

## ASSEMBLY COUNCIL

To the Venerable, the 144th General Assembly:

The Assembly Council is a leadership and coordinating body of the church, providing oversight to the work of the various national agencies and committees in between meetings of the Assembly. It also responds to overtures, petitions and other matters assigned to it by the Assembly. The members of the Council represent a diversity of gender, race, age, geographic region, clergy and lay, and brings that diversity of experience in the church to the work of the Council as it seeks to be faithful in discerning the leading of the Spirit in the work that comes before it.

In the financial oversight that it gives, the Council gives thanks for the generous support of the work of the church through Presbyterians Sharing by congregations across the church. While that support is strong, the Council recognizes that the budget is balanced only through transfers from financial reserves. Those reserves are substantial, but the Council is careful in its stewardship of the denomination's resources as it seeks a balance in maintaining the important work that is being done with the revenue needed to support it. The church's pension plan is in an improved position relative to previous years and has reached a sufficiently strong solvency ratio that if that ratio is maintained, no further valuation will be required for three years. In all our financial affairs, the Council is grateful to Oliver Ng, CFO, his staff and the Finance Committee for their careful oversight of the church's finances.

The General Assembly adopted a strategic plan two years ago which was designed to help inspire, equip and renew congregations in their life and witness to the gospel. The Council continues to seek ways to allow the plan to shape our own work and to examine how it is doing in relation to the plan. It has been encouraged by the extent to which the agencies of the church have used it and the ways they have approached their planning and self-evaluation. In particular it commends the Life and Mission Agency for its proactive and comprehensive application of the plan to all aspects of its work.

While encouraging the entire church to consider how the strategic plan can assist in programming and planning, the Council has been active in applying the plan to its own work. At each meeting there is a time of reflection regarding the ways in which the meeting addressed components of the plan. In the past year we continued our focus on visionary leadership, and as part of that held our fall meeting in conjunction with the Life and Mission Agency Committee. That meeting was an opportunity to acquaint each body with the responsibilities and activities of the other, and to recognize how closely we can work alongside each other. The relationships established and collegial atmosphere that prevailed made it a very worthwhile and fruitful exercise. In the coming year the Council will be applying the plan directly in its budget planning process, and will continue to be asking other agencies of the church to indicate how their work is responding to the plan and sharing the good news stories of how they are equipping and guiding the church.

While the Truth and Reconciliation Commission has concluded its work and submitted its report, their calls to action remain before us and the work of healing and reconciliation continues as a task for the church. The Council has appreciated the work of Stephen Allen and the staff of Justice Ministries for resource production, maintaining of relationships and connections for our denomination, and equipping of congregation across their church in their work with Indigenous people. We also appreciate the work of Stephen Kendall, Principal Clerk of the General Assembly, in his oversight of our obligations to the Indian Residential School Settlement Agreement and keeping the Council apprised regarding its progress.

The reports on human sexuality remain before the General Assembly this year, and while the main responsibility for those lie with the Committee on Church Doctrine and Life and Mission Agency (Justice Ministries), the Council monitors the progress and reports of each. It will continue to urge and assist these two bodies in cooperating in the presentation of their reports to enable the Assembly to deal with them effectively. Petition Nos. 1 and 3, 2017 regarding the unity of the church in the light of this discussion were referred to the Council and it is grateful for the leadership of John-Peter Smit in bringing together a conversation reported here which encourages the Assembly in its deliberations to make the seeking of unity a high priority.

The Council strengthened its governance accountability in adopting a new Conflict of Interest Policy for its members at our March meeting. Based on a policy developed by the Life and Mission Agency, it will guide the Council in protecting itself and its members in this regard and is offered to other agencies of their church for their use.

In preparation for this General Assembly, along with the plan to use the same venue for three years, the Council struck a General Assembly Design Team and is grateful to it for its creative work around worship, scheduling and the shape of the agenda. One other new element for this Assembly could be the use of a consensus approach to decision-making which seeks the hearing of more voices in the discussion, building up the community and a stronger sense of oneness around the decisions made. The Council used this in an exercise with the Life and Mission Agency Committee when we met together in November, and by the Council itself for the entirety of its March meeting. In a time of reflection at the conclusion of that meeting, there was strong sense of satisfaction with its value. This method is being recommended to this Assembly for use in one of its sederunts.

A warm thank-you is extended to the members of the Council who bring a vibrant faith and a sincere love for the church to the work that the Council does. Through its own meetings, committee work, conference calls and emails, they offer a wonderful work of faith for the church and it is deeply appreciated. As always, the Council is conscious of the contributions of many on which its work rests. The General Assembly Office staff, and the entire staff complement in the national office, offer their very best with faithfulness, diligence and good will, and we thank you. This work could not be accomplished without your support.

Robert Smith  
Convener

## **THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN CANADA STRATEGIC PLAN**

### **Vision**

Who are we?

Disciples of Christ  
Empowered by the Spirit  
Glorifying God and  
Rejoicing in Service!

### **Mission**

What do we do?

Relying on the power of the Holy Spirit,  
we proclaim the love and good news of Jesus Christ through our words and actions.

As a Reformed church,  
we rely on the truth and inspiration of Scriptures for God's guidance into the future  
– a future that we approach with wonder and anticipation, knowing God is with us.

As worshipping communities joyfully celebrating the sacraments, we are supported,  
strengthened and equipped to share the love of God revealed in Jesus Christ.

## **GOALS**

As worshipping communities of The Presbyterian Church in Canada, relying on the power of the Holy Spirit, we proclaim the love and good news of Jesus Christ through our words and actions by working together as a national church to provide:

*Visionary leadership*

*Empowering resources that are relevant, contextual and missional*

*Relational connections that incarnate Christ's mission at the local and international level*

The complete strategic plan is found at the beginning of the reports in the Book of Reports and on the website in various downloadable formats. Throughout the past year the strategic plan has been growing in influence with the Assembly Council. In addition to its role in encouraging the church through congregations, agencies, colleges and courts to benefit from the direction found in the strategic plan, the Assembly Council itself is increasingly using it as a basis for decision making and planning. A joint meeting with the Life and Mission Agency Committee was very helpful in understanding the many ways that the plan is already informing the work of staff in the national office. A time of guided reflection at each of our own meetings about how we are living into the plan has also been useful in bringing the plan into focus. (see below p. XXXX)

## **ASSEMBLY COUNCIL EXECUTIVE**

The Executive of the Assembly Council meets between the meetings of the Assembly Council to assist in setting agendas and to deal with matters referred to it by the Assembly Council. This year, the Executive appointed and monitored a number of working groups established to respond to overtures and referrals to the Assembly Council.

During the year the Executive received and accepted a request from Colleen Walker to resign for a number of personal reasons. Colleen's presence and contributions to the work of the Assembly Council have been much appreciated.

The Executive also responded positively to a letter from the General Secretary of the United Church of Canada asking if we would enter an 18-month period of discussion together that could possibly lead to a memorandum of understanding on sharing office space at a location on Bloor Street that is under development. These discussions do not bind the church to any particular commitment, but rather provide an opportunity to look at an option that might be beneficial for our church. The Assembly Council has been assessing the possibility of selling or leasing the current national office property at 50 Wynford Drive given the closure of the Book Room, the ceasing of operation of the *Presbyterian Record* and decreased staffing requirements.

