

SECOND SEDERUNT

At Wilfrid Laurier University, Waterloo, Ontario, on Saturday, May thirty-first, two thousand and fourteen at nine-thirty o'clock in the morning, the Assembly met pursuant to adjournment. The Moderator constituted the Assembly with prayer.

The Moderator announced that his theme for the year would be based on the encouragement of the Apostle Paul to be rooted and built up in Christ. (Colossians 2:7) He expressed the belief that it is important to discover our roots, not for sentimental or historic reasons, but so there can be growth. He said, "To know our roots is to prepare for growth."

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

The Assembly called for the report of the Committee on Business, which was presented by J.F. Loach, convener.

J. Eastwood moved, duly seconded, that the agenda for the second sederunt be approved as presented. Adopted.

J. Eastwood moved, duly seconded, that Knox College be permitted to distribute its Year in Review to the Assembly. Adopted.

(cont'd on p. XXX)

COMMITTEE ON THE ROLL AND LEAVE TO WITHDRAW

The Assembly called for the report of the Committee on the Roll and Leave to Withdraw which was presented by H.K. Stright, convener.

Receive and Consider

H.K. Stright moved, duly seconded, that the report be received and considered. Adopted.

H.K. Stright moved, duly seconded, that the regrets received from J.B. Forsythe (Presbytery of Quebec), G. MacDougall (Presbytery of Quebec), R. Bonetto (Presbytery of Montreal) and J.I. Scott (Presbytery of Kingston) be accepted. Adopted.

H.K. Stright moved, duly seconded, that the names of D. Emmons (Presbytery of Niagara) and D. Hay (Presbytery of Kingston), be added to the roll of the Assembly. Adopted.

H.K. Stright moved, duly seconded, that the following commissioners be granted leave to withdraw: J.R. MacOdrum (Presbytery of Lambton-West Middlesex) from the third sederunt, J.L. Smith (Presbytery of Waterloo-Wellington) from the second sederunt and J.R. Graydon (Presbytery of Winnipeg) from the eighth sederunt. Adopted.

(cont'd on p. XXX)

ASSEMBLY COUNCIL

The Assembly called for the report of the Assembly Council which, as printed on p. XXX-XXX, was presented by H. Crisp, convener.

Receive and Consider

C.A. Ball moved, duly seconded, that the report be received and considered. Adopted.

Consent Recommendation

H. Crisp moved, duly seconded, that Recommendation Nos. 1, 2, 3 (p. XXX-XXX), 10, 11 and 12 (p. XXX-XXX) be adopted by consent. Adopted.

Recommendation Nos. 4 and 5 regarding the 2014 budget and the 2016 to 2018 forecast were presented for information and it was agreed they would be dealt with at a later sederunt. (see p. XXX)

Recommendation No. 6 (p. XXX) was moved by C.A. Ball, duly seconded.

At the Moderator's suggestion, the commissioners first voiced issues related to biennial General Assemblies that were not presented in the pros and cons section of the Assembly Council report. The Assembly then discussed the recommendation in table groups.

(cont'd on p. XXX)

MODERATOR OF THE 139TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The Moderator invited the Rev. Dr. David W.K. Sutherland, Moderator of the 139th General Assembly, to address the court.

Dr. Sutherland said, "It has been an honour to serve you as Moderator and to be the first Moderator elected while serving within the Presbytery of Newfoundland." He noted sincere gratitude for those of St. Andrew's in St. John's who provided pastoral leadership for the congregation whenever he was absent. He went on to list many of the worship services and events that took him across the country during the year, including the dedication of a new building, anniversary services, the Women's Missionary Society 100th anniversary celebration, the National Women's Gathering, Truth and Reconciliation events in Ottawa, Vancouver and Edmonton and a journey to India. He stated, "It has been a wonderful opportunity to gain a new perspective of the church at large. The churches and agencies with which we have stood in India are very thankful for our support. We have had a great impact on the Christian faith in that country. We have been a mother church but are becoming a big sister church. It is particularly important that we hold the people in India in our prayers. Across Canada, congregations are reimagining themselves and their ministries. In remote areas I was able to express the care of the national church and assure congregations they are not forgotten." Dr. Sutherland opined that this is the season to listen with grace whether it is to First Nations people or those of world religions. He asked, "Can we be quiet and still enough to hear the pain that some Christians have inflicted on their lives? We have to be prepared to listen with love. I was reminded by Dr. James Massy, a theologian in India, that the church should not be defined by our buildings any more but by the relationship we share with God and one another."

