

**THE ACTS AND PROCEEDINGS OF
THE ONE HUNDRED AND FORTY-THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY
OF**

THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN CANADA

HELD AT KINGSTON, ONTARIO

JUNE 4 – JUNE 7, 2017

FIRST SEDERUNT

At the city of Kingston, Ontario, and within St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church there, on Sunday the fourth day of June in the year of our Lord two thousand and seventeen, at seven o'clock in the evening.

At which place and time, ministers, diaconal ministers and ruling elders being commissioners from the several presbyteries of The Presbyterian Church in Canada, convened as appointed by the General Assembly held in the city of Toronto, Ontario in its final sederunt on the sixth day of June 2016. Though the 2016 General Assembly anticipated the constitution of the 2017 General Assembly to take place on the second day of June, 2017 (see A&P 2016, p. 44), the Assembly Council complied with requests to move the commencement of this Assembly to the fourth day of June 2017. This decision was homologated by the Assembly's adoption of Recommendation No. 6 in the report of the Committee on Business (p. XXX).

WELCOME

Clerk of Session, Ms. Alberta Saunders, welcomed the General Assembly to St. Andrew's Church and to the Presbytery of Kingston. She then provided a brief history of the congregation.

WELCOME TO THE TRADITIONAL TERRITORY

Mr. Paul Carl, of the Bear Clan, welcomed the General Assembly to the traditional Anishinaabe and Haudenosaunee Territory in English and Anishinaabe languages. He encouraged commissioners to "travel in a good way with a good heart" while in the territory.

WORSHIP

Public worship was conducted by the Rev. Dr. A.J.R. Johnston, minister of the host congregation. He was assisted by lecturers the Rev. Stephen Brown and elder, Ms. Elaine Coderre who read 2 Kings 23:1-3, Psalm 119:9-16 and John 20:30-31. The sanctuary filled with music aided by a choir gathered from across the presbytery under the leadership of Mr. John Hall, Director of Music at St. Andrew's. The Rev. D.H. Rollwage, Moderator of the 142nd General Assembly, preached the sermon entitled *The People's Book* and shared the administration of Holy Communion with the Rev. Jennifer Cameron, Clerk of the Presbytery of Kingston.

CONSTITUTION OF THE ASSEMBLY

Thereafter, with prayer, the Moderator, the Rev. Douglas H. Rollwage, constituted the General Assembly in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, the only King and Head of the Church.

ROLL OF ASSEMBLY

The Moderator called on the Principal Clerk to present, in a printed list and subject to corrections, the names of those commissioned by the several presbyteries of the church. The roll of Assembly as finally established is as follows, with those who sent their regrets marked with an asterisk:

(***)To be inserted(***)

YOUNG ADULT REPRESENTATIVES AND STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES WELCOMED

The Moderator invited the Young Adult Representatives and Student Representatives to stand and be recognized. The Assembly welcomed them with applause.

ELECTION OF THE MODERATOR

The Rev. Douglas H. Rollwage called upon the Assembly to choose a Moderator to preside over its deliberations. He called on Mr. Jim Seidler, convener of the Committee to Advise with the Moderator.

In accordance with the method determined by the 95th General Assembly, the committee placed in nomination the name of the Rev. Peter G. Bush as Moderator of the 143rd General Assembly.

The Rev. Douglas H. Rollwage called for nominations from the floor. There were no further nominations. The Moderator then asked if the Assembly was in agreement that nominations be closed. The Assembly signified agreement.

The Moderator called for a motion to elect a Moderator.

J. Khang moved, seconded by M.W. Gedcke, that the Rev. Peter G. Bush be declared elected as Moderator. Adopted.

The Rev. Douglas H. Rollwage declared the Rev. Peter G. Bush elected Moderator of the 143rd General Assembly.

The Rev. Peter G. Bush, along with J. Khang and M.W. Gedcke, withdrew in order that the new Moderator might be suitably robed.

The Rev. Douglas H. Rollwage offered thanks to the congregation of Zion Church in Charlottetown for being generous in the time they allowed him to serve the denomination in the office of Moderator. He drew attention to his preaching stole and explained that it was a gift from the congregation and served as a reminder that he was remembered in prayer. He expressed appreciation for his family who tolerated his many absences, and the General Assembly Office staff for support. Mr. Rollwage voiced gratitude to the congregations, synods, presbyteries and colleges that received him warmly over the course of the year.

INSTALLATION OF THE MODERATOR

The Rev. P.G. Bush was conducted to the chair by J. Khang and M.W. Gedcke. The Rev. Douglas H. Rollwage asked the Rev. P.G. Bush the appointed questions and installed him as Moderator of the 143rd General Assembly. Deputy Clerk, D.G.A. Muir, escorted the Rev. D.H. Rollwage to a seat among the former General Assembly Moderators.

