

Working Papers – The Presbytery of Lindsay Peterborough June 21,
2016 - Regular Meeting – St Paul's Presbyterian Church – 120
Murray Street, Peterborough, Ontario

Schedule B – General Assembly Reports:

(1) Report to Presbytery – re. General Assembly – June 2016

**Respectfully submitted by Doug Archbell, Rep. Elder, St. Stephen's Peterborough
Canadian Ministries: (Life and Mission Agency)**

Reading the report prior to Assembly, hearing the Canadian Ministries presentation at Assembly and talking briefly with the Associate Secretary Ms. Jen de Combe I came away realizing that I knew very little about what Canadian Ministries does and can do for our Presbytery and its congregations.

Some areas which Canadian Ministries can assist us in are as follows;

- provide resources in the fields of evangelism, Christian education, youth, congregational development, change and transition, worship and leadership development.
- assist presbyteries and congregations as they imagine, engage in, and evaluate programs of renewal.
- supports and provides grants to congregations and presbyteries as they engage in new church development, renewing ministry, Aboriginal ministry, chaplaincies, rural and remote ministry, and any specialized ministry that is being considered.
- connect leaders and their ideas to the wider church.
- questions regarding the Leading with Care policy.
- funding Children and Youth programs in the PCC
- funding to assist in improving knowledge and skills as leaders in worship.
- worship resources
- support for specialized ministry.
- Christian education.

I encourage you to contact the Canadian Ministries, Associate Secretary, Ms. Jen de Combe at 1 800-619-7301 or jdecombe@presbyterian.ca

Presbyterian World Service & Development; (Life and Mission Agency)

This was one of the longest and most complex reports presented to the Assembly.

Simply put, I need to report to you that I was amazed at the number of projects PWS&D was involved in during 2015.

With the generous support of Presbyterians in Canada, PWS&D works with local partners around the world to address the root causes of poverty and create new futures of hope and opportunity through programs such as;

Development;

- assist people in learning innovative and sustainable agricultural practices to increase crop yields, improve nutrition, and build resilience to environmental changes.
- assist families to meet their basic needs through education, skills training and small business development.
- ensuring mothers and children receive the medical care they need, caring for people affected by HIV and AIDS, providing access to water and sanitation programs.

Emergency Relief;

- in the wake of conflict or disaster, PWS&D provides immediate and long-term relief so

Working Papers – The Presbytery of Lindsay Peterborough June 21,
2016 - Regular Meeting – St Paul's Presbyterian Church – 120
Murray Street, Peterborough, Ontario

that the most vulnerable of people have access to food, shelter and medical attention and care recover from economic loss and emotional trauma.

Support to Refugees;

-by sponsoring refugees to Canada and advocating for and supporting refugees families are able to rebuild their lives without the fear of persecution.

During 2015 Presbyterians gave \$3,242,228 to PWS&D, much of which was matched by government agencies.

Disaster, relief and rehabilitation projects are world-wide. Africa, Asia, Middle East, and in the Americas.

I would encourage our presbytery and congregations to invite a representative for an educational visit, as I genuinely feel that while our people give generously of their finances, many are not fully aware of the fine and great humanitarian work the PWS&D do.

The Presbyterian Record:

Rapidly declining circulation, especially over the past 7 years has pushed the Presbyterian Record to point where it might not be able to carry on into 2017.

To this end a recommendation was brought forward asking the PCC for a one time funding for \$50,000 to carry on in 2016 and beyond.

This was approved with much debate.

This report is respectfully submitted. I thank the Presbytery of Lindsay/Peterborough for the opportunity of attending General Assembly, it was something which I don't think I will soon forget.

Doug Archbell

(2) Atlantic Mission Society: (Jonathan Baird)

The Atlantic Mission Society had no recommendations this year for the General Assembly.

The AMS has strived to glorify God throughout the years by supporting mission work through support, service, study and prayer.

This year they held their 139th annual meeting in Stellarton, Nova Scotia where their President Bonnie Langille presided.

They focused on rejoicing and worshipping God for what He has done and is doing in and through them.

One of their guest speakers was the Rev. Major Charles Deogartias who spoke about his experiences while at a refugee camp in western Tanzania.

Penny Gilles also talked about her trip to Haiti and Rev Lara Scholey gave an update on the situation in Haiti and Syria.

Although they are still strongly devoted to what they do, they have had to reduce the amount budgeted to the PCC by 10%.

However, they are still determined to support overseas projects in Ukraine, Malawi and India and also support their many projects at home.

The AMS has a men's group who support the Atlantic Teen Challenge in New Brunswick

Working Papers – The Presbytery of Lindsay Peterborough June 21,
2016 - Regular Meeting – St Paul's Presbyterian Church – 120
Murray Street, Peterborough, Ontario

and they were able to fundraise enough money to put in place a New Minister's Library in Malawi.

The AMS supports the three Atlantic camps and provides up to four bursaries to students who are studying for the ministry.

They continue to publish the Presbyterian Message which among other things gives updates from Presbyterian missionaries.

Although their membership is down a little this year, the president describes the AMS as a, "busy group of ladies and gentlemen learning, praying and seeking ways to help God's people in need."

Committee on History. Jonathan Baird.

The Committee on History had 6 recommendations this year. The full details can be found in the Book of Reports.

But, they included that congregations be encouraged to celebrate Heritage Sunday on Feb 19, 2017.

That the Assembly recognize the 2016 winners of the history prize.

That the various courts of the church promote the "Solus Christus" event in Winnipeg on October 29, 2016.

And the Soli Deo Gloria event in celebration of the 500th anniversary of the Reformation in 2017 at Knox College.

The last two recommendations involved congregations being encouraged to contribute to the National Presbyterian Museum and to be assessed \$50 by their respective presbyteries.

Also, it was recommended that G.A include a moment of recognition for all church workers who have retired in 2015 and 2016.

All these recommendations were adopted.

The committee's focus is on preserving Presbyterian history across the country and meets twice a year.

They are responsible for reporting on the National Presbyterian Museum and highlighting the work of the Archives.

Presently, the National Presbyterian Museum is located within St. John's Church, on Broadview Avenue in Toronto.

But, the committee strongly feels that a new home will need to be found for the Museum in the next 3-5 years mainly due to limited storage and parking space.

Although it is the National Museum for The Presbyterian Church in Canada, the museum receives no annual funding from the church and its operating revenue is completely dependent upon the modest interest from the Dr. John Johnston Memorial Fund, and donations from visitors to the museum.

The museum has been busy in the Archives department and encourages churches to submit documents so that they can be permanently digitized.

Their work also involves overseas work including India to appraise and collect historic records relating to the PCC.

