

ASSEMBLY COUNCIL
March 21–22, 2022

The Assembly Council met by video conference and in-person at 50 Wynford Drive, Toronto, Ontario, from Sunday, March 20 to Tuesday, March 22, 2022. John Wilson led in a time of worship.

**LAND
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**
271/22C

The convener acknowledged that The Presbyterian Church in Canada and its members are on the historic territory of the First Nations, Metis and Inuit Peoples of this land. As a church, we take seriously the challenge of reconciliation, to deepen bonds of friendship and solidarity, to strive to “walk together” in the present and future, and to live with integrity the words of Our Confession to God and to Indigenous Peoples from 1994.

PRESENT
272/22C

Assembly Appointees: The Rev. Cherie A. Inksetter, Mr. Peter A. Kinch, the Rev. Germaine Lovelace, the Rev. Bethany McCaffery, the Rev. Jeffrey M. Murray, Ms. Ann Paterson, Ms. Barbara Sargent, Ms. Linda Shaw, the Rev. John R. Wilson.

Presbytery Representatives: The Rev. John C. Borthwick, Ms. Brenda Butler, Ms. Sandra J. Cameron Evans (convener), the Rev. Jennifer L. Cameron, the Rev. Henry Heung Ryeol Han, the Rev. Jinsook Khang, the Rev. Robert J. Murray, Ms. Diane Reader Jones, the Rev. Dr. John-Peter C. Smit.

Ex-Officio – Voting: Ms. Cathy Reid, the Rev. Dr. Daniel D. Scott, Ms. Cindy Stephenson, Ms. Carol Stymiest.

Ex-Officio – Non-Voting: The Rev. Stephen Kendall (secretary), the Rev. Dr. Ross A. Lockhart, Mr. Oliver Ng, the Rev. Ian Ross-McDonald.

Staff: Ms. Terrie-Lee Hamilton, the Rev. Donald Muir.

REGRETS
273/22C

Ms. Vivian Ketchum; Sunday: the Rev. Dr. Ross A. Lockhart, the Rev. Jeffrey M. Murray and the Rev. Henry Heung Ryeol Han; Tuesday: the Rev. Bethany McCaffery.

VISITORS
274/22C

The Council welcomed the following visitors to this meeting:

- Dr. Allyson Carr and Ms. Katharine Sisk – Healing and Reconciliation.
- The Rev. Deb Stanbury – Pay Equity and Gender-Based Discrimination.
- Mr. Randal Phillips and the Rev. Dr. John Vissers – Knox College.

**CONFLICT OF
INTEREST**
275/22C

No member indicated a conflict of interest for this meeting.

AGENDA
276/22C

It was moved by C. Stephenson, duly seconded and

AGREED, that the agenda be approved.

REPORTS
277/22C

It was moved by J. Borthwick, duly seconded and

AGREED, that the reports be received and considered.

**MINUTES
Council**
278/22C

It was moved by C. Inksetter, duly seconded and

AGREED, that the minutes of the Assembly Council for November 21–23, 2021 and January 19, 2022 be approved.

Executive
279/22C

It was moved by J. Cameron, duly seconded and

AGREED, that the Executive minutes of December 14, 2021, January 19, 2022 and February 23, 2022 be received for information.

CORRESPONDENCE
280/22C

The Council addressed the various pieces of correspondence as indicated below.

**2021 General Assembly
Decisions**
281/22C

The following letters were received from:

- Session of St. Andrew's, Huntsville re letter concerning General Assembly actions,
- J. Coppieters re implications of the 2019 Remits decisions,
- Presbytery of Kamloops re letter concerning General Assembly actions,
- Session of Westminster, Barrie re departure issues,
- Business Committee re Overture No. 10, 2022 re request for gracious dismissal (referred to Clerks of Assembly in consultation with the Trustee Board and the Assembly Council).

It was moved by C. Stephenson, duly seconded and

AGREED, that the above letters be referred to the Executive.

Alternate Governance
282/22C

The following letters were received from:

- Business Committee re Overture No. 90, 2021 re alternate governance (referred in consultation with Clerks of Assembly),
- Business Committee re Overture No. 8, 2022 re congregations wishing to leave the denomination,
- Business Committee re Overture No. 10, 2022 re request for gracious dismissal (referred to Clerks of Assembly in consultation with the Trustee Board and the Assembly Council).

It was moved by P. Kinch, duly seconded and

AGREED, that the above letters be referred to the Departures/Alternate Governance Working Group.

Presbytery of Essex-Kent
283/22C

A letter was received from the Presbytery of Essex-Kent re the 2022 General Assembly.

It was moved by D. Scott, duly seconded and

AGREED, to receive for information.

Overture No. 9, 2022
284/22C

A letter was received from the Pension and Benefits Board re consultation on Overture No. 9, 2022 re expanding benefits for mental health.

It was moved by J. Wilson, duly seconded and

AGREED, to discuss and consider concurring with the response.

Feedback to Pension and
Benefits Board
285/22C

It was moved by C. Inksetter, duly seconded and

AGREED, that the following feedback be offered to the Pension and Benefits Board re Overture No. 9, 2022 re expanding benefits for mental health, that:

- the increase to \$700 be affirmed as an interim step,
- consideration be given to increasing above the \$700 figure,
- the possibility of using a health spending account and other measures be considered,
- the response include an encouragement that congregations offer supportive resources.

KNOX COLLEGE
286/22C

The convener welcomed R. Phillips, convener of the Knox College Board of Governors, and J. Vissers, Principal of Knox College, to present information regarding the properties of 59 and 63 St. George, Street, Toronto.

This presentation included a Letter of Intent between The Presbyterian Church in Canada, Knox College and the University of Toronto, to facilitate the sale of the Knox College properties to the university, and provide for a long term lease to enable Knox College to continue to use the facilities until such time as they wished to relocate. The presentation was based on any and all proceeds from the sale being used for theological education within The Presbyterian Church in Canada. Recommendations concerning the proposals were presented on Tuesday morning.

(cont'd on p. 1505)

**EXECUTIVE
COMMITTEE
Report**
287/22C

The report of the Executive Committee was presented by R. Murray.

Overture No. 3, 2022
288/22C

Overture No, 3, 2022 addresses the tremendously important global issue of climate change and urges the General Assembly to take measures that will help reduce the collective carbon footprint of The Presbyterian Church in Canada.

The Assembly Council is deeply sympathetic to the prayer of this overture. There is a clear and pressing need for a global response to this issue. It is certainly appropriate and important for Presbyterians to encourage active and thoughtful approaches to how we can be effective stewards for God's creation and the church's resources.

The prayer of the overture asks that financial support be drawn from interest earned by the Consolidated Investment Portfolio of The Presbyterian Church in Canada and be distributed to congregations as grants for the purpose of reducing their carbon footprint in the ways described in the table below. If every proposal was fully supported, the total distribution would amount to approximately \$15,835,000.

Purpose	Amount	Number	Total
Improve energy efficiency of church buildings	\$10,000 per congregation	813	\$8,130,000
Improve energy efficiency of manses	\$10,000 per manse	180	\$1,800,000
Buy hybrid/electrical vehicle for ministers in multiple point charges	\$20,000 per multiple point charge	92	\$1,840,000
Building charging stations	\$5,000 per interested congregation	813	\$4,065,000
Total			\$15,835,000

Approximately 115 participants, including congregations, presbyteries and colleges, have invested funds in the portfolio. The interest earned is returned to the investors. While the portfolio is large, a relatively small portion of the income is earned by internally restricted funds that can be used for the church at large. Some of it is already promised for specific ministries. Depending on the interest earned in any given year, there might be \$2 million available for new proposals. Clearly, the request of the overture exceeds the resources available from this source.

