

**Executive:**

Chair	Brad Mackey
Vice-Chair	Barb Baxter
Past Chair	Bryce McGarvey
Secretary	Diana Fisher
Treasurer	Paul Cooper
Ministry	Brad Morrison Pat Morrison

**Committee Representatives:**

AOTS  
 Christian Development  
 Communications  
 Congregational Care & Growth  
 Finance  
 Lay Presbytery  
 Outreach  
 Ministry & Personnel  
 Planning  
 Property  
 Proclamation and Special Events  
 Trustees  
 UCW  
 Worship

Bill Palmer  
 Shirley Willis  
 Christopher Cooke  
 Iris Murtha  
 Paul Cooper  
 Nick Monsour X  
 Earl Kilner  
 Laura Black  
 Kirk Wilson  
 Steve Siklosi X  
 Minister(s)  
 Bill Palmer  
 X  
 Bryce McGarvey/Val  
 Adamson  
 John Cooke

X = absent

Growth & Giving

The Meeting was held at Grace United Church as per adjournment, and began at 7:00pm. There was a quorum.

**1. Devotion**

CD Shirley Willis read a story by Desmond Tutu about his life, published in a book ME to WE.

**2. Approval of Agenda**

*Moved* by BILL PALMER and seconded by IRIS MURTHAT that the agenda be approved. *Carried.*

**3. Approval of Minutes**

Corrections to the MAY minutes are noted; correct BRIAN Mackey to BRAD Mackey.

*Moved* by CHRISTOPHER COOKE and seconded by VAL ADAMSON that the minutes of MAY 2, 2018 be approved. *Carried.*

**4. Business Arising from the Minutes**

NONE

**5. Correspondence**

NONE

**6. New Business**

*Motion* to give power of council to Executive members until next meeting in October; *moved* by CHRISOPHER COOKE, seconded by BILL PALMER. *Carried.*

## **7. Pastoral Team Reports and Teaching**

### **Brad Morrison**

Affirming ministry. The Sarnia Pride executive continues to meet monthly, and the May meeting was a family board games night, which was well attended

Research on maternity and parental leaves. The May issue of the United Church Observer included an article on clergy and maternity leaves. The author invited me and another researcher to conduct a formal, qualitative research study of issue. I will lead the research study with Dr. Kimberly Maich of Memorial University.

United Church restructuring. I attended the recent webinar providing a progress report on the implementation of the Office of Vocations. Anyone interested in more information on how ministry oversight will be organized is welcome to contact me. In September I will host a gathering of Region 7 ministers at Grace United. The event will build collegial relationships and care and discuss issues related to restructuring.

Accessibility. Rob Christopher will lead a training event this week at Grace for support with his new power chair.

### **Pat Morrison**

I was away for all of May. Three weeks were spent on study leave, including one week at Princeton Theological Seminary. While away I studied latest research on youth ministry in a North American context, studies related to boys and men, death and grieving, effects of technology on the developing brain, self-regulation, theology, and Peter Pan.

Following study leave I had a week of holidays.

I also spent a week finishing up my 1-year role as a member of the Planning Team for the Annual Meeting of London Conference and doing tech for the Annual Meeting of London Conference.

## **8. Key Ministry Committee Reports**

### **Worship**

The Committee expresses our thanks to the Guild members, Karen Rutledge and Diana Fisher for the creation of an antependium and wall banners that beautified the Sanctuary during Lenten Season. Brad reported that the application of the next round of Interns was approved by Presbytery. The application has been moved to the next stage of the process.

Brad provided an overview of the upcoming pulpit supply and vacation coverage. Andrew Rampton, who is a student at Huron College, has agreed to provide pulpit supply on June 17, and serve as a guest preacher on July 15, 22 and 29, during Brad's vacation.

Items from High Park United Church may be of value and interest with respect to Worship related items; it was suggested that the committee engage Marie Nicholson, as she has a good knowledge of High Park United Church.

Worship Service Preview on Grace Website; there was general discussion regarding posting sermon titles and hymns on the website. The hymn selection is already on the website; the sermons are typically not finalized until late week. The suggestion is not considered to be feasible by the committee.

Glenn provided an update regarding the repair to the humidifier for the piano and the recent tuning of the Sanctuary piano.

Affirming workshop was held on May 6, 2018.

### **Christian Development**

Starting the process to hire 2 summer students for the Campfire program. Still struggling with staffing the nursery.

### **Congregational Care & Growth**

No report as no meeting was held.

Affirming workshop update. John Barnfield was facilitator. Where are we now, where do we want to be, how do we get there.

Sarnia Pride meets monthly at Grace UC.

### **Outreach**

- 120 clients served at the IOGS in May.
- Plans are progressing for 2018 Habitat For Humanity (HFH) build on Guthrie Drive.
- Grace has raised about \$2500. Central Baptist fund raising is underway. Total commitment is \$3800.
- Intent is to share fund raising target of \$3800, volunteers for August 25 'Build Day' and support for lunch and break food.
- Those interesting in volunteering need to complete the safety training which is on-line and takes about 25 minutes.
- Evening meal for Circles is planned for September. More information will be placed in the bulletin nearer to the date.
- L4L activities continue in June – Lakeroad School graduation and High Park UC closing luncheon are two specific events for volunteering.
- June IOGS meal will be a 'team' effort as no specific group signed up for the task. See bulletin for further details.
- Lambton Center fundraiser planned for June.
- Soybean planting for Brigden UC 'Forget-me-Not' grow project has occurred. We trust yield and pricing for fall crop will be favourable.

submitted by Paul Cooper

### **Proclamation and Special Events**

No report

## **9. Governance and Support Committee Reports:**

### **Planning**

No report

**Finance**

May was not a great month; year-to-date givings are below 2017 by about 1.5%. Our net income position is also negative and \$14,600 below 2017 results. Increased staffing costs – due to having an intern position in 2018 – remains as the most significant reason for expenses being higher in 2018. May was not a great month; year-to-date givings are below 2017 by about 1.5%. Our net income position is also negative and \$14,600 below 2017 results. Increased staffing costs – due to having an intern position in 2018 – remains as the most significant reason for expenses being higher in 2018.