(3) General Assembly 2016 Report to Presbytery of Lindsay-Peterborough

Working Papers – The Presbytery of Lindsay Peterborough June 21, 2016 - Regular Meeting – St Paul's Presbyterian Church – 120 Murray Street, Peterborough, Ontario

Submitted by Linda Park

I will be reporting on two committee of the Life and Missions Agency: International Ministries, and Ministry & Church Vocations.

International Ministries

“Christianity is changing in ways that begs us in Canada to be attentive and responsive as we envision a new missional presence. Christianity is shifting geographically, and in its forms and expressions of faith; and we in Canada are invited to rethink how to relate to our historic and emerging global partners. International Ministries is aware that this is a time for new ideas as we engage globally. 2016 will be a year to reflect upon the possibilities and challenges ahead, and we will be asking Canadian Presbyterians for your thoughts. May God's spirit give us courage and vision as we embrace a new era of partnership.”

The mandate is as follows: Responsible for the relationships between PCC and overseas partner churches and agencies. The most visible way in which we relate to our partners is the appointment of Canadian Presbyterians to a variety of short or longer term assignments. The recruitment, preparation and support of these mission personnel is our responsibility. Two other ways in which we accompany our partner churches is through leadership development programs, as well as funding programs and special projects.

Staff Transitions

There were a number of the mission post. Dr. **Richard Allen** has retired. He has served since a Medical degree in 1975, and a Master of Public Health in 1984. His overseas service started in 1974 as a medical student in India. In 1994 Dr. Allen was appointed by the L&MA to serve as Community Health Advisor to the Presbyterian Church of East Africa (PCEA) based in Kikuyu, Kenya. He served there for 20 years. Along with African colleagues, his work focused on HIV/AIDS control and the development of a progressive HIV/AIDS policy.

Mr. **Brian Johnston** retired also. He was appointed as an English teacher, and Music and Choir Leader at the Protestant Theological Seminary, of The Reformed Church in Transylvania, Romania. Brian's talents as a teacher were greatly appreciated. He also formed a men's choir that performed on tour in Canada in 2001. One might say that the 2001 Canadian choir tour was a “high note” in Brian's ministry.

Another missionary to retires is **Denise van Wissen** who served in Nicaragua. In 1998, she accepted a regular mission appointment with SOYNICA, the Soya Association of Nicaragua, working as a nutritionist and technical advisor. Working in the rural north of the country, Denise's gifts were put to good use. She has the rare gift of being truly bi-cultural, as comfortable with the campesino's in the rural outposts of Nicaragua, as she is with the urbanites of her home town of Oakville or Managua, the capital of Nicaragua. In 2007, Denise moved to Guatemala to work as coordinator of the Health & Nutrition

Working Papers – The Presbytery of Lindsay Peterborough June 21,
2016 - Regular Meeting – St Paul's Presbyterian Church – 120
Murray Street, Peterborough, Ontario

program of the Fraternidad de Presbiteriales Mayas, the Association of Mayan Presbyterian Women. While in Guatemala, Denise married her fiancé Nelson who joined her from Nicaragua. In December 2016, Denise will complete her assignment with PCC and continue to work with World Renew.

People to keep in your prayers:

New Appointments and Short-term volunteers

Ms. Michelle Verwey was re-appointed for a three year term as a regular mission worker to the Central Regional Board of Health Services-Church of North India; and the Mid India Board of Education (MIBE) Graduate School for Nurses in Indore, India. Michelle will be based in Canada with regular trips to India for an average of four weeks at a time. This full-time work assignment will continue in Canada through email, Skype and telephone. IM is hopeful that this new model will be beneficial to both the India partners and PCC. Michelle will be available for deputation while in Canada.

The Rev. Joel and Ms. Rebecca Sherbino were appointed for a one year term as mission workers with the Church of Central Africa Presbyterian (CCAP), Blantyre Synod, commencing in August 1, 2015. Joel is serving as Associate Minister of Ndirande Kachere Congregation and assisting with the Synod Prison Ministry. Rebecca is reporting on the Neno School Project under the CCAP Blantyre Synod, and is assisting with the reporting of the Tidzalerana Project, under the supervision of the Mulanje Mission Hospital. The Sherbinos served for three years with this partner church from 2004–2007, so returning to Malawi with their three children, Isaac, Masika and Canaan, has been a little like returning home. They will return to Paris Presbyterian Church in Paris, Ontario following this term. The congregation sent them with their blessing on this one year adventure in Malawi, and has supported the ministries in which they are engaged through prayers and financial gifts. Maybe this is a model that other congregations may wish to consider.

Ms. Amy Zavitz was appointed as a young adult intern to work with The Livingstonia Synod of the Church of Central Africa Presbyterian (CCAP), in northern Malawi. Amy worked with LISAP, the Livingstonia Synod Aids Program, supported by PWS&D. Amy's term of service was from July 13, 2015 to April 16, 2016. She is looking forward to sharing stories with Presbyterian congregations upon return.

Ms. Chantel Cole accepted an assignment to serve as a development studies intern in Guatemala, appointed to the Asociación Maya-Mam de Investigación y Desarrollo (AMMID) for a term of ten months, beginning August 18, 2015 and ending June 18, 2016. Chantel served as an International Development Studies (IDS) student on co-op placement. AMMID is a PWS&D supported partner.

The recipient of the **E.H. Johnson Award** at the 2016 General Assembly was the **Dr. Bernard Sabella**, Executive Director of the Department of Service to Palestinian Refugees of the Middle East Council of Churches. He addressed the Assembly and

Working Papers – The Presbytery of Lindsay Peterborough June 21,
2016 - Regular Meeting – St Paul’s Presbyterian Church – 120
Murray Street, Peterborough, Ontario

shared his perspective as a Christian Palestinian on the Palestinian refugee situation. The work of the Department of Service to Palestinian Refugees has been supported by International Ministries for many years.

Ministry and Church Vocations

The Ministry and Church Vocations department assists the church to discern, prepare and support professional leaders in ministry. The goals of the committee are:

- to provide caring, competent and appropriate support to the courts and individual members of PCC;
- to help church leadership and staff to have knowledge and background to interpret and respond to new information and trends;
- to research and monitor changes in church and society and the requirements for leadership for the support of professional church workers by the courts of the church; and
- to facilitate the sharing of information and talent among various regions and courts.

There were no major recommendations from this committee. However, presbyteries are reminded to follow up on police check for the ministers and candidates to ministry. As well, we are encouraged to review the PCC policy for dealing with sexual abuse and sexual harassment.

**(4) GA 142 – York University June 3-6th 2016 - Report of Fred Stewart
(Pension and Benefits, Communications)**

Bolded paragraph below is the key event of both reports

Pension and Benefits Board

Assembly approved several amendments to the constitution of the pension plan. In response to a 2015 overture asking that the board consider permitting church workers with access to other coverage to opt out of the Health and Dental Plan, while permitting access to the plan by other eligible staff, Assembly voted to maintain the current policy, which requires that all non-clergy employees within a congregation participate in the plan.