It is essential for Presbyterians to do what we can to combat climate change. Exploring dependable websites is one way of discovering how individuals and congregations can make the changes and sacrifices necessary to reduce their carbon footprint in a wide variety of ways.

In February 2019, the Life and Mission Agency’s Justice Ministries sent out a letter to all clerks of presbytery inquiring how congregations understand themselves to be responding to environmental issues. Many congregations enthusiastically reported their ongoing efforts toward “greening” their buildings, practices or surroundings. For example:

- replacing old lights or appliances with more energy-efficient ones;
- installing low-flush toilets or solar panels;
- banning Styrofoam cups or bottled water in the building;
- creating educational resources for study and reflection on stewarding the environment;
- creating and supporting community vegetable gardens and donating produce;
- creating and supporting specifically pollinator-friendly or butterfly gardens, to help species that are struggling for food;
- planting trees in nearby greenspaces;
- running community events focused on recycling or on the environment;
- being more carbon-conscious for how official congregational representatives travel.

The Council is of the opinion that a significant and lasting impact on climate change must be initiated by governments at every level within Canada and around the world. It will require their influence to bring about substantial change by committing to new behaviours, priorities and actions, such as reducing or eliminating reliance on fossil fuels. A recommendation adopted by the 2021 General Assembly encouraged Presbyterians to write their elected officials about the need for cutting carbon emissions as well as providing support for a just transition to a sustainable economy. (A&P 2021, p. 411, 38). Justice Ministries has sample letters. This is a way for congregations to encourage positive change in this area.

To help finance environmentally-friendly building upgrades, congregations may wish to consider applying for a loan from the Presbyterian Church Building Corporation. These loans, to a maximum of \$1,000,000 with a 15-year term, are available for any kind of building improvement. Please contact the Presbyterian Church Building Corporation for details regarding interest rates and repayment plans.

The Presbyterian Church in Canada Lending Fund provides loans of \$100,000 or less for improvements and has a term of 15 years, although it can be paid down more quickly. It is interest free for the first six years and then interest is payable at a rate of seven percent for the remainder of the loan term, with the provision that if the loan is fully repaid prior to the end of the 12th year, all interest paid by the congregation is returned.

Recommendation No. 1

It was moved by R. Murray, duly seconded and

AGREED, to recommend to the General Assembly:
that the prayer of Overture No. 3, 2022 re provide grants for energy efficiency improvements be answered in the above terms.

Overture No. 4, 2022
Travel and Place to Live
289/22C

Recommendation No. 2

It was moved by R. Murray, duly seconded and

AGREED, to recommend to the General Assembly:
that all parish clergy, national church staff and college professors be encouraged to consider travel and its impact on the environment when choosing a place to live.

Response
290/22C

Overture No. 4, 2022, asks the General Assembly to develop guidelines that would urge all parish clergy, national church staff and college professors to live within 25 kilometres of their place of work or take public transit as a way of reducing the collective carbon footprint of The Presbyterian Church in Canada.

It is generally accepted that transportation powered by fossil fuels contributes significantly to the warming of the planet. For this reason, the Assembly Council agrees that it is desirable to reduce commuting distances whenever possible.

The Council notes, however, that there may be situations that would make compliance with the prayer of the overture proposal rather difficult. For example, while taking public transportation may be an environmentally superior mode of moving people compared with the automobile, not every community provides this option. Even where public transportation is available, routes and schedules may not always coincide with travel needs. Further, the location of a person's home might be influenced by other considerations such proximity to a spouse's workplace or the needs children. In some instances, affordable accommodation may not be available within 25 kilometres of a workplace.

Recommendation No. 3

It was moved by R. Murray, duly seconded and

AGREED, to recommend to the General Assembly:
that the prayer of Overture No. 4, 2022 re guidelines for church staff commutes, be answered in the above terms.

Overture No. 5, 2022
291/22C

The Presbyterian Church in Canada, through the Assembly Council, is negotiating an agreement with the United Church of Canada, to lease space in a tower to be constructed at 300 Bloor Street West in Toronto. Currently, the anticipated completion date is some time in 2025. The prayer of the Overture No. 5, 2022 suggests that it may be more environmentally friendly to repurpose the existing building at 50 Wynford Drive, Toronto, than to relocate to the new building and asks that the relocation be reviewed in the context of its environmental impact.

The current national office was constructed in the mid-1960s. It has served the church well, however, it is dated and does not meet current environmental efficiencies. Costs to operate and maintain the Wynford building each year are high and likely exceed the cost of the lease. The flat roof is susceptible to leaks, resulting in water damage on occasion. We can be confident the cost of upgrading the Wynford building to achieve today's construction standards would be very high. It is also worth noting that the current building is larger than is needed by today's staff.

Assurances have been given that the offices on Bloor Street will employ a sustainable, environmentally conscious and energy-saving design. The following has also been stated.

- The building is designed and built to conserve more energy and resources than standard code-compliant buildings.
- There is a thermal envelope to minimize unwanted solar gain and heat loss.
- Bird friendly glazing reduces harm to birds.
- Motion sensor-controlled lighting will be used in the common areas and amenity spaces to reduce electricity use.
- LED lighting will be used throughout.
- Disposal and recycling system will be installed on site to reduce waste beyond what can be done currently.
- It is designed to achieve the Toronto Green Standards certification.
- Green roof area reduces heat and manages storm waters.
- The building is on the subway line and more easily accessed from the train station and airport than 50 Wynford.

Generally, environmentalists urge everyone to consume less of everything. Working from the new building is in line with this principle. The sharing of common resources and using space more in line with staff needs would not only reduce the footprint of The Presbyterian Church in Canada but also that of the Anglican and United Churches with whom we would be housed in the building. Of course, the proposed move to the new location is not just about the building. It would also create an ideal environment in which to forge stronger ministry ties with friends in these denominations.

The Assembly Council remains convinced that moving to the new location would not only significantly reduce the church's carbon footprint but free up assets for the mission of the church.

Recommendation No. 4

It was moved by R. Murray, duly seconded and

AGREED, to recommend to the General Assembly:
that the prayer of Overture No. 5, 2022 re review decision concerning national office relocation, be answered in the above terms.

Overture No. 7, 2022
292/22C

Overture No. 7, 2022 was referred by the Presbytery of Oak Ridges to the Clerks of Assembly, the Life and Mission Agency and the Assembly Council. The Clerks and the Life and Mission Agency have worked with Financial Services on the following response that, if approved by the Assembly Council, will be presented in the Council's report to the Assembly, indicating that consultation and concurrence has been received by the other bodies.

Overture No. 7, 2022 was submitted by the Presbytery of Oak Ridges and referred at its request to the Assembly Council. The overture draws attention to three areas that require communication between the national office of The Presbyterian Church in Canada and sessions and presbyteries:

- setting the Presbyterians Sharing recommended allocation for each congregation – the amount the congregation is asked to provide for Presbyterians Sharing, which is the national fund supporting the budget approved each year by the General Assembly.
- submitting the statistical report forms prepared annually by congregations.

