

**THE ACTS AND PROCEEDINGS OF
THE ONE HUNDRED AND FORTY-FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY
OF**

THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN CANADA

HELD AT WATERLOO, ONTARIO

JUNE 3 – JUNE 6, 2018

FIRST SEDERUNT

At the city of Waterloo, Ontario, and within Wilfrid Laurier University there, on Sunday the third day of June in the year of our Lord two thousand and eighteen, at seven o'clock in the evening.

At which place and time, ministers, diaconal ministers and ruling elders being commissioners from the several presbyteries of The Presbyterian Church in Canada, convened as appointed by the General Assembly held in the city of Kingston, Ontario, in its final sederunt on the seventh day of June, 2017.

WELCOME AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THE TRADITIONAL TERRITORY

The Moderator, the Rev. Peter G. Bush, welcomed everyone to the 144th General Assembly and acknowledged that the Assembly is meeting on the traditional Territory of the Indigenous peoples of this area.

WORSHIP

Public worship was conducted by the Rev. Peter G. Bush who was assisted by the Rev. Sampson Afoakwah, the Rev. Dr. Robert N. Faris, the Rev. Jinsook Khang, the Rev. Linda Park, the Rev. Karen H.D. Pozios and the Rev. Samy Said. Portions of the service were spoken in a variety of languages celebrating the diversity of the church. The scriptures lessons were Micah 6:1–8 and Acts 2:42–47. Under the leadership of Mr. Rich Richards, who was accompanied by the Rev. Hugh Donnelly (guitar), Mr. Daniel Kendall (cajón), Ms. Sidney O'Brien (violin) and the Rev. Stephen Kendall (bass guitar), the congregation worshipped God in song. The Rev. Peter G. Bush preached a sermon entitled "If I have..." in which he spoke of kindness, hope, patience and humility as expressions of Christian love and of the need to be church where we love our opponents. He and the Rev. Linda Park celebrated the sacrament of Holy Communion.

CONSTITUTION OF THE ASSEMBLY

Thereafter, with prayer, the Moderator, the Rev. Peter G. Bush, constituted the General Assembly in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, the only King and Head of the Church.

ROLL OF ASSEMBLY

The Moderator called on the Principal Clerk to present, in a printed list and subject to corrections, the names of those commissioned by the several presbyteries of the church. The roll of Assembly as finally established is as follows, with those who sent their regrets marked with an asterisk:

(***)To be inserted(***)

ELECTION OF THE MODERATOR

The Rev. Peter G. Bush called upon the Assembly to choose a Moderator to preside over its deliberations. He called on the Rev. Dr. H.C. O'Reilly, convener of the Committee to Advise with the Moderator.

In accordance with the method determined by the 95th General Assembly, the committee placed in nomination the name of the Rev. Daniel Wonho Cho as Moderator of the 144th General Assembly.

The Rev. Peter G. Bush called for nominations from the floor. There were no further nominations. The Moderator then asked if the Assembly was in agreement that nominations be closed. The Assembly signified agreement.

The Moderator called for a motion to elect a Moderator.

J. Ryu-Chan moved, seconded by P.A. McDonald, that the Rev. Daniel Wonho Cho be declared elected as Moderator. Adopted.

The Rev. Peter G. Bush declared the Rev. Daniel Wonho Cho elected Moderator of the 144th General Assembly.

The Rev. Daniel Wonho Cho, along with J. Ryu-Chan and P.A. McDonald, withdrew in order that the new Moderator might be suitably robed.

While awaiting the return of the Moderator, The Rev. Peter G. Bush entertained the Assembly with humorous stories drawn from his moderatorial trip to Taiwan. He also shared how moved he was to worship with the Cariboo Presbyterian House Church Mission.

INSTALLATION OF THE MODERATOR

The Rev. Daniel Wonho Cho was conducted to the chair by J. Ryu-Chan and P.A. McDonald. The Rev. Peter Bush asked the Rev. Daniel Wonho Cho the appointed questions and installed him as Moderator of the 144th General Assembly.

MODERATOR ADDRESSED ASSEMBLY

The Moderator addressed the court. He said, “I am profoundly humbled and eternally honoured to address you as Moderator of this 144th General Assembly of The Presbyterian Church in Canada. With all my heart, I thank you.” The Moderator paid tribute to the Rev. Peter G. Bush saying, “You have fulfilled this high office most admirably. You have proclaimed God’s heart into people’s lives and made God’s love and mission in this world practical and meaningful.” He went on to thank the presbyteries that placed his name in nomination and former Moderators for their words of encouragement and wise advice. He thanked the Rev. Dr. Nick Athanasiadis for serving as his Assembly chaplain. He expressed gratitude to St. Mark’s Church, Toronto, to which he was called only one month ago, for their indulgence and patience, as well Rexdale Church, his immediate former congregation of almost 14 years, for the joys they shared. The Moderator indicated he wants to highlight a connectional experience this year: Bridging with young people, bridging with one another and bridging forward with Christian hope and joy for the future. He added, “In our cause of bridging, let us turn and hold one another face to face and see there the very face of Christ our Lord. This is God’s will for us. Amen.”

