

The Presbyterian Church in Canada The Presbytery of Calgary-Macleod

Alberta, Canada

Emergent Meeting September 4, 2025

Gathering in God's Name

Called to Order & Constitution

The Presbytery of Calgary-Macleod met, via Zoom, in emergent session on Thursday, September 4, 2025 for the purpose of considering a request from the congregations of Knox Presbyterian Church, Calgary and St. Giles Presbyterian Church to propose an amalgamation plan to the presbytery.

The Moderator, Dr. Heather Bryant, constituted the meeting with prayer at 7:01 pm.

Treaty 7

In the spirit of reconciliation, we acknowledge that we live, work, worship, and play on Treaty 7 the traditional lands of the Stoney Nakoda Nations of Wesley, Chiniki, and Bearspaw; three Nations of the Blackfoot Confederacy: the Pikani, Kainai and Siksika; and the Tsuut'ina First Nations.

Treaty 7 territory is also shared with the Métis Nation of Alberta, Region III.

Before the signing of Treaty 7, and prior to the establishment of provincial boundaries, this region was also used by the Ktunaxa and the Maskwacis people. We acknowledge the past, present, and future generations of these nations who help us steward this land, as well as honour and celebrate this place of creativity, collaboration, and learning.

Roll

Present with the Moderator Heather Bryant were the ministers of Word and Sacrament: Bruce Clendening, Jake Van Pernis, Christian Persaud, Greg Smith, Daniel Surya, Chandra Mannix, Chris Joiner, Heather Carlson, Gergely Kása.

Also present were ruling elders: Audrey Cole (*alternate St. Andrew's, Calgary*), Sandra Cameron Evans, Cathy Gale, Marj Havens, Iris Jung (*alternate Knox, Calgary*), Pat Kövér, Tom Paasuke, Karen Robbins, Mary Rozsa de Coquet, Simon Tibui.

Regrets

Regrets were received from ministers of Word and Sacrament: Maren McLean Persaud, Laurie McKay, and ruling elders: Lynn Judd, and Helen Snortland.

- Appendix** Ministers on the Appendix also present: Tom Brownlee, Rod Ferguson, Fiona Swanson.
- Also present: Deirdre Harris (Mission Care Co-Convener), Mary Jardine (Mission Care Co-Convener)
- Courtesies** The Court also welcomed Dennis Daly, Joel Den Haan, Sunwoo Kim, Joan MacDonald, YongKi Min, Joan Stellmach.
- Guests** **MOVED** by M. Rozsa de Coquet, seconded by G. Smith, that guests be invited to sit and correspond.
CARRIED

Being the Body of Christ

- Approval of Emergent Meeting** **MOVED** by G. Smith, seconded by M. Rozsa de Coquet, that the actions of the Moderator in calling the emergent meeting be approved.
CARRIED
- Docket** The Clerk presented the docket for the day:
- It was agreed that the hours of meeting be 7:00 p.m. to the conclusion of business.
- MOVED** by B. Clendening, seconded by C. Joiner, that the docket be accepted. **CARRIED**
- Knox, Calgary IM report** **Knox, Calgary Interim Moderator Report** – Rev. Dr. Chris Joiner

Excerpt - August 13, 2025

Following a Knox Conversation Team meeting with the new Interim Moderator on **June 18**, during which concerns were expressed about the process to date and the belief that during the first conversations the Knox vision for an ongoing Presbyterian presence in Rutland Park was not properly understood by potential amalgamation partners, a decision was made for the Conversation Team to share these concerns with the Session in its regular meeting on **June 25**.

The Conversation Team shared the concerns with the Session at the regular meeting. The Session determined that the conversations with potential amalgamation partners would be more productive if a document was produced outlining Knox's vision. An emergent meeting of Session was called for **July 23** for the purpose of drafting the document.

The document was drafted in the emergent meeting of Session. It is attached to this report.

Second conversations were conducted by the team:

July 24 – Varsity Acres

July 25 – St. Giles

July 28 – St. Andrews

Following the final conversation on **July 28**, the team had a fulsome, prayerful discussion, after which the team agreed that they would recommend to Session that Knox pursue amalgamation with St. Giles.

