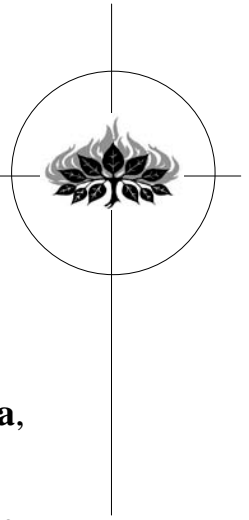


The Presbyterian Church in Canada L'Église presbytérienne au Canada



MODERATOR OF THE 141ST GENERAL ASSEMBLY
The Rev. Karen R. Horst, B.A., M.R.E., M.Div.

November 11, 2015

Dear Members and Adherents of The Presbyterian Church in Canada,

In June the 141st General Assembly determined that sessions, congregations, presbyteries and synods should spend a year of prayer, study and conversation regarding the subject of Human Sexuality. Justice Ministries of the Life and Mission Agency and the Committee on Church Doctrine were invited to prepare a study to facilitate the conversation. *Body Mind and Soul* was to be produced by the end of October. Given the fact that Assembly met in June and the summer when many people are not as available, these groups need to be commended for producing the materials within this deadline. Obviously, the study is not exhaustive but it will be an important start in helping people struggle with the questions.

This is not an easy topic to discuss but it is important for us to seek God's guidance as we study the Word, reflect theologically and share openly and honestly with one another in a loving manner. It is important to use a variety of materials for conversation and allow people to share their stories. This is not just an "issue" as much as it is about people; often about people we know.

As Moderator of this year's Assembly, I had a comprehensive view of commissioners and resource persons as they sat at round tables and talked about their ideas and concerns. I was moved by the degree of empathy and compassion expressed at the tables by people on opposite ends of the debate. It is possible for us to talk about this subject and cherish one another as we wrestle through the complexities. Honouring Christ means we will be open to the guidance of the Holy Spirit rather than driving our own opinion and agenda. God has been faithful to us in the past and God will again lead us as we open our hearts and minds and souls.

Many of us are wondering what the process will be as we go forward. You will discover the next steps clearly outlined on the next page. We hope you will fully participate.

The Bible invites us to speak the truth in love (Ephesians 4:15) and to bear one another's burdens (Galatians 6:2) and in so doing we will fulfill the calling of Christ. It is my prayer that everyone will take the time to study, pray and seek God's leading and then we can trust that God's sovereign purposes will be fulfilled as future decisions are made.

Blessings and Peace,

Rev. Karen Horst

Clerks of Assembly: The Rev. Stephen Kendall, The Rev. Donald Muir, The Rev. Dr. Tony Plomp