- voting by members of presbyteries to select the individual who will be presented to the next General Assembly as nominee for the role of General Assembly Moderator.

The overture asserts that the way that the national office carries out communication with congregations and presbyteries in these matters has weakened the oversight role of presbyteries. The overture asks 1) that oversight of these activities be returned to the presbyteries, and 2) that the national office be required to consult with each presbytery about how best to support the presbytery in its oversight role. As the overture correctly observes, presbyteries are an essential part of The Presbyterian Church in Canada. Book of Forms 200 reads as follows: “To the presbytery belongs the care and good order of the churches within the bounds.”

Oversight by presbyteries is a long-standing part of Presbyterian governance. In fact, the system of church courts, including sessions, synods and the General Assembly, provides the denomination with structure and organization. This framework serves its purpose when it releases resources of time, attention, money and talent to engage in Christ’s mission in the world. The role of the national office is to help the church in its work.

This report will examine the areas highlighted in the overture, discussing:

- what it is and what functions it fulfills;
- the procedures for looking after it;
- the role and responsibilities of sessions, presbyteries and the national office;
- any changes needed to preserve the oversight role of presbyteries.

Annual Congregational Statistical Reports

Each year, every congregation is asked to prepare a statistical report containing demographic and financial information about the congregation. The demographic section contains details such as the number of households and the average weekly attendance at worship; the financial section contains details such as the total dollars raised for congregational purposes and the amount raised for mission. The information is compiled to create an official record of The Presbyterian Church in Canada. The numbers are printed annually in the Acts and Proceedings of the General Assembly and distributed to Presbyterian Church in Canada congregations and to partner churches throughout the world.

Besides contributing to a record of the denomination, the financial information is used to calculate a congregation’s “dollar base”. The dollar base is used to determine the pension assessment for congregations, which is the amount a congregation is required legally to pay into the denomination’s pension fund. The dollar base is also used to calculate the amount which is recommended for each congregation to contribute Presbyterians Sharing. Additionally, many synods and presbyteries use the dollar base to determine synod and presbytery assessments.

Given the different ways the congregational statistical reports are used, it is vital that they be filled out accurately and on time. Early in the new year, the national office communicates with presbyteries and sessions about the procedures for completing the statistical reports. The memo to presbyteries requests that they tell the congregations whether they want to see the data before or after congregations submit it to national office. In the communication sent to sessions, they are told that their data will be reviewed by the presbytery and are instructed to check with their presbytery about whether the presbytery wants to see the data before it is submitted to the national office, or whether receiving the email with the submitted data meets the presbytery’s needs. Since corrections can be made to submitted data until

May 15, both options allow time for the presbytery's review of the congregation's data to result in any necessary changes.

Sessions receive the memo and statistical form by email or, if necessary, by regular mail. Congregations are asked to use the online forms to send their data into the national office, whenever possible. This improves accuracy and significantly reduces the cost of entering the congregation's data into the national database.

Once the congregation has created their online form, it receives a link which allows several people to fill out different sections. For instance, the clerk of session might provide demographic data, while the treasurer, chairperson of a finance and property committee, and/or bookkeeper might provide financial details. When congregations are unable to complete the statistical report form online, they submit their information on paper, and staff in the national office enter it into the national database. For all congregations, the deadline for submission of information in 2022 is April 15.

When the online statistical report form is complete, sessions have two options:

- They can use the "submit" button to forward the completed form to the national office. The session will receive an email containing all the submitted data for their records. At that time, the session is instructed to forward that email to their presbytery clerk (or to the person designated by the presbytery, such as the convener of the presbytery committee that reviews congregational statistical reports for the presbytery).
- They can send the link to their completed form to the presbytery clerk (or designated person); this way, the presbytery can review the congregation's information before it is submitted to the national office. Essentially, the presbytery joins the group of people who have worked on the congregation's data before it is submitted to the national office. After the presbytery has completed its review (and the session has made any corrections as directed by the presbytery), the session uses the "submit" button to send the completed (and possibly revised) form to the national office.

The national office communicates with presbyteries before and after April 15 about the statistical forms that have and have not been submitted. If the presbytery has received a statistical form from a congregation which the national office has not received, the presbytery is asked to forward the information. If the national office has received a statistical report the presbytery has not received, the data is forwarded to the presbytery. If the national office notices any errors in the statistical reports, the changes are reported to the presbytery.

These procedures make provision for several key principles of Presbyterian polity:

- Sessions are instructed to send their information to the presbytery, as mandated in Book of Forms 114.5.
- Sessions are given the means to send their information to the presbytery, either by forwarding the email from the national office containing all the submitted data or by sending the link to the completed form to the presbytery for its review before they hit the "submit" button.
- Presbyteries can review the congregation's statistical data either before submission (with the April 15 deadline) or after submission to the national office. Corrections to the submitted data can be made until May 15.
- Presbyteries can tell their sessions which option the presbytery wants the sessions to choose.

These provisions are a good fit with Presbyterian polity and practice. Moreover, the current procedures for completing and submitting congregational statistical reports hold the potential for improved accuracy, timeliness and cost of data entry. These observations would support continuing the current procedures.

Congregational Allocations for Presbyterians Sharing

Gifts to Presbyterians Sharing are the main source of funds for the mission and ministry we agree to do together through the budget approved each year by the General Assembly. Every congregation is expected to contribute to Presbyterians Sharing and all congregations are encouraged to include Presbyterians Sharing as a line item in their budget.

The General Assembly decides the formula for calculating the “Presbyterians Sharing allocation”, the amount a congregation is asked to give to General Assembly budget through Presbyterians Sharing. Since 2014, the recommended figure has been 10% or more of the congregation’s dollar base. Congregations typically discuss the recommended allocation at their annual meeting, where they can accept the recommended amount – signaling their intention to try to raise that amount for Presbyterians Sharing – or they can choose a different figure. Because presbyteries are aware of local realities, they have discretion to change the allocation recommended for their congregations. However, presbyteries are asked not to make adjustments unless absolutely necessary. As explained in 2013 and 1993, the last two times when the General Assembly reviewed and revised the formula for Presbyterians Sharing allocations, presbyteries are urged to accept the total allocation assigned to them; if a presbytery lowers a recommended allocation for some congregations, they need to balance it off by raising it for others. (A&P 1993, p. 270–71, 52, A&P 2013, p. 211–12, 18)

The national office sends regular correspondence to sessions and presbyteries about the Presbyterians Sharing allocations and contributions of their congregations.

In early November, national staff send presbytery clerks and presbytery stewardship committee conveners the recommended Presbyterians Sharing allocations of the presbytery’s congregations for the coming year. The correspondence informs presbyteries that the same figures will be emailed to the sessions in the coming weeks, to ensure that congregations have this information when preparing their budgets. However, the presbytery has the option to ask that the allocations not be sent directly to session. Before an email is sent to congregations, presbyteries are asked again to confirm whether they do not want the recommended allocations as prepared, to be sent to their congregations. Last year, two presbyteries chose not to have the Presbyterians Sharing allocation figures sent directly from the national office to sessions.

The November correspondence to presbyteries also reminds presbyteries that they are to decide whether they prefer that:

1. sessions report the congregation’s accepted Presbyterians Sharing allocation to the presbytery and that the presbytery will submit the accepted allocation figures to the national office, or
2. sessions report their accepted allocation figures directly to the national office, which will then share that number with the presbytery.

