

2018 GENERAL ASSEMBLY – BOOK OF REPORTS

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**DAILY SCHEDULE  
FOR THE  
2018 GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**NOTE: The opening worship with the celebration of communion will be in Lazaridis Hall of Wilfrid Laurier University. Other General Assembly events will be in locations listed below on the campus.**

**Saturday, June 2, 2018**

1:00 pm	–	9:00 pm	Registration	Main Lounge, King Residence
5:30 pm	–	7:00 pm	Dinner	Wilf's

**Sunday, June 3, 2018**

7:30 am	–	8:30 am	Breakfast	Wilf's
			Worship and Lunch with local congregations	
1:30 pm	–	5:30 pm	Registration	Main Lounge, King Residence
5:30 pm	–	6:45 pm	Dinner	Dining Hall
7:00 pm	–	9:00 pm	Worship with Celebration of Communion and 1st Sederunt	Lazaridis Theatre
9:30 pm	–	10:30pm	Registration	Main Lounge, King Residence

**Monday, June 4, 2018**

6:45 am	–	8:15 am	Breakfast	Dining Hall
6:45 am	–	8:00 am	First-time Commissioners Breakfast	Senate and Board Chambers
8:30 am	–	12:00 pm	Worship and 2nd Sederunt	Gym, Athletic Complex
12:15 pm	–	1:30 pm	Lunch	Dining Hall
2:00 pm	–	5:00 pm	3rd Sederunt	Gym, Athletic Complex
5:00 pm	–	6:00 pm	E.H. Johnson Reception	Wilf's
5:30 pm	–	7:00 pm	Dinner	Dining Hall
7:00 pm	–	8:30 pm	4th Sederunt	Gym, Athletic Complex

**Tuesday, June 5, 2018**

6:45 am	–	8:15 am	Breakfast	Dining Hall
8:30 am	–	12:00 pm	Worship and 5th Sederunt	Gym, Athletic Complex
12:15 pm	–	1:30 pm	Lunch	Dining Hall
2:00 pm	–	4:00 pm	6th Sederunt	Gym, Athletic Complex
4:30 pm	–	7:00 pm	Dinner	Dining Hall
7:00 pm	–	8:30 pm	7th Sederunt	Gym, Athletic Complex

**Wednesday, June 6, 2018**

6:45 am	–	8:15 am	Breakfast	Dining Hall
8:30 am	–	12:00 pm	Worship and 8th Sederunt	Gym, Athletic Complex
11:30 pm	–	1:00 pm	Lunch (boxed lunches)	Gym, Athletic Complex

**2018 GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
PROVISIONAL AGENDA**

**SUNDAY JUNE 3**

Sederunt 1      7:00 pm

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Worship with the Celebration of Communion	
Acknowledgment of the Traditional Territory on which we are meeting	
Roll of Assembly, Students and Young Adult Representatives	10–14
Election and Installation of Moderator	
Reports	
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- Life and Mission Agency – Education and Reception Committee (Introduction)	485
- Committee to Nominate Standing Committees (Introduction)	264
Presentation of Records	
- 2017 General Assembly, Synods and the Assembly Council	
Adjournment at approximately 9:00 pm	

Each sederunt will begin with worship and the constitution of the Assembly, and, where necessary, a report from the Committee on Business and the Committee on Roll and Leave to Withdraw.

Announcements and the presentation of minutes (as available) shall normally be made at the end of the sederunt.

**MONDAY JUNE 4**

Sederunt 2      8:30 am – 12:00 noon  
 Sederunt 3      2:00 pm – 5:00 pm  
 Sederunt 4      7:00 pm – 9:30 pm or completion of business

**Reports**

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- Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations Committee	130
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- International Affairs Committee	143

**Stated Hours**

2:30 pm	Ecumenical Guest The Rev. Dr. Willard Metzger, Executive Director Mennonite Church Canada	27
4:15 pm	E.H. Johnson Award Recipient Dr. George Sabra, Professor of Systematic Theology President, Near East School of Theology, Beirut, Lebanon	27
7:15 pm	Committee to Advise with the Moderator of 2017 GA	74
7:30 pm – 9:30 pm	Consensus-building decision-making	22, 24

**ROLL OF ASSEMBLY**

<b>Ministers</b>	<b>Elders</b>
<b>I. SYNOD OF THE ATLANTIC PROVINCES</b>	
<b>1. Presbytery of Cape Breton</b> (Nova Scotia) Lydia E. MacKinnon, Marion Bridge W. Corrie Stewart, Sydney Mines	Sharon A. MacEachern, Albert Bridge Donald A. MacLeod, Marion Bridge
<b>2. Presbytery of Newfoundland</b> (Newfoundland and Labrador) David T. Sturtevant, St. John's	Stephen E. Bruneau, St. John's
<b>3. Presbytery of Pictou</b> (Nova Scotia) Joon Ki Kim, New Glasgow	Jessie A. McKay, Plymouth
<b>4. Presbytery of Halifax-Lunenburg</b> (Nova Scotia) P.A. (Sandy) McDonald, Dartmouth Michael Veenema, Canning	Davida C. Mackay, Halifax Cheryl E. Weeks, Montague Gold Mines
<b>5. Presbytery of New Brunswick</b> (New Brunswick) Anne J. Boudreau, Harvey Kent E. Burdett, Hampton Wendy L. MacWilliams, Hanwell	Marlene M. Phillips, Harvey Carol J. Stymiest, Miramichi Ray C. Williston, Moncton
<b>6. Presbytery of Prince Edward Island</b> (Prince Edward Island) Bradford E. Blaikie, Summerside Torrey Griffiths, Kinkora Amanda J. Henderson-Bolton, Charlottetown	Doris M. MacWilliams, O'Leary Betty J. Mann, Kensington David A. Robinson, Charlottetown
<b>II. SYNOD OF QUEBEC &amp; EASTERN ONTARIO</b>	
<b>7. Presbytery of Quebec</b> (Quebec) Katherine A. Burgess, Saint-Gabriel-De-Valcartier	
<b>8. Presbytery of Montreal</b> (Quebec) Sampson Afoakwah, Montreal Richard Bonetto, Anjou Jonah Ho, Pointe-Claire Samy Said, Laval Peter M. Szabo, Montreal	Wilson A. Ayafor, Vaudreuil-Dorion Stewart G. Blott, Montreal Sarah E. Dupont, Montreal Renee Guirguis, Pierrefonds Moira Robson, Baie d'Urfe
<b>9. Presbytery of Seaway-Glengarry</b> (Ontario) Cheryl A. Gaver, Prescott Ian K. Johnston, Cornwall	Verne Gilkes, Vankleek Hill Paul Hickey, Cornwall
<b>10. Presbytery of Ottawa</b> (Ontario) Karen Dimock, Ottawa Floyd R. McPhee, Ottawa W.L. Shaun Seaman, Carp	Brian R. Loughton, Kanata Nick A. Lukach, Gatineau Jenny A. Mbamulu, Ottawa
<b>11. Presbytery of Lanark &amp; Renfrew</b> (Ontario) Jill M. Turnbull, Smiths Falls Patricia L. Van Gelder, Cobden	Marsha E. Guthrie, Almonte
<b>III. SYNOD OF CENTRAL, NORTHEASTERN ONTARIO &amp; BERMUDA</b>	
<b>12. Presbytery of Kingston</b> (Ontario) David H. Berkers, Gananoque Curtis Wilson, Kingston	Barbara E. Best, Joyceville Mary D. Mikkelson, Tweed

