

THIRD SEDERUNT

ASSEMBLY CONSTITUTED

At Queen's University, Kingston, Ontario, on Monday, June fifth, two thousand and seventeen at two o'clock in the afternoon, the Assembly met pursuant to adjournment. The Moderator constituted the Assembly with prayer.

COMMITTEE ON BUSINESS (cont'd from p. XXX)

The Assembly called for the report of the Committee on Business which was presented by M.R. McLennan, convener. M.R. McLennan moved, duly seconded, that the agenda for the third sederunt be approved as presented. Adopted.

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COMMITTEE ON THE ROLL AND LEAVE TO WITHDRAW (cont'd from p. XXX)

The Assembly called for the report of the Committee on the Roll and Leave to Withdraw which was presented by D.R. Clarke, convener.

D.R. Clarke moved, duly seconded, that the following commissioners be granted leave to withdraw: R. Manafu (Presbytery of Oak Ridges) from the fifth, sixth and seventh sederunts, M. Purdy (Presbytery of Paris) from the third sederunt and J. Dorland (Presbytery of Paris) from the third sederunt.

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INTERFAITH GUEST

The Moderator invited A. Currie to welcome and introduce Ms. Alia Hogben, Executive Director of the Canadian Council of Muslim Women. An Honorary Doctorate recipient from Queen's School of Divinity, in 2012 she became the second Canadian Muslim woman to be awarded the Order of Canada for her work in the area of women's rights.

Ms. Hogben said, "An incorrect assumption is made that Muslims are one homogenous community. Muslims have come from all over the world and are of different races, ethnicities and cultures. We have different beliefs and practices. We are really a community of communities. When I came to Canada over 50 years ago, it was mostly a white Anglo-Saxon country. The pride, the values and identity were very much one of being British. This affected not only new immigrants but aboriginal people, those of French descent and other origins. What has made a difference in Canada regarding immigration adaptation and accommodation is the adoption of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms and the Multiculturalism Act. I am confident that as we Canadians continue our tradition of tolerance, we will insure that the issues facing Muslims, especially Muslim women, will be addressed within this framework of diversity and equality."

COMMITTEE ON HISTORY

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

Receive and Consider

D.S. MacDonald moved, duly seconded, that the report be received and considered. Adopted.

Consent Recommendation

D.S. MacDonald moved, duly seconded, that **Recommendation Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7** (p. XXX) be adopted by consent. Adopted.

M. Repchuck announced three book prizes on behalf of the committee. The first was for the 2017 academic book prize, *More than Miracles: Elaine Zeidman Marcovic and the Story of the Story of the Scott Mission* by Ben Volman. The second was for the memoir, *Aiming for Light: Memoirs* by Joseph C. McLelland. The third was for the congregation history, *Time Line of the United Presbyterian Church, Guelph, Ontario* by Donna Speers.

Museum Committee Convener, the Rev. Angus J. Sutherland, thanked the Moderator for his keen interest in the history of The Presbyterian Church in Canada. He expressed the hope that the Moderator would visit the

denomination's museum while in office. He then presented the Moderator with a gift of old and new communion tokens, suitably mounted and framed.

The committee acknowledged the faithful service of ministers who retired in 2016 and the Moderator offered prayer for them.

Report as a Whole

D.S. MacDonald moved, duly seconded, that the report as a whole be adopted. Adopted.

REPORTS WITHOUT RECOMMENDATIONS

Receive and Adopt

M.R. McLennan moved, duly seconded, that the following reports without recommendations be received and adopted. Adopted.

Atlantic Mission Society (p. XXX)
Commission re Matters Left, Uncared for or Omitted (p. XXX)
Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations Committee (p. XXX)
Life and Mission Agency
 Program Support and Administration (p. XXX)
 International Ministries (p. XXX)
Maclean Estate Committee (p. XXX)
Nominations (p. XXX)
Presbyterian Church Building Corporation (p. XXX)
Trustee Board (p. XXX)
Vancouver School of Theology (p. XXX)
Women's Missionary Society (p. XXX)

At the request of a commissioner, the report of the Special Committee re Pension Solvency Funding (p. XXX) was withdrawn from this list so that it might be considered further. (see p. XXX)

BRIEFING PANEL 2

J. de Combe, Canadian Ministries Associate Secretary; B. Summers, Communications Associate Secretary; S. Shaffer, Ministry and Church Vocations Associate Secretary; K. Platter, Stewardship and Planned Giving Associate Secretary, were called forward to provide briefings and answer questions for clarification related to reports that would be presented later in the Assembly.

