

Light of the World

General Assembly 2014

GA BRIEFINGS

FRIDAY, MAY 30



The 140th General Assembly of The Presbyterian Church in Canada, held on the campus of Wilfrid Laurier University in Waterloo, Ontario, began with worship and reflection. The theme of this year's gathering is "Light of the World" and the Presbytery of Waterloo-Wellington is hosting. All were warmly welcomed including the young adult and student representatives.

The Rev. Dr. David Sutherland constituted the Assembly with prayer and the Rev. Dr. Stephen Farris was installed as Moderator of the 140th General Assembly of The

Presbyterian Church in Canada. As the moderator's torch was passed from the east coast to the west, Dr. Sutherland opened his reflections by recognizing that we respectfully gather, "on the traditional lands of the Six Nations: the Mohawk, Cayuga, Onondaga, Oneida, Seneca and Tuscarora and the traditional hunting grounds of the Mississauga and Ojibway Nation." He gave thanks for the prayers offered by members of the church during his term and he highlighted his involvement in the Truth and Reconciliation Commission national events as

“outstanding,” pointing out that we have an opportunity offer love in a fresh way.

Dr. Sutherland expressed thanks for his trip to India where he met and shared with partners and visited the ministries we support, including hospitals, schools and development projects. He also recognized the “grace of those who serve us at 50 Wynford Drive.”



Moderator acknowledges the First Nations on whose traditional land we are meeting. #ga140

—Matt Brough

Learn more about the new moderator at presbyterian.ca/moderator



Q&A@GA



An hour-long session allowed commissioners the opportunity to interact with conveners of the General Assembly Standing Committees and national office staff in order to ask questions for clarification about the various reports to be presented to the Assembly.



BILLS AND OVERTURES

After the recommendations from the Bills and Overtures committee passed, the Clerks of Assembly, Assembly Council and Life and Mission Agency were given a few new issues to examine in the coming year. Assembly Council will explore ways congregations and presbyteries can help connect relocating members to pastoral care in their new regions. They will also consider the question of making clergy moving costs more equitable for congregations across Canada. The Life and Mission Agency will look at the education requirements for ministry candidates (Ministry and Church Vocations) and the theological and economic implications of the pay day loans industry (Justice Ministries).

As we discern your will,
give us wisdom and courage,
quietness of spirit,
integrity of purpose,
clarity in speech,
grace in our interactions,
and joy in service,
that all we do may be for
the building up of the body of Christ.
We pray in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ,
to whom with you and the Holy Spirit,
belongs all honour and glory,
now and forever.
Amen.”

— A prayer from *A Service for Commissioners to the General Assembly*

Visit presbyterian.ca/ga2014 for the reports, overtures and recommendations



ECUMENICAL VISITOR - THE REV. NICOLE ASHWOOD

The Rev. Dr. Glynis Williams, International Ministries, introduced the Rev. Nicole Ashwood, Education in Mission Secretary for CANACOM, the Caribbean and North America Council for Mission. She urged the Assembly to “shine the light on unfair immigration practices, offer hope to families grappling with the economic and emotional realities of human trafficking, sexuality and suicide, to help racialized persons find joy amidst despair.”

“We are all called to share God’ light,” she said. Along with The Presbyterian Church in Canada, “CANACOM is completely committed to bearing and sharing God’s light.”



WORSHIP AT ST. ANDREW'S PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, KITCHENER



ADDITIONAL NOTES

- The Committee to Nominate Standing Committees pointed out that the submission deadline for the 2015 nominations from sessions, presbyteries, synods and standing committees will be February 28, 2015.
- The Committee to Advise passed recommendations to express appreciation to the 139th moderator, the Rev. Dr. David Sutherland, his home church of St. Andrew's Church in St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador, and to all those who warmly and graciously received the moderator during his term.
- A new video highlighting the ministry of *Presbyterians Sharing* and PWS&D was presented and is available for download from the PCC website. (presbyterian.ca/sharing)
- A reminder was made to pray for all those who are attending and participating in Canada Youth this summer.
- A recommendation passed that synods be encouraged to pursue creative and additional ways of augmenting the funding for regional ministries.
- The Young Adult Representatives (YARs) gave an advisory vote recommending that General Assembly include grateful acknowledgement of the First Nation in whose territory the Assembly meets in the report of the Committee on Courtesies and Loyal Addresses. The recommendation passed.

View additional photos at
presbyterian.ca/ga2014 and presbyterianrecord.ca