

**FIFTH SEDERUNT**

**WORSHIP**

The Assembly was led in worship by the Rev. Jeff Murray, who preached the sermon, the Rev. Maren Mclean Persaud and the Rev. Milton Fraser.

**ASSEMBLY CONSTITUTED**

At St. Mary's University, Halifax, Nova Scotia, on Tuesday, June 6, 2023, at 9:00 a.m., the Assembly met pursuant to adjournment. The Moderator constituted the Assembly with prayer.

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

**Agenda Amended**

D.R. Kendall moved, duly seconded that the Assembly agenda be amended so that the fifth sederunt begin with the Committee on Terms of Reference and the continuation of the Pension and Benefits Board report, followed by the other reports as listed in the Committee on Business report. Adopted.

(cont'd on p. XXX)

**COMMITTEE ON TERMS OF REFERENCE**

**Special Commission of the 2023 General Assembly**

**Re: Reference No. 1, 2023** (p. XXX)

**Presbytery of Western Ha-Ca – Corrective Case**

**Recommendation CTR-001**

A. Phillips moved, duly seconded, that the Terms of Reference for the Special Commission of the 2023 General Assembly re Reference No. 1, 2023 Presbytery of Western Ha-Ca, Corrective Case, be adopted as follows. Adopted.

1. The commission is established under the authority of Book of Forms 290 having all the powers of the General Assembly within its terms of reference.
2. All parties shall be made aware that the judgment of the commission is final and must be obeyed (Book of Forms 290.4).
3. The procedures and actions of the commission shall be consistent with the laws of The Presbyterian Church in Canada, in particular, legislation regarding the conduct of a Corrective Case (Book of Forms 381 ff) and the principles of procedural fairness.
4. The commission shall be made up of five members of The Presbyterian Church in Canada with at least two of them being fluent in Korean and English.
5. The commission shall be given authority to call for, confirm and examine the judicial record (Book of Forms 378 ff) and any other records it deems to be relevant.
6. The commission shall be empowered to review and comment on the process and procedures followed by the Presbytery of Western Han-Ca and the Synod of British Columbia to arrive at its decision.
7. The commission shall be empowered to call before it, by citation, witnesses on behalf of the complainants and the respondent presbytery.
8. The commission shall meet expeditiously and, after its review and judgment, bring the matters to a conclusion with due regard for the best interests of all concerned, and for the peace and harmony of the Church of Jesus Christ.
9. Reasonable expenses for the members of the commission to carry out their work shall be reimbursed.
10. The commission shall report its action to the 2024 General Assembly, and shall use, insofar as is possible and appropriate, the following framework: Preamble, Terms of Reference, Membership, Procedures, Findings, Analysis, Decision and Judgment, Pastoral Comment.
11. The commission shall be supported by the Rev. Victor Kim (Principal Clerk) and Terrie-Lee Hamilton.

**Special Commission of the 2023 General Assembly  
Reference No. 2, 2023 (p. XXX)  
Presbytery of Edmonton-Lakeland – Disciplinary Case**

**Recommendation CTR-002**

A. Phillips moved, duly seconded, that the Terms of Reference for the Special Commission of the 2023 General Assembly re Reference No. 2, 2023 Presbytery of Edmonton-Lakeland, Disciplinary Case, be adopted as follows. Adopted.

1. The commission is established under the authority of Book of Forms 290 having all the powers of the General Assembly within its terms of reference.
2. All parties shall be made aware that the judgment of the commission is final and must be obeyed (Book of Forms 290.4).
3. The procedures and actions of the commission shall be consistent with the laws of The Presbyterian Church in Canada, in particular, legislation regarding the conduct of a Corrective Case (Book of Forms 381 ff) and the principles of procedural fairness.
4. The commission shall be made up of five members of The Presbyterian Church in Canada.
5. The commission shall be given authority to call for, confirm and examine the judicial record (Book of Forms 378 ff) and any other records it deems to be relevant.
6. The commission shall be empowered to review and comment on the process and procedures followed by the Presbytery of Edmonton-Lakeland to arrive at its decision.
7. The commission shall be empowered to call before it, by citation, witnesses on behalf of the complainants and the respondent presbytery.
8. The commission shall meet expeditiously and, after its review and judgment, bring the matters to a conclusion with due regard for the best interests of all concerned, and for the peace and harmony of the Church of Jesus Christ.
9. Reasonable expenses for the members of the commission to carry out their work shall be reimbursed according to provided guidelines.
10. The commission shall report its action to the 2024 General Assembly, and shall use, insofar as is possible and appropriate, the following framework: Preamble, Terms of Reference, Membership, Procedures, Findings, Analysis, Decision and Judgment, Pastoral Comment.
11. The commission shall be supported by the Rev. Victor Kim (Principal Clerk) and Terrie-Lee Hamilton.

