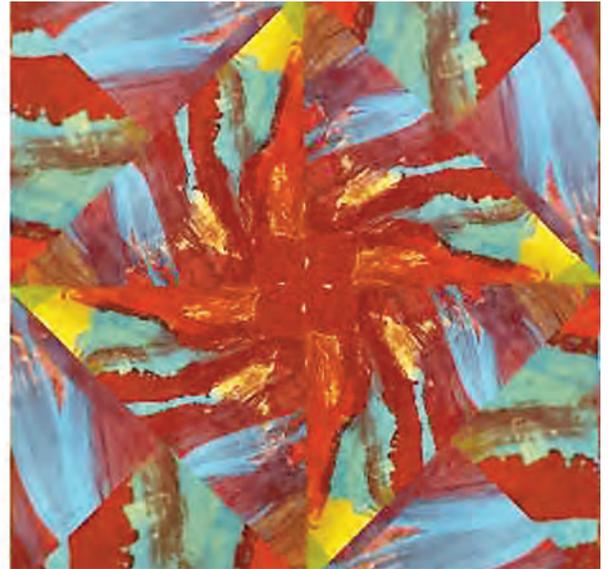


stewards of the mysteries of God

1 Corinthians 4:1

The 142nd General Assembly
The Presbyterian Church in Canada
June 3-6, 2016



GA

BRIEFING

Friday, June 3, 2016



**Welcome to the 142nd General Assembly. Watch for daily briefings
online @ presbyterian.ca/ga2016 and a summary newsletter on Monday.**

Opening

The 142nd General Assembly of The Presbyterian Church in Canada opened with a time of worship at York University in Toronto, Ontario at 1 pm on June 3, 2016. Cantor Marshall Loomer of Beth David Synagogue in Toronto began with a song (Psalm 122 in Hebrew) and the Assembly acknowledged that it is meeting on the traditional territory of the Huron-Wendat, Seneca and Mississaugas of the New Credit Indigenous Peoples.



The Rev. Emily Bisset reflected on what it means to be a steward of the mysteries of God, the theme of the Assembly.

The Rev. Douglas Rollwage was elected Moderator. While he was being robed, The Rev. Karen Horst spoke of experiencing the glory of God's work while travelling across Canada and Hungary, Ukraine and Romania, thanked congregations who hosted her and shared about the profound hope she sees in the healing and reconciliation efforts of the PCC. The Rev. Douglas Rollwage was then installed as Moderator. He thanked past moderators for their leadership and vowed to follow in their footsteps.

Briefing Panels

Briefing panels provided an opportunity for commissioners to hear short overviews of the reports. Commissioners were encouraged to submit questions related to the reports in advance of Assembly, as well as ask questions after the presentations. Today's panels included Assembly Council, the Pension and Benefits Board, Clerks of Assembly and several departments of the Life and Mission Agency.



Blessings from @ECMguelph to everyone at #pccga2016. May the Spirit guide your deliberations and enliven your togetherness. — The Ecumenical Campus Ministry (ECM)

“We recognize the rich, pre-European history of the territory, the territory’s significance for Indigenous peoples and the church’s cultural arrogance and insensitivity towards Aboriginal cultures.”

– Dr. Alexandra Johnston

Assembly Council

Assembly Council shared a minute of appreciation for Stephen Roche as he prepares to retire July 31, 2016. The Rev. Robert Smith thanked Stephen for his strong leadership, excellent managerial skills and wicked sense of humour, saying that he has been a great blessing to the church.

Mr. Oliver Ng was appointed as the Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer of The Presbyterian Church in Canada. A professional accountant, he was most recently Director of Finance for Scott Mission.

Life and Mission Agency

The Life and Mission Agency expressed a minute of appreciation for the Rev. Dr. Herb Gale who retired after faithfully serving Christ and The Presbyterian Church in Canada for 31 years through dynamic congregational ministry and as the Associate Secretary of Planned Giving. Herb shared that he continues to work part-time as a consultant with the national office and as minister of Stewardship and Generosity at Knox, Guelph.

The Life and Mission Agency also noted appreciation for Brian Johnston for his 20 years of service in Romania through International Ministries.



“The gifts that God’s people give to the church can change the narrative and give a sense of hope.”

– Herb Gale

“It has been my privilege to serve the church over these 13 years and to serve this portion of the vineyard.” – Stephen Roche

“I accept this position with great excitement. It is a great privilege and an honour to take on this role and I will do it with the best of my abilities.”

– Oliver Ng



The 142nd Assembly is hosted by the Presbytery of East Toronto.