

**THE MINUTES AND REPORTS OF  
THE ONE HUNDRED AND FORTY-THIRD ANNUAL MEETING  
OF  
THE SYNOD OF QUÉBEC AND EASTERN ONTARIO  
OF  
THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN CANADA  
HELD AT MONTRÉAL, QUÉBEC  
OCTOBER 20<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup>, 2017**

**FIRST SEDERUNT**

In the City of Montréal, Québec, on Friday the twentieth day of October in the year of our Lord two thousand and seventeen at two o'clock in the afternoon:

At which place and time, the ministers and ruling elders being commissioners from the several presbyteries of The Synod of Québec and Eastern Ontario of The Presbyterian Church in Canada, convened as appointed by The Synod of Québec and Eastern Ontario held in the City of Ottawa, Ontario, in its final sederunt on the twenty-second day of October 2016.

The public worship of God was held in the sanctuary chancel of The Church of St. Andrew and St. Paul, Montréal, Québec. The service was conducted jointly by the Rev. Dr. Kay Diviney, Associate Minister of the Church of St. Andrew and St. Paul, and the Moderator of the 142<sup>nd</sup> annual synod meeting, the Rev. John Vaudry. Music was provided by Mr. Matthew Johnson, Organ Scholar. The scripture lesson was from Romans 5:1-11 and the message given by the Rev. John Vaudry was entitled "Justified by faith". The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper was celebrated.

Following the worship service, a short break was held.

**SYNOD CONSTITUTED**

At 3:15 o'clock in the afternoon, the Moderator, the Rev. John Vaudry constituted the Synod with prayer in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, the only King and Head of the Church, to transact all the business which might properly come before it.

**MEMORIAL SERVICE**

The clerk read the names of elders within the synod who had died during the previous year, followed by the reading of memorial minutes for the Rev. Dr. Joseph C. McLelland and the Rev. Dr. William J. Klempa.

**Presbytery of Québec**

No names received.

**Presbytery of Montréal**

1. The Rev. Dr. Joseph C. McLelland, December 20, 2016
2. The Rev. Dr. William J. Klempa, March 4, 2017

1. Mrs. Jean Macdonald, Taiwanese Robert Campbell Church, August 4, 2017

**Presbytery of Seaway-Glengarry**

1. Ray Smollett, Riverview Church (formerly Knox), Iroquois, November 14, 2016
2. Shirley Margaret Warner, St. John's Church, Cornwall, February 24, 2017
3. Lorraine Dobbie, St. Andrew's-Knox Church, Spencerville, May 30, 2017
4. Ronald Sullivan, St. John's Church, Cornwall, August 21, 2017

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Clerk:

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**Memorial Service (cont'd):**

**Presbytery of Ottawa**

1. George Brown, Grace Church, Orleans, November 2, 2016
2. George Owen Toller, St. Timothy's Church, Ottawa, December 13, 2016
3. Raymond Baker Pepperdine, Knox Church, Ottawa, December 22, 2016
4. Ena McMahon, Westminster Church, Ottawa, May 5, 2017
5. Glaister (Roy) McKain, Knox Church, Ottawa, May 24, 2017
6. Doreen Annette McCully, St. Timothy's Church, Ottawa, August 16, 2017
7. Robert Bell, St. Andrew's Church, Kars, October 2, 2017

**Presbytery of Lanark & Renfrew**

No names received.

The Moderator, the Rev. John Vaudry, offered a prayer of thanksgiving for the faithful life, service, witness and dedication to the Church, by all the servants who had passed on.

MOTION: It was moved by Donna McIlveen and seconded by Barbara Fotheringham that the memorial records presented to the synod be included in the minutes of the 141<sup>st</sup> synod meeting. ADOPTED.

The Memorial Records for the Rev. Dr. Joseph C. McLelland and the Rev. Dr. William J. Klempa, are found in the appendix to these minutes.

**WELCOME**

On behalf of the session and congregation of The Church of St. Andrew and St. Paul, Montréal, and the Rev. Dr. Glenn Chestnutt, Lead Minister, the Rev. Dr. Kay Diviney welcomed the members of synod, visitors and guests to the 143<sup>rd</sup> annual meeting of the Synod of Québec and Eastern Ontario.

**THE ROLL OF SYNOD**

**Recommendation No. 1**

MOTION: It was moved by Donna McIlveen and seconded by Barbara Fotheringham that the Roll of Synod be those Commissioners appointed by its several presbyteries. ADOPTED.

**Presbytery of Quebec**

The Rev. Katherine Burgess  
The Rev. Barbara Fotheringham

Ms. Gina Farnell \*\*  
Mr. Harry Brown\*

**Presbytery of Montreal**

Rev. Sampson Afoakwah  
Rev. Stephen Azundem  
Rev. Richard Bonetto  
Rev. Joel Coppieters  
Rev. Dr. Barry Mack

Mr. David Christiani  
Ms. Anita Mack  
Ms. Margarita Medina-Ibanez  
Ms. Moira Robson  
Mr. Donald Walcot

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Clerk:

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**Roll – Regrets (cont’d):**

**Presbytery of Seaway-Glengarry**

The Rev. Samer Kandalaft

The Rev. Cheryl Gaver

The Rev. Ian MacLean

Mr. James Purcell

Mrs. Donna McIlveen

**Presbytery of Ottawa**

The Rev. William Ball

The Rev. Douglas Kendall

The Rev. Floyd McPhee

The Rev. James Pot

The Rev. Grant Wilson

Ms. Debi Brown

Mr. Peter Lamont

Ms. Olive O’May

Ms. Sharon Stewart

Mr. Gordon Walford

**Presbytery of Lanark and Renfrew**

The Rev. Jill Turnbull

The Rev. John Vaudry

Note: \* regrets

underlined name indicates a member of Synod Council

\*\* regrets Friday only

Regrets from Synod Council:

Mrs. Phyllis McNab (Clerk to the Presbytery of Lanark and Renfrew).

