

FIFTH SEDERUNT

ASSEMBLY CONSTITUTED

At Queen's University, Kingston, Ontario, on Tuesday, June sixth, two thousand and seventeen at nine-thirty o'clock in the morning, 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 fifth sederunt be approved as presented. Adopted.

(cont'd on p. XXX)

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: E.W. Kraglund (Presbytery of New Brunswick) from the eighth sederunt; C.L. Lingard (Presbytery of Niagara) from the fifth sederunt to the close of the Assembly; J. Dorland (Presbytery of Paris) from the fifth sederunt. Adopted.

(cont'd on p. XXX)

BRIEFING PANEL 4

I.A. Ross-McDonald, Life and Mission Agency General Secretary; S. Allen, Justice Ministries Associate Secretary; G.R. Williams, International Ministries Associate Secretary; G. Smagghe, Presbyterian World Service and Development Director; J.C. Bigelow, Pension and Benefits Board Convener, were called forward to provide briefings and answer questions for clarification related to reports that would be presented later in the Assembly.

INTERNATIONAL VISITOR

The Moderator invited G.R. Williams to welcome and introduce Ms. Dóra Kanizsai-Nagy. Ms Kanizsai-Nagy is a co-founder of the Kalunba Social Services Association whose mission is to welcome refugees in Budapest, Hungary. Since 2008, Ms. Kanizsai-Nagy has served with the Reformed Church in Hungary as a project manager and later as the head of its Refugee Ministry. The Kalunba Association grew out of that ministry in 2014 and remains linked with the Reformed Church in Hungary.

Ms. Kanizsai-Nagy said, "The Kalunba Association works on housing, children's education, training and employment. We created a network around our clients to empower them to find a safe place and start a new life in Hungary. We are a country where it is very difficult to be a foreigner, to be different and not to speak the language and to look different. Kalunba is a place where migrants and refugees come to take free Hungarian lessons, tutoring in school subjects, meet counselors, enjoy community, and find jobs and accommodation. We assist about 200 people with a staff of 16 and many volunteers. One of them is your own Jackie Bannerman. This is our responsibility – to be good neighbors, to show love and compassion. I believe that God's face is reflected in the stranger's face. And the future of the stranger is dependent on us."

COMMITTEE ON BILLS AND OVERTURES (cont'd from p. XXX)

Recommendation No. 2 (p. XXX) was moved by M. Sams, duly seconded. Adopted.

Recommendation No. 3 (p. XXX) was moved by M. Sams, duly seconded. Adopted.

Recommendation No. 4 (p. XXX) was moved by M. Sams, duly seconded. Adopted.

Recommendation No. 5 (p. XXX) was moved by M. Sams, duly seconded. Adopted.

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

Recommendation No. 7 (p. XXX) was moved by M. Sams, duly seconded. Adopted.

(cont'd on p. XXX)

PENSION AND BENEFITS BOARD

The Assembly called for the report of the Pension and Benefits Board which, as printed on p. XXX, was presented by J.C. Bigelow, convener.

Receive and Consider

D.L. Mawhinney moved, duly seconded, that the report be received and considered. Adopted.

Motion to Reconsider

M.R. McLennan moved, duly seconded, pursuant to notice of motion (p. XXX) that the Constitution of the Pension and Benefits Board be reconsidered. Adopted.

Consent Recommendation

D.L. Mawhinney moved, duly seconded, that **Recommendation No. 1** (p. XXX) and **No. 2** (p. XXX) be adopted by consent. Adopted.

After announcing her retirement, Mr. Bigelow expressed gratitude for the 17 years of faithful service of Ms. Judy Haas in the national office, the last 15 years as Senior Administrator in the Pension and Benefits Office.

Additional Motion

D.L. Mawhinney moved, duly seconded, that the minute of appreciation for the service of Ms. Judy Haas, be received. Adopted.

Report as a Whole

D.L. Mawhinney moved, duly seconded, that the report as a whole be adopted. Adopted.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE RE PENSION SOLVENCY FUNDING

Receive and Consider

D.L. Mawhinney moved, duly seconded, that the report be received and considered. Adopted.

J.C. Bigelow, convener, provided a verbal supplementary report. He explained that, with the help of the markets and congregations that made pension contributions ahead of time, the solvency ratio reached nearly 87%. This means filings will not be required for the next three years and this should lead to greater flexibility for the Pension and Benefits Board for the near future.