- 13. Presbytery of Lindsay-Peterborough (Ontario)**  
Terrence Ingram, Omemee  
Sabrina E. Ingram, Omemee  
Caleb C.K. Kim, Fenelon Falls  
Bill Hoyle, Woodville  
James D. Smith, Port Hope
- 14. Presbytery of Pickering (Ontario)**  
Andrew J. Allison, Leaskdale  
Hugh Donnelly, Scarborough  
Joseph Gray, West Hill  
Shalini Rajack-Sankaral, Ajax  
Mona Scrivens, Pickering  
Donald J. Bartlett, Scarborough  
O. Ruth Hands, Scarborough  
Sharon E. Lawrence, Scarborough  
D. Anne Phillips, Uxbridge  
Henry S.B. Sukhu, Pickering
- 15. Presbytery of East Toronto (Ontario)**  
Nicholas Athanasiadis, Toronto  
W. Alexander Bisset, Toronto  
Daniel Cho, Toronto  
Robert N. Faris, Toronto  
Glynis Williams, Toronto  
Peter A. Kinch, Toronto  
Grace-ann McIntyre, Toronto
- 16. Presbytery of West Toronto (Ontario)**  
Raymond B. Abekah, Toronto  
Carlucci Dos Santos, Toronto  
Rebekah R. Mitchell, Toronto  
Lincoln Resende, Toronto  
Janet Ryu-Chan, Toronto  
Nancy E. McPherson, Toronto  
Kerrie A. Tulett, Toronto  
Eno E. Udoh-Orok, Brampton  
Mark S. Wright, Toronto
- 17. Presbytery of Brampton (Ontario)**  
Steven Boose, Georgetown  
Sean J. Foster, Oakville  
Ian B. McWhinnie, Mississauga  
Karen H.D. Pozios, Mississauga  
Jennifer Sokolowsky, Mississauga  
Daniel P. Armishaw, Mississauga  
John Boyd, Brampton  
Marjorie R. MacDonald, Amaranth  
Arthur Smith, Mississauga  
Connie M. Wardle, Oakville
- 18. Presbytery of Oak Ridges (Ontario)**  
John Hong, Beeton  
Paul D. Johnston, Markham  
Lawrence Leung, Markham  
Jeremy R. Lowther, Bolton  
Erma L. Evans, Nobleton  
Mary R. Foster, Sutton West  
Melda O. Francis, Stouffville  
Chris van der Vliet, Markham
- 19. Presbytery of Barrie (Ontario)**  
Corey W. Ball, Bradford  
Linda A. Patton-Cowie, Orillia  
Alton J. Ruff, Midland  
Paul Sakasov, Elmvale  
Faith E. Hughes, Nottawa  
Robert W. McFadden, Barrie  
Ruth I. Millar, Barrie  
David M. Wilson, Alliston
- 20. Presbytery of Temiskaming (Ontario)**  
Jack R. Jamieson, Kapuskasing
- 21. Presbytery of Algoma & North Bay (Ontario)**  
John R. Wilson, Sault Se. Marie  
Holly Williams-Smith, Corbeil
- 22. Presbytery of Waterloo-Wellington (Ontario)**  
Aubrey J. Botha, Cambridge  
Susan V. Clarke, Elora  
J. Mark Lewis, Kitchener  
Scott Sinclair, Elmira  
Greg Smith, Kitchener  
Peggy L. Lennox, Belwood  
Alex C. McNabb, Rockwood  
Walter J. MacNeil, Cambridge  
Gaston R. St. Louis, Durham  
Doris E. Tubman, Guelph

- 23. Presbytery of Eastern Han-Ca**  
Jonathan H. Hong, Toronto  
Jinsook Khang, Thornhill  
Seong-Keun (Richard) Kim, Mississauga  
Eun Suk (Alex) Oh, London
- Won Cheol Lee, Mississauga  
Young Jin Lee, North York

**IV. SYNOD OF SOUTHWESTERN ONTARIO**

- 24. Presbytery of Hamilton (Ontario)**  
Curtis G. Bablitz, Burlington  
J. Gregory Davidson, Hamilton  
Alex Douglas, Stoney Creek  
Kyle Dore, Grimsby  
Matthew Lingard, Hamilton
- Jeffrey T. Cass, Hamilton  
David Chiahotny, Hamilton  
Kathleen C. Johnson, Caledonia  
Ian R. MacIntyre, Burlington  
Timothy G. Morrow, Burlington
- 25. Presbytery of Niagara (Ontario)**  
Benoit G. Cousineau, Welland  
Kenneth W. MacQuarrie, Thorold  
Cherie A. Inksetter, St. Catharines
- Christine P. Cummings, St. Catharines  
Anne Hammond, Fonthill  
Brian L. White, Port Colborne
- 26. Presbytery of Paris (Ontario)**  
Joyce DeGier VanderSpek, Elmo  
Joel A. Sherbino, Paris
- James D. Bailey, Simcoe  
Steve McInnis, Woodstock
- 27. Presbytery of London (Ontario)**  
Mavis A. Currie, St. Thomas  
Deborah E., Dolbear-Van Bilsen, Glencoe  
Amanda MacMillan, Alvinston
- Rosemary L. McDonald  
L. Jean Macpherson, St. Thomas  
Joan N. Mansell, St. Thomas
- 28. Presbytery of Essex-Kent (Ontario)**  
Lisa Aide, Windsor  
Michael M. Maroney, Chatham
- Jane E. Lung, Wallaceburg  
Barbara Sargent, Chatham
- 29. Presbytery of Lambton-West Middlesex (Ontario)**  
A. Ian Marnoch, Corunna  
H. Christine O'Reilly, Thedford  
Robert H. Wilson, Strathroy
- William J. Lumsden, Strathroy  
Marnie M. Pretty, Corunna
- 30. Presbytery of Huron-Perth (Ontario)**  
Robbin D. Congram, Stratford  
Marc Fraser, Milverton  
Theresa E. McDonald-Lee, Goderich
- Bessie T. Hounsell, St. Marys  
Robert McTavish, Stratford  
George Sjaarda, Listowel
- 31. Presbytery of Grey-Bruce-Maitland (Ontario)**  
Timothy F.S. Ferrier, Chesley  
Peggy A. Kipfer, Clarksburg  
Chuck (Sang Hyuk) Moon, Port Elgin
- Gordon F. Hedges, Markdale  
Carol L. Mackowski, Southampton  
G. Elizabeth Stobo, Teeswater

**V. SYNOD OF MANITOBA & NORTHWESTERN ONTARIO**

- 32. Presbytery of Superior (Ontario)**  
Joyce A. Yanishewski, Thunder Bay
- Kathleen H. Noy, Kakabeka Falls
- 33. Presbytery of Winnipeg (Manitoba and Ontario)**  
Anthon Bouw, Selkirk  
Peter G. Bush, Winnipeg
- Elizabeth D. Baker, Kenora  
Virgil Nathaniel, Winnipeg
- 34. Presbytery of Brandon (Manitoba)**  
Jeanie Lee, Neepawa
- Herb Burrige, Rapid City



**VI. SYNOD OF SASKATCHEWAN**

- 35. Presbytery of Assiniboia** (Saskatchewan)  
Amanda Currie, Regina  
Frances H. Neuls, Grenfell
- 36. Presbytery of Northern Saskatchewan** (Saskatchewan)  
Katherine Bretzlaff, Leask  
Linda Johnston, Leask

**VII. SYNOD OF ALBERTA & THE NORTHWEST**

- 37. Presbytery of Peace River** (Alberta and British Columbia)  
George S. Malcolm, Grande Prairie  
Terry G. Hagen, Fort St. John
- 38. Presbytery of Edmonton-Lakeland** (Alberta)  
Mark D.R. Chiang, Edmonton  
O. Heinrich Grosskopf, Edmonton  
Beverly A. Giggs, Chauvin  
Mildred A. K. Koranteng, Fort McMurray
- 39. Presbytery of Central Alberta** (Alberta)  
Sandra Franklin-Law, Eckville  
Beverly A. Reynolds, Eckville
- 40. Presbytery of Calgary-Macleod** (Alberta)  
Peter (Seok Ho) Baek, Bassano  
Bertalan Bocskorás, Calgary  
Bruce Clendenning, Calgary  
Judith C. Ferguson, Medicine Hat  
Catherine H.R. Gale, Calgary  
D. Robert McKinnon, Calgary

