

CNOB SYNODICAL Women's Missionary Society Report for 2016

This year's theme for our 69th Annual Meeting of the Synodical of Central Northeastern Ontario and Bermuda was "Wandering Ways"
(Exodus 16:1-10)

As **CNOB Synodical** president I am pleased to report our activities for this past year of **2015**. Our executive continued to meet at Willowdale Presbyterian Church, Toronto in February and June, where reports and business were considered together. Last year we joined the CNOB Synod Meeting in November especially to hear their speaker, attend the workshops and to be a part of the closing worship. We separated for our business. Many of the executive found this to be a most fruitful time and a rewarding day.

Our Synodical has 8 Presbyterials and 3 Affiliated Presbyterials (Algoma, Brampton, Oakridges). We appreciate their faithfulness, dedication and continuing support of the WMS in their churches and nationally.

Our **69th Synodical Annual meeting** was held at Elmdale Presbyterian Church in Barrie Presbyterial on April 15-16, 2016 with the Moderator of the 141st General Assembly, the Rev. Karen Horst. Karen also led us in the bible study and related it to our theme, "Wandering Ways." Over 80 members and friends attended the meeting and found it most inspirational, challenging and a time of study, prayer and fellowship. We closed our time with Communion led by Rev. Dr. John-Peter Smit.

Our "**Together We Can Projects**" for these two years have been 1) *Maya-Man Women of Guatemala* and 2) *Hope Lives Here - the Arise Ministry* in the Presbytery of East Toronto. At the next WMS Council, in May, 2017, we will learn what were able to achieve with these projects and decide new ones for the coming two years.

WMS Council meets on May 18th, 2017, prior to the Women's Gathering. Representatives from across Canada will meet to report and discuss the many areas of their ministry and its future. The Council Executive meets in November each year and has conference calls if needed during the other times.

The Women's National Gathering is May 19-22, 2017, in Richmond Hill. Its theme is "Rooted in Love". Several members from our Synodical are on the Planning Committee. We hope this will reach out to many younger people in our churches and encourage them in new ways to reach out to others in our world today.

Our **Synodical WMS groups** are fewer and smaller, and many members are older and find it challenging to carry on as we did in the past. We try to help and encourage groups to try new ways of enjoying their times of fellowship, study and prayer and not be

too concerned over the organizational aspect of it. We are thankful that we have our magazine, the **Glad Tidings**, which provides ways and ideas for the study and worship so everyone can be involved in their own small way.

I am a member of the **Regional Consultative Committee** along with two additional representatives from CNOB Synodical: Linda Grace, and Doreen Dath. In the coming year Doreen Dath, Mary Veale-Parker and I will continue to serve on this committee. Together we review the work being done by our synod personnel in the Synod.

We are appreciative **our synod resource staff**, Tori Smit, Minister for Faith Formation, and John-Peter Smit, Minister for Congregational Health. Our thanks especially for the guidance and direction they give our synodical and presbyterials through their presence and leading of various workshops. We are thankful to the synod for their insight and encouragement in these areas and sharing them with us. At our synodical meeting in April we honoured Tori on the success in achieving her Doctorate in Education Ministry from Columbia Theological Seminary in May, 2016.

We are most pleased with the **Synod Website** and the various resources there. It is a great and helpful way for our Synodical to keep in touch with our WMS groups. Through this our presbyterials and groups are able to share their news and special activities with everyone.

I am also a member of the executive of the **Synod of CNOB** as President of synodical, and am thankful for this opportunity to meet more of our ministers who are dedicated in work of Christ's church in our synod.

Synodical Executive is looking forward to sharing and being part of the **Synod meeting** again this year. We are delighted to participate in workshops, worship and to hear such a noted speaker. We trust this will work well for all of us to serve the church in ministry and mission in the future.

Our **Synodical Annual Meeting is on March 31st and April 1st, 2017** at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Lindsay. Our theme is "Rejoice" as we remember Canada's 150th Anniversary, and celebrate life and mission of our church in Canada.

I appreciate the continuing dedication of all the members of our Synodical Executive and the Presbyterials in the way they are committed and faithful to the purpose of the WMS and God in their lives.

We look forward to the future ways for God's church, the WMS and this world.

Joy M. Randall,
President, CNOB WMS Synodical

November 5, 2017