## **ARCHIVES AND RECORDS COMMITTEE**

The regular daily work in the Archives and Records Centre involves: ongoing cataloguing, creation of detailed finding aid inventories for and preservation management of our records collections, assisting church/general public researchers via email and in-house, records management advice for national office staff and church courts, completing involved research requests (historical and contemporary) and invoicing, creation of new educational resources for managing church records, updating website and managing the Records Centre.

### **Membership**

Our membership includes: Gordon Timbers (convener), Marilyn Repchuck (convener, Committee on History), Kim Arnold (Archivist), Bob Anger (Assistant Archivist), Geoff Ross (Brampton, Ontario), Teresa Charlton (Virden, British Columbia) and Elizabeth Millar (Sackville, New Brunswick).

Gordon Timbers' term concludes in June 2018. The committee extended its sincere appreciation for his leadership, enthusiasm, creative ideas and overall support of the Archives and Records' work.

### **Records Management**

The records management program falls under the Archives umbrella. One aspect of this is education for the national office and greater church that takes the form of providing advice in person, by phone and email, via workshops and through hard copy/digital information sheets.

Digital Records Management is an ongoing issue at the national church office. The Archives staff meets with departments to analyze the records they create with the goal of identifying digital records with high archival value. The staff then works with the departments to develop procedures to ensure these particular records are preserved long-term.

The Archives staff conducts the annual Records Centre clean-up in May whereby a number of boxes of records are professionally shredded. These particular records are appraised by Archives staff (in consultation with office staff) to reveal what needs to be kept when their immediate use is complete and not deemed significant to become permanent archival records. Each year we shred an estimated 100 record boxes. At the same time additional records are transferred into the Archives from the Records Centre. The norm regarding records retention is that records are kept in the office areas and used by staff for two years, then transferred to the Records Centre for about seven years and, once records are approximately 9–10 years old, the Archives staff appraises all departmental records series for their long-term value.

Often based on demand (suggestions from the church-at-large), the staff responds with a new topical resource. Recently it was requested by a presbytery clerk to create a records schedule information sheet specifically geared to presbytery records. This we will do in the coming months and ultimately will produce a handout and have it available on the website.

### **Microfilming/Digitizing**

We continue encouraging congregations to microfilm and/or digitize their session minutes and church registers. A focus this year was approaching selected historic congregations across the county that have not yet copied their records in any format and asking them to do so. Congregations which recently had their records filmed include: St. Andrew's Church, Kitchener; Trinity Church, Amherstview; St. Matthew's Church, Grand Falls/Windsor; St. Andrew's Church, Martintown; Comox Valley Church, Comox Valley.

One of the special projects we are planning each year is the gradual microfilming and digitizing of our older synod minutes and periodicals.

#### **Recommendation No. 1**

#### **Adopted/Defeated/Amended**

That all church courts be encouraged to have their official records (especially session minutes and church registers) copied to microfilm for security and preservation purposes, and also digitized if desired, by contacting the Archives.

### **Digitizing Audio Cassettes Project**

This migration work regarding format continues as time permits. One cassette recently digitized featured an interview done in 1957 with the Rev. Andrew MacMillan (born in 1864). Allowing the taped voice to be listened to and to be transmitted digitally through the computer enables our oral histories to be more useable and widely accessible to researchers.

### **Archives Website/Exhibits**

The Archives staff works with the Communications department in terms of adding to and promoting our website.

Given we have just received 75 original manuscript letters between the Rev. Dr. David George McQueen and his future wife, Catherine (Robertson), we are re-loading the web exhibit on "The Life of D.G. McQueen of Edmonton". These letters were generously donated by McQueen's granddaughter, Margaret McKinnon of Stanford, California. In order to capture an audience and encourage potential researchers, an announcement of the arrival of this collection was noted on the church's homepage coinciding with Valentine's Day.

### **Oral History**

This special project is the initiative of both the Committee on History and the Archives and Records Committee. A list of potential candidates to be interviewed was sent to each committee member for their information and use. This list is not exhaustive so members were encouraged to think of additional persons who should be taped that may reside in their congregation, presbytery or synod. We encourage others who may be keen to do some interviewing. Overall, we hope to engage as many people as we can to participate in this project in order to realize more taped conversations in the holdings of the Archives. This collection will offer a rich source of historical perspective, on numerous subjects, for future researchers.

### ***Step Into Your Archives Newsletter***

This newsletter, normally issued once a year, offers an assortment of records management topics on education, announcements of new records acquisitions, or interesting historical facts relating to the church. The staff welcomes ideas for content. The upcoming issue likely will contain information about our oral history program and encouraging congregations to update the microfilming/digitizing of their significant church records, session minutes and church registers that top the list of desired records to be copied.

### **Young Canada Works (in Heritage Organizations)**

Each year we apply for a grant through the Canadian Council of Archives. We are able to offer a graduate student (enrolled in an archives program) a summer contract position (fourteen weeks) cataloguing and scanning photographs, and creating a new and topical web exhibit for the Archives website. Last summer Kate Campbell served as our summer student. She created our newest website exhibit honouring Canada's 150th anniversary of Confederation – "Presbyterianism in Canada: 150 Years Ago".

### **Volunteers**

We offer sincere thanks to the Rev. Dr. Bob Anderson for his years of volunteering in the Archives. He faithfully indexes articles by date, name, author and subject matter in some of our oldest Presbyterian periodicals. Without such indexes access to key topics would not be very easy, or very likely.

It is with deep sadness that we note the passing of Mrs. Betty Arnold on December 17, 2017. Betty retired in 2016 as a volunteer with the Archives after ably and cheerfully serving since 1986. Her primary task was responding to the genealogical requests we received. We are most grateful for all that she contributed to the life and work of the Archives. In all ways, she will be much missed.

Note: Both Betty and her husband, Roy Arnold, served these Archives faithfully over 3 decades. Roy Arnold sadly passed away in April 2016.

### **Residential Schools**

The Archives responds to enquiries relating to residential schools. These enquiries are the most requested set of records provided to graduate students using the Archives.

### **Reconciliation Event**

A reconciliation event was held at St. Andrew's Church, Orillia, on September 27, 2017. Mike Downie (brother of Gord Downie) was the keynote speaker reflecting on his brother's work with "The Secret Path" regarding student Chanie Wenjack's tragic school experience at Cecilia Jeffrey Residential School. Reconciliation events such as this respond to the 95 Calls to Action issued by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. By invitation, the Archives sent a display board which featured photos of the two schools administered by The Presbyterian Church in Canada: Birtle and Cecilia Jeffrey.

### **Knox College Students**

Each year Prof. Stuart Macdonald asks the Archives staff to introduce the work and collections of the Archives to his church history students. This year Bob Anger provided that presentation. We look forward to the students' arrival in the Archives to work on their church history papers reflecting many and diverse topics. Their essays must include archival documents as part of their research material.

### **Women's Gathering (WMS)**

On Friday, May 19, 2017, Archives staff attended this event making available a display and various handouts and information sheets geared to the interest of those attending. It was a very well attended event and we were able to speak about our work with a large number of interested folk.

### **Conferences**

Bob Anger attended a workshop at the Archives of Ontario on electronic records management (digital records) in November 2017.

