



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

SEDERUNT 4

International Affairs Committee

The General Assembly agreed to a number of actions to support vulnerable people:

- The Moderator will write to the Prime Minister of Israel regarding the government's responsibilities to safeguard the human rights of all of Israel's citizens and to protect the civil, political, social, economic and cultural rights of its Palestinian citizens.
- The Moderator will write to partners in Afghanistan, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Haiti to express appreciation for their work to protect women and girls against violence. Presbyterians will prayerfully lift up the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women (November 25).
- The Moderator will write to partners in Sub-Saharan Africa (Tanzania, Malawi and Nigeria) encouraging them to advocate for the rights of people with albinism.
- Noting that the largest minority group in the world is people with disabilities, the Moderator will write to church partners in Ghana to affirm their ministry to this vulnerable group.



The Moderator will also write to the Government of Canada affirming its commitments under the Paris Agreement and encouraging the GOC to meet its commitments to provide funding that will help countries in the Global South mitigate and adapt to climate change. The letter will also encourage the Government of Canada to sign and ratify the Arms Trade Treaty.

Knox College

The Rev. Dr. John Vissers was appointed Principal of Knox College for a five-year renewable term. The appointments of The Rev. Dr. Esther Acolatse to Associate Professor of Pastoral Theology and Dr. Angela Schmidt to Director of Experiential and Innovative Learning and Assistant Professor of Leadership were announced.

A minute of appreciation was expressed for the Rev. Dr. Dorcas Gordon's service and passion for theological education. The Rev. Dr. Gordon began serving as principal in 1999. Addressing the Assembly, she expressed thanks for the



privilege of serving the church at Knox College. “I have known your encouragement over these 18 years. This is a time for gratitude to God for calling me to this position and to all of you for support offered. I have run this race with perseverance and endurance. I have run it with hope and joy.”

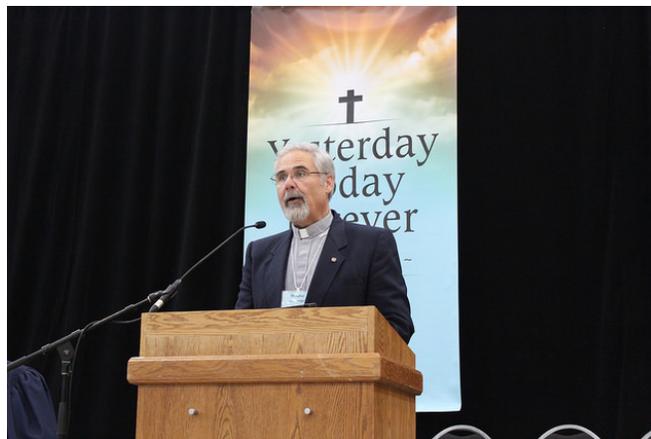
The Life and Mission Agency

Ministry and Church Vocations

The General Assembly adopted a bereavement leave policy for ministers serving in congregations and revised the Policy for Dealing with Sexual Abuse and Sexual Harassment to accommodate cases where a minister serving in a congregation is the complainant against a lay member or salaried member of that congregation. The revision assigned these cases to the presbytery to handle rather than the session.

The Moderator’s Address

The Rev. Dr. Doug Rollwage reflected on his moderatorial year, bringing greetings from synods, presbyteries, congregations and colleges that he has visited over the year. He shared highlights from his visit to the Presbyterian Church of Korea where there are some 9 million Presbyterians. He spoke of the missionaries who brought the Bible and transformed Korean society by the Christian faith, developing schools, hospitals and orphanages and reflected on the need for a similar missionary spirit today in



Canada. He said, “We have a mission, a purpose, a job to do. We don’t have to settle for decline. Decline is not inevitable. Renewal and growth will come from a core within the heart of each and every congregation.”

Women’s Missionary Society

The WMS reported on their activities for the year, which included the third National Presbyterian Women’s Gathering, promoting mission through Mission Awareness Sunday with the theme “Inspired,” production of the *Glad Tidings* magazine, and *The Hub*, an online platform. The WMS *Together We Can!* projects raised funds for Mayan women in Guatemala and ARISE Ministry, Canada.

Atlantic Mission Society

The AMS shared that it supported overseas projects in Ukraine, Malawi and India, as well as in Canada. It also supported three Atlantic camps and provided four bursaries to students studying ministry. The Men’s Project refurbished residence rooms at Presbyterian College and supported the ministry of Vera Blake in Burnt Church, NB. The *Presbyterian Message* continues to provide updates on the work of the AMS.

MacLean’s Estate Committee

The MacLean’s Estate Committee highlighted how they are providing an eco-friendly place apart for spiritual renewal and leadership development. In addition to providing a place for individuals, families, congregations, businesses, schools and agencies to enjoy God’s creation, they are excited to be offering Ontario Jubilee Leadership programs this coming year. Mr. Phillips announced that Managing Director, Mr. Lawrence Pentelow is retiring, effective the end of June 2018, after 15 years of leadership. A search for his successor has commenced.

The Moderator invited the Rev. Eloi Agbanou to offer the closing prayer in French.