Presbyteries choose the option that work best in their context.

Each month, Presbyterians Sharing reports are sent from the national office to presbytery clerks and to the presbytery’s designated representative. For each congregation in the presbytery, these reports include the recommended allocation,

the allocation that the congregation has accepted and the amount the congregation has sent in to-date and the total they gave last year. For any congregation whose presbytery revised their recommended Presbyterians Sharing allocation, the revised figure appears in the monthly report, provided the presbytery has sent this information to the national office. Presbyteries can use these reports to oversee the progress of their congregations in meeting the amount the congregation accepted.

Every quarter, congregation remittance reports for each congregation are sent from the national office to the congregations. These reports include the recommended Presbyterians Sharing allocation, the figure accepted by the congregation, and the amount of money that the congregation has given to that point. Again, provided the presbytery has informed the national office of any recommended Presbyterians Sharing allocations revised by the presbytery, these figures appear in the remittance reports.

These procedures make provision for several key principles of Presbyterian polity:

- Presbyteries can choose to review the recommended Presbyterians Sharing allocation figures before they are sent to sessions, and can adjust the amounts recommended for particular congregations to suit local realities, while at the same time maintaining the total allocation for the presbytery.
- Presbyteries can choose to review the Presbyterians Sharing allocations accepted by congregations before these figures are sent to the national office.
- Presbyteries can monitor the accepted allocations and contributions their congregations are making to Presbyterians Sharing through the monthly reports sent to presbyteries from the national office to help equip presbyteries.
- Sessions are responsible for all decisions relating to stewardship, including how and when the financial needs of the church at all levels are presented to the congregation (Book of Forms 113.6). Sessions are required to ensure that the congregation is made aware of its Presbyterians Sharing recommended allocation and that the presbytery is informed of the congregation's response to that allocation (Book of Forms 113.6.1). The communication pathways currently used support the session in fulfilling these responsibilities:
 - The session learns of the recommended Presbyterians Sharing allocation (with possible presbytery revisions to this figure), either directly from the national office or from the presbytery. The session can convey this information to the congregation.
 - * - The Presbyterians Sharing allocation accepted by the congregation is communicated to the presbytery, either directly by the session or in the monthly reports that the national office sends to the presbytery.
 - * - The congregational remittance reports prepared quarterly by the national office give the session an easy tool for regular monitoring of the congregation's progress in meeting its accepted Presbyterians Sharing goal.

These provisions are a good fit with Presbyterian polity and practice. Moreover, the procedures answer a need identified by many congregational treasurers who contact the national office directly trying to find out their Presbyterians Sharing allocation figures at budget-preparation time. Furthermore, when presbyteries ask that their sessions communicate directly with the national office about recommended and accepted Presbyterians Sharing allocations, the presbytery's administrative workload is lessened. These observations would support continuing the current

communication pathways between sessions, presbyteries and the national office about Presbyterians Sharing allocations and contributions.

Ballots for Moderator

The Clerks of Assembly agree wholeheartedly that presbyteries ought to be empowered in their role of oversight of matters affecting congregations. They also expect that presbyteries, and their clerks in particular, would value consultation on this. Every other year (prior to pandemic restrictions), the Clerks of Assembly have facilitated a Clerks' Consultation where clerks of presbyteries and synods from across the church come together to share fellowship, building community and supporting one another in their important work. The Clerks of Assembly believe the issue of empowering presbyteries generally, and the specific items in this overture, would benefit from shared discussion and discernment at the next gathering and will ensure that it is placed on the agenda.

With respect to the suggestion in the overture that Moderator ballots are no longer being distributed or collected by presbyteries, the Clerks of Assembly point out that this has not been the case. The 2020 General Assembly granted permission to experiment for one year with electronic voting for the Moderator. This did not take place because there would have been only one name on the ballot.

Presbyteries would continue to have a fundamental role in an electronic election for the Moderator. Each presbytery would still oversee the submission of presbyter information and confirm the 'ballots' of each member voting. No one would be able to vote without the oversight of the presbytery. Once an electronic election has taken place, feedback from presbyteries will be sought regarding the benefits and concerns that arise.

Concluding Remarks

This report has examined the current procedures 1) for completing and submitting congregational statistical reports, 2) for communications between sessions, presbyteries and the national office about Presbyterians Sharing allocations and contributions, and 3) ballots for Moderator of the General Assembly. In each case, the procedures have been shown to correspond well with Presbyterian polity and practice. Furthermore, by making good use of email communication and online forms that are relied upon increasingly in everyday life, the procedures offer efficiencies of accuracy, timeliness and reduced workloads for the presbyteries. These observations would support continued use of the current procedures. Therefore, the following recommendation is presented.

Recommendation No. 5

It was moved by R. Murray, duly seconded and

AGREED, to recommend to the General Assembly:
that the prayer of Overture No. 7, 2022 re presbytery oversight and responsibilities be answered in the above terms.

Proposed Cross Cultural Position 293/22C

The Special Committee re Petition Nos. 1 and 2, 2021 met with the Executive concerning a proposal for a cross-culture liaison position. The Council shared ideas and comments concerning this proposal. The Clerks of Assembly and the conveners of the special committee will work on possible wording for this idea. If the General Assembly adopts this proposal, there may be a recommendation that it be referred to the Assembly Council to work out the details.

Report
294/22C
It was moved by R. Murray, duly seconded and
AGREED, that the report as whole be adopted.

EVENING RECESS
295/22C
The Council recessed for the evening. J. Wilson offered grace for the evening meal.

MONDAY 11:00 am – 1:30 pm

OPENING PRAYER
296/22C
S. Cameron Evans opened the morning session with prayer.

**COVENANTAL
PLEADGE WORKING
GROUP**
297/22C
R. Murray presented the report of the Covenantal Pledge Working Group.
Recommendation No. 1
It was moved by R. Murray, duly seconded and

AGREED, that the Covenantal Pledge Working Group be discharged.

Report
298/22C
It was moved by J. Wilson duly seconded and
AGREED, that the report as whole be adopted.

GA DESIGN TEAM
299/22C
J. Murray presented the written report of the General Assembly Design Team for information. The theme for 2022 General Assembly is “Refuge, Peace, Strength”.

**ARCHIVES AND
RECORDS
MANAGEMENT**
300/22C
A written report of the Archives and Records Management Committee was presented. S. Kendall spoke to the report.

Microfilm Records
301/22C
Recommendation No. 1
It was moved by J. Cameron, duly seconded and
AGREED, to recommend to the General Assembly:
that congregations be urged to have their session minutes and church registers (marriages, baptisms, deaths/burials) microfilmed and/or digitized through the Archives office in order to ensure a preservation copy is created for these vital records.

Digital Files
302/22C
Recommendation No. 2
It was moved by J. Cameron, duly seconded and
AGREED, to recommend to the General Assembly:
that congregations be urged to review their digital files (for example: typed minutes, photos) and apply records management standards to them as they would physical records and frequently back them up to an external hard drive or USB, which should be stored in a secure location.

Web Archiving Program
303/22C
Recommendation No. 3
It was moved by J. Cameron, duly seconded and
AGREED, to recommend to the General Assembly:
that congregations be urged to take part in the Web Archiving Program offered through the Archives to preserve histories,

photographs, videos and other valuable material that is posted online to their websites or social media pages.