**Report as a Whole**

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

**PENSION AND BENEFITS BOARD** (cont'd from p. XXX)

**Recommendation PAB-001** (p. XXX) was moved by D.T. Walcot, duly seconded. Adopted.

**Recommendation PAB-002** (p. XXX) was moved by D.T. Walcot, duly seconded. Adopted.

**Recommendation PAB-003** (p. XXX) was moved by D.T. Walcot, duly seconded. Adopted.

**Recommendation PAB-004** (p. XXX) was moved by D.T. Walcot, duly seconded. Adopted.

**Report as a Whole**

D.T. Walcot moved, duly seconded, that the report as a whole be adopted. Adopted.

**THEOLOGICAL COLLEGES**

The Assembly called for the reports of the Theological Colleges.

### **THE GOVERNING BOARD OF KNOX COLLEGE**

The report of the Governing Board of Knox College, which, as printed on p. XXX, was introduced by R. Phillips, convener, and E. van Eck, Principal.

#### **Tenure: The Rev. Dr. Angela Schmidt**

Principal E. van Eck highlighted certain aspects of the report.

R. Phillips explained that Knox College will open a counselling centre on the University of Toronto campus to provide experiential learning for Master of Pastoral Studies program in spiritual care and psychotherapy while providing care for the university and community. He also announced that the board has approved a life-long learning program to provide resources to ministers and lay leaders that they need in the present context of the church.

**Recommendation KNX-001** (p. XXX) was moved by B.J. Fraser, duly seconded. Adopted.

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

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

### **THE BOARD OF ST. ANDREW'S HALL AND VANCOUVER SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY**

The report of the Board of St. Andrew's Hall and Vancouver School of Theology, which, as printed on p. XXX, was introduced by the Rev. Dr. M.J. Morris, convener of the Board of St. Andrew's Hall and the Rev Dr. Ross Lockhart, Dean of St. Andrew's Hall.

This report contained no recommendations.

Dr. Morris said, "Our vision is that we are called to discern and equip the future church that God is bringing. Our Mission is that St. Andrew's Hall educates and equips missional leaders through teaching, hospitality and witness of Christ's church of tomorrow, today." She brought greetings from the Rev. Dr. Richard Topping, President and Vice-Chancellor of the Vancouver School of Theology, and spoke briefly concerning the work of that academic body. Dr. Lockhart reviewed aspects of the ministry of St. Andrew's Hall and upgrades to the residences.

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

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

### **THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE PRESBYTERIAN COLLEGE**

The report of the Board of Governors, The Presbyterian College, which, as printed on p. XXX, was introduced by The Rev. Dr. R.J. De Vries, Principal.

This report contained no recommendations.

Roland De Vries said that the college held conference for prayer, reflection, conversation and friendship, as a path towards encouragement in Christ. He introduced Dr. Adrian Langdon, the new director of programs in the leadership centre of the college and announced that the college is going to extend its Masters of Theological Studies program in French.

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

R.J. De Vries 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 H.K. Stright, a member of the committee.

This report contained no recommendations.

H.K. Stright reminded the Assembly of the mandate of this committee to listen to and learn from one another, to break down barriers which divide people and promote justice and peace in the whole human family and in the integrity of creation. He noted how the committee engages in conversations and consultations with other churches in Canada and around the world, as well as with other faith traditions and some secular organizations.

**Report as a Whole**

T. Hamilton moved, duly seconded, that the report as a whole be adopted. Adopted.

**CUTTING EDGE OF MISSION AWARD RECIPIENT**

The Moderator called upon the Rev. Dr. Robert H. Smith, a member of the Cutting Edge of Mission Committee to introduce the 2023 award recipients, Robi Damelin and Laila AlShekh of Parents Circle-Families Forum, Palestine/Israel. The Moderator welcomed them.

Laila AlShekh is a Muslim Palestinian. Robi Damelin is the Israeli. These women, and the women they represent, have risen above their own personal pain and loss and found a courageous and hope-filled response to the tragic losses that the conflict in Israel and Palestine has brought upon them. When Laila's son was only six months old, Israeli soldiers prevented Laila and her husband from taking the critically ill boy to the local hospital. The delay resulted in her baby's death. Robi's son, a soldier, was killed by a Palestinian sniper.

Reflecting on the death of her son, Laila said, "I was filled with hatred and anger against all the Israelis because, for me, all of them were responsible for his death. I did not think of taking revenge because revenge would not bring my son back." Sixteen years later she was introduced to the Parents' Circle where, for the first time, she heard Israeli women speak about the loss of their loved ones. "I felt we shared the same tears and pain of losing a child," she said. Laila began to lecture inside Israel and Palestine and travel around the world to spread the message of peace and reconciliation.