**VIII. SYNOD OF BRITISH COLUMBIA**

- 41. Presbytery of Kootenay** (British Columbia)  
Jan-Hendrik J. du Plessis, Cranbrook  
Daniel A.D. Boateng, Trail
- 42. Presbytery of Kamloops** (British Columbia)  
Teresa A. Charlton, Vernon  
Colin J. Cross, Penticton  
Elizabeth J. Birkenshaw, Penticton  
Margaret R. Peacock, Armstrong
- 43. Presbytery of Westminster** (British Columbia)  
Laurie K. Deacon, Fort Langley  
Brian J. Fraser, North Vancouver  
Malcolm I. MacLeod, Burnaby  
Miklos Szigeti, Vancouver  
Richard Watson, New Westminster  
Angus M.R. Beattie, Vancouver  
Karen L. Bunner, Chilliwack  
Beverley L. Feick, Fort Langley  
Louise D. Kovacs, Mission  
Emily Wilson, White Rock
- 44. Presbytery of Vancouver Island** (British Columbia)  
Reid E. Chudley, Saanich  
John A. Green, Campbell River  
Norma E. Ashcroft, Campbell River  
Margaret C. Carr, Comox
- 45. Presbytery of Western Han-Ca**  
Seong In Chin, Nanaimo  
Yongwan Cho, Victoria  
Alfred H.S. Lee, Pitt Meadows  
Seokhee G. Cho, Surrey  
Youngsik Chun, Edmonton  
Dae Gun Hwang, Vancouver

**YOUNG ADULT REPRESENTATIVES**

**Presbytery**

1. Cape Breton
3. Pictou
5. New Brunswick
8. Montreal
10. Ottawa
13. Lindsay-Peterborough
16. West Toronto
19. Barrie
24. Hamilton
26. Paris
28. Essex-Kent
33. Winnipeg
35. Assiniboia
37. Peace River
39. Central Alberta
41. Kootenay
43. Westminster
45. Western Han-Ca

**Young Adult Representative**

- Zaria Dulvy, Sydney
- Morgan McKay, Plymouth
- Jacqueline Cleland, Fredericton
- Joseph Ragbir, Montreal
- Aaron Head, Orleans
- Robbie Ott, Peterborough
- Chukwuemeka Kalu, Toronto
- Kathleen Tigwell, Tiny
- Samuel Shivcharan, Hamilton
- Lauren Fulton, Vittoria
- Anna-Marina Giurin, Chatham
- Mark Dyck, Winnipeg
- Matthew Yakemchuk, Regina
- Spence Wiseman, Grande Prairie
- Abigail Law, Eckville
- Cordell Storey, Cranbrook
- Nate Hartley, North Vancouver
- Soul Chin, Nanaimo

**STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES**

1. Knox College Rebecca Jess
2. Presbyterian College Edythe Arnott
3. Vancouver School of Theology /St. Andrew's Hall Roberto DeSandoli

► **Recommendation No. 7**

That any request for permission to distribute handouts to the General Assembly be directed through the Business Committee.

**Committees of this Assembly** (p. 99)

Below is the list of committees and the membership proposed for this General Assembly.

► **Recommendation No. 8**

That the committees of Assembly be constituted as follows:

**Committee on Bills and Overtures**

Convener: the Rev. W. Alexander Bisset

Clerks of Assembly: the Rev. Stephen Kendall, the Rev. Donald G.A. Muir

Commissioners who are clerks of presbytery or synod: the Rev. Peter G. Bush, the Rev. Reid Chudley, the Rev. Kent E. Burdett, the Rev. Sean J. Foster, the Rev. Cherie A. Inksetter, the Rev. Seong-Keun (Richard) Kim, the Rev. Dr. P.A. (Sandy) McDonald, the Rev. George S. Malcolm

**Committee on Business**

Convener: the Rev. Mark R. McLennan

Members: Mr. Donald J. Bartlett, the Rev. Dr. Aubrey J. Botha, Ms. Grace-ann McIntyre, the Rev. Patricia L. Van Gelder

**Committee to Confer with the Moderator**

Convener: the Rev. Peter G. Bush

A Clerk of the General Assembly

Members: the Rev. Dr. P.A. (Sandy) McDonald, the Rev. Chuck (Sang Hyuk) Moon, Ms. D. Anne Phillips, Ms. Connie M. Wardle

**Committee on Courtesies and Loyal Addresses**

Convener: the Rev. Laurie Deacon

Members: the Rev. Sampson Afoakwah, the Rev. Janet Ryu-Chan, Ms. Carol Stymiest

**Committee to Examine the Records**

Convener: Mr. Verne Gilkes

Members: the Rev. John A. Green, Ms. Mary Mikkelson the Rev. Joyce Yanishewski

**Committee on Remits** (note: this committee is not required this year)

**Committee on Roll and Leave to Withdraw**

Convener: the Rev. John R. Wilson

Members: Mr. Terry G. Hagen, Ms. Marlene M. Phillips, the Rev. Dr. Mona Scrivens

**Committee on Terms of Reference**

Convener: Ms. Cheryl E. Weeks

Members: the Rev. Bradford E. Blaikie, the Rev. Dr. J. Mark Lewis, Ms. Moira Robson

**Participation in the General Assembly** (p. 99–100)

► **Recommendation No. 9**

That the Committee to Nominate, the Assembly Council and the Life and Mission Agency's Ministry and Church Vocations' Committee on Education and Reception be granted leave to sit during the sederunts.

► **Recommendation No. 10**

That conveners and staff members of committees and agencies be given permission to speak during their reports.

► **Recommendation No. 11**

That the young adult representatives and student representatives be permitted to participate in the debates of this General Assembly and be granted an advisory vote in the terms above.

**Overtures re Listening, Dialogue, Study and Timelines for Study re Human Sexuality** (p. 281–85, 288)

In essence this recommendation builds on Recommendation No. 1. The overtures named here have slightly different intents than full inclusion. Mostly these overtures focus on a process for discernment. As the Committee on Church Doctrine is recommending that we have discerned that there is not sufficient cause for change, so too we are recommending that we consider that phase of the discernment complete.

Neither of these recommendations are a positive affirmation of the current subordinate standard of marriage. The committee assumes, at this time, that clarity can be found in defining what marriage is not. The Committee on Church Doctrine does not believe that these recommendations foreclose further conversation or theological work on the nature of marriage. While we do not believe there is warrant to change to an “inclusive” understanding, that is not to say we are not open to considering ways in which our current practice or understanding of marriage may need to change. For instance, it is not clear that The Presbyterian Church in Canada has an adequate theological understanding of cohabitation and singleness, two issues facing by a great number of Canadians. These recommendations seek clarity on one aspect of marriage, which does not mean all aspects of marriage are no longer pertinent.

**Recommendation No. 2**

That the prayers of Overture Nos. 15, 16 and 29, 2015 and Overture Nos. 13 and 15, 2016 on listening, dialogue, study and timelines for study be answered by this report, by reports of the Committee on Church Doctrine to the previous two General Assemblies, and by the process of listening and confession initiated by the 2017 General Assembly.

**LIFE AND MISSION AGENCY COMMITTEE**

In addition to a review of action taken by previous General Assemblies, the feedback received from the church about the Life and Mission Agency Committee’s report on sexuality that was sent for study and report and a full legal opinion about whether religious officials could be compelled to perform marriage ceremonies that contravene their religious beliefs are contained in this report, there is one recommendation associated with this report.

**Response to overtures referred to the Life and Mission Agency (Justice Ministries)** (p. 290)

Recommendation No. 3 asks that the General Assembly grant the Life and Mission Agency Committee permission to respond to the overtures about sexuality referred to it at a future Assembly. This will allow the agency to consider new overtures it has received, work with the Committee on Church Doctrine on overlapping concerns and give the church the time to study and discuss the matter of sexuality that it requested.

**Recommendation No. 3**

That permission be granted to the Life and Mission Agency to submit a response to Overtures Nos. 4, 5, 15, 21, 23, 24, 26, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33 and 35, 2015; Nos. 13, 15 and 21, 2016; No. 19, 2017; and No. 5, 2018 to a future General Assembly.

**SPECIAL COMMITTEE RE LISTENING (LGBTQI PEOPLE)****PURPOSE**

The General Assembly in 2018 established the Special Committee re Listening (LGBTQI People) upon the recommendation arising from the work of the Committee on Church Doctrine and the Life and Mission Agency Committee in preparing to respond to the overtures regarding sexuality.

