

SEVENTH SEDERUNT

At Wilfrid Laurier University, Waterloo, Ontario, on Monday, June second, 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.

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.D. Agnew moved, duly seconded, that the agenda for the seventh sederunt be approved as presented. Adopted.

(cont'd on p. XXX)

COMMITTEE ON HISTORY

The Assembly called for the report of the Committee on History which, as printed on p. XXX, was presented by T.J. Hamilton, convener.

Receive and Consider

B.D. MacLeod, moved, duly seconded, that the report be received and considered. Adopted.

Consent Recommendation

B.D. MacLeod moved, duly seconded, that Recommendation Nos. 1 (p. XXX), 2 (p. XXX), 3 (p. XXX), 4 (p. XXX) and 6 (p. XXX) be adopted by consent. Adopted.

Recommendation No. 5 (p. XXX) was moved by B.D. MacLeod, duly seconded. Adopted.

Recognition of Retired Clergy

With thanks to God, the Assembly recognized the clergy and church workers of The Presbyterian Church in Canada who retired in 2013. The court was invited to stand while the names were read. The Moderator prayed for these servants of the church.

Report as a Whole

B.D. MacLeod moved, duly seconded, that the report as a whole be adopted. Adopted.

ASSEMBLY COUNCIL (cont'd from p. XXX)

Recommendation No. 6

Discussion resumed.

Amendment

J. Bannerman moved, duly seconded that following the words "3 cycles" insert, "and a national gathering/conference of The Presbyterian Church in Canada be held every other year with a focus on worship and visioning.

Moderator's ruling challenged

The ruling of the Moderator, that the amendment was in order, was challenged. The Principal Clerk asked the Assembly whether or not it upheld the ruling of the Moderator. The Assembly upheld the ruling.

The amendment was defeated.

(cont'd on p. XXX)

YOUNG ADULT REPRESENTATIVES

The Assembly called for the report of the Young Adult Representatives. The report was presented as a video in which the Young Adult Representatives provided thoughtful answers to three questions: What caught your attention this weekend? What would you like to say to the commissioners? How can we carry the light of Christ into the world?

ASSEMBLY COUNCIL (cont'd from p. XXX)

Recommendation No. 6

Discussion resumed.

Moderator's ruling challenged

The ruling of the Moderator, that a recommendation for an immediate vote would be in order, was challenged. The Principal Clerk asked the Assembly whether or not it upheld the ruling of the Moderator. The Assembly upheld the ruling.

Immediate Vote

B. Fraser moved, duly seconded, that the Assembly take an immediate vote on Recommendation No. 6. Adopted.

Recommendation No. 6 was defeated.

Recommendation Nos. 7 and 8 were withdrawn with the permission of the Assembly.

Recommendation No. 13 (p. XXX) was moved by C.A. Ball, duly seconded. Adopted.

Recommendation No. 14 (p. XXX) was moved by C.A. Ball, duly seconded. Adopted.

Recommendation No. 15 (p. XXX) was moved by C.A. Ball, duly seconded. Adopted.

Recommendation No. 16 (p. XXX) was moved by C.A. Ball, duly seconded. Adopted.

Recommendation No. 17 (p. XXX) was moved by C.A. Ball, duly seconded. Adopted.

Recommendation No. 4 (p. XXX) was moved by C.A. Ball, duly seconded. Adopted.

Recommendation No. 5 (p. XXX) was moved by C.A. Ball, duly seconded. Adopted.

Additional Motion

D.S. Howard moved, duly seconded, that we remember, reaffirm and carry forward the strong statement made by the 138th General Assembly regarding the importance of local congregations (See additional motion of W.J.C. Ervine and his preamble, A&P 2012, pp. 44–46) in the following ways:

1. That we declare that a clear and critical priority as a denomination is to renew, equip and inspire local congregations and missions to fulfil the Great Commission (Matthew 28:19–20) and the Great Commandment (Mark 12:29–31) to the glory of the triune God,
2. That this priority be incorporated into the mandates and/or job descriptions of all agencies, national committees, and national staff,
3. That this priority be used by all agencies, national committees, and national staff as a regular and critical element of ongoing self-evaluation and the evaluation of any staff members, committees and/or agencies under their oversight,
4. And that all agencies and national committees be directed to regularly include an appropriately thorough written summary of the insights and results of these ongoing evaluations at future General Assemblies.

