

COMMITTEE ON BUSINESS

To the Venerable, the 149th General Assembly:

The Business Committee presents the following report and recommendations.

ATTENDANCE AT THE ASSEMBLY

Recommendation BUS-001 adopted/defeated/amended

That with a view to having their attendance recorded, each commissioner, young adult and student representative be requested to register with the Assembly Office.

SEDERUNTS

The Assembly's first sederunt will be held immediately following opening worship on Sunday, June 2 at Knox Church, Waterloo. The remaining sederunts will be held in the gym of Wilfrid Laurier University.

Recommendation BUS-002 adopted/defeated/amended

That the remaining sederunts be on Monday from 9:00 am to approximately 12:00 noon; from 2:00 pm to approximately 5:00 pm, and 7:00 pm to approximately 9:00 pm; Tuesday from 9:00 am to approximately 12:00 noon, and 2:00 pm to approximately 5:00 pm; Wednesday from 9:00 am to approximately 12:00 noon, 2:00 pm to approximately 5:00 pm; and Wednesday 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm and Thursday from 9:00 am until the completion of business of the Assembly.

SEDERUNTS AND AGENDA

All reports, supporting documents and information are available on the 2024 General Assembly web page, presbyterian.ca/gao/ga2024/#reports.

The provisional agenda for the 2024 General has been prepared and is outlined below by sederunts with orders of the day indicated and the sequence of reports for presentation.

Sunday June 2, 2024

7:30 pm Assembly Opening Worship

Sederunt 1

Constitution of Assembly

Roll of Assembly, Students and Young Adult Representatives

Election and Installation of Moderator

A Service of Commissioning

Welcome of Guests, Moderators of Previous Assemblies, YARs and Student Representatives

Committee to Advise with the Moderator

Committee on Business (including setting the agenda for the Assembly)

Committee to Nominate Standing Committees (Introduction)

Presentation of Records for Examination

9:30 pm Adjournment

Monday June 3, 2024

9:00 am Worship

Sederunt 2

Territorial Acknowledgement

Commissioner Orientation

Business (see order of reports below)

Stated Hour: 11:00 am: Mary Fontaine, Moderator of the 2023 General Assembly

12:00 noon Adjournment

2:00 pm Sederunt 3

Business Committee

Business (see order of reports below)

Stated Hour: 2:30 pm: Daniel Whitehead, Sanctuary Mental Health,

Cutting Edge of Mission

5:00 pm Adjournment

Monday June 3, 2024 (cont'd)

7:00 pm Sederunt 4
 Business Committee
 Business (see order of reports below)
 Stated Hour 7:30 pm: The Rev. Dr. Eui Sig Kim, Presbyterian Church of Korea
9:00 pm Adjourment

Tuesday June 4, 2024

9:00 am Worship
 Sederunt 5
 Business Committee
 Business (see order of reports below)
 Stated Hour 11:00 am: Ms. Rula Odeh, Canadian Friends of Sabeel
12:00 noon Adjourment

2:00 pm Sederunt 6
 Business Committee
 Business (see order of reports below)
 Stated Hour 3:00 pm: Special Committee re Renewed Apology re Role in Colonialism
 and Residential Schools

5:00 pm Adjourment

Wednesday June 5, 2024

9:00 am Worship
 Sederunt 7
 Business Committee
 Business (see order of reports below)
 Stated Hour 11:00 am: Fr. Bohdan Hladko, Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada
12:00 noon Adjourment

2:00 pm Sederunt 8
 Business Committee
 Business (see order of reports below)
 Stated Hour: 2:30 pm: Offering the Apology re Role in Colonialism and
 Residential Schools
 3:30 pm: Narratives that Shape Us – an Ecumenical Panel Discussion
5:00 pm Adjourment

7:00 pm Sederunt 9
 Business Committee
 Business (see order of reports below)
 Stated Hour 7:20 pm: Table Group Discussion re Narratives that Shape Us
9:00 pm Adjourment

Thursday June 6, 2024

9:00 am Worship
 Sederunt 10
 Business (see below)
 Committees of the Assembly
 Young Adult Representatives
 Commission re Matters Left Uncared for or Omitted
 Adoption of Minutes
 Completion of Business
12:00 noon Adjourment of the Assembly

BUSINESS AGENDA

The agenda for the periods of business will focus on moving through the recommendations in each of the reports presented to the General Assembly, subject to amendment on recommendation of the Committee on Business. Each committee report will be introduced by the convener, followed by moving through the recommendations, led by the Moderator.