### **Sample Research Topics accessed in the Archives**

The following list reflects some topics researched in the Archives during this reporting period:

- History of Taiwan under Japanese Rule
- Korean Immigrant Society in Manchuria
- Property boundaries re congregational church buildings
- Beginnings of congregation in Métis, Quebec
- Specifics re Presbyterianism relating to L.M. Montgomery
- Articles of Faith Committee and Liberty of Conscience
- The Rev. D.W. Eastman
- Residential Schools: integration of students into local schools
- Annie Lee Whatling, missionary in India 1926–1945
- Tiu Chhang-mia ("Minnie" Mackay)
- The Presbyterian Church in Canada statements re poverty and guaranteed income supplement
- Dr. Peter Bryce and Residential Schools
- Administration of Health Care in Residential Schools

- Mission Work in New Hebrides
- Church Policies towards Indigenous Peoples
- Missionary Women in the Caribbean
- Ecclesiastical Church Architecture 19th Century
- Property/Locations of Presbyterian Residential Schools (TRC)
- Hockey and Residential Schools
- Church courts marking Canada's 150th and the role of The Presbyterian Church in Canada

In summary, the Archives and Records Committee and staff look forward to continuing to develop services and resources that are in response to the changing needs and technologies evident throughout our church.

## **BENEVOLENCE COMMITTEE**

The Benevolence Committee oversees the administration of the benevolent funds and bursary funds that have been entrusted to the Assembly Council. In addition, the committee acts as the appointers of the Fund for Ministerial Assistance. The committee meets twice a year to monitor and administer the funds entrusted to its care.

### **Benevolent Funds**

There are eleven benevolent funds with a total capital of \$6,594,197. 2017 brought a 4.1% increase in the value of the funds. From the income of these funds, approximately 17 persons received monthly support in 2017 totaling about \$94,640. In addition to these gifts, and at the request of the Pension and Benefits Board, benevolent funds are supporting 9 retired missionaries and two widows of retirees with a pension supplement totaling approximately \$60,000. This temporary shift from the Pension and Benefits Board comes with the support of the Assembly Council. Other emergency grants were made on a confidential basis to three persons totaling some \$18,675.

Retired servants of the church and surviving spouses who are experiencing financial need are encouraged to contact the Principal Clerk in the Assembly Office to discuss whether they might qualify for a monthly income supplement. An application form is available from him. Additionally, there are times when a servant of the church experiences a one-time financial need. These cases may also be brought to the Principal Clerk on a confidential basis.

The Benevolence Committee also distributes the income from the Bremner Memorial Fund, established in 2009 through the generosity of Ronald and Muriel Bremner, in memory of Ron's parents, longtime faithful Presbyterians J. Murray and Catharine Bremner.

### **Bursary Funds**

There are 31 bursary funds with a total capital of \$2,428,193. This is 4.6% higher than the total available capital from the previous year. Approximately \$80,000 of income from these funds was awarded to some 34 candidates for the ministries of the church. For the 2018–2019 academic year, up to \$80,000 in student bursaries have again been approved. The secretary calls for applications from the colleges at the start of each term. The colleges compile the applications and forward them to the Assembly Office, where the applications are dealt with and grants made according to the specific terms of the various funds. In addition to the regular student bursaries, \$17,500 was disbursed to two doctoral candidates from the Cameron Doctoral Bursary Fund.

The Benevolence Committee, having been approached by the colleges about the possibility of extending bursary eligibility to candidates received through the Committee on Education and Reception adopted the following policy:

Candidates endorsed by a presbytery, as part of the Education and Reception process, may be eligible for bursaries from The Presbyterian Church in Canada, under the following conditions:

- required by the General Assembly to complete at least one term (five courses) of study at one of our theological colleges;
- for those studying full-time, they have completed 25% of their course hours, with at least a pass, as confirmed by the registrar of the college;
- for those studying part-time, they have completed 25% of the course load, with at least a pass, as confirmed by the registrar of the college;
- all students must be enrolled in ongoing courses at the time funds are dispersed.

The committee invites your prayers, concerns and gifts for needy servants of the church. A number of congregations and individuals make gifts to these funds each year. Many letters of deep gratitude are received from recipients each

year saying how much it has meant not only to receive much needed financial support, but also to know that the church is caring and concerned for their needs. The gifts disbursed from the various funds approximate the income available, and so any additional donations to the funds will be well used.

In 2014, the Assembly Council agreed to combine the responsibilities of the Cameron Doctoral Bursary Fund Committee and the Fund for Ministerial Assistance (FMA) with the Benevolence Committee. The minister of St. Andrew's Church, Ottawa, shall be a member of the Benevolence Committee to conform to the original terms of the FMA.

### **The Fund for Ministerial Assistance**

The Fund for Ministerial Assistance was established by an anonymous gift in 1951. Following the death of the donor, the fund was renamed The Honourable Norman M. Paterson Fund for Ministerial Assistance. Senator Paterson and his wife, Eleanor, maintained a life-long interest in the ministers of the church and their families and they hoped that their gesture might encourage others to respond with generosity.

The decisions of the appointers are governed by the terms of the original indenture that stated gifts were to be made available to eligible married ministers. Since then, eligibility has been extended to include ministers who are separated or divorced and have custody of, or financial responsibility for, their children. To be eligible for benefits from the fund, the income of the family – not just of the minister – must be less than \$10,000 above minimum stipend (including applicable increments).

During the past year, all eligible ministers received foundational gifts of \$750 per annum, and all eligible children received foundational gifts of \$750 per annum. Additional Christmas gifts were distributed to eligible ministers and their eligible children. The number of recipients fluctuates during the year, however, in the period between October 1, 2017 and December 31, 2017, 37 ministers received gifts with additional gifts distributed for the support of 78 children. In addition, nine ministers on long-term disability received Christmas gifts. The first priority has been to maintain the ability to provide the foundational annual gifts that are distributed quarterly; any remaining funds are distributed as additional Christmas gifts. Only through the generosity of donors, it was possible to give a Christmas gift in 2017.

In accord with Senator Paterson's hope that the generosity of others would be sparked by his gift, we continue to appeal to members of our congregations for additional gifts to the capital of the fund, so that ministers and their children who are most in need may continue to receive help.

We gratefully acknowledge contributions made to the fund by congregations and individuals; their generosity makes it possible to continue the work initiated by Mr. Paterson.

### **CHURCH ARCHITECTURE COMMITTEE**

The Committee on Church Architecture serves The Presbyterian Church in Canada by reviewing plans for new buildings and additions or major renovations to existing structures. The committee offers impartial comments on the drawings for each submission. Once satisfied, the committee conveys its approval to the pastoral charge as well as to the overseeing presbytery. If Presbyterian grants are involved, a report will go to Canadian Ministries. If loans from the denomination are involved, a report will go to the Presbyterian Church Building Corporation and the Lending Fund Committee. The committee is made up of architects, laypeople and three ex-officio national office staff.

The following three examples illustrate the kind of projects submitted to the committee in the past year.

1. Vancouver Chinese Church, British Columbia, submitted drawings for a seven-floor building that will include space for congregational facilities, two manse units and 18 rental units.
2. Knox Church, Toronto, Ontario, described renovations that will repair construction deterioration, improve lighting, refurbish stained glass windows, make the chancel area larger and more versatile, replace interior and exterior solid doors with glass making the church more open to the public.
3. Knox Church, Thedford, Ontario, submitted drawing for an addition to the existing building that will enhance the congregation's ministry to the community and beyond.