After considerable debate and an amendment, Assembly passed a motion that effective September 30, 2016, the proceeds from the sale of assets of dissolved congregations would be shared, 50%, up to \$2 million, to the pension solvency fund and 50% to Presbytery for mission and ministry. After \$2 million is reached, the formula will revert back to 70% for presbytery and 30% for new church development.

Pension and Benefits Board: Convener
The Rev. J. Cameron Bigelow

Working Papers – The Presbytery of Lindsay Peterborough June 21,
2016 - Regular Meeting – St Paul's Presbyterian Church – 120
Murray Street, Peterborough, Ontario

With persistent low interest rates, the church has a continuing potential windup (but not ongoing) solvency deficit in its pension funds, and the Council has been working with the Pension and Benefits

Board in guiding the church through these challenging times

PENSION FUND 2015

The Pension Fund as per the March 31, 2014 valuation shows a solvency deficit of \$37.5 million and a transfer ratio of 85.2% (85% is the desired goal). This leaves a shortfall in contributions amounting to \$75,000 per month (\$.9 million per annum). This shortfall cannot come from the Pension Fund and must come from The Presbyterian Church in Canada which is responsible for the pension plan. This leaves us with two choices, one is to take the funds from the

congregations or other employers of the plan, in other words a special levy on all congregations, or to find the funds from funds currently held by the national church. In 2015 we managed to find sufficient funds to cover the shortfall.

The General Assembly set up the Special Committee re Pension Solvency Funding in 2015 to look at a possibly large unfunded solvency deficit for our anticipated actuarial filing in March 2017. This committee has met twice and Assembly Council (cont'd) – 2016 Page 2.1.17 is exploring a number of options to deal with this worst case scenario. (see p. 21.1.1) Prolonged government policy to suppress long term interest rates is the cause of the solvency deficit not the returns on our assets that we are achieving. In 2015 the Pension Fund had a gross return of 7.7% and beat its benchmark of 5.6% by 2.1%.

The Pension Plan solvency deficit caused by prolonged low long term interest rates has required us to increase the pension assessment to congregations to 5%. This puts further pressure on existing congregations' obligations and expenditures. Our reliance on undesignated bequests still exists, however, when bequests come in and how much comes in cannot be predicted. However, from the multi-year data on undesignated bequests we now are seeing a five year rolling average as at 2015 of \$119,000.

**SPECIAL COMMITTEE RE PENSION SOLVENCY FUNDING
RECOMMENDATIONS**

There are no recommendations.

REPORT To the Venerable, the 142nd General Assembly:

Since the Special Committee re Pension Solvency Funding was appointed at the 2015 General Assembly, it has met on numerous occasions at church offices, 50 Wynford Drive, and by conference call. The precipitating pressure on the church's Pension Plan arises from the continued regulatory need to fund the plan on both a going concern and solvency basis, resulting in a required Pension Plan funding of \$67,453 per month.

The following steps are in the process of being acted on in one way or another.

The working group will continue to evaluate the pros and cons of continuing as a Single

Working Papers – The Presbytery of Lindsay Peterborough June 21,
2016 - Regular Meeting – St Paul’s Presbyterian Church – 120
Murray Street, Peterborough, Ontario

Employer Pension Plan

(SEPP) or seeking to change our plan to a Multiple Employer Pension Plan (MEPP) and will also explore whether this is even possible. Each kind of plan has its unique features but moving to a MEPP would free us from large annual premiums which must be paid into the Pension Benefits Guaranteed Fund. It is our hope that it would also free the Pension Plan from having to make extra payments due to an actuarially determined solvency shortfall. The shortfall in turn is due to historically low long term interest rates.

Resulting from an urgent need to build capital, the Special Committee recommended that the Assembly Council increase the claim of the Pension Fund on receipts from dissolved congregations to 100% and increase the claim of the Pension Fund on receipts from undesignated bequests to 50%. The latter was adopted by the Assembly Council to take place on April 6, 2016, and the former is coming before the General Assembly as a recommendation of the

Council. (see p. 2.1.32–33)

To prepare for the possibility that the plan’s solvency deficit and funding requirements could increase as of the next actuarial valuation (must be prepared no later than March 31, 2017), a working group of the Special Committee is also investigating the potential of assessing a Letter of Credit to be available to the Pension Plan. In addition to the potential need for additional deficit funding, an upfront cash infusion may also be desirable to raise the plan’s solvency ratio to at least 85% as of the next actuarial valuation date. An 85% solvency ratio will avoid the requirement for annual valuation filings, and provide The Presbyterian Church in Canada with more certainty on plan contribution levels over the three-year period from the valuation date.

We anticipate issuing a request for proposals (RFP) re a letter of credit in the next six months.

Informal discussions have also taken place with the Anglican Church whose pension plan is a Specified Multiple Employer Pension Plan (SMEPP) but these discussions have only been of a very preliminary nature.

Last but not least, once the solvency issue has been settled we may want to look at shifting from a defined benefit plan to a defined contribution plan, if maintaining contribution stability is determined by The Presbyterian Church in Canada as a top priority.

As the Pension Plan solvency has significant impact for not only for the Pension Plan itself but also for the ability of The Presbyterian Church in Canada to fund important parts of its work and mission, the Special Committee

continues to exercise due diligence to find the effective solution to the pressures outlined in this report. We ask for the full support and prayers of the church as we continue to move forward with the mandate which the Assembly has placed upon the Special Committee.

Cameron Bigelow

Convener

Communications

Communications, Associate Secretary Ms. Barb

Working Papers – The Presbytery of Lindsay Peterborough June 21,
2016 - Regular Meeting – St Paul's Presbyterian Church – 120
Murray Street, Peterborough, Ontario

Summers

The Communications department will be the centre for all communication and evolving concepts of communication for the national office of The Presbyterian Church in Canada. The department will inspire the church in innovative communication techniques, bold methods for presenting the gospel to a 21st century audience and equip congregations to do the same. The department shall be responsible for:

- creating a vision for an innovative, multi-faceted communication strategy for The Presbyterian Church in Canada;
- communicating essential messages within The Presbyterian Church in Canada;
- communicating with Presbyterian churches and courts;
- communicating with the wider community about the mission and ministry of The Presbyterian Church in Canada and its congregations;
- equipping congregations, presbyteries and synods to share their mission and ministry with the wider church;
- presenting bold concepts and images for other departments/offices, committees and agencies in communication and resources;
- providing an effective internal communication network to the respective bodies and courts of The Presbyterian Church in Canada;
- providing an effective external communication plan for the broader public (media, seekers and ecumenical bodies);
- assisting the General Assembly Office in implementing a communication strategy for the benefit of all commissioners and resource people at General Assembly.

COMMUNICATIONS

RECOMMENDATIONS

There are no recommendations.