The Moderator thanked Dr. Sutherland for the grace with which he served the church in the role of Moderator.

REPORTS WITHOUT RECOMMENDATIONS (cont'd from p. XXX)

Receive and Adopt

S. Kendall moved, duly seconded, that the following reports without recommendations be received and adopted. Adopted.

- Atlantic Mission Society (p. XXX)
- Commission re Matters Left, Uncared for or Omitted (p. XXX)
- Life and Mission Agency Committee:
 - Canadian Ministries (p. XXX)
 - Communications (p. XXX)
 - International Ministries (p. XXX)
- Maclean Estate Committee (p. XXX)
- Nominations (p. XXX)
- Theological Colleges:
 - St. Andrew's Hall (p. XXX)
 - Vancouver School of Theology (p. XXX)
- Trustee Board (p. XXX)
- Women's Missionary Society (p. XXX)

At the request of a commissioner, the report of the Presbyterian Record Inc. was withdrawn from this list so that it might be considered further. (see p. XXX)

CONSENT REPORTS (cont'd from p. XXX)

Receive and Adopt

S. Kendall moved, duly seconded, that the following consent reports be received and adopted. Adopted.

- Business, Committee on (p. XXX)
- Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations Committee (p. XXX)

Education and Reception, Committee on, (p. XXX)
Life and Mission Agency:
 Ministry and Church Vocations (p. XXX)
 Planned Giving (p. XXX)
 Presbyterian World Service and Development (p. XXX)
 Stewardship (p. XXX)
The Norman M. Paterson Fund for Ministerial Assistance (p. XXX)

At the request of a commissioner, the report of the Presbyterian Church Building Corporation was withdrawn from this list so that it might be considered further. (see 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 S. Quickert, convener.

Receive and Consider

M. Sams moved, duly seconded, that the report be received and considered. Adopted.

Consent Recommendation

M. Sams moved, duly seconded, that Recommendation Nos. 1 and 2 (p. XXX-XXX) be adopted by consent. Adopted.

Mr. W.B. Collier was introduced to the Assembly as the new General Manager of the Presbyterian Church Building Corporation. Ms. Deborah Motton's retirement as office administrator after 30 years of service was noted with sincere thanks. Observing his retirement, deep appreciation for the stewardship Mr. James T. Seidler provided during his term as General Manager of the corporation was expressed by the Moderator.

Additional Motion

J.T. Hurd moved, duly seconded, that the Directors of the Presbyterian Church Building Corporation be requested to review, with the aid of legal counsel if necessary, the Canada Not-For-Profit Corporations legislation and to adjust the bylaws of the Corporation as may be possible and desirable with a view of strengthening the connection of the Corporation with The Presbyterian Church in Canada, ensuring representation from across the leadership of The Presbyterian Church in Canada in the oversight of the Corporation and in the event of the dissolution of the Corporation the transfer of the assets of the Corporation to The Presbyterian Church in Canada. Adopted.

Report as a Whole

M. Sams moved, duly seconded, that the report as a whole be adopted. Adopted.

20TH ANNIVERSARY OF OUR CONFESSION

The Moderator invited forward Mr. Phil Fontaine, former National Chief of the Assembly of First Nations; the Rev. Dr. George C. Vais, Moderator of the 1994 General Assembly; Ms. Betty Siverns, President of the Women's Missionary Society and the Rev. S.R. Folster, director of Saskatoon Native Circle Ministry. It was noted the denomination's confession to the Aboriginal peoples of Canada was adopted at the 1994 General Assembly and presented to Mr. Fontaine 20 years ago by Dr. Vais. As Mr. Fontaine came forward, the Rev. M. Mullin presented him with a traditional gift of tobacco.