**BENEVOLENCE
COMMITTEE**

Report
304/22C

S. Kendall presented the report of the Benevolence Committee.

The report to the General Assembly will include a note that through various benevolence funds there is support for mental health.

Recommendation No. 1

It was moved by C. Stephenson, duly seconded and

AGREED, that the report of the Benevolence Committee be approved and transmitted to the General Assembly.

**DEPARTURES –
ALTERNATE
GOVERNANCE**
305/22C

P. Kinch presented the report of the Departures/Alternate Governance Working Group.

(cont'd below)

**HEALING AND
RECONCILIATION**
Report
306/22C

C. Inksetter presented the report of the Healing and Reconciliation Working Group.

**Justice Ministries
Presentation**
307/22C

Allyson Carr and Katharine Sisk, staff of Justice Ministries, were welcomed and invited to present information the work of Healing and Reconciliation of the denomination.

The convener expressed appreciation to the staff and for their presentation as it helped the Council understand and to be aware of the work involved in Healing and Reconciliation.

Yvonne Bearbull
308/22C

Recommendation No. 1

It was moved by C. Inksetter, duly seconded and

AGREED, that time be set aside in the fall 2022 meeting of the Assembly Council to hear from Yvonne Bearbull, Executive Director of the Kenora Fellowship Centre.

Resources
309/22C

Recommendation No. 2

It was moved by C. Inksetter, duly seconded and

AGREED, to recommend to the General Assembly:
that the resources of the Life and Mission Agency and Justice Ministries with regard to the work of Healing and Reconciliation be commended to the wider church for education.

Report
310/22C

It was moved by C. Inksetter, duly seconded and

AGREED, that the report as whole be adopted.

**DEPARTURES /
ALTERNATE
GOVERNANCE**
(cont'd from above)
311/22C

The discussion on the report of the Departures/Alternate Governance Working Group resumed.

(cont'd on p. 1503)

**PAY EQUITY GENDER-
DISCRIMINATION
Report**
312/22C

Deb Stanbury, convener of the Gender Pay Equity and Gender Based Discrimination Working Group, was welcomed and invited to present its report.

2022 Statistical Form
313/22C

Recommendation No. 1

It was moved by A. Patterson, duly seconded and

AGREED, that the 2022 statistical form, line 22, be expanded to include stipend and benefits for ministerial staff, similar to the information recorded for the principal minister.

**Terms of Reference for
new Committee**
314/22C

Terms of Reference for Pay Equity and Gender-Based Discrimination

Purpose

The committee is to oversee a study of the equity for stipend and benefits for ministers to assess what possible gender pay inequalities exist among ministers and to prepare recommendations to correct this situation. The committee will also review other possible gender-based discrimination among ministers and to prepare recommendations to address and remedy discrimination.

Accountability

The committee is accountable to the Assembly Council.

Responsibilities

1. In 2022 and 2023 to conduct a study (both data and narrative based) on the stipend, benefits and types of ministries to determine the status of pay equity among ministers.

Preparations for this study have been done by the working group, including:

- requested that the 2023 statistical form be revised to expand line 22 regarding the stipend and benefits of ministers where multiple staff exist;
- identified what statistical and data information will be used (Raisers Edge, statistical reports, other reports contained in the General Assembly Office);
- identified programs to analysis the material: SPSS and Nvivo.

2. To consult with committees and departments in the national office, where necessary, such as Pension and Benefits, Financial Services, the General Assembly Office and the Life and Mission Agency.
3. To work with and assist presbyteries to create a tool for gathering and reviewing data for use within the presbyteries to maintain record of stipends and benefits to ensure gender pay equity among ministers.
4. To prepare a report and recommendations, arising from the study, to address gender pay equity for ministers within the denomination.
5. To gather narrative information from ministers concerning experiences of discrimination in order to analyze areas of and levels of discrimination and from that information to prepare recommendations to alleviate such acts.
6. To report regularly to the Assembly Council.
7. To present an interim report on the study and findings by March 2024
8. To present a final report, along with possible recommendations, for future work by March 2025.

Membership

7 members

- 1 member of the Assembly Council.
- 4 members at large.
- Staff representation: Secretary of the Assembly Council (or designate), Associate Secretary for Ministry and Church Vocations (or designate).

Recommendation No. 2

It was moved by A. Patterson, duly seconded and

AGREED, that a committee of the Assembly Council be appointed to continue the study and review of pay equity and gender-based discrimination and that the above terms of reference be approved.

Report

315/22C

It was moved by A. Patterson, duly seconded and

AGREED, that the report as whole be adopted.

**DEPARTURES /
ALTERNATE
GOVERNANCE**

(cont'd from, p. 1501)
316/22C

The discussion resumed on the Departures/Alternate Governance Working Group report. Council members may send comments to the convener.

The Council will continue to meet before the General Assembly to prepare a report from this working group.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE
Report**

317/22C

The report of the Finance Committee was presented by P. Kinch, convener and O. Ng, CFO.

(cont'd below)

MORNING RECESS
318/22C

B. Sargent offered grace for the lunch-time meal.

MONDAY 3:00 – 5:30 pm

FINANCE COMMITTEE
(cont'd from above)
319/22C

The Council returned to the report of the Finance Committee.

2023 Budget
320/22C

Recommendation No. 1

It was moved by P. Kinch, duly seconded and

AGREED, to recommend to the General Assembly:
that the 2023 budget be approved.

2024–2026 Forecast
321/22C

Recommendation No. 2

It was moved by P. Kinch, duly seconded and

AGREED, to recommend to the General Assembly:
that the 2024 to 2026 forecast be received for information.

**2021 Undesignated
Bequests**
322/22C

In 2021, \$444,234 of undesignated bequests was received. Based on the policy, the amount will be distributed as follows:

- First \$250,000 – Presbyterian Sharing Legacy Fund
- Remaining 10% to colleges – \$19,423
- 40% Life and Mission Agency Priority Fund – \$77,694
- 50% allocated by the Assembly Council – \$97,117

Within the 50% allocated by the Assembly Council, \$50,000 will be allocated to the Sexuality and Inclusion Fund and the remaining \$47,117 to be allocated to the Honouring the Children Fund.

Recommendation No. 3

It was moved by P. Kinch, duly seconded and

AGREED, that the undesignated bequests distribution as outlined above be approved.

Report

323/22C

It was moved by P. Kinch, duly seconded and

AGREED, that the report as whole be adopted.

AUDIT COMMITTEE

Report

324/22C

P. Kinch presented the report of the Audit Committee.

2021 PCC Statements

325/22C

Recommendation No. 1

It was moved by P. Kinch, duly seconded and

AGREED, that power to issue be granted to the convener of the Audit Committee and CFO/Treasurer to approve the financial statements for The Presbyterian Church in Canada for the year ended December 31, 2021.

Auditors – 2022

326/22C

Recommendation No. 2

It was moved by P. Kinch, duly seconded and

AGREED, that PricewaterhouseCoopers be appointed as auditors for 2022 and that their remuneration be fixed by the Audit Committee.

Signing Statements

327/22C

Recommendation No. 3

It was moved by P. Kinch, duly seconded and

AGREED, that the convener of the Assembly Council and the convener of the Finance Committee be authorized to sign the financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2021 for The Presbyterian Church in Canada.