The committee was impressed with all these projects and was glad to play a role in their development.

## COMMISSION ON ASSETS OF DISSOLVED AND AMALGAMATED CONGREGATIONS

The Commission on Assets of Dissolved and Amalgamated Congregations, consisting of the secretary of the Assembly Council, the convener of the Trustee Board and the Chief Financial Officer, acts on behalf of the Assembly Council and the Trustee Board in dealing with matters of property held by the national church.

Presbyteries are reminded that in the case of amalgamations of congregations, guidelines regarding the disposition of assets are found at section 200.11 in the Book of Forms. In the case of the dissolution (closure) of a congregation, the assets vest with the Trustee Board and effective June 7, 2017, the following formula for distribution of assets is in place for those congregations that are dissolved after that date:

- 50% to Pension Plan Solvency Fund, up to a maximum of \$2 million;
- 10% to Native Ministry Fund, up to a maximum of \$400,000;
- 40% to presbytery for approved mission initiatives.

After the maximum amounts are reached, the distribution will return to:

- 30% to New Church Capital (dissolved congregations' portion to The Presbyterian Church in Canada);
- 70% to presbytery for approved mission initiatives.

## FINANCE COMMITTEE

### Financial Results for 2017

Thanks to the generous contributions to Presbyterians Sharing from congregations, individuals and groups across the church, the denomination is able to carry on mission and ministry throughout Canada and around the world. It is important that we acknowledge and give gratitude for their continued generosity and support.

The Finance Committee of the Assembly Council oversees the operating budget as well as the stewardship of restricted funds and endowment funds of the church.

2017 saw the strengthening and broadening of economic growth around the world, which as a result, supported the expansion in Canada. The stock markets reached a historic high in the United States. The Bank of Canada raised interest rates twice during 2017. Despite the raises, interest rates remained relatively low, impacting savings for many of our senior members. Our denomination continued to experience demographic changes. In these challenging times, the church relies greatly on the power of the Holy Spirit to guide us into the future.

### Bequests

\$890,764 was received in the year; of which \$460,495 was undesignated bequests. This amount was about 10% less than the average of the past five years.

### Statement of Financial Position

**Cash** – \$7.9 million (2016 – \$5 million)

Over 40% of cash comes into The Presbyterian Church in Canada and PWS&D from congregations in the last eight weeks of the year. We earn prime, less 1.8% interest on our cash balances.

**Loans** – \$1.9 million (2016 – \$1.9 million)

During the year, six new loans were issued with a total value of \$400,085 while five loans were paid off. The Lending Fund loans are effectively interest free to congregations if paid off in the twelfth year.

**Fixed Assets** – \$1.5 million (2016 – \$1.5 million)

Fixed assets of \$54,043 were purchased due to renovation of the missionary residence and replacement of equipment.

**Investments** – \$92 million (2016 – \$93 million)

The asset mix of the investments was changed towards the end of the year. 10% of bonds were sold in order to purchase equities. \$7.3 million was held in short term deposit awaiting investment opportunities. The Consolidated Portfolio (CP) had a total gross return of 7.2%, which underperformed its benchmark by 0.4%. Total administration



expenses including management fees was about 54 basis points. Starting January 2018, the asset mix will be 60% equities and 40% fixed income.

In addition to the funds of the church, there are now 109 participants including 2 colleges, 8 presbyteries, Presbyterian Church Building Corporation, 1 synod and over 90 congregations that have invested their funds in the CP with a total fair market value of around \$100 million.

#### **Gift Annuities – \$2.4 million (2016 – \$2.5 million)**

We now have 130 individual annuity contracts with Presbyterians across Canada. In 2017, there were four new annuity contracts with a value of \$40,000. Seven annuitants passed away and left a total gift remainder of \$61,672.

#### **Fund Balances – \$101.7 million (2016 – \$99.9 million)**

There are three funds that make up the balance: the Operating Fund (\$0.5 million), the Restricted Fund (\$56.5 million) and the Endowment Fund (\$44.7 million). Total distribution was \$11.8 million, \$0.2 million higher than 2016.

### **Statement of Revenues and Expenses for Operating Fund**

#### **Revenue**

Total revenue for 2017 was \$7.2 million, down by only \$100,000 when compared to 2016. The primary factor for this minor shortfall was a drop in Presbyterians Sharing of \$100,000. Individuals giving to Presbyterians Sharing increased by \$16,500 over the previous year.

#### **Expenditures**

Total expenditures for 2017 were \$8,369,278, which was \$874,956 lower than budgeted and \$280,291 lower than last year's.

#### **Presbyterians Sharing**

In 2017, Presbyterians across Canada gave around \$10.9 million to support the work of The Presbyterian Church in Canada. Congregations and individuals gave over \$6.7 million to Presbyterians Sharing to support the church's mission and ministry in Canada and around the world.

The largest portion of funds for the General Assembly approved operating budget came from congregations, who gave a total of \$6.6 million (budget was set for \$6.9 million), while individuals gave a total of \$119,000 (budget was set for \$175,000). This was the fourth year of the new Presbyterians Sharing allocation based on 10% of a congregation's dollar base.

#### **Comparing 2017 gifts to 2016**

Out of 846 active congregations, minus preaching points:

- 305 congregations (36%) gave MORE, for a gain of \$353,571;
- 178 congregations (21%) gave the SAME;
- 332 congregations (39%) gave LESS, for a total loss of \$524,280;
- 31 congregations (4%) gave nothing in 2016 and 2017;
- 6 congregations that became inactive in 2017 gave \$78,033.

#### **Interfund Transfers**

Under proper accounting for the restricted fund method, we need to show the transfer between funds. A key part of our financial health is based on sustainable transfers from the restricted fund to the operating fund. A net amount of \$1,480,000 was transferred into the operating fund in 2017.

	\$
From National Development Fund	1,080,000
From Bequest Stabilization Fund	200,000
From New Congregation Fund	200,000
Total Transfers to Operating Fund	<u>1,480,000</u>

**Audit Committee – 2017 Audited Financial Statements**

The Audit Committee met twice, once in December 2017 and again in March 2018. The December meeting was the planning meeting whereby PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) reviewed with the committee their plan and approach for the interim and year-end audit. At this meeting, the materiality, makeup of the audit team and perceived areas of risk were discussed. At the March meeting, the draft financial statements for The Presbyterian Church in Canada and The Presbyterian Church in Canada Pension Plan were presented along with a detailed Audit Committee report submitted by PwC. Members of the Finance Committee were invited to attend the meeting as guests. PwC has noted that subject to getting final confirmations and legal letters, they will be giving an unqualified opinion.

**Recommendation No. 2                      Adopted/Defeated/Amended**

That the financial statements for The Presbyterian Church in Canada at December 31, 2017, be received for information. (p. ~~XXX-XXX~~)

**Recommendation No. 3                      Adopted/Defeated/Amended**

That the financial statements for The Presbyterian Church in Canada Pension Fund at December 31, 2017, be received for information. (p. ~~XXX-XXX~~)

**2019 Budget**

In 2016, the Assembly Council established a 2018 Budget Working Group. This year, the budget principles are based on what was agreed to last year following the report of the 2018 Budget Working Group on matters related to denominational demographics and challenges facing our church.