Order of Reports

- Assembly Council (ASC)
- Atlantic Mission Society (AMS)
- Women's Missionary Society (WMS)
- Presbyterian Church Building Corporation (PCB)
- Bills and Overtures, Committee on (BOV)
- Maclean Estate Committee (MEC)
- International Affairs, Committee on (IAF)
- Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations Committee (EIR)
- Church Doctrine, Committee on (CDC)
- Theological Colleges:
 - The Presbyterian College, Governing Board of (PCO)
 - Knox College, Governing Board of (KNX)
 - St. Andrew's Hall, Board of (SAH)
 - Vancouver School of Theology, Principal of (VST)
- Life and Mission Agency, Committee of (LMA)
- National Indigenous Ministries Council (NIM)
- Special Committee re Renewed Apology re Role in Colonialism and Residential Schools (SCA)
- Clerks of Assembly (CLK)
- History, Committee on (HIS)
- Trustee Board (TRB)
- Pension and Benefits Board (PAB)
- Nominate Standing Committees, Committee to (NOM)
- Committees of the 2023 Assembly
 - Committee to Confer with the Moderator (CON)
 - Committee to Examine Records (CER)
 - Committee re Remits (REM)
 - Committee on Terms of Reference (CTR)
 - Committee on Courtesies and Loyal Addresses (CLA)
 - Moderator nominates special committees

Recommendation BUS-003 adopted/defeated/amended

That the agenda listed above be approved, subject to changes proposed in further reports of the Committee on Business.

RECEIVE AND CONSIDER REPORTS

The recommendation below asks the Assembly to receive and consider all the reports of standing and special committees on the 2024 General Assembly webpage: presbyterian.ca/ga2024. This is a procedural motion that opens the reports and facilitates the ability to approve motions contained within the reports. This motion will save considerable time later in the Assembly by eliminating the need to go through the voting process to receive each report one by one. Many courts and committees use this as a means of streamlining their meetings. Since this will mean that each report is open, it will also provide the opportunity throughout the Assembly to hear from conveners and ask questions before the reports are finally adopted, regardless of what happens to the recommendations in any given report.

Education and Reception Committee

In previous Assemblies, the Education and Reception Committee report was introduced during the first sederunt. All reports are received for consideration in through the recommendation below, and it also included the Education and Reception Committee report. Any commissioner, who has questions or concerns about the recommendations of the Education and Reception Committee, which are contained in the report of the Life and Mission Agency Committee, may address them to Tim Purvis, Associate Secretary of the Ministry and Church Vocations.

Recommendation BUS-004 adopted/defeated/amended

That the reports of standing and special committees listed on 2024 General Assembly webpage be received and considered.

Reports for Information

There are three reports submitted for information to this Assembly: Nominations which are submitted from presbyteries for Moderator and various positions, Special Commission re Reference No. 1, 2023, and Special Commission re Reference No. 2, 2023.

Recommendation BUS-005 adopted/defeated/amended

That the reports of Nominations, Special Commission re Reference No. 1, 2023, and Special Commission re Reference No. 2, 2023 be adopted.

CONSENT RECOMMENDATION

A consent recommendation is intended to be used for recommendations that are expected not to require discussion by the court in order to allow more time for subjects that do require further prayerful deliberation. Some committees will propose that one or more of the report's recommendations be adopted by consent. At that moment, any commissioner may ask for one (or more) of the recommendations to be removed from the consent agenda in order for it to be discussed and voted on in the usual manner. This is done by going to one of the microphones and indicating which recommendations a commissioner wishes to remove from the consent recommendation. The request to remove such a recommendation is not to be debated.

AMENDMENTS AND ADDITIONAL MOTIONS

Any commissioner and YAR wishing to propose amendments or additional motions may do so. Commissioners and YARs must use the jotform set up for amendments and additional motions must be used for submissions. The link for this form will be on presbyterian.ca/gao/ga2024/#reports and will be activated 48 hours before the start of the General Assembly. Motion coordinators will prepare these for presentation and projection for the Assembly. In order for amendments or additional motions to be considered by the General Assembly, commissioners need to present their motions at the appropriate time by proceeding to a microphone and be recognized by the Moderator.

Recommendation BUS-006 adopted/defeated/amended

That, in order for the General Assembly motion coordinators to prepare reports for projection, commissioners who have knowledge that they will be presenting additional motions or amendments are to prepare them in a preceding sederunt and submit them by a jotform at the Assembly.

COMMITTEES OF THIS ASSEMBLY

The names proposed for the committees of this Assembly are recommended by the Committee on Business.

Roll and Leave to Withdraw

In order to maintain an accurate roll of each Assembly, help the Assembly be prayerfully mindful of commissioners who are unwell or called away from the Assembly on an urgent matter, hold commissioners accountable for the fulfillment of their Assembly responsibilities and ensure there is a quorum, a Committee on Roll and Leave to Withdraw is normally named at each Assembly. This year the Business Committee is prepared to assume this responsibility.

Recommendation BUS-007 adopted/defeated/amended

That the responsibilities normally handled by the Committee on Roll and Leave to Withdraw be managed by the Committee on Business and that any requests for leave or changes to the roll be submitted to the committee by email through the General Assembly Office's Senior Administrator, Terrie-Lee Hamilton at thamilton@presbyterian.ca.

In light of the schedule for the General Assembly, the Committee on Business including the Committee on Bills and Overtures, met by video conference in May to prepare their reports to the Assembly.