LIFE AND MISSION AGENCY COMMITTEE (cont'd from p. XXX)

A video entitled, *One Mission – Two Funds*, highlighting the array of ministries supported by *Presbyterians Sharing* and Presbyterian World Service and Development, was shown to the Assembly.

Canadian Ministries (p. XXX)

J. de Combe introduced Ms. Colleen Graham and Ms. Alexandra Belaskie, and invited them to talk about two ministries that have received support from Canadian Ministries.

Raw Carrot: Ms. Colleen Graham spoke of an outreach ministry of Paris Church, Paris, Ontario, that received a startup grant from Canadian Ministries. It is now a self-supporting enterprise. The vision of the Raw Carrot is to hire individuals who are on social assistance or have barriers to traditional employment to prepare healthy, homemade, fresh and frozen soups and stews that are sold to schools, seniors and others in the Paris community. Proceeds from sales fund the salaries of the individuals participating. The initiative of the program is to build confidence and provide job training. A video describing this ministry was shown to the Assembly. For more information go to therawcarrot.com.

Social Mentor Network: Ms. Alexandra Belaskie was introduced to the court. Ms. Belaskie described the Canadian Ministries initiative called the Social Mentor Network. Congregations and ministries across Canada are growing in strength and vitality by tapping into the wealth of knowledge and experience mentors have to offer. In order to facilitate this work, The Presbyterian Church in Canada and The United Church of Canada have partnered to create a national network of mentors. Born out of the need to help grant receiving ministries in Canada respond to God's

call, this network aims to assist churches by providing access to mentors who can help them build strong and sustainable ministries.

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REPORT ON SEXUALITY OVERTURES (cont'd from p. XXX)

The Assembly was invited to discuss two questions in table groups. What is your largest question arising out of Recommendation No. 1? What is your greatest hope arising out of Recommendation No. 1?

Recommendation No. 1 (p. XXX) was moved by W.J.C. Irvine, duly seconded.

Amendment

J.T. Hurd moved, duly seconded, that the following words be added to the end of the recommendation: “and that as part of the terms of reference for the special committee, the following be affirmed: In acknowledging and confessing that homophobia is sinful and that the practice of homophobia is to be repented of, the church does not include in the concept or definition of homophobia:

- a. Bona fide belief that homosexual practice is contrary to God’s will revealed in Scripture, which belief is the confessional position of the church; and
- b. Responsible affirmation of that belief in preaching and writing.”

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2017 E.H. JOHNSON AWARD RECIPIENT

Ms. Annemarie Klassen, Convener of the E.H. Johnson Memorial Fund Committee welcomed Ms. Laura Maracle, Aboriginal Cultural Safety Coordinator for the Four Directions Student Centre at Queen’s University, and invited her to welcome Dr. Blackstock to the traditional territory upon which the university sits.

Ms. Klassen introduced Dr. Blackstock to the Assembly. Dr. Blackstock is the Executive Director of the First Nations Child and Family Caring Society of Canada and a professor of social work at McGill University, Montreal. A member of the Gitksan First Nation, Dr. Blackstock has 25 years of social work experience in child protection and Indigenous children’s rights.

Dr. Blackstock told a story of two men. One was Dr. Peter Henderson Bryce who was a Canadian doctor and a leader in the field of public health in the early 1900’s. As chief medical officer for the federal government, Bryce was sent to assess the health of residential school students. He documented the alarming rate at which Aboriginal children were dying in the schools. Risking his career, Bryce pleaded with the federal government to give residential school children the same health care provided to other Canadians. His reports were ignored and he was forced out of public service.

The other man was Mr. Duncan Campbell Scott, a federal superintendent of the Department of Indian Affairs. Bryce urged Scott to improve conditions in the schools but he refused. Scott was rewarded by the government for his loyalty. “He was rewarded for moral cowardice”, said Dr. Blackstock. “Moral courage is, too often, punished. Gord Downey said it best. Canadians have been trained to look away.”

