

SEVENTH SEDERUNT

ASSEMBLY CONSTITUTED

At Wilfrid Laurier University, Waterloo, Ontario, on Tuesday, June 5, 2018 at 7:00 p.m., the Assembly met pursuant to adjournment. The Moderator constituted the Assembly with prayer.

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

The Principal Clerk announced that the minutes of the fourth and fifth sederunts had been posted on The Presbyterian Church in Canada website and a number of printed copies would be available in the Assembly Hall.

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REPORT FROM THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE (cont'd from XXX)

Additional Motion

A.J. Allison moved, duly seconded, that the 2018 General Assembly name a special committee made up of the Moderators of the 2005-2017 Assemblies to propose a way ahead that allows the mission and ministry of The Presbyterian Church in Canada to continue. In its proposal, the special committee will take into consideration the Sexuality Overtures and the related reports from the various committees and agencies of the church, in parallel with the ongoing work of the Rainbow Communion, and to report back to the 2019 General Assembly.

Immediate Vote

J.R. Wilson moved, duly seconded, that the Assembly take an immediate vote. Adopted.

Additional Motion was adopted.

Dissent

The following commissioners asked that their dissent, regarding the Additional Motion, be recorded:

L. Aide, C.W. Ball, S. Blott, A.J. Boudreau, K. Dimock, C.A. Gaver, V. Gilkes, O.H. Grosskopf, A.J. Henderson-Bolton, P. Hickey, C.A. Inksetter, K.C. Johnson, B.R. Laughton, S. Lawrence, J. Lung, N. Lukach, D. MacWilliams, W. MacWilliams, T. McDonald-Lee, M. Maroney, L. Patton-Cowie, M.M. Phillips, K.H.D. Pozios, J. Sokolowsky, G. Smith, W.C. Stewart, M. Veenema, G. Williams, C. Wilson, D.M. Wilson.

Dissent with Reasons

The following asked that their dissent, regarding the Additional Motion, be recorded with reasons given as follows:

W.A. Bisset: While I am not opposed to the principle of referring matters on human sexuality to a special committee, I believe that such a special committee should be more representative of the broader church than a committee of recently past moderators can be. I would like to see more representation of women, ruling elders, young people, and members of the LGBTQI community.

B.E. Blaikie: I dissent because of the lack of diversity represented on the named special committee in the areas of gender, ethnicity and age. In addition, I feel strongly that any committee making recommendations regarding our church's relationship with the LGBTQI community should include representation from within that community.

D.T. Sturtevant: I feel this motion is asking us to delay a decision on doctrine until we have considered its effects. While I appreciate the need for a way forward, I want to find a way forward based on what we believe God says, not decide what God says based on what we can picture as the way forward.

Dissent – Young Adult Representatives

J.H. Cleland, Z. Dulvy, M. Dyck, L.P. Fulton, A. Giurin, A.G. Head, A. Law, R. Ott, J. Ragbir, S. Shivcharan, S. Wiseman.

Dissent – Student Representative

R.A. Jess

Additional Motion

A.J. Allison moved, duly seconded, that the Committee to Confer name a special committee of former Moderators. Adopted.

Additional Motion

S. Sinclair moved, duly seconded, that the reports and recommendations on sexuality overtures and petitions, except for the Rainbow Communion, be referred to the Special Committee of Former Moderators to report back to the 2019 General Assembly. Adopted.

Additional Motion

L. Aide moved, duly seconded, that the order of considering reports will be: Rainbow Communion. Adopted.

**LIFE AND MISSION AGENCY (cont'd from p. XXX)
AND
COMMITTEE ON CHURCH DOCTRINE (cont'd from p. XXX)**

Additional Motion

J. Sokolowsky moved, duly seconded, that the Life and Mission Agency and Clerks of Assembly be asked to outline and present to General Assembly 2019, models for the adoption of a local option for the full inclusion of our LGBTQ2SI brothers and sisters in Christ in the life and work of The Presbyterian Church in Canada.

Out of Order

The Moderator ruled the additional motion out of order, however, the Assembly agreed with the Moderator that the substance of the motion would be referred to the Special Committee of Former Moderators along with other proposals that have been prepared.

Additional Motion

L. Aide moved, duly seconded, that the reports of the Life and Mission Agency and the Committee on Church Doctrine, as a whole, be adopted. Adopted.

Note: See **Committee on Church Doctrine**, Notice of Motion, p. XXX.

**SEXUALITY OVERTURES (cont'd from p. XXX)
SPECIAL COMMITTEE RE LISTENING (LGBTQI PEOPLE) (cont'd from p. XXX)**

Motion to Reconsider

Pursuant to notice of motion (p. XXX), G. McIntyre moved, duly seconded, that the terms of reference for the Special Committee re Listening (LGBTQI People) be reconsidered. Adopted.

Recommendation No. 1 (p. XXX) was moved by R.N. Faris, duly seconded. Adopted.

Recommendation No. 2 (p. XXX) was moved by R.N. Faris, duly seconded.

Amendment

I. McWhinnie moved, duly seconded, that Recommendation No. 2 be amended by adding the underlined words: The Special Committee shall recommend an appropriate response to the issues of homophobia, hypocrisy, heterosexism and transphobia within the Presbyterian Church in Canada. In so doing, the Special Committee will respect the right of Presbyterians with a traditional understanding of the Bible to make leadership decisions in accordance with their understanding.

Amendment to Amendment was adopted

S.E. Dupont moved, duly seconded, the last sentence of the amendment be removed. Adopted.

Amendment was adopted as follows:

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

Recommendation No. 2, as amended, was adopted as follows:

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

Recommendation No. 3 (p. XXX) was moved by R.N. Faris, duly seconded.

Ruled Recommendation No. 3 in order

The Moderator ruled that Recommendation No. 3 was in order.

Moderator's ruling challenged

The ruling of the Moderator was challenged.

The Principal Clerk asked the Assembly whether or not it upheld the ruling of the Moderator.

The Assembly upheld the ruling.

Dissent

The following commissioners asked that their dissent regarding the Moderator's ruling be recorded:

B.G. Cousineau, A. Douglas, T.F.S. Ferrier, T.G. Hagen, J.E. Lung, P. Sakasov, B. Sargent, K.A. Tulett, C. Wilson.

Dissent with Reasons

D.T. Sturtevant asked that his dissent, regarding the Moderator's ruling, be recorded with reasons given as follows:

Book of Forms section 3 says discipline is to be administered in this church according to God's will as revealed in Scripture. Our church's understanding of God's will as revealed in Scripture is that homosexual activity is sinful. To say that church discipline should not be administered when someone is acting against God's will as reveal in Scripture is contrary to the Book of Forms and our professed faith.

(cont'd on p. XXX)

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

Notice of Motion – M. Currie

I will move or cause to be moved at a future sederunt that **Recommendation No. 1 of the Committee on Church Doctrine Report** "On the Question of Unity and Diversity" be reconsidered so that an amendment can be made that will read:

That the document "On the Question of Unity and Diversity" be commended to the agencies, colleges, congregations, sessions, presbyteries, synods, committees and groups of The Presbyterian Church in Canada for study and response back to the Special Committee of Former Moderators, through the General Assembly office by January 31, 2019.

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Adjournment

P.G. Bush moved, duly seconded, that the Assembly adjourn. 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 Wednesday, June 6, 2018 at 8:30 a.m., of which public intimation was given.