

THIRD SEDERUNT

ASSEMBLY CONSTITUTED

At the Athletic and Recreation Centre of Wilfrid Laurier University, Waterloo, Ontario, on Monday, June 3, 2024 at 2:00 p.m., the Assembly met pursuant to adjournment. The Moderator constituted the Assembly with prayer.

ASSEMBLY COUNCIL (cont'd from p. XXX)

Recommendation ASC-007 – Discussion resumed.
Discussion resumed regarding this recommendation.

It was noted that the vote on **Recommendation ASC-007** would be postponed until later in the Assembly in case other Assembly decisions impact the budget.

(cont'd on p. XXX)

ATLANTIC MISSION SOCIETY

The Assembly called for the report of the Atlantic Mission Society which, as printed on p. XXX, was presented by C. Stymiest, President.

This report contains no recommendations.

C. Stymiest noted the purpose of the Atlantic Mission Society and highlighted some of the activities carried out during the past year. Thanks was expressed to Joan Cho, the long-serving editor of the *Message* upon her retirement, and to the Rev. Dr. Marion Barclay for taking up this office.

Report as a Whole

W.L. MacWilliams moved, duly seconded, that the report as a whole be adopted. Adopted.

WOMEN'S MISSIONARY SOCIETY

The Assembly called for the report of the Women's Missionary Society which, as printed on p. XXX, was presented by C. Reid, president. She was accompanied by Executive Director, Sarah Kim.

This report contains no recommendations.

C. Reid highlighted some of the local and world ministries of the Women's Missionary Society and happily noted the the110th anniversary of the society.

Report as a Whole

J. Brewer moved, duly seconded, that the report as a whole be adopted. Adopted.

CUTTING EDGE OF MISSION AWARD RECIPIENT

The Moderator called upon the Rev. Bob Smith, convener of the Cutting Edge of Mission Committee, to introduce the 2024 award recipient, the Rev. Daniel Whitehead, Chief Executive Officer of Sanctuary Mental Health Ministries. He was accompanied by Bing Ho, a member of the Sanctuary board.

<summary of Mr. Whitehead's comments to be inserted>

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH BUILDING CORPORATION

The Assembly called for the report of the Presbyterian Church Building Corporation which, as printed on p. XXX, was presented by D. Phillips, chair of the corporation. He was accompanied by Betty Kupeian, the corporation's Chief Operating Officer.

This report contains no recommendations.

D. Phillips highlighted some of the current activities of the corporation and expressed thanks for the excellent work offered by some members who are retiring. He noted the corporation's desire to help congregations with financial

projects and spoke of the national office working group that is assembling resources intended to assist congregations explore property development possibilities.

Report as a Whole

S.Y. Chuck Moon moved, duly seconded, that the report as a whole be adopted. Adopted.

COMMITTEE ON BILLS AND OVERTURES

The Assembly called for the report of the Committee on Bills and Overtures which, as printed on p. XXX, was presented by A. Currie, convener.

Recommendation BOV-001 (p. XXX) was moved by A. Currie, duly seconded.

Amendment

E. Nemeth moved, duly seconded, that the word “Hungarian” before the word “diaspora” be deleted; the words, “with power to issue” be inserted after the word “Council”; the words “and the Canadian Hungarian Presbyterian Churches Consultation Committee” be inserted after the words “Clerks of Assembly”; and the sentence “That the Canadian Hungarian Presbyterian Churches Consultation Committee be recognized as an authentic and true representation of the Hungarian ethnic congregations and as an important constituency in its own right in The Presbyterian Church in Canada and in close cooperation with the Assembly Council and the Clerks of Assembly to form a Canada wide Diaspora Mission Presbytery which will have an oversight and wide ranging power to deal with the diaspora missionary outreach and be recognized as equal partners with Presbyteries across the nation.” be added as a new paragraph.

Out of Order

The moderator ruled the amendment out of order.

Recommendation BOV-001 was adopted.

Recommendation BOV-002 (p. XXX) was moved by A. Currie, duly seconded. Adopted.

Report as a Whole

A. Currie moved, duly seconded, that the report as a whole be adopted. Adopted.

MACLEAN ESTATE COMMITTEE

The Assembly called for the report of the Maclean Estate Committee which, as printed on p. XXX, was presented by E.A. Naylor, convener. He was accompanied by the Executive Director, the Rev. Kristine O'Brien.

This report contains no recommendations.

E.A. Naylor gave thanks for the Crieff employees and others who have supported the work of Crieff Hills Community. It was reported that the community is celebrating 50 years of ministry.

A video highlighting the facilities and opportunities offered by the retreat centre was viewed by the Assembly.

