

## **SECOND SEDERUNT**

### **ASSEMBLY CONSTITUTED**

At Wilfrid Laurier University, Waterloo, Ontario, on Monday, June fourth, two thousand and eighteen at eight-thirty o'clock in the morning, the Assembly met pursuant to adjournment. The Moderator constituted the Assembly with prayer.

### **WORSHIP**

Worship was led by the Rev. Shalini Rajack-Sankarlal, Ms. Connie Wardle and the Rev. Amanda R. Currie who preached the sermon. Mr. Rich Richards and an ensemble provided musical leadership.

### **A SERVICE FOR COMMISSIONERS TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

The Moderator led the Assembly in a service for commissioners that included prayer and vows of commitment.

### **COMMISSIONER ORIENTATION**

The Principal Clerk led a commissioner orientation presentation. The purpose of the presentation was to provide an overview of the General Assembly and report formats. It also explained common procedures that often emerge during sederunts. With a humorous slide presentation, S. Kendall noted how recommendations are handled and affirmed that a fundamental objective of commissioners at the Assembly is to discern the mind of Christ for the church.

### **LIFE AND MISSION AGENCY COMMITTEE**

The Assembly called for the report of the Life and Mission Agency Committee which, as printed on p. XXX–XXX, was presented by T. Billard, convener and I.A. Ross-McDonald, General Secretary.

#### **Receive and Consider**

C.J. Stymiest moved, duly seconded, that the report be received and considered. Adopted.

#### **Consent Recommendation**

C.J. Stymiest moved, duly seconded, that **Recommendation No. 1** (p. XXX) and **Nos. 32–41** (p. XXX–XXX) be adopted by consent. Adopted.

#### **Canadian Ministries** (p. XXX–XXX)

Canadian Ministries helps to strengthen and equip congregations and presbyteries to seek God's will, embrace Christ's teachings and participate in God's redemptive work in the world by providing resources that are relevant, contextual and transformative. Associate Secretary, J. de Combe, shared an overview of some of the work of this department. A video describing an evangelism pilot project called "Liftoff to Evangelism" was played for the Assembly. She also described a new church planting initiative and invited commissioners to contact her for further information.

#### **Communications** (p. XXX–XXX)

The Communications Office supports church leaders, congregations, courts, groups, committees and agencies of The Presbyterian Church in Canada to share their mission and ministry through a diverse and effective range of communications channels, materials and methods.

#### **Justice Ministries** (p. XXX–XXX)

Justice Ministries collaborates with and assists congregations and courts of the church to respond faithfully to the justice imperatives of the gospel.

**Recommendation No. 5** (p. XXX) was moved by C.J. Stymiest, duly seconded. Adopted.

**Recommendation No. 6** (p. XXX) was moved by C.J. Stymiest, duly seconded. Adopted.

**Recommendation No. 7** (p. XXX) was moved by C.J. Stymiest, duly seconded. Adopted.

**Recommendation No. 8** (p. XXX), replaced with the following wording, was moved by C.J. Stymiest, duly seconded. Adopted.

That the Moderator write to the federal Minister of Health affirming Health Canada's decision that warning stickers will be mandatory with all dispensed prescription opioids as will a handout for patients.

