

PRESBYTERY OF TSHWANE

The minutes of the special meeting of Tshwane Presbytery held on Thursday 6th July
2006 at St. Columba's Presbyterian Church at 15H00

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1. Constitution

Mac Makalima welcomed all present and asked Gary Sinclair to constitute the meeting with prayer. He read from Proverbs 16:21-24 and James 3:13-18 and delivered a short sermon geared at preparing the minds of those present in this special meeting.

2. Present - Apologies - Associates

1. Present

1. Ministers: B. Bosiki, A. Combrink, G. Goyns, T. Groeneveld, R. le Roux, Z. Makalima (Acting Moderator), M. Mohapi, P. Nyauza (Clerk), G. Sinclair, W. Smart and T. Steyn

2. Elders: S. Hay, M. Mtyhobile and M. Thompson

2. Apologies

1. Ministers: A. Cameron, G. Duncan, E. Moerman and D. van der Spuy.

2. Elders: Lin Fourie, C. Johnston, E. Klopper, S. Masotla, J. Mtambo, K. Nkitseng, and E. Stopforth.

3. Associates: M. Ayling, P. Cross, D. Darkey, S. Hodgson (Administrator), E. Joubert, K. Knox-Baxter, Mrs A. Smart, (and Baby Alastair Smart) Y. Taylor (and three other members of the congregation whose names were not clear on the Attendance Register)

3. Approval of Acting Moderator's Action

As required in terms of the Manual of Law and Procedure, the action of convening a special meeting was approved by all present. There were no abstentions.

4. Purpose of the Special Meeting

4.1. Receiving the Letter of Resignation

1. Mac Makalima called upon the Clerk to read the letter of resignation from Warwick Smart.

This very letter became the focal point of discussion and no other business was considered (again as stipulated in the Manual of Law and Procedure).

32 2. Having read the letter which clearly stated the reasons behind the resignation, the
33 Clerk moved the following proposals:

34 **P_4.1.1.** Presbytery receives the letter of resignation. It was seconded and agreed.

35 **P_4.1.2.** The letter be open for discussion. It was seconded and agreed.

36 *4.2. The Discussion.*

37 1. Mac Makalima gave a report that he met with Warwick Smart on Monday the 3rd
38 of July 2006 in the vestry at St. Columb's at 15H00. He acted on the capacity of
39 being Pastor Pastorum and the purpose of the meeting was to get more information
40 in relation to the resignation. Warwick Smart having clarified issues raised by the
41 Acting Moderator, the latter was convinced of the following:

- 42 1. For a long time Warwick did meditate upon this move and therefore it was
43 not a hasty decision.
- 44 2. Warwick has always loved his congregation dearly and to cut ties was not an
45 easy thing.
- 46 3. Warwick is engaging in further studies overseas not for selfish gain but for
47 the benefit of the entire denomination and therefore it is a good investment.
- 48 4. Warwick is resigning from the pastoral charge at St. Columba's and not
49 from the membership and ministry of the U.P.C.S.A.
- 50 5. Warwick is planning to come back to South Africa after five years. However
51 not necessarily to St. Columba's nor Tshwane Presbytery.
- 52 6. There is no pending disciplinary action against Warwick Smart nor any other
53 unresolved issues between him and his Session and congregation.

54 2. Report from members of Session and Congregation

- 55 1. Naturally they were disappointed but do understand that Warwick is excited
56 about this golden opportunity of studying overseas.
- 57 2. They have come to terms with Warwick's decision and pray that he will use
58 this opportunity fruitfully and come back as promised.
- 59 3. They pledged commitment to "hold the fortress" with the new Interim
60 Moderator and will always welcome and appreciate any support from
61 Presbytery as they move into the future.

62 3. Response and Decision of Presbytery

- 63 1. Having exhausted the discussion, the Acting Moderator called for objections
64 from whoever felt Presbytery should not release Warwick Smart. There were
65 none. All present wished him well in his new adventure.
- 66 2. The Acting Moderator led Presbytery in a time of prayer for the guidance
67 given in handling such a serious matter and the decision taken thereof.

68 *4.3. The Decisions*

69 Theo Groeneveld as the Co-Convener of Presbytery Ministry Committee, guided the
70 meeting as to what steps to take now (based on chapter 5 paragraphs 5.65 – 5.75 of the
71 Interim Manual of Law and Procedure).

72 It was noted that 6.1. 5.66 was dealt with accordingly as Rev Makalima did meet with
73 Warwick as mentioned under above.

74 **P_4.3.1.** In view of 5.67, it was proposed, seconded and agreed to waive the right to
75 meet with the congregation because members of Session and congregation present
76 indicated that they were not opposed to Warwick going overseas and were equally
77 satisfied with the decision of Presbytery to release him.

78 **P_4.3.2.** As required by 5.69, Mac Makalima will have to give a full report at the next
79 meeting of Presbytery on Saturday 19th August 2006. (This can be done when
80 Presbytery receives/approves the minutes of this meeting.)

81 In a case of resignation (par. 5.70), Presbytery has four options to choose from as a
82 response.

83 **P_4.3.3.** Theo Groeneveld proposed option (b) and was seconded by Glynis Goyns and
84 it was agreed.

85 Option (b) says “Presbytery may let the resignation run its course and specify a
86 date, reasonable in the circumstances, on which the pastoral tie between the
87 minister and congregation will be severed”.

88 **P_4.3.4.** Furthermore it was proposed, seconded and agreed that:

- 89 1. Presbytery waives the six months notification to Long Leave and
- 90 2. grants Long Leave for 50 days to Warwick Smart effective from 1st Aug 2006.

91 **P_4.3.5.** Presbytery severs the pastoral tie as from 39th September 2006.

92 **P_4.3.6.** Presbytery transfers Warwick Smart to the care and discipline of Cape Town
93 Presbytery who will renew his credentials annually.

94 **P_4.3.7.** Presbytery instructs the Clerk to state in the letter of transfer that the Cape
95 Town Presbytery needs to formalize the relationship of Warwick Smart to the
96 Church in Ireland.

97 **P_4.3.8.** Theo Groeneveld become the new supervisor to Probationer Zwai Mtyhobile.

98 **P_4.3.9.** Tobie Steyn to remain an Assessor and Dennis van der Spuy be appointed as
99 Interim Moderator of St. Columba’s with effect from 1st August 2006.

100 **5. Closure**

- 101 1. Mac Makalima asked Theo Groeneveld to commend the Smart family to God with
102 prayer and it was done with other ministers surrounding the family.
- 103 2. The meeting was closed with prayer by the Acting Moderator at 16H20.

104

105 Confirmation of the Minutes

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107 Confirmed this day _____ of _____ 2006

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Clerk

Moderator