REPORT

Staff Associate Secretary: Barb Summers (on parental leave until September 2016)

Web Coordinator: James Laurenson

Communications Coordinator: Michelle Kortinen

INTRODUCTION

The Communications department assists congregations, the courts of the church, groups, committees and agencies of The Presbyterian Church in Canada in the area of communications and best practices in the field. It is our goal to produce and promote useful, relevant resources, both in print and online format, and to improve access to church information through print and digital channels. We strive to inspire the church in innovative communication techniques and to help equip congregations to successfully share their mission and ministry.

Workshops

The staff in the department conducted a number of website and communications

Working Papers – The Presbytery of Lindsay Peterborough June 21, 2016 - Regular Meeting – St Paul's Presbyterian Church – 120 Murray Street, Peterborough, Ontario

workshops for congregations, presbyteries and synods this year.

WEBSITE OPERATIONS

presbyterian.ca

The PCC website is a valuable tool for all congregations and individuals. It is an informational and educational site, providing access to a wide variety of resources and materials such as worship materials, resources for elders, official church documents, policies, and updates on events, activities and new resources.

In 2015, the website received over 285,800 hits. The most popular web pages are the homepage, worship, pulpit vacancies, resources, General Assembly 2015 and Church Finder. The most popular downloads on the site are Lectionary Year B & Church Year Dates (2014–2015), Body, Mind, and Soul Study Guide, Lectionary Readings Year C (2015–16), Family-Friendly Christmas Eve Worship, Westminster Confession of Faith, and the 2015 Book of Reports.

One of the most frequently used features of the website is the Comments section and the Contact form. Visitors to the site are able to provide feedback on news posts and ask questions. This provides an additional venue for people to get in touch with departments of The Presbyterian Church in Canada and to receive a prompt, timely response.

Comments are received daily and the service is expanding.

Website Development

All news, information, resource materials, promotion and communication regarding the Church, congregations and members is created on and/or delivered through our website. The amount of resources and information that continues to accumulate is tremendous and requires maintenance for improved usability. Currently, the website is being further developed to:

- improve navigation and search functionality
- restructure information, and to better access resources

Life and Mission Agency, Communications (cont'd) – 2016 Page 12.1.19

- update the look and functionality, especially to help increase church engagement and attract new members
- include more engagement via social media and blogging

PCCWeb

presbyterian.ca/pccweb

PCCWeb is a service to congregations, groups, presbyteries and synods of the denomination that allows them to set up a website, free of charge, hosted by the denomination. We currently host approximately 315 sites. Online tutorials are offered to help people learn how to use WordPress more easily. Maintaining security features remains one of the most important components of the network. This service has been well received and the network is steadily growing.

Using the PCCWeb server, we host and support a number of other websites in addition to individual congregation and presbytery sites, including Presbyterian World Service & Development, the Presbyterian Archives, Canada Youth, Presbyterian camps, the Women's Missionary Society, the Women's Gathering, the Presbyterian Museum, the missionary blogs, Renewal Fellowship, PresbyCan Daily Devotional, Portland Place, Boarding Homes Ministry,

Working Papers – The Presbytery of Lindsay Peterborough June 21, 2016 - Regular Meeting – St Paul's Presbyterian Church – 120 Murray Street, Peterborough, Ontario

and others.

Regional News

A section on the homepage is specifically reserved for highlighting the activities of congregations and groups within the church. By submitting information using the online form, special events, worship activities, fundraisers, guest speakers, etc., can be shared in the Regional News section. Individuals can subscribe to receive daily news updates via email by signing up on the homepage.

Online Donations

presbyterian.ca/donate

The online donation system has processed 1,195 transactions with a total of just over \$245,000 this year. Donors can designate a gift to a variety of programs and ministries using a shopping cart format, and can make a gift in someone's honour or memory. Individuals have the option to assign their gift as part of their local congregation's Presbyterians Sharing allotment and also sign up for monthly giving using a credit card. Donations are also processed for PWS&D as well as Canada Youth registrations, the Presbyterian Museum and the Archives.

Social Media

In the past year, the denomination's presence on Facebook has grown from 770 "Likes" to 1,301 and this number continues to grow. There are nearly 1,213 followers on Twitter; the Twitter feed is picked up from content posted to the website newsfeed.

RESOURCE PRODUCTION

The Communications department assists in the production of a wide variety of resources. This includes the management and distribution of the PCPak collection of resources, the annual wall calendar, as well as design and layout of the Pension and Benefits newsletters, Prayer Partnership, Equipping for... educational resources, newsletters, flyers, web visuals, display materials and brochures for all departments of the national office, as well as several national committees, etc.

PCPak

presbyterian.ca/pcpak

PCPak is a collection of educational and informational resources for those bodies directly connected to The Presbyterian Church in Canada that is distributed three times a year. Each PCPak contains material from the various agencies of the church to educate, equip and inform the denomination for faith ministry.

All PCPak materials are available to view and download and print on the PCPak section of the website. This feature saves congregations time and money. After viewing online, people may phone in or use an online order form to request copies.

A PCPak survey was conducted during 2015 with a total of 50 people responding.

Overall, 29 respondents are "very satisfied" or "satisfied with PCPak"; 11 reported a "neutral" response and six reported being "not satisfied". Mission Moments, Equipping For..., PWS&D and Prayer Partnership ranked highest in usage rate, while Presbyterians Sharing

Life and Mission Agency, Communications (cont'd) – 2016 Page 12.1.20 information and Christian Education are next in popularity. Mission Trip Flyers and Justice Ministries Flyers are

Working Papers – The Presbytery of Lindsay Peterborough June 21, 2016 - Regular Meeting – St Paul's Presbyterian Church – 120 Murray Street, Peterborough, Ontario

sometimes or rarely used. There was no clear preference for PCPak to be distributed exclusively online. While most were satisfied with the timing of distribution, there were suggestions about how to improve the distribution schedule.

PCConnect

presbyterian.ca/pconnect

As one of the most popular resources, the PCConnect monthly e-newsletter contains the latest news and information from the denomination in a clear, easy-to-read layout. The e-newsletter contains snapshots of information such as deadline reminders, mission trip opportunities, new resources for congregations, upcoming events, popular links to online materials and much more.

The PCConnect e-newsletter is opened by approximately 46% of those who receive it, which is well above the industry average of 25%. Distribution is made to 1,475 addresses. Individuals from across the church are encouraged to sign up. As the distribution list grows, we are able to reach a wider audience with relevant news and information.

Online Forms

The department hosts over 45 online forms from various departments and the popularity of this service continues to grow as it avoids paper copies, allows forms to be completed in an automated format quickly and easily, and improves reporting. Individuals and groups use our online forms to register for events, apply for funds, give feedback, and order a wide variety of resources offered from the national office through the Resource Centre.