**VISITORS**

The Past Moderator welcomed the visitors to the synod meeting.

Synod Council:

The Rev. Ross Davidson (Synod Treasurer); Dr. Michael Pettem (Clerk to the Presbytery of Montréal); the Rev. James T. Hurd (Clerk to the Presbytery of Ottawa); Ms. Patricia Grainger (WMS Synodical President).

Others:

Mr. Craig Dewar (Camp d’action biblique); the Rev. Susan Smith (Presbytery of Québec); Ms. Gloria Purcell (Presbytery of Seaway-Glengarry); the Rev. Shahrzad Kandalaft (Presbytery of Ottawa); and Ms. Jennifer de Combe (Associate Secretary, Canadian Ministries).

MOTION: It was moved by Donna McIlveen and seconded by Barbara Fotheringham that the courtesies of the court, to sit and correspond, be extended to the visitors. **ADOPTED.**

**ELECTION OF THE MODERATOR**

The time having come to elect a Moderator to preside over the 143<sup>rd</sup> annual meeting of the Synod of Québec and Eastern Ontario, the clerk reported that one nomination for Moderator had been received from three of the five presbyteries within the bounds of the Synod of Québec and Eastern Ontario. By rotation the nominees were to come from the Presbytery of Québec. The nominees were: from the Presbytery of Québec, the Presbytery of Seaway-Glengarry and the Presbytery of Ottawa, the Rev. Katherine Burgess. The clerk contacted the nominee prior to the synod meeting and she indicated her willingness to let her nomination stand.

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Clerk:

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**Election of Moderator (cont'd):**

MOTION: It was moved by Donna McIlveen and seconded by Barbara Fotheringham that the name of the Rev. Katherine Burgess be placed before the Synod of Québec and Eastern Ontario as a nominee for Moderator of the 143<sup>rd</sup> synod meeting. ADOPTED.

The Moderator, the Rev. John Vaudry, called for nominations from the floor. There were no further nominations.

MOTION: It was moved by Donna McIlveen and seconded by Barbara Fotheringham that nominations cease. ADOPTED.

The Moderator, the Rev. John Vaudry, declared the Rev. Katherine Burgess elected Moderator of the 143<sup>rd</sup> Synod of Québec and Eastern Ontario.

**INSTALLATION OF THE MODERATOR**

Moderator elect, the Rev. Katherine Burgess was invited to step forward. The Moderator, the Rev. John Vaudry, asked the court the appointed questions, followed by the appointed questions to the moderator elect. The Rev. John Vaudry then offered prayer and installed the Rev. Katherine Burgess as Moderator of the 143<sup>rd</sup> Synod of Québec and Eastern Ontario. The Rev. John Vaudry then offered the right hand of fellowship to the Rev. Katherine Burgess.

The Rev. Katherine Burgess thanked the Court for the privilege of serving as Moderator of the 143<sup>rd</sup> annual Synod meeting.

The Moderator then thanked the Rev. John Vaudry for his leadership service to the Court this past year.

The Rev. John Vaudry thanked the court for the confidence placed in him this past year.

The court showed its appreciation with a round of applause.

**MINUTES OF PRESBYTERIES AND SYNOD COUNCIL**

The Synod called for the minutes of the several presbyteries within the bounds, and the minutes of the synod council, that they might be placed in the hands of the Committee to Examine Minutes.

The clerk announced that the minutes from the Presbytery of Québec, the Presbytery of Montréal, the Presbytery of Seaway-Glengarry, the Presbytery of Ottawa, and the synod council were available for examination.

The minutes from the Presbytery of Lanark and Renfrew were not available.

MOTION: It was moved by Donna McIlveen and seconded by Barbara Fotheringham that a Special Commission be established consisting of Gordon Walford and James T. Hurd and that they be given power to examine and attest the minutes from the Presbytery of Lanark and Renfrew and to report on their attestation at the 144<sup>th</sup> annual synod meeting in 2018. ADOPTED.

**REPORTS**

MOTION: It was moved by Donna McIlveen and seconded by Barbara Fotheringham that all reports circulated in advance of the 143<sup>rd</sup> annual synod meeting be received and considered. ADOPTED.

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Clerk:

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**ADOPTION OF THE DOCKET**

Under Fourth Sederunt: the date was corrected from the 17<sup>th</sup> to the 21<sup>st</sup> of October.

MOTION: It was moved by Donna McIlveen and seconded by Barbara Fotheringham that the proposed docket, as corrected, be approved. ADOPTED.

**MINUTES OF THE 142<sup>nd</sup> ANNUAL SYNOD MEETING**

The minutes of the 142<sup>nd</sup> annual meeting of the Synod of Québec and Eastern Ontario were posted on the synod website, with each presbytery receiving two print copies.