Dr. Vais addressed the Assembly saying, "I consider it a high honour and personal privilege to introduce to you our guest speaker. Chief Phil Fontaine is unquestionably one of our most distinguished Canadian leaders in recent decades whose work has shaped our country, most notably in terms of how Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people have come to relate to and work with each other. He was one of the first residential school survivors to come forward and share his own story of abuse. This encouraged other survivors to share their stories and open the eyes of our nation to what had happened to Aboriginal children in residential schools. He will be most remembered for negotiating the Indian Residential Schools Settlement Agreement and for the establishment of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada. He was also instrumental in convincing the Government of Canada to offer a national apology to former students of residential schools on June 11, 2008. Chief Fontaine has a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science and holds 15 honorary doctorates from universities across Canada and the United States

and has been the recipient of numerous recognitions and awards.” Dr. Vais expressed how honoured the General Assembly is to have him with us.

Mr. Fontaine responded. “Thank you for your wonderfully generous welcome. I acknowledge with deepest appreciation the opportunity to be with you and to share some of my thoughts for the journey ahead of all of us.

“I acknowledge the confession of 20 years ago. It was a special moment in the relationship between the Presbyterian Church and indigenous people. Much has transpired since the confession. We are reminded of the history of the residential school experiences, the apology of June 11, 2008 and the work of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. We are at a point in our history when we can make a real difference and speak loudly and clearly about justice for all people. I remind you of the challenges we face over the next 20 years. 20 years ago Aboriginal people were the most impoverished people in Canada and remain so today. There are many manifestations of this poverty. There are between 27,000 and 30,000 Aboriginal children in state care today. 85,000 new houses are needed in our communities to deal with severe overcrowding. Tuberculosis is once again rampant in our communities. At least 130 to 160 First Nations communities operate under a boiled water advisory. In some prisons the population is 100% Aboriginal although we only make up 4% of Canada’s population. Suicide rates are some of the highest in Canada among our young men and women. This matter of First Nations poverty is the single largest challenge facing Canada and the biggest challenge that sits before us as we talk about the journey we are on for the next 20 years.

“I also realize there is still a lot of hope. There are many good reasons why we should be optimistic. Our community has become better educated. We are graduating professionals in every discipline. This is a significant development over the past 50 years. Still, because of poverty, we are being held down. We should be doing far better. We have 40,000 businesses owned and operated by Aboriginal people. We are making a difference but we must be better and we can be better. We can do it together. One of the other reasons for optimism is the field of resource development. I am well aware of environmental sensitivities surrounding resource development that we do not spoil mother earth for those who come after us, but in the next 10 years there will be \$650 billion invested in the resource sector of Canada. Much of Canada’s wealth is in the ground and water of Indian territories, especially in the north. We are undoubtedly talking about economic emancipation; sustainable First Nations communities. We each have to make a commitment to be true to ourselves, true to the history of this country. On the journey, we will lock hands and walk shoulder to shoulder making a better place for all of us.

Ms. Siverns said she was proud to shake the hand of one who has risen above the pain and suffering that he and his people suffered. She described a Truth and Reconciliation event, listening to people talk about how they had been taken from their families and punished for not knowing what they had never been taught and about two or three generations raising families without knowing how to love their children. “I came to the conclusion that by forgiving those who had hurt them they were healed. I thank the church for its ongoing effort to listen and to listen respectfully,” she said.

The Moderator said, “We have listened and we have been moved.” He presented Mr. Fontaine with Our Confession to God and to Aboriginal Peoples that has now been translated into French, Korean, Dakota, Plains Cree and Ojibwe saying, “This is a symbol. Sometimes a symbol also represents reality. What we are going to do is pray that this symbol represents reality. I ask you to take this now as a symbol of that prayer.”

R.S. Folster then led the Assembly in prayer.

ADJOURNMENT

Announcements having been made, the Moderator adjourned the Assembly with prayer, to meet at Wilfrid Laurier University, Waterloo, Ontario, on Saturday, May thirty-first, two thousand and fourteen at two o’clock in the afternoon, of which public intimation was given.