

SEVENTH SEDERUNT

WORSHIP

The Assembly was led in worship by the Rev. Joon Ki Kim, who preached the sermon, the Rev. Roberto DeSandoli and Cathy Sosnowsky.

ASSEMBLY CONSTITUTED

At St. Mary's University, Halifax, Nova Scotia on Wednesday, June 7, 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)

Roll and Leave to Withdraw

J.I.F. Barrett provided a second report on the Roll and Leave to Withdraw.

Sederunt 7 – A. Ferozdin – Young Adult Representative – Presbytery of Assiniboia.

Agenda Amended

J.I.F. Barrett noted that the agenda of the seventh sederunt would begin with the Committee to Examine Records, followed by the Committee on History and then other items as listed in the Committee on Business Report.

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COMMITTEE TO EXAMINE RECORDS

The Assembly called for the report of the Committee to Examine Records which was presented by B. Sargent, convener.

Recommendation CER-001

B. Sargent moved, duly seconded, that the minutes of the Assembly Council, Quebec and Eastern Ontario, and British Columbia, be attested as neatly and correctly kept. Adopted.

Recommendation CER-002

B. Sargent moved, duly seconded, that the minutes of the General Assembly, synods of Atlantic Provinces, Central and Northeastern Ontario and Bermuda, Southwestern Ontario, Manitoba and Northwestern Ontario, Saskatchewan, Alberta & the Northwest, and British Columbia, be attested with notes. Adopted.

Report as a Whole

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

COMMITTEE ON HISTORY

The Assembly called for the report of the Committee on History which, as printed on p. XXX, was presented by G.M. Ross, convener.

Consent Recommendation

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

HIS-001 (p. XXX) HIS-002 (p. XXX) HIS-003 (p. XXX)
HIS-004 (p. XXX) HIS-005 (p. XXX) HIS-006 (p. XXX)
HIS-007 (p. XXX)

Presbyterian Church Heritage Centre Video

A video updating the development of the Presbyterian Church Heritage Centre located in Carlisle United Church, Carlisle, Ontario, was shown to the General Assembly. For more information visit pcheritagecentre.ca.

Archives

G.M. Ross noted that the Archives of The Presbyterian Church in Canada has celebrated its 50th anniversary. He also expressed thanks to the current Archives staff, Kim Arnold and Nicole D'Angela.

2023 Book Prizes

The book prizes for 2023 are *Through the Grace of God: A history of Zion Presbyterian Church Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island* by D. Scott MacDonald and "*A Work of Faith, A Labour of Love*", *the history of St. Andrew's Church, Brampton, Ontario* by Mary M. Harvey.

Minute of Appreciation – The Rev. Dr. Peter Bush

G.M. Ross spoke to the Minute of Appreciation for Peter Bush noting that Peter is retiring as the editor of Presbyterian History, a position he has held for 35 years. "We commend him for sharing our history to the denomination over those years."

Dr. Bush expressed thanks for the members of the Committee on History and for those who have acknowledged his work on the *Presbyterian History* publication. Dr. Bush encouraged others to write academically on subjects of their interest. He concluded by offering a word of thanks to his wife, Debbie, for her steadfast support.

Report as a Whole

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

Moderator Stepped away from the Chair

Having asked R.N. Faris to moderate this portion of the Assembly, the Moderator stepped out of the chair to present the National Indigenous Ministries Council report.

NATIONAL INDIGENOUS MINISTRIES COUNCIL

The Assembly called for the report of the National Indigenous Ministries Council which, as printed on p. XXX, was presented by M. Fontaine, convener.

M. Fontaine spoke briefly about the Presbyterian Indigenous Ministries that function across Canada.

Recommendation NIM-001 (p. XXX) was moved by S. Nixon, duly seconded.

Amendment

It was moved by C. Gale, duly seconded, that "individuals," be added before the word "congregations" and that "and that all recipients of this request confirm receipt and acknowledge status of any holdings" be added to the end of the recommendation. Adopted.