The special committee, over the next few years, is to create a safe and respectful environment in which confidentiality is assured in order to encourage LGBTQI people to tell their stories of harm done to them and to share their stories of God's grace experienced by them. Each year the committee is to report to the General Assembly with a final report being presented by 2020.

**REPORT SUMMARY**

The Special Committee re Listening (LGBTQI People) through a time of discernment selected a name that would be welcoming and to reflect its mandate and purpose. It chose "Rainbow Communion". This year the committee has met to plan its work and to prepare the Listening Process. It is recommending revisions to two sections of its terms of reference. It is making arrangements to hear people who wish to share these experiences of harm from May 2018–June 2019.

**RECOMMENDATIONS****Terms of Reference** (p. 295–97)

There are two revisions to the special committee's terms of reference that are being proposed. The first change notes that relatives, friends, co-workers, members of congregation, ecumenical colleagues and others may also have stories to share with the committee. The second recommendation is asking that the issues of hypocrisy, heterosexism and transphobia be added along with the issue of homophobia as the special committee prepares a response on these issues for the church.

**Recommendation No. 1**

That the terms of reference of the Special Committee re LGBTQI People and The Presbyterian Church in Canada be modified to read as:

1. The Special Committee shall create a safe and respectful environment in which confidentiality is assured, in order to encourage LGBTQI people and others:
  - a. to tell their stories of harm done to LGBTQI people and others within and by the church; and
  - b. to share their stories of God's grace experienced by and Christian ministry performed by LGBTQI people and others, even in the midst of the challenges they have faced.

**Recommendation No. 2**

That the terms of reference of the Special Committee re LGBTQI People and The Presbyterian Church in Canada be modified to read as:

4. The Special Committee shall provide an appropriate response to the issues of homophobia, hypocrisy, heterosexism and transphobia within The Presbyterian Church in Canada.

**Understanding Fear and the Threat of Censure** (p. 297)

For the LGBTQI members of the committee, their acceptance of the invitation to serve, and to ensure that the committee's demographic requirements were met, meant that they put themselves at risk of censure as they self-identify. The climate in the church to date has been one of "don't ask – don't tell", but with the establishment of this special committee it is now asking LGBTQI people to tell their story and an opportunity is provided to reveal their identity. For this reason, the Rainbow Communion is recommending that for those who serve on the committee and those who come to tell their stories, censure and discipline with respect to The Presbyterian Church in Canada's stance on same-sex relationships would be suspended indefinitely.

**Missionary Residence – 27 Brentcliffe Avenue, Toronto**

There are 12 apartment units in this missionary residence. Of the 12 units, four are reserved for missionaries upon their return to Canada, and the other eight are rented out to non-missionaries. A new LRT transport system is being built along Eglinton Avenue and the residence is right at a key intersection in Leaside. There is currently a proposal to build four high-rise towers directly across the street. We have consistently received unsolicited requests to buy our property from the owner of the building next door. The costs and staff time to take care of this building are higher than the rental revenue. The value of the property could be much higher after the completion of the LRT transport system. Life and Mission Agency has decided to keep the property for the near future.

**Interfund Transfers**

<b>Breakdown of Transfers Restricted to Operating</b>	<b>2017 Actual \$</b>	<b>2018 Budget \$</b>	<b>2019 Budget \$</b>
Transfer from Restricted Funds	1,080,000	1,082,251	900,000
Transfer from Stabilization Fund	200,000	150,000	300,000
Transfer from New Congregation Fund	200,000	200,000	300,000
	<b>1,480,000</b>	<b>1,432,251</b>	<b>1,500,000</b>

As at December 31, 2017, the assets of the funds were: National Development Fund – \$1.5 million; Stabilization Fund – \$197,000; New Congregation Fund – \$8.4 million.

**Recommendation No. 4**                      **Adopted/Defeated/Amended**  
That the 2019 budget be approved. (p. 94)

**Three Year Forecast 2020–2022**

The following is one possible “future” scenario. It is not meant to suggest that this will be the recommended “future”. What the following intends to show is that the revenues lined up with a level of expenditures and transfers from restricted funds that are sustainable over a three to five-year period.

	<b><u>2020</u> \$</b>	<b><u>2021</u> \$</b>	<b><u>2022</u> \$</b>
Presbyterians Sharing	6,300,000	6,200,000	6,100,000
Budget – Individual Presbyterians Sharing	150,000	150,000	150,000
Income from Investments	310,000	300,000	300,000
Income from Estates	10,000	10,000	10,000
WMS Contributions	70,000	70,000	70,000
AMS Contributions	50,000	50,000	50,000
Income from Other Sources	30,000	30,000	20,000
Bequest Revenue	100,000	100,000	100,000
Gifts General Revenue	1,000	1,000	1,000
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>7,021,000</b>	<b>6,911,000</b>	<b>6,801,000</b>
<b>Total All Expenditures</b>	<b>8,500,000</b>	<b>8,400,000</b>	<b>8,300,000</b>
Net expenditures in excess of receipts	(1,479,000)	(1,489,000)	(1,499,000)
Opening balance Operating Fund	517,753	438,753	349,753
Transfer from Restricted Fund	1,400,000	1,400,000	1,400,000
<b>Closing balance Operating Fund</b>	<b>438,753</b>	<b>349,753</b>	<b>250,753</b>
<b>Breakdown of Transfers Restricted to Operating</b>			
Transfer from Restricted Fund	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
Transfer Stabilization Fund	200,000	200,000	200,000
New Congregation Fund	200,000	200,000	200,000
	<b>1,400,000</b>	<b>1,400,000</b>	<b>1,400,000</b>

**Recommendation No. 5**                      **Adopted/Defeated/Amended**  
That the 2020 to 2022 forecast be received for information.

## **CIRCULATION OF MATERIALS AT GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

Any committee wishing to circulate material at the General Assembly must request permission through the Business Committee. Committees and boards of the church may keep material in the display area.

### **Recommendation No. 7                      Adopted/Defeated/Amended**

That any request for permission to distribute handouts to the General Assembly be directed through the Business Committee.

## **COMMITTEES OF THIS ASSEMBLY**

In light of the schedule of the General Assembly, the Business Committee and the Committee on Bills and Overtures each met by telephone conference prior to the Assembly. These meetings enabled both committees to deal with their responsibilities, to prepare their reports for the initial circulation of the Book of Reports, and to be ready for the first sederunt of the Assembly.

Below is the list of committees and the membership proposed for this General Assembly.

### **Recommendation No. 8                      Adopted/Defeated/Amended**

That the committees of the Assembly be constituted as follows:

#### **Committee on Bills and Overtures**

Convener: the Rev. W. Alexander Bisset

Clerks of Assembly: the Rev. Stephen Kendall, the Rev. Donald G.A. Muir

Commissioners who are clerks of presbytery or synod: the Rev. Kent E. Burdett, the Rev. Peter G. Bush, the Rev. Reid Chudley, the Rev. Seong-Keun (Richard) Kim, the Rev. George S. Malcolm, the Rev. Dr. P.A. (Sandy) McDonald.

#### **Committee on Business**

Convener: the Rev. Mark R. McLennan

Members: Mr. Donald J. Bartlett, the Rev. Dr. Aubrey J. Botha, Ms. Grace-ann McIntyre, the Rev. Patricia L. Van Gelder

#### **Committee to Confer with the Moderator**

Convener: the Rev. Peter G. Bush

A Clerk of the General Assembly

Members: the Rev. Dr. P.A. (Sandy) McDonald, the Rev. Chuck (Sang Hyuk) Moon, Ms. D. Anne Phillips, Ms. Connie M. Wardle

#### **Committee on Courtesies and Loyal Addresses**

Convener: the Rev. Laurie Deacon

Members: the Rev. Sampson Afoakwah, the Rev. Janet Ryu-Chan, Ms. Carol Stymiest

#### **Committee to Examine the Records**

Convener: Mr. Verne Gilkes

Members: the Rev. John A. Green, Ms. Mary Mikkelson, the Rev. Joyce Yanishewski

#### **Committee on Remits** (note: this committee is not required this year)

#### **Committee on Roll and Leave to Withdraw**

Convener: the Rev. John R. Wilson

Members: Mr. Terry G. Hagen, Ms. Marlene M. Phillips, the Rev. Dr. Mona Scrivens

#### **Committee on Terms of Reference**

Convener: Ms. Cheryl E. Weeks

Members: the Rev. Bradford E. Blaikie, the Rev. Dr. J. Mark Lewis, Ms. Moira Robson

## **LEAVE TO SIT**

### **Recommendation No. 9                      Adopted/Defeated/Amended**

That the Committee to Nominate, the Assembly Council and the Life and Mission Agency's Ministry and Church Vocations' Committee on Education and Reception be granted leave to sit during the sederunts.

