

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

of

**THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN CANADA**

**JUNE 4 – JUNE 7, 2023**

**FIRST SEDERUNT**

At the city of Halifax, Nova Scotia, within St. Mary's University, on Sunday, June 4, 2023, at 7:00 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 upon the call of the Moderator.

**WORSHIP**

Prior to the worship service, Elder Eileen Brooks of the Mi'kmaq Nation, conducted a smudging ceremony. Public worship took place with The Presbyterian Church of Saint David, Halifax, Nova Scotia. The service was conducted by the Rev. Dr. Robert N. Faris, Moderator of 2022 General Assembly and the Rev. Dr. Iona MacLean, Stated Supply, Saint David's (Halifax). They were assisted by Scripture reader: Frances Perrin, Moderator of the Presbytery of Halifax & Lunenburg; elders from Iona, St. Andrew's (Dartmouth) and Saint David's; Prayer leaders: Livia Barkhouse, John Carr, Mark Chiang, Germaine Lovelace and Amanda Saoud; Music Director: Simon Blake; Organist: Brogan Cameron and the choir of Saint David's & Friends. Jeremiah 32:1–3a, 6-15 and John 3:1–17 were read and the sermon, entitled *Really, God?* was delivered by the Rev. Dr. Robert Faris. The Sacrament of Holy Communion was celebrated by the Rev. Dr. Robert Faris and the Rev. Dr. Iona MacLean.

**CONSTITUTION OF THE ASSEMBLY**

Thereafter, with prayer, the Moderator, the Rev. Dr. Robert N. Faris, 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) Lydia E. MacKinnon, Marion Bridge	Donald L. Tower, Baddeck
<b>2. Presbytery of Newfoundland</b> (Newfoundland and Labrador) David Sturtevant, St. John's	Lynne Allan, Grand Falls-Windsor
<b>3. Presbytery of Pictou</b> (Nova Scotia) Enjei N. Achah, River John Charles E. McPherson, Stellarton	J. Peter MacKay, Durham G. Frank MacLeod, Scotsburn
<b>4. Presbytery of Halifax-Lunenburg</b> (Nova Scotia) Michael Koslowski, Halifax Thomas W. Summers, Lunenburg	Maudie E. Haley, Garland's Crossing Nancy M. Heighton, Dartmouth
<b>5. Presbytery of New Brunswick</b> (New Brunswick) Jeffrey M. Murray, Sackville Kathryn Parks, Bathurst M. Glen Sampson, Bathurst	Kate McLellan, Rothesay Brian Neilson, Sackville

- 6. Presbytery of Prince Edward Island** (Prince Edward Island)  
 William F. Dean, Wood Islands Evelyn B. Cox, Hartsville  
 Torrey R. Griffiths, Kinkora Doris R. Taylor, Albany
- II. SYNOD OF QUEBEC & EASTERN ONTARIO**
- 7. Presbytery of Quebec** (Quebec)  
 Nigel Parker, Sherbrooke Jacqueline W. Branion, Levis
- 8. Presbytery of Montreal** (Quebec)  
 Bartholomew Alexander, Montreal David Christiani, Brossard  
 Roland J. De Vries, Montreal Rose J. Ngo Mbenoun, Montreal  
 Chung Lok Jonah Ho, Pointe-Claire Donald Walcot, Westmount
- 9. Presbytery of Seaway-Glengarry** (Ontario)  
 David W. Hooper, Prescott David F. Munro, Maxville  
 Ian C. MacMillan, Lancaster Heather L. Stewart, Kemptville
- 10. Presbytery of Ottawa** (Ontario)  
 Denise P. Allen-Macartney, Ottawa Deborah Brown, Gatineau  
 Christopher G. Clarke, Ottawa Asuquo Eniang, Ottawa  
 Douglas R. Kendall, Stittsville Derrek Konrad, Ottawa  
 James. E. Pot, Ottawa Marlene McCarville, Stittsville
- 11. Presbytery of Lanark & Renfrew** (Ontario)  
 Milton A. Fraser, Arnprior Harrison B. Lane, Petawawa  
 D. James Kim, Petawawa Richard M. Olmstead, Cobden
- III. SYNOD OF CENTRAL, NORTHEASTERN ONTARIO & BERMUDA**
- 12. Presbytery of Kingston** (Ontario)  
 Karen Hincke, Sharbot Lake Mary Mikkelsen, Tweed  
 Bonnie J. Sutherland, Kingston Lori-Kim den Otter, Kingston
- 13. Presbytery of Lindsay-Peterborough** (Ontario)  
 L. Ann Blane, Lakefield Susan E. Wallace, Lindsay  
 Neil A. Ellis, Cobourg  
 Debora A. Rolls, Peterborough
- 14. Presbytery of Pickering** (Ontario)  
 Andrew J. Allison, Leaskdale Christine A. Beek, Pickering  
 Angela J. Cluney, Toronto Laura Laframboise, Toronto  
 J. Kevin Livingston, Toronto Ian MacCready, Oshawa  
 Deon L. Slabbert, Oshawa D. Anne Phillips, Uxbridge
- 15. Presbytery of East Toronto** (Ontario)  
 Robert N. Faris, Toronto Konrad Chen, Mississauga  
 Terrie-Lee Hamilton, Toronto Candace Grant, Toronto  
 Timothy Purvis, Toronto Peter A. Kinch, Toronto  
 Nick Renaud, Toronto
- 16. Presbytery of West Toronto** (Ontario)  
 Young S. Cho, Toronto Marc Dunn, Toronto  
 D. Sean Howard, Toronto Kathryn M. Twynam, Toronto  
 Soyon Esther Park, Toronto Linda Wilson, Toronto
- 17. Presbytery of Brampton** (Ontario)  
 Germaine Lovelace, Mississauga Dianne M. Douglas, Mississauga  
 Ian B. McWhinnie, Mississauga  
 Stjepan Mutavdzija, Hillsburgh

