

The Synod of Central, Northeastern Ontario and Bermuda met in regular session within the Presbytery of East Toronto at Trinity York Mills Presbyterian Church on Saturday November 7, 2015 at 10 am.

Present were A. Hartford, B.Y. Ko, K. MacLeod, D. Jeffrey, J. Oliver, M. Gaskin, D. Cooper, C. Kim, D. Cho, L. Odland, A. Allison, S. Astop, D. Slabbert, J. Wilson, G. Ross, S. Mutavdzija, W. Ingram, M. Walter, S. Webb, B. Doner (Clergy and diaconal ministers), D. Hartford, J. Jamieson, D. Banfield, S. Falla-Johnson, P. Goudy, R. Sein, S. Zehr, M. Glover, P. Ferguson, E. Martinez, E. Udoh-Orok, B. MacTavish, J. Gould, D. McArthur, D. Laity, R. Wightman, L. Robertson, T. Keith, J. Bratrud, M. Adamson, S. Sawden (Elders)

Regrets were received from J. Gordon, J. Cameron, B. Forester.

Also present were Synod Executive members: J. Biggs (Clerk), A. Bisset, J. Randall, J. Dennis, G. Myers (Treasurer). Synod Staff, T. Smit and JP Smit were also present.

Guests included H. Boyne (PYPS), B. McCaffrey, T. Smit, B. Wallace, D. Wells, E. Morales, A. Saunders, E. Haluza, L. Leonard, A. Clarkson (Presbyterian Museum), G. Brown, G. Marshall, N. Marshall, J. Wagg, M. Hunter.

The Moderator, L. Odland, welcomed everyone to the day's events. K. Summers, host minister, brought greetings from Trinity Church and a word of welcome. T. Smit explained the the day's program and schedule.

Moderator L. Odland led devotions based on a reading from Romans and constituted the court with prayer.

It was moved by G. Ross/K. MacLeod that the consent agenda be adopted as one motion. Carried.

The motions included are 1) Roll of Synod. That the rolls of the constituent Presbyteries of the Synod as submitted by the clerks of those Presbyteries become the roll of the Synod for the purpose of any emergent business that may be called, and the the Roll of the November 7, 2015 meeting be the list of commissioners submitted by the Presbytery clerks.

2) Sit and correspond: That the Cairn Camp directors, Camp Board members, Synod Staff and Executive be invited to sit and correspond.

3) Minutes: That the minutes of the 140th meeting of the Synod of Central, Northeastern Ontario and Bermuda, held on November 8, 2014 at Vaughan Community Presbyterian Church, Vaughan, Ontario be adopted as printed.

4) Agenda. That the agenda be adopted as printed.

5) Special Committees. a) Leave to withdraw: That the Leave to Withdraw sheets on the sign-in table be used as necessary during the morning session, and that the Clerk record the requests as granted.

b) That the Clerk prepare a statement of appreciation.

c) That the Clerk arrange for individuals to examine Presbytery Minutes and that he record the results in the minutes.

d) That the Moderator name a committee to prepare letters of prayerful concern for the Prime Minister, Premier of Ontario, and the Governor of Bermuda.

e) That the statement of appreciation be read at the close of business, and that the letters of prayerful concern, the report on leave to withdraw and the report on Presbytery minutes be spread in the minutes of the 141st meeting of the Synod of Central, Northeastern Ontario and Bermuda.

Election of Moderator. It was moved by A. Allison/D. Cooper that the Rev Geoff Ross of St Andrew's Presbyterian Church in Brampton, be elected as Moderator of the 2015 meeting of Synod. Carried.

L. Odland proceeded to induct G. Ross as Moderator of Synod's 2015 meeting.

G. Ross assumed the chair.

Reports from Committees and Staff

- 1) Synod Executive. The report of the Synod Executive was presented by the Clerk and is appended to the minutes. The recommendations coming out of the printed report are as follows:
 - a) That the Synod homologate the action of the Executive in appointing Mr David Breckenridge as Synod's representative on the Assembly Council. Moved by L. Odland/J. Wilson. Carried.
 - b) That William McGowan be appointed to the General Assembly's Committee to Nominate Standing Committees. Moved by L. Odland/J. Wilson. Carried.
 - c) Notice of Motion. The Clerk presented a notice of motion, that the wording of the Standing Orders of Synod be amended regarding time and place of Synod meetings from 'normally in October at Crieff Hills Community' to 'normally in the autumn in a central location'. Moved by J. Wilson/B.Doner. Carried.

