



General Assembly of The Presbyterian Church in Canada
Tuesday, June 6, 2017

SEDERUNT 6

Life and Mission Agency

Canadian Ministries

Commissioners adopted a statement on declining ministry finding that renewal and growth are possible in all kinds of ministries and contexts and that visionary leadership has become the most crucial factor in nurturing strong, healthy and growing ministry.



Presbyterian World Service & Development

Robert Robertson, convener, PWS&D Committee, spoke about the work of PWS&D, commending the generous support PWS&D receives from congregations. Rob spoke about seeing the impact of services for mothers and infants to combat high rates of maternal and infant mortality on his recent trip to Malawi. The General Assembly commended support of the PWS&D Loaves and Fishes Fund, which is now over \$2.28 million, and PWS&D emergency appeals for the Alberta wildfires, Africa drought and hurricane in Haiti. The Assembly encouraged finding creative ways to fundraise in 2017 to support the humanitarian needs related to the Syria Crisis and promote the Ride for Refuge in support of maternal, newborn and child health projects in Afghanistan and Malawi. Congregations and presbyteries were urged to commit to ongoing refugee sponsorship ministry and to contact their members of parliament to urge that quotas for refugees be increased.

Communications

Presbyterians were encouraged to subscribe to the free newspaper, the *Presbyterian Connection*.

Justice Ministries

In response to the ongoing crisis of the 86 Indigenous communities with no access to clean potable water, the Moderator will write the Government of Canada to inquire about their plan to provide clean and potable water in Indigenous communities that remain under boil water advisories. Sessions and presbyteries are encouraged to write to their MPs encouraging support to provide clean and potable water in every Indigenous community.

Sexuality Overtures

After extensive discussion, commissioners adopted an amended recommendation jointly put forward by the Committee on Church Doctrine (CCD) and Life and Mission Agency (LMA) 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 LGBTQI

people can tell stories of harm done to them; 2) listen to the stories told by LGBTQI 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 three years.” Assembly adopted a related recommendation that the terms of reference for the special committee be formulated in consultation with the CCD and the LMA (Justice Ministries).

Assembly commended two documents to be studied by church groups: “The Historic Argument Concerning Human Sexuality” and “What the Bible teaches on Covenanted Monogamous Same-Sex Relationships.” The Assembly sent the document “Where from here?” to agencies, colleges, congregations, sessions, presbyteries, synods, committees, groups and other bodies of the PCC to study and report back to the CCD by January 31, 2018. The document outlines several possible scenarios and the possible implications of keeping, or changing, church doctrine.



The Presbyterian Church Building Corporation (PCBC)

The Presbyterian Church Building Corporation reported on the activities of the previous year, which included providing loans to 15 congregations to repair church buildings and assisting with housing for 10 retired servants of the church. They acknowledged the work of the Rev. Dr. Stephen Farris, who will be retiring from the corporation’s board after 12 years of membership.

Trustee Board

The Trustee Board oversees the investment of the pension plan, endowment and restricted funds, congregational funds and real estate that the church has title on. They reported that they are incorporating education on environmental issues, social responsibility and governance into each meeting and on the positive investment returns of the past four and seven years.

The Moderator invited the Rev. Augustus Oku to offer the closing prayer in Ibibio.