

FOURTH SEDERUNT

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

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 fourth sederunt be approved as presented. Adopted.

(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 S.V. Mosley, member of the committee.

S.V. Mosley moved, duly seconded, that the regrets of L.J. Brice (Presbytery of Hamilton) be received. Adopted.

S.V. Mosley moved, duly seconded, that the following commissioners be granted leave to withdraw: L.D. Baker (Presbytery of Winnipeg) from the fourth sederunt, J. Sherbino (Presbytery of Paris) and S.R. Lindsay (Presbytery of Hamilton) from the fifth sederunt, A.J. Botha (Presbytery of Waterloo-Wellington) from the sixth sederunt, D. Hay (Presbytery of Kingston) and V. Medina (Presbytery of Montreal) from the seventh sederunt and R. Watson (Presbytery of Westminster) from the eighth sederunt. Adopted.

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PENSION AND BENEFITS BOARD (cont'd from p. XXX)

Recommendation No. 2

Discussion resumed.

Recommendation No. 2 was adopted.

Recommendation No. 4 (p. XXX) was moved by J.R.A. Sokolowsky, duly seconded.

Amendment

S. Howard moved, duly seconded, that the words "be grandfathered" be struck and that the following be inserted: "begin making congregational contributions to the pension fund effective January 1, 2017". Adopted

Recommendation No. 4 as amended, was adopted as follows:

That, in support of establishing the principle that all congregations throughout their entire life have an ongoing obligation to the pension fund with regard to their previous ministers, the four-year vacancy exemption for congregational contributions to the pension fund be eliminated effective January 1, 2015, but that congregations currently exempted from paying the pension plan congregational assessment, begin making congregational contributions to the pension fund effective January 1, 2017.

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

J. Eastwood moved, duly seconded, that the agenda of the fourth sederunt be amended by removing the report of the Committee on Church Doctrine. Adopted.

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PENSION AND BENEFITS BOARD (cont'd from p. XXX)

Recommendation No. 5 (p. XXX) was moved by J.R.A. Sokolowsky, duly seconded. Adopted.

Report as a Whole

J.R.A. Sokolowsky moved, duly seconded, that the report as a whole be adopted. Adopted.

GUESTS – DR. SUBHASHINI DUTTA AND DR. SONLATA WILSON

The Moderator call G.R. Williams forward to welcome and introduce Dr. Subhashini Dutta and Dr. Sonlata Wilson. Dr. Subhashini Dutta is the Secretary of the Central Regional Board of Health Services of the Church of North India (CNI) and is also responsible for the Child Health and Obsterics/Gynecology departments at the Hatpiplia Hospital. Since 2008, she has assumed the role of Medical Superintendant of the Christian Hospital Indore; and is Chair of the Board of the Graduate School of Nursing in Indore. Dr. Wilson is a physician working at the Christian Hospital in Jobat, District of Alirajpour, of the state of Madhya Pradesh in India. For the past eight years, she has worked as a Gynecologist/Obstetrician.

Dr. Wilson said, “I work in Jobat Christian Hospital which was established in 1922 by Dr. John Buchanan and his wife Dr. Mary Buchanan. Dr John Buchanan was from Kingston, Canada and he has made Canadians famous in our region of India. Eight years ago, I started working in this hospital which provides services to men, women and children. We do surgeries and provide medical care to many poor people in our area. The community nurses visit in the villages and provide health care such as vaccinations. We provide charity for those who cannot afford the hospital services. In addition, we train auxiliary nurse midwives. We appreciate the support of The Presbyterian Church and the WMS who help us with equipment and provide scholarships for the nurses training. The WMS have equipped the critical care unit and we also thank the Rev. Dr. Sarah Travis for the building of a pediatric ward and the donation of a warming unit for infants. The support in these programs is very important to us and we thank you.”

Dr. Dutta said, “I take this opportunity to thank you for all your support and love which you have given to us over a century. I assure you that you hold a very big place in our hearts and we hold you in our prayers. The WMS and PWS&D have always sensed the pulse of our needs, and for this I consider it my rare privilege to thank you for expressing your solidarity through your actions. Because of your partnership we have come a long way in our community health work. We have improved on maternal and child care but still need constant help on issues pertaining to health. We have started focusing towards areas on livelihood and income generation. This progress will need time. India is still a developing country and the gap between rural and urban development is a bit too large. We thank you for the missionaries whom your church has sent. Their timely entrance into our society was remarkable more so in setting up Churches, schools, hospitals and hostels. Many orphans got a home and their lives were shaped, turning them into useful human beings who had come to know Jesus Christ through your love. Today, the Church of North India appreciates and recognizes what you have done.”

