbridge, St. Andrew's	1.5	52.5
Medicine Hat, St. John's	26.6	26.6
Total hours with congregations	227	424.8
Committee Meetings (incl'g Presbytery & Synod)	78.6	100.5
Projects: leadership trg program, changing church program	5.3	35.5
Personal Administration	15.3	34.5
Study Leave	0	0
Vacation (3 wks @ 22.5 hrs/wk) (all vacation for the year has been taken)	67.5	112.5
Total	393.7	719.7
Extra Hours Worked Over Contract	+20.1	+51.7

- 6. Oversight of Youth Ministry:** With the most recent restructuring the Presbytery placed the oversight of the Presbytery's Youth Ministry with our Committee. We are grateful to Rev. Grant Gunnink for carrying on the ministry while the Presbytery was working without standing orders. Grant has maintained the Presbytery Youth Ministry Committee, with representatives from various churches in the Presbytery and has facilitated the fall retreats and CY arrangements during this time. The Committee on Clergy and Congregational Care, as part of their oversight, recommends the following:

Recommendation 8: MOVED by H. Smith seconded by C. Gale that the Presbytery Youth Ministry Committee (PYMC) be a sub-committee of the Committee on Clergy and Congregational Care. CARRIED

Recommendation 9: MOVED by H. Smith seconded by C. Gale that the PYMC report regularly to the Committee on Clergy and Congregational Care. CARRIED

Recommendation 10: MOVED by H. Smith seconded by C. Gale that the Administration Committee appoint two more Presbyters to the PYMC.
CARRIED

NEXT MEETING of the Committee on Clergy and Congregational Care – May 5, 2015, Knox, Calgary.

Youth

PRESBYTERY YOUTH (under oversight of Clergy and Congregational Care):
Grant Gunnink (Convenor)

It has been a busy season and a time of transition for the PYMC. We had another very successful well attended Fall Retreat at the end of October, hosted by Westminster. A big thank-you to all those from Westminster who helped out with food and hospitality – even a photo booth!! And for allowing us to take over their Sunday morning service, and teach them how to do the actions to Written in the Word.

Our theme of “A Road Trip thru the Bible” focused on teaching the youth a Reformed approach to reading and understanding scripture, dealing with such topics as: the claims that scripture makes about itself; the genres and literature in the Old Testament and New Testament; how the Old Testament and New Testament are connected; and how all of scripture points to Jesus Christ.

November’s city-wide event was organized by Valleyview, and we had a good group of youth out for swimming at the Inglewood Pool, shortly afterwards in December, ST. A’s Calgary organized an Ugly Sweater Christmas party – where we thanked Ben Kroeker for all his hard work and involvement in the PYMC as his time at ST A’s was coming to a close, and welcomed some new additions to the PYMC from Varsity Acres, Gary & Jeremy Evers, and recently Tim Neufeld from Westminster.

Valleyview recently organized the annual Snowtubing trip to Mt. Norquay in Banff, and it was one of the best attended City-Wide events attended yet. We’re looking forward to a Valentine’s movie night hosted by Centennial in February.

With the start of 2016 we have also begun focusing on planning for CY2016 support, recruiting Adult Advisors who can accompany our Presbytery youth, and making the arrangements for group flights and an additional stop-over trip in Niagara Falls.

As always – PYMC info is available through your church’s PYMC contact, PYMC City-Wide facebook page, or if your church does not have someone involved in the PYMC you can contact myself as convener.

Administration

ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE - CONTINUED – Bob Smith

Partnership with the Christian Reformed Church

At a national level, there has been work on a partnership between The Presbyterian Church in Canada and the Christian Reformed Church. Darren Roorda, Canadian Ministries Director of the Christian Reformed Church in North America, has written to the presbytery, inviting us to explore with them ways of

building an informal partnership on a presbytery/classis level. He suggests such things as fellowship, prayer, or attending one another's meetings, and offers the contact information for a local contact person.

Recommendation 1: MOVED by R. Smith seconded by J. Broadwell that the presbytery invite representatives of the Christian Reformed Church to join us for a meal before a presbytery meeting to foster fellowship. CARRIED

Interim Moderator for Ghanaian Presbyterian Church Calgary

Rev. Dianne Ollerenshaw has submitted her resignation as Interim Moderator of the GPCC.

Recommendation 2: MOVED by R. Smith seconded by J. Broadwell that the resignation of Rev. Dianne Ollerenshaw as Interim Moderator of Ghanaian Presbyterian Church Calgary be accepted, with the sincere thanks of the court. CARRIED

Smith Motion: MOVED by R. Smith, seconded by J. Broadwell that the resignation of Rev. Murdo Marple as assessor elder of the Ghanaian Presbyterian Church Calgary be accepted, with the thanks of the court. CARRIED

Recommendation 3: MOVED by M. Rosza de Coquet seconded by J. Broadwell that Rev. Robert Smith be appointed as Interim Moderator of Ghanaian Presbyterian Church Calgary. CARRIED

Election of Moderator for 2016-2017

Recommendation 4: MOVED by R. Smith seconded by J. Broadwell that Mary Rosza de Coquet be the named Moderator-Elect of Presbytery for the year 2016-2017. CARRIED

Next Meeting:

The next meeting of the Administration Committee will be May 17, 2016 at 2 pm at St. Giles.

