

SIXTH SEDERUNT

ASSEMBLY CONSTITUTED

At Queen's University, Kingston, Ontario, on Tuesday, June sixth, 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 sixth 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: B.D. MacLeod (Presbytery of Cape Breton) and G.S. MacFarlane (Presbytery of Cape Breton) from the eighth sederunt. Adopted.

(cont'd on p. XXX)

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

Canadian Ministries (p. XXX)

Recommendation No. 1 (p. XXX) was moved by J.R. Lackie, duly seconded.

Motion to Refer

G.K. Walford moved, duly seconded, that Recommendation No. 1 re Overture No. 18, 2016 be referred back to the Life and Mission Agency (Canadian Ministries) in consultation with the Assembly Council, with the request that the research focus on the paper "Theology Matters", as well as "The Presbyterian Church in Canada: Facing the 21st Century". (A&P 1990, p. 350-55). Defeated.

Recommendation No. 1 was adopted.

Presbyterian World Service and Development (p. XXX)

The Presbyterian World Service and Development report was presented by Mr. R. Robertson, Presbyterian World Service and Development, governance team convener.

Consent Recommendation

J.R. Lackie moved, duly seconded, that **Recommendation Nos. 14, 15, 16, 17, 18 and 19** (p. XXX) be adopted by consent. Adopted.

R. Robertson spoke of the ministries undertaken and supported by Presbyterian World Service and Development along with some of the challenges faced by this development and relief agency of The Presbyterian Church in Canada.

Communications (p. XXX)

Consent Recommendation

J.R. Lackie moved, duly seconded, that **Recommendation No. 2** (p. XXX) be adopted by consent. Adopted.

Stewardship and Planned Giving (p. XXX)

Consent Recommendation

J.R. Lackie moved, duly seconded, that **Recommendation No. 20** (p. XXX) be adopted by consent. Adopted.

Justice Ministries (p. XXX)

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

Recommendation No. 4 (p. XXX) was moved by J.R. Lackie, duly seconded. Adopted.

(cont'd on p. XXX)

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND RECEPTION (cont'd from p. XXX)

H.J. Malnick, convener of the Committee on Education and Reception, presented the report.

Consent Recommendation

J.R. Lackie moved, duly seconded, that **Recommendation Nos. 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31 and 32** (p. XXX) be adopted by consent. Adopted.

(Life and Mission Agency Committee, cont'd on p. XXX)

ASSEMBLY COUNCIL (cont'd from p. XXX)

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

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

Report as a Whole

M.R. McLennan 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.

Recommendation No. 1, as amended, read 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)

Amendment

W.G. Ingram moved, duly seconded, that the following words be added to section “1)” of the motion: “of God’s grace experienced by them, and of Christian ministry performed by them, even in the midst of the challenges that they have faced”. Adopted.

Recommendation No. 1, as amended, read 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, of God’s grace experienced by them, and of Christian ministry performed by them, even in the midst of the challenges that they have faced; 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)

Amendment

K.A. Wübbenhorst moved, duly seconded, that the following words replace everything after the word “that”: The Presbyterian Church in Canada establish a special committee to explore the experience of those impacted by same-sex attraction and transgender identity as well as other issues in the area of human sexuality, with a view to carrying through the vision of the 1994 Statement on Human Sexuality, repenting of homophobia, and providing Christian communities supportive of faithful discipleship for those with struggles of other kinds in the area of human sexuality, to draft an appropriate response within the denomination, to name concrete actions that the General Assembly consider implementing and to report to a future General Assembly within the next three years. Defeated.

Immediate Vote

J.R. Lackie moved, duly seconded, that the Assembly take an immediate vote. Carried.

Recommendation No. 1, as amended, was adopted 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, of God's grace experienced by them, and of Christian ministry performed by them, even in the midst of the challenges that they have faced; 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)

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

Recommendation No. 4 (p. XXX) was moved by M.E. Ruttan, duly seconded.

Amendment

J.T. Hurd moved, duly seconded, that the words "An alternative understanding of" be inserted ahead of "what the Bible teaches" in the title of the second proposed paper and in the title of the second proposed paper in the recommendation. Defeated.

Recommendation No. 4 was adopted.

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

Additional Motion

H.J. Currie moved, duly seconded, that the following option "D" be sent to the agencies, colleges, congregations, sessions, presbyteries, synods, committees, groups and other bodies of The Presbyterian Church in Canada for study and report to the Committee on Church Doctrine by January 31, 2018: "Option D represents the fact that there is a diversity of understanding about human sexuality, from a more traditional understanding to a welcoming and including of those whose identity does not fit within a traditional heterosexual framework. Therefore, the way forward is to acknowledge that the 1994 Statement on Human Sexuality, and the document, 'What the Bible Teaches on Covenant Monogamous Same-Sex Relationships' represent the range of understanding in The Presbyterian Church in Canada. Following this path would mean allowing liberty of conscience for ministers and sessions blessing or performing same-sex marriages; and liberty of conscience to presbyteries ordaining people in same-sex relationships; and liberty of conscience to congregations calling ministers in same-sex relationships." Defeated.

Recommendation No. 14 (p. XXX) was moved by J. Lackie, duly seconded.

Motion to Defer

D.S. Howard moved, duly seconded, that Recommendation Nos. 11–15 be deferred to a future General Assembly, until such time as the Committee on Church Doctrine's final report on this matter has been received and that the General Assembly, in its wisdom, has made a decision regarding The Presbyterian Church in Canada's doctrine concerning intimate same-sex relationships.

(cont'd on p. XXX)

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH BUILDING CORPORATION

The Moderator invited N.F. Coutts, Board of Directors Chair, to speak to the report which, as printed on p. XXX, had previously been received and adopted by the Assembly (p. XXX).

N.F. Coutts described the work of the corporation and introduced General Manager, Mr. William Collier.

TRUSTEE BOARD

The Moderator invited T.A. Heron, convener, to speak to the report which, as printed on pages XXX–XXX, had previously been received and adopted by the Assembly (p. XXX).

T.A. Heron described the work of the Trustee Board and named the members of it.

PRESENTATION OF MINUTES (cont'd from p. XXX)

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

(cont'd on p. XXX)

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

M.R. McLennan moved, duly seconded, that the agenda for the sixth sederunt be amended to include a further consideration of the Report on Sexuality Overtures. Adopted.

(cont'd on p. XXX)

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

Motion to Defer

Discussion on the motion to defer resumed.

(cont'd on p. XXX)

NOTICE OF MOTION

Notice of Motion

D. Krunys presented the following notice of motion.

“I give notice that, at a future sederunt, I will move or cause to be moved, that Assembly Council Recommendation Nos. 14 and 15 be reconsidered.”

ADJOURNMENT

Announcements having been made, the Moderator invited A. Oku to offer prayer in Ibibio. The Moderator adjourned the Assembly to meet at Queen's University, Kingston, Ontario, on Tuesday, June sixth, two thousand and seventeen, at seven o'clock in the evening, of which public intimation was given.