Ms. Blackstock urged commissioners to listen to their ancestors. “What do they teach us today? First Nations children receive less funding for every public service than other children. In basics like health care and clean water there are dramatic inequalities. The most important role we have is to stand up for children when they are in need.”

In January 2016, Dr. Blackstock and the Assembly of First Nations won a landmark victory when the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal ruled that successive federal governments had discriminated against First Nations children by providing less funding for child welfare services on reserves than was provided for other children living in Canada. The government has now been the subject of three noncompliance orders since the tribunal made its finding.

Turning to the Assembly, Dr. Blackstock asked, “What are you going to do now? Embrace your ancestry. Try to live up to the example of Bryce. Write to your member of parliament and live with a dream that children don’t have to recover from their childhoods. Let’s make the children respect us as the generation that finally did it.”

The commissioners expressed their appreciation for Dr. Blackstock's remarks with a standing ovation. The Rev. Stephen Kendall thanked her on behalf of the Assembly.

PRESBYTERIAN RECORD INC.

The Moderator called for the report of the Presbyterian Record Inc. which, as printed on p. XXX, was presented by Mr. Botond Fejes, chair and convener.

Receive and Consider

D.H. Rollwage moved, duly seconded, that the report be received and considered. Adopted.

Recommendation No. 1 (p. XXX) was moved by D.H. Rollwage, duly seconded.

Amendment

J.T. Hurd moved, duly seconded, that all the words following "that" be struck and in their place the following: "That subject to receipt of financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2016, the Assembly direct the Assembly Council, through its Finance Committee, to give consideration to assist Presbyterian Record Inc. with respect to any outstanding accounts due the corporation from any defaulting congregations, to a maximum of \$15,000." Adopted.

Recommendation No. 1, as amended, was adopted as follows.

That subject to receipt of financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2016, the Assembly direct the Assembly Council, through its finance Committee, to give consideration to assist Presbyterian Record Inc. with respect to any outstanding accounts due the corporation from any defaulting congregations, to a maximum of \$15,000.

Additional Motion

J.T. Hurd moved, duly seconded, that the Assembly call for financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2016 from Presbyterian Record Inc. and upon receipt include the same in the Acts of Proceedings as an appendix. Adopted.

Report as a Whole

D.H. Rollwage moved, duly seconded, that the report as a whole be adopted. Adopted.

PRESENTATION OF MINUTES

The Principal Clerk announced that the minutes of the first sederunt had been posted on The Presbyterian Church in Canada website and a number of printed copies would be available in the Assembly Hall.

MODERATOR NOMINATES SPECIAL COMMITTEES

The Assembly called for the report of the Committee to Confer with the Moderator.

Receive and Consider

D.H. Rollwage moved, duly seconded, that the report be received and considered. Adopted.

Committee on Bills and Overtures Recommendation No. 1 (p. XXX)

On nomination by the Moderator, it was moved by D.H. Rollwage, duly seconded, that the Special Committee on Bills and Overtures Recommendation No. 1 be named as follows: the Rev. Dr. H.D.R. Horst (convener), the Rev. Dr. K. Diviney, the Rev. J.T. Hurd, the Rev. L.T. Kavanagh, the Rev. W. Khalil, the Rev. Dr. A.H.S. Lee and a Clerk of the Assembly. Adopted.

Committee to Advise with the Moderator

On nomination by the Moderator, it was moved by D.H. Rollwage, duly seconded, that the Committee to Advise with the Moderator be named as follows: the Rev. Dr. H.C. O'Reilly (convener), the Rev. Dr. T.F. Archibald, the Rev. Dr. R.G. Ball, the Rev. S. Garas, the Rev. L. Park, Ms. J. Patterson, the Rev. S. Kendall (Principal Clerk) and Ms. T. Hamilton (secretary). Adopted.

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ADJOURNMENT

Announcements having been made, the Moderator invited W.G. Habib to offer prayer in Arabic. The Moderator then adjourned the Assembly to meet at Queen's University, Kingston, Ontario, on Monday, June fifth, two thousand and seventeen, at seven o'clock in the evening, of which public intimation was given.