**Recommendation No. 9** (p. XXX) was moved by C.J. Stymiest, duly seconded. Adopted.

**Recommendation No. 10** (p. XXX) was moved by C.J. Stymiest, duly seconded. Adopted.

**Recommendation No. 11** (p. XXX) was moved by C.J. Stymiest, duly seconded. Adopted.

**Recommendation No. 12** (p. XXX) was moved by C.J. Stymiest, duly seconded. Adopted.

**Recommendation No. 13** (p. XXX) was moved by C.J. Stymiest, duly seconded. Adopted.

**Recommendation No. 14** (p. XXX) was moved by C.J. Stymiest, duly seconded. Adopted.

**Recommendation No. 15** (p. XXX) was moved by C.J. Stymiest, duly seconded. Adopted.

**Recommendation No. 16** (p. XXX) was moved by C.J. Stymiest, duly seconded. Adopted.

**Recommendation No. 17** (p. XXX) was moved by C.J. Stymiest, duly seconded. Adopted.

**Recommendation No. 18** (p. XXX) was moved by C.J. Stymiest, duly seconded. Adopted.

**Recommendation No. 19** (p. XXX) was moved by C.J. Stymiest, duly seconded. Adopted.

**Recommendation No. 20** (p. XXX) was moved by C.J. Stymiest, duly seconded. Adopted.

**Recommendation No. 21** (p. XXX) was moved by C.J. Stymiest, duly seconded. Adopted.

**Recommendation No. 22** (p. XXX) was moved by C.J. Stymiest, duly seconded. Adopted.

**Recommendation No. 23** (p. XXX) was moved by C.J. Stymiest, duly seconded. Adopted.

**Recommendation No. 24** (p. XXX) was moved by C.J. Stymiest, duly seconded. Adopted.

**Recommendation No. 25** (p. XXX) was moved by C.J. Stymiest, duly seconded. Adopted.

**Ministry and Church Vocations** (p. XXX–XXX)

Ministry and Church Vocations helps the church to discern, prepare and support professional leaders in ministry.

H.J. Malnick, convener of the Committee on Education and Reception, spoke to the committee's report. The committee's recommendations had previously been adopted by consent. (p. XXX)

**Presbyterian World Service & Development** (p. XXX–XXX)

Inspired by God's promise of abundant life, Presbyterian World Service and Development (PWS&D) envisions a sustainable, compassionate and just world.

G. Smaghe, PWS&D Director, and R. Robertson, committee convener, spoke to the committee's report. A video illustrating some of the work supported by Presbyterian World Service and Development was played for the Assembly.

**Recommendation No. 26** (p. XXX) was moved by C.J. Stymiest, duly seconded. Adopted.

**Recommendation No. 27** (p. XXX) was moved by C.J. Stymiest, duly seconded. Adopted.

**Recommendation No. 28** (p. XXX) was moved by C.J. Stymiest, duly seconded. Adopted.

**Recommendation No. 29** (p. XXX) was moved by C.J. Stymiest, duly seconded. Adopted.

**Recommendation No. 30** (p. XXX) was moved by C.J. Stymiest, duly seconded. Adopted.

**Stewardship and Planned Giving** (p. XXX–XXX)

The Stewardship and Planned Giving department helps people connect with the joy that flows from generosity and the excitement that comes from using the gifts – time, skills, resources – God has given us to participate in God's mission at local, national and international levels.

**Recommendation No. 31** (p. XXX) was moved by C.J. Stymiest, duly seconded. Adopted.

The presentation included a video entitled “Your Gifts in Action” describing some of the ministries, including the Canada Youth events that are accomplished by congregational support for Presbyterians Sharing.

**International Ministries** (p. XXX–XXX)

International Ministries enables the church to participate in the worldwide mission of God through Jesus Christ in co-operation with partner churches and agencies throughout the world.

**Minute of Appreciation: Dr. Dávid Pándy-Szekeres**

A minute of appreciation, recognizing the 18 years of service of Dr. Pándy-Szekeres as a missionary of The Presbyterian Church in Canada with the Reformed Church in Transcarpathia, Ukraine, was presented by G.R. Williams, Associate Secretary, International Ministries.

Dr. Pándy-Szekeres expressed gratitude on behalf of the people he has served. He confirmed that the denomination’s support has made an important difference in their lives.

**Recommendation No. 4** (p. XXX) was moved by G.R. Williams, duly seconded. Adopted.

**Program Support and Administration** (p. XXX–XXX)

Program Support and Administration supports the Life and Mission Agency Committee.

**Minute of Appreciation: Mr. Stephen Allan**

A minute of appreciation, recognizing Mr. Allan’s service to the church as Associate Secretary for the Life and Mission Agency’s Justice Ministries, was presented to the General Assembly by L.A. Patton-Cowie, convener of the Healing and Reconciliation Advisory Committee.