MOTION: That Knox Session petition the Presbytery of Calgary-Macleod to grant permission for Knox to develop an amalgamation plan in partnership with St. Giles, and that this petition be communicated to the Session of St. Giles immediately.

The motion was considered in an emergent Session meeting on August 12 and unanimously approved.

Knox, Calgary
Extract Minute

Knox, Calgary Extract Minute – August 12, 2025

Knox Presbyterian Church
Emergent Session Meeting
August 12, 2025

MOTION by Moira Brownlee, SECOND by Iris Jung: That Knox Session petition the Presbytery of Calgary-Macleod to grant permission for Knox to develop an amalgamation plan in partnership with St. Giles, and that this petition be communicated to the Session of St. Giles immediately.

APPROVED

Clerk of Presbytery—Christian Persaud

Vision Statement
for
Amalgamation
Conversations

Vision Statement for Amalgamation Conversations
Knox Presbyterian Church
July 23, 2025

We are a people deeply committed to Christ's mission in the world. We value the full inclusion of LGBTQIA+ persons, ongoing conversations around Truth and Reconciliation with Indigenous neighbours, and welcoming refugees.

We believe we can contribute a missional perspective and commitment to justice and compassion in partnership with a church that shares these values. We look forward to shared ministry in service to the mission of Christ.

We are a community hub for Rutland Park, sharing hospitality, acceptance, and authentic conversation with members of the neighbourhood.

Our members, many of whom are seniors, see Knox Presbyterian as their spiritual home.

We envision continuing to be a community hub, offering a spiritual presence in Rutland Park even as we amalgamate with another church. We are hoping to prayerfully explore creative options with an amalgamation partner for ways we can continue to be a spiritual home in Rutland Park for those who need it.

Recommendation

RECOMMENDATION: Moved by C. Joiner, seconded by C. Mannix that the congregations of Knox Presbyterian Church, Calgary and St. Giles Presbyterian Church request permission to propose an amalgamation plan to the presbytery.

Discussion:

Question: Where does CKPC fit in with a potential amalgamation involving Knox and St. Giles? What about the role of Western Han-Ca in an amalgamation?

It was felt that some key questions need to be asked to make sure there is sufficient congregational support and the congregation is on board, in addition to the respective Sessions.

One presbyter asked about Knox's identity with amalgamation? Is it retained, lost, etc.? There is more than just assets involved with amalgamating, what do we do with them.

Response: This will be clarified in the amalgamation plan, but not at this point in this process (requesting permission to propose a plan).

**St. Giles Extract
Minute**

The Presbyterian Church in Canada
The Session of St. Giles Presbyterian Church
Calgary, Alberta, Canada
Regular Meeting – August 19, 2025

Those present were:

Rev. Chandra Mannix, Toby Gaskarth, Jason Gaskarth, Sandra Cameron Evans, Dennis Daly, Joan Stellmach (Assessor Elder), YongKi Min (Assessor Elder)

Court was duly constituted to do the proceedings of the church

MOTION - Sandra moved that the Session of St. Giles ask the Presbytery of Calgary Macleod to grant permission for St. Giles and Knox, Calgary to prepare an amalgamation plan in pursuit of an amalgamation of the two congregations. 2nd – Toby

CARRIED

Next Meeting:

- Date: September 16, 2025
- Time: 7:00pm
- Location: St. Giles Presbyterian Church

Extracted from the Minutes

Toby Gaskarth
Clerk of Session

**Initial
Presentation**

Initial Presentation by Joel Den Haan

**Requests to
withdraw**

Request to withdraw from T. Brownlee at 7:30pm
Request to withdraw from J. Van Pernis at 7:45pm

Prayer The Moderator, H. Bryant, led us in prayers.

Going Out in God's Name

Time & Place The next regular business meeting of the Presbytery will be Tuesday, September 23, 2025 at St. Andrew's, Calgary with lunch at noon, induction of Moderator at 1PM. The meeting begins at 2PM.

Adjourn to Serve MOVED by S. Cameron Evans that the Court be adjourned.
The Court was dismissed at 8:03 p.m.

Moderator
Dr. H. Bryant

Presbytery Clerk
Rev. C. Persaud