General Assembly

presbyterian.ca

The department provides and maintains the live video feed, produces daily summaries, monitors and engages in social media activities (particularly Twitter), shares photos, posts web content, and provides technical assistance to commissioners. There were approximately 200 downloads of each daily summary edition and over 2,000 active sessions of the live video stream. The top ten countries viewing the live stream were: Canada, the United States of America, the United Kingdom, Japan, Russia, Germany, South Korea, Netherlands and China. As well, the

Communications Office was able to assist the General Assembly Office in providing electronic materials. This included expanding the circulation of the Book of Reports and the Summaries.

PCC Style Guide and Web Standards

presbyterian.ca/styleguide

The PCC Style Guide and Web Standards resource contains grammatical rules and preferences specific to The Presbyterian Church in Canada, as well as web guidelines, voicemail and email best practices, specialized PCC terms, and a troubleshooting section. It is available as a free download on the website, along with a Quick Reference Guide.

Advisory Committee Members

The Rev. Jeremy Bellsmith, Mr. Spencer Edwards, the Rev. Kristine O'Brien, the Rev. Dr. Pam McCarroll, the Rev. David Moody.

Working Papers – The Presbytery of Lindsay Peterborough June 21,
2016 - Regular Meeting – St Paul's Presbyterian Church – 120
Murray Street, Peterborough, Ontario

My observations:

While these two areas received little exposure during the GA (except for the liquidation of assets recommendation), they are important to our present challenges and future outlook.

(5) Report on Church Doctrine Committee (Susan Wallace)

This year's report brings to the General Assembly two documents that the Church Doctrine Committee (CCD) has been developing for several years. Both are very timely. One, 'Presbyterian Polity: Its Distinctives and Directions for the 21st Century', offers a review of our current polity and invites reflection on how our governing designs and processes enable us to be, or impede us from being, the people of God able to impact 21st century Canada with the good news of the gospel. The second, 'Understanding and Interpreting the Bible', seeks to set forth best ways to discern God's revelation written in the scriptures. As complex issues continue to arise among us with regularity, this document can help us find the necessary guidance. Both documents are presented with a request for response.

The 2015 GA tasked the Committee on Church Doctrine to work jointly with the Life and Mission Agency to prepare a study guide on Sexuality, Sexual Orientation and some current practices and beliefs of the PCC. The CCD produced the report: 'Body, Mind and Soul' which resulted in over 200 responses and a huge workload for the CCD.

The CCD is also offering The Presbyterian Church in Canada some reflections on using the Bible's presentation on the Kingdom of God as a way to move together in addressing matters raised in over 20 overtures to the 2015 General Assembly. Though it is a work in progress, the Committee felt this initial section was worth sharing.

The CCD has little to report on the weighty matters associated with physician assisted death, though there is a serious study occurring by a sub-committee. They also have a response to Memorial No. 1, 2015 re Declaratory Acts and report diligence in several other ongoing endeavours.

Working Papers – The Presbytery of Lindsay Peterborough June 21, 2016 - Regular Meeting – St Paul's Presbyterian Church – 120 Murray Street, Peterborough, Ontario

What follows are just some of the highlights of the different documents that included in this report, but I would definitely encourage everyone to read the full report.

Presbyterian Polity: It's Distinctives and Directions for the 21st Century

This document raises questions in the hope of evoking other questions and responses from various courts of the church.

Introduction

The PCC is no longer near the centre of Canadian Society. Our society has become more secular and diverse. The PCC has come to acknowledge and appreciate other heritages (including the First Nations), leaving us less certain of who we are as a church and what place we have in society. This has resulted in questions about the relevance and importance of the church. Some have questioned the exclusive nature of the church, others see no need to be a part of any community of faith, while others are content to engage in spiritual quests apart from organized religious entity. An Increasing number of people now affiliate with a variety of non-Christian faith groups or don't hold any belief in a god of any description.

In the PCC, we see a decline in membership and uncertainty about what our purpose and presence in Canadian society should be. We don't want to hold to forms of godliness, while missing the true power of life in Jesus Christ.

The report goes on to describe some of our rules in the PCC (Book of Forms) and raises questions about how these rules help or hinder our Christian witness to the world. Could they be rewritten to make our calling as a community with a mission that is more clear? How might our polity better reflect existing and future ecumenical and international relationships?

The report then looks at different roles and responsibilities in the church and asks what it means to be an elder? a Session? a Presbytery? And a Synod?

This section of the report ends with concluding reflections and a recommendation which includes a request for study and response to the document by August 31st, 2017.

Living in God's Mission Today

This next document in the report, was originally presented to the GA 2015. It outlined the priorities and understandings for believing and being God's people in our time and

Working Papers – The Presbytery of Lindsay Peterborough June 21, 2016 - Regular Meeting – St Paul's Presbyterian Church – 120 Murray Street, Peterborough, Ontario

situation. So far, only a few comments have been received, which will be reviewed and the committee will then report back to GA 2017.

The 500th Anniversary of Protestant Reformation

The CCD is working with other agencies and committees to plan ways to celebrate this anniversary to enable individuals and congregations both to celebrate and to experience the power of the Spirit evident in our history.

Understanding and Interpreting the Bible

(Assembly Council Additional Motion 2014)

There has been continued work on the matter of Biblical Hermeneutics (Understanding and Interpreting the Bible). This document is intended to assist each member of the PCC to better comprehend the how, as well as the what, of discerning the divine message of the Scriptures. The CCD believes this teaching is essential for vital congregations in the PCC. They noted that there are deep concerns and anxieties present in many congregations and it is their hope to offer the church a way forward that will add to, not take away from, congregational health and vitality. (While I believe this intention is good, I don't really believe that it is possible to cover such a topic in only 12 pages. Consequently, it is oversimplified and therefore, misleading. A couple of months before Assembly, I read a book on the same topic by Adam Hamilton, a minister of the United Methodist Church in the US. This book is much better and I would encourage all churches to use it as a study guide.) The committee's report also includes the initial section of a paper called: The Way of God's Reign, which presents some characteristics of kingdom life that the committee believes is a step in achieving this goal of better understanding the Bible.

Body, Mind and Soul –study on Human Sexuality

This study guide was requested by GA 2015 and was posted on the PCC's website in October 2015. 22 overtures have been received and broad directions for the ongoing work have emerged. They have examined biblical texts, reviewed different and often antithetical interpretations, recalled previous work on these matters, the range of perspectives and some themes that had arisen. All this led to the development of a 'kingdom' framework or perspective to root or guide the ongoing work. There is a sincere desire to seek first God's kingdom and His righteousness and due to the scope of material

Working Papers – The Presbytery of Lindsay Peterborough June 21,
2016 - Regular Meeting – St Paul's Presbyterian Church – 120
Murray Street, Peterborough, Ontario

and the ongoing process of reflection, it is the committee's recommendation that further study continue until the GA 2017.

