

## **TENTH SEDERUNT**

### **WORSHIP**

The Assembly was led in worship by the Rev. Peter J. Rombeek, who preached the sermon, and was assisted by liturgist Kristine O'Brien and musician Hugh Donnelly.

### **ASSEMBLY CONSTITUTED**

At the Athletic Complex of Wilfrid Laurier University, Waterloo, Ontario, on Thursday, June 6, 2024, at 9:40 a.m., the Assembly met pursuant to adjournment. The Moderator constituted the Assembly with prayer.

### **80TH ANNIVERSARY OF D-DAY**

Captain K.L. Barlow, a Chaplain with the Canadian Armed Forces, was invited forward by the Moderator to announce that this day marked the 80th anniversary of the D-Day landings on the beaches of Normandy, France, and led the Assembly in a moment of silence.

### **GRATITUDE**

The Moderator expressed gratitude to commissioners, resource people, General Assembly Office staff, tech support personnel, and worship leaders for their contributions to the Assembly. She also thanked her chaplain, the Rev. Kathy Fraser, for her prayers and assistance.

### **YOUNG ADULT REPRESENTATIVES**

The Moderator invited the Young Adult Representatives to address the Assembly. One by one, they spoke passionately and eloquently as they reflected on their experience at this Assembly and their hopes for the future of The Presbyterian Church in Canada.

### **COMMITTEE TO EXAMINE RECORDS**

The Assembly called for the report of the Committee to Examine Records which, as printed on p. XXX, was presented by P.H. Wu, convener.

#### **Recommendation CER-001**

P.H. Wu moved, duly seconded, that the minutes of the Synod of the Atlantic Provinces, the Synod of Manitoba and Northwestern Ontario, the Synod of British Columbia, the Assembly Council and the 2023 Acts and Proceedings be attested as neatly and correctly kept. Adopted.

#### **Recommendation CER-002**

P.H. Wu moved, duly seconded, that the minutes of be the Synod of Central, Northeastern Ontario and Bermuda, the Synod of Southwestern Ontario, the Synod of Saskatchewan, and the Synod of Alberta and the Northwest be attested as with notes. Adopted.

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

P.H. Wu moved, duly seconded, that the report as a whole be adopted. Adopted.

### **COMMITTEE ON REMITS**

The Assembly called for the report of the Committee on Remits which, as printed on p. XXX, was presented by W.C. Stewart, convener.

#### **Recommendation REM-001**

W.C. Stewart moved, duly seconded, that Remit A, 2023 re Book of Forms 288.1 re appointment of the General Assembly's Committee to Nominate Standing Committees be approved and that this become the law of the church and that the Book of Forms be amended accordingly. Adopted.

#### **Dissent**

P.H. Wu asked that his dissent regarding Recommendation REM-001 be recorded in the minutes, with reasons.

Prior to sending this remit down under the Barrier Act for a 'yes' or 'no' vote, there was no opportunity for 'study and report' on the part of presbyteries and/or synods. Some informal conversation may have taken place but that does not

substitute a formal request for 'study and report'. Since this change constitutes a substantial change in the role of synods, it is regrettable that they are not properly consulted. Synods are well placed to know the personnel within their bounds who have the gifts, skills and experience suited to service on not only the Committee to Nominate but also on the national committees and boards of the General Assembly. The previous practice that each synod nominates one member to serve on the Committee to Nominate ensures that there is broad grassroots input in selecting qualified members on that committee. The new wording of Book of Forms 288.1 has shifted the power to name candidates from the synods to the Assembly Council. In pursuit of the 'ethnic and cultural' diversity, it is unfortunate the geographical diversity of the regions and the diversity of a balanced clergy/lay representation are sacrificed. While the goal of a better 'ethnic and cultural' representation is laudable, the mechanism envisioned by Book of Forms 288.1 is clunky at best. In my humble opinion, the vision that truly is worth embracing is the dream of Martin Luther King Jr. that his four little children will one day "live in a nation where they will not be judged by the colour of their skin but by the content of their character".

### **Recommendation REM-002**

W.C. Stewart moved, duly seconded, that Remit B, 2023 re Book of Forms 176.1.6 and 176.1.7 re presbytery constituent roll be approved and that this become the law of the church and that the Book of Forms be amended accordingly. Adopted.

### **Report as a Whole**

W.C. Stewart moved, duly seconded, that the report as a whole be adopted. Adopted.

## **COMMITTEE ON COURTESIES AND LOYAL ADDRESS**

The Assembly called for the report of the Committee on Courtesies and Loyal Addresses which was present by K.L. Barlow, convener.

It was moved by K.L. Barlow, duly seconded, that following courtesies and loyal addresses be adopted. Adopted.

### **COURTESIES**

We the commissioners of the 149th General Assembly of The Presbyterian Church in Canada express our thanks to God for being with us during this time of deliberation and decision.

We acknowledge that Wilfrid Laurier University is located on the traditional territory of the Haudenosaunee and Anishinaabe.

We thank the Presbytery of Waterloo-Wellington for so graciously hosting the General Assembly again and Knox Church, Waterloo for hosting worship on Sunday evening. We express our appreciation to all who took part in opening worship in both word and song. We thank those who led morning worship during this week.

