

ATLANTIC MISSION SOCIETY

To the Venerable, the 149th General Assembly:

The purpose of the Atlantic Mission Society (AMS) is to glorify God and support with prayer, study and service mission endeavours through The Presbyterian Church in Canada.

We are a group of women and men from the four Atlantic provinces who have a heart for Christ's mission in the world. The AMS provides financial support to Presbyterians Sharing and PWS&D projects from the general Society level and from local auxiliaries. The members serve on national committees of The Presbyterian Church in Canada, including the Assembly Council, Life and Mission Agency Committee, PWS&D Committee and the International Affairs Committee as well as serving on synod and presbytery committees and Synod Council. The members also work with, and support financially, one synod and two presbytery camps.

The AMS publishes *The Presbyterian Message* with subscriptions going across Canada. The *Message* keeps its members connected with each other and the wider church with mission studies and news of mission-oriented events happening locally, nationally and internationally. There are five publications each year. The *Message* is also available electronically. Information is on the AMS website. Currently we have a total of 489 subscriptions. Anyone can subscribe to receive the publication.

Joan Cho, the long-serving editor of the *Message* retired in September 2023 after our annual meeting. Joan was an exceptional editor and those within the AMS appreciated her dedication, time and effort to produce a quality magazine. We wish her much joy in her retirement with her husband, the Rev. Dr. Stephen Cho. The Rev. Dr. Marion Barclay is now the editor of the *Message*.

We were able to meet in person for the 146th annual general meeting of the General Society on September 15–17, 2023, at St Andrew's Church "The Kirk" in New Glasgow, Nova Scotia.

Speakers for the meeting included:

- President Rob Griffiths accompanied the Moderator of the 2022 General Assembly and others on a mission trip to Taiwan. Rob had an interesting slide presentation. They visited a museum where George Leslie MacKay practiced dentistry and was able to spread God's word through his work. They also visited a Taiwanese church archives, and a theological college. They were presented with gifts at every place they visited before leaving.
- We were happy to have Cathy Reid, President of the Women's Missionary Society, attend our annual meeting. Cathy was on a mission trip to South Malawi just after Cyclone Freddy hit Malawi. She had a very interesting slide presentation, showing the devastation. Although the people have a deep rooted faith, they need our support to empower the women. Cathy also went to India and met with Pauline Brown. Pauline went out as a missionary nurse in 1951 and dedicated her life to the work in the Jobat hospital and school.
- The Rev. Ian Ross-MacDonald, General Secretary of the Life and Mission Agency, talked about the work of the Life and Mission Agency and how mission is done across Canada and the mission involvement in Israel and Palestine. He also spoke of the Honouring the Children's Fund and how the church can support parks and healing centres. He shared the Gifts of Change information that we can share with our churches and the AMS and about how PWS&D helps women and children improve their family life. Money has been sent to India and Afghanistan to help with hunger relief. He spoke on Global Christianity and what direction the church is taking.
- The Rev. Don Shepherd gave a presentation on "OMF". It shares the good news of Jesus Christ with the people of East Asia. In December 1849, Hudson Taylor surrendered his life to the unreached people of China. Today it is a unified force serving 16 countries across East Asia. There are still many to reach; however, they lack resources.

For Mission Awareness Sunday, a service has been prepared by members of the AMS for use by auxiliaries as they lead worship on April 28, 2024.

The focus of the AMS is shifting from doing the mission work itself, to educating and empowering the people of God so that congregations, youth and Sunday schools are encouraged and enabled to reach out with Christ's love. Many groups lead worship on Presbyterians Sharing and PWS&D Sundays, providing education for the whole congregation,

and arranging opportunities for greater involvement in carrying out Christ's mission. Several AMS auxiliaries develop Lenten, Advent or other seasonal challenges to support the Canadian Foodgrains Bank, Gifts of Change and other projects. The response from congregations is generous and positive.

The way we do mission work is changing but giving thanks to God and relying on the Holy Spirit to lead us, we continue to share Christ's love with the world.

Carol Stymiest
President