**Correction: page 21**

The names of the mover and seconder are missing with Recommendations 11, 13, and 14. The recommendations were moved by James T. Hurd and seconded by Barbara Fotheringham.

MOTION: It was moved by Ian MacLean and seconded by Gordon Walford that the minutes of the 142<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the Synod of Québec and Eastern Ontario be adopted, as corrected. ADOPTED.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

MOTION: It was moved by Donna McIlveen and seconded by Peter Lamont that the following items of correspondence be received. ADOPTED.

1. Camp d'action biblique. CAB 2016 Winter Newsletter, 2017 CAB schedule and Christmas card thanking the Synod for its continued support. Rec'd December 19, 2016.
2. Jen de Combe, Associate Secretary, Canadian Ministries. Letter with request for the synod to name one non-staff member to serve on a consultation group made up of representatives from each synod to get feedback about the needs and value of the Regional Resourcing Grants programme, so that eventually terms of reference for the *Regional Resourcing Grants* programme can be prepared. Rec'd June 5, 2017.

MOTION: It was moved by Barbara Fotheringham and seconded by Richard Bonetto that Donna McIlveen, synod clerk, be named to the Canadian Ministries consultation group established to receive feedback about the needs and value of the Regional Resourcing Grants programme. ADOPTED.

3. Assembly Office. Synod Minutes from the 141<sup>st</sup> annual meeting in 2015 returned after examination by the 143<sup>rd</sup> General Assembly – attested as neatly kept with note. Rec'd June 26, 2017.
4. Jennifer de Combe, Associate Secretary, Canadian Ministries. Letter noting that the 143<sup>rd</sup> General Assembly approved the 2018 budget for regional resourcing as presented, and the funds available for the Synod in 2018 are \$61,986. Rec'd July 10, 2017.
5. Stephen Kendall, Principal Clerk. Letter with (1) actions of the 2017 General Assembly for attention of synods, and (2) dates for submission of petitions (Tuesday, April 3, 2018) and overtures (referred: Thursday, February 1, 2018; unrefereed, Tuesday, April 3, 2018). Rec'd August 28, 2017.

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Clerk:

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**Correspondence (cont'd):**

6. Re: Nominations for Synod Moderator:
  - (a) from the Presbytery of Seaway-Glengarry: Katherine Burgess. Rec'd June 12, 2017
  - (b) from the Presbytery of Ottawa: Katherine Burgess. Rec'd June 20, 2017
  - (c) from the Presbytery of Québec: Katherine Burgess. Rec'd June 29, 2017
7. Michael Pettem, Clerk to the Presbytery of Montréal. Extract minute stating the wish of the Presbytery that the Synod be dissolved. Rec'd October 19, 2017.

MOTION: It was moved by Donna McIlveen and seconded by Richard Bonetto that the correspondence report, including its recommendation, be adopted. ADOPTED.

**INTRODUCTION OF JENNIFER DE COMBE**

The Moderator welcomed to the court Jennifer de Combe, Associate Secretary, Canadian Ministries. Jennifer de Combe thanked the Synod of Québec and Eastern Ontario for the opportunity to be present for the annual meeting, and invited anyone with questions about the work of Canadian Ministries to speak to her. She brought greetings from the staff at national offices in Toronto, Ontario and noted that every Monday prayer is offered up by the national staff for the synods across the country.

**COMMITTEE ON BUSINESS**

MOTION: It was moved by Donna McIlveen and seconded by Joel Coppieters that the Report of the Committee on Business be received and considered. ADOPTED.

**Consent Recommendation**

It was moved by John Vaudry and seconded by Donna McIlveen that Recommendation Nos. 2-11 be adopted by consent. ADOPTED.

**Recommendation No. 2**

That attendance be recorded in the Synod's Register, and travel expenses be paid upon authorization of the Finance Committee in consultation with the Committee on the Roll and Leave to Withdraw.

**Recommendation No. 3**

That members of Synod Council be invited and expected to attend the meeting of Synod, and that, if necessary, their expenses be paid on the same basis as those of synod members.

**Recommendation No. 4**

That commissioners desiring to leave the Synod early, receive permission from the court through the Committee on the Roll and Leave to Withdraw.

**Recommendation No. 5**

That the Committee on the Roll and Leave to Withdraw be Sampson Afoakwah and Joel Coppieters from the Presbytery of Montréal.

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Clerk:

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**Committee on Business (cont'd):**

**Recommendation No. 6**

That the Committee to Examine Presbytery Minutes and Minutes of the Synod Council be convened by John Vaudry from the Presbytery of Lanark & Renfrew, together with Grant Wilson and Olive O'May from the Presbytery of Ottawa, and that permission be granted to work during the meeting as necessary.

**Recommendation No. 7**

That the Committee on Courtesies be Ian MacLean and James Purcell from the Presbytery of Seaway-Glengarry.

**Recommendation No. 8**

That the Committee to review the Minutes of the meeting of the 142<sup>nd</sup> Synod of Quebec and Eastern Ontario be the Moderator of Synod and the Clerk of the Presbytery of Québec.

**Recommendation No. 9**

That Synod Council be authorized to fill any vacancies which may occur within the membership of Synod Committees prior to the next Synod meeting.

**Recommendation No. 10**

That the Synod Council be given power to issue, to advance any nominations to the General Assembly Committee to Nominate on behalf of the Synod, and to encourage members to consider the various committee and agencies for possible nominations to them.