We are grateful for the wisdom and guidance of our Moderator, the Rev. Dr. Patricia Dutcher-Walls, the officers of the court and staff of the General Assembly Office.

We thank the Young Adult Representatives and the representatives of our colleges for their presence and their advisory wisdom shared.

We thank those who shared their time with us, Fr. Bohdan Hladio from the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of Canada, the Rev. Dr. Eui Sig Kim, Moderator of the 108th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Korea, Rula Odeh, Canadian Friends of Sabeel and her sister Samia O'Day, and Daniel Whitehead from Sanctuary Mental Health Ministries, the 2024 Cutting Edge of Mission award recipient. Their presence and their words enriched our experience at this General Assembly.

We thank all of those who fulfilled their commissions to the Assembly from their respective presbyteries. We are grateful for their time and talent.

### **LOYAL ADDRESSES**

To the Grand Council, Chiefs, Clan Mothers and Faith Keepers of the Haudenosaunee Confederacy and the Chiefs and Clan Leaders of the Anishinaabe people.

We, the commissioners of the Venerable, the 149th General Assembly of The Presbyterian Church in Canada, meeting at Wilfrid Laurier University in Waterloo, Ontario, June 2–6, 2024 in your traditional territories and that of the Chonnonton people of the Neutral Confederacy, send our greetings. We acknowledge your rich history in this place, the knowledge and wisdom of this land, which you hold and we give thanks for every opportunity to foster our continued reconciliation with you.

To His Majesty, King Charles,

We the commissioners of the Venerable, the 149th General Assembly of The Presbyterian Church in Canada, meeting at Wilfred Laurier University in Waterloo, Ontario, June 2–6, 2024, convey to you our loyal greetings. Your continued and unwavering personal faith in God serves as an inspiration to all your subjects. The Venerable General Assembly prays God's blessings upon you.

To Her Excellency, The Right Honourable Mary Simon, Governor General of Canada,

We the commissioners of the Venerable, the 149th General Assembly of The Presbyterian Church in Canada, meeting at Wilfred Laurier University in Waterloo, Ontario, June 2–6, 2024, convey greetings to you. As the King's representative in Canada, we are grateful for your leadership. We ask God's richest blessings on you as you discharge the high duties of your office.

To the Right Honourable Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada,

We, the commissioners of the Venerable, the 149th General Assembly of The Presbyterian Church in Canada, meeting at Wilfred Laurier University in Waterloo, Ontario, June 2–6, 2024, send greetings to you and your family, your Ministers and to the Parliament of Canada. Please be assured of our prayers that God will guide and direct you and the Members of Parliament in making decisions in keeping with the common good and commensurate with the ideals of truth and justice.

To the Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario,

We, the commissioners of the Venerable, the 149th General Assembly of The Presbyterian Church in Canada, meeting at Wilfred Laurier University, Waterloo, Ontario, June 2–6, 2024, send greetings to you and the other Members of the Legislature. We thank you for your service and we pray that God will bless your leadership as you seek to fulfill the responsibilities of your office.

To Her Worship, Dorothy McCabe, Mayor of Waterloo, Ontario,

We, the commissioners of the Venerable, the 149th General Assembly of The Presbyterian Church in Canada, meeting at Wilfred Laurier University in Waterloo, Ontario, June 2–6, 2024, convey our greetings and good wishes to you and the members of the city council of Waterloo. It is our prayer that God will bless you with wisdom and integrity as you serve the people of this city with both justice and compassion.

Kimberly Barlow  
Convener

**Report as a Whole**

K.L. Barlow moved, duly seconded, that the report as a whole be adopted. Adopted.

**COMMISSION RE MATTERS LEFT UNCARED FOR OR OMITTED**

R.A. Lockhart moved, duly seconded, that the Commission of Matters Left Uncared For or Omitted, consisting of the Moderator of the 2024 General Assembly and the Clerks of Assembly, be established until the 2025 General Assembly. Adopted.

**ADOPTION OF MINUTES** (cont'd from p. XXX)

W.A. Bisset moved, duly seconded, that the that the minutes of the first seven sederunts be adopted as presented, subject to correction, and that the minutes of the remaining sederunts be taken as read and adopted. Adopted.

**COMMITTEE ON BUSINESS** (cont'd from p. XXX)

R.A. St. Louis expressed thanks to the local volunteers who worked with him to provide gracious hospitality and support for the General Assembly. The volunteers are Grant Birks, Jeanette Bomhof, Lawrie Carter, Anne Church, David Church, Susan Clarke, Scott McAndless, Wendy Paterson, Sara Pavel, Lynda Pinnington, Barbara Robinson, Ben St. Louis, Daniel St. Louis, Katherine St. Louis, Sue Senior and Joni Smith.

**Report as a Whole**

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

**ADJOURNMENT**

The business having been finished and announcements having been made, the Moderator entertained a motion to adjourn. It was moved by G. Johnson-Murdock, duly seconded and adopted, that the 149th General Assembly adjourn.

The Moderator offered prayer, then said, “In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, the only King and Head of the Church and by the authority of this Assembly, I now dissolve this Assembly and appoint another General Assembly of The Presbyterian Church in Canada to meet within the bounds of the Presbytery of Hamilton on the campus of McMaster University, on June 1, 2025 at 7:30 p.m.”

The Moderator then offered a Benediction.