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A meeting of the Pastoral Relations (PR) Commission was held via Zoom Conference call on Tuesday, September 12, 2023 at 1:00 p.m.

**PRESENT:**

Jim Allen, Ina Bromley, Wayne Harris (Chair), Patsy Henry, Sharon MacDonald, Erin McIntyre, Karen McLean (Scribe), Blair Paterson, Whit Strong, Linda Suddaby (10)

**REGRETS:** Charlotte Hoy, Micheline Montreuil (2)

**CALL TO ORDER, OPENING PRAYER:**

Chair, Wayne Harris, called the meeting to order at 1:03 p.m. and welcomed our newest member the Rev. Blair Paterson from South Mountain-Hallville P.C. After a quick check-in with members, Sharon MacDonald led us in an opening prayer.

**ADDITIONS/CORRECTIONS TO THE AGENDA:**

- Rev. Christopher Ryan request to retire
- Covenanting services in EOORC
- VAMs

**INTERIM MOTIONS:** None

**ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES:**

It was noted that on p. 2023-46 of the minutes of August 8<sup>th</sup>, the name of the new minister at South Stormont P.C. was spelled incorrectly in the announcement of the Covenanting service.

**MOTION 2023-92** (I. Bromley/J. Allen) “that the minutes of August 8, 2023 be accepted as amended.” **CARRIED**

**RESTORATIVE CARE/LTD:**

Restorative Care: Rev. Eric Pagé (OM) Williamstown P.C.

LTD: Rev. Lynda Harrison (OM) Kemptonville: St. John's P.C.

Rev. Kathleen Petrie (OM) Augusta P.C.

**SABBATICALS/COVERAGE:**

**Zion-Memorial P.C. (Carleton Place)**

**MOTION 2023-93** (B. Paterson/E. McIntyre) “that the EOORC PR Commission takes note of the upcoming sabbatical of David Sherwin (OM), Zion-Memorial Pastoral Charge (Carleton Place), for the period March 1 – May 31, 2024.” **CARRIED**

**Glen Cairn P.C.**

**MOTION 2023-94** (P. Henry/J. Allen) “that the EOORC PR Commission takes note of the upcoming sabbatical of Elaine Beattie (OM), Glen Cairn Pastoral Charge, for the period June 1 – August 31, 2024.” **CARRIED**

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**ACKNOWLEDGED SABBATICALS:**

Tiina Côté – Pembroke: Calvin P.C. – May 1 – September 2, 2024 PCS – Margie Patterson  
Erin McIntyre – Cornwall: Knox-St. Paul's P.C. – June 1 to September 3, 2024  
Lorrie Lowes – Bells Corners P.C. – July 1 to September 30, 2024

**CHANGE IN RELATIONS:**

**Rev. Brian Cornelius – First United P.C. (Ottawa)**

**MOTION 2023-95** (I. Bromley/S, MacDonald) “That the EOORC PR Commission approves the request of the Rev. Brian Cornelius for a change in pastoral relations effective June 30, 2024.”

**CARRIED**

**Rev. Christopher Ryan – Smiths Falls: Trinity P.C.**

**MOTION 2023-96** (P. Henry/B. Paterson) “That the EOORC PR Commission approves the request of the Rev. Christopher Ryan for a change in pastoral relations to retire as of September 1, 2024.”

**CARRIED**

**LIAISONS**

Liaisons are still needed for Aylwin, Merivale-Fallowfield, First United (Ottawa), and St. Andrew's (Westmeath).

**PASTORAL CHARGE SUPERVISORS:**

**Williamstown P.C.**

**MOTION 2023-97** (E. McIntyre/I. Bromley) “That the EOORC PR Commission, in the absence of called/appointed ministry personnel, names Lois Gaudet (OM), EOORC member, as Pastoral Charge Supervisor to the Williamstown Pastoral Charge.”

**CARRIED**

**Note:**

PCSs are still needed for Rothwell, Aylwin and St. Andrew's (Westmeath)

**Pastoral Charges without called/appointed Ministry Personnel:**

(Pastoral Charge Supervisor in place as noted)

Addison – Lynne Gardiner

Admaston – Paul McLenaghan

Ashton-Munster – Jim Allen

Augusta – Linda Suddaby (while the minister is on LTD)

Eardley – Jim Allen (Eardley open for only a couple of services per year.)

