

142nd Meeting of the Synod of Central, Northeastern Ontario and Bermuda
St Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Brampton, in the Presbytery of Brampton
Saturday November 5, 2016

After a time of fellowship, the Moderator, Geoff Ross, convened the court with prayer and led in devotions. Then as host minister, he welcomed all to St Andrew's and explained how the day would proceed.

Commissioners present were C. Kim, R. Quick, T. Griffiths, S. Wallace (Lindsay-Peterborough)
T. Boyer, J. Sanderson, R. Adamson (Barrie)
E. Bisset, A. Bisset (East Toronto)
R. Manafo, R. Royal, J. Lau, R. Abadir (Oak Ridges)
D. Slabbert, J. Wilson, D. Laity, D. McArthur (Algoma-North Bay)
D. West, P. Brown, K. Sganzeria, V. DeFreitas (West Toronto)
M. Scrivens, J. Choi, H. Sukhu (Pickering)
E. Charlton, S. McAndless, C. Boyne, P. Hutchinson (Waterloo-Wellington)
H. Chen, S. Walker, C. Walker (Temiskaming)
G. Ross, R. St Louis, R. Wightman, M. Lindinger (Brampton)
J. Gordon, B. Forester (Kingston)
No one was present from Han Ca East Presbytery.

Also present were JP Smit and T. Smit, Synod staff.

Members of the Synod Executive: J. Biggs (Clerk), G. Myers (Treasurer), J. Randall (WMS President and chair of Regional Consultative Committee), J. Dennis, D. Slabbert, W. Welsh, A. Bisset (Camp Board chair), G. Ross (Moderator). B. Grace sent regrets due to illness. Many others were present for the morning workshop and afternoon program. The WMS Synodical Executive met during the morning and joined in the afternoon activities.

Business meeting.

Recommendation 1: It was moved by R. Wightman/R. Royal that the roll of the Synod be the list of commissioners submitted by the clerks of CNOB presbyteries. Carried

Recommendation 2: It was moved by E. Bisset/M. Scrivens that Synod staff, JP Smit and T. Smit, as well as Synod Executive members, PYPS President, R. Howard and W. Welsh be invited to sit and correspond. Carried

Recommendation 3: After receiving comments and suggestions from the Executive and last year's commissioners, it was moved A. Bisset/M. Scrivens that the minutes of the 141st Meeting of the Synod of Central, Northeastern Ontario and Bermuda, held on November 7, 2015 at Trinity Presbyterian Church, Toronto, be adopted as printed. Carried

Recommendation 4. It was moved by A. Bisset/G. Ross that the agenda and timing of the meeting be adopted as printed, subject to change.

Recommendation 5: It was moved by J. Choi, duly seconded, that the Rev Rick Manafo, minister at Cornerstone Presbyterian Church, Kleinburg, in the Presbytery of Oak Ridges, be elected moderator of the 2016 meeting of the Synod. Carried

At this point, the Moderator, G. Ross, led in worship as the Rev R. Manafo was inducted as Moderator.

R. Manafo assumed the chair, and the meeting continued.

Special Committees: Those reviewing Presbytery minutes are to report back to the clerk by 1 pm. Those needing to leave before the end of the day can sign the sheet on the registration table so permission can be granted. The clerk will prepare a statement of appreciation.

Reports from Committees and Staff:

It was moved by G. Ross/R. Royal that the reports be received and their recommendations be considered.