Comparison of the operating budget data for 2018 and 2017 up to the end of April.

	<b><u>2018</u></b>	<b><u>2017</u></b>	<b><u>Difference</u></b>
Total Revenue	\$172,800	\$175,400	<b>-\$2,600 (1.5%)</b>
Total Expense	\$176,400	\$164,400	+\$12,000 (8.7%)
Net Income	<b>-\$3600</b>	+\$11,000	

Givings and total revenue were lower in 2018 versus 2017. Expenses were higher in 2018 versus 2017 due to increased staffing costs – mainly due to having an intern position in 2018. Other expenses were maintained at 2017 spending levels. Our net income position is now negative and \$14,600 lower than in 2017. Thanks to all committees for maintaining good cost control and to the congregation for your continued support of the operating budget.

**Communications**

Still working on Photo Directory.

**Property**

Looking at room rates and usage for process improvements.

**Trustees**

No report

**Ministry & Personnel**

No report

**Lay Presbytery**

*London Conference Lay Report, Christopher Cooke*

The 94th London Conference Annual Meeting was held Friday, May 25 to Sunday, May 27, 2018 at the Greek Canadian Community Centre in London, ON. This is likely to be the very last annual meeting of London Conference, as all conferences and presbyteries are set to be replaced by regions as of January 1, 2019.

Grace United Church will be part of Region 7, while Lambton Presbytery and London Conference will be dissolved. What follows are highlights from the meeting. For a detailed report, please review the Record of Proceedings once it becomes available at [www.londonconference.ca](http://www.londonconference.ca).

London Conference voted to become an Affirming Ministry with 86% in favour. For the last two years, London Conference, through the work of its executive and the Affirm Task Group, has been engaged in conversation about becoming an Affirming Ministry within The United Church of Canada. Affirming Ministries have a particular focus on being open and welcoming to people of any sexual orientation and gender identity, but the focus is also on those who are marginalized in other ways. The London Conference Executive and its committees are excited to embrace the core values of Safety, Security and Unconditional Love while they complete the remainder of their work.

Further to the work of becoming an Affirming Ministry, London Conference voted to apologize and declare that Proposal 179 is no longer the conviction of London Conference. This proposal was passed in 1988 at the 64th Annual Meeting of London Conference, and declared opposition to a report and recommendations that the 32nd General Council officially consider gays and lesbians for ordination as ministers. Many Conferences, Presbyteries and Congregations passed similar proposals. Ultimately, the 32nd General Council voted in favour of the recommendations. At the 94th Annual Meeting of London, there was significant debate regarding whether the vote to apologize should be taken by secret ballot, but in the end, the vote was taken by a show of hands - decidedly in favour of making the apology.

Living into the Truth and Reconciliation Commissions findings and recommendations has been important work for London Conference. To date, the Right Relations Committee of London Conference has commissioned two excellent films on the subject. The first, *We Are Still Here*, was shown at last year's annual meeting. The sequel, *Aftershock - The Second Generation Speaks*, was shown at this year's annual meeting. These Residential School Films, produced by Dwayne Cloes, feature local survivors and their children, and are a must watch for everyone in our region. The films help the viewer grasp the violence inflicted by Residential Schools on indigenous people, and how this in turn has shaped the lives of survivors and their children.

*We Are Still Here*: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PJtM-YEGpKc>

*Aftershock*: Still being screened in our region, but will likely be made available at a later date.

### **UCW**

No report

### **AOTS**

The regular monthly, Sunday morning breakfast meeting of AOTS for the month of May, 2018, took place in the gym of Grace United on Sunday, May 27, 2018, at 8:00 AM. Guest speaker was Pauline Henderson-Ferguson who provided an update on the Lunches for Learning ministry, and how it has grown, and expanded, since it started a few years ago. Next meeting of the AOTS will be a golf and BBQ outing on June 13th.

-----Bill Palmer

**Growth and Giving**

The team is now focused solely on the gym floor project. We evaluated several options and we are now recommending the Pulastic Classic ECO 90 product marketed by GymCon (Barrie). The selected material is a polyurethane over a rubber base. It is the most expensive option to install; but the life cycle cost considering ongoing maintenance cost is competitive. Some key features are:

- Durable, tough system, easily maintained
- Experienced & professional application
- Proven performance in very similar applications in Sarnia & Strathroy Christian Schools
- The system may not be suitable for adult ball hockey; but we will address this risk as part of the implementation.

We are grateful that we continue to receive donations to the campaign.

We still need to finalize the scope and project timeline. Installation will not likely occur until 2019.

The May 1 campaign fund balance was ~\$40k. We anticipate raising an additional \$30-40k to finance the project.

Regards

John Cooke

**10. Adjournment:** 7:42 pm

Motion to adjourn BILL PALMER, second EARLE KILNER. Carried.

**Next regular meeting: OCTOBER 3, 2018**

**Devotion Responsibility:**

- MAY – Worship
- JUNE – CD
- JULY – CC&G
- AUGUST – AOTS
- SEPT – COMMUNICATIONS
- OCT – FINANCE
- NOV – OUTREACH
- DEC – M&P

**Sunday Lock-up Responsibility:**

- June - CD
- July - CC&G
- August - AOTS
- September
- October - Finance
- November - Outreach
- December - M & P

**11. Closing Prayer**

Brad Morrison

Brad Mackey, Chair

Diana Fisher, Secretary