

COMMITTEE TO ADVISE WITH THE MODERATOR

Interim Report, May 2020

Thanks be to God, for the Rev. Amanda Currie's commitment to the ministry of The Presbyterian Church in Canada and her willingness to continue to serve as Moderator of the General Assembly.

With the cancellation of the General Assembly in 2020, there can be no election of a Moderator so the Rev. Amanda Currie will continue in this office under the rubric of Book of Forms, 285:

- The moderator of each General Assembly is, until the next Assembly sits, *ex officio* (by virtue of office held) a member of all agencies, boards or committees....

All members of the Committee to Advise with the Moderator have agreed to continue to serve until the next General Assembly. We offer this interim report as a way to update the church on the service of the moderator for the first 10 months of her term.

As of April 1, 2020, the committee has met with the Moderator four times. At each meeting we received an update on her activities, considered invitations, planned and confirmed itinerary, and provided support as we are able.

Amanda has emphasized the importance of ecumenism and interfaith relationships for the church and has been able to address those themes on a number of occasions. In September, she participated in the celebrations marking the 75th Anniversary of the Canadian Council of Churches, and in February she was at the Prairie Centre for Ecumenism in Saskatoon where she led a workshop on inter-church families and ecumenism.

The Moderator and her spouse, Nicholas Jesson, were privileged to visit the Reformed Churches in Hungary and Romania. Organized by the Rev. Dr. Glynis Williams, the trip also included the Rev. Cherie Inksetter, Ms. Joyce Stares, Ms. Joan Heagle, and Ms. Sandra Hamlyn. Highlights of the trip included visiting Lorantffy Zsuzsanna Reformed High School in Oradea, Romania; Samuel House, a social ministry that provides food care, homework help and support for poor children living in rural villages in Romania; Roma ministries in both rural and urban areas; the Kalunba Refugee Integration Program in Budapest; as well as visits with Reformed pastors, ecumenical officers, denominational staff and bishops. There was a spirit of friendship and unity in Christ as joys and concerns were shared, along with worship and prayers for our common ministry.

From June 2019 to April 2020, the Moderator travelled extensively across Canada. Amanda has been in seven provinces and visited many congregations and presbyteries as a speaker, preacher, listener and learner. She was present in our theological schools encouraging students and faculty in their work. Amanda has met with church leaders at the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops, and at the Canadian Church Leaders Retreat. As well, she has participated meetings of the Assembly Council, the Life and Mission Agency Committee, the PWS&D Committee and led a Manna Day event at Crieff Hills.

The Moderator has provided information, encouragement and faithful reflection through articles in Presbyterian Connections, posts on social media, and two letters to the members of The Presbyterian Church in Canada. The first, addressed matters of sexuality including the remits coming out of the 2019 General Assembly and encouraged unity. The second letter, published early in April, spoke to the realities of the COVID-19 outbreak and called us as Christians to hope and prayer and to lead by example in the midst of this crisis.

The committee will support the Moderator as she continues to serve in this office over the coming year. We are aware that the cancellation of many events means that she will not be able to be present in the ways that she had hoped. However, we are committed to using technology in ways that will enable Amanda to 'be present' to presbyteries and congregations and to the whole church. We have agreed to meet more frequently as a committee in order to be able to assess the needs of the church and the ways in which the moderator can respond to those needs.

We give thanks for the support and encouragement of Nicholas Jesson, Amanda's spouse. We are also grateful for the patience, support and leadership of the session and congregation of First Church, Regina where Amanda serves as minister.

We ask for your prayers for the Rev. Amanda Currie as she continues her ministry as Moderator of the General Assembly of The Presbyterian Church in Canada.

M. Jean Morris
Convener

Terrie-Lee Hamilton
Secretary