**Recommendation No. 11**

That the Moderator and the immediate Past Moderator, in consultation with the synod clerk and synod council, be appointed the Commission on Unfinished Business.

It was agreed to consider Recommendations No. 12 and 13 from the Committee on Business at a later sederunt.

**Break** – a break was held from 3:50 – 4:00 pm.

**Motion from the floor**

The following motion was brought forward from the floor, moved by Peter Lamont and seconded by Doug Kendall,

That:

This assembly go on record as deploring the vilification of Muslim women who under Bill 62 (entitled 'An Act to Foster Adherence to State Religious Neutrality') are denied provincial government services in Québec simply for choosing to wear face-covering clothing, such as niqab or burqa, that manifests, for them, their faith in God.

And that:

The Moderator of the Synod write to the Premier of Québec, with a copy to the Minister of Justice of Québec, in these terms, and the web-servant post the letter to the web-site of the synod.

It was agreed that consideration of the motion be deferred to a later sederunt.

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Clerk:

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**SPECIAL COMMITTEE RE: POSSIBLE DISSOLUTION OF SYNOD**

The following recommendation was adopted at the 142<sup>nd</sup> annual synod meeting:

That a special committee be struck to investigate the advisability of dissolving the synod and the ramifications and necessary contingencies should the synod be dissolved, and that the five presbyteries earnestly consider the future configuration and organization of the presbyteries and communicate their respective positions to the synod special committee.

The Moderator of the 142<sup>nd</sup> annual synod meeting named the following persons to the special committee:

David Christiani, convener, Karen Dimock, Jill Turnbull, Geoff Howard, James T. Hurd.

An advisory report was prepared by the Special Committee, and at the beginning of September 2017 it was circulated to the presbyteries within the bounds of the Synod and posted to the synod website.

**Recommendation No. 1**

It was moved by David Christiani and seconded by Jill Turnbull that the Synod receive and consider the committee's advisory report.

David Christiani spoke to the recommendation.

On being put to the vote, Recommendation No. 1 was ADOPTED.

**Recommendation No. 2**

It was moved by David Christiani and seconded by Jill Turnbull that the five constituent presbyteries should study the report and make an effort to re-envision and re-imagine what the synod is – why it exists – what its purpose is – and how can it best fulfill its purpose.

No matter which direction the conversation takes on the floor of Synod, the commissioners need to keep in mind that:

- The dissolution of the synod, or continuation of the synod, does not need to be unanimously supported by presbyteries.
- Even if two presbyteries support the pro position and three espouse the con position, the ultimate decision will be based on the vote of the commissioners present in October.
- Commissioners should therefore be well familiar with the contents of this report as they formulate their own views and decide how to vote.
- If the synod adopts our recommendation 2, then the presbyteries would have a year to study and to respond. The final decision on the question of supporting dissolution may well not be made until 2019.
- If there is sufficient support to pursue dissolution, the dissolution plan would be forwarded to the General Assembly for its consideration and decision. This regime would only therefore be in place in 2019.

Discussion on Recommendation No. 2 ensued.

The question was called for. It was agreed to take an immediate vote.

On being put to the vote Recommendation No. 2 was DEFEATED.

A count of the vote was requested.

The clerk indicated that there were 6 votes in favour and 18 votes against.

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Clerk:



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**Special Committee re: Possible Dissolution of Synod (cont'd):**

MOTION: It was moved by Jim Pot and seconded by Cheryl Gaver that Synod appoint a special committee to develop a plan to re-imagine its role and function and report back to the 144th Synod in 2018.

AMENDMENT: It was moved by Ian MacLean and seconded by Jim Purcell that the following words be added to the end of the motion: 'in consultation with the presbyteries'.

Discussion on the amendment.

On being put to the vote the amendment was DEFEATED.

Discussion on the motion continued.

MOTION TO TABLE: It was moved by Ian MacLean and seconded by Samer Kandalaft that the motion be tabled. ADOPTED.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE**

At 5:15 pm the Moderator called for the Finance Committee report.

1. Treasurer's Report

Ross Davidson, treasurer, presented the following reports:

a) Auditor's Letter for 2016

b) Treasurer's Report on Synod Finances from January 1, 2016 to December 31, 2016

**Recommendation No. 1**

It was moved by Barbara Fotheringham and seconded by Barry Mack that the Auditor's Letter of 2016 be received and the Treasurer's Report on Synod Finances from January 1, 2016 to December 31, 2016 be adopted. ADOPTED.

c) Treasurer's Report on Synod Finances from January 1, 2017 to October 15, 2017

**Recommendation No. 2**

It was moved by Barbara Fotheringham and seconded by Barry Mack that the Treasurer's Report on Synod Finances from January 1, 2017 to October 15, 2017 be received for information. ADOPTED.

d) Treasurer's Forecast for Synod Finances to December 31, 2017

**Recommendation No. 3**

It was moved by Barbara Fotheringham and seconded by Barry Mack that the Treasurer's Forecast for Synod Finances to December 31, 2017, be received for information. ADOPTED.

**Recommendation No. 4**

It was moved by Gordon Walford and seconded by Richard Bonetto that Suzanne Aubre be engaged to review the Synod financial statements for the year 2017. ADOPTED.

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**Finance Committee (cont'd):**

2. Budget and Assessments 2018

MOTION: It was moved by Debi Brown and seconded by Doug Kendall that the Finance Committee report, including the 2018 proposed expenditure budget, the 2018 proposed presbytery assessments, and the 5-year forecast, and the dollar base by presbytery five-year trend, be received and considered. **ADOPTED.**

Gordon Walford, Finance Committee convener, introduced the 2018 budget.

