

**THE ACTS AND PROCEEDINGS OF  
THE ONE HUNDRED AND FORTY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

of

**THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN CANADA**

**JUNE 2 – JUNE 6, 2024**

**FIRST SEDERUNT**

At the city of Waterloo, Ontario, within Knox Presbyterian Church, on Sunday, June 2, 2024, at 7:30 p.m.

At which place and time, ministers, diaconal ministers and ruling elders being commissioners, from the several presbyteries of The Presbyterian Church in Canada, convened as appointed by the General Assembly held in the city of Halifax, Nova Scotia during its final sederunt on June 7, 2023.

**WORSHIP**

The Rev. Hugh Donnelly made a statement recognizing the traditional territory of the Indigenous people who have been stewards and protectors of the land in and around the Waterloo area since before the arrival of settlers from other nations and of the need to continually recommit to healing and reconciliation and working alongside our Indigenous siblings.

Public worship took place within Knox Presbyterian Church, Waterloo, Ontario. The service was conducted by the Rev. Hugh Donnelly and the Rev. Courtney Crawford and supported by the Knox choir. The scripture lessons included Isaiah 65:17–25 and 1 Corinthians 13:1–7, 13. The Rev. Mary M. Fontaine, Moderator of 2023 General Assembly delivered the sermon which was entitled Building a New Trail Together. The Sacrament of Holy Communion was celebrated by the three ministers.

**CONSTITUTION OF THE ASSEMBLY**

Thereafter, with prayer, the Moderator, the Rev. Mary M. Fontaine, constituted the General Assembly in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, the only King and Head of the Church.

**ROLL OF ASSEMBLY**

The Moderator called on the Principal Clerk to present, in a printed list and subject to corrections, the names of those commissioned by the several presbyteries of the church. The roll of Assembly as finally established is as follows, with those who sent their regrets marked with an asterisk:

<b>Ministers</b>	<b>Elders</b>
<b>I. SYNOD OF THE ATLANTIC PROVINCES</b>	
<b>1. Presbytery of Cape Breton</b> (Nova Scotia)	
Peter D. MacDonald, Big Bras d'Or	
W. Corrie Stewart, Sydney Mines	
<b>2. Presbytery of Newfoundland</b> (Newfoundland and Labrador)	
David C. Sturtevant, St. John's	
<b>3. Presbytery of Pictou</b> (Nova Scotia)	
Gregory R. Dickson, New Glasgow	Brenda J. Fraser, Pictou County
Gail M. Johnson-Murdock, Merigomish	Wendy Ross, Barney's River
<b>4. Presbytery of Halifax-Lunenburg</b> (Nova Scotia)	
Kimberly L. Barlow, Halifax	Jefferson C. Brown, Halls Harbour
Andrew G. Campbell, Truro	David C. Mackay, Halifax