Amendment to the Additional Motion

R. Clare moved, duly seconded, that the Assembly Council present a strategic plan at the next General Assembly. Adopted.

Additional Motion as amended was adopted as follows:

That we remember, reaffirm and carry forward the strong statement made by the 138th General Assembly re the importance of local congregations (See additional motion of W.J.C. Ervine and his preamble, A&P 2012, pp. 44–46) in the following ways. Adopted.

1. That we declare that a clear and critical priority as a denomination is to renew, equip and inspire local congregations and missions to fulfil the Great Commission (Matthew 28:19-20) and the Great Commandment (Mark 12:29-31) to the glory of the triune God,
2. That this priority be incorporated into the mandates and/or job descriptions of all agencies, national committees, and national staff,
3. That this priority be used by all agencies, national committees, and national staff as a regular and critical element of ongoing self-evaluation and the evaluation of any staff members, committees and/or agencies under their oversight,
4. That all agencies and national committees be directed to regularly include an appropriately thorough written summary of the insights and results of these ongoing evaluations at future General Assemblies.
5. And that the Assembly Council present a strategic plan at the next General Assembly.

Additional Motion

T.B. Little moved, duly seconded, that the General Assembly not consider reducing the frequency of General Assembly until 2019 at the earliest.

Moderator ruled the addition motion out of order.

Report as a Whole

C.A. Ball moved, duly seconded, that the report as a whole be adopted. Adopted.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES

The Assembly called for the report of the Student Representatives. The Moderator invited each student to address the Assembly.

Vancouver School of Theology – Janik Livera

Mr. Janick said, “Moderator, on behalf of those students of St. Andrew’s Hall and the Vancouver School of Theology I extend to you our sincere congratulations on your election to this office. We, as those students, are glad to share our Dean and professor with all of you. As students we are being formed. We are being fed to go out into the world so that we may feed others. The lights that we carry within are being kindled so that we can continue to shine out into the world and carry and continue the mission of God in our particular way. To witness a gathering from coast to coast to coast, standing together ready to take on all matters that arise, all the while maintaining an unsaid bond that is to each other and to the church, has reaffirmed the call that started out like a tiny seed and put forth new roots which hold the promise of growth both within and outward.”

The Presbyterian College – Victor Vaus

Mr. Vaus said, “I have decided to speak to you about discernment. I was pleased to be able to witness that, even given the variety of intellectual currents within our church, we are able to work together in a concerted fashion and arrive at understanding that seems good to us, and to the Holy Spirit. Our system of governance works, and I see that I will be able to continue to work within it, whether seated in the pew or standing in the pulpit. This experience has served to strengthen the conviction of my own calling to ministry. I would like to close with these words of the Apostle Paul from 1 Corinthians 1. For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written, ‘I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart. For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, but we proclaim Christ crucified.’ I pray it may continue to be so, both in my life, and in your own.”

Knox College – Nicole Reid

Ms. Reid said, “I wanted to come to General Assembly to learn more about how our church operates at the national level. I have not been disappointed. I have greatly appreciated listening to words of wisdom from the Moderator and from the international and Aboriginal guests. I have met people from every corner of this nation, and it has been a phenomenal experience. I believe that change is not a dirty word. It can be unsettling, exhausting and even overwhelming, but it is also full of potential, excitement, and hope. There have been many significant changes in my life, and in hindsight, I see God’s handiwork throughout. My faith is growing and changing almost on a daily basis. I see many changes happening in The Presbyterian Church in Canada, too, in all of Christianity in fact, some of them frightening and even overwhelming. I anticipate that far more changes are yet to come as Christendom is further disestablished. May God’s kingdom come on earth as it is in heaven.”

ADJOURNMENT

Announcements having been made, the Moderator adjourned the Assembly with prayer, to meet at Wilfrid Laurier University, Waterloo, Ontario, on Monday, June second, two thousand and fourteen at one o'clock in the afternoon, of which public intimation was given.