- 1) Women's Missionary Society. The President, J. Randall, highlighted the work of the WMS over the past year. She highlighted the upcoming Women's National Gathering. The report is appended. It was moved, duly seconded, that the Report of the Synod WMS be adopted for information. Carried
- 2) Regional Consultative Committee. Chair, J. Dennis, presented the report (appended to the minutes). He indicated that the evaluations of the two staff were excellent and looks forward to the Synod working with JP and Tori Smit into the future. It was then recommended, duly seconded, that the report be adopted for information. Carried
- 3) Faith Formation Consultant: T. Smit presented her report (appended to the minutes). She spoke of her work doing workshops, consultations, WMS activities and her work in the wider church. She also spoke of finishing her doctorate. The report was adopted for information.
- 4) Congregational Health Consultant: JP Smit presented his report (appended to the minutes). He spoke of his work with congregations in transition, planning for the future. He spoke of the need for communication about what is working for individual congregations. The report was adopted for information.
- 5) Executive. The clerk, J. Biggs, presented the Executive's report and its recommendations. He highlighted the work of the Synod Ministry Fund and its goal of raising \$1,000,000 to support the ministries of the Synod. One step would be increasing the per unit rate by 9% for five years. This would raise \$100,000 (\$20,000 per year) to add to the over \$150,000 already in the fund. This would be discussed when the budget is presented.
Recommendation 1. It was moved by R. Wightman/J. Choi that Synod homologate the action of the Executive in naming J. Dennis to the Committee to Nominate Standing Committees. Carried. Recommendation 2. A notice of motion to change the Standing Orders of Synod last year became a motion, presented by W. Bisset, duly seconded, that the Synod normally meet in the autumn at a central location. Carried. Recommendation 3. It was moved by D. Slabbert/R. St Louis that G. Myers be named treasurer of the Synod for another three year term, with the thanks of the Synod for his faithful work over the past two terms. Carried. Recommendation 4. It was moved and duly seconded that the thanks of the Synod be extended to the Rev Dr Lance Odland who has finished his two year commitment to the Synod's Executive as Moderator and Past Moderator. Also, that the thanks of the Synod be extended to the Rev Jonathan Dennis for his faithful work as chair of the RCC

over the past two years. Carried. It was then moved and duly seconded that the report with its actions be adopted. Carried.

- 6) Cairn Camp Board. A. Bisset, chair of the Synod Camp Board, presented his report with its recommendation. He highlighted the ongoing great work being done by the camp board. Robin Howard is the new director. She addressed the court on her background in camping and her enthusiasm for her new position. The year also had its struggles as finances lagged. The number of campers increased and it was a wonderful summer. The report, and a special report on Dorothy Lake Camp, is appended. He presented the following motion, seconded by G. Ross, that the thanks of the Synod be extended to Chantal Jackson for her many years of service, dedication and enthusiasm in her work at the Synod's camps. Carried
- 7) Synod Young People's Society. A. Bisset reported on past and future events. He also spoke highly about the work of Holly Boyne as PYPs president.
- 8) Sexual Abuse and Harassment. There was no report.
- 9) Treasurer. G. Myers presented his report. He indicated that the Financial Review for 2015 supported the accuracy of the Synod's financial records. On the motion of J. Wilson/G. Ross, the Financial Review was accepted. G. Ross/D. Slabbert then moved that the firm of Smith, Sykes, Leiper and Tunstall be reappointed to do 2016's review. Carried. It was time to discuss the budget. The Clerk read a petition from Lindsay-Peterborough regarding the 9% increase in Synod dues included in the budget in order to build up the Synod Ministry Fund. R. Quick spoke to the petition and its rationale. J. Wilson/D. Slabbert moved that the petition be received. Carried. It was then moved that the Synod's response to the petition of Lindsay-Peterborough Presbytery be the budget as approved by Synod with an explanation. J. Biggs and G. Ross explained the Synod Ministries Fund and its goal of raising \$100000 over five years with this budget increase. The motion then carried. E. Bisset/G. Ross then moved that the budget be adopted as presented. S. McAndless/J. Gordon moved that the budget be amended to remove the \$20000 and adjust the rate accordingly, and that the Synod consult with the Presbyteries re the future of the Fund. Carried. A. Bisset and D. West asked that their dissent be recorded. It was moved and duly seconded to adopt the amended budget. Carried.

This concluded the business of the Synod.

Presbytery records from Pickering, East Toronto, Oak Ridges, Lindsay-Peterborough, Algoma-North Bay and Kingston Presbyteries were attested as neatly and correctly kept. All presbyteries are encouraged to send their last year's minutes to the Synod with one of its commissioners - or to mail them to the clerk for attesting.

Leave to withdraw was granted to J. Wilson, D. McArthur, D. Laity and D. Slabbert at 4 pm in order to make their flight, to E. Bisset, and T. Boyer.

J. Wilson/R. St Louis moved that the Synod adjourn. Carried

The Moderator closed the meeting with prayer, including grace for the lovely meal prepared for us by the host congregation.

After lunch, our guest speaker, Anna Carter-Florence, led a plenary session, followed by various workshops. The day concluded with a powerful worship service, including holy communion.

Moderator

Clerk