Interim Moderators INTERIM MODERATORS' & PRESBYTERY REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS

**Ghanaian Interim Moderators' Report for Ghanaian Presbyterian Church Calgary –
*Dianne Ollerenshaw***

The Session held regular meetings on November 24, 2015, and January 04, 2016. The worship life of the congregation continues with some of the elders taking responsibility for preaching on the Sundays when communion is not being celebrated. The Rev. Che Chebneh Napoleon preached and celebrated communion on December 06 and January 03 and he preached on December 13 to cover for a ruling elder.

Anticipating the possibilities on moving forward on the settlement of a minister from The Presbyterian Church of Ghana, work on the Memorandum of Understanding (M.O.U.) was begun at the meeting on November 24. At that meeting consideration was also being given to a letter from the Session of the

Ghanaian Presbyterian Church in Toronto stating that Mr. Francis Owusu of Toronto, the student minister from this past summer, would be returning to the congregation from December 18 to December 28. Session was informed that the congregation had already been notified of this visit and were eagerly anticipating it. It was also indicated that the ticket for Mr. Owusu's travel had been purchased. The discussion on the M.O.U and the matter of Mr. Owusu's visit came together with a focus on and concern about the relationship between the Calgary and Toronto congregations as well the North American Conference of Ghanaian congregations. While the Assessor Elders and Interim Moderator were surprised and concerned by the letter which the Interim Moderator believed to be out of order, it was finally determined that, given the awkward circumstances, it was best to accommodate the visit by Mr. Owusu. It was also agreed that he would be preaching at the services on December 20, 25 and 27. During the discussion on the M.O.U. and the letter from the Session of the Toronto Congregation time was spent discussing the recurrent problem of the Elders not recognizing the role and leadership of the Interim Moderator and thereby ignoring the guidance of the Presbytery.

In light of the discussions on the M.O.U. and Mr. Owusu's coming to Calgary the Interim Moderator began to do more research about the relationship between the Ghanaian Presbyterian Church Toronto and the congregation. That research suggested that the involvement of the Toronto congregation and the North American group reaches back before Presbytery's involvement in the ministry and continues to date; this involvement may indeed constitute interference. These concerns were heightened for the Interim Moderator by the conflict which has been a part of the founding story of the congregation. The existence of another Ghanaian Presbyterian worshipping community in the city which now claims association with the Presbyterian Church of Ghana and its strained but continuing relationship with the Presbytery's congregation is of particular concern and in need of clarification. With all these issues the Interim Moderator consulted the Assessor Elders and then the Presbytery leadership: the Moderator and Clerk, and the committee convenors of Administration, Clergy & Congregational Care, and Mission & Strategy. The General Presbyter was planning to visit Ghanaian Presbyterian Church Calgary in 2016 and the Interim Moderator asked for this meeting to happen sooner.

The General Presbyter and Clerk of Presbytery attended the Session meeting of January 04, 2016. The General Presbyter will be reporting on that visit with recommendations on how to move forward.

On January 13, recognizing that it is time for different leadership, the Interim Moderator submitted a letter of resignation to the Presbytery Administration Committee. The Interim Moderator has agreed to secure the Session Minutes through January 4, 2016 and to organize pulpit supply through February 7, 2016.

Calvin

Interim Moderators' Report for Calvin Hungarian– *Dianne Ollerenshaw*

The Session of Calvin Hungarian had regular Session meetings on October 28 and December 09. The next meeting is planned for January 27. The Session received the letter of resignation from Dr. Stephan Porostocky who was also the Representative Elder. The General Presbyter attended the December meeting of Session and reviewed the Presbytery Visitation Report with elders. The Interim

Moderator gave instruction on the code of conduct for elders including confidentiality in session meetings and the exercise of pastoral care. Elders are sharing more at meetings and most are working collaboratively. There is some change in the organizational style with the Session working as a team. Further development is needed for committees to grow and fulfill their mandates including their capacity to regularly report to the Session.

The Reverend Bocskorás leads several Bible Studies including one for elders. A group of younger families meet for encouragement and study. In December the Session agreed to make an application to attend Stewards by Design in April 2016 and thanks the Presbytery for donating \$1,000 toward the cost of this event.

At the December Session meeting, elders had a brief conversation examining housing arrangements for the minister's large family and considering possible housing options. Within Calvin Church and the Session there is significant interest in extending a Call to The Reverend Bertalan Bocskorás. On December 18, 2012, the presbytery appointed Mr. Bocskorás as Stated Supply to Calvin Hungarian Presbyterian Church. The motion approved stated "that The Reverend Bertalan Bocskorás be appointed as Stated Supply to Calvin Hungarian Presbyterian Church, for one year, which is to be reviewed annually by the Presbytery, for a term of up to three years of service, and following his approval by the Committee on Education and Reception, and that the candidate be eligible for consideration for a Gospel Call to Calvin Hungarian Presbyterian Church." The Session has been working to complete the recommendations of the 2012 Viability Report of the Presbytery addressing issues of communication, decision-making, conflict resolution, leadership and financial stewardship. There have been great strides in these areas and positive changes. The Session has grown over the past four years and in the congregation there is a greater sense of peace, purpose and direction. While the Session has been implementing organizational change there are still some issues and behaviours to work on. The majority of elders affirm it is time to commence the Call process.