2021 Pension Fund

Statements

328/22C

Recommendation No. 4

It was moved by P. Kinch, duly seconded and

AGREED, that pending approval of the Audit Committee and the Executive: to recommend to the General Assembly: that the financial statements for The Presbyterian Church in Canada – Pension Fund for the year ended December 31, 2021 be received for information.

Signing Statements

329/22C

Recommendation No. 5

It was moved by P. Kinch, duly seconded and

AGREED, that pending final review by the convener of the Audit Committee, and approval by the Assembly Council Executive, that the convener of the Assembly Council, convener of the Finance Committee and the convener of the Pension Board be authorized to sign the financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2021 for The Presbyterian Church in Canada – Pension Fund.

- Report**
330/22C
- It was moved by P. Kinch, duly seconded and
- AGREED, that the report as whole be adopted.
- EWART ENDOWMENT**
331/22C
- T. Hamilton presented the Ewart Endowment for Theological Education Committee report.
- Presbyterian College – Mentoring and Lay Program**
332/22C
- Recommendation No. 1**
It was moved by B. Sargent, duly seconded and
- AGREED, that the grants for Presbyterian College for Mentoring Graduates in the amount of \$15,000 for 2022 and Lay Theological Education Program in the amount of \$33,166 for 2022 and 2023 be approved.
- CY2020**
333/22C
- Recommendation No. 2**
It was moved by B. Butler, duly seconded and
- AGREED, that the one-year grant for Life and Mission Agency – CY2020 in the amount of \$60,000 be approved.
- Knox College – MacKay Resource Centre**
334/22C
- Recommendation No. 3**
It was moved by B. Butler, duly seconded and
- AGREED, that the five-year grant for Knox College – MacKay Resource Centre in the amount of \$60,000 be approved.
- Knox College – Ewart Professor**
335/22C
- Recommendation No. 4**
It was moved by J, Khang, duly seconded and
- AGREED, that the grant for Knox College – Ewart Professor of Christian Education and Youth Ministry in the amount of \$100,000 for 2020 and \$100,000 for 2021 be approved.
- Report**
336/22C
- It was moved by B. Sargent, duly seconded and
- AGREED, that the report as whole be adopted.
- MANAGEMENT TEAM**
337/22C
- I. Ross-MacDonald presented a verbal report from the Management Team.
- MODERATOR**
338/22C
- D. Scott, Moderator of the 2022 General Assembly, spoke about his moderatorial year, noting that much of his connection with congregations, groups and individuals has been online. Among his in-person trips, he visited Prince Edward Island connecting with the presbytery and congregations, and the Presbytery of Central Alberta. There are more visits being planned this spring as pandemic restrictions are being lifted. He has enjoyed the various types of connections with people throughout our denomination.
- KNOX COLLEGE**
(cont'd from p. 1491)
Letter of Intent
339/22C
- The discussion of the Knox College property proposal resumed with R. Philips and J. Vissers, representatives of Knox College.
- Recommendation No. 1**
It was moved by C. Stephenson, duly seconded and
- AGREED, that the Letter of Intent (LOI) be approved with the University of Toronto for sale and lease-back of the properties at 59 and 63 St. George Street.

Agreement of Purchase
340/22C

Recommendation No. 2

It was moved by D. Scott, duly seconded and

AGREED, that Knox College be authorized to finalize an Agreement of Purchase and Sale with the University of Toronto consistent with the LOI.

CY Pres Order
341/22C

Recommendation No. 3

It was moved by B. Butler, duly seconded and

AGREED, that Knox College be authorized to apply for a cy pres order to vary the terms of the three public charitable trusts which encumber 59 St. George Street, so the property can be sold with the proceeds used entirely for purposes of a theological college of The Presbyterian Church in Canada.

**Trustee Board –
Authorization**
342/22C

Recommendation No. 4

It was moved by D. Reader Jones, duly seconded and

AGREED, that the Trustee Board of The Presbyterian Church in Canada be requested to approve the LOI and authorize Knox College to proceed with an Agreement of Purchase and Sale for 59 and 63 St. George Street consistent with the LOI.

Thanks Expressed
343/22C

The college representatives thanked the Council for its support of this proposal.

**LMA COMMITTEE
Report**
344/22C

The convener of the Life and Mission Agency Committee, C. Stephenson, presented this report.

**New and Renewing
Ministry Fund**
345/22C

New and Renewed Ministry Fund

This fund will be made up from:

- the New Congregational Development Capital Fund
- the Renewing Ministry Capital Fund
- with the addition of yearly income from the Bryan Fund for Church Extension

Purpose of New And Renewed Ministry Funding

The purpose of the fund is to aid presbyteries to:

1. establish new ministries
2. renew ministries by providing assistance in the following areas:
exploratory ministry, missional engagement and renewal initiatives.

1. Establishing New Ministries

New ministries are defined as one of the following: new worshipping communities, new congregations or parallel ministries.

Grants from Investment Income

- A. Assist with the creation of new worshipping communities and congregations.
- B. Assist established congregations begin new parallel ministries. Example: a ministry initiative reaching a new target population (newly arrived immigrants, young families, singles, etc.) or embracing creative new forms

of ministry (dinner church, third space ministry, etc.) that is separate but supported by an existing congregation.

Grants from Capital

- A. Assist new congregations, new worshipping communities and parallel ministries settle in long-term ministry locations. Example: provide funds towards the purchase of a building, equipment, renovations or rental costs for a new congregation, new worshipping community or parallel ministry.
- B. Assist funding denominational church-planting initiatives should funds from budget sources not be available.

2. Renewing Ministries

Grants will be given in two categories of ministries:

- A. Vibrant congregations seeking to realize their vision more fully.
- B. Congregations seeking to significantly renew or to replant their ministry.

Grants from Investment Income

- A. Assist vibrant congregations realize their vision more fully. Examples: expanding existing programs, experimenting with additional worship services, hiring staff to work with the community, developing programs in partnership with community agencies, etc.
- B. Assist congregations significantly renew their ministry or replant their ministry: Examples: significantly changing ministry configuration (cooperative/cluster ministry), replanting existing ministry (when a congregation decides to let their current ministry die and seeks to find new life in an entirely different ministry focus).
- C. Provide access to Canadian Ministries' Renewal Programs: Examples: taking part in the New Beginnings program or other renewal programs offered through Canadian Ministries.

Grants from Capital

Provide capital assistance for growing ministry needs. Examples: ministries wanting to redesign existing spaces to accommodate new streams in ministry, funds towards the purchase or renovation of a church building to accommodate growing congregations, etc.

Recommendation No. 1

It was moved by C. Stephenson, duly seconded and

AGREED, that the updated terms of reference for the New and Renewing Ministry Fund be approved.

Report
346/22C

It was moved by C. Stephenson, duly seconded and

AGREED, that the report as whole be adopted.

**LIBERTY OF
CONSCIENCE/
INDEMNITY
Report**
347/22C

D. Muir presented the report from the Working Group on Liberty of Conscience/Indemnity (Overture No. 41, 2021).

**Overture No. 41, 2021,
Response**
348/22C

Overture No. 41, 2021 suggests that some ministers, elders and congregations who are opposed to same-sex marriage and the ordination of LGBTQI people may fear being sued if they refuse to celebrate a same-sex marriage or participate in the ordination of an LGBTQI person. To assuage such fear, the overture asks The Presbyterian Church in Canada to guarantee payment of court costs and fines if they are incurred by those exercising liberty of conscience and action on these matters.