Discussion on the 2018 budget ensued.

MOTION: It was moved by Ian MacLean and seconded by Richard Bonetto that further consideration of the Finance Committee report, including the 2018 proposed budget of expenditures, the 2018 proposed presbytery assessments, the 5-year forecast, and the dollar base by presbytery five-year trend, be deferred to a later sederunt. **ADOPTED.**

**COMMITTEE RE SEXUAL ABUSE AND SEXUAL HARASSMENT**

Katherine Burgess, committee convener, indicated that there was no report.

**SYNOD WEBSERVANT**

Gordon Walford, Synod Webservant, presented the report.

The synod website is a tremendous asset, resource and vital communication tool. It contains contact information for congregations and clergy within the bounds, and is updated on a regular basis. The website is the main source of communication for the synod meeting, providing information for commissioners including reports.

The Moderator thanked Gordon Walford for his service to the Synod.

MOTION: It was moved by Gordon Walford and seconded by Barbara Fotheringham that the report of the Synod Webservant be adopted. **ADOPTED.**

**SYNOD HISTORIAN**

John Vaudry, Synod Historian, presented the report.

The Synod Historian report makes note of the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Confederation, the passing of Dr. William Klempa and Dr. Joseph McLelland, the Canadian Society of Presbyterian History, the Five Solas events, and the completion of the digitized form of the book *Enduring Witness*.

MOTION: It was moved by John Vaudry and seconded by Cheryl Gaver that the report of the Synod Historian be adopted. **ADOPTED.**

**WMS SYNODICAL**

Patricia Grainger, WMS Synodical President, presented the report.

The report highlighted two events participated in by members of the WMS Synodical in 2017: The National Woman's Gathering held in Richmond Hill, Ontario from May 19<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup>, and the fall meeting of WMS Synodical, held in Kemptonville, Ontario on October 14<sup>th</sup>.

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Clerk:

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**WMS Synodical (cont'd):**

MOTION: It was moved by Doug Kendall and seconded by Ian MacLean that the report of the WMS Synodical be adopted. ADOPTED.

**Motion from page 7**

The Moderator asked that the motion be read once more:

MOTION: It was moved by Peter Lamont and seconded by Doug Kendall that this assembly go on record as deploring the vilification of Muslim women who under Bill 62 (entitled ‘An Act to Foster Adherence to State Religious Neutrality’) are denied provincial government services in Québec simply for choosing to wear face-covering clothing, such as niqab or burqa, that manifests, for them, their faith in God;  
And that the Moderator of the Synod write to the Premier of Québec, with a copy to the Minister of Justice of Québec, in these terms, and the web-servant post the letter to the web-site of the synod.

Discussion on the motion ensued.

**Time:** The hour for adjournment having arrived, the Moderator called time.

**COMMITTEE ON THE ROLL AND LEAVE TO WITHDRAW**

MOTION: It was moved by Sampson Afoakwah and seconded by Joel Coppieters that leave to withdraw be granted to Stephen Azundem, David Christiani and Doug Kendall for the second sederunt and Grant Wilson at 11:30 in the third sederunt. ADOPTED.

**ADJOURNMENT**

MOTION: It was moved by Grant Wilson and seconded by Ian MacLean that the Synod adjourn. ADOPTED.

The Moderator, at six-ten o'clock in the evening, adjourned the Synod to reconvene at seven o'clock in the evening in the same place.

The sederunt was closed with prayer by the Moderator.

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Moderator

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Clerk

**SECOND SEDERUNT**

On Friday, the twentieth day of October, two thousand and seventeen, at seven fifteen o'clock in the evening within The Church of St. Andrew and St. Paul, Montréal, Québec, the Synod met pursuant to adjournment.

The Moderator constituted the Synod with prayer.

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Clerk:

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**GUEST SPEAKER**

The Moderator invited Dr. Jason Zuidema to address the court. His theme address was entitled “Justification by Faith and the Christian Life: Luther's Insight for Today” marking the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Reformation.

Dr. Jason Zuidema, using a power-point presentation which included magnificent images and descriptions from the time of the Reformation, brought Luther’s insights to the synod gathering with a captivating address. He spoke on the divisions of Protestantism, the need for reformation – both morally and doctrinally – purgatory, indulgences, translating the Bible into the language of the people, the 95 Theses, justification, sanctification, and Luther’s ultimate desire to call people to faith.

The Moderator thanked Dr. Jason Zuidema for his passionate and informative presentation. The Synod showed its appreciation with a round of applause.

**COMMITTEE ON THE ROLL AND LEAVE TO WITHDRAW**

The committee reported that there were no requests at this time.

**ADJOURNMENT**

MOTION: It was moved by Ian MacLean and seconded by Donna McIlveen that the Synod adjourn. ADOPTED.

The Moderator, at eight-fifty o’clock in the evening, adjourned the Synod to reconvene at nine o’clock Saturday morning, in the same place.

The sederunt was closed with prayer by the Moderator.

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Moderator

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Clerk

**THIRD SEDERUNT**

On Saturday, the twenty-first day of October, two thousand and seventeen, at nine o’clock in the morning within The Church of St. Andrew and St. Paul, Montréal, Québec, the Synod met pursuant to adjournment.