Recommendation: MOVED by D. Ollerenshaw, seconded by R. Smith that the Presbytery grant permission to the Session of Calvin Hungarian Presbyterian Church to commence the process to extend a Call to The Reverend Bertalan Bocskorás. CARRIED

Roll

M. Marple left the court.

Grace
Calgary

Presbytery Representative Report for Grace, Calgary – Jan Hazlett

As the Rev. Victor Kim leaves Grace, it has been decided to have a time of intentional interim ministry.

They have put in place a Transition Committee to deal with issues that arise and to clarify the major work needed from an interim minister and to find a qualified interim minister to help them for up to 2 years.

Although Rev. Kim's is officially done at the end of January, his last Sunday was Dec 27, 2015. I was the guest preacher in worship on Jan 10, officially announcing that the ministry position held by Rev. Kim would be vacant at the end of the month. The Transition Committee began its work early in December proactively working on and implementing plans for the transition. They continue

the work meeting often to review the process and keep on top of the needs as they are identified.

This year Grace has also had a change in their treasurer. The annual meeting date has been intentionally scheduled later than usual as the new treasurer reviews financial position and statements.

The Session has continued its usual work, and additionally has participated in a Retreat with the Rev. Ian Ross-McDonald, Secretary of Life and Mission Agency, to work to identify the specifics for the work and goals needed from the intentional interim ministry.

In order to lay the ground work for finding an interim minister, I have conducted an exit interview with Rev. Kim, met individually with both the Rev. Dr. Jean Morris and the Rev. Leslie Walker, been in dialogue with the National Church about interim ministers and contacted potential candidates for the interim ministry position.

In summary, the transition is being managed, the congregation is aware of the process, and the Session has taken major steps in clarifying the role for the interim minister. Once the work is clarified, we will focus on finding the right interim minister, for now we are working on identifying potential candidates for consideration.

It is my hope that Presbyters continue to pray for the congregation, ministers and staff of Grace Presbyterian in this transition time.

**Ministry
Partnerships**

Reports on Our Ministry Partnerships

The Presbyterian Church in Canada

PWS&D – No Report

WMS

WMS – Marlene LaMontagne

TUMKUTANA! In September, 2015, women gathered from all over Africa, 22 countries in total, plus a few women from the PCUSA, Church of Scotland and the Presbyterian Church in Canada, near Accra, Ghana for Tumekutana – a conference bringing together women of Africa to discuss common concerns and issues. The theme was Freedom in Christ: From Slavery to Empowerment. Sarah Kim and Janet Brewer attended on behalf of the Presbyterian Church in Canada and they will be speaking about their experience on Saturday, February 27 at Centennial Presbyterian Church. We begin with registration and lunch (\$8.00) at 11:30, then worship, with an offering for the Women's Missionary Society, and the presentation from Sarah and Janet. Babysitting will be provided. To register call or e-mail Shirley Watts at 403-995-7069 or canyonins@shaw.ca.

St. Andrew's Calgary WMS will be hosting World Day of Prayer on Friday, March 4th and all are welcome to attend.

Synod of Alberta and the Northwest

Director of Regional Ministries – Dianne Ollerenshaw**1. Vital Churches Institute Acts 16:5 Initiative**

At Synod on October 17, 2015, The Reverend Dr. Stan Ott was the presenter at an educational day for congregations. Each congregation was supposed to get a copy of Stan's book, *Twelve Dynamic Shifts For Transforming Your Church*. Today there is a book for the following congregations: St. Andrew's, Calgary; Grace, Calgary; Valleyview, Westminster, St. Andrew's, Lethbridge, St. John's, Medicine Hat, and Knox, Bassano.

Dr. Ott recognizes congregations are facing rapid change and challenges. He has over thirty years of pastoral experience, and in his ministry has taught the principles of congregational vitality, transformation, missional endeavour, and leadership through the United States, Canada and around the world. Through Vital Church Institute he has supported congregations in considering their present and future ministry through conversation, leadership, counsel and encouragement using the Acts 16:5 Initiative.

If you would like more details about the Acts 16:5 Initiative please view his videos using the link: <http://www.vitalchurchesinstitute.com/pages/guests-4-questions-video> To enter this site use these passwords: user: **vci** password: **quest**.

Currently there are 9 congregations confirmed, 7 from Central Alberta, Westminster, Calgary, and Knox, Lloydminster. All gatherings will take place in the bounds of Central Alberta Presbytery, likely Red Deer. There is still room if other congregations wish to join. The agreement we have with Vital Churches will accommodate up to 15 congregations. Cost for each church is approximately CAD \$1500 per year for two years. The Vital Churches Institute team will be meeting in Red Deer on April 30 and September 24, 2016. Ministers of participating churches will meet in person or online at least four times per year.

2. Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada: Calls to Action

The final report of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission was released on December 15, 2015 in Ottawa. This report is found in 6 volumes. A summary of the Calls to Actions may be found at http://www.trc.ca/websites/trcinstitution/File/2015/Findings/Calls_to_Action_English2.pdf

The Presbyterian Church in Canada will continue to work on the Calls to Actions and is currently examining possible areas for ecumenical collaboration. As one of the Settlement Agreement Parties, our church with other faith groups is being called to adopt and comply with the principles, norms and standards of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) as a framework for reconciliation (Call to Action #48). In Call to Action #49 we are also being called to action "to repudiate concepts used to justify European sovereignty over Indigenous lands and peoples, such as the Doctrine of Discovery and terra nullius."

There are other Calls to Action to which the church and society need to respond. For example, Call to Action 62 concerning "Education and Reconciliation" invites Canadians to call upon the federal, provincial and territorial governments, in consultation and collaboration with Survivors, Aboriginal peoples, and educators, to make age-appropriate curriculum on residential schools, Treaties, and

Aboriginal peoples' historical and contemporary contributions to Canada. If you would like a copy of a petition to the Legislative Assembly to urge the Government of Alberta to implement a curriculum for Kindergarten to Grade Twelve students addressing the concerns above, forms are available.

The Blanket Exercise and the study, *Strength for Climbing: Steps on the Journey of Reconciliation* are resources to help congregations explore these issues. If you seek suggestions on title of books to read for small groups or different ages, please contact Dianne.

3. Calgary Peace Prize

The Calgary Centre for Global Community will present the 2016 Calgary Peace Prize to the three Commissioners of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada. This event will be at Mount Royal College on April 7 and tickets go on sale at the end of January.

4. Mark Your Calendars – PWS&D Sunday is February 7, 2016

On PWS&D Sunday we remember the work of our church supporting vulnerable families around the globe. It is a time to reflect on those who continue to struggle for basic necessities such as nutritious food, clean water, adequate health care, quality education and basic human rights. Through community development, refugee sponsorship, and emergency relief together we are making a difference. Resources are available to assist you in a planning a worship service.

Visit [resources](#) You may wish to show the PWS&D video, [“We Respond Together”](#) which highlights the different ways our church is responding to God’s call to serve people in need. You could play this video during the service or as a moment for mission. Alternatively, you could show the new [“One Mission, Two Funds”](#) video. Also available is PWS&D’s [2015-2016 General PowerPoint](#) presentation. This resource highlights photos and stories from PWS&D projects.

5. Support of Syrian Refugees

On January 7, the Government of Canada [announced the extension of the Syria Emergency Relief Fund](#) until February 29. For all eligible donations made until **February 29, 2016** (extended from the original date of December 31), the Government of Canada will contribute a matching amount towards Canada’s “Syria Emergency Relief Fund.” For more information about the government’s matching program, [click here](#). To make a matching donation through Presbyterian World Service & Development, please give through our [Syrian Humanitarian Assistance Response](#).

The Presbyterian Church in Canada *continues to respond* to the crisis by sending relief, equipping Christian partners in the Middle East, supporting congregations sponsoring refugees to come to Canada, and advocating for government action.

Presbyterian World Service & Development (PWS&D) continues to provide food, shelter, clothing and psychosocial, medical and educational [support to refugees and internally displaced people](#) in Syria, Lebanon and Jordan through the [ACT Alliance](#) and [Canadian Foodgrains Bank \(CFGB\)](#). Since 2013, PWS&D has contributed over \$345,000—which became over \$1,025,000 with government matching grants through CFGB—towards refugees and internally displaced people around the world. Two-thirds of this was specifically for people displaced by the Syrian conflict.

International Ministries partners in the Middle East are training leaders and responding to needs overwhelming the surrounding countries. The Near East School of Theology (NEST) in Lebanon is [training Christian leaders](#) from Iraq, Iran and Syria. The Department of Service to Palestinian Refugees is assisting Syrians refugees in Lebanon and Jordan and Palestinian refugees who were in Syria and have had to flee. Sylvia Haddad, Director of the Joint Christian Council (Lebanon) of the DSPR says, "I really feel that we have to help people remain in this country and not emigrate, exposing their lives to the danger of boats and sinking."

The Presbyterian Church in Canada sponsorship agreement with Citizenship and Immigration Canada enables Presbyterian congregations to welcome refugees to Canada. Sponsorship applications are currently being processed and PWS&D will work with interested congregations willing to start. Learn more about [Refugee Sponsorship](#).

Continue to pray for Syrian and other refugees and the people working to support them. Pray that they may find safe haven and that peace may come to their homelands so that they may one day return home in peace.

6. Canada Youth International Visitors Program 2016

Next July Canada Youth 2016 will take place in Ontario and planning is underway for International Visitors. The Synod Administration Committee has yet to meet to address this project but it is hoped that this year there will be a group made up of 13 participants from Taiwan (6), Hungary (2), Romania (2) and Ukraine (2) and a leader from The Reformed Church in Hungary visiting the Alberta region. They may also be accompanied by a leader from the national office.

The hope is that this program will introduce the young adults to mission and ministry in the PCC and give them a warm introduction to Canada. We hope that there will be opportunities for Presbyterians in Alberta and the international youth to have cross-cultural dialogue and worship and learn together. While the youth enjoy visiting historic and cultural sites, they particularly value the opportunity to discover and meet the people of a partner church they had heard so much about from their home country. If we proceed with this project, young adults will arrive in Alberta on Monday June 27 or Tuesday June 28 and would depart for Ontario on Monday, July 4, 2016. There is budget to help with local transportation and hosting costs – but it is limited and the Synod with the Director of Regional Ministries will be asked to help arrange the itinerary, billeting, meal and local transportation. More information will be coming.