<b>Receipts</b>	<b>2017 <u>Actual</u> \$</b>	<b>2018 <u>Budget</u> \$</b>	<b>2019 <u>Budget</u> \$</b>
Presbyterians Sharing	6,584,123	6,500,000	6,500,000
Individual Presbyterians Sharing	119,222	200,000	150,000 <sup>1</sup>
Income from Investments	261,768	380,000	330,000
Income from Estates	15,725	10,000	10,000
WMS Contributions	70,000	70,000	75,000
AMS Contributions	40,000	50,000	50,000
Income from Other Sources	59,944	30,000	30,000
Bequest Revenue	38,550	100,000	100,000
Gifts General Revenue	16,243	1,000	1,000
<b>Total receipts</b>	<b>7,205,575</b>	<b>7,341,000</b>	<b>7,246,000</b>

**Notes:**

1. Stewardship and Planned Giving department will encourage individuals to support Presbyterians Sharing through online donations, gift annuities and estates. Based on actual amount received in 2017, \$150,000 is a more reasonable number.

<b>Expenditures</b>	<b>2017 <u>Actual</u> \$</b>	<b>2018 <u>Budget</u> \$</b>	<b>2019 <u>Budget</u> \$</b>
General Assembly Office	1,011,682	1,014,000	1,014,000
Life and Mission Agency	5,041,162	5,666,751	5,589,500
Support Services	1,509,434	1,392,500	1,442,500
Colleges	807,000	700,000	700,000
<b>Total expenditures</b>	<b>8,369,278</b>	<b>8,773,251</b>	<b>8,746,000</b>

In 2019, all salaries will absorb a cost of living adjustment in the salary line of 1.6% (\$55,600). The 2019 budget, compared to the 2018, reflects a decrease of 1.4% or \$126,751. Life and Mission Agency will reprioritize their spending. The grant to colleges will remain the same as in 2018. Support Services will require an increase of \$50,500 due to increases in insurance premiums and other fees.

**Missionary Residence – 27 Brentcliffe Avenue, Toronto**

There are 12 apartment units in this missionary residence. Of the 12 units, four are reserved for missionaries upon their return to Canada, and the other eight are rented out to non-missionaries. A new LRT transport system is being built along Eglinton Avenue and the residence is right at a key intersection in Leaside. There is currently a proposal to build four high-rise towers directly across the street. We have consistently received unsolicited requests to buy our property from the owner of the building next door. The costs and staff time to take care of this building are higher than the rental revenue. The value of the property could be much higher after the completion of the LRT transport system. Life and Mission Agency has decided to keep the property for the near future.

**Interfund Transfers**

<b>Breakdown of Transfers Restricted to Operating</b>	<b>2017 Actual \$</b>	<b>2018 Budget \$</b>	<b>2019 Budget \$</b>
Transfer from Restricted Funds	1,080,000	1,082,251	900,000
Transfer from Stabilization Fund	200,000	150,000	200,000
Transfer from New Congregation Fund	200,000	200,000	300,000
	<b>1,480,000</b>	<b>1,432,251</b>	<b>1,400,000</b>

As at December 31, 2017, the assets of the funds were: National Development Fund – \$1.5 million; Stabilization Fund – \$197,000; New Congregation Fund – \$8.4 million.

**Recommendation No. 4      Adopted/Defeated/Amended**

That the 2019 budget be approved. (p. XXX)

**Three Year Forecast 2020–2022**

The following is one possible “future” scenario. It is not meant to suggest that this will be the recommended “future”. What the following intends to show is that the revenues lined up with a level of expenditures and transfers from restricted funds that are sustainable over a three to five-year period.

	<b><u>2020</u> \$</b>	<b><u>2021</u> \$</b>	<b><u>2022</u> \$</b>
Presbyterians Sharing	6,300,000	6,200,000	6,100,000
Budget – Individual Presbyterians Sharing	150,000	150,000	150,000
Income from Investments	310,000	300,000	300,000
Income from Estates	10,000	10,000	10,000
WMS Contributions	70,000	70,000	70,000
AMS Contributions	50,000	50,000	50,000
Income from Other Sources	30,000	30,000	20,000
Bequest Revenue	100,000	100,000	100,000
Gifts General Revenue	1,000	1,000	1,000
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>7,021,000</b>	<b>6,911,000</b>	<b>6,801,000</b>
<b>Total All Expenditures</b>	<b>8,500,000</b>	<b>8,400,000</b>	<b>8,300,000</b>
Net expenditures in excess of receipts	(1,479,000)	(1,489,000)	(1,499,000)
Opening balance Operating Fund	517,753	438,753	349,753
Transfer from Restricted Fund	1,400,000	1,400,000	1,400,000
<b>Closing balance Operating Fund</b>	<b>438,753</b>	<b>349,753</b>	<b>250,753</b>
<b>Breakdown of Transfers Restricted to Operating</b>			
Transfer from Restricted Fund	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
Transfer Stabilization Fund	200,000	200,000	200,000
New Congregation Fund	200,000	200,000	200,000
	<b>1,400,000</b>	<b>1,400,000</b>	<b>1,400,000</b>

**Recommendation No. 5      Adopted/Defeated/Amended**

That the 2020 to 2022 forecast be received for information.

## MANAGEMENT TEAM

The Management Team is made up of the three general secretaries (Principal Clerk, General Secretary of Life and Mission Agency and Chief Financial Officer/Treasurer). They are charged with managing and coordinating the work of the church offices. In addition, they are asked to prepare initial drafts of budgets for the Finance Committee and to carry out other tasks as requested by the Assembly Council. They report regularly to the Assembly Council. The Management Team is very grateful for the high level of skill and dedication of the staff at 50 Wynford.

This model of working together as three general secretaries brings a strong sense of unity to the work of the national church within 50 Wynford Drive.

The Management Team is often asked to consult with or prepare drafts for committees working on various policies. This year, they assisted with updates to the Moderator Stipend and Budget Policy, the Undesignated Bequest Policy, the Bequest Revenue/Equalization Policy and the Executive Staff Mortgage Policy. All these are policies internal to the Assembly Council that have been updated.

### **OVERTURE NO. 8, 2017** (A&P 2017, p. 585–86, 220, 14)

#### **Re: Housing allowance benefit for non-ordained church workers**

The Assembly Council discussed a draft response to this overture at both the Executive and the March Assembly Council meetings. Following those discussions it was agreed that more work is required and the matter was referred to the Human Resources Committee (previously Personnel Policy Committee) for further consideration.

#### **Recommendation No. 6**

#### **Adopted/Defeated/Amended**

That permission be granted for report on Overture No. 8, 2017 to the 2019 General Assembly.

### **OVERTURE NO. 13, 2017** (A&P 2017, p. 589, 235, 23)

#### **Re: Summer students stipend and accommodation**

In preparing a response for Overture No. 13, 2017 re summer students stipend and accommodation, the Assembly Council referred the matter to its Personnel Policy Committee for consideration, and then reviewed the response at its spring meeting. The framers of Overture No. 13, 2017 rightly point out that the stipend for summer student appointments has not been adjusted since 2001. The rate of pay stands at \$405 per week, or \$305 per week if housing is included.

