

SYNODICAL of CNOB WMS PRESIDENT'S REPORT

This year's theme for our 70th Annual Meeting of the Synodical of Central Northeastern Ontario and Bermuda was "Rejoice" Philippians: 4:4-9

Synodical of Central Northeast Ontario and Bermuda Women's Missionary Society President, Joy Randall, is pleased to report our activities for November 2016 to April 2017. Our executive, continue to meet at Willowdale Presbyterian Church, Toronto in February and June when reports and business are dealt with. In November, we joined the Synod of CNOB meeting in Brampton to hear the 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 challenging presentation from the speaker and helpful suggestions in reading scripture and from the various workshops.

Our Synodical now has eight Presbyterials and three Affiliated Presbyterials (Algoma, Brampton, and Oakridges). We appreciate everyone's faithfulness, dedication and continuing to support the WMS in their churches, presbyterials, synodical and nationally.

Our 70th Synodical Annual Meeting was held at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Lindsay with Lindsay Presbyterial as our hosts. We met on Friday March 31st and Saturday April 1st, 2017. We began on Friday afternoon and more members and visitors joined us for Saturday with over 80 in attendance. We received an update on WMS issues by Susan McLennan, National WMS President. Our guest speaker from PWS&D was Rob Shropshire and Bible Study was prepared by the Rev. Dr. Lynda Reid and presented by the Rev. Dr. Pricilla Anderson and Katherine Allen from East Toronto Presbyterial. Our closing worship included Communion which was led by the Rev. Linda Park of St. Andrew's Church. At-this-time, our President Joy Randall completed her three-year term (2014 – 2017) and President Mary Veale-Parker began her term.

Our WMS groups and churches continued to support the "Together We Can Projects", International project was Maya-man Women of Guatemala and National Project was Hope Lives Here - The ARISE Ministry of East Toronto Presbytery plus collecting items for the "Pretty Bags". At WMS Council May 19th, 2017 we selected two new projects to promoted in our groups and churches for a three-year term. The International one being Haiti: Reducing Gender-based Violence while our Canadian project is the Kenora Fellowship Centre.

WMS Council Executive met on May 17th, 2017. I am the Corresponding Secretary, with duties of sending cards and emails for birthdays, anniversaries and special occasions to active missionaries and their children under the age of 18. As Corresponding Secretary, I am on Council Planning Committee and Council Sub-Executive Committee.

Representatives from across Canada meet to report and discuss the many areas of their ministry and its future. The Council Executive meets in November each year and has a conference call in February or March to carry on the business of the society. The HUB and the National Presbyterian Women's Gathering are both outreach ministries of the WMS.

The National Presbyterian Women's Gathering was May 19-22 in Richmond Hill. Its theme was "Rooted in Love". Several members from our Synodical were on the Planning Committee, with many more attending the event.

I have attended the Spring Rally of Lindsay Presbyterial in Glenarm and will be attending the Day Apart of Barrie Presbyterial October 14th and Fall Rally of the Waterloo-Wellington Presbyterial on October 16th.

Our Synodical WMS groups are fewer and smaller, and many members are older. We 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 the WMS magazine, the Glad Tidings, which provides ideas and ways for the study and worship so everyone can be involved in their own way.

The Synod of CNOB Regional Consultative Committee has three WMS members, being Convener Joy Randall, Secretary Doreen Dath, and Mary Veale-Parker, President of Synodical of CNOB. Synod of CNOB representatives are the Rev. Byron Grace, the Rev. Gale Macdonald and the Rev. Bethany McCaffrey. We review the work of our synod personnel the Rev. Dr. John Peter Smit and Dr. Tori Smit and the needs of our synod.

Synodical of CNOB WMS is most appreciative of our synod resource staff, Dr. Tori Smit, Minister for Faith Formation, and Rev. Dr. 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. The Synod of CNOB website and the various resources are a great help for our synodical to keep in touch with our WMS groups. Presbyterials and groups can share their news and special activities with everyone.

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

We have appreciated all the hard work of our Synodical Executive, Presbyterials and thankful for all the things we have shared together. May God continue to bless each of us as we serve him as dedicated and committed members of the WMS. May we look

forward to the future and ways to serve in God's ministry in our groups, our church, and the world.

Respectfully submitted,

In faith,

Mary Veale-Parker, President CNOB WMS Synodical 2017

September 19, 2017