Aylwin –

Bethel-St. Andrew's – Jan Lougheed

Central Lanark – Wayne Harris

Charge pastorale Namur – Jim Kenney

Christ Church United (Chesterville) – Christine Lowson

Clyde Forks-Tatlock – Carla Van Delen

Delta-Toledo – Charlotte Hoy

Denbigh, Matawatchan, Schutt – Jon Williams/Ina Bromley

Elgin-Portland – JoAnne Fletcher

Genesis Co-operative – Jim Allen

Glasgow-Castleford – James Murray



Lansdowne – Patsy Henry  
Merivale-Fallowfield -  
Melville, Eganville – Ina Bromley  
Metcalf – Ed Gratton  
Osgoode-Kars – Ed Gratton  
Ottawa Chinese – Charles Barrett  
Perth Road – Heather McLurg Murphy  
Rockland – Jim Kenney  
Rothwell – Beth Sweetnam  
Russell – Ed Gratton  
St. Andrew's (Westmeath) -  
St. John's (Brockville) – Linda Suddaby  
Trinity (Ottawa) – Jim Allen

**Pastoral Charges not searching:**

Addison	Eardley	Centenary
Clyde Forks-Tatlock	Delta-Toledo	Elgin-Portland
Glasgow-Castleford	Greenwood	Lower Gatineau Valley
Lyn: Christ	Mallorytown	Pittston
Rideau	St, John's (Brockville)	Templeton

**CALLS/(RE)-APPOINTMENTS**

**Trinity P.C. (Ottawa) – Junior Smith (OM):**

**MOTION 2023-98** (S. MacDonald/L. Suddaby) “that the EOORC PR Commission approves the call of the Rev. Dr. Junior Smith to the Trinity Pastoral Charge (Ottawa), as Congregational Minister, 40 hours per week, effective September 18, 2023.” **CARRIED**

**Quyong P.C. – Patricia Power (Candidate)**

**MOTION 2023-99** (B. Paterson/E. McIntyre) “that the EOORC PR Commission approves the re-appointment of Patricia Power (Candidate) to the Quyong Pastoral Charge as Congregational Minister, 20 hours per week, effective September 1, 2023 – March 31, 2024.” **CARRIED**

**Southminster P.C. (Ottawa) – Frank Emanuel (Candidate)**

**MOTION 2023-100** (J. Allen/P. Henry) “that the EOORC PR Commission approves the appointment of Frank Emanuel (Candidate) to the Southminster Pastoral Charge (Ottawa) as Congregational Minister, 27 hours per week, effective September 1, 2023 – Aug. 31, 2025.” **CARRIED**

**SACRAMENTS ELDERS:**

**MOTION 2023-101** (E. McIntyre/J. Allen) “That the EOORC PR Commission takes note of the following Pastoral Charges’ requests for their listed members to be approved to take the Sacraments Elder course:

Buckingham P.C. – Andrew Nicholls  
Delta-Toledo P.C. – Carolyn Bennett  
Denbigh-Matawatchan-Schutt (St. Luke's U.C.) – Faye O'Brien

Perth Road P.C. – Cheryl Bird  
- Mary Ellen Iveson  
Rideau P.C. – Marilyn Moore  
Rockland P.C. – Barbara Lorrain”

**CARRIED**

**FOLLOW-UPS FROM LIAISONS AND PCSs:**

**1) Melville, Eganville**

Ina Bromley reported there is an upcoming meeting at Eganville. Margie Patterson (DLM-R) is now attending Eganville U.C. and has led Sunday services from time to time. She is willing to be an alternate PCS if needed.

**MOTION 2023-102** (B. Paterson/L. Suddaby) “That the EOORC PR Commission, in the absence of called/appointed ministry personnel, names Margie Patterson, EOORC member, as an alternate Pastoral Charge Supervisor to the Melville, Eganville Pastoral Charge.” **CARRIED**

[Abstaining: Ina Bromley]

**2) Lanark & Central Lanark P.C.s**

Wayne Harris reported Lanark and Central Lanark Pastoral Charges are close to requesting an appointment. Lanark Board meets Sept. 24<sup>th</sup> and Central Lanark on the 28<sup>th</sup> to discuss and vote.