Physician-Assisted Death

The Committee has assembled a task force of committee members and other persons well-versed in the fields of medicine and law to prepare a report for the 2017 GA.

The report ends with a Memorial from the Presbytery of Montreal concerning the process re Changes to the Church's Teaching on Human Sexuality. I would encourage you all to read that Memorial.

Report on the Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations Committee

The report of the Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations Committee summarizes our denomination's commitment to ecumenism and interfaith dialogue. We are a connectional church and our recognition that we are but one expression of the Body of Christ in a Christian landscape of rich diversity has always been important. Our primary historic ecumenical relationships and current involvements are with the World Council of Churches, the World Communion of Reformed Churches and the Canadian Council of Churches. The committee monitors our role in various ecumenical and interfaith dialogues.

There is one recommendation responding to last year's Commissioner's Overture re public prayer. The committee was asked to look into "the effects of the Supreme Court's decision as it impacts city councils, government at all levels and our own public prayers" and secondly, that "we enter into conversation with religious leaders of other faiths who share our belief that public prayer adds to civil society and the wellbeing of communities."

The Background

The municipality of Saguenay resulted from an amalgamation of seven smaller communities in 2002. The current mayor had been mayor since that time. Prior to the amalgamation, not all the communities engaged in a prayer before a public meeting. The form and practice of prayer was introduced by its current mayor. From Facts cited in the Reasons for Judgment, it was recorded:

At the start of each meeting, the mayor and councillors would be standing. The mayor,

Working Papers – The Presbytery of Lindsay Peterborough June 21,
2016 - Regular Meeting – St Paul's Presbyterian Church – 120
Murray Street, Peterborough, Ontario

using a microphone, would then recite a prayer after making the sign of the cross while saying [translation] “in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit”. The prayer also ended with the sign of the cross and the same words. Other councillors and municipal officials would cross themselves at the beginning and end of the prayer as well. In the Chicoutimi council chamber, there was a Sacred Heart statue fitted with a red electric votive light. In the council chamber in La Baie, there was a crucifix hanging on the wall.

In 2006, the mayor was approached by a resident of Saguenay, who calls himself an atheist and who, because of his interest in municipal politics, regularly attended the municipal council's public meetings. He felt uncomfortable with the display which he considered religious and asked the mayor to stop the practice. When the mayor refused the complaint process began.

The complaint process went from the Human Rights Commission to the Supreme Court, which sided with the complainant. The Court determined that the prayer and the religious artwork was privileging one religion over another and was therefore, discriminatory.

After studying this issue, the committee summarized its findings in these five points:

1. That members of The Presbyterian Church in Canada should understand more clearly the freedom of religion and conscience which is protected for everyone under the Charter of Rights. It ensures that we have the right to public places of worship where our religious practices are of our own design. Transferring

those practices to the public sphere, however, like prayer at the beginning of a municipal meeting, have a different context and reality. In the public sphere where we may encounter people of other faiths or of no faith, the use of particular religious practices that could be viewed as preferential could be challenging.

Awareness should lead to dialogue.

2. That this case is about a violation of an individual's right to “equal exercise of freedom of conscience and religion” and about the kind of discrimination that may arise when a group in power feels the scales of equality tip in their favour. It must be recognized how difficult it is to be objective about the provisions of, in this case, the Quebec Charter of Rights when issues of identity, like religious practices, are involved. The Canadian

Working Papers – The Presbytery of Lindsay Peterborough June 21,
2016 - Regular Meeting – St Paul's Presbyterian Church – 120
Murray Street, Peterborough, Ontario

Charter of Rights, also, protects an individual's legal right to pray publicly. Under the Charter of Rights, Canadians have the freedom of conscience and religion. Under the right of freedom of religion falls the right to do things like assemble, worship, print and disseminate literature and to pray. Public prayer generally cannot and has not been outlawed.

3. On account of the fact that this case is about a violation of that freedom of conscience and religion, the content of the prayer is less of an issue than the context in which the prayer was used and/or imposed on those present. From the Reasons Concurring in Part One of the Justices noted that state neutrality is about

what the role of the state is in protecting freedom of religion, part of the inquiry into freedom of religion necessarily engages the question of state neutrality." Moreover, "as the majority reasons themselves state, the duty of state religious neutrality 'flows from freedom of conscience and religion'. Like freedom of conscience and religion, its application depends on the context." The importance of context underlines the need for individuals and groups within communities to engage their councillors in dialogue about the place of public prayer if that is an issue for them.

4. That an elected public official should not be encouraged or expected to lead a prayer at public meetings. Perhaps that means the door is open for the wider faith community to dialogue concerning what appropriate interfaith support of the common good and civil well-being entails. Some of the members of the Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations Committee have been engaged in these conversations. The support for public displays of religious practice range from the total separation of church and state to the development and inclusion of some appropriate non-discriminatory practices.

5. That discernment and negotiation of what can and cannot be done in public meetings needs to happen in the communities where this is a concern. Those moved and passionate for the ways that prayer adds to civil society and the well-being of communities should join with other passionate citizens and religious leaders along with civic leaders in their community to talk about and discern practices that are not felt as an infringement of an individual's rights under the Charter and that are not discriminatory.

For more detailed information on this issue, including the effects on prayers in PCC

Working Papers – The Presbytery of Lindsay Peterborough June 21,
2016 - Regular Meeting – St Paul's Presbyterian Church – 120
Murray Street, Peterborough, Ontario

churches, please see the full report.

Human Sexuality

The committee discussed the issue of human sexuality currently under consideration by the church in light of how any decisions of our church may affect relationships with other Christian churches, and how we can maintain unity throughout our discernment and decision making.

The Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations Committee is concerned not only with our church's growing unity with other Christian churches, but also with our own internal unity. It has been widely acknowledged that issues related to human sexuality are divisive within our church, and a great concern has been expressed across the church that whatever decision we make, a large portion of our members and congregations might consider leaving the denomination. Our committee was encouraged by the section of Body, Mind and Soul that acknowledged the fact that it is extremely unlikely that the whole church will come to agreement, and invited us to think creatively about how we might stay together in spite of differing convictions on this issue. If we cannot come to agreement, we must move away from strategies of argument and debate towards determined efforts to maintain unity in spite of disagreement.

Global And National Communions

The report concludes with short reviews of our involvement with the World Council of Churches (WCC), the World Communion of Reformed Churches, the Canadian Council of Churches and the Evangelical Fellowship of Canada.