The Moderator, the Rev. Katherine Burgess, led in a time of worship. The scripture lesson was from John 15:1-5 and the message was entitled “Grace”. Piano accompaniment for the hymns was provided by Ross Davidson.

Following worship, the Moderator constituted the Synod with prayer at nine-twenty o’clock in the morning.

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Clerk:

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**The 143<sup>rd</sup> annual meeting of the Synod of Québec and Eastern Ontario**

The Church of St. Andrew and St. Paul, Montréal, Québec

Friday and Saturday, October 20<sup>th</sup> and October 21<sup>st</sup>, 2017

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**REGIONAL RESOURCING COMMITTEE**

MOTION: It was moved by Doug Kendall and seconded by Barbara Fotheringham that the report of the Regional Resourcing Committee be received and considered. ADOPTED.

The report was prepared by Barry Carr, past Convener.

It was noted by the clerk that the synod council accepted his resignation, with regret, at their September 21<sup>st</sup>, 2017 meeting.

The committee remains without a convener.

It was noted that the 2017 General Assembly approved a Regional Resourcing grant for the Synod of Québec and Eastern Ontario. The amount available to the synod, upon request and approval, is \$61,986.00.

In the absence of a convener, presbyteries, congregations and camps are invited to forward proposals to the synod clerk, and they will be forwarded to the committee for consideration.

Joel Coppieters thanked the committee for the Regional Resourcing grant given to the Presbytery of Montréal to assist with the project of translating the Book of Forms into the French language. The project is nearing completion.

MOTION: It was moved by Doug Kendall and seconded by Barbara Fotheringham that the report from the Regional Resourcing Committee be adopted. ADOPTED.

**MISSION / ROBERT FUND COMMITTEE**

MOTION: It was moved by Barry Mack and seconded by Joel Coppieters that the report of the Mission Committee be received and considered. ADOPTED.

The report was presented by Barry Mack, convener.

Robert Fund Requests

The committee was informed by Canadian Ministries that there is \$29,983.85 available for distribution this year in the “Reserve for Home Mission Quebec” (the designated label for monies generated by the Robert Fund).

The suggested allocation is as follows:

1. \$18,000 to Camp d'action biblique (CAB).
2. The balance (\$11,983.85) to be directed to the Presbytery of Montreal, for francophone work within its bounds, including such groups as Communité Chretienne Siloé and Église St Luc. Once Canadian Ministries allocations for 2018 are known, proper applications for Robert Fund monies received and Presbytery approval for such applications has been granted (as per the 1979 terms of reference), monies would be released by vote of Presbytery.

**Recommendation No. 1**

It was moved by Barry Mack and seconded by Joel Coppieters that for 2018, the income generated by the Robert Fund be distributed as follows: 1) \$18,000 to Camp d'action Biblique (CAB) and 2) \$11,983.85 to the Presbytery of Montreal, under the terms specified above. ADOPTED.

MOTION: It was moved by Barry Mack and seconded by Joel Coppieters that the report of the Mission Committee, with its recommendation, be adopted. ADOPTED.

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Clerk:

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**REPORT OF THE PRESBYTERY OF OTTAWA**

**Re: Oversight of The Board of Directors for the Gracefield Christian Camp and Retreat Centre**

MOTION: It was moved by Debi Brown and seconded by Sharon Stewart that the report of the Presbytery of Ottawa re oversight of the Board of Directors for the Gracefield Christian Camp and Retreat Centre, be received and considered. ADOPTED.

James T. Hurd, clerk to the Presbytery of Ottawa, presented the Oversight Report.

The following documents are appended to the report.

1. Financial Statements re GCCRC
  - a. 2016 Financial Review report
  - b. Balance Sheet Previous Year Comparison as of 31 December 2016
  - c. Profit & Loss Budget vs Actual, January – December 2016
  - d. Profit & Loss Previous Years Comparison, January – December 2016
  - e. Notes to 2016 financial statements
2. Board of Directors Report to the Presbytery of Ottawa, September 19, 2017
3. Water and Septic Capital Improvement Project – Financial Overview 2003-2017
4. Water and Septic Project Financial Plan

It was noted that the Executive Director vacancy has been filled. Mr. Bruce Howard began his duties on October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2017.

The work on the new septic system for White Pine Lodge is underway.

A brief time of questions and answers was held.

MOTION: It was moved by Debi Brown and seconded by Sharon Stewart that the report from the Presbytery of Ottawa regarding Oversight of the Board of Directors of the Gracefield Christian Camp and Retreat Centre, be adopted. ADOPTED.

**CAMP D’ACTION BIBLIQUE**

MOTION: It was moved by Barry Mack and seconded by Anita Mack that the report from Camp d’action biblique (CAB) be received and considered. ADOPTED.

Craig Dewar, on behalf of the CAB Committee, presented the report.

The report was accompanied by a photo presentation: Summer 2017 in pictures.

The following documents are appended to the report.

1. Financial Statement to December 31, 2016
2. 2018 Camp Schedule

A brief time of questions and answers was held.

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Clerk:

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**Camp d'action biblique (cont'd):**

MOTION: It was moved by Barry Mack and seconded by Anita Mack that the report from Camp d'action biblique (CAB), be adopted. ADOPTED.

The Moderator thanked both presenters for their reports and for sharing with the Synod a sense of the dedication and enthusiasm offered by the workers and volunteers associated with each camp, and for their commitment to camping ministry.