Robi said, "These are very dark times in my country. We cannot and will not give up hope because hope is an important equation in peace. If you have no hope, there will never be peace." She told the story of her son's death. Upon receiving this news, she said to authorities, "You may not kill anybody in the name of my child." That was something of the beginning of Robi would do with her life. "I wanted to prevent other mothers, Palestinian and Israeli, from experiencing this pain." She was invited to Jerusalem to meet Palestinian and Israeli bereaved families. "I realized that we share the same pain and that if we could stand together and talk for reconciliation and non-violence, wouldn't that be an extreme example for the rest of the world." Robi began to travel all over the world with a Palestinian partner to speak wherever she is invited.

**MACLEAN ESTATE COMMITTEE**

The Assembly called for the report of the Maclean Committee which, as printed on p. XXX, was presented by N. Ellis, a member of the committee. He was accompanied by Executive Director

This report contained no recommendations.

N. Ellis spoke to the Assembly about some of the new developments at Crieff Hills Community.

A video highlighting a beauty, facilities and opportunities offered by the retreat centre was shown to the Assembly.

**Report as a Whole**

N.A. Ellis 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 D. Capper, convener. She addressed the Assembly via Zoom video conference.

**Consent Recommendation**

M.G. Sampson moved, duly seconded, that the following recommendations be adopted by consent. Adopted.

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| IAC-001 (p. XXX) | IAC-002 (p. XXX) | IAC-003 (p. XXX) |
| IAC-004 (p. XXX) | IAC-005 (p. XXX) |                  |

**Additional Motion**

P. Kinch moved, duly seconded, the following additional motion.

1. That the Moderator write to Global Affairs Canada (The Honourable Mélanie Joly) to express support for the efforts of the Government of Canada to stand with the LGBTQI+ community in Uganda and around the world and for its call on the Government of Uganda to revoke its 2023 Anti-Homosexuality Act. Further, to call on the Government of Canada to do everything possible to support the LGBTQI+ community in Uganda and around the world by working with partners supporting communities in situation of vulnerability and persecution.
2. That the Moderator work with The Canadian Council of Churches to prepare and issue a unity statement by Christian leaders in Canada in connection with ending harm and violence towards the LGBTQI+ community.
3. That a donation of \$25,000 be made to the Rainbow Railroad in support of their programs to get at-risk LGBTQI+ people to safety, worldwide.
4. That congregations be encouraged to consider responses in their local communities to acts of hate and harm towards the LGBTQI+ community and sponsorship support of LGBTQI+ refugees.

**Additional Motion** divided

Upon the request of two commissioners, the additional motion was divided as shown below.

**Additional Motion IAC-001**

P. Kinch moved, duly seconded, that the Moderator write to Global Affairs Canada (The Honourable Mélanie Joly) to express support for the efforts of the Government of Canada to stand with the LGBTQI+ community in Uganda and around the world and for its call on the Government of Uganda to revoke its 2023 Anti-Homosexuality Act. Further, to call on the Government of Canada to do everything possible to support the LGBTQI+ community in Uganda and around the world by working with partners supporting communities in situation of vulnerability and persecution. Adopted.

**Additional Motion IAC-002**

P. Kinch moved, duly seconded, that the Moderator work with the Canadian Council of Churches to prepare and issue a unity statement by Christian leaders in Canada in connection with ending harm and violence towards the LGBTQI+ community. Adopted.

**Additional Motion IAC-003**

P. Kinch moved, duly seconded, that a donation of \$25,000 be made to the Rainbow Railroad in support of their programs to get at-risk LGBTQI+ people to safety, worldwide.

**Amendment to Additional Motion IAC-003**

M. Chaing, duly seconded, that the recommendation be replaced with the words “that the International Affairs Committee and the Life and Mission Agency Committee work together to allocate \$50,000 to agencies that help to settle people who identify as LGBTQI+ and seek refuge in Canada”. Adopted.

**Additional Motion IAC-003** was adopted as amended

That the International Affairs Committee and the Life and Mission Agency Committee work together to allocate \$50,000 to agencies that help to settle people who identify as LGBTQI+ and seek refuge in Canada.

**Additional Motion IAC-004**

P. Kinch moved, duly seconded, that congregations be encouraged to consider responses in their local communities to acts of hate and harm towards the LGBTQI+ community and sponsorship support of LGBTQI+ refugees. Adopted.

**Report as a Whole**

M.G. Sampson moved, duly seconded, that the report as a whole be adopted. Adopted.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Announcements having been made, the Moderator adjourned the Assembly with prayer, to meet at St. Mary's University, Halifax, Nova Scotia, on Tuesday, June 6, 2023, at two o'clock in the afternoon, of which public intimation was given.