Recommendation: MOVED by D. Ollerenshaw, seconded by J. Morris that the Presbytery of Calgary-Macleod welcome Young Adults participating in the Canada Youth International Visitors Program in 2016 and support the Director of Regional Ministries in recruiting billets and organizing communal meals as needed. CARRIED

7. Chaplain General's Office is Recruiting Reserve Chaplains:

There are three vacancies for reserve chaplains in Calgary. This is an opportunity for clergy under the age of 55, who are in good physical health, with a Bachelor's Degree and a M. Div., and who have a minimum of two year's pastoral experience. Reserve chaplains will receive a minimal extra stipend, some

pastoral counselling and ethical education which is part of the chaplain training, and will have the opportunity to serve their country. If you are interested please contact the Director of Regional Ministries.

Camp Kannawin **Camp Kannawin**– *Terry Hagen – Presbytery Rep for Calgary-Macleod*

It seems that the fall, and now the winter have been full of plans for Camp Kannawin. We began with promotion of the Par Program in December, and have followed up with an offer to visit congregations throughout the winter, updating them on many of the opportunities that the Camp has to offer.

Of course Stewardship is an important part of our sustainability, and we are grateful for your support in the various forms that stewardship takes. We are thankful for the financial support that is given, and for the volunteer support that is provided. Volunteers help in so many different ways.

This year, of course, Camp Kannawin will be hosting our Annual Synod Meeting, and we will be especially in need of help during that time. If you, or a member of your congregation is interested in knowing more about the volunteer positions, that are available, please contact me at 403-835-7235.

In 2015 six congregations were able to put on a Choir Festival, and Silent Auction at St. Giles in an effort to raise funds for the beach reclamation project. It is our hope that one of the Calgary-Macleod congregations would step forward, and offer to host a fund-raiser for Camp Kannawin in 2016.

Camp Kannawin – *Cara Penman, Camp Director*

Many blessings to everyone and I hope that the Christmas Season was a time of celebration and renewal. Since my last report at Synod there have been plenty of things happening over these last few months. Our biggest change has been that of the committee where Mickey Johnston has retired from being the convenor and we welcome the one and only Rev. Charles McNeil. Not only has there been a new convenor, but most of the chairs are new to their roles too. With this comes injection of new ideas along with a lot of time learning from each other. Our second meeting of the year will be coming up on January 30, 2016 at 10:00 am.

It is official Colin Penman (my husband, past Camp Director many moons ago, and amazing supporter) and I graduated from the Compass Points Certification Course this November. For those who are not familiar with this program it is a certification program for camp and conference leaders. There are a total of eight courses offered over a repeating two year period. We are the second class of graduates with a total of 4 people going through the process. The first graduating class had 5 graduates. Colin and I are the first couple and furthermore the first Canadians to have completed the course. We are excited to have gone through this program and know it has been beneficial in affirming we have been on the right track over the last few years in how the camp is being run. It has also opened our eyes to the endless possibilities of all of the other things we could be doing. With time, volunteers, eventually having some more year round staff, continuance growth of support by the way of money we know anything is possible. I encourage anyone wanting to really understand what the program entails and what we learned to visit www.compasspointsprogram.org.

We were once again blessed to have the government run community service program out of the Bowden Institute (Bowden, Alberta) to come on the site from Nov. 30 – Dec. 3. Their timing could not have been better. We did our yearly shocking of the well on Nov. 28 and to our surprise ended up causing a pin-hole size rupture in a copper pipe that ran down through the ceilings in the downstairs wash rooms and had to be completely taken out. Thanks to their help we were able to pull down the ceilings and have a committee member replace the ceilings in January. Bowden also was able to repair the tiles that had been cracking and falling off in the showers at the washhouse. They completely repaired the tiles in the two showers (far one in the women's and the far one in the men's) along with putting new tile baseboards around the entire room in both of these showers. One of our donors covered the cost of the materials (Just over \$400.00) and the labour was provided by Bowden, in other words, completely free. We cannot thank Bowden enough for all of their help. They will be back on site at the end of January for a few more days and possible a week in March. It is truly amazing all of the help they give us and we appreciate all they do for us.

During the summer we had a pressure tank that failed and decided to have it replaced at the time of this water leak due to having the plumbers already on site. While they were dealing with replacing the two small copper pipes that were left (difficult to get to them as they were located on the urinals and had to have tiles sawed out to get to them) when we had the lines changed out about 5 years ago they had noticed a problem with our water heater and this too had to be replaced. All of this work was unexpected, but had to be done and ended up costing just over \$4700.00. The good news is that we should be set now in the main building.

In terms of guest groups we had 3 groups come through our site in December which was completely awesome. Usually we do not (may be 1 in January) have bookings from November through January. The one group came from Dec. 27-29 to have their Christmas and loved it so much that just over half of them extended their stay an extra night. We have two groups coming for the month of January and one for February and one for March as of right now. There has been a great deal of interest for June to August rentals and we are starting to see the calendar book up which is wonderful.

