



General Assembly of The Presbyterian Church in Canada  
Monday, June 5, 2017

## **SEDERUNT 2**

### **Morning Worship**

The morning opened with worship led by a team from the presbytery which included the Rev. Curtis and the Rev. Elaine Wilson of Strathcona Park Presbyterian Church, the Rev. Nancy Hancock of St. Andrew's Kingston, the Rev. Grant Wilson of St. Paul's Ottawa and the Rev. Marian Raynard of St. John's (Pittsburg) and Sand Hill Presbyterian Churches. Scripture was read by the Rev. Lt. (N) Michael Rundle, a chaplain at CFB Kingston. The Rev. Dr. Dorcas Gordon encouraged the assembled people to run the race with perseverance, hope and joy. "No matter how muddy the way ahead may appear, trust God will give us exactly what we need," she said.



### **Sexuality Overtures**

The process of the Life and Mission Agency and the Committee on Church Doctrine was outlined. These bodies jointly produced a report that covered: 1) the overtures referred by GA; 2) the history of consultation between the LMA and the CCD; and 3) the creation of a special committee to look at repentance of homophobia and hypocrisy.

The General Assembly turned down a request for a 10-year moratorium on amendments to the position taken on sexuality by the 1994 General Assembly. The sheer volume of responses in this discussion represents a great interest in the conversation, the response from Church Doctrine explained. "It is our belief that God's Spirit continues to speak to God's people and we are endeavoring to faithfully discern the will of God by listening to the church."

The General Assembly then commended The Presbyterian Church in Canada and its agencies, colleges, congregations, sessions, presbyteries, synods, committees and groups to seek unity of Christ among our people and throughout the church and the Holy Catholic Church, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

### **Bills & Overtures**

A special committee was appointed by the Moderator to discuss a number of overtures asking for a means to allow congregations to leave the denomination. The committee will identify and summarize common concerns and suggest a comprehensive approach for further study, reporting to a future sederunt of this Assembly, no later than the evening of Tuesday, June 6, 2017. It was expressed that this would provide more opportunity for participation and advice from diverse perspectives on this issue.



### **Assembly Council**

A moment of appreciation was expressed for The Rev. Dr. Tony Plomp's long-term dedication to the church and his role as pastor, mentor, friend and brother in faith. Dr. Plomp served as Deputy Clerk of the General Assembly from 1987-2016, making him the longest serving Clerk of Assembly in the history of the PCC.

Presbyteries were reminded of their responsibilities to review regularly the stipends and housing allowance of ministers to ensure that they meet or exceed the minimum standards set by the General Assembly.

A Native Ministries endowment fund was established and individuals, congregations and presbyteries were encouraged to support it. It will be promoted from now to 2019, the 25th anniversary of the church's 1994 Confessional Statement. The formula for the assets of dissolved congregation was adjusted to 50% for pension solvency (to a maximum of \$2,000,000), 10% of the Native Ministry Fund (to a maximum of \$400,000) and 40% for presbytery approved mission work. This answered the prayers of three overtures from 2015.

### **Clerks of Assembly**

The response to Overtures no. 19 and 20, 2016, regarding a congregational vote re: sexual orientation and process for leaving the denomination, was referred back to clerks.

The Moderator invited Mr. M.H. Mui to close in prayer in Taiwanese.