- I support same-sex marriage outside the church. I don't feel like it belongs in the church. Same-sex marriage – social reasons not a religious reason.
- This was the most talked about issue in the young adult representative spaces.
- We need a lot of prayer and patience. I hope the church can move forward being more just.
- My thoughts about same-sex marriage were and still are very much all over the board.
- My main question is how we meaningfully engage more voices and perspectives in the outcome, especially youth. When we vote on overtures on human sexuality (and many other topics of course), we are making decisions about people often without them.

### **RESPONSE TO OVERTURES REFERRED TO THE LIFE AND MISSION AGENCY (JUSTICE MINISTRIES)**

In addition to referring Overtures Nos. 4, 5, 15, 21, 23, 24, 26, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33 and 35, 2015, and Nos. 13, 15 and 21, 2016 to Justice Ministries, two additional overtures were referred.

Overture No. 5, 2018 (p. 325) was received from the Presbytery of Edmonton-Lakeland and was referred to the Committee on Church Doctrine and the Life and Mission Agency Committee. This overture requested that one theological position not be chosen over another as “the true and only understanding of The Presbyterian Church in Canada, but to live in tension and in diversity for the sake of unity in the church.” The overture requested the committees to work toward “some kind of freedom of conscience and action for ruling elders, teaching elders, congregations and presbyteries to opt in or opt out: of the solemnization of same-sex marriages; and the ordination of people in same-sex marriages.”

Justice Ministries and the Committee on Church Doctrine are both to respond to Overture No. 19, 2017 re full inclusion of persons regardless of sexual orientation and gender identity from the Session of Elmwood Church (London, Ontario).

This year, the Life and Mission Agency decided to request more time from the General Assembly to respond to the overtures about sexuality referred to it given that:

1. the Committee on Church Doctrine indicated that it needed more time to respond to overtures and outlined a schedule that stretched over a number of years as part of Recommendation No. 9, 2017 (A&P 2016, p. 541–42);
2. the Life and Mission Agency and the Committee on Church Doctrine were working on many of the same overtures and it would be premature to propose responses without responses from the Committee on Church Doctrine coming simultaneously;
3. repeatedly, it was said at the 2017 General Assembly that more time was needed by the church to listen, study and discern;
4. additional overtures continue to be received;
5. Recommendation Nos. 11–15 of the report Life and Mission Agency (Justice Ministries) submitted to the 2017 General Assembly were deferred for future consideration.

#### **Recommendation No. 3                      Adopted/Defeated/Amended**

That permission be granted to submit a response to Overtures Nos. 4, 5, 15, 21, 23, 24, 26, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33 and 35, 2015; Nos. 13, 15 and 21, 2016; No. 19, 2017; and No. 5, 2018 to a future General Assembly.

### **CANADIAN LAW AND SAME-SEX MARRIAGE**

Before reviewing the Civil Marriage Act 2005 that permitted same-sex marriage, it is important to note that the polity of The Presbyterian Church in Canada maintains that a minister may decline to perform a marriage if the minister considers there to be good and sufficient reason (A&P 1973, p. 268–270, 281, 38).

Throughout the discussion in the church about marriage, a concern has been repeatedly raised that if The Presbyterian Church in Canada were to permit ministers to officiate a same-sex marriage, all ministers could be compelled to officiate at same-sex marriages if asked to do so. In 2017, the Life and Mission Agency (Justice Ministries) received research advice from two lawyers about the implications of the Civil Marriage Act 2005. Dr. Rebecca Bromwich is a Professor in the Department of Law and Legal Studies at Carleton University in Ottawa. Dr. Bromwich is a ruling elder at St. Andrew's Church in Ottawa. Mr. Graeme Mitchell is the vice-chairperson of the Saskatchewan Labour Relations Board. Prior to this appointment, Mr. Mitchell was the Director of the Constitutional Law Branch for the Saskatchewan Ministry of Justice. Mr. Mitchell received the Distinguished



has frequently shunned homosexuals and failed to minister to them and with them. The church as a whole must repent of its homophobia and hypocrisy. (A&P 1994, p. 267)

Recommendation No. 1 in the joint report and the Moderator's Letter of Repentance of 2018 also echo this call to repent from homophobia and hypocrisy. The joint report states,

The Presbyterian Church in Canada has not done enough to combat the homophobia within it and with its people. While officially exhorted to show hospitality, few congregations implemented policies or practices that would support gay or lesbian Christians who lived by the church's teachings. (A&P 2017, p. 477)

The Rainbow Communion understands that repentance from hypocrisy in the church is also important in naming the harm done to LGBTQI people. The psychological and spiritual damage caused by the dissonance of being told that God loves all and that all are welcome combined with the experience of being marginalized, and sometimes shamed, in the church because of sexual orientation or gender identity is soul destroying.

**Recommendation No. 2                      Adopted/Defeated/Amended**

That the terms of reference of the Special Committee re LGBTQI People and The Presbyterian Church in Canada be modified to read as:

4. The Special Committee shall provide an appropriate response to the issues of homophobia, hypocrisy, heterosexism and transphobia within The Presbyterian Church in Canada.

**Understanding Fear and the Threat of Censure**

The invitation to come and participate in the Rainbow Communion listening process can produce a high level of fear, especially for those who are subject to the discipline of The Presbyterian Church in Canada. Many people have lived hidden lives because of the fear of censure, loss of employment and shame. This is reflected in the Committee on Church Doctrine and Life and Mission Agency Committee joint report,

Without such pastoral strategies, restrictions on marriage and ordination based on sexuality have created a situation where those most affected by The Presbyterian Church in Canada's stance – LGBTQI members – have been heavily discouraged even from raising the issue from fear of possible repercussions within the church, including everything from loss of employment to losing the church families to which they belong. (A&P 2017, p. 477)

Participating in the Rainbow Communion listening process could be seen as a form of "outing" and put people who are subject to the discipline of The Presbyterian Church in Canada at risk of censure. Similarly, the terms of reference for the establishment of the special committee state that,

The Special Committee shall be made up of seven members drawn from across the church. The Special Committee shall be reflective of the ethnic diversity of the denomination and shall include at least two members of the LGBTQI community. (A&P 2017, p. 46)

For the LGBTQI members of the committee, their acceptance of the invitation to serve, and to ensure that the committee's demographic requirements were met, meant that they put themselves at risk of censure as they had to self-identify. The climate in the church to date has been one of "don't ask – don't tell", but with the establishment of this special committee it is now asking LGBTQI people to tell their story and be encouraged to reveal their identity. For this reason, the Rainbow Communion is recommending that for those who serve on the committee and those who come to tell their stories, censure and discipline with respect to The Presbyterian Church in Canada's stance on same-sex relationships would be suspended indefinitely.

**Recommendation No. 3                      Adopted/Defeated/Amended**

That those who are subject to the discipline of The Presbyterian Church in Canada who accepted the invitation to serve on the Special Committee re Listening (LGBTQI People) or who accept the invitation to tell their stories of harm done or grace experienced, even in the midst the challenges they have faced because of homophobia, hypocrisy, heterosexism or transphobia in the church, would have potential censure with respect to The Presbyterian Church in Canada's stance on same-sex relationships suspended indefinitely in order to allow them to participate freely and honestly in the work of the special committee.

## LIFE AND MISSION AGENCY COMMITTEE

### SUPPLEMENTARY REPORT

#### MINISTRY AND CHURCH VOCATIONS

##### COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND RECEPTION

The Committee on Education and Reception reviews applications of Presbyterian Church in Canada certified candidates for ministry with three types of educational backgrounds: mature students lacking a university undergraduate degree, diaconal ministers seeking ordination to the ministry of Word and Sacraments, and graduates of non-Presbyterian Church in Canada theological colleges. It is also the committee's responsibility to review the applications of ministers from other denominations who wish to work within this branch of the church.