- 18. Presbytery of Oak Ridges (Ontario)**  
 John Hong, Beeton  
 Lawrence K.K. Leung, Markham  
 Robert T. Royal, Newmarket  
 John A. Vissers, Toronto  
 Audry E. Barton, Bradford  
 Diane Hamilton, Newmarket  
 John Hazlewood, Stouffville
- 19. Presbytery of Barrie (Ontario)**  
 Heather J. Malnick, Bracebridge  
 Alton Ruff, Midland  
 Matthew E. Ruttan, Barrie  
 Brian McMillan, Collingwood  
 James R. Munroe, Huntsville  
 Scott Murley, Port Carling
- 20. Presbytery of Temiskaming (Ontario)**  
 John R. Jamieson, Kapuskasing
- 21. Presbytery of Algoma & North Bay (Ontario)**  
 Charlene E. Wilson, Sault Ste. Marie  
 Linda Weise, Sault Ste. Marie
- 22. Presbytery of Waterloo-Wellington (Ontario)**  
 John C. Borthwick, Guelph  
 Courtney Crawford, Waterloo  
 Hugh Donnelly, Waterloo  
 Kristine O'Brien, Puslinch  
 Ferenc Szatmari, Kitchener  
 Melinda Heidinga, Palmerston  
 Peggy Lennox, Belwood  
 Gibson McIlwrath, Waterloo  
 Lynda Pinnington, Cambridge  
 Rick Thomas, Cambridge
- 23. Presbytery of Eastern Han-Ca**  
 Hojin Ahn, Halifax  
 Anna H. Lee, Mississauga  
 Won Cheol Lee, Mississauga
- IV. SYNOD OF SOUTHWESTERN ONTARIO**
- 24. Presbytery of Hamilton (Ontario)**  
 Sandra G. Copland Dufour, Stoney Creek  
 Janice Doyle, Caledonia  
 Emma J. Duncan, Burlington  
 John T. Read, Ancaster  
 Sandra McCann, Caledonia  
 Darryl Mitchell, Nanticoke  
 Lynda T. Pollock, Hamilton  
 Marilyn Repchuck, Mount Hope
- 25. Presbytery of Niagara (Ontario)**  
 Patricia D. Archibald, Fort Erie  
 Jared M. Miller, Niagara Falls  
 Nicole I. Reid, Dunnville  
 Marilyn Clarke, Thorold  
 Lesley Kinghorn, Fort Erie  
 Nancy Vanderzanden, Ridgeville
- 26. Presbytery of Paris (Ontario)**  
 David E. Sherbino, Paris  
 Joel A. Sherbino, Paris
- 27. Presbytery of London (Ontario)**  
 Gordon Brown, Tilbury  
 Andrew Fullerton, London  
 Lynn Nichol, London  
 Linda Adamson, London  
 Charlene E. Beynon, London  
 Ruth Ann McVicar, Watford
- 28. Presbytery of Essex-Kent (Ontario)**  
 Shirley F. Murdock, Tecumseh  
 Barbara E. Sargent, Chatham
- 29. Presbytery of Lambton-West Middlesex (Ontario)**  
 Dick Eric van Dorsten, Pointe Edward  
 Wanda Robinson, Mooretown
- 30. Presbytery of Huron-Perth (Ontario)**  
 Lisa Dolson, Bayfield  
 Jill Bennett, St. Mary's