Those opposed to same-sex marriage can take comfort from the legal opinions obtained by The Presbyterian Church in Canada. They have consistently stated that ministers have a constitutionally protected right to decide who may be married in accordance with the rites, practices and beliefs of their denomination and their individual convictions.

It should be noted that this overture was written and transmitted to the General Assembly before the most recent legal opinion (assembly.presbyterian.ca/#/search/3001208) provided this same assurance.

It is also worth noting that in all the research that has been conducted on this matter, and in consultation with legal counsel, there has never been a case found against anyone for not conducting a same-sex marriage in Canada since same-sex marriage was legalized by the Parliament of Canada in 2005.

A lawsuit against a minister for not participating in an LGBTQI ordination or induction would not likely result in a civil lawsuit because such a scenario would almost certainly be handled within the church. For example, if Minister A engaged a lawyer to sue Minister B for not attending an ordination service based on the liberty of action found in the remit, Minister A's legal counsel would in all likelihood ask if church process had been followed to address the matter since legal counsel and civil courts are reluctant to challenge authorized ecclesiastic proceedings. This principle is affirmed in the legal opinion referred to above. Any church process would lead to the fact that it is in order for Minister B to exercise liberty of conscience and action by not attending the service. In other words, such a situation would be resolved by the church.

It would be imprudent for the church to provide far-reaching indemnity by guaranteeing the payment of court costs and fines for any possible circumstance. If ever a claim were to be made, it would need to be assessed based on the facts of the specific situation. There could be circumstances where the church should and could provide some ad hoc support and others where it would not be possible or advisable to do so.

In the unlikely event that a statement of claim was made against a minister or congregation related to a wedding, ordination or induction, the national office would provide all reasonable advice and assistance. Whenever concerns about a specific case arise, people are welcome to consult with the Clerks of Assembly. The denomination's insurance broker, Marsh Insurance Company, was consulted regarding coverage in the event of a claim for refusing to conduct or host a same-sex marriage. The company indicated that there might be defence costs available under Director's and Officer's liability. However, they are unable to confirm coverage until an actual statement of claim is presented and the allegations reviewed. Congregations are advised to consult with their own insurers.

The law firm, Cassels, has reviewed this statement and confirms that providing the proposed indemnity would not be appropriate in these circumstances.

As people who long to be guided by God's Holy Spirit, we strive to treat everyone, including those with whom we have theological disagreement, with respect, humility and helpfulness. For example, when a minister tells a couple they are unable to solemnize their marriage, the minister could offer to introduce the couple to a minister who can. Or if a member of a presbytery chooses not to attend the ordination or induction of a LGBTQI person, they could simply register their regrets with the presbytery clerk. Treating one another with grace will help mitigate against the likelihood of lawsuits.

The church is encouraged to be patient while we live into new realities. Let us minister together in the spirit of faith, hope and love that we share.

Recommendation No. 1

It was moved by J. Borthwick, duly seconded and

AGREED, to recommend to the General Assembly:
that Overture No. 41, 2021 re liberty of conscience and indemnity for possible claims be answered in the above terms.

Report

349/22C

It was moved by J. Borthwick, duly seconded and

AGREED, that the report as whole be adopted.

COMMISSION ON

ASSETS

350/22C

O. Ng presented the Commission on Assets of Dissolved and Amalgamated Congregations report for information.

**POLICY FOR THE
AMALGAMATION OR
DISSOLUTION OF
CONGREGATIONS**

Policy Amendments

351/22C

D. Muir presented revisions to the Policy for the Amalgamation or Dissolution of Congregations. The amendments to the policy are in bold below.

Part 1 – Introduction

Dissolution

When a presbytery dissolves a congregation, the congregation ceases to exist. The members and adherents are encouraged to transfer membership and allegiance to another community of faith. By law, at the point of dissolution, the ownership of the church, contents, manse, funds, archival records and all other property transfer to the Trustee Board of The Presbyterian Church in Canada (Trustee Board). In almost every case, the Trustee Board sells church buildings. The assets are consolidated and ensuing expenses are deducted from them. Currently, the formula for the distribution of asset proceeds is as follows:

60% to the presbytery for approved mission initiatives

10% to the Indigenous Ministry Fund

30% to the New and Renewing Ministries Fund

Part 2 – Amalgamation of Congregations

Responsibilities – Presbytery

- Congregations contemplating amalgamation should report this to the presbytery early in the process and seek presbytery assistance.
- The presbytery should appoint a committee to explore options with the sessions and congregations to help discern the mind of Christ on this important matter. When congregations consider amalgamation, they ought to engage in prayerful conversations separately, with the other congregation involved, and with the presbytery committee. The committee ought to report regularly to the presbytery to keep the presbytery updated.
- If the congregations agree to proceed towards amalgamation, the Sessions report to the presbytery and prepare an amalgamation plan. (See p. 4–6)
- **Apart from a few exceptions, (For example, Book of Forms 57 and 162.1) decisions made in The Presbyterian Church in Canada require a 50% + 1 majority to be approved. Nevertheless, when the congregation votes on amalgamation, the session needs to be confident that there is sufficient support for amalgamation to present an amalgamation plan to the presbytery. The presbytery would also judge**

- if there is sufficient support for the amalgamation before it would approve the plan. Only members can vote on the sale of property, if that is part of the plan.**
- **If the congregational vote indicates sufficient support for amalgamation, the session may approach members and adherents who are unable to attend the meeting in order to explain the implications of amalgamation to them and tabulate their responses. Their support, or lack of it, should not be counted in the official congregational vote, however a report on this process could be an important part of a report to the presbytery.**
 - The presbytery submits to the Commission on Assets of Dissolved and Amalgamated Congregations the portion of the amalgamation plan that shows how the assets will be used to further Christ’s work in the local community and/or beyond it once any indebtedness has been paid. (See Book of Forms 200.11–200.11.3)
 - The commission will examine the plan, confirm it and report this to the presbytery or the commission will return the plan to the presbytery with comments for further consideration. The presbytery will communicate with the Commission on Assets through the Chief Financial Officer. (See p. 20 for Chief Financial Officer contact information.)
 - When the presbytery meets to consider the amalgamation plan, it will:
 - Cite the congregations to appear at a presbytery meeting, by chosen representatives, so they may speak to the amalgamation.
 - Adopt a recommendation that the amalgamation plan be approved. This will include the portion of the amalgamation plan submitted to the Commission on Assets.

Adopt a recommendation that the congregation of St. Andrew’s Presbyterian Church, Town, Province, and the congregation of Knox Presbyterian Church, Town, Province, be amalgamated, effective day, month, year.
 - If the presbytery does not approve the amalgamation plan, it may recommend amendments. These must be resubmitted to the Commission on Assets.
 - If one or more of the church buildings will cease to be used, the presbytery may want to conduct a service to celebrate the blessings of God, the faithfulness of the people, and the history of the congregation in that building.
 - The presbytery will work with the clerks of Session to identify and gather together all archival records for transfer to the newly amalgamated congregation. The congregations may want to microfilm their records, through the Archives, prior to the amalgamation.