The guidelines the committee uses in reviewing applications are found at p. 365–68 in the Book of Reports. They were last revised and approved by the General Assembly in 2011 (A&P 2011, p. 382–94). A brief overview is provided here.

The normal educational preparation for the ministry of Word and Sacraments or for diaconal ministry is a general Arts or equivalent university undergraduate degree followed by the Master of Divinity degree and the diploma of a college of The Presbyterian Church in Canada. This standard is used as a benchmark in recommending the educational assignments for applicants to the Committee on Education and Reception, upon approval of their application. While the educational requirements outlined below are given in terms of full-time study, the equivalent amount of part-time study is also possible.

Certified candidates for ministry between the ages of 35 and 59 years who lack a university undergraduate degree, upon approval of their application, may be assigned a General Assembly Special Course. Their life experience is counted towards their Arts studies, reducing their undergraduate studies from a full three-year degree to either one or two years of Arts, depending on their age. The Arts studies must be completed with a minimum of a B average. These are followed by three years of theology in the M.Div. program of a college of The Presbyterian Church in Canada (fulfilling most of the requirements of the M.Div., but not always qualifying to receive the degree). Certified candidates younger than 35 years of age are ineligible for a General Assembly Special Course; they are required to complete a university undergraduate degree before entering M.Div. studies.

Certified candidates for ministry with M.Div. degrees (with a minimum B average) from theological colleges outside The Presbyterian Church in Canada (following the prerequisite university undergraduate degree), upon approval of their application, are assigned theological study in a Presbyterian Church in Canada college. Graduates of theological colleges affiliated with Reformed churches are typically assigned one semester plus a supervised theological field education placement in a congregation of The Presbyterian Church in Canada. Graduates of other theological colleges are normally assigned two semesters at one of the colleges of The Presbyterian Church in Canada, with courses to include a supervised theological field education placement in a congregation of The Presbyterian Church in Canada. Candidates for ministry in this category of application must have been members of a congregation of The Presbyterian Church in Canada for at least the two years preceding their application.

Ordained ministers and candidates certified for ordination in other Reformed churches, upon approval of their application, are typically assigned examinations in Presbyterian Church in Canada history and Presbyterian Church in Canada government. Normally receiving presbyteries may tutor and examine such ministers using local resources or may require them to study at one of our denominational colleges. Ordained ministers and candidates certified for ordination in all other churches, upon approval of their application, are typically assigned two semesters of study at one of the colleges of this church, with courses to include a supervised theological field education placement in a congregation of The Presbyterian Church in Canada.

##### CASES IN WHICH ACTION HAS BEEN COMPLETED

###### **Special Course Candidates, Certified for Ordination by Presbyteries as Shown**

1. Shelly Chandler, Presbytery of Westminster
2. William David McFarlane, Presbytery of Lanark & Renfrew
3. Francis Owusu, Presbytery of West Toronto

**Graduates of Other Theological Colleges, Certified for Ordination by Presbyteries as Shown**

1. Reine Boghos, Presbytery of Seaway-Glengarry
2. Diane Boyd, Presbytery of Waterloo-Wellington
3. Jonathan Hong, Presbytery of Eastern Han-Ca
4. James Joon Jae Yang, Presbytery of Oak Ridges

**Ministers of Other Churches, Received by Presbyteries as Shown**

1. Eok Kim, Presbytery of Montreal

**Certified Candidates for Ordination Applying for Eligibility for Reception, Received by Presbyteries as Shown**

1. Elkanah Shekari, Presbytery of Montreal

**Ministers of Reformed Churches, Received by Presbyteries as Shown**

1. Heinrich Botha, Presbytery of Edmonton-Lakeland
2. Sabino Diok, Presbytery of Calgary-Macleod
3. Jonah Ching-His Lin, Presbytery of Westminster
4. Jozsef Paizs, Presbytery of Edmonton-Lakeland

**CASES IN PROGRESS**

**Special Course Candidates**

1. Glynis Faith, Presbytery of Prince Edward Island  
Continuing studies in Theology
2. Istvan C. Farkas, Presbytery of Hamilton  
No information
3. Guy Laberge, Presbytery of Seaway-Glengarry  
Continuing studies in Theology
4. Seon Ok Lee, Presbytery of Eastern Han-Ca  
No information
5. Thomas. S. Mason, Presbytery of Algoma and North Bay  
Currently not studying
6. Peter M.A. Mayum, Presbytery of Ottawa  
Continuing studies in Arts
7. Debora A. Rolls, Presbytery of Brampton  
Continuing studies in Theology
8. Samuel Silwamba, Presbytery of Westminster  
Continuing studies in Arts

**Graduates of Other Theological Colleges Applying for Eligibility for Certification for Ordination**

1. Nam Sun Choi, Presbytery of Eastern Han-Ca  
No information
2. Alvin Eu-Shin Kim, Presbytery of East Toronto  
Completed Studies
3. Hyung Jun Kim, Presbytery of Western Han-Ca  
No information
4. Jonghwa (Joshua) Kim, Presbytery of Western Han-Ca  
Completed studies
5. Bonnie J. Langille, Presbytery of Pictou  
Continuing studies in Theology

**Members of the Order of Diaconal Ministries Applying for Eligibility for Certification for Ordination**

1. Terrie-Lee Hamilton, Presbytery of East Toronto  
Studies on hold

**Ministers of Other Churches Applying for Eligibility for Reception**

1. Michael J.R. Aldred, Presbytery of Hamilton  
Not currently studying
2. Mahendra Christie, Presbytery of Brampton  
No information
3. Robert J. Dean, Presbytery of Pickering  
No information
4. Niven Harrichand, Presbytery of Pickering  
No information
5. Mario Gundayao, Presbytery of Winnipeg  
Not currently studying
6. Samuel Kim, Presbytery of Eastern Han-Ca  
No information
7. Tai-Hun David Oh, Presbytery of Western Han-Ca  
Withdrawn from studies
8. Jaekil Yang, Presbytery of Western Han-Ca  
No information
9. Ibrahim Zabaneh, Presbytery of Winnipeg  
Studies on hold

**Ministers of Reformed Churches Applying for Eligibility for Reception**

1. Kyo Won Lee, Australia  
No information

**CASES TO BE DROPPED**

**Recommendation No. 32                      Adopted/Defeated/Amended**  
That the case of Robert Howard be dropped.

In 2013 the Rev. Hounsek (Joel) You applied for eligibility for reception as a minister, with endorsement of the Presbytery of Western Han-Ca. The application was approved by the General Assembly in 2013 and Mr. You was assigned examinations in Presbyterian Church in Canada history and Presbyterian Church in Canada government. Mr. You moved to New Brunswick and his name was placed on the Appendix to the Roll (without charge) of the Presbytery of New Brunswick in April 2014. Subsequently Mr. You moved to Alberta and his name was placed on the Appendix to the Roll (without charge) of the Presbytery of Calgary-Macleod in 2015. Mr. You has never received a call to a congregation of The Presbyterian Church in Canada and so his name has never been placed on the constituent roll of a presbytery.

With assistance from the Presbytery of Calgary-Macleod, Mr. You has been studying to complete the assigned examinations since 2015, but without success, and hence the presbytery continues to be unable to remove the hold placed on Mr. You's ministerial certificate (Book of Forms 248.12.4). In February 2018, the presbytery wrote to the Committee on Education and Reception indicating that Mr. You had not completed successfully the assigned examinations and that the presbytery did not support him in proceeding to become a minister of The Presbyterian Church in Canada. For these reasons, the committee presents the following recommendation:

**Recommendation No. 33                      Adopted/Defeated/Amended**  
That, in light of the fact that the examinations assigned by the General Assembly in 2013 have not been completed successfully and at the request of the supervising presbytery, the eligibility for reception as a minister of The Presbyterian Church in Canada of the Rev. Hounsek (Joel) You be withdrawn.