Committee Membership

Committee on Bills and Overtures

Convener: Amanda Currie

Clerks of Assembly: Victor Kim, Don Muir

Commissioners who are clerks of presbytery or synod: John Barrett, W. Alexander Bisset, Teresa A. Charlton, Harry J. Currie, W. Scott McAndless, Bethany L. McCaffrey, Joyce A. Yanishewski

Committee on Business

Convener: Douglas R. Kendall

Members: Matthew Read, Jonathan Tait, Colleen Walker

Committee to Confer with the Moderator

Convener: Mary Fontaine

A Clerk of the General Assembly

Members: John Barrett, Alex Bissett, Janet Brewer, Harry Currie

Committee on Courtesies and Loyal Addresses

Convener: Kimberly Barlow

Members: Joyce Harrison, Daniel Jong, Greg Smith

Committee to Examine Records

Convener: Paul Wu

Members: Toyin Agbaje, Brooke Kell, Rose Mbehoun, Chuck Moon

Committee on Remits

Convener: Corrie Stewart

Members: Kathy Smit, Joyce Yanishewski

Committee on Terms of Reference

Convener: Nicholas Athanasiadis

Members: Owen Mahaffy, Davida Mackay, Maureen Walter

Recommendation BUS-008 adopted/defeated/amended
That the committees of Assembly be constituted as listed above.

DISSENT

Any commissioner who voted with the minority, may dissent from a decision of the Assembly and have their dissent noted in the minutes. (Book of Forms 295). The dissent must be registered at the time the decision is announced. (Book of Forms 91)

To register their dissent, commissioners are to go to a microphone, and when invited to do so by the Moderator, state their name, presbytery, and that they are dissenting.

Commissioners next complete the dissent form available for download on the 2024 General Assembly report and information page (presbyterian.ca/gao/ga2024/#reports) and email it to the Committee on Business through Terrie-Lee Hamilton at thamilton@presbyterian.ca.

If a commissioner wishes to include written reasons for their dissent, they are to be submitted on the dissent form to Terrie-Lee Hamilton at thamilton@presbyterian.ca within ten days from the date the decision is made. Those who wish to have reasons for their dissent to appear in the Assembly minutes, must ensure their reasons do not exceed 250 words.

LEAVE TO SIT

Sometimes the committees identified in the recommendation are required to meet during the Assembly and this recommendation seeks that permission.

Recommendation BUS-009 adopted/defeated/amended
That the Committee to Nominate Standing Committees, the Assembly Council and the Committee on Education and Reception (Life and Mission Agency Committee) be granted leave to sit during the Assembly.

CONVENERS OF COMMITTEES, GUESTS OF ASSEMBLY AND STAFF

Each year, many of the conveners of committees and staff members of committees and agencies of the General Assembly are not commissioners. In such cases, the General Assembly has granted permission for them to speak to issues during the presentation of their reports. Also, the Business Committee is asking the Assembly to grant permission to our ecumenical and interfaith guests the courtesy to speak to the Assembly.

Recommendation BUS-010 adopted/defeated/amended

That conveners and staff members of committees and agencies and ecumenical and interfaith guests of the Assembly be given permission to speak during their reports upon the recognition of the Moderator.

YOUNG ADULT REPRESENTATIVES

Young Adult Representatives are named by presbyteries and have had the opportunity to offer an advisory vote since 2009. The advisory vote expresses the will of the representatives but only the commissioner vote is used to determine whether a recommendation is adopted. In 2021, the Assembly also agreed that Young Adult Representatives be granted permission to move and second motions on the floor of the Assembly.

This year, the young adult representatives will be invited to advise the court on the recommendations they select. The advisory vote will be announced before the commissioners express their vote.

OVERTURES

There are two types of overtures that are received by the Committee on Business and presented to the General Assembly. Referred overtures are submitted as of February 1 by a synod, presbytery or a session as transmitted through the presbytery with a request that they be sent to one of the standing committees of the General Assembly. Unreferred overtures are those that are submitted without a referral request and are received by April 1.

Overtures 2024

This year, there are ten referred overtures that have been forwarded to standing committees and 5 unreferred overtures before the Bills and Overtures Committee which will recommend to the Assembly actions for them.

The texts of the overtures are found among the reports of the Assembly, presbyterian.ca/gao/ga2024/#reports:

Referred Overtures – 2024 (ROV)

Unreferred Overtures – 2024 (UOV)

Overtures received after April 1st

The practice for handling overtures received after the annual April 1st deadline whereby they are to be held by the Clerks of Assembly for next year's General Assembly is outlined in the Book of Forms 296.3. The originator of the overture is given an opportunity to request to which committee or agency it shall be referred for consideration in following year. This year no overtures fall into this category.

PETITIONS, REFERENCES, CORRECTIVE CASES AND APPEALS

At the time of preparing this report, no petitions, references, corrective cases or appeals have been submitted to the Clerks of Assembly.

NOTICES OF MOTION

I give notice that, at a future sederunt, I will move or cause to be moved that the membership of the Education and Reception Committee be reconsidered (Life and Mission Agency Committee, Recommendation LMA-011, p. 47).

I give notice that, at a future sederunt, I will move or cause to be moved that the Constitution of the Pension Plan be reconsidered (Pension and Benefits Board, Recommendation PAB-005, p. 12).

Douglas Kendall
Convener