5. **Presbytery of New Brunswick** (New Brunswick)  
 Anne J. Boudreau, Harvey  
 John J. Crawford, Saint John  
 Wendy L. MacWilliams, Fredericton  
 C. Janet J. Higgins, Fredericton  
 Kenneth G. MacKeigan, Andrews  
 Wina M. Parent, Mazerolle Settlement
6. **Presbytery of Prince Edward Island** (Prince Edward Island)  
 John I.F. Barrett, York  
 Doris Ruth Taylor, Albany
- II. SYNOD OF QUEBEC & EASTERN ONTARIO**
7. **Presbytery of Quebec** (Quebec)  
 Nigel Parker, Sherbrooke
8. **Presbytery of Montreal** (Quebec)  
 Roland J. De Vries, Montreal  
 Francis Owusu, Town of Mount Royal  
 Peter J. Rombeek, Montreal  
 Mathieu Fokwa Soh, Delson  
 Rose Mbenoun, Montreal  
 C. Paul Robinson, Beauharnois
9. **Presbytery of Seaway-Glengarry** (Ontario)  
 Robert L. Adams, Cornwall  
 Samer Kandalaft, Kemptville  
 Reid McIntyre, Ingleside  
 Valerie Ming, Williamstown
10. **Presbytery of Ottawa** (Ontario)  
 Blair D. Bertrand, Ottawa  
 Reine Boghos, Morrisburg  
 Paul Wu, Ottawa  
 Denis Bourque, Kanata  
 Owen C. Mahaffy, Ottawa  
 Bruce McGuire, Ottawa
11. **Presbytery of Lanark & Renfrew** (Ontario)  
 David McFarlane, Renfrew  
 Jill M. Turnbull, Smith Falls
- III. SYNOD OF CENTRAL, NORTHEASTERN ONTARIO & BERMUDA**
12. **Presbytery of Kingston** (Ontario)  
 Jennifer L. Cameron, Kingston  
 Carol Merrill, Belleville
13. **Presbytery of Lindsay-Peterborough** (Ontario)  
 Caleb Kim, Fenelon Falls  
 Wayne Reid, Peterborough  
 Jay Song, Warkworth  
 Garry Marnoch, Pontypool  
 Eric Prugh, Douro-Dummer
14. **Presbytery of Pickering** (Ontario)  
 William H. Grace, Oshawa  
 Alvin E.S. Kim, Toronto  
 Bethany L. McCaffrey, Toronto  
 Sang Hyuk (Chuck) Moon, Toronto  
 Christine A. Beek, Pickering  
 Laurie A. Laframboise, Toronto  
 Thom N. Mambe, Oshawa  
 Joycelin A. Stanton, Toronto
15. **Presbytery of East Toronto** (Ontario)  
 Harris Athanasiadis, Toronto  
 Alex Bisset, Toronto  
 Daniel W. Cho, Toronto  
 William G. Ingram, Toronto  
 Maureen Walter, Toronto  
 Alison Mason, Toronto  
 Elizabeth A. Speers, Toronto
16. **Presbytery of West Toronto** (Ontario)  
 Cherie A. Inksetter, Toronto  
 Julio Miranda, Toronto  
 Mark Oteng, Toronto  
 Toyin Agbaje, Toronto  
 Janet Brewer, Toronto  
 Edem Udoh-Orok, Brampton

- 17. Presbytery of Brampton (Ontario)**  
Jacquelyn C.C. Foxall, Oakville  
Patrick Gushue, Oakville  
Stephen Rothery, Milton  
Theresa H. Bell, Grand Valley  
Brenda Connell, Oakville  
George Henderson, Acton
- 18. Presbytery of Oak Ridges (Ontario)**  
Soong Huh, Aurora  
Nagi Said, Markham  
Heather J. Vais, Thornhill  
Maureen D. Lawson, King City  
Russell G. Morden, Thornhill  
Laura Payne, Bradford  
Dorothy Tucker, Thornhill
- 19. Presbytery of Barrie (Ontario)**  
Jonathan W. Tait, Angus  
Thomas Mason, Wasaga Beach  
Linda D. Murray, Elmvale
- 20. Presbytery of Temiskaming (Ontario)**  
Colleen Walker, Englehart
- 21. Presbytery of Algoma & North Bay (Ontario)**  
Frances A. Savill, South River  
Daniel Hartford, North Bay
- 22. Presbytery of Waterloo-Wellington (Ontario)**  
Peter G. Bush, Fergus  
Dongwon Brian Jung, Cambridge  
W. Scott McAndless, Cambridge  
Reuben A. St. Louis, Elmira  
John W. Baxter, Waterloo  
Vern H. Platt, Cambridge  
Howard J. Widdis, Conn  
Rhonda E. Wright, Guelph
- 23. Presbytery of Eastern Han-Ca**  
Soo Jin Chung, Toronto  
Eun Oae Grace Koh, Mississauga  
Daniel Jong, Woodbridge
- IV. SYNOD OF SOUTHWESTERN ONTARIO**
- 24. Presbytery of Hamilton (Ontario)**  
Nicholas Athanasiadis, Toronto  
Monica Bereczki-Farkas, Cambridge  
Alexander M. Douglas, Stoney Creek  
Nancy Mostert, Ancaster  
Debra Bruce, Hamilton  
Robert C. Ferrier, Stoney Creek  
J. Leanne MacDougall, Burlington  
Robert B. Sim, Hamilton
- 25. Presbytery of Niagara (Ontario)**  
Jacob H. Lee, Fenwick  
Anita J. Van Nest, Niagara Falls  
James J. Yang, Welland  
Leslie Fincham, Niagara-on-the-Lake  
Joyce Harrison, Beamsville
- 26. Presbytery of Paris (Ontario)**  
Allan Brouwer, Ingersoll  
Dong-Ha Kim, Woodstock  
Kathy Smit, Ingersoll
- 27. Presbytery of London (Ontario)**  
Mavis Currie, St. Thomas  
Deborah Dolbear-Van Bilsen, Glencoe  
Andrew P.B. Thompson, London  
John Ian Buchanan, London  
Kent Buchanan, London  
Elizabeth P. MacLeod, St. Thomas
- 28. Presbytery of Essex-Kent (Ontario)**  
Shalini I. Rajack-Sankarlal, Windsor
- 29. Presbytery of Lambton-West Middlesex (Ontario)**  
Allan P. Farris, Sarnia
- 30. Presbytery of Huron-Perth (Ontario)**  
Robbin D. Congram, Stratford  
Ernie A. Naylor, Listowel  
Paul A. Stewart, Listowel  
Nancy J. Vorstenbosch, Mitchell