Recommendation NIM-001 was adopted as amended as follows:

That, as a matter of urgency, individuals, congregations, ministries, colleges, camps, presbyteries, the national office, archives and the Presbyterian Church Heritage Centre, examine their holdings to ensure they have no Indigenous cultural or spiritual artefacts taken without informed consent and if they do, that they are repatriated and that all recipients of this request confirm receipt and acknowledge status of any holdings.

Recommendation NIM-002 (p. XXX) was moved by S. Nixon, duly seconded.

Amendment

It was moved by J. Borthwick, duly seconded, that "and that a group to draft the renewed apology be comprised of two to three people named by the National Indigenous Ministries Council; two to three people named by the Life and Mission Agency; and two to three people named by the Assembly Council" be added to the recommendation. Adopted.

Recommendation NIM-002 was amended

That The Presbyterian Church in Canada develop a renewed apology for its role in colonization and in the operation of residential schools, to be presented to the 2024 General Assembly, and that the group to draft the renewed apology be comprised of two to three people named by the National Indigenous Ministries Council; two to three people named by the Life and Mission Agency; and two to three people named by the Assembly Council.

Amendment

J. Pot moved, duly seconded, that “and also offer current guidance for the denomination toward reconciliation efforts” be inserted after “schools”. Adopted.

Recommendation NIM-002 was adopted as amended as follows:

That The Presbyterian Church in Canada develop a renewed apology for its role in colonization and in the operation of residential schools and also offer current guidance for the denomination toward reconciliation efforts, to be presented to the 2024 General Assembly and that the group to draft the renewed apology be comprised of two to three people named by the National Indigenous Ministries Council; two to three people named by the Life and Mission Agency; and two to three people named by the Assembly Council.

Prayer

M. Fontaine asked the Assembly to pause for a moment of silence to give thanks for Residential School survivors, to remember the unmarked graves surrounding the Residential Schools and to pray for healing.

Report as a Whole

S. Nixon moved, duly seconded, that the report as a whole be adopted. Adopted.

Moderator Resumed Chair

The Moderator resumed the chair.

ECUMENICAL GUEST

The Moderator called upon the Rev. Dr. Robert N. Faris to introduce the Rev. Susan C. Johnson, National Bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada. In June 2007, she was elected to serve as the first female National Bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada. Bishop Johnson is committed to the work of ecumenism, full communion, reconciliation and passionate about engaging the church in a call to spiritual discipleship. The Moderator welcomed her.

Bishop Johnson noted how similar the business of General Assembly is to the National Convention of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada. She said, “We need to stop worrying about what we don’t have and thank God for the gifts we do have and get on with using them and sharing them. With the election of Mary as your Moderator, we have four women leaders of the four mainline Protestant churches in Canada. I’m looking forward to seeing what we can do together this year.” She noted four areas being emphasized by her denomination: striving to be a healthier church, maintaining effective partnerships, developing relational leadership, and continuing our work in compassionate justice.”

ASSEMBLY COUNCIL

The Assembly called for the report of the Assembly Council which, as printed on p. XXX, was presented by C.A. Inksetter, convener.

Consent Recommendation

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

ASC-002 (p. XXX) ASC-003 (p. XXX) ASC-004 (p. XXX)

Recommendation ASC-001 (p. XXX) was moved by G.M. Lovelace, duly seconded. Adopted.

Presbyterians Sharing Video

A video describing the many ways donations to Presbyterians Sharing express Christian faith and continue Christ’s ministry in Canada and around the world was shown to the Assembly. The video and other resources are available at presbyterian.ca.

Recommendation ASC-005 (p. XXX) was moved by G.M. Lovelace, duly seconded. Adopted.

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ADJOURNMENT

Announcements having been made, the Moderator adjourned the Assembly with prayer, to meet at St. Mary's University, Halifax, Nova Scotia on Wednesday, June 7, 2023, at 2:00 p.m., of which public intimation was given.