Coming up I will be leading the service at Sherwood Park on January 31 and have also been booked for Lloydminster and Ganton for mid April. I always enjoy being able to visit our churches and spread some camp into the service. My only warning is that I believe church (like camp) is a conversation so typically there is congregational participation! I am able to make church visits January through April and anyone who is interested can contact me at director@campkannawin.ca to set up a Sunday that works for both of us. As a friendly reminder if you are requesting for me to plan and take over the entire service, supply is to be paid to the camp. If it is for me to come to make a presentation then there is no cost incurred on your church's part.

I just recently did a trial run of the online registration process and it will likely be open by the end of this month. The one thing that stood out to me as I did the test registration is that the software program has built in the ability for every person who registers to add a donation to their bill. That is huge and a great opportunity for more donations to come in and I am excited to see the result of this for this upcoming year. I have already been getting camp date requests from families

(new ones!) who are trying to plan their summer. The summer staff portal for applying is planned to be open at the end of this month too. Last year, as many know staffing was a huge challenge and we talked about not having the pipeline full of people coming up in the system and having that love for camp, but those who were on site did a fantastic job. I am well aware that plans change and things can happen, but from what I know it seems there is a good group of last year's KREW interested in applying and being back this year along with a few other excellent interested people. It is always amazing how God provides! The summer brochure is underway and looks like the online portal will be open before the brochure is printed. I still plan on having it printed and out for mid February, so keep your eyes open for that.

Our theme for this summer is Fearless Faith: Courage in Community. Taking right from the site of the creators for this curriculum it states "Fearless Faith: Courage in Community is not just about campers "making friends at camp, enjoying nature, and challenging themselves" but how campers can create lasting communities in Christ to become a part of and gain support from. This community can help them stand up to mistrust, enemies, injustice, and fear itself." I am excited to implement this curriculum into our summer camp program this year. The camp committee decided PWS&D will be the mission we will raise money for this summer. Over the past two years we have brought in around \$1200.00 for the missions and we are anticipating at least this to come in again this year for this project.

I cannot express enough my sincere gratitude to all of the churches, groups within the churches and individuals who support Camp Kannawin. I do want to acknowledge Westmount specifically and THANK them for their recent donations to the camp and thinking about us. The ride on lawnmower, snow blower and other materials we have received is just amazing and will all be put to good use. Just like the churches the camp is always in need of items and sometimes we do not know what we need, but if you have something you want to give away please feel free to contact us and see if it is something we could use. We are in the midst of getting together a wish list to send out to everyone for those that are interested in supporting us in that manner. This is your camp and I am thrilled that we are hosting the 2016 Synod. Please do not wait until Synod to come and see what is happening at camp.

KAIROS**KAIROS – Helen Smith**

Get your teams ready for the Coldest Night of the Year! Walk with us on Saturday, February 20, 2016. This is a great event for your congregation to get behind. You can walk 2K or 5K or 10K. A light meal is included. Proceeds from the walk are going this year to The Mustard Seed, Feed the Hungry (St. Mary's Cathedral weekly Sunday Dinner for people who are homeless) and Acadia Place, an apartment complex for families previously homeless. Thanks to some very generous donations the mortgage at Acadia Place is almost paid off and with the proceeds from this walk we are hoping to pay it off. This will enable the rents to stay low, and some needed maintenance to be done. For the Calgary churches, please use the bulletin inserts that were e-mailed to your church. For more information, or to register as a walker or a team or a volunteer, or to sponsor a walker go to www.coldestnightoftheyear.org/calgary.

Calgary Council of Churches – *Jean Morris* -No Report Received
Calgary Council of Christians & Jews – *Mark Tremblay* -No Report Received
Calgary Interfaith Council – *Mark Tremblay, Dianne Ollerenshaw, Leslie Walker*
-No Report Received

Chair of Christian Thought Advisory Committee – *Mark Tremblay* -No Report
Received

Abraham's Tent (Christian Muslim Dialogue) –*Leslie Walker* -No Report Received

Campus Ministry **United/Presbyterian Campus Ministry** – *Dianne Ollerenshaw, Sandra Cameron
Evans*

U of C Programmes

Faith and Spirituality Centre

The Vitruvian Space which will be used to support spiritual health and well-being was officially opened on January 13, 2016. As well, the office has been renovated with many new students using the drop-in space.

The ministry continues to support Kaleidoscope, the multi-faith education program and will take part in the Pluralism & Religious Diversity Week, March 14-18.

New policies are being developed regarding proselytizing and participation of outside groups in chaplaincies.

Drum Programme

Attendance was up in the last few weeks of the Fall Semester with groups of 20-25. There were over 1500 hits to the ministry's Facebook page in one week as a result of recent additions. However the drum program requires consistent promotion to reach the maximum size for which instruments are available which is approximately 40.

Simple Supper

Attendance depends upon attendance at Drum Circles. At the end of the Fall Semester there were around 20 attending.

Student Rhythms

This is the ministry's Student Union recognized student group that enable them to book suitable space free of charge and involves two of the Peer Partners.

Peer Partnership Programme

This project, intended to encourage the engagement of young adults from the Christian community while deepening relations between the Campus Ministry and congregations, has arrangements with Varsity Acres and Grace plus St. David's United Church. Three of the initial Peer Partners have been very active in all aspects of the ministry, making major contributions. Other United, Lutheran and Anglican congregations will be approached for the future.

