



General Assembly of The Presbyterian Church in Canada
Wednesday, June 7, 2017

SEDERUNT 7

Clerks of Assembly

Vacation accumulation for clergy was clarified by amending the terms of the guarantee of stipend to say that vacation days would be used in the year they are given.

A report recommending that presbyteries add interim ministers to the constituent roll, to serve as equalizing ministers when there are more elders than ministers, will be sent to sessions, presbyteries and synods for study and report.



Life & Mission Agency

Justice Ministries

The General Assembly commended congregations, ministers, chaplains, elders and youth leaders to study the report “The Church and People who are Transgender or Intersex.”

The Moderator will write to energy producers Vermillion, Enbridge, Cenovus, Husky Energy, Keyera Corp, Suncor Energy and TransCanada Corp. Canadian Natural Resources, Encana, Crescent Point Energy, Imperial Oil and ShawCor Ltd. affirming their participation in the Carbon Disclosure Project. He will also request information on how each company plans to meet emissions reduction targets set by the Government of Canada under the Paris Agreement; introduce or increase investments in renewable energy in their operations and/or holdings; and include the risks and opportunities posed by climate change as one of the required competencies for their board of directors.

Information was provided on fees charged by financial institutions, and it was recommended that congregations consider meeting in person with bank staff to discuss and negotiate lower fees. A report about passive energy strategies was also adapted.

Sexuality Overtures

After lengthy discussion, recommendations No. 11–15 were deferred. These recommendations would have sent a new definition of marriage and a proposal that being in a same-sex civil marriage would not be a reason to bar any person from candidacy or ordination to congregations for study and report. A long line of people requested that their dissent be recorded.

An additional motion was made to also send the biblical reflections in the Justice Ministries section, which were background information for recommendations 11–15 on sexuality, to congregations for study and report.

It was agreed that all of the reports will be translated into Korean. It was also decided that The Church Doctrine Committee will undertake a thorough study of the nature of the unity of the church and report to the General Assembly in 2018.



Special Committee Report

The special committee appointed by the Moderator to review the overtures and petitions regarding a congregation leaving the denomination reported back on common concerns and proposed a comprehensive approach for further study.

The committee found that, over a three-year period, 21 sessions and four presbyteries raised issues on the general theme of gracious dismissal (leaving the church with title to property and other material assets) or unity of the church. Significant concerns were expressed by four distinct ethnic minority communities. It noted that there is currently no provision within the policies and processes of The Presbyterian Church in Canada whereby a congregation may leave the denominations and retain its assets.

The committee's report looked at issues around heritage, logistics, harm to ministry, peace, and unity. The report, together with the overtures, petitions and specific issues related to unity and title to property, were referred to Clerks of Assembly in consultation with the Assembly Council, Life and Mission Agency, the Committee on Church Doctrine, the Committee on Church History, the Pension and Benefits Board, Presbyterian Church Building Corporation and the Trustee Board. The Clerks will report back to the next General Assembly.

Ms. Patience Nahumure closed the sederunt by praying in Kinyamulenge