

## COMMITTEE TO ADVISE WITH THE MODERATOR

### RECOMMENDATIONS

#### **Consent Recommendations**

There are no consent recommendations.

#### **Recommendation No. 1**

That the appreciation of the Assembly be extended to the Rev. Karen R. Horst for her enthusiasm, compassion for others, passion for justice and her creative leadership as Moderator of the 141st General Assembly. (see p. 1.1.2)

#### **Recommendation No. 2**

That the gratitude of the Assembly be expressed to the congregation of St. Andrew's, Orillia for their ongoing prayers and encouragement for the Rev. Karen R. Horst, as well as appreciation to the Rev. Dr. James Sitler for his worship and pastoral leadership during her moderatorial term. (see p. 1.1.2)

#### **Recommendation No. 3**

That the thanks of the Assembly be extended to the congregations, individuals, presbyteries, organizations, and international and ecumenical partners who warmly welcomed and graciously offered hospitality to the Rev. Karen R. Horst. (see p. 1.1.2)

### REPORT

To the Venerable, the 142nd General Assembly:

The Rev. Karen Horst is an engaging, joyful and passionate ambassador of the church and the gospel of Jesus Christ. Her passion for justice, her desire for a courageous and renewed church, her compassion and energy were clearly evident as she embraced a full moderatorial schedule as well as continuing to connect with her congregation and community in Orillia.

As moderator, Karen responded to as many requests as possible; nationally and internationally. Following the General Assembly, Karen began her year with a special visit with the staff of the United Church of Canada to celebrate their 90th anniversary and later in the fall, she hosted a gathering with the Right Rev. Jordan Cantwell, the Moderator of the United Church of Canada.

Karen, and her husband, Rick, represented the church internationally with a trip to Ukraine, Hungary and Romania. On the very day they were in Hungary, the border was closed to further refugees. Therefore, they traveled to the border where they were able to meet with and listen to stories of the migrants trapped on the Serbian side, to witness the hospitality of the Hungarians, and to experience first-hand the complex issues related to this humanitarian crisis. She also visited and recognized the ministry of the Reformed Churches in these countries and the dedicated work of our mission staff.

In January, Karen further represented our church internationally at a World Communion of Reformed Churches (WCRC) conference on "Gender Justice" in Matanzas, Cuba. Karen described the experience as "exceptional and honest" as these church leaders addressed many justice concerns and how global economics affect equality and wholeness. For her, the conference was a great illustration of north/south and south/south denominational cooperation on shared concerns.

In Canada, events related to Truth and Reconciliation continued to be significant. These included the closing ceremonies of the release of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Final Report, a celebration of "Imagine a Different Canada" event at Rideau Hall, and a press conference focusing on the response to one of the 94 Calls to Action and its relationship to the United Nations Declaration on Indigenous Peoples. These were moving and hope-filled experiences where various denominations, including ours, promised a new day in partnership with indigenous peoples here in Canada. Karen visited a number of our Aboriginal ministries and programs within our church that focus on healing and reconciliation throughout the year.

As moderator, Karen's priority was to seek out new and creative forms of ministry as she visited many churches all across Canada from Vancouver Island to Newfoundland. She witnessed the courage and compassion of many churches seeking to reach out to refugees, Indigenous people and their local communities. Karen also witnessed the

current realities of decline, challenging trends and long-held prejudices still present in our churches and our denomination. Overall, gatherings with small groups inspired Karen as she listened to people's stories and journeys of faith. Wherever she went: to congregational gatherings, a Camp Gala, church courts or Discovery Days, those whom she met genuinely appreciated her presence and her message. Further, her pastoral letters to congregations, her seasonal messages, as well as correspondence to individual members celebrating special moments, were genuinely appreciated. She was also nominated as Woman of the Year in the city of Orillia.

The Committee to Advise with the Moderator met three times during this year to establish the itinerary for Karen and offer her support. At the final meeting, to count the ballots for the next nominee for Moderator, Karen shared the key highlights and concerns from her many travels, visits and activities throughout the year. She expressed gratitude to each member for their faithfulness in prayer and encouragement. The Committee to Advise with the Moderator is very thankful to Karen Horst for her ministry this year as Moderator. Many have said, "She was the right person at the right time." As an ambassador for the denomination, she was both a 'quiet advocate' and an 'energetic supporter' and for this we are truly blessed.

**Recommendation No. 1                      Adopted/Defeated/Amended**

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**Recommendation No. 2                      Adopted/Defeated/Amended**

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**REGULATION RE VOTING**

The General Assembly in 1969, 1973 and 1979 dealt with the matter of the election of moderators. In 1973, these procedures were established. The method was changed from "vote for one and count to see who has the most votes" to "The counting shall proceed until one nominee receives an overall majority, with the low nominee being dropped and his (sic) votes distributed according to the preference indicated." (A&P 1973, p. 407)

**Nomination for Moderator**

In accordance with the procedure determined by the General Assembly, the Committee to Advise with the Moderator nominates the Rev. Douglas H. Rollwage as Moderator of the 142nd General Assembly.

John-Peter Smit  
Convener

Terrie-Lee Hamilton  
Secretary