**OTHER BUSINESS:**

**1) Liaisons' Compensation:**

Whit had nothing further to report. This will be removed from the agendas for the time being.

**2) PR Commission to grant sacramental privileges**

Whit has asked that this be on the agenda for the September meeting of the Executive.

**3) Proposed Ordination Policy**

Whit has asked that this item also be on the agenda for the September meeting of the Executive.

**4) Exit Interviews**

Various methods have been used by the former Presbyteries. After discussion, it was decided Whit should approach a minister who is leaving a pastoral charge as soon as possible after receiving notice. It is best to do this as early as possible so that suggestions are available to be used in the Profile as well as the Search process.

Ministers will be offered the opportunity to participate in an exit interview and, if amenable, will be given the choice of in-person, Zoom or a written response to a few questions.

**5) Setting Our Sights**

There are a number of gatherings during the next few weeks – some via Zoom and others in-person. The schedules are on the EOORC website. Everyone was encouraged to try to participate if at all possible.

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## **6) Protocols With Respect to the Deaths of Ministers and/or their spouses**

The death of a minister and/or his/her spouse or significant other is devastating for all. Whit has been attempting to attend as many funerals in-person as he is able to but circumstances sometimes make this impossible. He has also attempted to write a note of condolence on the Funeral home webpage on behalf of EOORC. We should make every effort to ensure no one is overlooked. Discussion ensued as to how best to do this.

**MOTION 2023-103** (B. Paterson/E. McIntyre) “The EOORC PR Commission recommends that, upon notification of the death of a clergy member and/or spouse, the Executive makes a donation to M&S in their memory, and notifies the family of same.” **CARRIED**

## **7) Time of PRC and Executive Meetings**

Whit reported that the Executive wishes to continue to meet on the second Thursday of the month. This is problematic since the PRC meets on the second Tuesday of each month, often leaving the scribe very little time to write up the minutes and get them to the Executive in time for their meeting. The Executive has asked for Team minutes 7-10 days in advance of their meeting to give members adequate time to read everything and be prepared for discussions and decisions.

PRC members all agreed to change our meetings to the third Tuesday of each month effective October 17<sup>th</sup>.

## **8) VAMs**

Whit reported there has been some difficulty receiving paperwork from our Voluntary Associate Ministers (VAMs). Some has gone astray leaving those folks not properly approved. It was suggested VAMs continue to send their completed annual request forms to their Boards/Councils for approval. The secretaries will send the approved forms to Whit who will bring them to the PRC for final approval. Whit will submit a final list in March for the upcoming pastoral year.

## **9) Covenanting Services**

Under the Regional system, the organization of Covenanting services is now the responsibility of the Pastoral Charge. The Region is only involved in a couple of lines at the end of the liturgy. Under the former Presbytery structure, this was often seen as a time for the wider church community to gather and offer its support to the local church and its new minister. Whit has heard from his colleagues across the country that there is often now more support from ministers in other denominations locally.

We need to encourage EOORC members to make the effort to attend these special services. Perhaps Pastoral Charges can also be encouraged to consider the timing of their services. Most are now being held during Sunday morning worship which precludes ministers and other people otherwise involved in their home churches from attending.

## **10) Retired Ministers**

Who looks after retirees in our Region now or has this “dropped through the cracks”? At this point, they are not under any Team’s umbrella. Until recently, it has been difficult to impossible to get a list of retired people because of privacy concerns. Whit now has a list but it is very

much out-of-date. Blair Paterson and Linda Suddaby offered to take on this project to develop a comprehensive list of our retirees and then to make an effort to contact each on a regular basis.

**LAST WORD:** None

Next meeting – **Tuesday, October 17, 2023** 1:00-3:00 p.m. via Zoom.

**CLOSING:** Blair led us in a closing prayer. The business listed on the agenda being completed, Wayne declared the meeting closed at 2:22 p.m.