**Recommendation No. 2** (p. XXX) was moved by L.A. Patton-Cowie, duly seconded. Adopted.

Mr. Allan was invited to address the Assembly. He stated that leading workshops and preaching sermons have always been highlights of his work for the church. “These events have been life-giving and energizing”, he said. He gave sincere thanks to all those with whom he has worked, within the denomination and ecumenically. He especially praised congregations that carry out the work of justice in the world every day. He affirmed, “The church needs to be in the public square”.

**Minute of Appreciation: The Rev. Susan Shaffer**

A minute of appreciation, recognizing Ms. Shaffer’s service to the church as Associate Secretary for the Life and Mission Agency’s Ministry and Church Vocations, was presented to the General Assembly by D.A. Phillips, a member of the Committee on Education and Reception.

**Recommendation No. 3** (p. XXX) was moved by D.A. Phillips, duly seconded. Adopted.

Ms. Shaffer was invited to address the Assembly. She said, “I am grateful for the privilege and honour of serving as the Associate Secretary for Ministry and Church Vocations. It has been opportunity to learn and grow, to help and lead, and to make a difference. The journey has been challenging, demanding and thrilling. Ministry and Church Vocations gets to do the best work.” She also paid homage to the ministers of our church who have responded to the call of God in loving obedience to equip God’s people.”

**Thanksgiving for Generosity**

K. Plater, C.J. Stymiest and S. Afoakwah led the Assembly in a time to remember those who have generously remembered the mission and ministry of The Presbyterian Church in Canada, even in their passing, through bequests. The Assembly was invited to celebrate their lives and their faith, hope and generosity. The names of the donors were read aloud, prayer was offered and the Assembly sang a hymn of thanksgiving.

(cont'd on p. XXX)

**COMMITTEE ON BILLS AND OVERTURES**

The Assembly called for the report of the Committee on Bills and Overtures which, as printed on p. XXX–XXX, was presented by W.A. Bisset, convener.

**Receive and Consider**

W.A. Bisset moved, duly seconded, that the report be received and considered. Adopted.

**Recommendation No. 1** (p. XXX) was moved by W.A. Bisset, duly seconded. Adopted.

**Recommendation No. 2** (p. XXX) was moved by W.A. Bisset, duly seconded. Adopted.

**Recommendation No. 3** (p. XXX) was moved by W.A. Bisset, duly seconded. Adopted.

**Recommendation No. 4** (p. XXX) was moved by W.A. Bisset, duly seconded. Adopted.

**Recommendation No. 5** (p. XXX) was moved by W.A. Bisset, duly seconded. Adopted.

**Recommendation No. 6** (p. XXX) was moved by W.A. Bisset, duly seconded. Adopted.

**Recommendation No. 7** (p. XXX) was moved by W.A. Bisset, duly seconded. Adopted.

**Recommendation No. 8** (p. XXX) was moved by W.A. Bisset, duly seconded. Adopted.

**Recommendation No. 9** (p. XXX) was moved by W.A. Bisset, duly seconded. Adopted.

**Recommendation No. 10** (p. XXX) was moved by W.A. Bisset, duly seconded. Adopted.

**Recommendation No. 11** (p. XXX) was moved by W.A. Bisset, duly seconded. Adopted.

**Recommendation No. 12** (p. XXX) was moved by W.A. Bisset, duly seconded. Adopted.

**Recommendation No. 13** (p. XXX) was moved by W.A. Bisset, duly seconded. Adopted.

**Report as a Whole**

W.A. Bisset moved, duly seconded, that the report as a whole be adopted. Adopted.

**PENSION AND BENEFITS BOARD**

The Assembly called for the report of the Pension and Benefits Board which, as printed on p. XXX, was presented by J.C. Bigelow, convener.

**Motion to Reconsider**

Pursuant to notice of motion (p. XXX), G. McIntyre moved, duly seconded, that the constitution of the Pension and Benefits Board be reconsidered. Adopted.