## NEW APPLICATIONS

### Special Course Candidates

1. Samuel D. Graham, Presbytery of Pictou

**Recommendation No. 34                      Adopted/Defeated/Amended**

That Mr. Samuel D. Graham complete 2 semesters (10 semester courses or equivalent) in Arts and 6 semesters (30 semester courses or equivalent) of theological study at one of the colleges of this church, completing the Arts courses with a minimum B average prior to enrolling in theology.

2. Sandrah Mashingaidze, Presbytery of Pickering

**Recommendation No. 35                      Adopted/Defeated/Amended**

That Ms. Sandrah Mashingaidze complete 2 semesters (10 semester courses or equivalent) in Arts and 6 semesters (30 semester courses or equivalent) of theological study at one of the colleges of this church, completing the Arts courses with a minimum B average prior to enrolling in theology.

### Graduates of Other Theological Colleges Applying for Eligibility for Certification for Ordination

1. Young Tae Choi, Presbytery of Western Han-Ca

**Recommendation No. 36                      Adopted/Defeated/Amended**

That permission be granted to the Presbytery of Western Han-Ca to examine Mr. Young Tae Choi for certification for ordination, subject to satisfactory completion of 2 semesters (10 semester courses or equivalent) of theological study at one of the colleges of this church.

2. Sean (Seungho) Lee, Presbytery of Western Han-Ca

**Recommendation No. 37                      Adopted/Defeated/Amended**

That permission be granted to the Presbytery of Western Han-Ca to examine Mr. Sean (Seungho) Lee for certification for ordination, subject to no competent objections being raised by a presbytery of this church by August 5, 2018, and subject to satisfactory completion of 2 semesters (10 semester courses or equivalent) of theological study at one of the colleges of this church.

3. Jinsil Park, Presbytery of Assiniboia

**Recommendation No. 38                      Adopted/Defeated/Amended**

That permission be granted to the Presbytery of Assiniboia to examine Mr. Jinsil Park for certification for ordination, subject to satisfactory completion of 2 semesters (10 semester courses or equivalent) of theological study at one of the colleges of this church, with courses to include, Reformed Theology, Sacraments and Doctrine of the church, Preaching and Worship, Presbyterian Church in Canada history, Presbyterian Church in Canada government, and a supervised theological field education placement in a congregation of The Presbyterian Church in Canada.

4. Jeremy P. Sauvé, Presbytery of Ottawa

**Recommendation No. 39                      Adopted/Defeated/Amended**

That permission be granted to the Presbytery of Ottawa to examine Mr. Jeremy P. Sauvé for certification for ordination, subject to no competent objections being raised by a presbytery of this church by August 5, 2018, and subject to satisfactory completion of 5 semesters (25 semester courses or equivalent) of theological study at one of the colleges of this church.

### Ministers of Other Churches Applying for Eligibility for Reception

1. Gregory John Martin, Presbytery of New Brunswick

**Recommendation No. 40                      Adopted/Defeated/Amended**

That the Rev. Gregory John Martin be declared eligible for reception as a minister of The Presbyterian Church in Canada, subject to no competent objections being raised by a presbytery of this church by July 5, 2018, and subject to the successful completion of 2 semesters (10 semester courses or equivalent) of theological study at one of the colleges of this church, with courses to include Presbyterian Church in Canada History and Presbyterian Church in Canada Government.

2. **Recommendation No. 41** **Adopted/Defeated/Amended**

That the Rev. Christian Persaud be declared eligible for reception as a minister of The Presbyterian Church in Canada, subject to no competent objections being raised by a presbytery of this church by July 5, 2018.

**Ministers and Certified Candidates of Reformed Churches Declared Eligible for Reception**

The following applicants have been declared eligible for reception, however, in some cases their eligibility for reception has not yet come into effect. In all cases, presbyteries are circularized with information about the applicants and given opportunity to raise competent objections, based on their knowledge of the individuals. Until the period for raising objections has elapsed, applicants are not permitted to apply for calls and presbyteries are not permitted to place their names on the roll.

With respect to educational requirements, all are required to complete successfully examinations in Presbyterian Church in Canada history and Presbyterian Church in Canada government, prior to induction. In cases when only this study is assigned, Book of Forms sections 248.12 to 248.12.6 apply. However, in other cases, Reformed Church applicants are assigned additional studies that must be completed successfully before the applicant is permitted to apply for calls or before a presbytery is permitted to place the applicant's name on its roll.

For these reasons, presbyteries are advised to confirm details with the Committee on Education and Reception before making a decision to receive one of the applicants named below.

1. Enikő Bocskorás, Presbytery of Calgary-MacLeod
2. Jonathan (Youngsu) Kim, Presbytery of East Toronto
3. Yolande Steenkamp, South Africa
4. Stephanus van Greunen, South Africa
5. Chung-Hao (Moses) Wu, Presbytery of East Toronto

**Committee on Education and Reception**

The Rev. Dr. Nicholas Athanasiadis, Mr. Brent Ellis, Ms. Jennifer De Combe, the Rev. Dr. Roland De Vries, the Rev. Dr. Dong-Ha Kim, the Rev. Dr. Ross Lockhart, the Rev. Heather Malnick (convener), the Rev. John Paeng, Ms. Anne Phillips, the Rev. Dr. Lynda Reid, and the Rev. Susan Shaffer (secretary).

Heather Malnick  
Convener

## GOVERNING BOARD OF KNOX COLLEGE

### SUPPLEMENTARY REPORT

To the Venerable, the 144th General Assembly:

#### **HISTORY OF APPOINTMENT**

The faculty position of Professor of Pastoral Theology became vacant in 2016 when the Rev. Dr. Pam McCarroll resigned to accept an appointment at Emmanuel College. The Executive Committee of the Assembly Council, in May 2016, granted the college permission to circularize the presbyteries for nominations to the position. Once the position description was written and approved, an email communication was sent to the clerks of all presbyteries across the church, including a request for nominations to be submitted by October 15, 2016. The summary of responses showed that two nominations were received from two presbyteries; one of which did not submit an application. Direct applications were received from seventeen additional applicants. This resulted in a total number of eighteen applicants for consideration.

This was an international search conducted according to the policies and procedures of Knox College; the Memorandum of Understanding between Knox College, the Toronto School of Theology and the University of Toronto; and the policies of the General Assembly of The Presbyterian Church in Canada. The search committee created a shortlist of three candidates. Each candidate was invited to campus for an interview and to give a lecture. In the context of each presentation, the candidate was interviewed separately by the student committee (which included both graduate and basic degree students), the faculty and the search committee. The search committee met separately with the student committee and the faculty to hear their conclusions concerning each candidate, including their suitability for Knox College.

Based on her curriculum vitae, record of research and publications, teaching experience at Duke Divinity School, references, public lecture and interview, the search committee unanimously recommended that the Rev. Dr. Esther Acolatse be appointed as Professor of Pastoral Theology at Knox College at the level of associate professor with tenure, effective July 1, 2017. In receiving and approving this recommendation, the Board authorized Principal Dorcas Gordon “to negotiate the terms of the offer to Dr. Esther Acolatse on the basis that tenure would be offered within one year, pending the General Assembly approval”. Dr. Acolatse accepted the appointment and the Board agreed to her request that the title of the position be changed to Associate Professor of Pastoral Theology and Intercultural Studies. In November 2017 the Academic Committee of the Board authorized Principal John Vissers to proceed with a tenure review.

#### **PROCESS OF REVIEW**

A review committee was struck by the Principal with representatives appointed by the Board of Governors (Mr. Michael Nettleton), the Toronto School of Theology (Prof. Anne Anderson), the University of Toronto (Prof. Simon Coleman and Prof. Domenico Pietropaulo) and Knox College Faculty (Prof. Nam Soon Song and the Rev. Dr. Charles Fensham), with the Principal as the convener.

The search committee followed the process as set out in the Faculty Handbook (sections 3 and 5).