The Committee is particularly encouraging members of the PCC to study two important documents of the WCC that have been circulated throughout our church for study and comment over the last two years: The Church: Towards a Common Vision and Together Towards Life: Mission and Evangelism in Changing Landscapes. Study guides, prepared by the Rev. Dr. Ron Wallace, will assist congregations in using these documents for special studies, workshops, or events. They can be found at presbyterian.ca/2014/10/24/two-new-study-guides/. The Committee encourages Presbyterians to consider getting together with other Christian churches in your

Working Papers – The Presbytery of Lindsay Peterborough June 21,
2016 - Regular Meeting – St Paul's Presbyterian Church – 120
Murray Street, Peterborough, Ontario

neighbourhoods to discuss what it means to be the church and/or our call to mission and evangelism in changing landscapes.

International Affairs Committee

This year, the International Affairs Committee report considers the circumstances of minorities and Indigenous peoples, who experience discrimination. Sometimes differences between groups of people become the basis of marginalization, disenfranchisement or conflict. The report comments on the situation of Koreans in Japan, Haitians in the Dominican Republic, Roma people in Hungary and the Ukraine, Indigenous people in Guatemala, and sexual minorities in different countries. There are recommendations in each of these sections, where it is suggested that the Moderator write to various government and/or church leaders expressing our church's concern about the on-going discrimination. Each of these sections are definitely well worth reading.

Much is revealed about the values and qualities upheld by countries and its peoples, by the treatment of vulnerable people. Scripture reveals specific responsibilities of Israel toward the treatment of aliens and strangers. Jesus' ethic of love and care for neighbours is subordinate only to loving God. The situation of Indigenous and minority groups that are affected by racism, discrimination, hatred and persecution are painful examples of where humankind fails to love and treat each other with dignity. The suffering love of Jesus Christ reminds us that as God's grace is miraculously given to us, so we too must strive to reflect God's love in our treatment of all people.

There are updates on the Arms Trade Treaty, the Millennium Development Goals and the ongoing dialogue with Goldcorp regarding the impact of the Marlin mine on Indigenous communities in Guatemala. These issues have been brought before previous General Assemblies.

Arms Trade Treaty

The Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) is intended to reduce as much as possible arms transfers to regimes that violate human rights, to terrorists and to organized crime. As of January 11,

Working Papers – The Presbytery of Lindsay Peterborough June 21, 2016 - Regular Meeting – St Paul's Presbyterian Church – 120 Murray Street, Peterborough, Ontario

2016, 130 UN member states have signed the ATT and 79 have ratified it. The Treaty entered into force on December 24, 2014. Canada is the only member of NATO that has not signed the Arms Trade Treaty. The Government of Canada has made a commitment to accede to the ATT.

The second Conference of States Parties to the ATT will be held in the summer of 2016 in Geneva. If Canada takes the necessary steps for treaty accession, it will be able to attend the conference as a state party. If Canada has not acceded to the treaty, it could still attend as an observer.

Sustainable Development Goals

In 2013 the UN initiated a process to review the effectiveness of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and prepare for the post-2015 period. The process would generate new goals based on broad consultation with community groups. This 'Global Conversation' covered 83 countries. Input was received from 800,000 people. The consultation document is called "Transforming our World: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development", better known as the Sustainable Development Goals 2015–2030. There are 17 goals with 169 targets. These ambitious targets aim to end poverty; hunger; promote health and education for all; focus on human rights; good governance; environmental concerns, including climate change, clean water and sustainable agriculture. The Canadian Council for International Cooperation has written a helpful commentary called "Transforming our World: Canadian perspectives on the Sustainable Development Goals. (SDGs)" The SDG theme is 'Leave No One Behind' and applies not only to 'developing countries' but all signatories of the 'Transforming Document,' including Canada.

Canada has been reducing its Overseas Development Assistance (ODA) for the past two decades. Today our ODA has fallen to 0.24% of our GNI, one of the lowest in the developed world. The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development's Development Assistance Committee has recommended that donor countries set a target of 0.7% of the donor countries' gross national income for overseas development assistance.

Working Papers – The Presbytery of Lindsay Peterborough June 21,
2016 - Regular Meeting – St Paul's Presbyterian Church – 120
Murray Street, Peterborough, Ontario

Goldcore Dialogue Update

Shareholder dialogue is one of the few means available to persuade a corporation to respect human rights and limit environmental degradation in the absence of Canadian legislation that would hold Canadian mining companies accountable in law for their activities overseas. SHARE (Shareholder Association for Research and Education) offers shareholder services to investors wishing to encourage greater corporate social responsibility by corporations they hold shares in. SHARE provides services and expertise that The Presbyterian Church in Canada does not have in-house. The Presbyterian Church in Canada holds 22,500 (pension fund) and 29,000 (consolidated fund) shares in Goldcorp. SHARE organizes a dialogue between Goldcorp and several of its investors.

A majority of people, in the municipalities surrounding the Marlin mine in Guatemala, are Indigenous. Although 90% live below the poverty line, they receive only 0.5% of the mine's earnings. At the request of shareholders, Goldcorp hired an independent assessor to do a human rights assessment on the Marlin mine. Goldcorp reports that an update is currently underway and will be completed later in 2016.

The 141st GA (2015) passed a recommendation that The Presbyterian Church in Canada ask all mining companies in which it has investments about adhering to Free, Prior and Informed Consent principles for consultation with Indigenous peoples. FPIC is a right enshrined in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

The report ends with a recommendation that the Moderator write to AMMID (PWS&D'S partner), asking 1) for its reflections on the impact the Marlin mine has had on communities; and 2) whether AMMID has ongoing concerns regarding the mine after it is closed.

Women's Missionary Society

The biennial Council meeting held at Crieff Hills Retreat and Conference Centre was from May 1–3, 2015, with the approval of the 2016 and 2017 budget estimates. The Council Executive met from November 11–12, 2015.

Working Papers – The Presbytery of Lindsay Peterborough June 21, 2016 - Regular Meeting – St Paul's Presbyterian Church – 120 Murray Street, Peterborough, Ontario

The new name for the outreach arm of the WMS is “Women To Women” (WTW) with the following mandate:

Mission Statement: Presbyterian women serving, sharing, and spiritual living.

Goals: Resourcing, mentoring, and networking.

Purpose: To reach out to Presbyterian women across Canada and globally, to network women to women, with common women's experiences and concerns.

The Hub (womenshub.ca) is the website for WTW. It was launched in January 2016 and here women are invited to share their Reformed faith and how it relates to their daily lives.

There were two mission exposure trips in 2015 – one to Guatemala and one to Ghana. At the Council Executive meeting, Susan McLennan and Shirley Miller presented the Guatemala trip, while Sarah Kim and Janet Brewer made the presentation on the Ghana trip.

Mission Awareness Sunday resources for 2016 are available at wmspcc.ca or through the WMS office. The mission magazine of the WMS, *Glad Tidings*, is published every two months and is available by subscription.

Planning for the third National Presbyterian Women's Gathering is underway. Information booklets were mailed in early March. Information can be also found on the Women's Gathering website (womensgathering.ca) or *The Hub* (womenshub.ca).

