

## **FOURTH SEDERUNT**

### **ASSEMBLY CONSTITUTED**

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

### **COMMITTEE TO ADVISE WITH THE MODERATOR**

The Assembly called for the report of the Committee to Advise with the Moderator which, as printed on p. XXX–XXX, was presented by H.C. O'Reilly, convener.

#### **Receive and Consider**

H.C. O'Reilly moved, duly seconded, that the report be received and considered. Adopted.

**Recommendation No. 1** (p. XXX) was moved by H.C. O'Reilly, duly seconded. Adopted.

**Recommendation No. 2** (p. XXX) was moved by H.C. O'Reilly, duly seconded. Adopted.

**Recommendation No. 3** (p. XXX) was moved by H.C. O'Reilly, duly seconded. Adopted.

**Recommendation No. 4** (p. XXX) was moved by H.C. O'Reilly, duly seconded. Adopted.

#### **Moderator of the 143rd Assembly Addresses Assembly**

The Moderator invited the Rev. Peter G. Bush, Moderator of the 143rd General Assembly, to address the court.

Mr. Bush gave thanks to his wife, Debbie, son, Nathan, and the committee convener, the Rev. Christine O'Reilly, for their support during this past year. He said, "Whatever glory and good that may come from this year belongs to God." Mr. Bush said he was humbled by the welcome he received during his moderatorial travels and commented that The Presbyterian Church in Canada is a denomination of small churches. He cautioned the Assembly never to forget or underestimate the power of small and the ability of small congregations to be the light of the gospel in their communities. He was surprised and deeply moved by the response to the prayers and other items he posted on the national website. He informed the Assembly that, as Moderator, he wrote to every newly ordained, inducted and retired minister and called it a humbling honour to write on behalf of the church. He noted that many of our leaders are tired, hurting, broken. He challenged commissioners to call two leaders in their presbytery each week to encourage them so that levels of trust, support and care will be built. He promoted an evangelism that offers blessings of peace and promises that the Kingdom of God is near, with all the joy and hope that is part of it. He also spoke of the reality of world Christianity and how it is coming to Canada citing that something like 23% of ministers in our denomination are first or second generation Canadians. He said, "We need to start acting like a multicultural church." He concluded by expressing gratitude for the "humbling honour of serving as the Moderator of the 143rd General Assembly."

#### **Report as a Whole**

H.C. O'Reilly moved, duly seconded, that the report as a whole be adopted. Adopted.

### **SEXUALITY OVERTURES (cont'd from p. XXX)**

The Moderator asked R.N. Faris and S. Senior, co-conveners of the Special Committee re Listening (LGBTQI People), also known as the Rainbow Communion, to present the committee's report to the Assembly. The Moderator invited Dr. Wendy Vanderwal-Gritter of Generous Space Ministries to share her learnings and experiences at the intersection of the church and sexual orientation issues.

Note: The remainder of the Committee on Church Doctrine report continued on p. XXX.

(cont'd on p. XXX)

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

The Principal Clerk announced that the minutes of the first and second sederunts have 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)

## CONSENSUS-BUILDING DECISION-MAKING ORIENTATION

The Principal Clerk explained how the consensus-building decision-making model would be applied to the remaining reports of this sederunt.

### WOMEN'S MISSIONARY SOCIETY

The Assembly called for the report of the Women's Missionary Society which, as printed on p. XXX–XXX, was presented by Ms. Janet Brewer, president.

#### **Receive and Consider**

The Assembly agreed to receive and consider the report.

Ms. Brewer highlighted the work supported by the Women's Missionary Society and shared some of her personal experiences with it.

#### **Report as a Whole**

The Assembly agreed that the report as a whole be adopted.

### ATLANTIC MISSION SOCIETY

The Assembly called for the report of the Atlantic Mission Society which, as printed on p. XXX, was presented by Ms. Linda MacKinnon, president.

#### **Receive and Consider**

The Assembly agreed to receive and consider the report.

Ms. MacKinnon told a little of the history of the Atlantic Mission Society and spoke about several of its endeavors.

#### **Report as a Whole**

The Assembly agreed that the report as a whole be adopted.

### ECUMENICAL AND INTERFAITH RELATIONS COMMITTEE

The Assembly called for the report of the Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations Committee which, as printed on p. XXX, was presented by A. Currie.

#### **Receive and Consider**

The Assembly agreed to receive and consider the report.

**Recommendation No. 1** (p. XXX) was adopted.

**Recommendation No. 2** (p. XXX) was adopted.

**Recommendation No. 3** (p. XXX) was adopted.

**Recommendation No. 4** (p. XXX) was adopted.

#### **Report as a Whole**

The Assembly agreed that the report as a whole be adopted.

### COMMITTEE ON HISTORY

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

#### **Receive and Consider**

The Assembly agreed to receive and consider the report.

M. Repchuck highlighted several aspects of the report and announced three book prizes. The first was for the congregation history, *200 Years of Grace: Richmond Hill Presbyterian Church, 1817–2017*. The minister and members of the congregation were present to receive the prize. The second was for the memoir, *My Journey* by the Rev. Dr. John Cameron. The prize was received by the Rev. Amanda Henderson-Bolton. The third was for the academic book prize, *The Regina Indian Industrial School (1891–1910): Historical Overview and Chronological Narrative* by Dr. Douglas Stewart. The prize was received by the author.

**Consent Recommendation**

The Assembly agreed that **Recommendation Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5** (p. XXX–XXX) be adopted by consent.

**Report as a Whole**

The Assembly agreed that the report as a whole be adopted.

**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 Tuesday, June fifth, two thousand and eighteen at eight-thirty o'clock in the morning, of which public intimation was given.