As a matter of fairness and in order to comply with employment standards, it is important to adjust this to at least ensure that the minimum wage is being paid to every employee of the church. Adjusted for Consumer Price Index (CPI) changes since 2001, the figure of \$405 would need to be about \$535. Based on a 45-hour work week, minimum wage figures would require between \$488 per week and \$630 per week. Therefore, even adjusting for CPI would be insufficient in most provinces.

Canadian Ministries supports a Rural and Remote Ministry Grant program, which is popular among candidates for ministry. Under the terms of the grant, congregations pay the student according to the stipend and allowance schedule adopted by the General Assembly. At the end of the summer a grant of \$5,000 is provided to the congregation by Canadian Ministries with the stipulation that the congregation pass the grant on to the student to put towards their tuition and other costs for the coming year. The grant is therefore in addition to the summer stipend and allowances. About 7 or 8 students are recipients of this grant each summer.

While an increase to the summer student rate may be a challenge to some congregations, it is possible to reduce the number of hours work per week or the number of weeks work per summer based on funds available.

The matter of temporary housing is something that is often easily worked out locally. A reduction of stipend is not an appropriate means to handle housing if it results in the stipend falling below the minimum requirement. If necessary, a congregation may share some of costs of housing with the student, but at a rate to the student not to exceed \$100 per week.

The Assembly Council is committed to the principle of meeting or exceeding provincial employment standards and therefore, the following adjustment to the stipend for students on summer appointment is recommended.

**Recommendation No. 7**

**Adopted/Defeated/Amended**

That the stipend for students on summer appointment meet or exceed the minimum wage requirements for the province in which the appointment takes place; housing costs may be shared with the student, at a rate not to exceed \$100 per week, plus travel, as applicable.

**Recommendation No. 8**

**Adopted/Defeated/Amended**

That the Assembly Council review the stipend for students on summer appointment at least every five years.

**Recommendation No. 9**

**Adopted/Defeated/Amended**

That the above be the answer to Overture No. 13, 2017 re summer students stipend and accommodation.

**PETITIONS NOS. 1 AND 3, 2017 (A&P 2017, p. 602–605, 42, 235, 45)**

**Re: Guidance re denominational unity during sexuality discussions**

The 2017 General Assembly referred Petition Nos. 1 and 3, 2017 to the Assembly Council, to consult with the Life and Mission Agency and the Committee on Church Doctrine. The petitions conclude with the following request:

Therefore, the Presbytery of Western Han-Ca humbly petitions the Venerable, the 143rd General Assembly, to ask the Clerks of Assembly and the Life and Mission Agency Committee to consider our cry on these subjects asking you to provide to us with guidance as to how we can remain as one body in the denomination, remaining as your courts of presbyteries serving its constituent members, The Presbyterian Church in Canada and our Lord, to the glory of God, or to do otherwise as the General Assembly, in its wisdom, may deem best.

The Assembly Council, having been asked to consult with the Life and Mission Agency Committee and the Committee on Church Doctrine, established a working group to recommend a process for consultation that would also include the two Han-Ca Presbyteries.

It was the conviction of those tasked with creating this process that addressing the petitions required a different perspective and methodology to move us forward. They further believed that this issue is a problem to be solved and, ought not leave us further “stuck” as we relate to one another as members of the body of Christ and one denominational family.

Out of this conviction, members of Assembly Council, met with Min Basadur of Basadur Applied Creativity (basadur.com). Dr. Basadur is a recognized expert in the area of process, creative thinking and problem solving. He led the members through a mini process of creative problem solving and we believed that his methodology, ability to encourage creative solutions and his neutral presence offered a tremendous opportunity for all to find a helpful response to the petitions.

On the basis of this meeting, a recommendation was made to the Assembly Council to engage the services of Basadur Applied Creativity for a one-day workshop to address this issue.

This workshop was held on February 9, 2018, at the office of Basadur Applied Creativity in Waterdown, Ontario. Attending this event were:

- Cheol Soon Park and Yong Wan Cho from the Presbytery of Western Han-Ca
- Jinsook Khang and Richard Seong-Keun Kim from the Presbytery of Eastern Han-Ca
- Marty Molengraaf and Stephen Allen from the Life and Mission Agency
- Alexandra Johnston and Paul Johnston from the Committee on Church Doctrine
- Germaine Lovelace and John-Peter Smit from the Assembly Council
- Don Muir, Clerk of Assembly

Dr. Basadur led the group through a process of developing better questions to ask as we addressed the petitions from the Han-Can Presbyteries. The question the group chose to address was “How might we use these petitions to advance the unity of the church?”. There were many different responses given to this question, some funny, some silly and some serious. After brainstorming answers, the group was invited, in pairs, to identify those they felt were the most important. These were:

- Commit to unity from the get-go (no decision without unity).
- Forebear one another. Put dissimilar groups together with the task of forbearing each other.

- Enable each congregation to make its own decision on the issue of sexuality petition.
- Clarify whether this issue is an essential of the faith.

This was a very helpful day in a number of respects. One was the formulation of the responses above. More than that, at least three significant learnings emerged.

1. This group was deliberately chosen, partially as representatives of the various agencies and presbyteries of the church but also because it represented the spectrum of perspectives and beliefs of The Presbyterian Church in Canada around the issue of human sexuality. That said, at no time during the entire event was anyone sitting or speaking across from or opposed to another. There were no threats, no ultimatums and no divisive language or action. Instead at all times we, as one body, were seated together, facing the same direction working on these questions together. In fact, it is worth noting that throughout the day we typically had to vote in pairs. In more than one instance, these pairs were made up of individuals with strong convictions on both sides of this issue, yet they were able to work and decide together.
2. As the group worked together, the clear consensus emerged that as Christians we are called to be one body. Likewise as Presbyterians we are called to unity. One strong thread in our conversations was that we learn from the missteps of other denominations over these issues. Likewise as part of one Presbyterian community, we have strengths (including our ability to disagree) that equip us for times such as these. In other words, in the face of potential division, as followers of Jesus we are better than that. We have a biblical call to unity even in the face of significant disagreement, and in this group there was a strong commitment to resolve these issues together.
3. The more ideas we have, the more likely we are to have better ideas. Likewise the more fun we have, the more likely we are to have better ideas. While it might seem odd, it was a fun and often a playful day. Author Edwin Friedman describes anxiety and seriousness as blood brothers if not conjoined twins. It quickly became apparent that seriousness and anxiety are not allies in this process. This manifested itself in that the conflict level was low enough for this to be treated as a problem to be solved creatively rather than an issue to divide.

These two petitions are in many ways a gift to the church as they allow us to address the issue of unity in the face of significant disagreement. As Christians we are called to be One, Holy and Apostolic. The group was clear that unity and agreement is not the same thing and further that there are many things on which we have and do disagree. The current perpetual higher-level conflict in our denomination does more than thwart creativity and joy, it takes us down a road of despair rather than hope and division rather than unity. Not taking ourselves quite so seriously may be a creative way forward.

Together the group that gathered agreed to commend the following proposals to the church:

That the General Assembly of The Presbyterian Church in Canada commit to unity as a precondition to decisions related to the issues of human sexuality.

That the General Assembly apply the biblical and historical principles of forbearance to one another and, if necessary that the Committee on Church Doctrine articulate these principles to the church.