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|              | Theresa McDonald-Lee, Goderich   | Laura Tryssenaar, Listowel   |
| <b>31.</b>   | <b>Presbytery of Grey-Bruce-Maitland</b> (Ontario)<br>S. Willem Basson, Durham<br>Byron N.M. Kappes, Walkerton<br>Johan Ries, Thornbury  | M. Anne McNalty, Dundalk<br>Henry Reinders, Meaford<br>Craig Young, Sauble Beach   |
| <b>V.</b>    | <b>SYNOD OF MANITOBA &amp; NORTHWESTERN ONTARIO</b>  |  |
| <b>32.</b>   | <b>Presbytery of Superior</b> (Ontario)<br>Markus Arseneault, Thunder Bay  | Margo Rahmer, Thunder Bay  |
| <b>33.</b>   | <b>Presbytery of Winnipeg</b> (Manitoba and Ontario)<br>Jinsil Park, Winnipeg  | Bill Temple, Winnipeg  |
| <b>34.</b>   | <b>Presbytery of Brandon</b> (Manitoba)<br>Laura V. Hargrove, Brandon  | David S. Wilson, Brandon   |
| <b>VI.</b>   | <b>SYNOD OF SASKATCHEWAN</b>   |  |
| <b>35.</b>   | <b>Presbytery of Assiniboia</b> (Saskatchewan)<br>Robert D. Wilson, Regina   | Heather L. Neuls, Grenfell   |
| <b>36.</b>   | <b>Presbytery of Northern Saskatchewan</b> (Saskatchewan)<br>Roberto A.F. DeSandoli, Saskatoon   | Sharon Nixon, Saskatoon  |
| <b>VII.</b>  | <b>SYNOD OF ALBERTA &amp; THE NORTHWEST</b>  |  |
| <b>37.</b>   | <b>Presbytery of Peace River</b> (Alberta and British Columbia)<br>Ronald A. Clack, Grande Prairie   |  |
| <b>38.</b>   | <b>Presbytery of Edmonton-Lakeland</b> (Alberta)<br>Mark D.R. Chiang, Edmonton<br>Kenneth W. MacRae, Yellowknife   | Beverly Giggs, Chauvin<br>Connie Harrison, Edmonton  |
| <b>39.</b>   | <b>Presbytery of Central Alberta</b> (Alberta)<br>Sandra Franklin-Law, Eckville  | Donna Richard, Red Deer  |
| <b>40.</b>   | <b>Presbytery of Calgary-Macleod</b> (Alberta)<br>Seok Ho Peter Baek, Bassano<br>Maren McLean Persaud, Calgary<br>Daniel Surya, Lethbridge   | Catherine (Cathy) H.R. Gale, Calgary<br>Okelo K. Aballa, Calgary<br>Toomas Paasuke, Banff  |
| <b>VIII.</b> | <b>SYNOD OF BRITISH COLUMBIA</b>   |  |
| <b>41.</b>   | <b>Presbytery of Kootenay</b> (British Columbia)<br>Stephan J. van Greunen, Creston  | Thomas Heal, Erickson  |
| <b>42.</b>   | <b>Presbytery of Kamloops</b> (British Columbia)<br>Colin J. Cross, Okanagan Falls<br>Marion Hannaford, Kamloops   | Faith Furlong, Prince George   |
| <b>43.</b>   | <b>Presbytery of Westminster</b> (British Columbia)<br>Lydia S.M. Bae, Abbotsford<br>Mary M. Fontaine, Delta<br>Brian J. Fraser, North Vancouver<br>Dennis G. Howard, Maple Ridge<br>Laurie McKay, New Westminster | Krishna Rao Durbha, Vancouver<br>Beverly L. Feick, Fort Langley<br>Joan Kerr, Maple Ridge<br>Richard Knowler, Vancouver<br>Catherine A. Sosnowsky, North Vancouver |
| <b>44.</b>   | <b>Presbytery of Vancouver Island</b> (British Columbia)<br>Jeremy Bellsmith, Nanaimo  | Mary Moore, Duncan   |

Laura T. Kavanagh, Victoria

Greg Toll, Qualicum Beach

**45. Presbytery of Western Han-Ca**

Heung Ryeol Han, Edmonton  
 Alfred Heung Soo Lee, Langley  
 In Kyu Park, Winnipeg

Daniel Hang Duek Kim, Surrey \*  
 Steven Woo Park, Edmonton

**YOUNG ADULT AND STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES**

The Principal Clerk also presented the names of the Young Adult Representatives and the Student Representatives as follows:

**Presbytery**

**Young Adult Representative**

3.	Pictou	Klorissa E. Farnsworth, Pictou
6.	Prince Edward Island	Susanna Hamilton, Charlottetown
10.	Ottawa	Isabel M. Chatelain, Ottawa
16.	West Toronto	Anandi A. Lochan, Toronto
19.	Barrie	Michael Murley, Port Carling
24.	Hamilton	Aaron Shivcharran, Hamilton
28.	Essex-Kent	Joshua D. Sankarlal, Windsor
30.	Huron-Perth	Anna McIntosh, St. Marys
35.	Assiniboia	Asher Ferozdin, Regina
39.	Central Alberta	Seth Law, Eckville
43.	Westminster	Katryna Heidenreich, Maple Ridge

**STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES**

Knox College  
 Vancouver School of Theology

Antonio Siracusa, Toronto  
 Nehemia Neuhisa, Vancouver

**ELECTION OF THE MODERATOR**

The Rev. Dr. Robert N. Faris invited the Assembly to choose a Moderator to preside over its deliberations. He called on Sue Senior, convener 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. Mary Fontaine as Moderator of the 148th General Assembly.

The Rev. Dr. Robert N. Faris 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.

L. McKay moved, seconded by J.A. Vissers, that nominations be closed. Adopted.

The Moderator called for a motion to elect a Moderator.

L. McKay moved, seconded by J.A. Visser, that the Rev. Mary M. Fontaine be declared elected as Moderator. Adopted.

The Rev. Dr. Robert Faris declared the Rev. Mary M. Fontaine elected Moderator of the 148th General Assembly.

The Rev. Mary Fontaine, along with L. McKay and J.A. Visser, withdrew in order that the new Moderator might be suitably robed.

While awaiting the Moderator's return, the Rev. Dr. Robert Faris told stories about his recent trip to Prince Edward Island. He expressed gratitude to John Barret, the Clerk of Session of Zion Church, Charlottetown, who served as his informative guide. Along with taking in some of the popular tourist sites, Dr. Faris visited Wellspring Church, the newest Presbyterian church building on the island housing an amalgamation of four congregations. He also visited St. John's Church, Belfast, the oldest Presbyterian church on the island.

### **INSTALLATION OF THE MODERATOR**

Upon the return of the Rev. Mary Fontaine, the Rev. Dr. Robert Faris asked the appointed questions and installed her as Moderator of the 148th General Assembly.

Dr. Bob Faris welcomed Dorothy Visser, Yvonne Bearbull, Laurie McKay and Eldridge (John) Carr. They congratulated the Moderator and offered greetings and precious gifts from their territories and ministries.

Dorothy Visser conducted a smudge ceremony for the Moderator and members of the National Indigenous Ministry Council. The Moderator was then presented with a beautiful star blanket by Yvonne Bearbull to mark the occasion of Mary's election as Moderator. Dorothy Visser sang a drum song of praise to the Trinity and said the Lord's Prayer in Cree.

Dr. Faris presented the Moderator with a painting by a Mi'kmaq artist that symbolically remembers and honours murdered and missing Indigenous women and girls.

### **MODERATOR ADDRESSES ASSEMBLY**

The Moderator addressed the court. She expressed disappointment that Dylan Nippi, a member of the National Indigenous Ministry Council, had to send the Assembly his regrets the day before and she asked the Assembly to pray for him. The Moderator thanked the other members of the committee for supporting her and said to the Assembly, "It is important to hear from some of the people you help." She shared a few memories about fending off materialism, not letting anger grow in your heart and keeping mind, body, soul and spirit in balance. Mary noted that The Presbyterian Church in Canada helped her grow as a person and said, "The Church needs to work together in a good way."

### **INTRODUCTION OF FORMER MODERATORS**

The Moderator acknowledged and welcomed former Moderators of General Assemblies: the Rev. Dr. Robert N. Faris (2022); the Rev. Peter G. Bush (2017); the Rev. Dr. John A. Vissers (2012) and Lynn Vissers; the Rev. Dr. M. Jean Morris (2005); the Rev. Dr. P.A. (Sandy) McDonald and Chris McDonald (2003); the Rev. Dr. Alan M. McPherson (1995) and Maureen McPherson. They 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. Nakae Yoichi, Moderator, the Korean Christian Church in Japan; the Rev. Byungho Kim, the General Secretary of the Korean Christian Church in Japan; David McIntosh, Co-director of the Centre for Minority Issues and Mission in Tokyo, Japan; the Rev. Dr. Carlos Emilio Ham of the Evangelical Theological Seminary of Matanzas, Cuba; Robi Damelin and Laila AlShekh of Parents Circle–Families Forum, Palestine/Israel; Rabbi David Ellis, Rabbi-at-Large for Atlantic Canada; and Bishop Susan Johnson, National Bishop for the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Announcements having been made, the Moderator adjourned the Assembly with prayer, to meet at St. Mary's University, Halifax, Nova Scotia, on Monday, June 5, 2023 at 9:00 a.m., of which public intimation was given.