MRU Programmes

Multi-Faith Chaplains' Centre

The ministry will be part of "Hijab Day" and "My Story" events. Two new Pentecostal chaplains have joined the centre.

Drum, Dine, Discuss Programme

Attendance was up by the end of the Fall Semester with over 50 in one week. There were changes in sponsorship of this programme with Diversity and Human Rights being the Administration support and the Global Citizenship Centre being the Student Union support.

The ministry took part in "Expressions Expo" with dance, spoken work and musical performances connected by drumming and followed by a drum circle. This was to kick-off the Drum, Dine, Discuss Programme for the Winter Semester with extensive promotion through social and print media.

SAIT Programmes

The Chaplain is typically available on Tuesdays, from 11AM until 4PM. He is building partnerships and laying plans for a drum program, expected to start with a monthly noon hour drum circle in partnership with the Student Support Centre and the International Student Centre. As well, work is happening on a vision for the Centre.

The Chaplain is seeing three people for pastoral care.

Off-Campus Activities**Worship**

There have been between six to 10 participants in the Fall Semester with 14 for dinner and worship on Sunday, January 10, 2016. Numbers are growing slowly and a viable community is forming, in part because of the involvement of the Peer Partners. Jewish and agnostic/atheist students as well as MRU students are attending.

Other

Three students have inquired about attending church. None have any significant prior experience of Christianity and all approached the ministry team without any invitation on the team's part.

University of Lethbridge Chaplaincy – *Vacant*

Calgary Regional Health Authority Spiritual Care Advisory Committee – *Brown Milne* -No Report Received

Enthusiasms**Enthusiasms and Concerns Regarding our Partnerships**

- Helen Smith noted that Acadia Place is close to paying off their mortgage.
- Leslie Walker noted that Grace entered the Coldest Night of the Year walk.
- St. Andrew's is working with Claire House, an affordable housing project. Kevin Lee noted that it is humbling "their willingness to welcome us"
- Kevin Lee noted the great discussions at the Body, Mind and Soul presentations and thanked Varsity Acres, Grace, and St. Andrew's Calgary for hosting them.
- Tom Paasuke noted that St. Paul's is supporting Shoes for Children in Africa

- Judie Coleman noted that St. Andrew's Calgary is supporting Little Dresses for Africa and has sent two shipments of dresses to Disaster Aid Canada in Victoria.
- Dianne Ollerenshaw noted that Westmount Presbyterian Church in Edmonton is going to be demolished in March as a new build begins for not-for profit development of rental housing for large families and a new church building. It is very exciting. She thinks they will be partnering with Internet Housing Society and with the Edmonton Mennonite Centre for Newcomers as a source of services to renters. The Presbyterian Church in Canada is leasing the land and continues to own the land.

Officers**PRESBYTERY OFFICERS****Clerk's Report****Clerk's Report – Dewald Delport**Annual Statistics

Please remind your Clerk of Session and Treasurer that the Annual Statistics are due by March 1. I emailed the instructions and pdf on Dec 23 to all Clerks of Session as well Clergy. It is important that when the pdf is completed that it is emailed to me as Clerk of Presbytery and **not** to the National Office. Please make sure a copy of your financial statements, either as a pdf of jpeg, is also emailed to me. Once again, this is **due March 1**.

If for whatever reason the files I emailed on Dec 23 regarding the 2015 Congregational Statistics cannot be found please email me so I can forward it to you and/or your clerk.

Clerks of Session:

If you have named a new clerk of Session in 2015 please make sure the Clerk of Presbytery has his/her contact information.

Police Checks for Clergy on the Constituent Roll:

The following Clergy needs to provide an update Police Record Check:
We are all good to 2017.

Congregational Fire Drills:

Congregations have to complete a fire drill at least once every three years. Most congregations in our Presbytery do a yearly fire drill.

Three congregations have to complete one this year:

Calgary Ghanaian Presbyterian Church – as soon as possible

Knox, Calgary – by Sept 2016

Valleyview Community – by June

Changes to the Roll:

Address: Jared Millar
716 118 Ave SW,
Calgary, AB, T2W 0E5
403-585-4270 (home)
JMiller@standrewscalgary.ca

Ballot for General Assembly Moderator:

Ballots to vote for the 2016 General Assembly Moderator will be available at the February meeting. Please make sure to vote and return the voting envelope to

the Clerk. I will mail the ballots and envelope only to those who forward regrets for the February meeting.