2) WMS Synodical Report. The report based on the activities of the year was presented by WMS President Joy Randall.

3) Regional Consultative Committee. The Report was presented by Jonathan Dennis, chair of the RCC. He offered thanks for the Synod staff members T. Smit and JP Smit for all the great work they do on Synod's behalf. He also thanked the Synod itself for its ongoing support.

4) Synod Staff. Tori Smit thanked the Synod for its support as she does her work. She talked about one-on-one work and workshops taking up most of her time. She spoke of work with churches with 10 or fewer children in their membership and possible programs. She indicated her enjoyment in working with the WMS. She also reported that her doctoral work was near completion.

JP Smit reported on his work, indicating that he sees it as a privilege to serve the Synod as a resource person. Much of his time is taken up working with congregations as they make decisions about their future.

5) Treasurer. George Myers presented his financial reports. He indicated that the 2014 Financial Review as positive. L. Odland/A. Allison moved the acceptance of the 2014 Financial Review. Carried.

It was then moved by R. Wightman/M. Gaskin that the Synod employ the same firm to do the 2015 Financial review. Carried.

G. Myers presented the 2016 budget. The per unit rate of assessment would remain the same as 2015 - \$8.58. Adoption of the budget was moved by S. Jeffrey/P. Ferguson. Carried. The treasurer then reminded the commissioners to return their expense claim forms to him by the end of the day.

6) Cairn Camp Director. Chantal Jackson, co-director of Cairn Camp presented an exciting video on camp life. She thanked the Synod for its support of this very important ministry. Registration was up 11% over the previous year. Many renovations were done to bathrooms and program equipment. She spoke of the chaplain's program as ministers would come to camp for a week to support campers and staff.

7) Synod Camp Board. The Chair, Alex Bisset, reported. He introduced Holly Boyne, President of PYPS. She addressed the court on the growth of the PYPS over the past year. The Chair then presented a list of Board members. He described a situation over water issues of the past years that has now been resolved. Camp Cairn had to pay a \$6000 fine over these issues. Regarding Dorothy Lake Camp, he spoke of how Temiskaming Presbytery has indicated that they do not want to own and maintain the camp. A First Nations group is very interested in taking over the site and using it in a camping role. The Chair also spoke of the great work of Rebecca Jess who is leaving her position as co-director to pursue further studies at Knox College. It was moved by S. Astop/W. Ingram that the gratitude of the Synod be extended to Rebecca Jess for her years of ministry to the youth of the Synod and beyond through Cairn Family of Camps. Carried.

The Chair then presented a financial report. He also spoke of the Camp Board being very close to naming a new Executive Director. W. Ingram asked about Synod's approval of any new Executive Director. The Chair indicated that the Camp Board has an arm's length relationship with Synod and it is the Board's mandate to appoint its Director. Executive has agreed to discuss its relationship with the Camp Board.

It was moved by C. Cooper/M. Gaskin to receive all the reports as presented.

The Clerk read the statement of appreciation.

Presbytery minutes. The minutes of Temiskaming, Lindsay-Peterborough, Oak Ridges, Barrie, West Toronto, East Toronto and Algoma-North Bay Presbyteries were deemed neatly and correctly kept. The minutes of Pickering and Waterloo-Wellington were approved with minor notes.

Business not dealt with. It was moved by J. Wilson/B. Doner that Synod Executive be given power to issue on business not dealt with during the Synod meeting, as well as emergent business until the Synod meets again. Carried.

Next Meeting. It was moved by A. Hartford/R. Wightman that the Synod of Central, Northeastern Ontario and Bermuda meet next as a commissioned court of the Presbyterian Church in Canada at a time and place to be determined by the Executive.

There was a motion to adjourn.

The Moderator, G. Ross, concluded the meeting with prayer and the benediction. He also said grace. A wonderful lunch prepared by the people of Trinity Church was enjoyed by everyone.

The afternoon program began with a guest speaker, Dr David Bartlett. Following his presentation, two workshops were held with many guests also attending. The day finished with a worship service that included holy communion. There was also a morning workshop that attracted many visitors. The Synod held its meeting at the same time and place as the WMS Synodical, and their presence during the afternoon and at lunch was a great part of the day.

Moderator

Clerk