**Motion from page 7, discussion on page 11**

Discussion resumed on the motion initially presented in the first sederunt.

Michael Pettem shared the report prepared by the Presbytery of Montréal on Bill 60 (2014) for the commissioners' information.

Discussion continued on the motion.

The question was called for.

It was agreed to take an immediate vote. On being put to the vote, the motion was DEFEATED. A count of the vote was requested. The clerk indicated that there were 9 votes in favour and 17 votes against.

**Break** – a break was held from 10:30 – 10:45 am.

**SPECIAL COMMITTEE RE POSSIBLE DISSOLUTION OF SYNOD**

(continued from page 9)

ADDITIONAL MOTION: It was moved by Grant Wilson and seconded by Debi Brown that the Synod of Québec and Eastern Ontario begin the process of dissolution with the close of this (2017) Synod by striking a special committee to negotiate and formulate terms to ensure the continued support of our various presbyteries and camps.

Discussion on the additional motion ensued.

The question was called for.

A count of the vote was requested.

On being put to the vote, the motion was DEFEATED.

The clerk indicated that there were 9 votes in favour and 16 votes against.

MOTION TO LIFT FROM THE TABLE: It was moved by Jim Pot and seconded by Cheryl Gaver to lift the motion from the table. ADOPTED.

(motion lifted from the table)

MOTION: It was moved by Jim Pot and seconded by Cheryl Gaver that Synod appoint a special committee to develop a plan to re-imagine its role and function and report back to the 144th Synod in 2018.

AMENDMENT: It was moved by Barry Mack and seconded by John Vaudry that Synod Council consider and reimagine the role and function of Synod and develop a plan to accomplish the goals of synod with reduced resources and report back to the 144th meeting of synod in 2018.

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Clerk:

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**The 143<sup>rd</sup> annual meeting of the Synod of Québec and Eastern Ontario**

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**Special Committee re: Possible Dissolution of Synod (cont'd):**

It was agreed to add the words: ‘including input and feedback from presbyteries and sessions’ at the end of the amendment.

The Amendment reads as follows:

That Synod Council consider and reimagine the role and function of Synod and develop a plan to accomplish the goals of synod with reduced resources and report back to the 144th meeting of synod in 2018, including input and feedback from presbyteries and sessions.

Discussion on the amendment ensued.

A motion to take an immediate vote was DEFEATED.

Discussion continued.

On being put to the vote the amendment was ADOPTED.

Discussion ensued on the motion as amended.

It is understood that resources mean not just finances, but people.

On being put to the vote the motion as amended was ADOPTED.

**COMMITTEE TO EXAMINE THE MINUTES OF THE PRESBYTERIES  
AND THE SYNOD COUNCIL**

MOTION: It was moved by John Vaudry and seconded by Olive O’May that the report of the Committee to examine the Minutes of the Presbyteries and Synod Council be received and considered. ADOPTED.

**Recommendation No.1**

It was moved by John Vaudry and seconded by Olive O’May that the minutes of the Synod Council, the Presbytery of Montréal, the Presbytery of Seaway-Glengarry and the Presbytery of Ottawa, be attested as neatly and correctly kept, and the minutes of the Presbytery of Québec be attested with notes. ADOPTED.

MOTION: It was moved by John Vaudry and seconded by Olive O’May that the report of the Committee to Examine the Minutes of the Presbyteries and the Synod Council be adopted. ADOPTED.

**COMMITTEE ON ROLL AND LEAVE TO WITHDRAW**

MOTION: It was moved by Sampson Afoakwah and seconded by Joel Coppieters that leave to withdraw be granted to William Ball and Jill Turnbull for the fourth sederunt. ADOPTED.

**ADJOURNMENT**

MOTION: It was moved by Joel Coppieters and seconded by Donna McIlveen that the Synod adjourn. ADOPTED.

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Clerk:



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The Moderator, at eleven fifty o'clock in the morning, adjourned the Synod to reconvene at twelve forty-five o'clock in the afternoon in the same place.

The sederunt was closed with prayer by the Moderator.

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Moderator

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Clerk

**FOURTH SEDERUNT**

On Saturday, the twenty-first day of October, two thousand and seventeen, at twelve-forty o'clock in the afternoon within The Church of St. Andrew and St. Paul, Montréal, Québec, the Synod met pursuant to adjournment.

The Moderator constituted the court with prayer.

**SPECIAL COMMITTEE RE POSSIBLE DISSOLUTION OF SYNOD**

(continued from page 16)

MOTION: It was moved by Gordon Walford and seconded by John Vaudry that the report of the Special Committee re Possible Dissolution of Synod, as a whole and amended, be adopted. ADOPTED.

MOTION: It was moved by Gordon Walford and seconded by John Vaudry that the Special Committee re Possible Dissolution of Synod be discharged, with thanks. ADOPTED.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE**

(continued from page 10)

Discussion on the 2018 budget documents resumed.

**Recommendation No. 1**

It was moved by Gordon Walford and seconded by Richard Bonetto that the expenditure budget for 2018 be \$103,167.17.

Discussion on Recommendation No. 1 ensued.

On being put to the vote, Recommendation No. 1 was ADOPTED.

**Recommendation No. 2**

It was moved by Gordon Walford and seconded by Debi Brown that the proposed presbytery assessments for 2018 be adopted. ADOPTED.