**Receive and Consider**

W.C. Stewart moved, duly seconded, that the report be received and considered. Adopted.

J.C. Bigelow introduced Pension and Benefits Director, Ms. Nicole Jeffrey, to the Assembly.

**Consent Recommendation**

W.C. Stewart moved, duly seconded, that **Recommendation No. 1** (p. XXX), be adopted by consent. Adopted.

**Recommendation No. 2** (p. XXX) was moved by W.C. Stewart, duly seconded. Adopted.

**Recommendation No. 3** (p. XXX) was moved by W.C. Stewart, duly seconded. Adopted.

**Recommendation No. 4** (p. XXX) was moved by W.C. Stewart, duly seconded. Adopted.

**Report as a Whole**

W.C. Stewart moved, duly seconded, that the report as a whole be adopted. Adopted.

**THEOLOGICAL COLLEGES**

The Assembly called for the reports of the Theological Colleges which, as printed on p. XXX–XXX, were presented by Mr. D.T. Walcott, convener of the Board of Governors, and the Rev. Dr. D.S. Woods, Principal, The Presbyterian College; the Rev. Dr. J.A. Vissers, Principal, and Mr. P.M. McKinnon, a member of the Board of Governors, Knox College; the Rev. Dr. R. Paul, Dean, and Mr. R. Thompson, convener of the Board, St. Andrew's College.

**Motion to Reconsider**

Pursuant to notice of motion (p. XXX), G. McIntyre moved, duly seconded, that the bylaws of The Presbyterian College be reconsidered. Adopted.

**Receive and Consider**

P. Sakasov moved, duly seconded, that the Joint report of the theological colleges and the reports of The Presbyterian College, Knox College, St. Andrew's Hall and Vancouver School of Theology be received and considered. Adopted.

**Joint Report**

Dr. Vissers spoke to the joint report of the colleges that expressed the unanimous desire for a coordinated theological program that will serve the changing needs of The Presbyterian Church in Canada. Dr. Vissers noted that a more comprehensive report is expected to be presented to the 2019 General Assembly.

**The Presbyterian College**

D.T. Walcott, convener of the Board, and D.S. Woods, Principal, presented the report of The Presbyterian College.

**Recommendation No. 1** (p. XXX) was moved by P. Sakasov, duly seconded. Adopted.

The Rev. Dr. Roland De Vries, upon his re-appointment as the Director of Pastoral Studies at The Presbyterian College, Montreal, for a five-year period at the rank of Associate Professor, was invited to address the Assembly. Dr. De Vries thanked the Assembly for its support.

**Recommendation No. 2** (p. XXX) was moved by P. Sakasov, duly seconded. Adopted.

D.S. Woods thanked D.T. Walcott for his many years of service to the college board, now that his term is complete.

**Knox College**

P. McKinnon, incoming convener of the Board, presented the report.

**Recommendation No. 1** (p. XXX) was moved by P. Sakasov, duly seconded. Adopted.

The Rev. Dr. Esther Acolatse, Associate Professor of Pastoral Theology and Intercultural Studies, was congratulated on the occasion of her being granted tenure. Dr. Acolatse said, "I am delighted to be here. I have already been welcomed by the Presbytery of East Toronto. I thank the Assembly for its support."

Dr. Peter Ross was thanked for his many years of dedicated service to the Knox College board.

**St. Andrew's Hall and Vancouver School of Theology**

Dr. Paul, Dean of St. Andrew's Hall, spoke to both reports noting increased enrolment and highlighting plans for the future.

**Report as a Whole**

P. Sakasov moved, duly seconded, that the report as a whole be adopted. Adopted.

**ASSEMBLY CHAPLAINS**

The Moderator identified the Rev. Andrew J. Allison, the Rev. Amanda Currie and the Rev. Robert H. Smith as chaplains available to commissioners for the duration of the Assembly.

**WORSHIP**

The commissioners were led in worship as the sederunt drew to a close.

**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 two o'clock in the afternoon, of which public intimation was given.