Report as a Whole

E.A. Naylor moved, duly seconded, that the report as a whole be adopted. Adopted.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

The Assembly called for the report of the International Affairs Committee which, as printed on p. XXX, was presented by C. Ireland, convener.

Recommendation IAC-001 (p. XXX) was moved by M. Bereczki-Farkas, duly seconded. Adopted.

Recommendation IAC-002 (p. XXX) was moved by M. Bereczki-Farkas, duly seconded. Adopted.

Recommendation IAC-003 (p. XXX) was moved by M. Bereczki-Farkas, duly seconded. Adopted.

Dissent

B.D. Bertrand asked that his dissent regarding Recommendation IAC-003 be recorded in the minutes, with reasons.

The report acknowledges the complexity of the conflict between Palestine and Israel but then vilifies only one participant – Israel. Hamas gets condemned for the October 7, 2023 attacks but not for its ongoing role and participation in the larger conflict. The problem is that without explicitly addressing the moral culpability of Hamas, we neglect to address one of the root issues in this conflict – anti-Semitism. Hamas is explicitly and unabashedly anti-Semitic. They exist to eradicate Jews. October 7th was not just a violent attack but an attack on people because they were Jews. It was a hate crime. To not condemn Hamas for anti-Semitism, all the while supporting Palestine and vilifying Israel, is, at best, to remain silent about a mortal sin fundamentally at work in the conflict and, at worst, to tacitly approve of anti-Semitism.

This has implications for our life and witness here in Canada. Anti-Semitism is on the rise. Pro-Palestinian protestors on campus chant “From the River to the Sea”, calling for the annihilation of the Jews. Synagogues have engaged in extra security because of legitimate violent threats. Rabbis and Jewish leaders have been intimidated. Jewish children have been harassed. Of course, this is not the fault of the women and children of Palestine, the subject of the motion. But, when we only vilify Israel, as justified as moral condemnation is, we send a message to our Jewish friends and colleagues that we have nothing to say about the anti-Semitism they face in Israel and in Canada.

Recommendation IAC-004 (p. XXX) was moved by M. Berezcki-Farkas, duly seconded. Adopted.

Recommendation IAC-005 (p. XXX) was moved by M. Berezcki-Farkas, duly seconded.

Motion to Refer

W. Ingram, duly seconded, that Recommendation IAC-005 be referred back to the International Affairs Committee. Defeated.

Recommendation IAC-005 was adopted.

Recommendation IAC-006 (p. XXX) was moved by M. Berezcki-Farkas, duly seconded. Adopted.

Recommendation IAC-007 (p. XXX) was moved by M. Berezcki-Farkas, duly seconded.

Amendment

P.G. Bush moved, duly seconded that the sentence, “And that this be done in humility, confessing the history of anti-Semitism within The Presbyterian Church in Canada and the church's own actions of colonialism, using the church's tools of prayer and spiritual reflection to participate in God's vision for a just peace in the Middle East.” be added to the recommendation after the word “region”. Adopted.

Recommendation IAC-007 as amended, was adopted, as follows.

That congregations, presbyteries and synods be encouraged to find concrete ways to live out this commitment and use resources created by the church, KAIROS, Sabeel and Project Ploughshares on justice in the region. And that this be done in humility, confessing the history of anti-Semitism within The Presbyterian Church in Canada and the church's own actions of colonialism, using the church's tools of prayer and spiritual reflection to participate in God's vision for a just peace in the Middle East.

Report as a Whole

Berezcki-Farkas, moved, duly seconded, that the report as a whole be adopted. Adopted.

ECUMENICAL AND INTERFAITH RELATIONS COMMITTEE

The Assembly called for the report of the Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations Committee which, as printed on p. XXX, was presented by L. Campbell, convener.

This report contained no recommendations.

L. Campbell drew attention to some of the highlights in this report. She announced that Amanda Currie has been named the next president of the Canadian Council of Churches.

Report as a Whole

R.A. St. Louis moved, duly seconded, that the report as a whole be adopted. Adopted.

COMMITTEE ON CHURCH DOCTRINE

The Assembly called for the report of the Committee on Church Doctrine which, as printed on p. XXX, was presented by J. Bellsmith, a member of the committee.

Consent recommendations were placed before the Assembly.

A commissioner asked that Recommendation CDC-006 (p. XXX) be withdrawn from the consent recommendations.

Consent Recommendation

H.J. Vais moved, duly seconded, that the following recommendations be adopted by consent. Adopted.

CDC-005 (p. XXX)

Recommendation CDC-001 (p. XXX) was moved by H.J. Vais, duly seconded. Adopted.

Recommendation CDC-002 (p. XXX) was moved by H.J. Vais, duly seconded. Adopted.

Recommendation CDC-003 (p. XXX) was moved by H.J. Vais, duly seconded.

(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 7:00 p.m., of which public intimation was given.