That, if necessary to preserve the unity of the church, the possibilities of a local option be explored.

That if necessary, the question of whether this issue is an “essential of the faith” be explored; this follows the principle of the Reformer, Rupertus Meldenius, to whom is attributed the phrase “In Essentials unity, in Non-Essentials liberty, in all things Charity.”

The Assembly Council endorsed the results of the workshop as an appropriate response to the consultation requested by the General Assembly. It also expresses its hope that the positive experience listening to one another and working together even in the presence of widely divergent views can be encouraged broadly in the church and within the work of the General Assembly on issues of sexuality. To that end, Assembly Council makes the following recommendations:

#### **Recommendation No. 10**

#### **Adopted/Defeated/Amended**

That we as a church seek unity in Christ in our dealings with one another, in the spirit of the experience of the workshop engaged in by representatives of the Han-Ca Presbyteries, the Committee on Church Doctrine, the Life and Mission Agency, the Assembly Council and the Clerks of Assembly.

**Recommendation No. 11****Adopted/Defeated/Amended**

That the above actions and report be the answer to Petition Nos. 1 and 3, 2017 re guidance re denominational unity during human sexuality discussions.

**OVERTURE NO. 1, 2018 (p. XXX)****Re: General Assembly arrangements**

Overture No. 1, 2018 asks that the Assembly Council and the General Assembly Office ensure the provision of adequate breaks in the flow of the General Assembly for commissioners, the Clerks of Assembly and the Moderator. It also asks that consideration be given to ensure sleeping accommodations, meals and meetings can be in close proximity. This is in the context of a shorter General Assembly (Sunday through Wednesday) which tends to necessitate longer days of business.

The Assembly Council has appointed a General Assembly Design Team to assist both the Council and the General Assembly Office in shaping all aspects of the General Assembly. The Design Team has reviewed this overture and is very much aware of the need to provide a balance of prayerful work, worship, breaks, fellowship and rest during the General Assembly. Some changes to this end are being introduced at this Assembly.

The Assembly Council is also sure the Clerks of Assembly and Moderators appreciate the concern for them and their ability to have breaks during the lengthy sederunts, but can assure the Assembly that provision is quite adequate for them to attend to their needs.

The question of location of the General Assembly is settled for the next three years with the decision to be at Wilfrid Laurier University. This venue was picked in part due to the convenience and comfort it offers compared to various other venues explored. Over the next three years, other options, including hotel accommodation will be considered, all with a view to being good stewards of denominational resources, and providing the best possible experience for commissioners as they dedicate themselves to their important task.

**Recommendation No. 12****Adopted/Defeated/Amended**

That the prayer of Overture No. 1, 2018 re General Assembly arrangements be answered in terms of the above report.

**OTHER ASSEMBLY COUNCIL MATTERS****Consensus-Building Decision-Making**

The Assembly Council has been exploring alternate forms of decision-making for the church. Some of these place particular emphasis on seeking to build as much consensus as possible and encouraging a greater emphasis on listening to voices that are sometimes not heard. They also seek to take into account options for consideration that may not immediately emerge in our usual process of debating recommendations, and initiating changes by the formal process of making and considering amendments.

At the November meeting, orientation to a process that has been in use at the World Council of Churches, the World Communion of Reformed Churches and an ever-growing number of denominations was given. In this process, blue and orange cards are used by members to indicate their sense of support for proposals and to offer ideas for change. The process provides for the frequent “testing of consensus” which allows everyone in the room to signal their sense of how things are going as the consensus builds. After a sample scenario at the November meeting, the Assembly Council agreed to use the process for their entire meeting in March, and also recommended that it be used at one sederunt at the General Assembly. In their use of the process, the Assembly Council discovered that very little time was spent on questions of procedure and more time was available for substantial discussion. Also, they found they were able to make all their decisions by this process, without the need, even on challenging matters, to resort to a vote by show of hands.

Orientation materials and a flowchart of the process is found in the Book of Reports (p. XXX). In order to proceed with the use of this process at a sederunt at the General Assembly, a facilitating motion will be presented by the Business Committee Sunday evening, and an orientation session will be held for commissioners. The Moderator will be supported by a “facilitating team”, the members of which have had experience in the use of this process.

### **Conflict of Interest Policy**

The Assembly Council approved the following Conflict of Interest Policy for its own use and also commends it to other committees and bodies within the church.

1. Each member of the Assembly Council shall determine if she/he has a conflict of interest pertaining to any matter presented for the Assembly Council's decision, prior to that decision being taken. A conflict of interest shall include, but not be limited to any benefit that the member could obtain from a decision of the Assembly Council that is different in kind or disproportionate to any benefit received by other members of the Assembly Council on the same decision.
2. Where a member is unsure if a conflict of interest exists, the member shall seek the guidance of the convener. The convener shall make a preliminary determination whether a conflict of interest exists and so advise the Council, which may then accept or alter the convener's recommended action.
3. Any member who has a conflict of interest pertaining to a decision of the Assembly Council shall disclose to the Council the information that gives rise to the conflict of interest prior to the relevant decision being made.
4. All matters relating to a conflict of interest shall be recorded in the minutes of the meeting.
5. Should a member of the Council fail to notice or disclose a conflict of interest, other members may raise the issue for clarification. Conflicts of interest are not necessarily unethical or indicative of wrong-doing. Where one member identifies another member as having a conflict of interest, it shall not be considered as an accusation of lack of integrity or of wrong-doing.
6. A decision of the Assembly Council shall be valid notwithstanding a conflict of interest not being disclosed, but members may be censured by the Assembly Council.
7. Any member who declares a conflict of interest shall have the right to participate in discussions on a decision before the Assembly Council but must abstain from voting on that decision.

### **Terms of Reference of the Assembly Council**

The 2015 General Assembly considered a proposal to amend the Assembly Council's terms of reference. In 2016, following a year of study and report by the church, the General Assembly approved the new membership composition for the Assembly Council. The Council had the responsibility to arrange the transition of the membership from 31 to 21 appointed members. (A&P 2016, p. 221–23, 25) This transition will take place between now and the 2019 General Assembly. The Assembly Council is working with the Committee to Nominate Standing Committees to ensure a smooth transition toward the new membership.

### **Additional Day for the 2019 General Assembly**

The Assembly Council, with the help of its General Assembly Design Team, reviews many aspects of the work, flow and arrangements for the Assembly. In reviewing the experience of a shorter Assembly from the past few years, the Assembly Council agreed that one day should be added to length of the General Assembly beginning in 2019. This will be reviewed on an ongoing basis.

### **Minimum Stipend for 2019**

In 2005, the General Assembly agreed that the Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) would be applied to the entire grid of minimum stipends and increments, and not simply to the level of the fourth increment, as had been the practice prior to 2006. In 2007 a recommendation was adopted by the Assembly as follows: "that the twelve month average CPI as determined by Statistics Canada be used to determine COLA each year; the period to be used will be the 12 month average running from June to May." (A&P 2007, p. 213, 18) A letter will be circulated to presbyteries with the 2018 minimum stipend figures once available.

### **Indian Residential Schools Settlement Agreement**

The Principal Clerk continues to oversee and monitor our church's participation in the Residential Schools Settlement Agreement (IRSSA) that was approved in 2007.