Treasurer

Treasurer's Report – Philip Gaiser

**Presbytery of Calgary-Macleod
Comparative Balance Sheet**

	As at 12/31/2015	As at 12/31/2014
ASSET		
Current Assets		
Chequing Bank Account	2,173.32	5,792.49
Total Cash	-	5,792.49
Investments - RBC Black Acct	10,128.70	10,448.55
Investments-Scotia McLeod	144,676.00	144,928.00
Investments - RBC	324,114.74	318,463.15
Accounts Receivable	10,102.32	4,783.96
Accounts Receivable GST	18.02	1,397.14
Total Current Assets	486,866.46	485,813.29
TOTAL ASSET	486,866.46	485,813.29
LIABILITY		
Current Liabilities		
Accounts Payable Promotion	3,032.68	4,771.76
Gen Presbyter Grant	0.00	7,300.00
PWS&D Flood funds	-8.47	-8.47
Pension Payable	-99.84	-29.64
Insurance Payable	46.58	16.82
Prepaid Sales/Deposits	53.12	36.20
Clerk's Conference	1,125.00	1,125.00
Youth Conferences	723.35	723.35
Youth Ministry	2,000.00	2,000.00
Total Current Liabilities	6,872.42	15,935.02
TOTAL LIABILITY	6,872.42	15,935.02
EQUITY		
Owners Equity		
Retained Earnings - Previous Year	469,878.27	554,940.25
Current Earnings	10,115.77	-85,061.98
Total Owners Equity	479,994.04	469,878.27
TOTAL EQUITY	479,994.04	469,878.27
LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	486,866.46	485,813.29

 Presbytery Clerk

**Presbytery of Calgary-Macleod
Comparative Income Statement**

	2015	2014
	Twelve months	Twelve months
REVENUE		
Revenue		
Dues	172,784.40	166,877.80
Grants	7,300.00	0.00
Individual donations	0.00	380.00
Revenue	180,084.40	167,257.80
Other Revenue		
Investment Interest	3,055.79	4,102.13
Investment Income - Scotia McLeod	1,742.00	726.00
Interest Black Account	123.83	101.75
Youth Fall Retreat	970.00	1,270.00
Youth CY	0.00	353.06
Social Media Workshop	0.00	519.00
Unrealized Gains	158.12	3,075.00
Total Other Revenue	6,049.74	10,146.94
TOTAL REVENUE	186,134.14	177,404.74
EXPENSE		
Missions		
University of Calgary Grants	9,000.00	12,000.00
University of Lethbridge Grants	3,000.00	3,000.00
Medicine Hat College	1,500.00	500.00
Black Memorial Bursary	0.00	448.55
GPCC	0.00	29,204.55
PWS&D	0.00	380.00
New Ministries Initiatives	11,000.00	0.00
Missions Total	24,500.00	45,533.10
Youth		
Interchurch Activities	25.00	150.00
Youth Fall Retreat	929.32	1,799.63
Youth Conferences	79.00	2,239.91
Youth Total	1,033.32	4,189.54
Pastoral Effectiveness		
Workshops	268.21	0.00
EELPI	0.00	150.00
Other	0.00	775.00
Pastoral Effectiveness Total	268.21	925.00

Presbytery Clerk

Payroll Expenses

General Presbyter	35,000.04	35,000.04
EI Expense	921.12	921.12
CPP Expense	1,559.28	1,559.28
PCC Medical & Dental Ins	4,224.00	4,182.00
PCC Pension	3,613.08	3,056.40
Payroll Charges	511.78	493.43
Total Payroll Expense	<u>45,829.30</u>	<u>45,212.27</u>

General & Administrative Expenses

Chair of Christian Thought	1,000.00	2,000.00
Website	0.00	1,710.46
Legal	0.00	56,025.08
Synod Dues	87,861.44	86,462.00
General Assembly Meals	1,683.00	1,453.00
Administrators' Workshop	228.00	25.00
Clerk - Secretarial	565.50	552.50
Clerk - Honorarium	3,000.00	3,000.00
Treasurer	600.00	600.00
Travel	6,799.27	5,857.90
Postage	56.68	102.65
GST Non Recoverable	19.95	1,690.07
Insurance	1,450.63	1,510.34
Bank Charges	29.97	24.00
Office Supplies	313.10	330.94
Miscellaneous Expenses	0.00	849.00
Retreat	0.00	3,083.87
Telephone	780.00	780.00
Clerk's Conference	0.00	550.00
Total General & Admin. Expenses	<u>104,387.54</u>	<u>166,606.81</u>

TOTAL EXPENSE	<u>176,018.37</u>	<u>262,466.72</u>
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NET INCOME	<u>10,115.77</u>	<u>-85,061.98</u>
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Presbytery of Calgary-Macleod**Outstanding As at 12/31/2015**

<u>Name</u>	<u>Total</u>
Gem	-35.96
Knox (Bassano/Gem)	5,159.20
St Andrew's Lethbridge	-0.12
St Andrew's Presbyterian Church	2,062.44
St Giles Presbyterian Church	-17.04
St John's Presbyterian Church	1,384.68
Valleyview Presbyterian Church	0.16
Varsity Acres Presbyterian Church	1,495.84
Total outstanding:	<u>10,049.20</u>

Motion: MOVED by R. Smith, seconded by J. Broadwell, that the financial statements as at December 31, 2015 be adopted. CARRIED

Motion: MOVED by L. Walker, seconded by R. Smith, that the reports be adopted as amended. CARRIED

We pray for God's Presence

Prayer H. Smith led us in Prayers for the Work of Presbytery.

Time and Place The next meeting of the Presbytery will take place at Lethbridge, May 30, followed by the Presbytery retreat to conclude on May 31.

Adjourn to serve MOVED by R. Smith, seconded by P. Coutts that the Court be adjourned. CARRIED

WE GO OUT IN GOD'S NAME

Benediction The Moderator dismissed the Court with a benediction.

Moderator

Presbytery Clerk