

## COMMITTEE ON HISTORY

### PURPOSE

The Committee on History believes in the importance of preserving Presbyterian history right across the country and therefore it works to engender an interest in and awareness of our denomination's long and glorious history. It encourages congregations to care for their records by offering advice and promoting the preservation services such as microfilming of records. Our history is alive in the buildings in which we worship, in the beauty of our stained glass windows, in our books, records and other artefacts. Preserving them is another way in which we Presbyterians can be good stewards, standing behind our faith and ready to pass all these things onto the generations who will follow us.

### REPORT SUMMARY

The Committee on History reports on the Presbyterian Church Heritage Centre and highlights the work of the Archives. It meets twice a year and is fortunate to have members from across Canada who provide a balanced and insightful regional perspective.

The "Oral and Visual History Project" is an ongoing interviewing project of our church leaders. It ensures that views and experiences of individuals can be shared with future generations. The Archives has equipment for those who wish to help with such interviews of ordained, lay and professional church workers.

The Canadian Society of Presbyterian History holds its annual meeting on the last Saturday of September at Knox College where scholarly papers are presented relating to the history of our church. See [csph.ca/papers](http://csph.ca/papers).

For the past 142 years (1879) the Committee on History has sought to fulfill its mandate to document and declare the history and heritage of The Presbyterian Church in Canada as part of the broader summons of the Holy Catholic Church to faithful witness to God and the life-changing message of the good news of Christ's redeeming love.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

#### Consent Recommendations

That Recommendation Nos. HIS-001, HIS-005 and HIS-006 (identified by ►) be adopted by consent.

#### Heritage Sunday

Many congregations have designated a "Heritage Sunday" to celebrate the vibrant and dynamic faith legacy that is ours within The Presbyterian Church in Canada.

#### Recommendation HIS-001

That congregations be encouraged to observe Heritage Sunday on February 20, 2022, or on another Sunday, as a means of celebrating the unique faith journey and heritage we enjoy as Presbyterians.

#### History Prizes

Every year the committee awards history book prizes in three categories: congregational histories, academic historiography, and clergy memoirs. This year we have four submissions.

#### Recommendation HIS-002

That the Assembly recognize the 2021 winners of the history prizes:

1. Congregational History: *St. Columba Presbyterian Church, Kirk Hill: Celebrating 200 Years, 1819-2019* Committee Chair: Audrey Nixon Crawford
2. Memoir: *Pleasant Remembrances- A Memoir of the Mackay's at Cap-a-l'aigle*, by Mary M. Harvey (nee Mackay)

3. Academic: *A Short History of Berbice High School, the Canadian Mission Church in New Amsterdam, Guyana and the Bishops* by Andrew Ranji Bishop
4. Honourable Mention: *By Land, Sea and Air* by Donna George

### ***Presbyterian History***

Thanks and appreciation is expressed to the Rev. Peter Bush for having completed over 30 years of dedication as editor for *Presbyterian History* that is printed twice yearly; see [presbyterian.ca/newsletters](http://presbyterian.ca/newsletters).

#### **Recommendation HIS-003**

That the Rev. Peter Bush be recognized for having completed over 30 years as editor of *Presbyterian History*.

### **Presbyterian Church Heritage Centre**

The former National Presbyterian Museum has a new name! The Presbyterian Church Heritage Centre (PCHC). PCHC will take over the sanctuary at Carlisle United Church, Carlisle, Ontario (in the county of North Middlesex) and will open as soon as we are able. A campaign over the next three years will enable the committee to raise necessary funds to move and renovate this space into our own Heritage Centre for Presbyterians. We receive no annual funding through the national church. We are deeply grateful for your continued prayers and support. Website: [pcheritagecentre.ca](http://pcheritagecentre.ca)

#### **Recommendation HIS-004**

That presbyteries, congregations, groups and individuals be encouraged to support the national campaign for and contribute to the Presbyterian Church Heritage Centre.

### **Archives**

We are indebted to Ms. Kim Arnold, Archivist, and Mr. Bob Anger, Assistant Archivist, who look after church documents and hope that you will consider having your church records microfilmed and digitally scanned. The Archives are located within the national office.

#### **Recommendation HIS-005**

That congregations understand the importance of well-kept congregational records and the management of such records and to follow the advice and guidance of the Presbyterian Church Archives.

### **Recognition of Retiring Clergy**

In thanks and celebration for those who have provided many years and often an entire career of faithful service to The Presbyterian Church in Canada, our hope is that this General Assembly will share in a moment of appreciation.

#### **Recommendation HIS-006**

That with thanks to God and in celebration of the clergy and church workers who retired in 2019–2020, a moment of recognition and appreciation be offered by this General Assembly for these faithful representatives of Jesus Christ and diligent servants of The Presbyterian Church in Canada.