The Indian Residential Schools Settlement Agreement provided a settlement of almost all residential schools litigation when it was signed by the parties (including The Presbyterian Church in Canada) in 2007. Now that ten



years has passed since its implementation, the All-Party Table is undertaking a “lessons learned” exercise to endeavour to help any future similar agreements to be as positive as possible. This is a “survivor-centred” project that is designed to consult widely and be trauma sensitive in its approach. If any individuals related to The Presbyterian Church in Canada would like to have their reflections on the settlement agreement considered as a part of this exercise, they may contact the Principal Clerk skendall@presbyterian.ca.

The key components of the agreement are nearing completion and our church’s responsibilities under the agreement will be winding up over the next few years. Ultimately the courts will confirm the completion of the agreement, and discussion about how and then this will happen are taking place.

The General Secretaries of the United Church of Canada and the Anglican Church of Canada meet regularly with Stephen Kendall in order to have a coordinated participation in decisions related to all aspects of the settlement agreement.

The All Party Table, first established as a means to support and advise the work of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada has continued to meet several times a year, normally at the offices of the Assembly of First Nations in Ottawa. Stephen Kendall, Principal Clerk, continues to represent our church on this body and in the past year has been joined by Stephen Allen, Associate Secretary, Justice Ministries. This is particularly helpful as the All Party Table shifts its focus away from the legal obligations and toward working together on the Calls to Action that were directed by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission to the parties to the agreement.

The All Party Table continues to work on several matters related to the overall agreement and the Calls to Action from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada including:

1. A Covenant of Reconciliation (Call to Action No. 46) that many bodies and Canada would be invited to sign on to as a commitment toward right relations with Indigenous people.
2. Outstanding Legal Issues (Call to Action No. 29) such as the administrative split issue, day scholars, the “60s scoop” institutions not covered by the IRSSA.
3. Supporting the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation.

The Presbyterian Church in Canada continues to walk a healing journey together with First Nation, Inuit and Métis both as a response to the legacy of residential schools and as we join with all Canadians in seeking to forge a new partnership based on respect and trust.

### **Life and Mission Agency**

The Life and Mission Agency is represented on the Assembly Council by its General Secretary and convener. Two members of the Council also serve on the Life and Mission Agency Committee. The committee keeps the Assembly Council informed of its evolving mission and ministry programs and activities.

The Life and Mission Agency recommended to the Assembly Council the approval of the position description for Associate Secretary, Justice Ministries, and sought permission to circulate presbyteries for nominations (Book of Forms, Appendix B-1). Assembly Council has established a task group to work collaboratively with a group from the Life and Mission Agency to review the position description and bring recommendations to the November meeting of the Assembly Council.

### **APPRECIATION**

The Assembly Council continues to be grateful to God for the commitment, energy, prayer and thoughtfulness of those who serve this church on its committees, agencies and councils. The Council takes this opportunity to thank those members whose terms expire with this General Assembly: Robert Smith, Brent Ellis, David Sutherland, Gayle Rodger, Donald McCallum, Harold Hunt, Vic Falk, Jay Song; and ex-officio members: Peter Bush and Dale Woods.

Robert Smith  
Convener

Stephen Kendall  
Secretary

**2019 BUDGET**

<b>RECEIPTS</b>	<b>2017 Actual \$</b>	<b>2017 Budget \$</b>	<b>2018 Budget \$</b>	<b>2019 Budget \$</b>
Presbyterians Sharing	6,584,123	6,900,000	6,500,000	6,500,000
Budget – Individual Presbyterians Sharing	119,222	175,000	200,000	150,000
Income from Investments	261,768	380,000	380,000	330,000
Income from Estates	15,725	10,000	10,000	10,000
WMS Contributions	70,000	50,000	70,000	75,000
AMS Contributions	40,000	60,000	50,000	50,000
Income from Other Sources	59,944	50,000	30,000	30,000
Bequest Revenue	38,550	125,000	100,000	100,000
Gifts General Revenue	16,243	1,000	1,000	1,000
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>7,205,575</b>	<b>7,751,000</b>	<b>7,341,000</b>	<b>7,246,000</b>
<b>EXPENDITURES</b>				
<b>General Assembly/Assembly Council</b>				
General Assembly	299,460	300,000	300,000	295,000
Assembly Council/Committees	53,468	51,500	51,500	51,500
Assembly Council/Secretary's Office	645,280	646,500	646,500	651,500
Archives	13,474	16,000	16,000	16,000
<b>Total General Assembly/Assembly Council</b>	<b>1,011,682</b>	<b>1,014,000</b>	<b>1,014,000</b>	<b>1,014,000</b>
<b>Life and Mission Agency</b>				
Program Support and Administration	2,051,512	2,109,219	2,109,219	2,109,219
Ministry and Church Vocations	70,646	88,380	88,380	88,380
Stewardship and Planned Giving	146,680	140,758	140,758	140,758
Justice Ministries	70,886	74,600	74,600	74,600
Regional Resourcing	397,584	497,856	497,856	497,856
International Ministries	960,793	1,146,586	1,043,586	1,013,094
Communications	48,263	85,440	85,440	85,440
Canadian Ministries	1,294,798	1,787,912	1,626,912	1,580,153
<b>Total Life &amp; Mission Agency</b>	<b>5,041,162</b>	<b>5,930,751</b>	<b>5,666,751</b>	<b>5,589,500</b>
<b>Support Services</b>				
Administration	931,950	928,000	941,000	906,100
Human Resources	245	1,500	1,500	500
Building Maintenance	303,322	300,000	280,000	294,100
Missionary Residence	18,420	33,000	10,000	18,000
Financial Services	169,056	134,000	135,000	164,500
RDC–Sales	21	32,000	0	0
RDC–Resource Distribution	32,313	11,000	0	23,800
RDC–Printing	54,107	53,000	25,000	35,500
<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>1,509,434</b>	<b>1,492,500</b>	<b>1,392,500</b>	<b>1,442,500</b>
App'd by GA – Colleges	807,000	807,000	700,000	700,000
<b>Total Support Services</b>	<b>2,316,434</b>	<b>2,299,500</b>	<b>2,092,500</b>	<b>2,142,500</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>8,369,278</b>	<b>9,244,251</b>	<b>8,773,251</b>	<b>8,746,000</b>
<b>Excess (Deficiency) of Receipts and Expenditures</b>	<b>(1,163,703)</b>	<b>(1,493,251)</b>	<b>(1,432,251)</b>	<b>(1,500,000)</b>
<b>Opening Balance Operating Fund</b>	<b>200,956</b>	<b>200,956</b>	<b>517,253</b>	<b>517,253</b>
Net Transfer from Restricted Fund	1,480,000	1,480,000	1,432,251	1,500,000
<b>Closing Balance Operating Fund</b>	<b>517,253</b>	<b>187,705</b>	<b>517,253</b>	<b>517,253</b>
<b>Breakdown of Transfers from Restricted to Operating</b>				
Transfer from Restricted Fund	1,080,000	1,080,000	1,082,251	900,000
Transfer from Stabilization Fund	200,000	200,000	150,000	300,000
Transfer from New Congregation Fund	200,000	200,000	200,000	300,000
	<b>1,480,000</b>	<b>1,480,000</b>	<b>1,432,251</b>	<b>1,500,000</b>