COMMITTEE ON BUSINESS

The Assembly called for the report of the Committee on Business which, as printed on p. XXX–XXX, was presented by M.R. McLennan, convener.

Receive and Consider

G. McIntyre moved, duly seconded, that the report be received and considered. Adopted.

Consent Recommendation

G. McIntyre moved, duly seconded, that **Recommendation Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12 and 13** (p. XXX–XXX) be adopted by consent. Adopted.

Notices of Motion

The convener noted that G. McIntyre will move or caused to be moved the following notices of motion:

I give notice that, at a future sederunt, I will move or cause to be moved that the terms of reference for the Special Committee re Listening (LGBTQI People) be reconsidered (Special Committee re Listening, Rec. Nos. 1 and 2, p. XXX, XXX).

I give notice that, at a future sederunt, I will move or cause to be moved that the terms of reference of the Committee to Nominate Standing Committees be reconsidered (Committee to Nominate Standing Committees, Rec. No. 3, p. XXX).

I give notice that, at a future sederunt, I will move or cause to be moved that constitution of The Presbyterian Church in Canada Pension Plan be reconsidered (Pension and Benefits Board, Rec. No. 2, p. XXX).

I give notice that, at a future sederunt, I will move or cause to be moved that bylaws of The Presbyterian College be reconsidered (Presbyterian College, Board of Governors, Rec. No. 2, p. XXX).

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INTRODUCTION OF FORMER MODERATORS

The Moderator acknowledged and welcomed former Moderators of General Assemblies: The Rev. Peter G. Bush and Ms. Debbie Bush (2017); The Rev. Douglas H. Rollwage (2016); The Rev. Dr. Stephen C. Farris (2014) and Ms. Patty Farris; The Rev. Dr. John A. Vissers (2012); The Rev. Dr. Herbert F. Gale (2010) and the Rev. Dr. Shirley J. Gale; Dr. M. Wilma Welsh (2006) and Mr. Rick Allen; The Rev. Dr. M. Jean Morris (2005) and Mr. Matthew Vyse; The Rev. Dr. Richard W. Fee (2004); The Rev. Dr. P.A. (Sandy) McDonald (2003); The Rev. Dr. J. Mark Lewis (2002) and Ms. Donna Fitzpatrick-Lewis; The Rev. Dr. Alan M. McPherson (1995) and Ms. Maureen McPherson; The Rev. Dr. Linda J. Bell (1992) and Mr. Martin Bauer.

INTRODUCTION OF ECUMENICAL AND INTERNATIONAL VISITORS

The Moderator also welcomed guests of the Assembly, the Rev. Dr. Willard Metzger, Executive Director, Mennonite Church Canada; Dr. George Sabra, Professor of Systematic Theology, President, Near East School of Theology, Beirut, Lebanon.

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND RECEPTION – INTRODUCTION

The Moderator invited H.J. Malnick, convener of the Committee on Education and Reception, to introduce the committee's report, as printed on p. XXX–XXX.

H.J. Malnick drew attention to the committee's recommendations and invited commissioners to address enquiries or discussion to Ministry and Church Vocations Associate Secretary, S. Shaffer, or herself.

(cont'd on p. XXX)

COMMITTEE TO NOMINATE STANDING COMMITTEES – INTRODUCTION

The Moderator invited S. Churchill, convener of the Committee to Nominate Standing Committees, to introduce the committee's report, as printed on p. XXX–XXX.

S. Churchill explained that proposed changes to the report must be given in writing, over the signature of any two commissioners, to herself as convener or to Ms. Terrie-Lee Hamilton at the General Assembly Office, by Monday, June fourth at six o'clock in the evening.

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RECORDS OF ASSEMBLY, SYNODS AND ASSEMBLY COUNCIL

The Assembly called for the minutes of the 2017 General Assembly, the several synods and the Assembly Council, that they might be placed in the hands of such committees as may be appointed to examine them. The Principal Clerk announced that the minutes and records were present for examination by the Committee to Examine Records, apart from the minutes of one synod, and will be considered by the General Assembly following examination.

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ADJOURNMENT

Announcements having been made, the Moderator adjourned the Assembly with prayer, to meet at Wilfrid Laurier University, Waterloo, Ontario, on Monday, June fourth, two thousand and eighteen at eight-thirty o'clock in the morning, of which public intimation was given.