The WMS Together We Can! Projects continue to raise funds for the following projects: 1) Mayan Women (Guatemala) and 2) ARISE Ministry (Canada). A contribution of \$100,000 was given to the General Fund of The Presbyterian Church in Canada in 2015. This grant will continue in 2016, but will fall to \$50,000 in 2017. WMS gave grants from its various endowment funds for individuals as well as for projects.

(6) Report on Life and Mission: Justice Ministries – Torrey Griffiths *Healing and Reconciliation*

Justice Ministries continues to emphasise healing and reconciliation with the Aboriginal people in Canada. With the release of the recommendations from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) in 2015, Justice Ministries has continued its commitment to strengthen the PCC's relationship with Aboriginal people as well as to

Working Papers – The Presbytery of Lindsay Peterborough June 21, 2016 - Regular Meeting – St Paul's Presbyterian Church – 120 Murray Street, Peterborough, Ontario

continue to seek reconciliation through adhering too many of the Calls to Action found in the TRC's report.

In 2015, Justice Ministries' staff led two training leader workshops, as well as nine workshops regarding Truth and Reconciliation to congregations, presbyteries, synods, and presbyterials. When the TRC's Final Report was presented in Ottawa, December 15, 2015. The Moderator of the 141st General Assembly, the Rev. Karen Horst spoke on behalf of The Presbyterian Church in Canada. The TRC's Calls to Action that are directed to churches are posted on a new webpage that will provide background.

Justice Ministries recommended that congregations and presbyteries be encouraged to study the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and that sessions and presbyteries consider ways to respond to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action in their communities. The G.A. adopted both of these recommendations.

Continuing with this theme, Justice Ministries put forth recommendations that were adopted regarding the recognition of the traditional territories in which our local congregations meet for worship. It is suggested that this recognition be written in the bulletin or on a sign.

Human Sexuality

In 2015, a number of overtures regarding human sexuality were presented to the G.A. Many of these overtures had a theme, which recommended full inclusion of all persons regardless of sexual orientation and gender as well as recognising gay and lesbian candidates for ministry and same-sex marriages. These overtures were forwarded to Justice Ministries and the Church Doctrine Committee. At this year's G.A., the recommendation that Life and Mission Agency (Justice Ministries) present a response to the above overtures to the 2017 General Assembly was adopted.

Justice Ministries also has done a preliminary report regarding the responses they have received in terms of Human Sexuality, and in particular feedback from the study guide *Body, Mind, and Soul*. 463 responses were received as of April 21, 2016. Justice Ministries continues to receive responses. The responses are from 1 synod; 16 presbyteries; 115 sessions; 72 congregations or congregational study groups. The remainder are from individuals. From these responses, the majority of them did not state clear consensus on the issue or a position; however, they will continue to take feedback on the study guide, citing that many congregations and presbyteries have not responded. A summary of some of the feedback is available in the Justice Ministries supplementary report.

Report on Life and Mission: Stewardship and Planned Giving

In September of 2015, the Stewardship and Planned Giving departments were amalgamated. The department seeks to help congregations be good stewards of their money and to help through resources and ideas to build up and to sustain ministries in which congregations seek to implement in the short and long-term.

The Stewardship and Planned Giving department provides many different opportunities for the development of congregational leaders in terms of stewardship. One of these

Working Papers – The Presbytery of Lindsay Peterborough June 21,
2016 - Regular Meeting – St Paul's Presbyterian Church – 120
Murray Street, Peterborough, Ontario

events is 'Stewards By Design'. They also have grants available to individuals and congregations who wish to attend conferences organized by the Ecumenical Stewardship Center. The department also has many annual educational resources available for congregations, which are downloadable from the PCC resource centre. These resources include, stewardship moment quotes, bulletin inserts, fundraising and worship resources.

The emphasis of the report from Stewardship and Planned Giving is the importance of giving to *Presbyterians Sharing*. It is through this ministry that the PCC funds its many missions and ministries in Canada and around the world. The department recognizes the difficulties in which congregations have in meeting the 10% allocation to *Presbyterians Sharing*. Many of the congregations cite the rise in pensions and benefits and other rising costs in their inability to meet this allocation. However, the department also emphasizes that if all congregations were meeting the expected allocation of 10%, then the PCC would have more than enough to fund its current missions and ministries. Furthermore, they have seen a trend of congregations not setting or meeting their allocation targets for *Presbyterians Sharing*, the result effecting the overall budget and ministries of the PCC.

With this in mind, the Stewardship and Planned Giving department recommended that "sincere appreciation be expressed to the individuals and congregations who faithfully supported *Presbyterians Sharing* in 2015." This motion was adopted. Their second recommendation was, "That all congregations develop an intentional plan to work towards meeting and exceeding the 10% *Presbyterians Sharing* Allocation in 2016." The G.A. also adopted this motion.

Report on the Theological Colleges

Presbyterian College, McGill University

Presbyterian College recently celebrated its 150th anniversary in 2015. The college has recently adopted a new memorandum of understanding with the University of McGill. The result is that the college is now under the umbrella of the School of Religious Studies, with the director responsible to the Dean of Arts. The principal of the college still sits as a representative. Presbyterian College is excited about this change because it will allow them to enrol more students from other Christian denominations. The college anticipates that this process of transition will take three years. The G.A. adopted the motion that it concurs with the actions of the school regarding the memorandum of understanding.

Knox College, University of Toronto

Beginning in the fall of 2016, Knox will be offering a new academic program, which is a Masters of Pastoral Studies. It is a two-year program with two different streams, the first stream Pastoral ministries and the second, Spiritual Care and Psychotherapy. The college is excited about this new program, as students will earn professional accreditation in pastoral care and psychotherapy. This new program is offered in conjunction with Emmanuel College. Professor Pam McCarroll is moving from Knox College to Emmanuel to lead this new program. The recommendation for a minute of appreciation

Working Papers – The Presbytery of Lindsay Peterborough June 21,
2016 - Regular Meeting – St Paul's Presbyterian Church – 120
Murray Street, Peterborough, Ontario

for the Rev. Dr. Pamela McCarroll was adopted.

Principal Dorcas Gordon has notified the Board of Governors that she will be retiring with the academic year of 2016-17 to be her final year. The Board has begun the process of seeking candidates to fill the position.

St. Andrew's Hall, Vancouver School of Theology

St. Andrew's Hall Centre for Missional Leadership has been created in partnership and collaboration with the colleges that make up the Vancouver School of Theology. The purpose of the centre is the continuing education and training of theological students, recognizing the changing world we live in today. The focus of the centre is on mission and missional leadership for our current context. It aims to be a place of research, teaching and practice, as well as a resource for the wider church to help in learning how to engage in mission.

There were no recommendations regarding this report.

Submitted by Torrey Griffiths
Commissioner, 2016 General Assembly