

## **FOURTH SEDERUNT**

### **WORSHIP**

The preludes for the morning worship were provided by Communauté Chrétienne SILOÉ, Camp Cairn, and St. Timothy's, Toronto. The sermon was delivered by the Rev. Dr. Richard Topping and the service led by the Assembly's liturgist, musician and several commissioners.

### **ASSEMBLY CONSTITUTED**

On Tuesday, June 8, 2021 at 12:00 p.m. (EDT), the Assembly met pursuant to adjournment. The Moderator constituted the Assembly with prayer.

### **COMMITTEE ON REMITS**

The Assembly called for the report of the Committee on Remits which, as printed below, was introduced by J.R. Bannerman, convener.

#### **Recommendation REM-001**

J.R. Bannerman moved, duly seconded, that Remit A, 2019 re Book of Forms 108–108.3 – Length of Term Service for Elders be approved and that this become the law of the church and that the Book of Forms be amended accordingly. Adopted.

#### **Recommendation REM-002**

J.R. Bannerman moved, duly seconded, that Remit B, 2019 re Definition of Marriage be approved and that this become the law of the church and that the Book of Forms be amended accordingly.

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### **ECUMENICAL GUEST**

The Moderator welcomed the Rev. Marikje Strong. Ms. Strong is the Executive Secretary of the Regional Synod of Canada of the Reformed Church in America.

S. Kendall introduced Ms. Strong to the Assembly.

Ms. Strong said, "I think the Reformed Church and the Presbyterian Church are really like cousins. We share common roots in the Protestant Reformation, a common commitment to the creeds of the faith, a love of the Sacraments, and a dedication to incarnational ministry. We are also all members of the World Communion of Reformed Churches, joining with others around the globe to work for the restoration of justice and the renewal of all things to God's design. Church life as we knew it has been changing. Many churches as we knew them have been shrinking, but new expressions of church are rising up. The Body of Christ is still alive and well. It just looks and behaves differently that it did 50 or 100 years ago. God is doing a new thing in our midst. Not only through us but in us, too."

The Moderator thanked Ms. Strong for her presence at the Assembly and offered prayer for her and the Reformed Church in America.

### **COMMITTEE ON REMITS (cont'd from p. XXX)**

#### **Discussion resumed**

Discussion on Recommendation REM-002 resumed.

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### **MODERATOR OF THE 2019 GENERAL ASSEMBLY ADDRESSES THE ASSEMBLY**

The Moderator invited the Rev. A. Currie to report to the Assembly.

Against a backdrop of slides depicting events that took place during her term in office, Ms. Currie remarked, “I was the sixth female Moderator, the third Saskatchewan Moderator, and the first Moderator to serve for two years.” In my first year I chose as a priority, ecumenical engagement. I visited several ecumenical shared ministries, preached and lead workshops related to ecumenism, and took up many opportunities to participate in ecumenical gatherings. In light of the 2019 Assembly’s repudiation of the Doctrine of Discovery and reaffirmation of our 1994 confession regarding our participation in the residential schools system, connecting with our Indigenous ministries was also important to me. In September 2019, my husband and I enjoyed the opportunity to visit the Reformed churches of Hungary and Romania. Visiting our theological colleges was a joyful part of my travels pre-COVID. During the pandemic, I wrote many reflections and recorded numerous video messages for the church as a whole. I virtually visited many more communities than I could have done in person. In the summer of 2020, I invited Presbyterians to “Walk and Pray with the Moderator”. We walked in our own communities and prayed together for all the congregations and ministries of the PCC as well as our ecumenical partners. As the pandemic continued, I offered more opportunities to gather online, hosting Advent, Lent and Easter with the Moderator events. I was honoured to be a pastoral presence and a voice for the denomination through this challenging time.”

The Moderator thanked Ms. Currie for the several amusing gifts she had sent to him and for her service to the church.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

The Moderator adjourned the Assembly with prayer, to reconvene on Tuesday, June 8, 2021 at 4:00 p.m. (EDT), of which public intimation was given.