Part 3 – Dissolution of Congregations

The Decision to Dissolve a Congregation

- Any congregation contemplating dissolution should report this possibility to the presbytery early on in the process and seek presbytery assistance.
- The presbytery should appoint a committee to help the Session and congregation discern the mind of Christ on this important matter and notify the Trustee Board as soon as possible through the Chief Financial Officer about the potential dissolution. (See Part 9 for contact information) The

committee, Session and congregation should explore options. The committee will then make recommendations to the presbytery at a duly called meeting.

Apart from a few exceptions (for example, Book of Forms 57 and 162.1), decisions made in The Presbyterian Church in Canada require a 50 percent plus one majority to be approved. Nevertheless, when the congregation votes on dissolution, the session needs to be confident that there is sufficient support for dissolution before presenting this request to the presbytery. If the congregational vote indicates sufficient support, the session may approach members and adherents who are unable to attend the meeting to explain the implications of dissolution to them and tabulate their responses. Their support, or lack of it, should not be counted in the official congregational vote, however, a report on this process could be an important aspect of a report to the presbytery.

- Before a presbytery's final decision regarding the dissolution, the presbytery must cite the affected congregation to appear before the presbytery by chosen representatives in order to provide an opportunity for them to speak to the dissolution recommendation.

If the presbytery decides to dissolve the congregation, the recommendation might read like this:

- That the congregation of St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Town, Province, be dissolved, effective day, month, year, with the final worship service to take place on (date and time).
- A preamble to the recommendation may also, but not necessarily, address issues such as:
 - Arrangements for the dissolution of the pastoral tie with clergy including:
 - unused vacation,
 - continuing education,
 - transition allowance,
 - pastoral care for minister and family.
 - Termination allowances for other staff.
 - Date for final worship service.
 - If the presbytery approves the recommendation, the presbytery's committee guides the congregation through the remaining dissolution process.
- The clerk of presbytery will notify the Commission on Assets about this decision through the Chief Financial Officer. (See Part 9 for contact information)
- The presbytery prepares a mission plan for its portion of the proceeds realized from the dissolution. The presbytery may consult the members of the dissolving congregation regarding this plan.

Other Chattels and Fixtures

~~The presbytery is responsible for the disposal of chattels and fixtures. Immediately after the motion to dissolve is made, a list of all chattels and fixtures should be prepared and sent to the Trustee Board before the disposal of items begins. The items may be either sold or donated to other churches. All proceeds from the sale of the chattels and fixtures are to be sent to the Trustee Board.~~

Immediately after the motion to dissolve is adopted, the presbytery compiles a list of all chattels and fixtures deemed to have value and sends it to the Trustee

Board. Having provided the list of chattels and fixtures and received permission from the Trustee Board, through its designate in Financial Services, to sell all or some of them, the Presbytery sells or donates said chattels and fixtures as it deems best. Any funds realized from any sales are forwarded to the Trustee Board.

Recommendation No. 1

It was moved by J. Cameron, duly seconded and

AGREED, the above amendments to the Policy for the Amalgamation or Dissolution of Congregations be approved.

Report

352/22C

It was moved by C. Stephenson, duly seconded and

AGREED, that the report as whole be adopted.

EVENING RECESS

353/22C

It was moved by J Wilson, duly seconded and

AGREED, that this session be adjourned.

GRACE

354/22C

J. Cameron offered grace for the evening meal.

TUESDAY 11:00 am – 1:30 pm

OPENING PRAYER

355/22C

S. Cameron Evans opened the session in prayer.

**PRINCIPAL CLERK
SEARCH**

Report

356/22C

C. Stephenson presented the report of the Principal Clerk Search Committee.

**Nominee for Principal
Clerk**

V. Kim

357/22C

Recommendation No. 1

It was moved by C. Stephenson, duly seconded and

AGREED, to recommend to the General Assembly:
that the Rev. Victor Kim be appointed to the position of Principal Clerk and Secretary of the Assembly Council effective July 1, 2022.

It is noted that this recommendation was adopted unanimously.

Committee Discharged

358/22C

Recommendation No. 2

It was moved by C. Stephenson, duly seconded and

AGREED, that the Principal Clerk Search Committee be discharged with thanks.

Report

359/22C

It was moved by C. Stephenson, duly seconded and

AGREED, that the report as whole be adopted.

**NOMINATING
COMMITTEE**

Report

360/22C

J. Murray presented the report of the Nominating Committee.

Appointments

361/22C

Recommendation No. 1

It was moved by J. Murray, duly seconded and

AGREED, that the following individuals be appointed to:

- Finance Committee: Cindy Stephenson and Shalini Rajack-Sankarlal
- Audit Committee: Cindy Stephenson and Johnathon Lee
- Ewart Endowment for Theological Education Committee: Trish Archibald, Christina Ball and Jennifer Cameron
- Gender Pay Equity and Discrimination Committee Deb Stanbury, John Borthwick, Mike Burns and Sophia Kim
- Executive Committee: John Wilson
- Convener: Cherie Inksetter

Power to Issue

362/22C

AGREED, that the Nominating Committee be given power to issue on appointing an additional member to the Pay Equity and Gender-Based Discrimination Committee.

**S. KENDALL
Principal Clerk
Appreciation**

363/22C

The convener and members of the Council expressed words of appreciation to Stephen Kendall as Secretary of the Assembly Council and Principal Clerk, as well as for his ministry in general. They also wished him God's blessings for his retirement.

S. Kendall responded expressing that it has been a honour to serve the church in this special ministry and of his love for our church and for the people within it.

GA REPORT

364/22C

Recommendation

It was moved by C. Inksetter, duly seconded and

AGREED, that the secretary and convener be given power to issue in preparing the report to the General Assembly subject to decisions made at any special meeting that takes place in the interim.

**RESOURCE PEOPLE
TO GA**

365/22C

The convener, Sandra Cameron Evans and Stephen Kendall, will be the Council's resource persons, and possibly Peter Kinch.

COUNCIL MEET AT GA

366/22C

Recommendation

It was moved by B. Barber, duly seconded

AGREED, that the Council be authorized to meet, if need be, during the General Assembly.

**APPRECIATION TO
RETIRING MEMBERS**

367/22C

It was moved by J. Murray, duly seconded and

AGREED, that the report to General Assembly express appreciation to those members whose term of service concludes this June: Cherie Inksetter, Peter Kinch, Sandra Cameron Evans, Vivian Ketchum, John-Peter Smit, Carol Stymiest, Cindy Stephenson and Dan Scott; and especially to Sandra Cameron Evans for service as convener since 2018.

NEXT MEETINGS

368/22C

The next meetings of the Council will be:

- Date to be set: to consider the report of the Departures/Alternate Governance Working Group
- November 20–22, 2022 at Crieff Hills

V. KIM
369/22C

The Council welcomed Victor Kim, nominee for Principal Clerk of the Assembly, for a time of meeting Council members.

**APRECIATION
STAFF**
370/22C

It was moved by B. Sargent, duly seconded and

AGREED, that appreciation be expressed to the staff of the national office for their arrangements and hosting this Council meeting.

**ADJOURNMENT AND
WORSHIP**
371/22C

The business for this meeting being complete, the Council adjourned with worship led by C. Inksetter.

Sandra Cameron Evans
Convener

Stephen Kendall
Principal Clerk