The review committee requested and/or received the following material for its consideration from Dr. Acolatse: curriculum vitae, self-evaluation report (that included teaching activities; service activities to the university, church, and community; research, publications and other creative professional activity), an intellectual development statement and her publications (two books and numerous articles and chapters in books). The committee solicited and received reports from external assessors. It also had before it course evaluations and comments from students and faculty. The review committee met on Wednesday, March 21, 2018, to review Dr. Acolatse’s file and to interview her. The review committee was unanimous in its decision, based on its own review and consistent with the recommendation of the original search committee, that Prof. Acolatse be recommended for tenure.

#### **REASONS FOR TENURE**

1. The Rev. Dr. Esther Acolatse is a life-long term member of the Presbyterian Church, first in Ghana and more recently as ordained clergy within the Presbyterian Church (USA). She is eligible to become a minister of Word and Sacraments within The Presbyterian Church in Canada and has made application to the General Assembly’s Committee on Education and Reception for reception as a minister from another

- Reformed denomination (Presbyterian Church (USA)). She is a person of deep Christ-centred faith who understands her vocation as a teacher and minister within the church. During her first year at Knox, she has visited and preached at a number of congregations in and around the Greater Toronto Area.
2. Dr. Acolatse graduated with her B.A. (Hons) from the University of Ghana with a religion and psychology major, followed by an M.T.S from Harvard University in the area of religion and society. In 2002, she obtained her Doctor of Philosophy degree in 2002 from Princeton Theological Seminary. Her doctoral thesis is entitled “Cosmology and Pastoral Diagnoses: A Psycho-theological Anthropology for Pastoral Counseling in Ghana”. She has been Assistant Professor of the Practice of Pastoral Theology and World Christianity at Duke Divinity School since 2010.
  3. Dr. Acolatse’s curriculum vitae indicates a rich and deep commitment to research. She has published two books, a number of articles (in refereed and non-refereed journals) and chapters in books that reflect an in-depth knowledge of pastoral theology as it interacts with Reformed theology and ministerial practice. Her first book was published in 2014 and a second was published in 2018, both by Eerdmans. A third manuscript entitled “Pastoral Care with Immigrant Families” is now the focus of her research. Dr. Acolatse is also experienced as a presenter at conferences in the United States, Peru and various African countries. She is a member of the American Association of Religion (AAR), The Society of Pastoral Theology (President–2011), Yale-Edinburgh Group for the Study of Christianity in the Non-Western World and the International Academy of Practical Theology (Membership by Nomination). The external assessors comment that Dr. Acolatse is “a fine scholar” whose work “displays clear promise that she will become a prominent, first rank scholar of the highest order in the foreseeable future.” Her work is “creative, interdisciplinary, intercultural.” “A gifted scholar.” “An excellent teacher.” “There are relatively few practical theologians who have sought to explore” what she has done and “she has done an excellent job”. “I have no hesitation in recommending her for tenure. She is a real gift.” “I can say with confidence that both in quality and quantity of scholarly output, Dr. Acolatse has achieved well beyond the standards required for tenure at Knox College.”
  4. Dr. Acolatse is an experienced teacher. She has taught courses in the area of Method in Practical Theology, Cross Cultural Pastoral Care and Counselling, Pastoral Care and Gender Issues, Psychology of Religion, Death and Dying to name a few. She says of her vocation of teaching, “my goal in teaching is to engage in serious theological reflection and dialogue with students...My pedagogical approach encourages students to question the sometimes pre-formulated answers and lead them gradually to the place where their new answers are solid enough to invite even newer and deeper questions and answers.” She continues, “such an approach, I believe, best prepares students for appropriate pastoral interventions especially in our increasing multi-ethnic and multi-faith family contexts.” Dr. Acolatse is eligible to teach at both the basic degree level (professional masters degrees) and the graduate degree level (academic masters and doctoral degrees). Based on her research and publications profile she is eligible for full status in Graduate Centre for Theological Studies at the Toronto School of Theology. She will also be an excellent teacher and mentor in the new Master of Pastoral Studies program, especially in the area of spiritual care and psychotherapy.
  5. Dr. Acolatse is strong in her knowledge of intercultural values and practices. She demonstrates sensitivity to a diversity of cultures, theologies and experiences including an in-depth engagement in the theological, socio-political, economic and cultural aspects of religious identity. Dr. Acolatse is indeed well prepared to interpret and to provide a model and method for understanding the multiple cultures within which graduates of Knox will minister. Her work on spiritual disease and demon possession in an African context would be welcomed by practitioners in institutions such as the Centre of Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH) who have a considered appreciation for the usefulness of traditional healing methods in different cultural traditions.
  6. An area probed by both the faculty and the search committee at the time of her appointment concerned her readiness to gain membership in the Canadian Association of Spiritual Care (CASC), an important relationship for the Master of Pastoral Studies (MPS) and its certificate in Spiritual Care and Psychotherapy. One of her referees, a Canadian senior pastoral theologian, gave a detailed description of this preparation indicating she has the clinical experience necessary to apply for membership in the Association for Clinical Pastoral Education (ACPE) which is directly transferable to the Canadian Association (CASC).



The review committee from its experience of Dr. Acolatse in the interview, and a thorough review of her file, unanimously endorses a recommendation for tenure to the Board of Governors. The committee appreciated her openness in the interview, her strong focus on learning and commitment to her own ongoing learning. In conclusion, Dr. Acolatse impressed the review committee in her:

- scholarship which was rated as excellent
- teaching activities and experience which was rated as excellent
- service activities to university, church and community which was rated as excellent

The report of the review committee with its recommendation for tenure was presented to the Academic Committee of the Board of Governors at its regular meeting on April 17, 2018, which adopted it unanimously and agreed to forward it to the Board of Governors. At its regular meeting on May 10, the Board of Governors received the report and its recommendation, adopted it unanimously and agreed to forward it to the 2018 General Assembly.

**Recommendation No. 1**

**Adopted/Defeated/Amended**

That the Rev. Dr. Esther Acolatse, Associate Professor of Pastoral Theology and Intercultural Studies at Knox College, be granted tenure.

Peter Ross  
Convener

John A. Vissers  
Principal



# Dr. George Sabra

E. H. Johnson Award Recipient

## The Cutting Edge of Mission



Professor of Systematic Theology  
and President of the Near East  
School of Theology (NEST)  
in Beirut, Lebanon

## Address and Award Presentation

at the 2018 General Assembly of The Presbyterian Church in Canada

**Monday, June 4, 2018**

in the afternoon (Third Sederunt)

in the Gym, Athletic Complex, Wilfrid Laurier University,  
Waterloo, Ontario

## Afternoon Reception

**Time:** 5:00 p.m.

**Location:** Wilf's Restaurant, 2nd floor, Fred Nichols Campus Centre

**Cost:** Free with cash bar

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# Recognizing Ministry on the Cutting Edge of Mission

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**2018 Award**

## **Dr. George Sabra**

**Address and Award Presentation**

**Monday, June 4, 2018 in the afternoon (Third Sederunt)  
at the 2018 General Assembly of The Presbyterian Church in Canada  
in the Gym, Athletic Complex, Wilfrid Laurier University,  
Waterloo, Ontario**

**Reception in Wilf's Restaurant,  
2nd floor, Fred Nichols Campus Centre  
at 5:00 p.m.**

In the Middle East, Dr. George Sabra is recognized as a theologian, teacher, preacher and church leader. He brings clarity, openness, faithfulness and a concern for the truth and for the future of theological education in the Near Eastern region. NEST seeks to be a centre for interaction and formation of evangelical thought, in order to further the role of the Church in society. To that end, it engages in reflection, research and discussion concerning issues of peace, justice, human rights, inter-religious dialogue and the environment.

Dr. Sabra has promoted Muslim-Christian dialogue for many years, and will be speaking on the rise and acceptance of political and religious extremism as one of the more urgent matters before the church today.

Dr. Sabra received his Bachelor of Philosophy from the American University in Beirut, a Master of Divinity from Princeton Theological Seminary, a Master of Arts in Medieval Studies from the Pontifical Institute of Medieval Studies at the University of Toronto, and a Doctorate of Theology from the University of Tübingen, Germany.

*The Dr. E. H. Johnson Memorial Award, named after the former secretary for World Mission in The Presbyterian Church in Canada, is presented annually to an individual or organization in recognition of work on "the cutting edge of mission."*