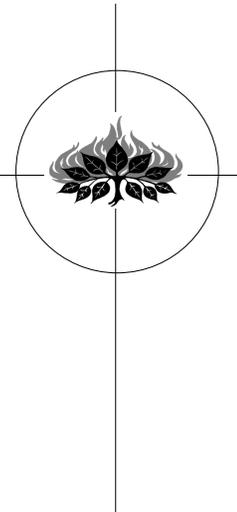


The Presbyterian Church in Canada L'Église presbytérienne au Canada



MODERATOR OF THE 141ST GENERAL ASSEMBLY
The Rev. Karen R. Horst, B.A., M.R.E., M.Div.

January 2016

Happy New Year to all of you. May 2016 bring you blessings and grace from God in rich new ways.

I have had the opportunity to visit a variety of congregations in the past year and I look forward to many more connections. It has been inspiring to see the creative efforts that local churches and communities are undertaking to honour Christ and reshape identities for the good of sharing the gospel. We are too quick to measure success by numbers when, in actual fact, it is spiritual formation and faithfulness that is our goal and calling. I am seeing many exciting new experiments. My prayers continue to be with congregations who are taking risks to share Christ in ways that are appropriate to their context.

As you know, this year was established by the 141st General Assembly to be a year of study and prayer regarding human sexuality. Study materials have been prepared and a number of presbyteries and congregations continue their work of discernment. Justice Ministries and the Church Doctrine Committee will welcome your responses throughout this year but by February 15 these teams will need to be formulating their responses to the overtures that were referred to them from last June's assembly. As much as you can, I know they would truly appreciate receiving as many comments and thoughtful reflections as they can from congregations, sessions, synods etc. It is important for them to hear the voice of the church and so I encourage you to consider sending in comments by mid-February if you are able, in advance of March 31 date set by the General Assembly. Certainly, we will anticipate your ongoing comments and study before our June assembly.

There are many resource materials on the web site www.presbyterian.ca and you can download the study called "Body, Mind and Soul." Even if your congregation does not do a formal study together, then be sure as individuals to study and pray and consult on your own. The strength of The Presbyterian Church in Canada is our belief that God's Spirit works and speaks in the collective voice of the church. This is our chance to seek God's leading through prayer, study and conversations. We may not all agree but we can listen to one another and learn from others.

Let me also take this opportunity to congratulate Wes Denyer and Doug Rollwage who are our nominees for Moderator of the 142nd General Assembly. Both of these candidates are gifted and capable. We will be in good hands for the next General Assembly and beyond.

The Rev. Karen Horst
Moderator, 141st General Assembly

Clerks of Assembly: The Rev. Stephen Kendall, The Rev. Donald Muir, The Rev. Dr. Tony Plomp