

FIFTH SEDERUNT

ASSEMBLY CONSTITUTED

At Wilfrid Laurier University, Waterloo, Ontario, on Tuesday, June fifth, 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

The sermon was delivered by the Rev. Deborah Rapport, Executive Director of ARISE Ministry in Toronto. ARISE is an acronym for Advocacy and Reclaiming those Involved in the Sex-trade through Empowerment.

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

The Assembly called for the report of the Committee on Business which was presented by M.R. McLennan, convener. A.J. Botha moved, duly seconded, that the agenda for the day be approved as presented.

Amendment

P.G. Bush moved, duly seconded, that the motion to approve the agenda be amended by adding the words, and that the order in which the recommendations will be discussed under the heading "Sexualities Overtures" be determined after the Assembly rises from the Committee on the Whole. Adopted.

The motion, as amended, was adopted as follows

That the agenda for the day be approved as presented and that the order in which the recommendations will be discussed under the heading "Sexualities Overtures" be determined after the Assembly rises from the Committee on the Whole.

(cont'd on p. XXX)

COMMITTEE ON THE ROLL AND LEAVE TO WITHDRAW (cont'd from p. XXX)

The Assembly called for the report of the Committee on the Roll and Leave to Withdraw which was presented by J.R. Wilson, convener.

M. Scrivens moved, duly seconded, that the following commissioners be granted leave to withdraw: L. Johnston. (Presbytery of Northern Saskatchewan) from the third sederunt; J. DeGier VanderSpek (Presbytery of Paris) from the fifth and sixth sederunts; H.C. O'Reilly (Presbytery of Lambton-West Middlesex) from the seventh sederunt; A.J. Allison (Presbytery of Pickering) from the eighth sederunt; G.S. Malcolm (Presbytery of Peace River) from the seventh and eighth sederunts. Adopted.

(cont'd on p. XXX)

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

The Assembly called for the report of the International Affairs Committee which, as printed on p. XXX-XXX, was presented by D. Henry, convener.

Receive and Consider

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

Recommendation No. 1 (p. XXX) was moved by G.S. Malcolm, duly seconded. Adopted.

Recommendation No. 2 (p. XXX) was moved by G.S. Malcolm, duly seconded. Adopted.

Recommendation No. 3 (p. XXX) was moved by G.S. Malcolm, duly seconded. Adopted.

Recommendation No. 4 (p. XXX) was moved by G.S. Malcolm, duly seconded. Adopted.

Dissent

J.R. Wilson asked that his dissent regarding Recommendation No. 4 be recorded with reasons given as follows.

I request my dissent be recorded to this motion. My prayer would be that The Presbyterian Church in Canada cease giving religious support to the use of the instruments of war of this world.

Recommendation No. 5 (p. XXX) was moved by G.S. Malcolm, duly seconded. Adopted.

Recommendation No. 6 (p. XXX) was moved by G.S. Malcolm, duly seconded. Adopted.

Recommendation No. 7 (p. XXX) was moved by G.S. Malcolm, duly seconded. Adopted.

Recommendation No. 8 (p. XXX) was moved by G.S. Malcolm, duly seconded. Adopted.

Recommendation No. 9 (p. XXX) was moved by G.S. Malcolm, duly seconded. Adopted.

Recommendation No. 10 (p. XXX) was moved by G.S. Malcolm, duly seconded. Adopted.

Recommendation No. 11 (p. XXX) was moved by G.S. Malcolm, duly seconded. Adopted.

Additional Motion

M. Lingard moved, duly seconded, that the Moderator also write to International Campaign for the Absolution of Nuclear Weapons to convey the gratitude of The Presbyterian Church in Canada for their advocacy to promote nuclear disarmament and congratulate them on winning the Nobel Peace Prize. Adopted.

Report as a Whole

G.S. Malcolm moved, duly seconded, that the report as a whole be adopted. Adopted.