The Moderator thanked the women for addressing the Assembly. “It is our strongest desire to walk beside you,” he added.

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

T.G. Vais, convener of the Committee on Education and Reception, presented the report.

Consent Recommendation

M.H. Smith moved, duly seconded, that Recommendation Nos. 25 to 39 (p. XXX-XXX) be adopted by consent. Adopted.

Life and Mission Agency (cont'd on p. XXX)

THEOLOGICAL COLLEGES (cont'd from p. XXX)

Knox College

The report resumed.

Mr. P. Fullerton, convener, presented the report.

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

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

Report as a Whole

P.A. McDonald moved, duly seconded, that the report as a whole be adopted. Adopted.

Moderator Stepped out of Chair

Having asked D.W.K. Sutherland to moderate this portion of the Assembly, the Moderator stepped out of the chair.

The Board of St. Andrew's Hall and Vancouver School of Theology

Mr. D. Jennings, convener of St. Andrew's Hall and member of the board of Vancouver School of Theology, spoke to both reports. They had previously been received and adopted by the Assembly (p. XXX and XXX).

Mr. Jennings highlighted the focus of St. Andrew's Hall on training ruling and teaching elders. With sadness he noted the approaching retirement of Dr. Farris as Dean of St. Andrew's Hall. He also thanked Dr. H. Glen Davis for serving as interim Director of Denominational Formation. He commented on the strong Presbyterian presence at Vancouver School of Theology that has been well received and has had a strong impact on the student body.

Dr. Sutherland expressed the thanks of the Assembly to Dr. Farris for his service to both St. Andrew's Hall and Vancouver School of Theology.

Moderator Resumed Chair

The Moderator resumed the chair.

ASSEMBLY COUNCIL (cont'd from p. XXX)

Recommendation No. 6

Discussion resumed.

Motion to Defer

D.W.K. Sutherland moved, duly seconded, that discussion of Recommendation No. 6 regarding biennial General Assemblies be deferred until the report of the Committee on Church Doctrine is complete. Adopted.

Recommendation No. 9 (p. XXX) was moved by C.A. Ball, duly seconded.

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**SPECIAL COMMITTEE OF THE 139TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY
RE THE OPTIONAL ELIMINATION OF SYNODS**

The Assembly called for the report of the Special Committee of the 139th General Assembly re the Optional Elimination of Synods which, as printed on p. XXX, was presented by J.R. Bannerman, member of the committee.

Receive and Consider

J.R. Bannerman, moved, duly seconded, that the report be received and considered. Adopted.

Recommendation No. 1 (p. XXX) was moved by J.R. Bannerman, duly seconded.

Motion to Defer

G.E. Grant moved, duly seconded, that Recommendation No. 1 be deferred until after the resolution on annual or biennial Assemblies. Defeated.

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MACLEAN ESTATE COMMITTEE

The Moderator invited R.S. Geddes, convener, forward to speak on behalf of the Maclean Estate and the ministry of Crieff Hills Community, which, as printed on pages XXX-XXX, had previously been received and adopted by the Assembly (p. XXX).

R.S. Geddes spoke about Crieff Hills Community while presenting a slide show illustrating the grounds and a sampling of events that take place there. He expressed thanks for the faithful service of Mr. David Phillips to the

community over the past seven years. He also spoke highly of the current staff. Mr. Geddes reminded the court that 2015 marks the 40th anniversary of Crieff Hills Community and that some special events will mark the milestone.

MODERATOR NOMINATES SPECIAL COMMITTEES

Committee to Advise with the Moderator

On nomination of the Moderator, it was moved by D.W.K. Sutherland, duly seconded, that the Committee to Advise with the Moderator be named as follows: Mr. David Jennings, the Rev. Derek J.M. Macleod, the Rev. Dr. M. Jean Morris, the Rev. Linda Park, the Rev. Douglas H. Rollwage (convener), the Rev. Stephen Kendall (Principal Clerk), Ms. Terrie-Lee Hamilton (Secretary). Adopted.

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 fifth sederunt be as printed in the Book of Reports. Adopted.

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ADJOURNMENT

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