- 31. Presbytery of Grey-Bruce-Maitland (Ontario)**  
 Kathy A. Fraser, Kincardine  
 Edward P. Hoekstra, Owen Sound  
 Anne-Marie Jones, Meaford  
 Fay Harrison, Durham  
 Jean Luke, Teeswater  
 Barbara Stuart, Kincardine
- V. SYNOD OF MANITOBA & NORTHWESTERN ONTARIO**
- 32. Presbytery of Superior (Ontario)**  
 Joyce A. Yanishewski, Thunder Bay  
 Gordon McCutcheon, Gorham
- 33. Presbytery of Winnipeg (Manitoba and Ontario)**  
 Robert Dean, Niverville  
 Brooke Kell, Selkirk
- 34. Presbytery of Brandon (Manitoba)**  
 Henry L. Hildebrandt, Brandon  
 Sarah Hildebrandt, Brandon
- VI. SYNOD OF SASKATCHEWAN**
- 35. Presbytery of Assiniboia (Saskatchewan)**  
 Amanda R. Currie, Regina  
 Barry A. Holtslander, Moose Jaw
- 36. Presbytery of Northern Saskatchewan (Saskatchewan)**  
 Stewart Folster, Saskatoon  
 Keith E. Head, Mont Nebo
- VII. SYNOD OF ALBERTA & THE NORTHWEST**
- 37. Presbytery of The Northwest (Alberta and British Columbia)**  
 Harry J. Currie, Sherwood Park  
 Rodger McEachern, Edmonton  
 Janet L. Taylor, St. Albert  
 M. Pat Munro, Edmonton  
 Anna M. Olive, Sylvan Lake  
 Matthew J. Read, Edmonton
- 38. Presbytery of Calgary-Macleod (Alberta)**  
 Greg Smith, Calgary  
 Jacob P. van Pernis, Calgary  
 Karen L.S. Robbins, Lethbridge  
 Robert Tarr, Calgary
- VIII. SYNOD OF BRITISH COLUMBIA**
- 39. Presbytery of Kootenay (British Columbia)**  
 Martha J.F. Quick, Cranbrook
- 40. Presbytery of Kamloops (British Columbia)**  
 Teresa A. Charlton, Vernon  
 Shirley F. Cochrane, Salmon Arm
- 41. Presbytery of Westminster (British Columbia)**  
 Mary M. Fontaine, Delta  
 Ross A. Lockhart, Vancouver  
 Miklos Szigeti, White Rock  
 Richard R. Topping, Vancouver  
 Willem H. van de Wall, Chilliwack  
 Patricia Dutcher-Walls, Burnaby  
 Peter J. Klassen, Rosedale  
 Eszter Nemeth, Burnaby  
 Timothy H. Tam, Vancouver
- 42. Presbytery of Vancouver Island (British Columbia)**  
 Jennifer L. Geddes, Comox  
 John A. Green, Campbell River  
 Norma A. Ashcroft, Campbell River  
 Adam S.C. Hanna, Victoria
- 43. Presbytery of Western Han-Ca**  
 Steven Park, Edmonton  
 Jukyung Shim, Calgary  
 Hae Suk Yoon, Winnipeg