COMMITTEE ON CHURCH DOCTRINE (cont'd from p. XXX)

Additional Motion

A. Douglas moved, duly seconded, that the Committee on Church Doctrine, in the interests of transparency, inform the Assembly, as the committee itself was informed and out of respect for the study and report-back process engaging the lower courts, make available to this 2018 General Assembly at a future sederunt a summary of the responses submitted to the documents “The Biblical and Theological Rational A + B” and “Where To From Here: Options A, B, C and D” by the lower courts. Defeated.

(cont'd on p. XXX)

INTERFAITH GUEST

The Moderator invited A. Currie to welcome and introduce Mr. Balpreet Singh, Legal Counsel, World Sikh Organization of Canada. Mr. Singh’s practice focuses on human rights law and religious accommodation. He has worked with various public and private sector organizations to create resources and provide training on religious accommodation issues and best practices when interacting with persons of the Sikh faith. He currently serves as a director for the Canadian Race Relations Foundation.

Mr. Singh provided a brief history, and spoke of some of the fundamentals, of the Sikhism. He said, “We see all people as equal regardless of faith, culture, nationality or gender.” He provided a summary of the Sikhism in three golden rules. 1. Remember God. 2. Earn an honest living. 3. Whatever you have, share with others. He also explained what some of the writings and the symbols of the faith mean. He said, “Interfaith comes to us quite naturally. The Sikh believe dialogue is very important.” Regarding freedom of religion, Mr. Singh said, as long as people are not hurting anyone they should have the right to choose what they want to believe. Interfaith dialogue needs a safe space to ask questions. This, along with respectful dialogue, he maintained, is essential to building community. He expressed thanks for the opportunity for sharing his faith and experiences.

COMMITTEE ON CHURCH DOCTRINE (cont'd from p. XXX)

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

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

Recommendation No. 3 (p. XXX) was moved by P.D. Johnston, duly seconded. Adopted.

(cont'd on p. XXX)

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH BUILDING CORPORATION

The Assembly called for the report of the Presbyterian Church Building Corporation which, as printed on p. XXX–XXX, was presented by N.F. Coutts, Board of Directors Chair.

Receive and Consider

S. Rajack-Sankarlal moved, duly seconded, that the report be received and considered. Adopted.

N.F. Coutts described the work of the corporation and introduced the General Manager, Mr. William Collier, to the Assembly. It was announced that this year marks the 50th anniversary of the corporation. Over that time, loans have been made to 233 congregations totaling \$54 million.

Report as a Whole

S. Rajack-Sankarlal moved, duly seconded, that the report as a whole be adopted. Adopted.

MACLEAN ESTATE COMMITTEE

The Assembly called for the report of the Maclean Estate Committee which, as printed on p. XXX–XXX, was presented by D. Phillips, convener.

Receive and Consider

S. Sinclair moved, duly seconded, that the report be received and considered. Adopted.

D. Phillips announced that the Rev. Kristine O'Brien has been chosen as the new Managing Director of Crieff Hills Community.

He introduced the Assembly, by way of a slide presentation, to the grounds, staff and facilities of the community. He also referred to expansion plans that will include an elevator to improve accessibility.

Minute of Appreciation: Mr. Lawrence Pentelow

D. Phillips, convener, announced the retirement of Managing Director, Mr. Lawrence Pentelow, after 15 years of leadership. A minute of appreciation, recognizing Mr. Pentelow's service to the church as Managing Director of Crieff Hills Retreat and Conference Centre, was presented to the General Assembly.

Mr. Pentelow was invited to address the Assembly. Lawrence gave thanks for the opportunity of serving in this role and expressed the hope that he has helped to advance the purpose of the community.

Recommendation No. 1 (p. XXX) was moved by S. Sinclair, duly seconded. Adopted.

Report as a Whole

S. Sinclair moved, duly seconded, that the report as a whole be adopted. Adopted.

TRUSTEE BOARD

The Assembly called for the report of the Trustee Board which, as printed on p. XXX, was presented by T.A. Herron, convener.

Receive and Consider

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

T.A. Herron described the work of the Trustee Board along with some of the challenges and trends being encountered by the board.

Report as a Whole

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

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

The Principal Clerk announced that the minutes of the third sederunt 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)

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