MODERATOR ADDRESSES ASSEMBLY

The newly installed Moderator addressed the court. He first acknowledged the welcome from Mr. Paul Carl and declared himself to be Peter Bush from Treaty One Territory in Manitoba. Mr. Bush said, "I'm surprised to find myself here. I am humbled to be elected and hope I can live up to the honour you have bestowed upon me." He gave thanks for congregations and individuals who played a role in his spiritual development as a Presbyterian minister and pastor theologian. Regarding the kind support of his wife he said, "Debbie has more than doubled what I could have done without her." The Moderator then called the Rev. D.H. Rollwage forward and presented him with a bobble-head Martin Luther in light-hearted recognition of the 500th anniversary of the beginning of the reformation.

INTRODUCTION OF FORMER MODERATORS

The Moderator acknowledged and welcomed previous Moderators of General Assemblies: The Rev. Douglas H. Rollwage (2016); The Rev. Dr. John A. Vissers (2012); The Rev. Dr. H.D. Horst (2011); The Rev. Dr. Cheol Soon Park (2008); The Rev. Dr. M. Jean Morris (2005).

INTRODUCTION OF ECUMENICAL, INTERFAITH AND INTERNATIONAL VISITORS

The Moderator also welcomed guests of the Assembly, Ms. Dóra Kanizsai-Nagy of the Reformed Church in Hungary and the Rev. André Lavergne of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada. The guests were received with welcoming applause.

COMMITTEE ON BUSINESS

The Assembly called for the report of the Committee on Business which, as printed on p. XXX, was presented by M.R. McLennan, convener.

Receive and Consider

M.R. McLennan moved, duly seconded, that the report be received and considered. Adopted.

Proposed consent recommendations were placed before the Assembly. A commissioner requested that Recommendation No. 6 (p. XXX) be withdrawn from the consent recommendations.

Consent Recommendation

M.R. McLennan moved, duly seconded, that **Recommendation Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12** (p. XXX–XXX) be adopted by consent. Adopted.

Notices of Motion

M.R. McLennan presented the following notices of motion:

I give notice that, at a future sederunt, I will move or cause to be moved that the Constitution of the Pension Plan be reconsidered (Pension and Benefits Board, Rec. No. 2, p. XXX).

I give notice that, at a future sederunt, I will move or cause to be moved that the formula for proceeds of assets of dissolved congregations be reconsidered (Assembly Council, Rec. No. 10, p. XXX)

Recommendation No. 6 (p. XXX) was moved by M.R. McLennan, duly seconded. Adopted.

(cont'd p. XXX)

COMMITTEE TO ADVISE WITH THE MODERATOR

The Assembly called for the report of the Committee to Advise with the Moderator, which as printed on p. XXX, was presented by J. Seidler, convener.

Receive and Consider

K.A. Wübbenhorst, moved, duly seconded, that the report be received and considered. Adopted.

Recommendation No. 1 (p. XXX) was moved by K.A. Wübbenhorst, duly seconded. Adopted.

Recommendation No. 2 (p. XXX) was moved by K.A. Wübbenhorst, duly seconded. Adopted.

Recommendation No. 3 (p. XXX) was moved by K.A. Wübbenhorst, duly seconded. Adopted.

Report as a Whole

K.A. Wübbenhorst, moved, duly seconded, that the report as a whole be adopted. Adopted.

**LIFE AND MISSION AGENCY COMMITTEE
COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND RECEPTION**

The Assembly called for the report of the Life and Mission Agency Committee which, as printed on p. XXX, was presented by T. Billard, convener.

Receive and Consider

M.R. McLennan moved, duly seconded, that the report be received and considered. Adopted.

H.J. Malnick, convener of the Committee on Education and Reception, was called forward. She introduced the report of the Committee on Education and Reception (p. XXX), drew attention to its recommendations and asked the commissioners to address enquiries or discussion to Ministry and Church Vocations Associate Secretary, S. Shaffer, or herself.

(Life and Mission Agency Committee, cont'd on p. XXX)
(Committee on Education and Reception, cont'd on p. XXX)

COMMITTEE TO NOMINATE STANDING COMMITTEES

The Assembly called for the report of the Committee to Nominate Standing Committees which, as printed on p. XXX, was presented by E.M.I. MacLean, convener.

Receive and Consider

G.K Walford, moved, duly seconded, that the report be received and considered. Adopted.

E.M.I. MacLean explained that proposed changes to the committee's report as printed, must be given in writing, over the signature of any two commissioners, to herself as convener or to Ms. Terrie-Lee Hamilton at the General Assembly Office, by Monday, June 5th at six o'clock in the evening.

(cont'd on p. XXX)

RECORDS OF ASSEMBLY, SYNODS AND ASSEMBLY COUNCIL

The Assembly called for the minutes of the 142nd General Assembly, the several synods and the Assembly Council, that they might be placed in the hands of such committees as may be appointed to examine them. The Principal Clerk announced that the minutes and records were present for examination by the Committee to Examine Records, apart from the minutes of one synod, and will be considered by the General Assembly following examination.

(cont'd on p. XXX)

ADJOURNMENT

Announcements having been made, the Moderator adjourned the Assembly with prayer, to meet at Queen's University, Kingston, Ontario, on Monday, June fifth, two thousand and seventeen, at nine-thirty o'clock in the morning, of which public intimation was given.