Report as a Whole

D.L. Mawhinney moved, duly seconded, that the report as a whole be adopted. Adopted.

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

Recommendation No. 1 amendment

Discussion on an amendment to Recommendation No. 1 resumed.

Amendment to the Amendment

R.L. Adams moved, duly seconded, that the original motion and amendment be replaced with: "That The Presbyterian Church in Canada establish a special committee to create a safe and respectful environment in which LGTBQI people can tell their stories of hurt and pain within the church and report to a future Assembly."

Immediate Vote

W.J.C. Ervine moved, duly seconded, that the Assembly take an immediate vote. Carried.

Amendment to the Amendment

The amendment to the amendment was put to the vote and defeated.

Amendment

Discussion on the amendment resumed.

Amendment to the Amendment

D.B. Griffiths moved, duly seconded, that the Assembly return to the original wording of Recommendation No. 1 and add the words “as defined above” after the word “homophobia”. Adopted.

Amendment reads as follows

That The Presbyterian Church in Canada repent of homophobia, as defined above, and hypocrisy by establishing a special committee to: 1) create a safe and respectful environment in which LGBTQ people can tell stories of harm done to them; 2) listen to the stories told by LGBTQ people; 3) draft an appropriate response regarding homophobia within the denomination; 4) name concrete actions that the General Assembly consider implementing; and 5) report to a future General Assembly within the next 3 years. (see p. XXX)

(cont'd on p. XXX)

COMMITTEE ON CHURCH DOCTRINE

The Assembly called for the report of the Committee on Church Doctrine which, as printed on p. XXX, was presented by B.D. Bertrand, convener.

Receive and Consider

J. Khang 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. 1 (p. XXX) and Recommendation No. 2 (p. XXX) be withdrawn from the consent recommendations.

Motion to Refer

M.A. Tremblay moved, duly seconded, that the document “Understanding and Interpreting the Bible” be referred back to the Committee on Church Doctrine to be revised to include reference and help with repenting of the church’s hypocrisy, homophobia and the culturally conditioned way we have understood the gospel. Defeated.

Motion to Refer

S.R. Lindsay moved, duly seconded, that “Understanding and Interpreting the Bible” be referred back to the Committee on Church Doctrine to develop a Reformed Presbyterian hermeneutic to guide our people in interpreting the Bible. Defeated.

Recommendation No. 1 (p. XXX) was moved by J. Khang, duly seconded. Adopted.

Recommendation No. 2 (p. XXX) was moved by J. Khang, duly seconded. Adopted.

Recommendation No. 3 (p. XXX) was moved by J. Khang, duly seconded. Adopted.

Report as a Whole

J. Khang moved, duly seconded, that the report as a whole be adopted. Adopted.

THEOLOGICAL COLLEGES (cont'd from p. XXX)

Vancouver School of Theology

The Moderator invited the Rev. Dr. Richard R. Topping, Principal, to speak to the report of Vancouver School of Theology which, as printed on p. XXX, had previously been received and adopted by the Assembly (p. XXX).

Dr. Topping showed a slide presentation that illustrated the programs, partners, staff, faculty and students of the college.

St. Andrew’s Hall

The Assembly called for the report of St. Andrew’s Hall which, as printed on p. XXX, was presented by the Rev. Dr. Robert Paul, Dean.

Receive and Consider

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

Recommendation No. 1 (p. XXX) was moved by R.R. Topping, duly seconded. Adopted.

The Rev. Dr. Ross Lockhart, having been granted tenure, was invited by the Moderator to address the Assembly. Dr. Lockhart said, "I am grateful to the church for this great honour. It is a privilege to serve the church in theological education. I especially thank my colleagues in The Presbyterian College and Knox College for the great kindness shown in work we do together."

Dr. Paul introduced this year's graduates by way of a video presentation.

Report as a Whole

R.R. Topping moved, duly seconded, that the report as a whole be adopted. Adopted.

(Theological Colleges, cont'd on p. XXX)

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

M.R. McLennan moved, duly seconded, that the Life and Mission Agency (Justice Ministries) be granted permission to distribute the timeline resource "Indigenous People and The Presbyterian Church in Canada". Adopted

(cont'd on p. XXX)

ADJOURNMENT

Announcements having been made, the Moderator invited J.T. Lim to offer prayer in Korean. The Moderator adjourned the Assembly to meet at Queen's University, Kingston, Ontario, on Tuesday, June sixth, two thousand and seventeen, at two o'clock in the afternoon, of which public intimation was given.