## **YOUNG ADULT AND STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES**

### **Presbytery**

9	Seaway-Glengarry
11	Lanark & Renfrew
14	Pickering
15	East Toronto
18	Oak Ridges
23	Eastern Han-Ca
27	London
36	Northern Saskatchewan
37	The Northwest
42	Vancouver Island

### **Young Adult Representative**

Mariah R. Adams, Cornwall
Drew W. Vereyken, Beachburg
Iain Alary Donnelly, Toronto
Avery Akkerman, Toronto
Kathleen J. Atkin, Aurora
Caitlin Chung, Toronto
Jun Lee, London
Alicia T. Monson, Saskatoon
Micheline L. Kashiku, Edmonton
Emma Bellsmith, Nanaimo

## **STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES**

Presbyterian College  
Knox College  
Vancouver School of Theology

Julielee A. Stitt  
Rachel Kennedy-Proctor  
Patricia A. St. James Smith

## **ELECTION OF THE MODERATOR**

The Rev. Mary M. Fontaine invited the Assembly to choose a Moderator to preside over its deliberations. She called on the Rev. Daniel W. Cho, a member of the Committee to Advise with the Moderator.

In accordance with the method determined by the 95th General Assembly, the committee placed in nomination the name of the Rev. Dr. Patricia Dutcher-Walls as Moderator of the 149th General Assembly.

The Rev. Mary M. Fontaine called for nominations from the floor. There being no further nominations, the Moderator called for a motion that nominations for the office of Moderator be closed.

D.W. Cho moved, seconded by A. Currie, that nominations be closed. Adopted.

The Moderator called for a motion to elect a Moderator.

K.A. Fraser moved, seconded by W.A. Bisset, that the Rev. Dr. Patricia Dutcher-Walls be declared elected as Moderator. Adopted.

The Rev. Mary M. Fontaine declared the Rev. Dr. Patricia Dutcher-Walls as elected Moderator of the 149th General Assembly.

Dr. Dutcher-Walls, accompanied by K.A. Fraser and W.A. Bisset, withdrew in order that the Moderator might be robed prior to her installation.

While awaiting the Moderator's return, the Rev. Mary M. Fontaine talked briefly about the meaning and importance of dance in Indigenous ministry.

## **INSTALLATION OF THE MODERATOR**

The Rev. Mary M. Fontaine asked the Rev. Dr. Patricia Dutcher-Walls the appointed questions and installed her as Moderator of the 149th General Assembly.

Mary Fontaine presented the Moderator with a shawl to mark the occasion.

## **MODERATOR ADDRESSED ASSEMBLY**

The Moderator commented on the pleasure of working with Mary throughout the past year as convener of the Committee to Advise the Moderator. She called Mary her "auntie" and said the Mary taught her how to be a friend to Indigenous People. "I am delighted to take on this service to the church", said the Moderator. She thanked her husband

and children for accommodating her commitments, along with her home congregation of Trinity Church and the Presbytery of Westminster for their ongoing support.

### **A SERVICE OF COMMISSIONING**

As her first act in office, the Moderator conducted a service for commissioners during which she called upon them to depend on God's strength and guidance, claim their vocation as servants of Christ, the living Word, rely upon the wisdom and inspiration of the Holy Spirit and maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

### **INTRODUCTION OF FORMER MODERATORS**

The Moderator acknowledged and welcomed former Moderators of General Assemblies: the Rev. Mary M. Fontaine (2023); the Rev. Dr. Daniel D. Scott (2021) and Kelly Williams Scott; the Rev. Amanda Currie (2019 and 2020); the Rev. Daniel Cho (2018) and Esther Cho; the Rev. Peter G. Bush (2017) and Debbie Bush; the Rev. Karen R. Horst (2015) and the Rev. Dr. H.D. Horst (2011); the Rev. Dr. Herbert F. Gale (2010); the Rev. Dr. M. Jean Morris; the Rev. Dr. Richard W. Fee (2004); the Rev. Dr. Alan M. McPherson (1995) and Maureen McPherson; the Rev. Dr. George Vais (1994); and the Rev. Dr. Linda J. Bell (1992).

The Moderator also recognized former General Assembly Principal Clerk, Stephen Kendall (1998–2022).

All were received by the Assembly with warm applause.

### **INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS**

The Moderator then acknowledged and welcomed the following guests of the Assembly.

The Rev. Daniel Whitehead, Chief Executive Officer of Sanctuary Mental Health Ministries, and the Rev. Dr. Allen Jorgenson, Professor of Systematic Theology and Assistant Dean of Martin Luther University College, Waterloo.

### **YOUNG ADULT AND STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES**

The Moderator welcomed the Young Adult Representatives from across the country and Student Representatives from our seminaries and noted that the Assembly looks forward to their participation in the proceedings.

### **COMMITTEE TO ADVISE WITH THE MODERATOR**

The Assembly called for the report of the Committee to Advise with the Moderator which, as printed on p. XXX–XXX. The report was presented by the Rev. Daniel W. Cho, a member of the committee.

#### **Receive and Consider**

D.W. Cho moved, duly seconded, that the report be received and considered. Adopted.

**Recommendation ADV-001** (p. XXX) was moved by D.W. Cho, duly seconded. Adopted.

**Recommendation ADV-002** (p. XXX) was moved by D.W. Cho, duly seconded. Adopted.

**Recommendation ADV-003** (p. XXX) was moved by D.W. Cho, duly seconded. Adopted.

**Recommendation ADV-004** (p. XXX) was moved by D.W. Cho, duly seconded. Adopted.

#### **Report as a Whole**

D.W. Cho, moved, duly seconded, that the report as a whole be adopted. Adopted.

### **COMMITTEE ON BUSINESS**

The Assembly called for the report of the Committee on Business which, as printed on p. XXX–XXX, was presented by D.R. Kendall, convener.

#### **Receive and Consider**

J.W. Tait moved, duly seconded, that the report be received and considered. Adopted.

At the request of the Moderator, the Principal Clerk explained the consent recommendation process.

### **Consent Recommendation**

Proposed consent recommendations were placed before the Assembly.

J.W. Tait moved, duly seconded, that the following recommendations be adopted by consent. Adopted.

BUS-001 (p. XXX)	BUS-002 (p. XXX)	BUS-003 (p. XXX)
BUS-004 (p. XXX)	BUS-005 (p. XXX)	BUS-006 (p. XXX)
BUS-007 (p. XXX)	BUS-008 (p. XXX)	BUS-009 (p. XXX)
BUS-010 (p. XXX)		

The convener highlighted aspects of the Committee on Business report and drew attention to the report of the Committee on Education and Reception of the Life and Mission Agency, inviting commissioners to address inquiries or discussion to the Ministry and Church Vocations Associate Secretary, T.R. Purvis.

### **Notices of Motion**

The following notice of motion was placed before the Assembly by the convener.

I give notice that, at a future sederunt, M.J. Read 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. XXX).

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

(cont'd on p. XXX)

### **COMMITTEE TO NOMINATE STANDING COMMITTEES – INTRODUCTION**

The Moderator called upon M.R. Barclay, convener of the Committee to Nominate Standing Committees to introduce that report.

M.R. Barclay announced that C. Walker and C. Stewart would be the mover and seconder for this report and that proposed changes to the names in the report of the Committee to Nominate Standing Committees must be submitted for the committee's consideration through the General Assembly Office Senior Administrator, T. Hamilton, by Monday, June 3 at 5:00 pm.

### **RECORDS OF ASSEMBLY, SYNODS AND ASSEMBLY COUNCIL**

The Assembly called for the minutes of the 2023 General Assembly, the several synods and the Assembly Council, that they might be placed in the hands of the committee appointed to examine them. The Principal Clerk announced that the minutes and records were present for examination by the Committee to Examine Records and will be considered by the General Assembly following examination.

(cont'd on p. XXX)

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Announcements having been made, the Moderator adjourned the Assembly with prayer, to meet in the Athletic and Recreation Centre of Wilfrid Laurier University, Waterloo, Ontario, on Monday, June 3, 2024, at 9:00 a.m., of which public intimation was given.