**Recommendation No. 3**

It was moved by Gordon Walford and seconded by Debi Brown that the five-year forecast from 2018-2022 and the dollar base trend by presbytery, be received for information. ADOPTED.

MOTION: It was moved by Gordon Walford and seconded by Donald Walcot that the report of the Finance Committee, as a whole and amended, be adopted. ADOPTED.

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Clerk:

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**COMMITTEE ON BUSINESS**

(continued from page 7)

**Synod Committees (Recommendation No. 12)**

**Synod Committees**

**Synod Council – Committee to Nominate**

Moderator, Past Moderator, Clerk, Treasurer, Clerks of the Presbyteries, Conveners of the Standing Committees, and a Representative of the WMS Synodical.

**Finance Committee**

Gordon Walford (Convener), Synod Treasurer (Ross Davidson), 5 Presbytery Treasurers/Finance Conveners/or designate: Vickie Blouin (Québec), Brian Ruse (Montréal), Ian MacMillan (Seaway-Glengarry), Noral Rebin (Ottawa), and Brenda Postma or alternate (Lanark and Renfrew).

**Mission Committee / Robert Fund**

Barry Mack (Convener), representatives from the 5 Presbytery Mission Committees: Vickie Blouin (Québec), Richard Bonetto (Montréal), Jim Ferrier (Seaway-Glengarry), Denise Allen-Macartney or designate (Ottawa), Joan Hilliard (Lanark & Renfrew), and Richard Bonetto (representing Francophone ministries within the Presbyteries of Québec and Montréal) and the Synodical President.

**The Regional Resourcing Committee**

\_\_\_\_ (vacant) \_\_\_\_ (Convener), \_\_\_\_ (vacant) \_\_\_\_ (Lanark & Renfrew), Barbara Fotheringham (Québec), Samy Said (Montréal), Geoff Howard (Seaway-Glengarry), Tony Boonstra (Ottawa), Shahrzad Kandalaf (Gracefield) and Craig Dewar (CAB).

**Synod Historian** – John Vaudry.

**Pension Board – Synod Corresponding Representative** - Synod Treasurer.

**Committee re Sexual Abuse and Sexual Harassment**

Katherine Burgess (Convener), with representation from the various presbyteries: presbytery clerk as contact (Québec), Jocelyn MacKay (Montréal); Mark Bourgon and Ian MacLean (Seaway-Glengarry); John J. Young (Ottawa) and Joan Hilliard (Lanark & Renfrew).

**Synod Web-Site** – Webservant, Gordon Walford.

**Synod Web-Site Oversight Committee** – Gordon Walford, John Davidson and clerk.

**Synod Representative to the Committee to Nominate Standing Committees of the General Assembly**

- Barry Mack (2017-2020)

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Clerk:

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**Committee on Business (cont'd):**

**Recommendation No. 12**

It was moved by Donna McIlveen and seconded by Peter Lamont that the above be the Synod Committees for 2017-2018. ADOPTED.

**Recommendation No. 13**

It was moved by Donna McIlveen and seconded by Peter Lamont that the 144<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Synod of Québec and Eastern Ontario be held within the bounds of the Presbytery of Seaway-Glengarry on Friday, October 19<sup>th</sup> and Saturday, October 20<sup>th</sup>, 2018, with the location to be set by the synod council. ADOPTED.

MOTION: It was moved by Donna McIlveen and seconded by Barbara Fotheringham that the Committee on Business report, as a whole, be adopted. ADOPTED.

**COMMITTEE ON COURTESIES**

MOTION: It was moved by Ian MacLean and seconded by James Purcell that the report of the Committee on Courtesies be received and considered. ADOPTED.

The Synod expresses its thanks to God for the service of the following individuals and groups for enriching the 143rd annual synod meeting:

To the Ministers, Session and congregation of The Church of St. Andrew and St. Paul for graciously hosting us in their beautiful historic building.

Thanks to The Guild for the wonderful feasts they have prepared.

To all the worship leaders John Vaudry, Kay Diviney, Matthew Johnson (Organist), Katherine Burgess and Ross Davidson (pianist) for sharing their gifts of praise and prayer throughout our time together.

To John Vaudry serving as Moderator of the last synod, and to Katherine Burgess for serving as Moderator of the present synod.

To the conference speaker, Dr. Jason Zuidema for his presentations on the theme “Justification by Faith and the Christian Life: Luther’s Insight’s for Today.

To Ross Davidson for his service to the Synod as treasurer, and to Donna McIlveen as Clerk.

To Gordon Walford for projecting the reports during the meeting, and for keeping us connected throughout the year via the synod website.

To all who presented reports during the synod meeting and to all synod members for their diligent attendance and participation.

MOTION: It was moved by Ian MacLean and seconded by James Purcell that the report be adopted. ADOPTED.

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Clerk:

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**ADJOURNMENT**

At one o'clock in the afternoon, the business being finished, the Moderator entertained a motion to adjourn.

MOTION: It was moved by Sampson Afoakwah and seconded by Richard Bonetto that the Synod adjourn. ADOPTED.

The Moderator led the synod in prayer.

She then said:

“In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, the only King and Head of the Church, and by the authority of this Synod, I declare the Synod adjourned to meet again as a commissioned court within the bounds of the Presbytery of Seaway-Glengarry, Ontario, on Friday the nineteenth day of October in the year of our Lord, two thousand and eighteen.”

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Moderator

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Clerk

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Clerk: