

## LIFE AND MISSION AGENCY

To the Venerable, the 142nd General Assembly:

### **INTRODUCTION**

This is a record of the stewardship by the Life and Mission Agency of the resources entrusted to it by the church. It is not simply a report; it reflects the lived theology of The Presbyterian Church in Canada as it seeks to be faithful to God under the guidance of the Holy Spirit. As you read the account of some of the work done in the last year, we hope you will also see behind the words a commitment to Christ's continuing ministry in Canada and around the world.

The Life and Mission Agency works to fulfill the mandate given to it by the church:

- “striving, under the power of the Holy Spirit to enable the whole church to serve the whole world, and thus be a sign of the reign of God;
- being faithful to the Mission statement of the church, and to affirm the vision and desire of The Presbyterian Church in Canada to be a church integrating discipleship, evangelism, social action and justice ministry;
- responding flexibly, creatively and effectively to the needs of congregations and courts of the church as they seek assistance in responding to the call of Jesus Christ in mission;
- giving priority to doing what must be done at the national level and facilitating tasks that can be done more appropriately at another level of the church, or ecumenically.”

The Life and Mission Agency fulfills this mandate by:

- providing resources to congregations, presbyteries and synods, and envisioning new and innovative models for ministries and congregational life;
- responding to disasters, the complex needs of refugees, and supporting life-giving long term development projects;
- communicating both the good and the tragic stories of our church, such as the terrible consequences of residential schools;
- gathering youth from around the world at Canada Youth into a community and encouraging them to follow the way of Christ in whatever path they are called;
- studying tough issues of faith and justice, such as human sexuality and climate change;
- offering guidance for discerning vocations for ordained ministry and welcoming pastors from abroad;
- connecting with people in distant corners of God's realm in order to encounter the diversity and the challenges of the followers of Christ's way.

Lives are being changed and the reign of God is extended because of the generous gifts to *Presbyterians Sharing*. The Presbyterian Church in Canada makes a difference.

## **PROGRAM SUPPORT AND ADMINISTRATION**

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

#### **Consent Recommendation**

There are no consent recommendations

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

That permission be granted to report to the 2017 General Assembly on Overture Nos. 13, 22 and 36, 2015 re Establishing a Native Ministries Endowment Fund. (see p. 12.1.3)

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

That the General Assembly acknowledge with sincere thanks and appreciation the 31 years of service to The Presbyterian Church in Canada of Herbert Gale and that the minute of appreciation for the Reverend Dr. Herbert Gale be adopted. (see p. 12.1.4)

## REPORT

Staff	General Secretary:	Richard Fee (retired August 31, 2015) Ian Ross-McDonald (from September 2015)
	Senior Administrator:	Colleen McCue
	Finance Administrator:	Mathew Goslinski
	Finance Administrative Assistant:	Mary Beth McLean

Representation on various working groups, committees and boards, overall agency coordination, serving the Life and Mission Agency Committee, policy development, human resources and financial management are handled by Program Support and Administration.

### **STRATEGIC PLANNING**

Karen Plater (Stewardship and Planned Giving) and Barbara Summers (Communications) have been active participants in the strategic planning initiative. Additional members of the staff and committee of the agency have been part of the larger conversation about the direction of the strategic plan. We look forward to working with the final form of the plan and using its values to frame and further guide our work. (see Assembly Council, p. 2.1.19–21)

### **REGIONAL RESOURCING GRANTS**

The Life and Mission Agency gives regional resourcing grants to support programming in the synods. Four synods (the Synod of Alberta, the Synod of Saskatchewan, the Synod of Southwestern Ontario, and the Synod of Central, Northeastern Ontario and Bermuda) use the grants to help pay for various configurations of staffing. The remaining four synods designated the funds to support various presbytery and congregational initiatives. Among the initiatives supported this year were programs and events that focused on leadership, session and clergy support and training, youth programming, healing and reconciliation initiatives, rural and remote ministry support, and retreats.

### **SEXUALITY**

[presbyterian.ca/sexuality](http://presbyterian.ca/sexuality)

In June 2015, The General Assembly adopted the following motion (A&P 2015, Rec. No. 5, p. 46):

That the Committee on Church Doctrine and the Life and Mission Agency (Justice Ministries) prepare a joint study guide on the topics of human sexuality, sexual orientation and other related matters raised in the overtures to be posted on the church's website by the end of October, 2015 and that congregations, sessions, presbyteries and synods be invited to share the result of their conversation with both the Committee on Church Doctrine and Life and Mission Agency (Justice Ministries) prior to March 31, 2016.

To accomplish the General Assembly's resolution, a design team was established in the months after the Assembly rose. The design team worked with terms of reference and served as a design and editorial body for the writer of the study guide, *Body, Mind and Soul – Study Guide on Human Sexuality*.

The members of the design team were the Rev. Marion Barclay MacKay (Justice Ministries), the Rev. Dr. Cynthia Chenard (Committee on Church Doctrine), the Rev. Daniel Cho (Justice Ministries), Ms. Nancy Harvey (Justice Ministries), the Rev. Dr. Dong-Ha Kim (Committee on Church Doctrine), and the Rev. Ian Shaw (Committee on Church Doctrine). The writer and compiler of the document was the Rev. Dr. Emily Bisset.

The purpose of the study guide was to promote and facilitate informed conversation about the topic of human sexuality and sexual orientation in The Presbyterian Church in Canada. In addition, the study guide was intended to help people understand what The Presbyterian Church in Canada currently says about the topic, drawn from Acts and Proceedings and approved documents such as the Social Action Handbook. Thirdly, the study guide was designed to invite people and groups through The Presbyterian Church in Canada into prayerful consideration of the matters before it regarding sexuality and sexual orientation.

Multiple departments in the Life and Mission Agency supported the church's conversations about sexuality this year. Additional materials were compiled and created and financial resources were made available to assist congregations and courts of the church in their study and prayer about issues of sexuality.

**OVERTURE NOS. 13, 22 AND 36, 2015** (A&P 2015, p. 587–88, 597–98, 610)

**Re: Establishing a Native Ministries Endowment Fund**

Overture Nos. 13, 22 and 36, 2015 were referred to the Assembly Council and the Life and Mission Agency. A working group comprised of the Rev. Graham Kennedy and Ms. Mabel Litowski (both representing the Assembly Council) and the Rev. Dr. Ian Morrison and Ms. Anne Phillips (both representing the Life and Mission Agency) was created to prepare a response.

The working group reviewed the overtures, various policies, the Confession, and other collected documents relating to finances and the church's history and relationship with Aboriginal peoples. Additionally, the members consulted groups and individuals in the church in the process of preparing a response to the overtures. In the autumn of 2015, the group reported to both the Life and Mission Agency Committee and the Assembly Council and received further guidance about refining the report. It was agreed to name an Indigenous person as a member of the working group. However, before this came into effect, the members of the working group indicated that they felt that they had done all that was possible at this time.

Given the importance of these overtures and ensuring the participation of Indigenous voices, a new working group will be named to take the collected work of the working group as the basis for preparing a response to be presented to the 2017 General Assembly.

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

That permission be granted to report to the 2017 General Assembly on Overture Nos. 13, 22 and 36, 2015 re Establishing a Native Ministries Endowment Fund.

**ASSOCIATE SECRETARY OF THE LIFE AND MISSION AGENCY AND DIRECTOR OF PRESBYTERIAN WORLD SERVICE & DEVELOPMENT**

The General Secretary and the convener of the PWS&D Committee were informed of Mr. Ken Kim's intention to resign as Director on January 16, 2015. Mr. Kim's last day was March 13, 2015. The Life and Mission Agency Committee was authorized to call for nominations from presbyteries. A Position Description Review Committee was named to review and make changes to the position description.

The Life and Mission Agency created a search committee that included the Rev. Wendy Paterson (convener, representing the Life and Mission Agency Committee), the Rev. Lara Scholey (convener of the PWS&D Committee), Dr. Marilyn Scott (former convener, representing the PWS&D Committee), the Rev. Dr. Andrew Johnston and the Rev. Glenn Inglis (both representing the church at large). The search committee also included the General Secretary of the Life and Mission Agency, the Rev. Dr. Richard Fee and the incoming General Secretary, the Rev. Ian Ross-McDonald (both non-voting).

Letters were sent twice to all presbyteries requesting nominations. The position was advertised in *The Record*, PCPak and on the PCC and PWS&D website. The job posting was circulated widely within ecumenical and relief and development networks (CFGB, CCIC, ACT, etc.). Nominations were received from one presbytery for one candidate, and nine people submitted applications.

The search committee met by conference call on four separate occasions; at these meetings the committee spent a considerable amount of time reviewing the qualifications and position description and developing the interview questions. The search committee short-listed the applications to three people. The three candidates were invited to an interview in Toronto on August 7, 2015.

Upon recommendation of the search committee it was agreed that Mr. Guy Smagghe be appointed the Associate Secretary of the Life and Mission Agency and Director of PWS&D effective September 1, 2015.

**ASSOCIATE SECRETARY FOR CANADIAN MINISTRIES**

In June 2015 the General Assembly appointed Ian Ross-McDonald as the General Secretary of the Life and Mission Agency. The Life and Mission Agency Committee was authorized to call for nominations from presbyteries for the position of Associate Secretary for Canadian Ministries.

A Position Description Review Committee was named to review and confirm the position description. The members of the committee were: the Rev. Dr. Tom Billard, Ms. Judy Dodds, the Rev. Dr. Rick Fee, the Rev. Dr. Jean Morris, the Rev. Ian Ross-McDonald, Ms. Betty Trevenen, the Rev. Anne Yee Hibbs (convener).

The Life and Mission Agency Committee authorized that a search committee be established to fill the vacancy of Associate Secretary, Canadian Ministries. The members of the search committee were the Rev. Dr. Blair Bertrand, Ms. Nancy Harvey, the Rev. Chuck Moon, the Rev. Wendy Paterson (convener), Ms. Lori Ransom, and the Rev. Ian Ross-McDonald (without vote).

Letters were twice sent to all presbyteries requesting nominations. The position was advertised in *The Record*, PCPak and on the PCC web site. Nominations were received from five presbyteries for five candidates and two of those nominated submitted applications. Twelve other people submitted applications.

The search committee met by telephone to review the qualifications and position description before developing interview questions. The search committee interviewed four candidates in Toronto on October 21, 2015.

Upon recommendation of the search committee it was agreed that Ms. Jennifer de Combe be appointed as the Associate Secretary of the Life and Mission Agency for Canadian Ministries.

Jen has a lively faith that instills a passion for service within her work and her life. She brings to this new work extensive experience and a deep understanding of partnership in mission and ministry.

## **MINUTE OF APPRECIATION**

### **The Rev. Dr. Herbert Gale**

For 31 years, the Rev. Dr. Herbert Gale faithfully served Christ and The Presbyterian Church in Canada, from his dynamic ministry in congregations to his retirement in 2015 as the Associate Secretary of Planned Giving within the Life and Mission Agency.

Herb Gale, born and raised in Charlotte, North Carolina, was an active member of Myers Park Presbyterian Church. Upon graduating from the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill, he served his home congregation as youth director before entering Union Theological Seminary in Richmond, Virginia. After receiving his D.Min. from Union Seminary, Herb was called to Shelby Presbyterian Church in North Carolina as associate minister. From Shelby, Herb attended the Toronto School of Theology where he received a M.Th. in the area of spirituality.

In 1984, Herb was called to St. James Church in Stouffville, Ontario. While there, Herb met his wife, Shirley, who is also a Presbyterian minister. From Stouffville, the Gales were called, in 1993, to serve as co-pastors of Westminster-St. Paul's Church in Guelph, Ontario, where they still reside. In June 2004, Herb accepted the position of Associate Secretary for Planned Giving for The Presbyterian Church in Canada. In this work, he traveled across Canada helping congregations develop vital planned giving ministries which integrated a holistic theology of stewardship and vision for ministry. In 2010 Herb was elected Moderator of the 136th General Assembly. As moderator, Herb shared his passionate conviction that an intentional focus on planned giving provides additional sources of funding for the church at every level to realize its dreams and expand its ministry for generations to come.

Herb served on the Worship Advisory Committee when it produced *The Book of Common Worship* in 1991 and the Stewardship Advisory Committee when the *Stewards by Design* Conferences were initiated. He is a frequent retreat leader and conference speaker. He has been the worship leader for three *Stewards by Design* Conferences, the worship co-ordinator for Canada Youth 2003, and the worship leader and chaplain for three national Clerks' Consultations.

A visionary pastor at heart and a Canadian Presbyterian by conviction, Herb has a passion for Christian spiritual growth and development, and how faithful stewardship builds up the reign of God and the church. His breadth of knowledge about congregational ministry as a result of serving congregations with 75 to 3,000 members, both urban and rural, over the past 31 years makes him a blessing to God's people. A passionate dreamer and visionary, Herb knows well the possibilities and challenges of ministry.

We thank God for Herb's extensive ministries and for the many contributions made in his years of faithful service. We pray that God will be with Herb and his family as he enters the next years of his journey.

### **Recommendation No. 2**

### **Adopted/Defeated/Amended**

That the General Assembly acknowledge with sincere thanks and appreciation the 31 years of service to The Presbyterian Church in Canada of Herbert Gale and that the minute of appreciation for the Reverend Dr. Herbert Gale be adopted.

## **STAFFING**

The Presbyterian Church in Canada is fortunate to have people working in the various departments of the Life and Mission Agency who are very aware of the needs for their individual portfolios and work together in promoting the building up of the body of Christ, the Church.

This year has seen significant staffing changes in the Life and Mission Agency. At the end of August 2015 the Rev. Dr. Richard Fee retired as the General Secretary. Likewise, the Rev. Dr. Herb Gale retired as the Associate Secretary of Planned Giving in January 2016. Ms. Barbara Summers, Associate Secretary Communications, gave birth to a son named Cayden and is on parental leave until September 2016. Mr. Guy Smagghe was appointed as the Associate Secretary and Director of Presbyterian World Service and Development as of September 2015, Ms. Jennifer De Combe was appointed Associate Secretary for Canadian Ministries, effective in December 2015. International Ministries was fortunate to have the support of Ms. Nicole Jeffrey before Ms. Lily Ko joined the department in February 2016. The Stewardship and Planned Giving departments were amalgamated in September 2016; we give thanks for the work and dedication of Ms. Sheryl Sutton who served in the department for many years until February 2016. Ms. Anna Muir joined PWS&D in April 2016. Ms. Laura Fenwick left PWS&D after many years to work in Financial Services at the end of August 2015. In September 2015, Mr. David Jeffrey and Ms. Susan James completed their time with PWS&D. This year Ms. Julia Rao, Mr. David Di Sera and Ms. Michelle Ball joined PWS&D on a contract basis. In December 2015, Ms. Alison Stirling joined PWS&D as the Finance and Administration Coordinator. Ms. Jennifer Ramkissoon, PWS&D Program Coordinator, began maternity leave in October 2015 when she and her husband welcomed a daughter named Elena.

We are grateful that Mr. David Phillips adeptly and energetically continues to respond to requests and give presentations on Leading with Care.

## **LIFE AND MISSION AGENCY COMMITTEE**

The denomination is blessed to have highly committed and gifted people from across Canada who serve the church as members of the Life and Mission Agency Committee. We are grateful to those who serve on the committee with diligence, faithfulness and dedication: the Rev. Dr. Tom Billard, Ms. Judy Dodds, the Rev. Chuck Moon, the Rev. Dr. Alfred Lee, Ms. Ginny-Lou Alexander, Mr. Aubrey Hawton, Ms. Nancy Harvey, Ms. Vivian Ketchum, the Rev. Douglas Schonberg, Dr. Jo Szostak, Ms. Carol Stymiest (Assembly Council representative), Ms. Susan McLennan (Womens Missionary Society representative), the Rev. Karen Horst (Moderator of the 141st General Assembly). We are especially grateful to the following people who are retiring from the committee this year: the Rev. Peter Baek (Assembly Council representative), Ms. Bonnie Langille (Atlantic Missionary Society representative), the Rev. Dr. Martin Kreplin, the Rev. Wendy Paterson (convener), the Rev. Lara Scholey (Presbyterian World Service and Development convener).

## **CANADIAN MINISTRIES**

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

There are no recommendations.

### **REPORT**

Staff	Associate Secretary:	Ian Ross-McDonald (until November, 2015) Jennifer de Combe (from December 2015)
	Program Coordinator:	Jennifer Bell
	Program Coordinator:	Anne Saunders

## **INTRODUCTION**

[presbyterian.ca/canadianministries](http://presbyterian.ca/canadianministries)

The second chapter of the Book of Acts gives us a pattern of Christian community at its best. The faithful members of the early church

...devoted themselves to the teaching of the apostles and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. Day by day, as they

spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved. (Acts 2:42–47)

Canadian Ministries understands its work in light of the design, experience and the distinctive characteristics of the early church expressed in Acts above: 1) the apostles' teachings, 2) fellowship (the spirit of communion that binds people together and catalyses community and communal sharing, and 3) the breaking bread and the prayers. The department provides human, online, printed and financial resources to enhance the mission and ministry of Christ through The Presbyterian Church in Canada. The Life and Mission Agency, through Canadian Ministries, works and partners with ministries (e.g. congregations, missions, camps) and presbyteries to support and equip their members for effective leadership and faithful and dynamic ministry in the world to which Christ came and for which he died.

## **MANDATE**

Understanding that congregations are of vital importance and that presbyteries have a pivotal role in the oversight of their constituencies, Canadian Ministries:

- provides accessible, thorough, and prompt responses to requests for information in all aspects of congregational life;
- produces online and print resources for the church in the fields of worship, evangelism, Christian education, youth, congregational development, change, transition, and leadership development;
- draws upon the gifts and talents of the leadership of The Presbyterian Church in Canada and connects them and their ideas to the wider church through leadership opportunities and online/print resources;
- assists presbyteries as they evaluate, envision, and execute programs as a part of their pastoral oversight and strategic planning;
- supports presbyteries in the development of workshops, consultations, conferences, and other programs for growth, renewal and health;
- aids congregations, presbyteries, and synods in their search for new and innovative mission and ministry initiatives by providing grants from regular budget sources, from internally restricted funds, and from designated bequests;
- partners with presbyteries to support new congregations, renew congregations, assist specialized ministries, and sustain ministries;
- makes mission appointments based upon presbytery requests; and
- will be current, creative, responsive, proactive, and innovative in all aspects of congregational ministry in seeking to carry out its mandate.

## **CHRISTIAN EDUCATION: “THEY DEVOTED THEMSELVES TO THE TEACHING OF THE APOSTLES...”**

Faith is vibrant and robust when it is actively in search of greater understanding. In the Reformed tradition, study is an act of worship and a form of prayer. The task of learning and passing on the teachings of the faith is an essential part of Christian discipleship and is the responsibility of all.

Reports about the nationally available programs and funds that support Christian education are featured in this section.

### **Teacher/Leader Courses (TLC)**

The Teacher/Leader Courses program has been discontinued. Canadian Ministries staff is exploring the creation a new program that will provide learning opportunities for congregational and mission leaders. This new initiative will be launched in the near future and will be designed to encourage church leaders, explore new ways of being church and address the theological and practical concerns of congregations in this time.

### **Children and Worship (C&W)**

[presbyterian.ca/children-and-worship](http://presbyterian.ca/children-and-worship)

Children and Worship is a children's ministry based on the Montessori tradition. Children are invited to experience the wonder and mystery of God through a unique storytelling format and multi-sensory materials within a worship format designed for young children. This form of “Godly play” encourages faith formation in children, and has transformed Sunday Schools within The Presbyterian Church in Canada for over 25 years. C&W is perfect for smaller Sunday schools with a wide age range. C&W leadership training is done in partnership with the Reformed

Church in America, and the Christian Reformed Church in North America. There are currently seven enthusiastic and gifted trainers based in Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Ontario and British Columbia. Training opportunities are available in all provinces to equip church leaders to start a C&W ministry within their congregations and to provide ongoing support and resources. During 2015 there were eight training events held. Full information and a current list of upcoming training events are available on the church's website: [presbyterian.ca/children-and-worship](http://presbyterian.ca/children-and-worship). Linda Shaw, C&W Program Coordinator (Simcoe, Ontario), and Jennifer de Combe, Associate Secretary for Canadian Ministries are the current representatives on the North American ecumenical partnership. Linda Shaw (has been a part of this ministry from the beginning) can be contacted ([ianandlindshaw@gmail.com](mailto:ianandlindshaw@gmail.com)) for information or advice about beginning and nurturing the program.

### **Opening Doors to Discipleship**

[odtd.net](http://odtd.net)

The Presbyterian Church in Canada is a member of Presbyterian Reformed Education Partnership (PREP) in cooperation with the Cumberland Presbyterian Church, Moravian Church in America, and Presbyterian Church (USA).

Opening Doors to Discipleship (ODTD) is an on-line learning resource that has been the focus of the PREP partnership since 2006. Available at [odtd.net](http://odtd.net), it offers congregations free online volunteer training, leader development and faith formation for groups and individuals. Each online course has 12 sessions packed with engaging life stories, solid biblical material, and opportunities for group and individual reflection. Two of its courses are now offered in Korean and Spanish – Course A: Teaching Skills and Course D: Discipleship. The other two courses are Course B: Bible Background and Course C: Reformed Faith. While these courses were originally created to help support Christian educators in congregations, the material can serve as excellent curriculum for Bible studies and confirmation classes or as a resource to equip elders, camp staff, parish nurses, etc. for informed and effective leadership. In 2015, 1,621 people visited the ODTP site a total of 3,662 times; 56.8% visits were from returning users and 43.2% were first visits; there were 627 users registered with The Presbyterian Church in Canada and 10 of these were newly registered.

### **Canada Youth (CY)**

[canadayouth.ca](http://canadayouth.ca)

CY events offer an exciting opportunity for youth, young adults and youth leaders to connect together; to celebrate and affirm not only their faith, but also their unique witness as Canadian Presbyterians. Substantial financial support is provided by the Life and Mission Agency. The funding is augmented by generous gifts from a number of different sources.

The CY Planning Team is a vibrant and diverse group from across the denomination and has been diligently and energetically working to ensure that CY2016 will continue to offer unique experiences that nurture faith and equip youth, young adults and youth leaders for effective and faithful leadership and service.

CY2016 will take place July 5–10, 2016, at Brock University, St. Catharines, Ontario. The theme for the event, *Joined together as God's dwelling place We Are Home* (Ephesians 2:20–22) will be explored throughout the week through worship, recreation, keynote presentation, workshops and smaller group experiences.

So many doors. So many journeys.

Still, whoever you are, wherever you're from, wherever you're going... we belong to each other.

Even more, we belong to God. God who says, "Welcome Home."

CY2016 will host two new initiatives:

1. **A Long Way from Home**  
A full day at CY for all participants, of discovery activities designed to explore and respond faithfully to the current refugee crisis. This unique day will include workshops, films, discussion groups and interactive experiences.
2. **A Day in the Life of CY**  
A new opportunity for congregational leaders to join the CY community for one day and get an authentic taste of the event. Guests will have the chance to hear great speakers, participate in workshops and join the CY community for worship and recreation.

In addition to the new elements, CY will again offer the Youth Track for those who have completed grade 9 up to age 19. This will be a time for youth to share their voice and experience and affirm their valued place within the whole church.

Young Adults (graduated high school to age 25) in the Discipleship Track will be encouraged and challenged through discovery conversations about vocation, discipleship, spiritual practices and building community connections.

The Youth Ministry Training Track returns for youth leaders (ages 18+) to get re-charged with great keynote sessions with Dr. Amanda Drury. Dr. Drury is Assistant Professor of Practical Theology at Indiana Wesleyan University. This track will also host interactive workshops, dynamic panel discussions, and the opportunity to swap youth ministry ideas with colleagues from across the country.

We pray that CY2016 will again be an exciting community where all participants will be inspired, challenged and encouraged to take an active, engaged and faithful role in their home communities of faith. For more information, please contact the CY2016 Coordinator, Jo Morris at [cy@presbyterian.ca](mailto:cy@presbyterian.ca).

### **Association of Presbyterian Church Educators (APCE)**

[apcenet.org](http://apcenet.org)

The Presbyterian Church in Canada has had a covenantal relationship with the Association of Presbyterian Church Educators (APCE) for many decades and has been responsible for the region of Canada since 2003. In affiliation with the Presbyterian Church (USA), Reformed Church in America, Christian Reformed Church, and the Moravian Church in North America, APCE supports educators and educational ministry through conferences, scholarships, and publications. APCE representatives are elected from a variety of populations to promote quality educational ministry.

In January 2016, Jo Morris and Jennifer de Combe attended the APCE conference *God's New Thing: See it! Hear it! Live it!* in Chicago, Illinois.

### **Camping**

[presbyterian.ca/camping](http://presbyterian.ca/camping)

Canadian Ministries supports presbytery and synod camps associated with The Presbyterian Church in Canada by providing curriculum resources designed specifically for Christian camping. This year curriculum was distributed to nine camps. The importance of camping cannot be overlooked: camping is the means by which many children come in contact with the Christian faith.

Canadian Ministries provided memberships for 13 organizations (12 camps and one conference centre) in the Presbyterian Church Camp and Conference Association (PCCCA) for 2013–2015. This membership provides networking, access to consulting, site management standards, education, camp specific resources and promotion for all our camping ministries.

### **Creative Ministry with Children and Youth Fund**

[presbyterian.ca/funds](http://presbyterian.ca/funds)

The Creative Ministry with Children and Youth Fund was established in 2008 by The Presbyterian Church in Canada to help congregations and specialized ministries to develop new programs and innovative projects that reach out to children, youth and their families. This fund may grant up to two thirds of the money needed to initiate a new project, not exceeding a grant of \$8,000 per year and capping individual grants at \$15,000 for one program. Sponsoring bodies are asked to provide the remaining one third of the monies needed to start the project. While these grants may be for a one-time event, it is hoped that financial support from this fund will be seed money for ongoing projects. In 2015 grants were given to support the following programs: *The Church on the Move* (Presbytery of London), a camp choir at St. Paul's (Port-Hope, Presbytery of Lindsay-Peterborough), and a teen self-esteem building program at St. John's (Grimsby, Presbytery of Hamilton).

### **Conference Support Fund**

[presbyterian.ca/funds](http://presbyterian.ca/funds)

The Conference Support Fund helps facilitate events that are intended to further educate and nurture faith within congregations, presbyteries and identified groups. In 2015, grants supported a worship renewal conference



(Presbytery of Oak Ridges) and *Speaking the Truth in Love: A Forum on Human Sexuality* (Presbytery of Hamilton). In 2016 each presbytery was given access to a one-time grant of up to \$1000 from the Conference Support Fund to support presbytery sponsored educational initiatives that encouraged people and courts to study, reflect on and discuss issues related to sexual orientation and the church.

### **Lay Bursary Fund**

[presbyterian.ca/funds](http://presbyterian.ca/funds)

The Lay Bursary Fund supports opportunities for lay leaders of The Presbyterian Church in Canada to attend educational workshops and conferences to further their training in important areas of leadership. In 2015, two grants were received by applicants associated with Camp Kannawin (Sylvan Lake, Synod of Alberta and the Northwest).

### **The Niven Fund**

[presbyterian.ca/funds](http://presbyterian.ca/funds)

The Niven Fund helps support eligible educational and evangelical programs that support ministry in Ontario. In 2015, two grants were given to support regional staff from the Synod of Central, Northeastern Ontario and Bermuda to attend the *Reclaiming Evangelism: Celebrating Change and Collaboration* conference organized by the World Council of Churches.

### **Lorraine Major Fund**

This fund helps provide funds for people studying in the area of ministry with Aboriginal peoples. In 2013 the Lorraine Major Fund and the Native Ministry Orientation Fund were amalgamated. In 2015, a grant was given to Yvonne Bearbull from the Kenora Fellowship Centre (Kenora, the Presbytery of Winnipeg) to attend the Breakforth conference in Edmonton, Alberta.

### ***Equipping for...***

[presbyterian.ca/eq4](http://presbyterian.ca/eq4)

Recognizing that congregations seek resources to facilitate faithful ministry, Canadian Ministries provides articles, stories, prayers, scripture references and questions for reflection to support programs under the title *Equipping for...* in the following areas: Christian Education, Evangelism and Mission, Leadership and Worship. Experienced and creative people in leadership positions throughout the denomination submit articles for these resources. The goal is to share programs, ideas and current experiences and to promote discussion across the church about innovative work being done.

### **Presbyterians Are Talking About...**

[presbyterian.ca/talking-about](http://presbyterian.ca/talking-about)

How can we talk in church about controversial issues that challenge our faithful living? What does the Bible say? And what has The Presbyterian Church in Canada and its partners said about such issues?

This online educational series provides resources aimed at helping us talk about issues of contemporary concern that challenge us in living our faith. To support conversations inside and beyond congregations, the *Presbyterians are talking about* series will provide background material from our denomination and its partners, scripture readings, prayers and hymn suggestions, reflection questions, and follow-up ideas and resources. Subjects in this series include human sexuality, slavery/human trafficking, end-of-life care, refugees and migrants, homelessness and more.

These resources will help us discuss important matters not only with other members of our church family, but also with friends, classmates, and colleagues, enabling us to listen and share questions and perspectives from our faith journeys.

### **Curriculum Comparison Guide and Christian Education Resources**

[presbyterian.ca/curriculumchart](http://presbyterian.ca/curriculumchart)

Canadian Ministries has produced a resource to assist sessions, Christian education teams and leaders in the selection of appropriate material for Christian education programs. The material is similar to the familiar curriculum chart, but has been produced in a format for online and print use. Resource lists include Sunday school, mid-week,

youth, adult, family and profession of faith curricula. Copies are available from the Resource Centre or at [presbyterian.ca/curriculumchart](http://presbyterian.ca/curriculumchart).

In the fall of 2015 Canadian Ministries conducted a survey about confirmation or profession of faith programs for young people in our denomination. Two surveys were prepared by Anne Miller and posted online, one for people in leadership positions and one for youth. Participation was invited through announcements on the church's webpage and Facebook, Presbyterian Youth Facebook pages, the Canada Youth network, GA 2015 YARs, and student contacts, camps and other youth ministry networks, and individual emails. As a result, an annotated list of confirmation resources currently in use has been prepared and made available at [presbyterian.ca/canadian-ministries/equipping-leaders](http://presbyterian.ca/canadian-ministries/equipping-leaders) there will be a Youth Ministry Track workshop on the subject at Canada Youth 2016, and a strategy is being developed to involve Presbyterian young people and leaders in creating online material for discussion groups.

### **Reading Lists**

[presbyterian.ca/resource-centre/#reading](http://presbyterian.ca/resource-centre/#reading)

In response to requests for recommendations of books on important topics, reading lists are prepared in consultation with people who have expertise and experience in various fields. These lists can assist leaders in finding books for various ministries like evangelism, leadership and organizational change, new church development, confirmation, youth and children – including a number of annotated lists of children's picture books prepared by Laura Alary on themes related to the Christian calendar and faithful living. These lists can assist people find books for their church or home library or to find books as gifts. The books listed are available for purchase from online booksellers and some for loan through public libraries.

These lists will be updated as new and suggested books come to our attention. Please send book reviews and recommendations to [canadianministries@presbyterian.ca](mailto:canadianministries@presbyterian.ca).

### **Book Studies**

The Advent 2015 resources included a book study on *A Christmas Carol* drawing on sermons written and preached by Laura Alary. This spring a second study on the book (and movie) *Still Alice* was produced. These resources are intended for small group study and include scripture readings, prayers and hymns in addition to discussion questions that challenge participants to relate their faith to issues raised in the books.

### **A Study for the Church**

A five-session group study for adults and older youth has been produced to encourage reflection about some of the values that we cherish in our congregations and the ways we can join with our neighbours in nurturing and sharing them. The study was written by Emily Bisset and includes scripture readings and commentary, prayers, hymns, discussion questions, mission stories and outreach activities.

### **PARTNERSHIPS IN MINISTRY: “THEY DEVOTED THEMSELVES TO...FELLOWSHIP...”**

At the heart of the early church was the principle and practice of a form of fellowship that extended beyond loose affiliation and assembly; unity and communion are perhaps better words to describe the fellowship to which the first faith communities were devoted. The proofs of authentic fellowship were the sharing of resources held in common for the greater good, the sharing of the gospel, and the formation of vibrant and safe congregations that sought and nurtured signs of the reign of God. When the church practices authentic Christian fellowship, it incarnates the Johannine image of the branches that are united, nourished, and connected by Christ, who is the vine.

This portion of the report focuses on the ability of the national church to share resources in the form of grants, appointments to ministries, ecumenical shared ministries, evangelism, and the Leading with Care Policy.

### **Sharing Resources**

[presbyterian.ca/grants](http://presbyterian.ca/grants)

*Presbyterians Sharing* makes it possible for The Presbyterian Church in Canada to partner with presbyteries and local ministries to support initiatives across the country. Presbyteries are to take great care in reviewing proposed grant applications before endorsing and submitting applications for consideration by Canadian Ministries. The denomination relies heavily upon the wisdom, insight and active supportive involvement of presbyteries and their

committees to assess the needs of the local context and make requests only after ensuring that there is strong local support for new and renewing ministries and that they fit within the presbytery's vision of mission and ministry. While application forms and supporting documents that are useful in the application process are always available on the webpage, ministries and presbyteries are to be in touch with Canadian Ministries before new grants are applied for so that greater clarity about the purpose and scope of the ministry can be understood.

Presbyteries are urged to take great care in assessing and approving applications to ensure the most faithful use of available funds.

### **Operating Grant Categories**

All ministries are valued and perform important service in the world. However, the Life and Mission Agency Committee has identified categories based on need and volume of work and the priorities of the church. The Life and Mission Agency has categorized the types of support-receiving ministries in the following groups:

1. New congregation development
2. Renewing ministries
3. Specialized ministries (ministries with Aboriginal People, inner-city ministries, Francophone ministries)
4. Sustaining ministries (rural and urban ministries)

### **Grants Committee**

The Canadian Ministries Advisory Committee, named by the Life and Mission Agency Committee, functions as the Grants Committee and has decision-making responsibility for grants from the budget and some internally restricted funds. This committee consists of representatives named from every synod.

### **New Congregation Development**

These are completely new ministries. Ministries receiving grants in 2015 were: La Communauté chrétienne Siloé (Montreal, Presbytery of Montreal), Nigerian Mission (Toronto, Presbytery of West Toronto), Two Rivers (Guelph, Presbytery of Waterloo-Wellington), Antioch Community (Oakville, Presbytery of Eastern Han-Ca), Hamilton Almanarah (Hamilton, Presbytery of Hamilton), Almanarah (London, Presbytery of London), Lighthouse Evangelical Arabic (Winnipeg, Presbytery of Winnipeg), Sung An (Vancouver, Presbytery of Western Han-Ca), and Hanmaum (Langley, Presbytery of Western Han-Ca).

### **New Congregation Development Capital Fund**

In addition to operating grants, Canadian Ministries has responsibility for the New Congregation Development Capital Fund that is used to provide financial assistance toward the cost of purchasing land for new congregations and maintaining other properties.

### **Growing Churches Fund**

The Growing Churches Fund was established to help presbyteries start new congregations and to support those called to this vital area of ministry. In the context of an overall decline in church attendance and congregations that are closing or amalgamating, it is more important than ever for the church to provide strategic support for those engaged in the development of new congregations. This fund encourages presbyteries to use a variety of models for starting up new congregations and ministries by providing funds to support presbyteries to hire consultants, train coaches who can assist new congregation development workers, help fund mentoring relationships, provide testing for potential new congregational development workers and provide funds to help equip those engaged in new congregation development.

Coaching is an important component of successful new congregation development initiatives. Presbyteries initiating new congregations are strongly encouraged to contact Canadian Ministries early in the planning process to arrange for a trained coach to be put in place as soon as the first minister is called or appointed in all new ministries. Coaching for new church development workers is financially supported by the Growing Churches Fund and governed by a covenant agreed to by the coach, the worker, and Canadian Ministries.

The Growing Churches Fund supported a Canadian gathering of new church development leaders and new church development coaching and training.

## Properties

Canadian Ministries, at the request of judicatory bodies, in the establishment of new work, or through existing historical agreements, supports the following presbyteries and synods with the ownership of land and/or buildings (e.g. holds titles, facilitates payment of property taxes and appropriate insurance, etc.). The nature of support differs and is unique in each situation.

Location	Presbytery/Synod	Property Type
French Village Station Rd Site	Halifax & Lunenburg	Land
Camp d'action biblique	Quebec	Camp
Tyndale St-Georges Community Centre	Montreal	Building
Barrhaven	Ottawa	Land
Gateway Community	East Toronto	Church
White Oak	Brampton	Church
Winnipeg	Winnipeg	Land
Kenora Fellowship Centre	Winnipeg	Building
Kenora Fellowship Centre	Winnipeg	Manse
St. Andrew's, Thompson	Winnipeg	Manse
St. Clements	Winnipeg	Church/cemetery
Saskatoon Native Circle	Northern Saskatchewan	Manse
Mistawasis Church	Northern Saskatchewan	Church
Mistawasis Church	Northern Saskatchewan	Manse
Carragana	Northern Saskatchewan	Land
Camp Christopher	Synod of Saskatchewan	Camp
Calgary (sold in 2016)	Calgary-Macleod	Land
Pouce Coupe	Peace River	Land
Victoria	Victoria Island	Land

## Congregation Development Conferences

“So the churches were strengthened in the faith and increased in numbers daily”. (Acts 16:5)

In May 2016 a conference led by Stan Ott was held at Crieff for grant receiving congregations and social ministries, selected presbyteries, theological students and interested congregations across the county. This conference instructed participants in the principles of congregational vitality, transformation, missional endeavour, and leadership. It also gave participants an opportunity to share experiences and resources with colleagues from across Canada. Springing out of this conference is a follow up initiative to provide conference participants with an opportunity to receive two follow up mentoring conversations with Stan Ott designed to move theory into practice.

## Renewing Ministries

These are congregational ministries involved in a significant intentional program of change that results in something new and different arising from what had existed. An example of this would be a congregation that intentionally decides to minister in a different language or to a different cultural group. The change must be a critical change and not a matter of improving or making alterations to what is already in existence. In 2015, grants were received by Livingstone (Montreal, Presbytery of Montreal), and Heritage Green (Hamilton, Presbytery of Hamilton).

## Renewing Ministries Capital Fund

In addition to operating grants for ministries engaged in remarkable programs of renewal, the Renewing Ministries Capital Fund is available to provide assistance to congregations involved in a capital project. The criteria for the fund are:

- capital projects that meet The Life and Mission Agency's definition of renewing ministries;
- when the capital project is clearly a part of a greater plan for renewal;
- limited to a maximum of \$200,000;
- the grant will be given according to a formula for matching grants agreed to by the congregation, the presbytery and Canadian Ministries.

The application process for capital grants for renewing congregations is similar to other grant processes from Canadian Ministries and requires the endorsement of the presbytery.

The Life and Mission Agency will review the definition and terms of this fund with the Assembly Council to ensure that it can be used for the renewal of the church in the most faithful ways.

### **Sustaining Ministries Grants**

These grants are given for smaller congregations and pastoral charges, often located in rural and remote situations. The grant-receiving congregation or pastoral charge works with their presbytery and Canadian Ministries to agree upon the duration and amount of the grant. It is expected that each congregation or pastoral charge would be responsible for an increasing portion of its costs each year.

The following congregations were recipients of Sustaining Ministry Grants in 2015: St. Matthew's (Grand Falls, Presbytery of Newfoundland), Knox, Campbellton/St. Luke's (Bathurst, Presbytery of New Brunswick), Eglise St. Luc (Montreal, Presbytery of Montreal), Sohrae (Toronto, Presbytery of Eastern Han-Ca), Temiskaming Regional Ministry (Presbytery of Temiskaming), Grey-Bruce-Maitland Co-op (Presbytery of Grey-Bruce-Maitland), St. Andrew's (Thompson, Presbytery of Winnipeg), Knox and Dunleath (Yorkton and Dunleath, Presbytery of Assiniboia), Mistawasis Memorial (Mistawasis First Nation, Presbytery of Northern Saskatchewan), St. Andrew's, (Swift Current, Presbytery of Assiniboia), Chetwynd Shared Ministry (Chetwynd, Presbytery of Peace River), Cariboo (Cariboo Region, Presbytery of Kamloops), Nazko and Area Dekelh Outreach (Cariboo Region, Presbytery of Kamloops) and St. Stephen's (Creston, Presbytery of Kootenay).

### **Supporting Specialized Ministries**

Understanding that there is vital work of Christian ministry that is done in non-congregational settings, Canadian Ministries works with and makes available funding to ministries in the following categories in 2015:

#### Native Ministries:

Kenora Fellowship Centre (Kenora, Presbytery of Winnipeg), Winnipeg Inner City Missions (Winnipeg, Presbytery of Winnipeg), Saskatoon Native Circle Ministry (Saskatoon, Presbytery of Northern Saskatchewan), Hummingbird Ministries (Richmond, Presbytery of Westminster) and Edmonton Urban Native Ministry (Edmonton, Presbytery of Western Han-Ca).

#### Inner-City Ministries:

Action Réfugiés (Montreal, Presbytery of Montreal), Tyndale St-Georges Community Centre (Montreal, Presbytery of Montreal), Boarding Homes (Toronto, Presbytery of East Toronto), and ARISE (Toronto, Presbytery of East Toronto).

### **Rural and Remote Ministry Fund**

[presbyterian.ca/randr](http://presbyterian.ca/randr)

Since 2009, grants from this fund are normally used to assist rural and remote ministries employ certified theological students. Up to eight ministry positions can be funded each year. In the summer of 2015, three students served in the following locations: First and Kenora Fellowship Centre (Kenora, Presbytery of Winnipeg), Fort St. John and St. James (Fort St. John and Dawson, Presbytery of Peace River), and St. Andrew's (Greenstone, Presbytery of Superior).

### **The McBain/Barker Small Community Capital Fund**

[presbyterian.ca/funds](http://presbyterian.ca/funds)

This fund provides grants to congregations in small communities, to help with capital improvements to church buildings. In 2015, grants were received by: Kitimat Church (Kitimat, Presbytery of Kamloops), St. Paul's (Caintown, Presbytery of Seaway-Glengarry), St. Andrew's (Beeton, Presbytery of Oak Ridges) and St. Andrew's (North River, Presbytery of Cape Breton).

### **The MacBeth-Baker Fund**

[presbyterian.ca/funds](http://presbyterian.ca/funds)

This fund provides principal and interest loans for capital expenses to new congregational developments that have an existing bank loan approved by The Presbyterian Church Building Corporation or the Presbyterian Extension Fund (BC) Ltd., or have arranged other financing acceptable to Canadian Ministries. The loan is to assist

congregations pay the principal and interest on debt (above and beyond the regular payment of principal and interest by the congregation) incurred for construction of church facilities. Additional loans may also be made to support the work of congregations with priority given to congregations engaged in new congregational development, grant receiving congregations, or congregations without existing loans or debt. The maximum amount of the loan shall not exceed \$50,000.

### **The Special Projects Fund**

presbyterian.ca/funds

The Special Projects Fund provides grants to assist non-congregational ministries with small projects or programs. In 2015, grants were received for: musical instruments for Hummingbird Ministries (Presbytery of Westminster), an accessibility project at Camp Kintail (Kintail, Synod of Southwestern Ontario), and a *Getting Back to God* programme at the Fredericton Council for Christian Ministry on Campus (Fredericton, Presbytery of New Brunswick).

### **The Chisholm Fund**

presbyterian.ca/funds

The Chisholm Fund supports congregations and missions with grants for small capital projects or programs; the maximum grant is \$25,000. The first claim on these funds is for work in Saskatchewan and then for projects in the rest of western Canada. In 2015 grants were received by: Knox (Vernon, Presbytery of Kamloops), Norman Kennedy (Regina, Presbytery of Assiniboia), First (Regina, Presbytery of Assiniboia), Knox (Yorkton, Presbytery of Assiniboia), Mistawasis Memorial (Mistawasis First Nation, Presbytery of Northern Saskatchewan), Calvin-Goforth (Saskatoon, Presbytery of Northern Saskatchewan), St. Columba (Marion Bridge, Presbytery of Cape Breton), and St. Giles (St. Catharines, Presbytery of Niagara).

### **The Avondbloem Experimental Fund**

presbyterian.ca/funds

The Avondbloem Experimental Fund makes grants to individuals or groups within The Presbyterian Church in Canada, or to projects recommended by them, to support experimental projects that will help to spread the message of Jesus Christ and further the Kingdom of God. In 2015 a grant was received by Paris (Paris, Presbytery of Paris).

### **Appointments**

Appointments may be made by the Life and Mission Agency, for up to three years, in the following categories: (a) Minister of Word and Sacraments, (b) Diaconal Minister, (c) Lay Missionary with specialized training, (d) Lay Missionary, (e) Director (Institutions). All requests for such appointments come through the presbytery of the bounds in which they serve. Appointees are members of the presbytery and responsible to it. Canadian Ministries is currently working with Mistawasis Memorial and the Presbytery of Northern Saskatchewan to appoint a minister of Word and Sacraments to the serve the congregation.

Below is a record of those currently appointed by the Life and Mission Agency to work in Canada, some of whom serve at ministries supported by grants through Canadian Ministries:

<b>Name</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Presbytery</b>	<b>Appointed</b>	<b>Completion</b>
Lincoln Resende	Portuguese Evangelical	West Toronto	Feb 1, 1988	2016
Jon Wyminga	Nazko and Area Dakelh	Kamloops	Sept 1, 1994	Jan 31, 2018
Shannon Wyminga-Bell	Nazko and Area Dakelh	Kamloops	Sept 1, 1994	Jan 31, 2018
Stewart Folster	Saskatoon Native Circle	N. Saskatchewan	Apr 1, 1996	Jan 31, 2018
Mary Fontaine	Hummingbird	Westminster	Jun 1, 2008	Jan 31, 2018
Beverley Shepansky	Mistawasis	N. Saskatchewan	May 1, 2010	Jan 31, 2016
Arlene Onuoha	Temiskaming Regional	Temiskaming	Aug 1, 2010	Jan 1, 2016
Augustus Oku	Toronto, Nigerian	West Toronto	Apr 7, 2011	Apr 7, 2016
Amin Mansour	Almanarah	Hamilton	Jul 14, 2011	Jul 14, 2017
Glen Sampson	St. Luke's/Knox	New Brunswick	Mar 4, 2013	Mar 5, 2016
Yvonne Bearbull	Anamiewigummig (Kenora)	Winnipeg	Apr 1, 2013	Mar 31, 2016
Raymond Abekah	Toronto, Ghanaian	West Toronto	Feb 11, 2014	Feb 11, 2019

**Ecumenical Shared Ministry**

[presbyterian.ca/ecumenical-handbook](http://presbyterian.ca/ecumenical-handbook)

Canadian Ministries continues to receive information about and supports congregations that are in ecumenical shared ministries. There are 12 charges that currently share ministry with congregations of other denominations; of these, some have formalized Ecumenical Shared Ministry agreements.

- a) Presbytery of Halifax & Lunenburg: Sharon, Dean shares with Upper Musquodoboit and Higginsville United Church.
- b) Presbytery of Quebec: St. Andrew's, Inverness shares ministry with Inverness United Church, Kinnear's Mills and Thetford Mines United Churches.
- c) Presbytery of Quebec: St. Andrew's, Valcartier shares ministry with St. Andrew's United Church in Valcartier, using the services of the Quebec City United Church minister who serves the two-point United Church charge of Quebec City and Valcartier.
- d) Presbytery of Quebec: Leggatt's Point shares ministry with the Métis Beach United Church.
- e) Presbytery of Lanark & Renfrew: Deep River Community Church.
- f) Presbytery of East Toronto: Calvin, Toronto shares ministry with Deer Park United Church.
- g) Presbytery of Brampton: Knox, Grand Valley shares ministry with the United Church of Canada.
- h) Presbytery of Temiskaming: St. John's, Kapuskasing shares ministry with Kapuskasing United Church.
- i) Presbytery of Temiskaming: Knox, Cochrane shares ministry with Cochrane Christian Reformed Church.
- j) Presbytery of Superior: St. Andrew's shares ministry with St. James Anglican, Greenstone.
- k) Presbytery of Winnipeg: Pinawa Christian Fellowship in Pinawa, Manitoba shares ministry with several other denominations.
- l) Presbytery of Peace River: Chetwynd Shared Ministry shares ministry with St. Peter's United Church, Hudson's Hope, British Columbia.

The *Ecumenical Shared Ministries Handbook* is available on the webpage to help congregations and presbyteries plan shared ministries; sample agreements are available from Canadian Ministries' staff.

**Evangelism**

[presbyterian.ca/evangelism](http://presbyterian.ca/evangelism)

The scriptural warrant issued in the Great Commission (Matthew 28:16–20) “to go and make disciples” is the responsibility of all Christians. Faith sharing is most powerfully and authentically done in and by communities and through personal interaction; the most effective evangelism is done locally. Grants have been given this year to individuals and congregations to attend and host conferences and courses with a focus on evangelism, for example the World Council of Churches (WCC) “Reclaiming Evangelism” gathering in Nashville, Tennessee in November, 2015. Resources are shared in the PCPak, and courses and programs that explain theories, emerging trends and strategies of evangelism are supported. This year a new brochure “We are a community of The Presbyterian Church in Canada” was produced for use by congregations reaching out to neighbours and newcomers. The text on its panels comes from the church's mission statement. The brochure can be downloaded from [presbyterian.ca/canadian-ministries/evangelism/](http://presbyterian.ca/canadian-ministries/evangelism/) and there is space on the back panel to allow congregations to add their own contact information.

Through Canadian Ministries, the denomination's representative to Evangelism Connections (EC) is named. The Rev. Peter Bush currently is the denomination's representative. EC is an ecumenical partnership focused on assisting Christians and their congregations in conveying the good news. The goal for EC is to cultivate a collection of best resources and practices in evangelism from within each of our communities, and to facilitate access across denominational lines. Working collaboratively provides the context for mutual support and collegiality around this shared mission and purpose. EC is actively working to fulfill its unique calling: “Engaging Evangelism Ecumenically.”

EC provides a searchable index, *EvangeLectionary*, of weekly online reflections on lectionary texts from an evangelism perspective ([evangelismconnections.org](http://evangelismconnections.org)). This has meant that preachers who use the lectionary can access evangelism reflections on the biblical texts from which they are preaching. EC will be expanding *EvangeLectionary* with a new section providing a series of sermon helps on the Holy Spirit in mission and evangelism. This will pick up on the focus on the Holy Spirit in the WCC document *Together towards Life: Mission and Evangelism in Changing Landscapes*. A link to this document will be added to the EC website. Building on EC's production last year of the online video *Evangelism in the 21st Century*, a study guide with the same title has been prepared for use by individuals, groups, congregations and presbyteries.

All people who have heard and responded to Jesus' invitation to "come and follow me" are called to invite those around them to "come and see". Evangelism is a grass-roots activity in which neighbours reach out to neighbours, colleagues to colleagues, students to students, sharing the good news.

The Evangelism Connections Advisory Board, established in 1996, currently consists of representatives from the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church, American Baptist Church, Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Church of the Brethren, The Episcopal Church, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, The Presbyterian Church in Canada, Presbyterian Church in the USA, the Reformed Church in America, the United Church of Canada, the United Church of Christ, and the United Methodist Church.

### **Leading with Care**

[presbyterian.ca/leading-with-care](http://presbyterian.ca/leading-with-care)

Ministries of The Presbyterian Church in Canada continue to implement the Leading with Care Policy and address emerging situations. The response has been extremely positive as we continue to make church buildings safe and our leaders better trained and aware of issues of safety in all programs.

Over the past year, David Phillips has led workshops across the country with leaders from congregations, missions, theological colleges and presbyteries. The purpose of the workshops is to explain and help to implement Leading with Care throughout the denomination. The workshops also seek to bring to the attention of church leaders areas of interest that are being considered within the policy. It is important for every congregation to regularly review the policy as the congregation's programs, leadership, and facilities change. Important aspects of the Leading with Care Policy, or issues associated with it, are highlighted regularly in the *Equipping for...* resources. Contact Ian Ross-McDonald ([imcdonald@presbyterian.ca](mailto:imcdonald@presbyterian.ca)) with questions about the policy.

### **WORSHIP: "THEY DEVOTED THEMSELVES TO...THE BREAKING OF BREAD AND THE PRAYERS."**

The chief end of the Christian life is to glorify and enjoy God. *Living Faith* reminds us that, "...we have no higher calling than to offer the worship that belongs to God day by day..." The resources available to support the worship life of the church are outlined in this section of the report.

### **Worship Resources**

[presbyterian.ca/worship](http://presbyterian.ca/worship)

Canadian Ministries provides worship resources (lectionary readings, worship planners, prayers, hymns suggestions, devotions, etc.) for each Sunday and other significant and seasonal celebrations of the church year. Ministers and lay people of the denomination contribute to the creation of these resources. Additional worship resources are produced regularly and distributed through the PCPak and posted on the webpage. This year these included issues of *Equipping for Worship* (e.g. Why Worship with the Music of Global Christianity? and Visual Arts in Worship: Designing the Content of Screens for Effective Communication), an intergenerational Remembrance Day prayer written by Neal Mathers, family devotions for Advent and Lent written by Diana Loach, an Advent congregational event/pageant written by Emily Bisset, and a book study on *A Christmas Carol* based on sermons written by Laura Alary.

While the material is created to be as useful as possible in as many contexts as possible, an emphasis has been placed on creating resources that are educational and can be easily used by congregations that may be without ordained leadership. For example, *To Preach the Good News: A Handbook about Preaching for Presbyterians in Canada*, written by Sarah Travis, has been produced with the lay preacher in mind, but it is a useful resource for all clergy.

Frequently used sections of the *Book of Common Worship* have been posted on the webpage in a format that is easy to modify for specific purposes. New liturgies and new forms of current liturgies have been created to address emerging needs.

### **Bulletins**

[presbyterian.ca/bulletins](http://presbyterian.ca/bulletins)

Canadian Ministries has responsibility for the creation of bulletins for Sundays and special occasions. In 2015 an emphasis was placed on featuring writers with a constellation of perspectives and backgrounds in The Presbyterian Church in Canada. Samples of the bulletins are available on the webpage.



***These Days***

Through Canadian Ministries, The Presbyterian Church in Canada participates on the board of the devotional magazine *These Days*. The Resource Centre at the national office administrates subscriptions and distributes the devotional quarterly.

**Worship and Liturgy Trust Fund**

The Worship and Liturgy Trust Fund is designed to encourage and assist those committed to improving their knowledge and skills as worship leaders in The Presbyterian Church in Canada. Grants from the fund are available for those engaged in continuing education programs focusing on worship and liturgical concerns, or in a postgraduate program in liturgical studies. Applicants may also access the fund for personal study and research that results in the development and publication of a paper, or in a presentation of an outstanding essay, on a specific subject.

**ADVISORY COMMITTEES**

The purpose of advisory committees includes assisting the department to fulfill its mandate, set priorities, identify new directions, develop policy, and advise the associate secretary. Canadian Ministries is fortunate to have input from a broad spectrum of people from across the country to help guide and inform its work.

In addition to the advisory committees listed in this report, the Associate Secretary of Canadian Ministries is a member of the Committee on Church Architecture and is the secretary for the Fund for Ministerial Assistance.

**The Growing Churches Fund Task Group**

This year, the Life and Mission Agency Committee approved the creation of a small task group with national representation to make suggestions on how best to approach new church development and use the fund for the support of healthy new ministries. Committee members are: Tim Archibald (New Minas, Nova Scotia), Matthew Brough (Winnipeg, Manitoba), Sherif Garas (Mississauga, Ontario), Heather Malnick (Baxter, Ontario), and Dianne Ollerenshaw (Calgary, Alberta); ex officio members are the associate secretary and one program coordinator of Canadian Ministries.

**The Hungarian Ministries Advisory Committee**

The Hungarian Ministries Advisory Committee provides a consultative and advisory forum that addresses the pastoral needs of Hungarian congregations within The Presbyterian Church in Canada at both the level of the national church and at the invitation of presbyteries. Within this committee, visioning about the future ministry needs of Hungarian churches and the Hungarian community in Canada can be pursued. The committee also provides a forum for exploring the development of closer relationships with Hungarian Reformed Churches in Central and Eastern Europe, and for informing and advising The Presbyterian Church in Canada about emerging issues within the Hungarian Reformed Churches. The committee is co-chaired by the Associate Secretaries for Canadian Ministries and International Ministries and consists of six members nominated by the Hungarian Ministerial and Elders' Association of Canada. Members beyond driving range of Toronto are members by correspondence.

**The National Native Ministries Council (NNMC)**

The Executive and Council meet throughout the year by conference call to discuss issues related to the purpose and goals of the Council. In addition to these meetings, members of this association are invited by Canadian Ministries to gather during the year to share experiences, further education, pray for one another, and share mutual concerns and insights. Alongside regular conference calls, an NNMC conference was held in Ontario in May 2016. The incumbent and one elder or member of the board from each of the Native Ministries, and staff of Canadian Ministries join together for the conferences. The member ministries of the council are Kenora Fellowship Centre, Winnipeg Inner City Mission, Saskatoon Native Circle Ministry, Mistawasis Memorial Church, Edmonton Urban Native Ministry, Cariboo Church, Hummingbird Ministries, and Cedar Tree Ministry.

**The Chinese Consultation**

In 2015 Canadian Ministries facilitated a meeting of ministers serving in Chinese congregations within the denomination. During this meeting, issues of mutual concern were discussed and the gathering engaged in continuing education.

## **Canadian Ministries Advisory Committee**

The following people have been confirmed by the Life and Mission Agency Committee as the members of the Canadian Ministries Advisory Committee: the Rev. Jeff Murray (Sackville, New Brunswick), the Rev. Ian Fraser (Pointe Claire, Quebec), Ms. Lori Ransom (Toronto, Ontario), the Rev. Anne Yee-Hibbs (Dundas, Ontario), Ms. Betty Trevenen (Winnipeg, Manitoba), Mr. Gerry Kraay (Saskatoon, Saskatchewan), the Rev. Dr. Jean Morris (De Winton, Alberta), and the Rev. Herb Hilder (Prince George, British Columbia); ex officio members are the general secretary, the associate secretary and staff of Canadian Ministries.

## **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 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

- 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](http://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, 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](http://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](http://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*

information and Christian Education are next in popularity. Mission Trip Flyers and Justice Ministries Flyers are 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.

### **PCCconnect**

presbyterian.ca/pccconnect

As one of the most popular resources, the PCCconnect 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 PCCconnect 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.

## **INTERNATIONAL MINISTRIES**

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

#### **Consent Recommendations**

There are no consent recommendations.

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

That sincere thanks and appreciation for Mr. Brian Johnston's many years of overseas service be acknowledged and that the above minute of appreciation be adopted. (see p. 12.1.22)

#### **Recommendation No. 4**

That sincere thanks and appreciation for Ms. Denise van Wissen's many years of overseas service be acknowledged and that the above minute of appreciation be adopted. (see p. 12.1.23)

## **REPORT**

Staff	Associate Secretary:	Glynis Williams
	Program Coordinator:	Nicole Jeffrey (May – November 2015) Lily Ko (from February 2016)

### **INTRODUCTION**

World 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.

### **MANDATE**

International Ministries is the department of the Life and Mission Agency responsible for the relationships between The Presbyterian Church in Canada 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.

### **CATEGORIES OF SERVICE**

Regular mission personnel are appointed to a one year to five year, renewable term of service with a partner church or agency overseas. Currently, two people live in Canada and travel to their partner church and agencies, several times a year for extended periods. Short term volunteers are appointed for varying terms of service ranging from one month up to one year. This latter category includes participants in the Amity Foundation Summer English Program in China; the Ecumenical Accompaniment Program in Palestine and Israel (EAPPI); and social, medical and theological internships.

### **STAFF TRANSITIONS**

The past year has seen a number of changes affecting mission personnel appointed by The Presbyterian Church in Canada. Among those retiring, completing their term of service or beginning new terms are mentioned below.

#### **Retirements**

##### **Dr. Richard Allen**

Dr. Richard Allen has served The Presbyterian Church in Canada in various places since completing 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, and went on to Nigeria, and Nepal, where he was appointed to the United Mission to Nepal. In 1984, he went to Pakistan to work in a Rural Health Care Project. He was Acting Executive Director of PWS&D from September 1989 to August 1990. In 1994 Dr. Allen was appointed by the Life and Mission Agency 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. Dr Allen retired on December 31, 2015. We give thanks for his ministry over many decades and wish him God's blessing in his retirement. (A minute of appreciation is in the A&P 2015, p. 364)

#### **Minute of Appreciation**

##### **Mr. Brian Johnston**

In 1997, Brian Johnston was appointed by the Life and Mission Agency as an English teacher, and Music and Choir Leader at the Protestant Theological Seminary, of The Reformed Church in Transylvania, Romania. The seminary is situated in the ancient city of Cluj, or Kolosvár in Hungarian, and is the only institution that offers theological degrees leading to ordination. Students must learn Latin, Greek, Hebrew and English, which is where Brian's talents as a teacher were greatly appreciated.

The city of Kolosvár includes a vibrant arts and music scene. Music is important in Hungarian culture and faith, so it was not long before Brian formed a men's choir that performed on tour in Canada in 2001. The Gifts of Music Fund has provided opportunities for seminary students, and congregational members, to learn to sing or play an instrument, and enhance their performance abilities. One might say that the 2001 Canadian choir tour was a "high note" in Brian's ministry.

The Rev. Dr. Rezi Elek, Principal of the seminary, wrote a tribute to Brian's many gifts as an educator, working with students with varied language abilities and skills. Brian gave extra attention where needed and set challenges for those students who were excelling.

The concerts that Brian has organized at the seminary have been a huge success. On the 2015 Moderator's trip to Eastern Europe, the Rev. Karen Horst and companions, were treated to a musical ride from Gershwin show tunes, to Brazilian indigenous songs to Opera.

A former student noted that "these concerts brought people from other denominations to our seminary, people who otherwise would have never made contact with a protestant institution, breaking down the walls and the barriers of the fear of the unknown, of an alien world for them. These concerts had a much greater impact on the lives of people, and on the special relation between ethnicities, religions and cultures in the city, than one would have thought."

As so often happens in ministry, Brian did not see the impact he was making, because he was open to all people, and delighted in their talents, especially when it came to music. Brian welcomed outsiders into a closed and homogenous community, and allowed them to be accepted there. Does this not sound like a gospel story, Jesus welcoming the outsider, the stranger, offering hospitality? After almost 20 years of service, Brian retired on May 31, 2016.

A coda is an ending to a piece of music, and Brian, may this tribute be the coda to this particular relationship in Romania. We anticipate there will be an encore as God continues to work through you. Now it is your turn to enjoy the music.

**Recommendation No. 3                      Adopted/Defeated/Amended**

That sincere thanks and appreciation for Mr. Brian Johnston's many years of overseas service be acknowledged and that the above minute of appreciation be adopted.

**Minute of Appreciation**

**Ms. Denise van Wissen**

Like so many young Presbyterians, Denise van Wissen served first as a volunteer in 1993, following a mission trip to Nicaragua. In 1998, she accepted a regular mission appointment with SOYNICA, the Soya Association of Nicaragua, working as a nutritionist and technical advisor. SOYNICA focused on women, working to break the vicious cycle of poverty, the legacy of years of oppression and war. Providing nutritional education, SOYNICA trained promoters who worked in small communities, encouraging the use of soy and green leaf extract, in order to improve health. Working in the rural north of the country, Denise's gifts were put to good use.

Denise 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. Fluency in a language is more than words; it is being a part of the community, understanding the references to past events, and being able to make jokes, or "chistes"! With this impressive cross cultural ability, Denise accompanied many Presbyterian youth and adult mission groups visiting Central America, enhancing the learning and making these trips life-changing for so many.

In 2007, Denise moved to Guatemala, being appointed by International Ministries to work as coordinator of the Health & Nutrition program of the Fraternidad de Presbiteriales Mayas, the Association of Mayan Presbyterian Women. Indigenous communities formed 60% of the population but were largely excluded from political life. Not an easy ministry context, but Denise's work with these women was an important witness of solidarity and spiritual accompaniment. While in Guatemala, Denise married her fiancé Nelson who joined her from Nicaragua. With breaks for the arrival of sons Jeremy in 2008 and Diego in 2010, Denise returned to SOYNICA in 2011.

In 2015, Denise was assigned to CEPAD, the Council of Protestant Churches in Nicaragua, using her skills in rural communities, with food security and nutrition programs, some supported by the Canadian Foodgrains Bank. In 2016 Denise is sharing her skills with World Renew as Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation Advisor, with an additional focus in the areas of nutrition, newborn and child health issues. In December 2016, Denise will complete her assignment with The Presbyterian Church in Canada and continue to work with World Renew.

Denise often ended emails quoting Father Francis, a Kenyan priest: “It is not enough to kneel and pray. Whatever we do, we must do something that will affect peace somehow.” For two decades Denise has worked for peace with justice in Central America on behalf of The Presbyterian Church in Canada. For her integrity, huge smile and good heart, we give thanks to God and wish her all God’s blessings in the future.

**Recommendation No. 4                      Adopted/Defeated/Amended**

That sincere thanks and appreciation for Ms. Denise van Wissen’s many years of overseas service be acknowledged and that the above minute of appreciation be adopted.

**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. Her appointment commenced January 1, 2016. She will be working as an advisor for a PWS&D supported Community Health Program in Madhya Pradesh. In addition, she will be engaged with the MIBE Graduate School for Nurses faculty, in planning and facilitating learning activities for nursing students. 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. International Ministries is hopeful that this new model will be beneficial to both the India partners and The Presbyterian Church in Canada. 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. During the nine month internship Amy participated in trainings, community monitoring visits, writing case stories and editing reports, and served as a member of the proposal development team. 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.

**Amity – Summer English Program**

The Amity Foundation is a Chinese Christian NGO, a partner agency of The Presbyterian Church in Canada. In 2015, a team of three participated in this program of teaching English, which helps 100 rural teachers with their English listening and speaking skills. The program ran from July 6 to August 4, 2015. The Presbyterian Church in Canada was well represented as the team included the Rev. Wendy Adams, and the Rev. Edward Millin from British Columbia; and Ms. Beth Culp from Ontario. They served in Shandong China, and reported that their mission experience was a great opportunity to learn and to grow in faith. More information about the program is available on the website at [presbyterian.ca/missiontrips](http://presbyterian.ca/missiontrips).

### **Ecumenical Accompaniment Program in Palestine/Israel (EAPPI)**

In 2015, two people participated in this accompaniment program of the World Council of Churches in Israel/Palestine. The Rev. Diane Tait-Katerberg of Surrey, British Columbia, and the Rev. Gordon Timbers of Orillia, Ontario, both recently retired, started a three month term as Ecumenical Accompaniers (EA's) on December 2, 2015. They served in Jerusalem and the South Hebron Hills, respectively. Although the situation was very difficult during their time, they spoke of the obvious appreciation of the Palestinians and Israelis who are working for peace. Their blogs are available on the website at [presbyterian.ca/missionstaff](http://presbyterian.ca/missionstaff).

### **PARTNERSHIP EVENTS**

#### **Moderator's Trip to Eastern Europe – September 14–30, 2015**

For her official overseas trip, the Moderator of the 141st General Assembly, the Rev. Karen Horst visited the historic Reformed partner churches in Eastern Europe. Karen Horst was accompanied by her husband, the Rev. Dr. Rick Horst, Mr. Andrew Faiz of the Presbyterian Record, and the Rev. Glynis Williams of International Ministries. The group arrived in Hungary on the day the border with Serbia was closed to refugees, most of whom were transiting through to Germany. Upon arrival in Hungary, we were met by David Pandy-Szekeres, The Presbyterian Church in Canada mission staff who works in Hungary and the Ukraine. His extensive list of contacts allowed us to see the humanitarian efforts being undertaken by faith communities and their concerns at the numbers of people on the move. We were graciously received by the Bishops of The Hungarian Reformed Church, The Hungarian Reformed Church in the Sub-Carpathian Ukraine and The Reformed Church in Transylvania, Romania. We met so many committed people engaged in educational, refugee, music and Roma ministries. The legacy of the past conflict in all three countries, and still present in Ukraine, defines their identity. The shared language and Reformed faith holds them together. It was good to spend time with David and Anna Pandy-Szekeres and Brian Johnston, International Ministries mission staff, and see them at work in their respective contexts.

#### **Malawi, Synods of Livingstonia and Blantyre – August 11–30, 2015**

As an introduction to the global partnerships of The Presbyterian Church in Canada, the new General Secretary of the Life and Mission Agency, the Rev. Ian Ross-McDonald, and the Rev. Glynis Williams visited church partners in both regions of Malawi. In Livingstonia in the north, we were able to spend time with the intern Amy Zavitz, and see the many ministries in which the church is engaged. We met Abel Soko, a medical student who is supported by a Leadership Development grant. The Blantyre Synod Partners Consultation offered the opportunity to visit programs in Mulanje, Blantyre and smaller communities; and to witness the vibrant faith of the churches as we participated in worship. We observed the many challenges affecting the population such as floods followed by drought, and the devaluation of the currency made worse by unemployment.

#### **Japan, November 16–23, 2015**

At the invitation of the Korean Christian Church in Japan (KCCJ), five Presbyterians attended the 3rd International Conference on Minority Issues and Mission. Responding to a resurgence of hate speech against minorities in Japan, the World Council of Churches supported the conference where 120 participants learned more about the issues of xenophobia and hate crimes. We resolved to share the stories of discrimination and to work toward building inclusive communities. Mr. Jackie Bannerman, Ms. Mary Kyei and Ms. Yeram Ryu attended the youth event immediately preceding the conference, and were joined by the Rev. Dr. Ron Wallace and the Rev. Glynis Williams for the full conference.

### **PERSONNEL AND PARTNERSHIPS**

All the groups listed below are established partnerships of The Presbyterian Church in Canada. However, in terms of the ongoing maintenance and administration of these partnerships, International Ministries acts as the lead agency for some partnerships, while PWS&D acts as the lead agency for others.

<b>Country/Region</b>	<b>Church or Agency</b>	<b>Staff</b>
Afghanistan	Church World Service (CWS), Pakistan/Afghanistan	
Africa	All Africa Conference of Churches	
Asia	Christian Conference of Asia	



Caribbean	Caribbean and North America Council for Mission (CANACOM)	
China	China Christian Council The Amity Foundation	
Cuba	Presbyterian-Reformed Church in Cuba Cuban Council of Churches Evangelical Theological Seminary of Matanzas Cuban Centre for Reflection and Dialogue (CCRD)	
El Salvador	Instituto de la Mujer (IMU)	
Ghana	The Presbyterian Church of Ghana	The Rev. Raymond Abekah (in Toronto) The Rev. Stephen Azundem (in Montreal from April 2016)
Grenada	The Presbyterian Church in Grenada	
Guatemala	Maya Mam Association for Research and Development (AMMID) Evangelical Centre for Pastoral Studies in Central America (CEDEPCA) New Dawn Association for Community Health and Development (ASDNA) Fraternidad de Presbiteriales Mayas (Association of Mayan Women) Francisco Coll School	Ms. Chantel Cole
Guyana	The Guyana Presbyterian Church	
Hungary	The Hungarian Reformed Church	
India	The Church of North India (CRBHS) MIBE Graduate School for Nurses Centre for Dalit Studies Church's Auxiliary for Social Action Institute for Development Education Madurai Non-Formal Education Centre Christian Medical Association of India Roofs for the Roofless	Ms. Michelle Verwey
Japan	The Korean Christian Church in Japan	
Kenya	The Presbyterian Church of East Africa	Dr. Richard Allen (to December 2015)
Korea	The Presbyterian Church of Korea	
Kyrgyzstan	Interserve Canada	Mr. Sam and Mrs. Linda Ling*
Lebanon	The Near East School of Theology (NEST) The National Evangelical Synod of Syria and Lebanon (NESSL)	
Malawi	The Church of Central Africa Presbyterian (CCAP) Blantyre Synod Livingstonia Synod	The Rev. Joel & Ms. Rebecca Sherbino (from August 2015) Ms. Amy Zavitz (from July 2015)
Mauritius	The Presbyterian Church in Mauritius	
Middle East	The Middle East Council of Churches Department of Service for Palestinian Refugees (DSPR) Ecumenical Accompaniment Program in Palestine/Israel (EAPPI)	The Rev. Diane Tait-Katerberg and the Rev. Gordon Timbers (from December 2, 2015–February 28, 2016)
Mozambique	SABEEL Presbyterian Church of Mozambique	
Nepal	The United Mission to Nepal (UMN) International Nepal Fellowship	
Nicaragua	Asociación Soya de Nicaragua (SOYNICA) Council of Protestant Churches of Nicaragua (CEPAD)	Ms. Denise van Wissen

Nigeria	The Presbyterian Church of Nigeria Abakaliki Literacy and Translation Trust	
Pakistan	Interserve Canada Church World Service (CWS) Pakistan/Afghanistan	Dr. William and Mrs. Sheila McKelvie*
Romania	The Hungarian Reformed Church in Transylvania	Mr. Brian Johnston
Taiwan	The Presbyterian Church in Taiwan	The Rev. Dr. Paul McLean Ms. Louise Gamble The Rev. Dr. Ted and Ms. Betty Siverns
Tanzania	Africa Inland Church Tanzania (AICT)	
Ukraine	The Hungarian Reformed Church in the Sub-Carpathian Ukraine	Dr. David and Mrs. Anna Pandy-Szekeres

\* Associate Missionary

### **Visits from Overseas Partners to Canada**

#### General Assembly Visitors:

E.H. Johnson Award recipients – Ms. Loly Rico and Dr. Janet Dench, representing the Canadian Council for Refugees (CCR)  
The Rev. Thegu Patrick Mutahi, Deputy Secretary General, Presbyterian Church of East Africa (PCEA), Kenya  
Dr. George Sabra, President, Near East School of Theology (NEST), Beirut, Lebanon

#### Other Visitors:

The Rev. Dr. Samuel Ayete-Nyampong, Moderator, The Presbyterian Church of Ghana  
Dr. Lilian Ayete-Nyampong, The Presbyterian Church of Ghana  
The Rev. Sungjae Kim, Vice Moderator, Korean Christian Church in Japan (KCCJ)  
The Rev. Baekki Heo, Minister, Tsukuba Tokyo Church, Korean Christian Church in Japan (KCCJ)  
The Rev. Arif Masih Siraj, Moderator, The Presbyterian Church of Pakistan

## **LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM**

### **Leadership Development Program grants for students studying at our colleges**

Professor Meng Yan-ling, China Christian Council, studying for a Th.D. at Toronto School of Theology

### **Leadership Development Program grants for students studying outside Canada**

The Rev. Takuze Chitsulo, Blantyre Synod, Church of Central Africa Presbyterian, studying for a Ph.D. at the University of KwaZulu Natal, South Africa. He is expected to convocate in spring 2016  
Ms. Judy Wanjiku Kamau, Presbyterian Church of East Africa, studying for a Degree in Human Resources at St. Paul's University, Kenya  
The Rev. Lyton Kilowe, Blantyre Synod, Church of Central Africa Presbyterian, Malawi, studying for a Bachelor's Degree in Applied Accounting, Auditing and Information Systems at the Malawi College of Accounting  
The Rev. Mwawi Chilongozi, Livingstonia Synod, Church of Central Africa Presbyterian, Malawi, studying for a Masters of Theology, Stellenbosch University, South Africa  
Mr. Abel Soko, Livingstonia Synod, Church of Central Africa Presbyterian, Malawi, studying for a Bachelor's Degree in Medicine and Surgery at Kampala International University, Uganda  
Ms. L. Titizian, The Near East School of Theology, Lebanon, studying for a M.Div. and Library Science Degree at the Lebanese University

## **ECUMENICAL RELATIONSHIPS**

International Ministries and/or PWS&D participates in the following ecumenical organizations:

- KAIROS: Canadian Ecumenical Justice Initiatives – the Rev. Andrew Johnston, Mr. Stephen Allen (Justice Ministries)
- Canadian Churches Forum for Global Ministries – the Rev. Dr. Glynis Williams, the Rev. Dr. Robert Faris
- Caribbean and North America Council for Mission (CANACOM) – Ms. Anne Phillips, the Rev. Dr. Glynis Williams

## **ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

The Rev. Marion Barclay-Mackay, the Rev. Corrie Stewart, Ms. Rebecca Pitt de Vries, Ms. Huda Kandalaf (maternity leave), Ms. Margaret Evans, Mr. Guy Smagge, the Rev. Jeannie Lee, Ms. Margaret McKague and the Rev. Glenn Inglis.

## **REPORT OF THE DR. E.H. JOHNSON MEMORIAL FUND COMMITTEE**

Firstly we thank the Life and Mission Agency for their gracious support of the work of the E.H. Johnson Committee by the generous gift of the time and talents of staff members. Secondly we thank supporters from churches across Canada who continue to hold up in prayer, work on the “cutting edge of mission”. Their gifts of time and treasure ensure that The Presbyterian Church in Canada is exposed to the good news and exciting possibilities of mission in our country and around the world.

During the 2015 General Assembly in Vancouver, the E.H. Johnson Award for work on the “Cutting Edge of Mission” went to the Canadian Council for Refugees (CCR) represented by Janet Dench, Executive Director and Loly Rico, President. As the dimension of the refugee crisis around the world approached a level unseen since WWII, this recognition was timely. The CCR was recognized for its work influencing Canadian government policies and legislation, educating lawmakers and being the conscience for our nation as “fear of the stranger” increased. One of the most notable contributions of the CCR is the way in which refugee voices, including youth, articulate the problems that refugees face in seeking protection. We are grateful to the University of British Columbia Student Union and to members of the local arrangements committee for their great help in hosting the awards luncheon.

The recipient of the E.H. Johnson Award at the 2016 General Assembly will be Dr. Bernard Sabella, Executive Director of the Department of Service to Palestinian Refugees of the Middle East Council of Churches. We keenly anticipate hearing his perspective as a Christian Palestinian, an academic and as someone who has dealt with the pressing Palestinian refugee situation for many years. The work of the Department of Service to Palestinian Refugees has been supported by International Ministries for many years. We will be recognizing that cutting edge mission in a context where a new exodus of peoples from the Middle East has assumed tragic and historic proportions.

### **E.H. Johnson Memorial Fund Committee Members**

One Year – Dr. Marjorie Ross, the Rev. Duncan Jeffrey (convener)

Two Years – the Rev. Mona Scrivens, Ms. Anne Saunders, Ms. Annemarie Klassen, the Rev. Thomas Kim, Ms. Janette McIntosh

Three Years – Ms. Shahrzad Kandalaf

Ex-Officio – the Rev. Stephen Kendall, Principal Clerk of the General Assembly, the Rev. Ian Ross-McDonald, General Secretary, Life and Mission Agency, and the Rev. Dr. Glynis Williams, Associate Secretary, International Ministries, Life and Mission Agency

Duncan Jeffrey  
Convener

Glynis Williams  
Secretary

## **JUSTICE MINISTRIES**

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

#### **Consent Recommendation**

There are no consent recommendations.

#### **Recommendation No. 5**

That congregations and presbyteries be encouraged to study the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. (see p. 12.1.32)

#### **Recommendation No. 6**

That sessions and presbyteries consider ways to respond to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission’s Calls to Action in their communities. (see p. 12.1.32)

**Recommendation No. 7**

That congregations be encouraged to acknowledge the traditional territory on which the congregation meets to worship by posting this information in bulletins, by a sign in the church or a combination of both. (see p. 12.1.32)

**Recommendation No. 8**

That congregations be encouraged to acknowledge the traditional territory on which the congregation meets to worship on Aboriginal Day Sunday. (see p. 12.1.32)

**Recommendation No. 9**

That sessions, presbyteries and all church groups be encouraged to acknowledge the traditional territory on which they are meeting at each meeting. (see p. 12.1.32)

**Recommendation No. 10**

That permission be granted to the Life and Mission Agency (Justice Ministries) to present a response to the above Overture Nos. 4, 5, 14, 15, 21, 23, 24, 26, 29, 30, 32, 33, 35, 2015 to the 2017 General Assembly. (see p. 12.1.39)

**Recommendation No. 11**

That permission be granted to the Life and Mission Agency (Justice Ministries) in consultation with the Assembly Council to present a response to Overture No. 9, 2016 to the 2017 General Assembly. (see p. 12.1.40)

**REPORT**

Staff	Associate Secretary:	Stephen Allen
	Program Coordinator:	Katharine Masterton

**HEALING AND RECONCILIATION PROGRAM**

**Outreach**

Since the 2015 General Assembly Justice Ministries staff led nine healing and reconciliation presentations or workshops for congregations, presbyteries, synods and presbyterials. In addition, there were two local leader training workshops. The Confession was read at three reconciliation events hosted by Indigenous people.

**Local Leaders Network and Training**

One of the priorities in the program is leading training workshops for Presbyterians who would like to be local leaders in their congregations, presbyteries and communities. More than 150 Presbyterians across Canada have attended training workshops since 2007. The purpose of these workshops is to widen the base of local leaders who can speak to congregations and inform and involve more Presbyterians.

The training takes place in communities across Canada. Workshop presentations cover the history of residential schools, The Presbyterian Church in Canada's involvement in residential schools and The Presbyterian Church in Canada's commitment to healing and reconciliation. Participants do the Blanket Exercise (developed by the Aboriginal Rights Coalition, one of the ecumenical coalitions brought together to form KAIROS). Participants visit a First Nation community, a Friendship Centre or an Indigenous elder may speak to the group.

Two local leaders training workshops have taken place since the 2015 General Assembly. David Phillips and Susan Samuel were hired to plan these workshops. David Phillips facilitated a local leader training workshop in Waterloo, Ontario on Saturday, September 26. The workshop was hosted by Knox Church, Waterloo, and planned with St. Andrew's Church, Hespeler. Fifteen people attended. Youth played an important role in the workshop.

Susan Samuel planned the workshop with a team from Chippewas of Nawash Unceded First Nation (Cape Croker First Nation near Lion's Head, Ontario in the Bruce Peninsula) on September 25–27, 2015. Twenty Presbyterians attended. Following the workshop many participants spoke to their congregation and/or presbytery about their experience. Hosts from Chippewas of Nawash Unceded First Nation have invited the church to partner with them for future events. Participants from the Presbytery of Grey-Bruce-Maitland are planning several workshops in 2016 to learn more about healing and reconciliation and to consider the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action. One participant is exploring opportunities to partner with Saugeen First Nation to organize a healing and reconciliation event.

### **Healing and Reconciliation Seed Fund**

Since the Healing and Reconciliation Seed Fund was established in 2006, 65 projects totaling \$246,786 have been funded. In 2015 the Healing and Reconciliation Advisory Committee approved seven projects for \$22,040. Information about the seed fund is online at [presbyterian.ca/healing/#funding](http://presbyterian.ca/healing/#funding).

### **Summaries of Seed Fund Projects**

**The Presbytery of Brandon** in Manitoba is developing a relationship with members of **Birdtail First Nation**. Presbytery members attend worship at Birdtail and organize social gatherings once a month. Funds support food for community meals and fellowship, travel costs for participants and Sunday School supplies. Project leaders are working to establish a church council to ensure ongoing leadership by members of Birdtail in decision making. This project was approved April 29, 2015 and received \$4,800.

**Camp Kintail** (Synod of Southwestern Ontario) received seed funding to support the travel costs for two young women, Tammy Wedamin and Brenda Gon, from Gamèti, Northwest Territories, who were hired as counsellors by Camp Kintail in the summer of 2015. Gamèti is between Great Slave and Great Bear Lakes in a traditional hunting area of the Tłı̄cho and Sahtu Dene peoples. This was an opportunity for counselors and campers to learn about Tammy and Brenda's communities. While in Ontario, Tammy and Brenda visited Chippewas of Nawash Unceded First Nation (Cape Croker First Nation) where they were warmly received. Tammy and Brenda taught 80 counsellors to round dance. They left a lasting impression on Camp Kintail and underscored the value of young Indigenous and non-Indigenous Canadians working and having fun together. This project was approved April 29, 2015 and received \$2,040.

Dianne Ollerenshaw, staff for the Synod of Alberta and the Northwest and a group of Presbyterians partnered with Blood (Kainai) First Nations to host an event in September 2015 called **Moving Forward Together as a People** that focused on the impact of residential schools. Children and youth from Blood First Nation participated. This was a two day event. On the first day, participants had a community feast. A play called "New Blood" was performed by youth from the community which explored the legacy of residential schools. On the second day, youth from Blood First Nation hosted panels to talk about the intergenerational impact of residential schools. Church leaders from the Anglican, Catholic, Presbyterian and United churches responded to the TRC's Calls to Action. Presbyterians from the Presbytery of Calgary-Macleod attended. This project was approved September 1, 2015 and received \$5,000.

**Kingston Community Reconciliation Feast** took place October 21, 2015, where 180 people attended the feast. The purpose was straightforward – invite Indigenous and non-Indigenous people in Kingston to share a meal together. The Feast was endorsed by the Presbytery of Kingston. The Rev. Dr. Andrew Johnston, minister at St. Andrew's Church was on the planning team and worked with the Katarokwi Indigenous Grandmothers Council and KAIROS. The evening also featured the Shimmering Water Drum Circle. Presbyterians from several congregations attended. A member of the Grandmothers' Council wrote to the Rev. Dr. Johnston: "Andrew, you lit a special fire when you reached out to the Grandmothers to join in this Feast. Your openness rekindled the flames of inclusivity in many, many hearts last night". This project was approved October 16, 2015 and received \$2,500. Project leaders returned \$364.23 of unspent funds.

**Churches Responding to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission** involves eight congregations from Free Methodist, Mennonite Brethren, Salvation Army and United churches and Westwood Presbyterian Church in Winnipeg, Manitoba. They planned three educational evenings over three months beginning January 2016. Each evening had a different speaker. Justice Murray Sinclair, former chair of the TRC was one of the guest speakers. The fourth evening in April focused on discerning on to faithfully respond to the TRC's Calls to Action. This project was approved November 24, 2015 and received \$2,000.

**Youth in Mission Trip to Winnipeg Inner City Missions** is an initiative of the youth program at Knox Church in Waterloo, Ontario. Youth and adult will visit the WICM in the summer of 2016. Youth and adult participants learn about Aboriginal peoples as part of their preparation for the trip. Youth will share their experiences with their church afterward. The importance of youth participation in healing and reconciliation cannot be understated as new generations of Indigenous and non-Indigenous grow up. They will become leaders who continue to build new relationships between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people. This is the second time Knox Church has received funding for this initiative. The project was approved November 24, 2015 and received \$5,000.

**United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Interfaith Workshop** involved members of Knox Church, Calgary, Alberta and included support from the Calgary Interfaith Council. The Rev. Mark Tremblay served on the planning team. Ms. Doreen Spence facilitated a one day workshop for participants to discuss why and how the Declaration can be implemented in Canada. Doreen Spence is a Cree from Alberta. She is a respected traditional healer and contributed to the development of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples that took over 20 years to work through the United Nations system. This workshop was filmed and will be a resource for the church. This project was approved November 24, 2015 and received \$700. The Truth and Reconciliation's Calls to Action include the Government of Canada, churches and other faith groups to implement the Declaration (Call to Action No. 48).

### **Plan to Implement the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action**

The 2015 General Assembly adopted a motion that "the Assembly Council to develop a plan to implement the recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission related to church apologies and reconciliation, through committees, agencies and departments of The Presbyterian Church in Canada and the synods, presbyteries and congregations and to report to the 142nd General Assembly on the plan and the progress made". (A&P 2015, p. 25) Justice Ministries will work with the Assembly Council in preparing this report.

### **Responding to Initiatives from Indigenous People**

In December 2015, Justice Ministries was contacted by Sam Thomas, a Cayuga artist. He invited The Presbyterian Church in Canada and other denominations to participate in a project he has initiated called "Opening the Doors to Dialogue". Sam collected doors from several residential schools. "Opening the Doors to Dialogue" involves inviting Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples to come together to learn how to bead, but more importantly to talk. Sam is a researcher, artist and educator of Iroquois beadwork. Together worship participants bead patterns on the doors. Sam Thomas received funding for "Opening the Doors to Dialogue" from the Canada Council for the Arts as well as from one of the largest private foundations in Canada.

The launch took place at the Woodland Cultural Centre in Brantford on January 16, 2016. Katharine Masterton read the Confession on behalf of The Presbyterian Church in Canada. The launch included statements by the Chief of the Six Nations of the Grand River, the Director of the Woodland Cultural Centre, a member of the Brantford City Council, the local member of the Ontario Legislature and several survivors of residential schools.

Some 30 participants participated in the beading workshop. Several residential schools survivors courageously spoke about their experiences at school. Other participants spoke about their hopes for the future and why they believe reconciliation is important. These stories create sacred spaces where healing from brokenness becomes possible.

Similar events were planned in Niagara on the Lake, Ontario and Fort Erie Ontario. The Rev. Wally Hong read the Confession on behalf of the church at the February 20, 2016 event at the Niagara Regional Native Centre in Niagara on the Lake and Stephen Allen read the Confession at the April 2, 2016 event at the Fort Erie Native Friendship Centre in Fort Erie.

### **Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada**

The Closing Event began with a sacred ceremony on Victoria Island on the Ottawa River on Sunday, May 31, 2015. Victoria Island is traditional Algonquin territory. The Presbyterian delegation attended a wonderful service at St. Andrew's Church Ottawa. At noon that day, the Walk for Reconciliation began in Gatineau, Quebec and ended next to the Ottawa City Hall. Between 7,000 and 10,000 people walked together for reconciliation. Young and old, Indigenous and non-Indigenous, walking together. It was a moving day.

On June 2, the Commissioners presented a summary of the final report and the 94 Calls to Action, of which 42 focus on healing the wounds of residential schools and 52 are steps for building new relationships. As each Call to Action was read by one of the Commissioners, there were often loud cheers of hope and for some survivors, tears, perhaps because they felt that their pain (and it is as much Canada's pain) was finally being publicly acknowledged. A number of the Calls to Action are directed to the churches and taken together, provide a road map for the continuing journey of truth telling, asking for forgiveness and seeking reconciliation. Together they build a foundation for justice and right relations.

On June 3, the Governor General of Canada, His Excellency David Johnston, hosted a closing ceremony at Rideau Hall. The Presbyterian Church in Canada's delegation to this ceremony included: the Rev. Dr. Stephen Farris, Moderator of the 140th General Assembly; the Rev. Stephen Kendall, Principal Clerk; Ms. Vivian Ketchum, survivor of Cecilia Jeffrey residential school.

The WMS had a delegation at the Closing Event in Ottawa. Justice Ministries recruited a team of 12 people; it included Indigenous people and young adults. Many members of this team have spoken to their congregations and presbyteries.

Presbyterians across Canada marked the Closing Event in different ways including through worship, in local Walks for Reconciliation and in community feasts.

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 mandate of this historic Commission has come to the end, but the journey for reconciliation continues.

The TRC's Calls to Action that are directed to churches are posted on a new webpage that will provide background information and stories from Presbyterians responding to these actions ([presbyterian.ca/healing/trc-calls-to-action/](http://presbyterian.ca/healing/trc-calls-to-action/)).

### **Peoples of Faith Moving Forward in Reconciliation**

In November 2015, representatives from a number of denominations, ecumenical agencies and traditional elders met in Pickering, Ontario, to consider how they might work together on the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action. The gathering was fortunate to have Shirley Williams, a traditional elder from Peterborough participate in the gathering.

In addition to the churches that are part of the Indian Residential Schools Settlement Agreement (Anglican Church of Canada, The Presbyterian Church in Canada, the United Church of Canada), there were representatives from the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops, Canadian Council of Churches, Canadian Yearly Meeting (Quakers), Christian Reformed Church in North America, the Evangelical Fellowship of Canada, Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada, KAIROS, Mennonite Church Canada, Mennonite Central Committee and the Salvation Army.

There was agreement to cooperate on Call to Action No. 48 – developing a plan by March 31, 2016, to implement the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

There were other proposals for possible ecumenical collaboration. These will be considered in the months to come.

Stephen Allen (Justice Ministries) and Yvonne Bearbull (Kenora Fellowship) represented The Presbyterian Church in Canada on the planning team.

### **Congregations are responding to the Calls to Action**

The session at First Church in Port Colborne, Ontario, created an ad hoc committee to inform the congregation, community and the Presbytery of Niagara about Presbyterian involvement in residential schools and to discern ways to promote healing.

Westwood Church in Winnipeg, Manitoba is cooperating with eight churches in their community to host four evening events in January to April 2016. The first three evenings will have speakers who will address themes that run through the Calls to Action. The final evening will be community discernment for ways the community can respond to the Calls to Action together.

First Church in Regina, Saskatchewan is working ecumenically and with Indigenous organizations to advocate for the commemoration and maintenance of the cemetery of children who died at the Presbyterian-run Regina Indian Industrial School. The school closed in 1911 (Call to Action No. 75).

The Presbytery of Ottawa is developing liturgical resources for congregations to learn more about the legacy of residential schools and the TRC's Calls to Action.

Knox Church in Calgary is learning about the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. The congregation joined an interfaith planning team and organized a forum to discuss how peoples of faith can implement the values and principles enshrined in the Declaration.

The Rev. Susan Samuel planned a workshop in the spring, 2016 for members of the Presbytery of Grey-Bruce-Maitland to learn about the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. Both of these initiatives are faithful responses to Call to Action No. 48 which calls on churches to learn about and implement the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. Copies of the UN Declaration are available from Justice Ministries.

These are just some of the local initiatives that Presbyterians across Canada have been involved in since the release of the TRC's Calls to Action.

Justice Ministries is available to lead workshops on the Calls to Action. The Calls to Action can be found at [trc.ca/websites/trcinstitution/File/2015/Findings/Calls\\_to\\_Action\\_English2.pdf](http://trc.ca/websites/trcinstitution/File/2015/Findings/Calls_to_Action_English2.pdf).

**Recommendation No. 5                      Adopted/Defeated/Amended**

That congregations and presbyteries be encouraged to study the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

Hard copies of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples are available from Justice Ministries. Softcopies can be downloaded online from [un.org/esa/socdev/unpfii/documents/DRIPS\\_en.pdf](http://un.org/esa/socdev/unpfii/documents/DRIPS_en.pdf).

**Recommendation No. 6                      Adopted/Defeated/Amended**

That sessions and presbyteries consider ways to respond to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action in their communities.

The General Assembly now begins by acknowledging the traditional territory on which Assembly gathers. This is in response to an overture from the Presbytery of Waterloo-Wellington in 2013. (A&P 2013, p. 541; A&P 2014, p. 373) This act is a sign of respect and for those who are not Indigenous, a brief history lesson.

Identifying the traditional territory may require some research. In some cases, several First Nations or Indigenous groups may need to be recognized as traditional territories may have overlapped or been shared. This is a project that could involve young people in the congregation. Here are some steps to take.

Identify the traditional territory the church is on. It may be a treaty territory. Libraries may provide this information or do some research on the internet. The other approach is to contact the closest First Nation community or organization (Friendship Centre). In addition, many universities and community colleges have Indigenous student organizations or Indigenous Studies programs.

Justice Ministries is developing a resource to assist congregations to identify the traditional territory on which their buildings are located.

**Recommendation No. 7                      Adopted/Defeated/Amended**

That congregations be encouraged to acknowledge the traditional territory on which the congregation meets to worship by posting this information in bulletins, by a sign in the church or a combination of both.

**Recommendation No. 8                      Adopted/Defeated/Amended**

That congregations be encouraged to acknowledge the traditional territory on which the congregation meets to worship on Aboriginal Day Sunday.

**Recommendation No. 9                      Adopted/Defeated/Amended**

That sessions, presbyteries and all church groups are encouraged to acknowledge the traditional territory on which they are meeting at each meeting.



### **Healing and Reconciliation Advisory Committee**

The Rev. Tim Choi (Native Ministries Representative), Ms. Carol MacLennan, the Rev. Katherine McCloskey, the Rev. Linda Patton-Cowie (convener), the Rev. Barbara Pilozow, Ms. Heather Purdy, Mr. Keith Randall, Dr. Douglas Stewart, Ms. Laura VanderVleuten.

The Rev. Dr. J.H. (Hans) Kouwenberg and the Rev. Dr. W.G. Sydney McDonald completed two three-year terms. Justice Ministries thanks them for their contributions.

### **KAIROS: CANADIAN ECUMENICAL JUSTICE INITIATIVES**

KAIROS unites 11 Canadian churches and religious organizations in a faithful ecumenical response to the call to “do justice, and to love kindness and to walk humbly with your God” (Micah 6:8). KAIROS advocates for social change, amplifying and strengthening the public witness of its members, including The Presbyterian Church in Canada. KAIROS is a Greek word meaning “God’s time” and refers to an auspicious moment for decision or action. KAIROS was established on July 1, 2001, and brought together ten ecumenical coalitions. KAIROS has five national Circles of Ecumenical Collaboration. Members of the circles contribute to shaping KAIROS’ programs. Representatives are appointed by Justice Ministries to the following circles: Sustainability, Dignity and Rights, Indigenous Rights and Movement Building. The representative to the Global Partnership Circle is appointed by PWS&D. The grant from the Life and Mission Agency to KAIROS in 2015 was \$42,700. The website is [kairoscanada.org](http://kairoscanada.org).

### **Spirited Reflections**

Individuals are invited to submit theological reflections that are posted on KAIROS’ website. The reflections may follow the lectionary cycle, but this is not essential. Several Presbyterians have contributed reflections in the past year including Diane Munier and Charmila Ireland.

### **Sustainability Circle**

KAIROS hosted a national forum on fracking on October 30–31, 2015 in Moncton, New Brunswick and Vancouver, British Columbia. Over 100 people attended the two events. In addition participants joined over the internet. Speakers from New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Quebec described the fracking debates in their respective provinces. On Saturday, Alma Brooks, a grandmother from the Maliseet Nation, spoke from the perspective of a woman who lives in an affected community. Kenneth Frances and Katrina Clair shared their experiences in resisting fracking on Elsipogtog lands. Jennifer Henry, KAIROS’ executive director offered a theological reflection which emphasized some common points between Christianity and Indigenous spirituality.

In Vancouver two Indigenous women, Freda Huson, from the Unist’ot’en clan of the Wet’suwet’en nation and Christine Martin from the Lax Kwa’alaams explained why their nations set up camps to defend their territories from corporations wishing to build shale gas pipelines and a Liquefied Natural Gas export terminal. The forum ended with strong presentations by Toghestiy, Hereditary Chief of the Likhts’amisyu and Grand Chief Stewart Phillip of the Union of British Columbia Indian Chiefs.

KAIROS policy briefing papers are written to contribute to public debate on key domestic and foreign policy issues. Two were written in 2015: “Hopeful Signs, Alarming Realities on the Road to Climate Justice” and “Canada Falls Far Short of Pope Francis’ Call for Ecological Justice”. In 2016 KAIROS prepared a briefing paper called “Huge Challenges for Canada after Paris Climate Conference”.

The Circle supports reconciling relationship with Indigenous peoples and will continue to consider how to advocate with corporations and governments to implement free, prior and informed consent, an article of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, for genuine involvement of Indigenous peoples at every stage of resource development in Canada and abroad.

The Circle will continue to animate KAIROS’ reconciling in the watershed program which encourages people to learn about their community through the watersheds.

Ms. Janette McIntosh (Vancouver, British Columbia) is our representative on the Sustainability Circle.

### **Dignity and Rights Circle**

Members of the Dignity and Rights Circle worked with the Indigenous Rights Circle and staff at KAIROS in researching and writing a submission to the United Nations' Human Rights Committee regarding Canada's compliance with obligations to Indigenous people under various international conventions to which Canada is a signatory. The report, NGO Shadow Report – Submission of information by KAIROS to the Human Rights Committee for the examination of Canada's Sixth Report – July 2015. The report received coverage in several national media. Copies are available from Justice Ministries.

In the coming year, members of the Dignity and Rights Circle will research and prepare briefs to United Nations organizations and possibly regional multilateral bodies such as the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights. This work will be done in consultation with other Circles and with staff.

With support from a major foundation and in partnership with migrant workers and other organizations, KAIROS held a forum in Fredericton in February 2016, on Migrant Rights. In the coming year, KAIROS will work with these organizations in recommending changes to Canada's Temporary Foreign Workers Program (TFWP). One change would be a clearer path to permanent residence which is denied to agricultural workers under the TFWP. Workshops are being planned with migrant workers for the fall, 2016. Migrant workers are participating in KAIROS' Blanket Exercise and learning about Indigenous and non-Indigenous relations in Canada.

Ms. Margaret Evans (Toronto, Ontario) our representative on the Dignity and Rights Circle.

### **Movement Building Circle**

The Movement Building Circle's priority is to support participation by KAIROS' member churches in its education programs. The focus of these programs has been Indigenous rights and supporting the work of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

KAIROS' campaign for 2015–2016 is called *Winds of Change*. It is in response to Call to Action No. 62 which calls for the residential school legacy, treaties and past and present Indigenous contributions to Canada to be a mandatory part of the curriculum in primary and secondary schools in each province and territory. There are workshop and activity resources. There are petitions for each province as well as background information on each province and territory's policies and practices on KAIROS' webpage ([kairoscanada.org](http://kairoscanada.org)).

KAIROS' Blanket Exercise is being used in churches and increasingly in many other organizations across Canada. Here is one example. A professor at Queen's University in Kingston, Ontario invited staff from KAIROS to train 20 of her teaching assistants. The teaching assistants then did the Blanket Exercise with over 800 students in the professor's course.

The Blanket Exercise is the most requested workshop facilitated by Justice Ministries' staff. A Presbyterian version of this resource is online at [presbyterian.ca/healing](http://presbyterian.ca/healing).

The Movement Building Circle periodically meets in different parts of the country in order to highlight KAIROS' work. In November, 2015, the Circle met in the newly opened Truth and Reconciliation Centre at the University of Manitoba in Winnipeg. The Circle participated in organizing a community discussion on reconciliation that took place at the Thunderbird House.

Ms. Katharine Masterton (Toronto, Ontario) is our representative on the Movement Building Circle.

### **Indigenous Rights Circle**

The KAIROS Indigenous Rights Circle includes representatives from KAIROS' member churches and partner organizations as well as Indigenous people from across Canada. Its mandate is to suggest ways KAIROS members can reset the relationship with Indigenous peoples within KAIROS as well as within our local communities.

Beginning in February 2015, Deborah Tagornak, an Inuit living in Ottawa, and Ray Jones, an Hereditary Chief from the Gitksan Nation in British Columbia, will be an interim Indigenous presence on KAIROS' board of directors.

During the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Closing Event, the Indigenous Rights Circle led a workshop on "Perspectives on Reconciliation" at a KAIROS gathering.

Two members of the Indigenous Rights Circle attended the intergenerational "Future of Life in the Arctic Conference" in Storforsen, Sweden. Their report described the devastating changes that are occurring in the Arctic, and their concern that the people of the North were under-represented at the December, 2015 United Nations Climate Change Conference in Paris, France.

The Rev. Susan Samuel (Lion's Head, Ontario) is our representative on the Indigenous Rights Circle.

### **KAIROS Board of Directors**

Mr. Stephen Allen represents the Life and Mission Agency on KAIROS' board and the Rev. Dr. Andrew Johnston represents PWS&D.

### **CHURCH COUNCIL ON JUSTICE AND CORRECTIONS**

The Church Council on Justice and Corrections (CCJC) is a national faith-based coalition of eleven founding churches, incorporated in 1972. Through education, advocacy and community development programs, the CCJC seeks to foster healthier communities and crime prevention through social responsibility.

The CCJC has been active over the past year with a view to inspiring innovation about restorative justice. For Restorative Justice Week (November 15–22, 2015) CCJC held an art contest and circulated infographic materials about restorative justice which can be viewed at: [ccjc.ca/restorative-justice-week/](http://ccjc.ca/restorative-justice-week/).

CCJC has recently advocated for the reopening of prison farms and better support for chaplaincy services. An event was held in Ottawa January 28, 2016 to launch the book *Looking for Ashley: Re-reading What the Smith Case Reveals about the Governance for Girls, Mothers and Families in Canada* written by Rebecca Bromwich.

The CCJC's website is [ccjc.ca](http://ccjc.ca).

Ms. Rebecca Bromwich (Ottawa, Ontario) represents our church on the CCJC's board of directors and serves as the treasurer.

### **CANADIAN COUNCIL OF CHURCHES**

#### **Commission on Justice and Peace**

The Commission on Justice and Peace (CJP) is able to do as much as it does because of the active participation of the denominations that have representatives on the Commission. The Commission's Associate Secretary is part-time. The Commission's program includes: Climate justice; human trafficking; poverty in Canada; undoing racism in Canadian churches.

The Canadian Council of Churches was officially represented by the CCC's vice-president, Willard Metzger, at the United Nations Climate Conference in Paris in December, 2015.

The Commission on Justice and Peace coordinated a statement released in September 2015 on climate justice and ending poverty in Canada signed by a number of denominations, religious communities, ecumenical agencies and other faiths. The Moderator of the 141st General Assembly signed on behalf of The Presbyterian Church in Canada.

The Canadian Council of Churches and the Church of Sweden co-organized the Future of Life in the Arctic – The Impact of Climate Change. This consultation took place in northern Sweden to consider Indigenous and religious perspectives on the impact of climate change in the Arctic.

The Commission on Justice and Peace contributed to a Federal Election Resource involving a number of ecumenical agencies.

The Canadian Council of Churches is the legal entity under which Project Ploughshares operates and, as such, the Governing Committee of Project Ploughshares is accountable to The Canadian Council of Churches. The Canadian

Council of Churches has official accreditation to the United Nations which meant that Project Ploughshares' Executive Director and a member of staff attended United Nations discussions on nuclear disarmament. On a program basis, Project Ploughshares connects to the Commission on Justice and Peace.

Mr. Stephen Allen represents our church on the Commission on Justice and Peace.

### **Project Ploughshares**

Project Ploughshares is an agency of the Canadian Council of Churches. Its vision for a secure and just world at peace has guided the agency since it was founded in 1976.

This has been a year of change at Project Ploughshares. A new Executive Director, Cesar Jaramillo, began his duties in July 2015. Mr. Jaramillo will provide leadership in implementing the organization's new strategic plan. The plan calls Project Ploughshares to provide leadership with evidence-based research and policy options for sustainable peace and disarmament. Towards this goal, Project Ploughshares held a number of community events in the past year, including a book launch for Ernie Regehr's new book, *Disarming conflict. Why peace cannot be won on the battlefield*. Regehr is one of the founders of Project Ploughshares.

Since 2007 The Presbyterian Church in Canada has provided funding for a Presbyterian who has recently graduated from university to serve as the Peace and Human Security Intern for an eight month period. Philip MacFie is the sixth intern. He began working at Project Ploughshares in September 2015 and completed his work in April 2016. This internship program was an opportunity for a young Presbyterian to gain valuable work experience and to do so with an ecumenical agency. The internship has been funded for two three year terms. Additional funding will not be sought to continue the internship beyond 2016.

Project Ploughshares' website is [ploughshares.ca](http://ploughshares.ca).

Ms. Kathryn Hare (Waterloo, Ontario) is our representative on Project Ploughshares' Governing Committee.

### **Biotechnology Reference Group**

The Biotechnology Reference Group (BRG) is an initiative of the Canadian Council of Churches. The BRG strives to understand the theological and ethical implications of some of the major developments in biotechnology including: direct to consumer genetic testing, genetic privacy, synthetic biology, labeling of genetically modified organisms (GMO) in our food and nanotechnology.

Mr. Stephen Allen (Toronto, Ontario) and Ms. Rose Janson (Hamilton, Ontario) represent our church on the Biotechnology Reference Group.

The Rev. Dr. George Tattie (St. Catharines, Ontario) completed his term this year. Justice Ministries thanks him for his contributions.

The Biotechnology Reference Group's website is [councilofchurches.ca/biotechnology](http://councilofchurches.ca/biotechnology).

## **ECOLOGY**

### **CDP – Driving Sustainable Economies**

Formerly called the Carbon Disclosure Project, the name has been changed to "CDP – Driving Sustainable Economies". The 2008 General Assembly approved a recommendation that The Presbyterian Church in Canada become a signatory to the CDP and has been listed as such in the CDP's annual reports since 2009 (A&P 2008, p. 328, 41).

The CDP is an investor coalition representing over \$95 trillion in assets from 822 institutional investors. It is an independent, not-for-profit organization and the largest investor coalition concerned about climate change in the world. Investors include private and public pension funds and faith communities in the USA, Canada, the UK, Australia and a number of other countries.

The CDP requests full disclosure from corporations regarding the opportunities and risks they face due to climate change and publishes the results. In Canada, annual surveys are sent to the 200 largest publically traded corporations listed on the Toronto Stock Exchange. The survey is voluntary.

### **The Presbyterian Church in Canada's Investments**

The 2012 General Assembly approved a recommendation that Justice Ministries identify the corporations that were invited to complete the CDP's survey in which The Presbyterian Church in Canada has investments and that the Moderator write to these corporations to commend or encourage participation in the CDP survey (A&P 2012, p. 373, 32). Out of the 200 corporations that received the surveys, The Presbyterian Church in Canada held shares in 91; of these, 70 completed the 2015 survey and 21 corporations did not. The Moderator of the 141st General Assembly wrote to these corporations. Justice Ministries will post the list on the website. The list may be of interest to church trustees, financial management committees and groups responsible for the management of endowment funds.

### **Report on the 2015 General Assembly's Carbon Footprint**

Justice Ministries has developed a series of questions for a university or community college about how the institution is reducing its carbon footprint. These questions are available for use by those planning General Assembly. The responses to the checklist are not intended to decide whether or not the venue will be used, because there may be limited venues available in a community, but to communicate The Presbyterian Church in Canada's concerns about the environment.

Each year the General Assembly's carbon footprint is calculated as one way to highlight the ecological impact of Assembly.

#### **A note about the calculations**

The calculations of the General Assembly's carbon footprint only include travel (air and auto). The carbon footprint incurred at the venue itself is not included as universities or community colleges do not provide this data (air conditioning, electricity, meals, waste, etc.).

Air mileage is calculated from airport to airport, using the carbon calculator recommended by the Pembina Institute. Car emission calculations are based on a medium sized vehicle and are calculated using KAIROS' carbon calculator. Mileage information is gathered from the expense claim forms of those attending General Assembly. Miles and flight distances are estimated when information is not available.

#### **Car Travel**

- This information is gathered from two sources: 1) expense claim forms and 2) forms submitted by commissioners requesting specific information on their carbon footprint.
- General Assembly participants collectively drove 40,062 kilometers producing approximately 8,661 kg of CO<sub>2</sub>e.

#### **Air Travel**

- 300 participants travelled by plane to attend the General Assembly. The carbon emissions from flights totaled 492,006 kg of CO<sub>2</sub>e. Calculations are based on direct, return flights.

#### **Totals**

- The total emissions for 341 participants is 500, 667 kg of CO<sub>2</sub>e. The average is 1468.23 kg per person.

#### **General Assembly Carbon Footprint**

	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>
Number of participants	222*	358*	356	345	341	341
Location	Sydney, Nova Scotia	London, Ontario	Oshawa, Ontario	Toronto, Ontario	Waterloo, Ontario	Vancouver, British Columbia
Total (tonnes of CO <sub>2</sub> )	271.5	98.8	163.8	140.3	134.0	500.7
Average (tonnes of CO <sub>2</sub> )	1.2	.29	.46	.41	.39	1.5

\* Travel for ecumenical and overseas partners and guests was not included in these calculations.

Calculations in 2012 and 2013 were more robust than those made previously because the calculations include car travel for participants to and from airports in addition to participants who drove directly to General Assembly. This, in part, accounts for variances between 2010–2011 and 2012–2013. The method for calculating mileage for 2015 was different than previous years because of a change in how mileage information is collected. This may cause variations in mileage (road transportation only) between 2014 and 2015.

- A return flight from St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador to Victoria, British Columbia produces 3.04 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>.
- The average citizen in India emits 0.9 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> annually.
- On a per capita basis, Canadians emit 22.4 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> annually.
- To limit the increase in the globally averaged combined land and ocean surface temperature to two degrees Celsius and based on the earth's sustainable capacity to absorb carbon emissions, each person should have a personal annual cap of 2 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>.

All references in the bulleted list are from Atmosfair, an online carbon calculator for air travel at [atmosfair.de/en](http://atmosfair.de/en). Countries in the Global North are responsible for a majority of the greenhouse gases that have caused the climate crisis. Countries in the Global South face the most serious impacts of climate change, have little capacity to mitigate and adapt to climate change, and have historically contributed very little to the problem. The ethical issue is this: those who contribute least to climate change suffer disproportionately while those who contribute the most suffer the least.

### **Update on Climate Change**

This report will provide a summary of the most recent information available on climate change. It will comment on current international climate change talks. It will conclude with recommendations that encourage the Government of Canada to take a leadership role to avoid serious or irreparable damage to the earth's ecosystems by climate change.

### **Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change**

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) is the leading scientific authority on climate change. Its reports are consensus findings reflecting a majority of independent and peer reviewed scientific research. The IPCC's 2014 report states that climate change is "unequivocal" (IPCC 2014, 1). The averaged combined land and ocean surface temperature increase is 0.85 degrees Celsius since the industrial revolution (IPCC 2014, 1). The report projects global temperatures will continue to rise and that the impacts of climate change will intensify. Impacts include more intense and longer heat waves and more intense and frequent storms. Oceans will continue to warm, become more acidic and mean ocean levels will rise (IPCC 2014, 10).

### **Canada's Carbon Emissions and Reduction Commitments**

The most recent information on Canadian emissions available from Environment Canada indicates that in 2013, Canadian greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions were 726 megatonnes. It is important to track and report emissions so we can follow changes over time and be able to compare data from different countries. For example, the international community developed the Copenhagen Accord. Under this voluntary Accord, Canada committed to reduce emissions to 17% lower than its 2005 emissions by 2020. Canada's target for 2020 is 611 megatonnes and is unlikely to meet this target.

In December 2015, the international community negotiated the Paris Accord. The agreement calls for emission targets that result in limiting global warming to "well below" 2 degrees C compared to pre-industrial period, and striving to limit warming to 1.5 degrees C. An increase of 2 degrees C is considered the threshold to limit catastrophic climate change. The Moderator of the 141st General Assembly wrote to the Minister of the Environment and Climate Change, the Hon. Catherine McKenna, encouraging Canada to set goals for emission reductions that limit warming below this threshold.

196 countries agreed to the Paris Accord. Under the Kyoto Accord, countries in the Global South did not have to reduce emissions. They do under the Paris Accord. While the Paris Accord is considered legally binding, critics have noted that there are no penalties for countries that fail to meet reduction targets. Countries are expected to publish their greenhouse gas reduction targets.

The goal of the Accord is to achieve a carbon neutral world after 2050 and before 2100. Carbon neutral means that emissions for human activity do not exceed the natural ability of the earth's systems (e.g. soil, trees, oceans) to absorb greenhouse gases.

The Paris Accord calls for \$100 billion to be set aside annually by 2020 to assist countries in the Global South to combat climate change. In November 2015, the Government of Canada committed to spend \$2.65 billion dollars over 5 years to assist poorer countries in the Global South. This commitment doubles commitments made by the previous government. When combined with the \$1.2 billion dollars given to a similar fund negotiated as part of the Copenhagen Accord, the CBC notes that Canada has “exceeded the \$ 4 billion target that environmental groups have been urging it to meet as its ‘fair share,’ based on [Canada’s] national wealth” (Barton).

The federal Minister of the Environment is scheduled to meet with provincial and territorial counterparts by March 15, 2016 to discuss how both levels of government will work together to meet the commitments that Canada agreed to in the Paris Accord.

### References

Barton, Mary. “Government announces \$2.65B to help developing countries fight climate change” CBC, November 27, 2015. [cbc.ca/news/politics/funding-for-climate-change-chogm-1.3339907](http://cbc.ca/news/politics/funding-for-climate-change-chogm-1.3339907).

Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (2014). “Climate Change 2014 Synthesis Report – Summary for Policy Makers.” [ipcc.ch](http://ipcc.ch).

### OVERTURES, 2015 RE HUMAN SEXUALITY

In 2015 the General Assembly referred to Justice Ministries Overture Nos. 4 and 5, 2015 requesting statements recommending full inclusion of all persons regardless of sexual orientation and gender. Overture No. 21, 2015 requesting a study paper on human sexuality that affirms the statement made in 1994 was referred to Justice Ministries in consultation with the Church Doctrine Committee. Overture No. 23, 2015 was directed to the Committee on Church Doctrine and Justice Ministries re gay and lesbian candidates for ministry and same-sex marriages. Overture Nos. 24, 30 and 35, 2015 requested statements recommending full inclusion of all persons regardless of sexual orientation and gender and were directed to the Committee on Church Doctrine and Justice Ministries. Overture No. 15, 2015 was referred to Justice Ministries and the Committee on Church Doctrine and requested a statement that would lead to a “fresh round of listening” in the church. Overture No. 29, 2015 referred to the Committee on Church Doctrine and Justice Ministries requested a review of the traditional exegesis of the biblical texts that speak to homosexuality alongside revisionist readings of the same texts and prepare a report to guide the church. Overture Nos. 14, 21, 26 and 33, 2015 were referred to the Committee on Church Doctrine and Justice Ministries and requested a statement affirming the Statement on Human Sexuality (1994). Overture No. 32, 2015 was referred to the Committee on Church Doctrine and Justice Ministries requested a statement upholding marriage as between one man and one woman.

#### **Recommendation No. 10                      Adopted/Defeated/Amended**

That permission be granted to the Life and Mission Agency (Justice Ministries) to present a response to the above Overture Nos. 4, 5, 14, 15, 21, 23, 24, 26, 29, 30, 32, 33, 35, 2015 to the 2017 General Assembly.

#### **OVERTURE NO. 9, 2016 (p. 28.1.5)**

##### **Re: Utilize and develop resources re passive energy**

Overture No. 9, 2016 from the Presbytery of Winnipeg was referred at its request to the Assembly Council and the Life and Mission Agency (Justice Ministries). The overture requests that a) an action plan be developed and implemented to make the church's national office a passive energy building; b) enter into conversation with the theological colleges so they become passive energy buildings and instruct the Life and Mission Agency (Justice Ministries) to develop a resource to assist congregations make their buildings passive energy buildings, explore the viability of clergy serving multi-point charges to use electric cars and explore the costs of congregations with strategically located parking lots to build charging stations for electric cars.

This overture will require consultation with the Assembly Council and will also require significant research in preparing a response. For these reasons, the following recommendation is presented:

**Recommendation No. 11                      Adopted/Defeated/Amended**

That permission be granted to the Life and Mission Agency (Justice Ministries) in consultation with the Assembly Council to present a response to Overture No. 9, 2016 to the 2017 General Assembly.

Note: A passive energy building can result in a dramatic reduction of energy consumption for heating or cooling. Passive design strategies include day lighting, natural ventilation, and solar energy. Active design strategies use purchased energy to keep the building comfortable and include forced-air HVAC systems, heat pumps, radiant panels or chilled beams, and electric lights.

**PUBLIC WITNESS**

Education, reflection, prayer, advocacy and solidarity are essential to how we serve as the body of Christ in the world. Since the 2015 General Assembly, Justice Ministries staff and volunteers led workshops or made presentations to: five WMS groups and presbyteries; five congregations; one synod; Knox College; Assembly Council; and Camp Kintail in the Synod of Southwestern Ontario. Justice Ministries will be participating in Canada Youth 2016.

Justice Ministries communicates with congregations and courts of the church through PCCconnect, Mission Capsules, Prayer Partnerships and the website [presbyterian.ca/justice](http://presbyterian.ca/justice). It produces a semi-annual newsletter “Streams of Justice”, of which there are over 800 subscribers. A monthly e-newsletter on healing and reconciliation is also produced.

Justice Ministries produced bulletin inserts highlighting National Affordable Housing Day (November 22), Human Rights Day (December 10), and Earth Day (April 22).

The Social Action Handbook is updated each year following General Assembly and is available online.

The Moderator of the 141st General Assembly wrote to the Hon. Stéphane Dion, Minister of Foreign Affairs, acknowledging the Government of Canada’s efforts to secure the release of the Rev. Lim sentenced to 13 years of hard labour by the Supreme Court of the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea (DPRK) as well as to the DPRK’s Ambassadors the United Nations in Geneva and New York requesting the Rev. Lim’s release and return to Canada.

**JUSTICE MINISTRIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

The Rev. Daniel Cho, the Rev. Jeffrey Lackie, Mr. Brockenshire Lemiski, Ms. Shirley Miller, Ms. Deb Schlichter, Mr. Seth Veenstra and the Rev. Marty Molengraaf.

Ms. June Campbell, the Rev. Mary Campbell and the Rev. Dr. Pam McCarroll completed their terms. Their contributions to Justice Ministries are appreciated.

**MINISTRY AND CHURCH VOCATIONS**

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

**Consent Recommendation**

That recommendation No. 12 (identified by the ►) be adopted by consent.

**► Recommendation No. 12**

That permission be granted to the Life and Mission Agency (Ministry and Church Vocations) to report on Overture No. 6, 2016 to the next General Assembly. (see p. 12.1.47)

**Recommendation No. 13**

That the prayer of Overture No. 25, 2015 not be granted. (see p. 12.1.48)

**REPORT**

Staff	Associate Secretary:	Susan Shaffer
	Program Manager:	Liz Brewer
	Administrative Assistant:	Jackie Czeglédi



## **PREAMBLE**

As Presbyterians, we believe that Christ is calling leaders to renew and nurture God's people to be Christ's hands, voice and heart. This core belief is grounded in scripture (see especially Ephesians 4:11–13) and affirmed in the "Preamble to the Ordination Vows" (Book of Forms section 447). This foundational document is read during worship whenever a candidate is ordained as a minister of Word and Sacraments or a minister is inducted or recognized to serve in a pastoral charge.

Strong ministers are essential for a strong church. The unique contribution of Ministry and Church Vocations is passion for ministers and for ministry. Ministry and Church Vocations helps the church to discern, prepare and support ministers, so that they can renew and nurture God's people to share in Christ's ministry in and to the world.

Ministry and Church Vocations continues to keep before it the goals developed with its advisory committee. These goals are:

- to provide caring, competent and appropriate support to the courts and individual members of The Presbyterian Church in Canada;
- 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.

As it works to realize these goals, Ministry and Church Vocations has focused on the tasks of education, research and communication.

## **EDUCATION**

Seminars were held with theological students on maintaining appropriate pastoral boundaries, conflict resolution and seeking a call; new ministers in the Starting Well 2.0 program; the Presbytery of Seaway-Glengarry on the Policy for Dealing with Sexual Abuse and Sexual Harassment; and clerks of presbyteries and synods at the Clerks Consultation

## **RESEARCH**

Departmental study topics this year have included revising and reforming the diaconate (Overture No. 25, 2015) and revising the Policy for Dealing with Sexual Abuse and Sexual Harassment when the complainant is a minister in a congregation (Overture No. 6, 2016).

## **COMMUNICATION**

In fulfilling its support role, Ministry and Church Vocations strives to facilitate effective communication. For example, through the profile referral service, congregations and professional church leaders are assisted in searching for suitable candidates and ministry positions.

We appreciate the contributions of volunteers across the country to the work of Ministry and Church Vocations. We wish to thank especially the advisory committee, the various task groups and committees, and the ministers, diaconal ministers and elders who serve as counsellors or chaplains to theological students at guidance conferences.

## **PREPARATION FOR MINISTRY**

### **Guidance Conferences**

In 2015, guidance conferences were held at Crieff Hills Community, Puslinch, Ontario, in May and August.

13 candidates were recommended for re-certification.

7 candidates were recommended for re-certification with conditions.

1 candidate was not recommended for re-certification at this time, with conditions outlined before certification might be reconsidered.

Two conferences are planned this year in May and in August at Crieff Hills.

### **Bursary List for Candidates for Ministry**

[presbyterian.ca/bursaries-for-candidates](http://presbyterian.ca/bursaries-for-candidates)

A list of bursaries available to The Presbyterian Church in Canada candidates for ministry is posted on the church's website. The intention is to include all bursaries except those restricted to members of a specific congregation or administered through the colleges. Any new information may be submitted to Ministry and Church Vocations ([ebrewer@presbyterian.ca](mailto:ebrewer@presbyterian.ca)).

## **SUPPORT FOR PROFESSIONAL CHURCH WORKERS**

### **Sustaining Pastoral Excellence Fund**

The Presbyterian Church in Canada understands the “offices of ministry” to be Christ's gift to the church. Even as Christ calls all Christians to share in his ministry, he also recognizes the church's need for leaders. To meet this need, God gifts and calls individuals to serve as ruling elders, diaconal ministers and ministers of Word and Sacraments. Through their leadership and service, the church is renewed continually and Christ's people embrace his call to share the gospel with the world.

Leadership is costly – it draws upon the spiritual, intellectual, emotional and physical resources of those who offer it. To sustain pastoral excellence, ministerial leaders employed in the church require ways to nourish and sustain their spiritual lives, to promote their ongoing intellectual growth, to nurture their pastoral imagination and energy, and to care for the health and wellbeing of themselves and their families.

With these needs of ministerial leaders in mind, the Life and Mission Agency has established the Sustaining Pastoral Excellence Fund. Using bequest funds provided through the generosity and foresight of members of The Presbyterian Church in Canada, it is designed to help the church to finance programs of learning, renewal and support for ministerial leaders employed in the church. Information about making contributions to this fund is available through the Stewardship and Planned Giving Office (Ms. Karen Plater, [kplater@presbyterian.ca](mailto:kplater@presbyterian.ca), 1-800-619-7301, ext. 272). At the present time, funds in the Sustaining Pastoral Excellence Fund have been allocated to the church's pilot employee assistance program during the trial period, with the exception of a small portion set aside for incentive grants for new colleague covenant groups. A description of both programs is found below.

### **The Pilot Employee Assistance Program**

[presbyterian.ca/eap](http://presbyterian.ca/eap)

The trial period for the church's pilot employee assistance program (EAP) began in September 2010. It is designed to enable actively serving professional church leaders to meet their needs for confidential assessment, counseling and referral in a timely manner. Too often in the “fish bowl” of congregational life, ministers and their families suffer in silence and isolation when experiencing anxiety, depression, addiction, unmanageable debt, and distressed marital and family relationships. There are many reasons why ministers might refrain from seeking help. Perhaps they feel they cannot access local resources with privacy and confidentiality. Perhaps they hesitate to choose an unfamiliar resource person outside their local area without the benefit of a trusted referral. Perhaps they lack the necessary funds. Whatever the reasons, delays in accessing qualified assistance increase the ministers' risks of burning out, becoming ill, losing their marriages and close family relationships, or leaving the ministry.

The EAP offers church leaders and their immediate families confidential, competent and timely resources, thereby making early, effective intervention more attainable. One phone call at any time of day to the toll-free Care Access Centre results in arrangements for the caller to connect with a counselor or other expert consultant within a few days. The Shepell.fgi resource team is comprised of thousands of experienced, Master's level counsellors and experts located in communities, large and small, across the country, so referral to qualified assistance is possible regardless of the caller's location. Moreover the preference and convenience of the callers is accommodated in the way the counsellors meet with them. Some individuals choose to meet their counselor face-to-face in the counselor's office, while others connect with their counselor by telephone or email. Finally and importantly, there is no cost to the individuals accessing the EAP Services. During this initial trial period, the cost is being underwritten entirely by bequest funds donated to The Presbyterian Church in Canada.

All services covered by this program are short-term and solution-based. Matters requiring longer term care are referred to others. EAP services include:

- Counseling related to any personal or work-related concerns, including marriage and family relationships, psychological health, addiction, life transitions, vocational concerns, and financial or legal matters.
- Consultation and Information Services, such as legal, financial, nutrition, health coaching, child care, elder care, and stress management.

#### Who Is Eligible?

To qualify as an EAP plan member, an individual must be a church employee enrolled in the church's health and dental plan (Sun Life Financial contract 50380) and not receiving the church's pension. All EAP coverage is family coverage, which extends benefits to the employee's spouse and dependent children (children up to 21 years of age, or up to 25 years of age for full-time students).

#### How Are Benefits Accessed?

Individuals call toll-free, 24-hours a day, 7 days a week:

English: 1-800-387-4765

French: 1-800-361-5676

Online counseling at: [shepellfgi.com/ecounseling](http://shepellfgi.com/ecounseling)

Online resources at: [shepellfgi.com](http://shepellfgi.com)

#### Use of the Employee Assistance Program

Each quarter, Shepell.fgi reports statistics about how the program is being used, without revealing clients' names. In the first five years and three months, ministers and their families have accessed EAP services 504 times. Most individuals were church employees (85%), while 15% were family members of church employees. These individuals live in all synods across Canada. The church employees using the EAP were all ages and years of experience, and slightly more frequently female than male (55% and 45%, respectively).

The majority of EAP clients requested counseling (82%, or 412 of 504). There was a wide range of emerging issues. By far the most common were personal/emotional concerns, which 207 individuals (50%) identified as the reason they had requested counseling; 108 of these 207 individuals attributed their concerns to stress. Couple/relationship and work-related concerns were the next most common emerging issues (80 and 71 individuals, respectively). Of the 71 individuals with work-related concerns, 47 attributed their issues to stress. A small number of EAP clients requested counseling for family issues (47 individuals), while the smallest group identified concerns regarding addiction (nine individuals).

A small proportion of EAP clients requested work-life services (18%, or 92 of 504). These individuals sought expert advice in dealing with legal matters, financial matters including credit and debt, personal health and well-being including nutrition and disease management, child/youth care, and elder/adult care.

Individuals received the help they requested using the full spectrum of options. Some met in-person with the counselor or consultant, some spoke with the professional over the telephone, while still others communicated by the internet.

The various measures used by the EAP provider to assess the effectiveness of the program demonstrate highly positive results. For the 341 closed counseling interventions, goal attainment was in the range of 92–100%. About 40% of the individuals receiving counseling were assessed by their counselor for depression; a significant proportion of these were discovered to be suffering moderate to severe levels of depression – a finding that potentially would be the first step along a pathway of appropriate treatment, healing and recovery. Occasionally the short-term, solution-based counseling available through the EAP uncovers conditions that require longer-term care. The statistics indicate that counsellors made a total of 20 referrals to professionals outside the EAP, and that 19 of these were accepted by the clients. The results of client satisfaction surveys (from 75 individuals, or 15% response rate) were also positive. By far the majority of respondents indicate that they would use the EAP again, that they would recommend the EAP to others, and that overall they were satisfied with the EAP.

While individuals accessing EAP services have complete confidentiality, in conversation with Ministry and Church Vocations staff, several ministers have chosen to mention how beneficial the program has been for themselves and their families. Personal comments on client satisfaction surveys reinforce this view, as illustrated in the following sample:

“Talking and solving personal problems has been great for me. The advice and support given during my sessions have been invaluable.”

“The EAP has been very helpful to me in dealing with my concerns. I'm very glad this service is available.”

“The counselor was very sympathetic and supportive.”

The utilization statistics for the employee assistance program demonstrate that ministers and their families are turning to it for help with confidence. Of course it must be acknowledged that many needs lie well outside the scope of any employee assistance program. Ministers are called as good stewards to look after all aspects of their own well-being and that of their family. This broad canvas includes all the spiritual, intellectual, social, emotional, psychological, physical and financial dimensions of their lives. Nevertheless, the church's employee assistance program offers ministers valuable resources as they seek to strengthen themselves for Christian service. At the same time, the employee assistance program provides The Presbyterian Church in Canada with another opportunity to express its care for the community of people who serve it as leaders.

#### Future Funding for the Employee Assistance Program – the Current Challenge

The greatest challenge related to the church's employee assistance program is its continued funding. On the advice of the church's Chief Financial Officer, the Life and Mission Agency extended the trial period for up to another four years beyond the initial termination date (August 2013). The hope is that the current pension fund deficits will be resolved by then and a source of regular funding in the church's normal budgeting process will be secured. Another possibility would be the donation of endowment funds designated for the employee assistance program and sufficient to support it moving forward. Or perhaps some combination of budget funds and designated donations and bequests might enable the program's continuation. Certainly Ministry and Church Vocations staff regard the church's employee assistance program as the answer to prayer, and it is in this same spirit that ongoing funding will be sought.

#### **Incentive Grants for New Colleague Covenant Groups**

[presbyterian.ca/mcv/colleague-covenant-group-grants](http://presbyterian.ca/mcv/colleague-covenant-group-grants)

Colleague covenant groups are meetings of ministerial colleagues designed to offer participants encouragement and support. They create for ministers a place to pray together, to gain perspective, to experience gentle accountability and support, to deepen Christian faith, and to share these opportunities with others. Colleague covenant groups engage ministers in a supportive, network of peers who pray for one another. With the help of their colleagues, ministers may develop sound perspectives on themselves and their ministries and grow in understanding and in Christian faith and discipleship. Their resources for ministry may be strengthened and their ministries enhanced.

To encourage the formation of new colleague covenant groups, the Life and Mission Agency (Ministry and Church Vocations) provides incentive grants from bequest funds held in the Sustaining Pastoral Excellence Fund. One-time grants are provided to ministers, diaconal ministers or lay ministers to assist with start-up costs for a new group. The grant application requires the prospective members to create a covenant outlining their goals, activities and the times when they will meet regularly and often over the course of the year. Depending on the focus chosen by the group, these funds could be used for such things as the purchase of copies of a book the group plans to study, or the individuals' travel costs when not covered by their congregations, or an honorarium for a paid group facilitator. The funds available through this incentive grants program are not provided to cover costs in future years after the colleague covenant group is established. It is hoped that group members will remain committed to covering their meeting costs once they have experienced the benefits of being in the group. The grant application form may be obtained from Ministry and Church Vocations or online.

#### **Starting Well 2.0: First Years in Ministry**

The first years of ministry are a critical time when pastoral identity and understanding of ministry are solidified. They can help a new minister lay the foundation for years of fruitful service in the church, or they can lead to discouraged resignation from the ministry or settling into unhealthy patterns that persist through a series of troubled ministries.

Recognizing that new ministers need mentoring and support as they move for the first time into a myriad of new contexts, assuming new roles and identities, the Life and Mission Agency (Ministry and Church Vocations) has been participating in developing a Canadian ecumenical program designed to support new ministers. From 2001–2012,

Starting Well: First Years in Ministry gathered new ministers annually to reflect on their contexts and practice of ministry and to encourage their participation in collegial groups. The modular format of this three-year program made it possible to enter the program in any year, without having attended previous years. Participants were consistently enthusiastic about the program and voiced their intention to recommend it to their peers.

In January 2016 a redesigned Starting Well 2.0: First Years in Ministry was launched with a new online format. New ministers may participate from any location in Canada through active, live-time visual and audio interaction via the internet or on-site in the electronic classroom at Knox College. Participants choosing the distance option who live in close proximity to one another are encouraged to join the class from a common location, forming a local community.

Ten ministers have registered to meet one Wednesday afternoon each month from January through June of this year. Over the course of the six meetings, each minister will have the opportunity to present a case study arising out of his or her current practice of ministry, and to learn from the analysis and comments of their peers in a supportive environment. In addition, the class will spend time in worship, seminars on a range of ministry topics, and prayer for one another and for their congregations. Program leadership is being provided by the Rev. Dr. Andrew Irvine, Director of the Centre for Clergy Care and Congregational Health, and the Rev. Susan Shaffer, Associate Secretary, Ministry and Church Vocations.

The program design team includes representatives of the sponsoring groups: the Centre for Clergy Care and Congregational Health, Knox College, Emmanuel College, and staff from denominational ministry offices of The Presbyterian Church in Canada and the United Church of Canada. As in previous years, Ministry and Church Vocations has written to all new Presbyterian ministers to invite their participation.

### **Continuing Education Committee**

[presbyterian.ca/con-ed-fund](http://presbyterian.ca/con-ed-fund)

The Continuing Education Committee met three times in 2015 (April, September and December) to discuss continuing education, review the General Assembly established annual continuing education allowance and consider applications for grants.

In 2015, five applications were received, with grants totaling \$7,175 being awarded to the various applicants. The minimum grant was \$495 and the maximum was \$2,000 making an average of \$1,435 per applicant. Grants were approved for studies related to New Testament Greek, Clinical Pastoral Education, APCE (Association of Presbyterian Christian Educators) conference and three Doctor of Ministry programs.

The continuing education grant application form is available on the church's website. This committee hopes and prays that congregations and presbyteries will encourage their ministers and church professionals to engage in continuing education, making full use of the church's regular provisions for continuing education leaves as well as the supplemental funds administered by this committee.

The members of the committee in 2015 who reviewed applications, administered the fund and reviewed the annual continuing education allowance were: Liz Brewer, Cathy Finlay, Andy Kuo, Joan Masterton and John Read. During the year we welcomed one new committee member, Joan Masterton.

### **Profile Referral Service**

[presbyterian.ca/vacancies](http://presbyterian.ca/vacancies)

The profile referral service links individuals searching for a call with congregations seeking to call a minister. The congregational profile enables congregations to introduce themselves and their ministerial needs to professional church workers and candidates certified for ordination. The personal profile enables professional church workers and candidates certified for ordination to introduce themselves to search committees. An up-to-date listing of ministry opportunities and interim moderators is maintained on the church's website.

In addition to ministry opportunities leading to calls, the profile referral service continues to be used for stated supply and interim ministry appointments.

At the time of writing this report in February, Ministry and Church Vocations records indicate that 79 professional church workers and graduating students were seeking a call. A total of 34 pastoral charges (4.78% of 724 pastoral

charges) are looking for a minister and have prepared a congregational profile, submitting it to Ministry and Church Vocations for assistance. Five (5) of these are part-time positions.

To provide some perspective on these figures, it may be helpful to categorize the 79 individuals who are known to be seeking a call. Eighteen (18) individuals are Presbyterian Church in Canada ministers who are already serving in a pastoral charge and whose names are on the active roll of the presbytery. Should they accept a call to a different pastoral charge, it is quite likely that their move would create a new pulpit vacancy. In this case, their net effect on the number of ministry opportunities would be neutral. Seventeen (17) individuals are Presbyterian Church in Canada ministers not serving in ministries within this denomination and whose names are on the appendix to the roll of the presbytery. Fourteen (14) individuals are ministers or licentiates of other denominations who have been declared eligible to be received; 6 of these persons live outside Canada. Since many ministers of other denominations who are declared eligible for reception never in fact receive calls to Presbyterian Church in Canada congregations, especially when the minister lives outside Canada, it is probable that only a very few of these ministers will take positions in seeking congregations. Finally, 30 individuals are certified Presbyterian Church in Canada candidates for ordination who have graduated in previous years or who will graduate this spring.

The proportion of graduated candidates eligible to seek a call who have received one and been ordained is considerably higher than the statistics above might suggest. Since 2009, the majority of candidates for the ministry graduating from Presbyterian Church in Canada colleges who were eligible to seek a call have been ordained (101 of 127 or 80%).

### **Leading with Care Policy and Vulnerable Sector Police Records Checks**

Presbyteries are reminded that they have the responsibility to ensure that the professional church workers under their care provide vulnerable sector police records checks as stipulated in the Leading with Care Policy. Ministers are required to obtain and present a new vulnerable sector police records check at the time of a new call or change of position and/or every five years (A&P 2005, p. 345–46).

Certified candidates are required to obtain a new vulnerable sector police records check every five years, while in the intervening years they must submit annually a signed update statement attesting that they have not committed a crime since their police vulnerable sector checks were issued. In addition, a vulnerable sector police records check must be presented at two points in the candidacy process: by prospective candidates prior to the first certification and by certified candidates prior to participating in a field education placement; if the vulnerable sector police records check is more than one year old, a signed update statement is also required. At other points in the candidacy process, certified candidates are required to submit a signed update statement: annually at recertification and at the time of examination for certification for ordination; if the five-year period for the vulnerable sector police records check has elapsed, a new document must be obtained and presented (A&P 2007, p. 339–40).

### **Training about the Policy for Dealing with Sexual Abuse and Sexual Harassment**

Presbyteries are reminded of their responsibility to ensure that all professional church leaders under their care are educated to deal with sexual abuse and sexual harassment. This responsibility extends to ministers newly received from other denominations. Synods, colleges and sessions are reminded of the same responsibility for those under their care.

Two resources have been developed especially for congregational use. A brochure explains what The Presbyterian Church in Canada believes about sexual abuse and sexual harassment and the first steps to be followed in the case of a complaint. This brochure has now been printed in English, Korean, Chinese and Japanese. “Training for Sessions and Congregations in Dealing with Sexual Abuse and Sexual Harassment” (updated 2005) is a workshop outline. These resources are available for purchase from the Resource Centre at church offices ([resources@presbyterian.ca](mailto:resources@presbyterian.ca)). Several videos/DVDs on the topic are available to borrow from Ministry and Church Vocations ([ebrewer@presbyterian.ca](mailto:ebrewer@presbyterian.ca)).

**Overture No. 6, 2016** (p. 28.1.3–4)

**Re: Revising the Policy for Dealing with Sexual Abuse and Sexual Harassment when the complainant is a minister in a congregation**

Overture No. 6, 2016 from the Presbytery of Seaway-Glengarry was referred at its request to the Life and Mission Agency (Ministry and Church Vocations). The overture focuses on cases when a minister serving in a congregation brings a complaint of sexual abuse or sexual harassment against a member of the congregation. The overture notes

correctly that complaints are to be dealt with by the church court to which the person who is complained against is accountable. In the situations that form the subject of this overture, in which the complaint is against a lay member, adherent or staff person of a congregation, the case would fall under the session's jurisdiction. The overture expresses the view that such situations would be difficult and delicate, unfairly placing both the minister complainant and the session in a conflict of interest. The proposed solution is revision of the church's policy to assign to the presbytery the responsibility to deal with the kinds of complaints anticipated by the overture. The overture was accompanied by a document also prepared by the Presbytery of Seaway-Glengarry outlining the revisions being proposed to a dozen sections of the policy.

The Life and Mission Agency (Ministry and Church Vocations) recognizes that studying the concerns raised by the overture will require consultation with the authors of the overture, with the Clerks of Assembly, and perhaps also with legal counsel. These discussions were commenced on receipt of the overture in the last week of January. However, since thoughtful consideration of the revisions requested by the overture will require time, the following recommendation is presented.

**Recommendation No. 12                      Adopted/Defeated/Amended**

That permission be granted to the Life and Mission Agency (Ministry and Church Vocations) to report on Overture No. 6, 2016 to the next General Assembly.

**SPECIAL MINISTRIES**

**Overture No. 25, 2015** (A&P 2015, p. 599–601)

**Re: Revising and reforming the diaconate**

Overture No. 25, 2015 was submitted by the session of Knox's Church Galt in Cambridge, Ontario and transmitted by the Presbytery of Waterloo-Wellington without comment. It was referred to the Life and Mission Agency (Ministry and Church Vocations) and the Order of Diaconal Ministries. The overture proposes a substantial evaluation, revision and reformation of two areas of ministry within The Presbyterian Church in Canada: the Order of Diaconal Ministries and the Deacon's Court.

The Life and Mission Agency (Ministry and Church Vocations) chose to study the overture with the help of its advisory group, which brought perspectives from across the church including a principal of one of the church's theological colleges and the Administrator of the Order of Diaconal Ministries. Alongside the text of the overture itself, a supplementary document provided by the overture author was examined.

To place the overture's proposal in context, the following information about the two areas of ministry under review would be helpful. As described in the chapter entitled "Order of Diaconal Ministries" in the Book of Forms (sections 174–175, and also 176.5–176.5.1) members of the Order are referred to as diaconal ministers. They are members of presbyteries who have completed the church's candidacy process of preparation and discernment, including theological study in a Presbyterian Church in Canada college. When in active service, diaconal ministers take their functional titles from the specific position which they hold, commonly in the areas of Christian education, pastoral care, social ministry or church administration. As described in the chapter entitled "The Session" in the Book of Forms (sections 135–138), the office of deacon refers to the special care taken in distributing the offerings of the people to meet the needs of the poor. This responsibility rests with the ministers, diaconal ministers and ruling elders who together comprise the session. There is provision for this work to be assigned to congregational deacons. When this approach is chosen, deacons are elected and admitted in the same manner as elders. Deacons serve under the direction of the session. The Deacon's Court is the name given to the meeting at which the deacons consult, without vote, with the session.

The overture maintains that these two areas of ministry have evolved over time to the point that they no longer serve the missional purposes of the church today. Moreover the overture states that individuals "who wish to pursue a call outside the church" to serve needy, marginalized and vulnerable persons are not recognized in The Presbyterian Church in Canada. From the perspective of the overture, this lack of recognition is hampering the church's mission in the world. The proposed remedy is to create a new office of deacon whose work takes place in secular and faith-based institutions beyond the local congregation. The overture suggests that qualification standards for these deacons be established that include professional certification in areas of healing, justice and discipleship, along with one year of core theological training at seminary. The overture clearly regards ordination to be essential for individuals who are "pursuing a call outside the church." The overture seeks permission for individuals who meet

the church's qualification standards, once these are established, to use the title "deacon" in their public ministry and to indicate this standing by placing appropriate initials after their names.

### **Comments**

The overture's emphasis on the importance of the church's ministry in the world is well placed. Responding to the grace and love of God in Jesus Christ draws the church into loving service to the people and the world God loves. Such service is the fruit of deepening Christian discipleship, even as it stands as testimony to the love the church has received as God's gracious gift.

Moreover one of the primary contexts where the church expresses its faith is the everyday lives of the people of God. If one were to ask, "Where is the church?" the answers might point first to the work that Christians do together – ministries shared within congregations, presbyteries or synods, national programs and ecumenical and interfaith partnerships. Equally valid, however, is the understanding that Christ's hands and feet and voice and heart are to be seen in the work, play, community involvement, family and friendships of individual Christians. The Reformed concept of Christian vocation is germane here: Christ's disciples live out their Christian vocation in the world and this "calling" encompasses all of life. At the present time, it would be difficult to emphasize too strongly the church's need to embrace this belief.

Nevertheless, although the overture draws attention to important Christian teaching, the arguments it advances do not stand up to scrutiny. Firstly, it is not accurate to state that the office of deacon is languishing and soon expected to cease altogether. In fact the church exercises this "special care for the needs of the poor" in myriad contexts: through service in local, regional, national or international initiatives of the church, of ecumenical or interfaith partners, and of other charitable organizations by our church's lay members and adherents, as well as by our ministers, diaconal ministers and ruling elders (who are understood to be deacons, Book of Forms section 135.1), and through funds donated to Presbyterian World Service and Development (PWS&D), *Presbyterians Sharing*, and faith-based or secular charities.

Furthermore it is unclear why individuals in professions serving needy, marginalized and vulnerable persons should be singled out for special recognition. Every Christian has a calling and that calling involves living and serving in contexts described by the overture as "outside the church," that is, outside the church's formal activities and programs. Christian vocation may be expressed in every part of life and through every kind of work. The gospel imperative to share in Christ's ministry in and to the world is not restricted to the so-called caring professions. Equally, the church's faithfulness in sharing in the mission of God is not being diminished because the church does not grant special standing to these professionals in the manner that the overture is seeking.

Finally, in its critique of the Order of Diaconal Ministries, the overture does not appear to recognize the degree of connectedness that the Order enjoys within the diaconal community worldwide. The overture states that the Order lacks two hallmarks of religious orders, notably spiritual formation and "a rule of life" (a pattern or rhythm of spiritual disciplines that may include communal and private prayers offered at stated times throughout the day). The overture recommends that spiritual formation and an invited rule of life be implemented as core spiritual practices, to better distinguish the Order as a religious order. However, the Order of the Diaconal Ministries of The Presbyterian Church in Canada is connected to diaconal ministry communities throughout the world through its active involvement in two associations: DOTAC (Diakonia of the Americas and Caribbean) and DIAKONIA World Federation (World Federation of Diaconal Associations and Diaconal Communities). Hence the Order is fully conversant with diaconal ministry as it carried out in other denominations and communities. Moreover the Order currently is engaged in a review of its life and work, with a goal of discerning future directions. Should the Order wish to make any changes to its focus, structure or practices, one may assume that, on its own initiative, it will take the necessary steps through its Biennial Council and with recommendation to the General Assembly where required.

In conclusion, the proposal advocated by the overture is not supported adequately by the reasons advanced for it, and should not be adopted. Therefore the following recommendation is presented.

**Recommendation No. 13**                      **Adopted/Defeated/Amended**  
That the prayer of Overture No. 25, 2015 not be granted.



## **The Order of Diaconal Ministries**

Diaconal ministry has been a recognized form of ministry within The Presbyterian Church in Canada since 1908. The story of diaconal ministry within the church has always been one of change and adaptability, and that continues. “Just as the Presbyterian Church is challenged by the realities that are demanding significant change, so the ODM is challenged by the twin realities of the decreasing number of its members and the different kinds of ministries demanded by a changing society, a society that seeks to meet its spiritual needs outside of the institutional church. The Order is being pushed, often unwillingly, to listen to these challenges and to pursue the new directions to which God is leading us” (*From the Bottom Up – A Story of Collegial Leadership* by the Rev. Joyce Davis, p. 195).

## **Biennial Council**

The Council of the Order of Diaconal Ministries ordinarily meets biennially, and our most recent gathering was held from April 19–21, 2015 at Crieff Hills Community. Twenty-seven members gathered for business, mutual support and spiritual enrichment with the theme of “The Uniqueness of Christian Community – what it means to be the church today” facilitated by Dorothy Henderson.

## **Task Force**

At the 2015 Biennial Council meeting the Task Force on the Future of Diaconal Ministries presented a report. In 2013 the Task Force was given a three-fold mandate: (1) explore what other denominations are doing in the area of diaconal ministry (2) examine the options for the future direction of the Order and (3) bring a proposal or proposals on the future of the ODM to the next Council Meeting. The Task Force, convened by Dorothy Herbert, worked diligently and presented a substantial report to the council meeting for consideration. Over the three-day gathering discussion was held on various aspects contained within the report. Following discussion the gathered membership resolved to choose the proposal to evolve the ODM to meet the needs of the church. The ODM agreed further to engage in several action steps as it explores and analyzes the implications of the “resolve to evolve”.

## **Diaconal Organizations**

The Order of Diaconal Ministries is a member of DIAKONIA World Federation and DOTAC (Diakonia of the Americas and Caribbean). Both groups meet every four years, with the next DIAKONIA gathering set to meet in 2017 in Chicago (USA) and the next DOTAC gathering in 2019 in Vancouver. We look forward to having the DOTAC gathering in our country. A ministry of DOTAC is DOVE (Diakonia Overcoming Violence Experience) and it will be held in Canada this fall from September 19–23, 2016 at Crieff Hills Community. DOVE builds an international team of 12 people (3 each from Brazil, Caribbean, United States and Canada). The team participates in a multicultural, hands-on, action-reflection experience related to overcoming violence in the world. Participants promise to find ways to initiate action/reflection experiences in their own countries; write reflections to share with the group, their own community, and DOTAC; seek ways to provide leadership and develop networks to assist others in overcoming violence. The topics include: overcoming violence through empowerment and being a strong ally; restorative justice approaches; toxic and healthy masculinities; advocating for and empowering sex trade workers; and residential schools and relationships with First Nations People.

We are grateful to Margaret Robertson who is on the DOVE planning team and to Ann Blane who is the ODM rep on the DOTAC Central Committee.

## **Grants and Bursaries**

The Order is grateful to the Ewart Endowment for Theological Education for its support of a multi-year grant to assist certified theological students to attend approved conferences and events. Five grants were approved for Knox College students to attend the 2016 APCE conference (Association of Presbyterian Church Educators) in Chicago, Illinois, from January 27–30.

Bursaries are available for diaconal ministers furthering their theological education. The Ewart College Alumnae/Alumni Bursary Fund is administered by the Order and provides up to \$1,500 per academic year to a maximum of \$3,000 to members who request assistance.

## **Memorials**

The Order of Diaconal Ministries records its gratitude for the faithful ministry offered by the following members who have passed on to greater service: Ada Wyllie (designated 1958) and Gale Kay (designated 1965).

## **A Partner in Ministry**

As the Order enacts its resolve to evolve, we uphold our affirmation to work collegially in leadership, open to the empowerment of the Holy Spirit, to equip and enrich others for Christian life and service. As we look to the future, we do so as partners in ministry, seeking to respond obediently to God's call.

Donna McIlveen  
Administrator

## **Canadian Forces Chaplaincy**

The Presbyterian Church in Canada has a vital and vibrant ministry through the 14 ministers serving as chaplains in the Canadian Armed Forces.

### Regular Force Chaplains:

Commander Bonnie Mason	2nd Division HQ, Montreal, Quebec
Major Charles Deogratias	CTC Gagetown, New Brunswick
Major Kenneth MacRae	1st CMBG HQ, Edmonton, Alberta
Captain David Stewart	Wing Chaplain, Cold Lake, Alberta
Captain Daniel Forget	Base Chaplain, Kingston, Ontario
Lieutenant-Navy Mike Rundle	3rd Wing Chaplain, Bagotville, Quebec
Captain In-Seob Won	2nd Service Battalion, Petawawa, Ontario
Captain Andrew Cameron	Personnel Services, St. Jean, Quebec

### Reserve Force Chaplains:

Major Sandy Scott	Director of Chaplaincy Operations, Ottawa, Ontario
Captain David Clark	7th Toronto Regiment, Toronto, Ontario
Captain Steven Filyk	15th Field Regiment, Vancouver, British Columbia
Captain Tom Hamilton	Prince Edward Island Regiment, Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island
Captain Gavin Robertson	39th Combat Engineering Regiment, Trail, British Columbia
Captain Frances Savill	Algonquin Regiment, North Bay, Ontario

These women and men are called to serve as part of an ecumenical and interfaith chaplaincy. They have a unique and very effective ministry supporting the moral and spiritual well-being of military personnel and their families in all aspects of their lives, during conflict and in peacetime. There are diverse and complex spiritual and pastoral care needs that are within the scope of practice of military chaplains. Canadians have come to a deeper understanding of some of the struggles and trauma that is experienced by members of the Canadian Armed Forces. Chaplains are indispensable in the healing process of individuals and families. In this, as in many other challenges and opportunities for transformation, chaplains provide a powerful ministry of presence, and of spiritual leadership. The Presbyterian chaplains are well-respected for their pastoral expertise and their leadership in community and chapel life. As Presbyterians, we gather together annually for a day of study, reflection and support as part of the larger Chaplain Retreat. In June 2015 we were pleased to have the Rev. Dr. Pamela McCarroll as our guest. She led us in a timely theological reflection and discussion on the theme of hope and suffering.

Our chaplains have a dual accountability. As ministers of Word and Sacrament, they are accountable to their presbyteries. As commissioned officers, they are subject to the code of service discipline and are responsible to their military superiors. The Royal Canadian Chaplain Service is well known and respected around the world for its integrated approach of uniting the chaplains across branches into one chaplain service. It is the only interfaith, joint military chaplaincy in the NATO alliance.

It is my honour to serve as The Presbyterian Church in Canada's representative on the Interfaith Committee on the Canadian Military Chaplaincy (ICCMC). The ICCMC is a national committee made up of representatives from various Christian denominations, as well as Jewish and Muslim faith communities. The ICCMC is the body that acts as a common channel of communication between faith groups in Canada and the Minister of National Defense, the Chief of Defense Staff, and the Chaplain General, in matters related to military chaplaincy. ICCMC members have the responsibility of endorsing all potential military chaplains, and we provide a link between the chaplains and the denomination. I am available to any of our Presbyterian chaplains, at their request, for pastoral counsel and care. I also participate in at least one chaplain educational event per year. In June 2015, I was elected Chair of the ICCMC. Also in

June, members of the ICCMC received the Command Commendation from the Chief of Military Personnel, Lieutenant General David Miller. This recognition was given as an acknowledgement of the work and service of the ICCMC.

In August 2015, Padre Guy Chapdelaine was installed as the new Chaplain General. Brigadier General Chapdelaine is a Roman Catholic priest with a strong pastoral heart and a deep commitment to the spiritual health of chaplains. I ask for your prayers for him, and for all chaplains in The Royal Canadian Chaplain Service.

M. Jean Morris

### **Ministry and Church Vocations Advisory Committee**

The Rev. Dennis Howard, Ms. Joyce Harrison, Ms. Donna McIlveen, the Rev. Patricia Van Gelder, the Rev. Dr. Dale Woods.

## **PRESBYTERIAN WORLD SERVICE & DEVELOPMENT**

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

#### **Consent Recommendations**

That Recommendations Nos. 14, 15, and 16 (identified by ►) be adopted by consent.

#### **► Recommendation No. 14**

That individuals, congregations and presbyteries be commended for their involvement in refugee sponsorship and for their support for refugees who remain overseas and who require humanitarian assistance. (see p. 12.1.76)

#### **► Recommendation No. 15**

That individuals, congregations and presbyteries be commended for their prayers, generosity of spirit and resources to support the life-saving work of PWS&D in emergency assistance, in particular for the generous responses to the Nepal earthquake relief and to the Syria crisis, and life-transforming work in development programs responding to communities suffering from hunger, disease, disaster, conflict and injustice around the world. (see p. 12.1.77)

#### **► Recommendation No. 16**

That individuals, congregations and presbyteries take note that PWS&D continues to be a separate fund of The Presbyterian Church in Canada. As such all are encouraged to meet their *Presbyterians Sharing* allocation and to consider making separate contributions in support of the development, relief and refugee work of the church. (see p. 12.1.78)

### **REPORT**

Staff	Director:	Guy Smagghe (from September)
	Interim Director:	Richard Fee (April to August)
	Director:	Kenneth Kim (to March)
	Communications Coordinator:	Karen Bokma
	Communications Assistant:	Anna Muir (from April)
	Program Coordinator:	Leah Adema
	Program Coordinator:	Jeanine Cudmore
	Program Coordinator, Refugee Sponsorships, Strategic Planning and Special Projects:	Rob Shropshire
	Program Assistant:	Jennifer Ramkissoon (on maternity leave from October)
	Administrative Assistant:	Laura Fenwick (to August)
	Finance, Administration Coordinator:	Alison Stirling (from December)
	Program Coordinator, Finance, part-time:	David Jeffrey (to September)
	Program Coordinator:	Julia Rao (from November, contract)
	Program Coordinator, part-time:	Susan James (to September, contract)
	Program Assistant, Refugee Sponsorships, part-time:	Michelle Ball (from September, contract)
	Administrative Assistant, part-time:	David Di Sera (from September, contract)

## **INTRODUCTION**

God calls us to abundant life through Jesus Christ. From the beginning of his ministry, Jesus focused on bringing new life to the most vulnerable. “The Spirit of the Lord has anointed me to bring good news to the poor, to proclaim relief to the captives...to let the oppressed go free.” (Luke 4:18, 19) With generous gifts from Presbyterian across the country, the commitment of our partners around the world, and by the work and faithfulness of staff at PWS&D, we are privileged to participate in development, relief and refugee work. With each child born healthy, each family taught to effectively grow their own food, each refugee family safely arrived in Canada, we witness God’s Spirit enabling abundant life to be experienced, one person at a time.

After the Nepal earthquake, Presbyterians generously gave \$593,848 to assist those whose homes and livelihoods were destroyed. In times of crisis, the church responds. With the approval of a scaled-up government funded maternal, newborn and child health project for the next four years, PWS&D continues strong work with partners in Malawi and Afghanistan who empower communities to support mothers and young children so they have what is needed for abundant life.

Every Canadian has been touched by stories on the news of the Syrian refugee crisis. PWS&D supports churches and presbyteries who seek to sponsor refugees, to provide a community, a safe home and a new start. We also keep in mind the large numbers of refugees overseas who require humanitarian assistance. By the end of February 2016 (government matching deadline), we received \$561,685 in donations for the Syria crisis. We are thankful for our membership in the Canadian Foodgrains Bank, which allows us to reach out with food assistance and to multiply Presbyterian resources thanks to the access to government funds. We are also thankful for our membership in the ACT Alliance, which allows us to extend our reach. We are blessed to participate in God’s work around the world.

PWS&D committee and staff were pleased to welcome Guy Smagghe in his new role as Director in the fall, after eighteen years of service as Program Coordinator. We look forward to working with him in the future.

### **Our Vision**

Inspired by God’s promise of abundant life, PWS&D envisions a sustainable, compassionate and just world.

### **Our Values**

Compassion: PWS&D walks with distressed and marginalized people, listening carefully to their stories and responding effectively.

Justice: PWS&D works for equality, empowerment, human dignity, peace and stewardship of creation. In solidarity, we affirm that all people are entitled to know their rights, to receive equal protection, and to have access to and control over resources.

Partnership: PWS&D believes in dynamic relationships that involve mutual learning, trust and shared vision. Healthy partnerships are accountable, ethical, equitable, flexible and respectful.

### **Our Mission**

Presbyterian, ecumenical and inclusive in our practice of faith, we gladly serve women and men, young and old, according to their need and regardless of their faith. In a world with too much poverty, injustice and oppression concentrated in nations of the South, we recognize the interrelation between our affluence and the suffering of others.

We are committed to service with churches and organizations seeking sustainable transformation of their communities, upholding compassion, justice, and partnership.

We undertake development, emergency and refugee activities that restore human dignity, ease the pain of want, promote self-help and encourage community cooperation that benefits all. We are sensitive to gender issues, empowerment of the marginalized and the protection of human rights.

We promote awareness of global issues, connecting Canadians to the needs of others throughout the world.

Faithful to our calling, we respond together.

## **Theological Statement**

The ministry of PWS&D is rooted in the living hope of Jesus Christ and inspired by God's promise of abundant life. It is an integral part of the ministry of The Presbyterian Church in Canada.

God enters into faithful relationship with those who respond to the divine calling. As Micah proclaimed, God requires that we "do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with God" (Micah 6:8).

In Jesus, God became human for our salvation. This love for humanity expressed in Jesus' life must be demonstrated by the church and we follow him as we live for justice, mercy and peace.

We believe peace and wellbeing are God's will for creation. As we respond together to the world's pain and despair, we bear witness to the love of God among us.

We believe that injustice and inequality are an affront to the will of God and that our involvement in compassionate ministry with people throughout the world is an imperative of the Gospel.

## **Our Priorities**

With the generous support of Presbyterians in Canada we are working with local partners around the world to address the root causes of poverty and create new futures of hope and opportunity through programs addressing:

### **Development**

- Food Security: Communities are learning innovative and sustainable agriculture practices to increase crop yields, improve nutrition, and build resilience to environmental changes.
- Sustainable Livelihoods: Families are empowered to meet their basic needs through education, skills training and small business development. When one person becomes self-reliant they are able to improve their quality of life, shape their future, and lift up others in their community.
- Health: By ensuring mothers and children receive the medical care they need, caring for people affected by HIV and AIDS, and providing access to water and sanitation programs, families and communities are growing healthier and stronger.
- Human rights: Injustices are combated through a shared commitment to human rights, with a special focus on promoting and protecting rights for women, children, workers, subsistence farmers, persons with disabilities, and refugees.

### **Emergency relief**

In the aftermath of conflict and disaster, immediate and long-term relief ensures the most vulnerable people have access to food, shelter and medical attention, and are able to recover from economic loss and emotional trauma.

### **Support to Refugees**

No one is a refugee by choice. By sponsoring refugees to Canada, and advocating for and supporting refugees and displaced people around the world, families are able to rebuild their lives without fear of persecution.

### **Strategic Plan Extension: 2014–2018**

As PWS&D neared the end of the second year of its strategic plan adopted in April 2014, it was determined that more time was necessary to achieve the goals identified in the document. Therefore, at the meeting of the PWS&D Committee in October 2015, the plan was amended, extending it to five years from three. A revised action plan for 2014–2018 has been approved.

### **Strategic Action in 2015**

Strategic Action: Improve program effectiveness by strengthening development programs:

PWS&D adopted an updated Development Programs Policy, defining more clearly where the agency works, with whom it works and when it should end financial support for programs and partners. The partnership principles that guide PWS&D in its relationships were also brought up to date and included in the policy.

Strategic Action: Strengthen PWS&D institutionally:

PWS&D updated its Guidelines for the Nominating Committee (which guide the PWS&D Committee in the identification of potential Canadian committee member nominees) and its Guidelines for Southern Partner Representation on the PWS&D Committee (which guide the PWS&D Committee in the identification and participation of Southern partner representatives on the PWS&D Committee).

Strategic Actions: Intensify communications, engagement and fundraising with presbyteries, and congregations and individuals and improve the effectiveness of its emergency relief response:

The PWS&D Committee initiated discussion on how to move ahead on these two actions.

## FINANCIAL SUPPORT FROM PRESBYTERIANS

Every year PWS&D is blessed to receive support from individuals and congregations across Canada who are engaged in the work of the church and are compelled to make a difference in an unjust world. The committee and staff express heartfelt thanks to the numerous Presbyterians who continue to make this valuable ministry possible through their prayers, dedication and generous gifts. In 2015, PWS&D received \$3,242,228 to carry out work in development, relief and refugee sponsorship initiatives. The generous support of Presbyterians was then further leveraged to maximize the impact of our programs with partners thanks to the support of government agencies, as well as other denominations and their relief and development ministries.

## Sources of Program Revenue and Areas of Program Expenditures (includes PWS&D resources and expenditures at CFGB)

The following provides a more comprehensive picture of PWS&D resources in 2015.

Where our resources came from:

	2015	2014
	\$	\$
Undesignated contributions	1,306,190	1,518,814
Designated bequests	145	262
Transferred from Loaves and Fishes Fund*	304,388	282,030
Designated contributions (excluding relief projects)	365,085	408,803
Designated relief	1,266,420	342,869
Government funds from		
Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development (DFATD)**	209,030	434,061
Government of the Province of Saskatchewan	21,388	24,918
Government of the Province of Manitoba	11,877	12,271
Other income – interest	34,728	35,073
	<b>3,519,251</b>	<b>3,059,101</b>

## Designated and Undesignated Contributions

Undesignated donations are gifts that are not earmarked for specific programs. This allows PWS&D the flexibility to respond where the need is greatest. These donations enable PWS&D to engage with partners and to support sustainable development projects that address the root causes of poverty and empower individuals and communities with the capacity and tools to transform their lives. By having a secure source of funding, we are able to uphold long-term commitments with partners in order to implement innovative programs in food security, livelihoods, health and human rights. Undesignated donations also provide PWS&D with the means to immediately respond to disasters or humanitarian crises as they arise, and to respond to disasters for which appeals are not broadly issued. Funds can be disbursed within hours of receiving news of a flood, typhoon, earthquake or conflict directly through our partners or through our network of churches and agencies around the world. Unfortunately there are many emergencies around the world that do not receive widespread media attention or do not receive support from the broader public – undesignated funding goes towards these neglected or forgotten crises. When there is an emergency that requires prolonged attention PWS&D is able to gather more information and issue an appeal to the wider Presbyterian constituency.

Undesignated funds make it possible to support ecumenical activities and development education programs that engage the Canadian public on the struggles marginalized people face and the need for continued support and

solidarity. With undesignated support, we work in Canadian and international ecumenical networks active in development, relief and advocacy. Undesignated donations in general have been increasing, which reflects the confidence and trust supporters have in our ability to undertake development and relief work. With that said, 2015 was an exceptional year in terms of donations towards refugee sponsorship. This signified a large portion of PWS&D's end of year funding being redirected towards our refugee programming, which subsequently decreased undesignated funds for 2016.

Undesignated funds also make it possible to fund the refugee sponsorship support program, which has supported 90 congregations and presbyteries in the refugee sponsorship process in 2015.

Designated contributions are funds directed to a specific program or project. The Gifts of Change catalogue highlights a variety of PWS&D development programs that can be supported with designated donations. In times of natural disasters or conflict, PWS&D may issue a specific appeal or alert for support. When the Canadian government announced a matching fund in response to the Syria crisis, generous donations of \$347,434 from Presbyterians enabled humanitarian assistance for those affected by the Syria crisis – providing food assistance to Syrian refugees in Lebanon and to families displaced within Syria.

Every donation, whether designated or undesignated, is valued and allows PWS&D to access matching funds through various ecumenical and government channels whenever possible. Matching sources include Global Affairs Canada (formerly Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development Canada), Canadian Foodgrains Bank, provincial governments (Saskatchewan and Manitoba), international donors (such as DISOP in Belgium), and other ecumenical relief and development agencies.

### **Loaves and Fishes Fund**

The Loaves and Fishes Fund is a planned giving fund that receives undesignated gifts made through bequests, gift annuities, insurance policies, appreciated securities and other investments. The Loaves and Fishes Fund is a seven-year fund. One-seventh of an undesignated planned gift is used for the work of PWS&D in the year that it is given. The remaining funds are invested and during the following six years PWS&D uses the interest and portions of the principal to support development and relief work until the full amount has been expended. This mechanism facilitates a more even year-to-year distribution of undesignated funds received through planned gifts.

In 2015, \$248,922 was received in the Loaves and Fishes Fund, whose balance reached over \$2 million. Interest and market revaluation generated \$96,397. One seventh of the fund, \$304,388 was transferred into the operating budget in support of programs.

	<b>2015</b>	<b>2014</b>
	\$	\$
Opening fund balance	1,882,546	1,246,114
Bequests and planned gifts	248,922	728,597
Interest and market revaluation	96,397	189,865
Transfer to PWS&D	<u>(304,388)</u>	<u>(282,030)</u>
Closing fund balance	<b>1,923,477</b>	<b>1,882,546</b>

### **Support from the Government of Canada**

In June 2015, Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development Canada (now Global Affairs Canada) announced the approval of PWS&D's Maternal, Newborn and Child Health project in Malawi and Afghanistan for 2015–2020. With a value of \$4 million over four years, this project will scale up significantly and build upon the experience of the 2011–2014 project. In this new agreement, PWS&D will contribute 20% of the total amount of the project – a 4:1 match. This is the largest government-funded development project ever to be approved for PWS&D.

We also continued to receive support for the Building Sustainable Livelihoods program in Malawi (2012–2017). The project was restructured and is focusing on the northern region (Synod of Livingstonia). Institutional challenges in the Blantyre Synod required us to phase out our work there. In this project, funds from PWS&D are matched 3:1.

**EXPENDITURES IN 2015**

PWS&D spent \$3,303,248 in 2015, of which nearly \$500,000 was transferred to Canadian Foodgrains Bank. PWS&D managed \$3,036,097 in projects at Canadian Foodgrains Bank in 2015.

Where our resources went:

	<b>2015</b>	<b>2014</b>
	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>
Disaster, relief and rehabilitation *	1,123,862	714,028
Overseas development projects*	967,583	829,038
Relief and development programs support	545,392	478,280
DFATD – PWS&D overseas program	205,240	835,126
Memberships, partnerships and coalitions	153,401	157,204
Resources, communication, promotion and grants	135,970	165,895
Administration	171,800	251,652
	<b>3,303,248</b>	<b>3,431,223</b>

\*Note: Disaster, relief and rehabilitation and Overseas development projects expenditures included transfers to CFGB. CFGB programming is further discussed in the sections below.

**Canadian Foodgrains Bank (CFGB)**

PWS&D is a proud member of Canadian Foodgrains Bank (CFGB), a uniquely Canadian ecumenical partnership of 15 denominations and church-based agencies committed to ending world hunger. CFGB focuses its programming on food assistance, agriculture and livelihoods, and nutrition. By pooling resources and expertise, member agencies effectively work together to address hunger-related issues in vulnerable communities affected by natural disasters, conflict and climate change. CFGB also works to influence national and international policies that will contribute to ending global hunger; and increase and deepen the engagement of Canadians in ending global hunger.

We are thankful for our membership in the Canadian Foodgrains Bank that allows us to reach out with food security programming and to multiply Presbyterian resources thanks to donations from other denominations, matching grants from CFGB, and greater access to government funds.

In 2014–2015 CFGB helped improve the lives of over one million people in 39 countries by providing \$41 million in assistance: \$27 million was provided for food assistance in 23 countries (66% of programming); \$12 million was provided for agriculture and livelihood programs in 34 countries (29% percent of programming); and \$2.4 million was provided for nutrition programming in 10 countries (6% of programming).

CFGB is funded both by donations of grains and monetary gifts, as well as government contributions. Funds contributed by members, especially related to food assistance projects are usually eligible for four-to-one government matching funds. Other agricultural and livelihood programs (food security) are generally matched three-to-one, as long as matching funds are available. Programs can also be eligible to receive General CFGB fund matching of a one to one ratio.

We are grateful for the generous support of Presbyterians involved in CFGB growing projects and fundraising initiatives which contribute equity to PWS&D's account and the General account at CFGB. PWS&D received \$2,514,127 of matched donations by the federal government at CFGB, and \$763,544 of gifts and grain donations by individuals. PWS&D managed projects at CFGB worth \$3,036,097.

	<b>2015</b>	<b>2014</b>
	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>
<b>Revenue</b>		
Government funds		
Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development (DFATD)	2,514,127	194,199
Material and food resources		
Grain and gifts	763,544	441,397
Interest and other revenue		-
	<b>3,277,671</b>	<b>635,596</b>
<b>Expenditures</b>	<b>3,036,097</b>	<b>477,828</b>
<b>Excess (deficiency) of Revenues over Expenditures for the Year</b>	<b>241,574</b>	<b>157,768</b>



**Contributions from other CFGB members to projects led by PWS&D**

In 2015, several CFGB members contributed their resources to PWS&D led programs in Guatemala and Pakistan. Members who shared their equity at CFGB with PWS&D are: Nazarene Compassionate Ministries of Canada, the Primate's World Relief and Development Fund, and the United Church of Canada. PWS&D is grateful to these member agencies at CFGB for generously contributing to our projects.

**Projects led and managed by PWS&D in 2015**

Country	Partner /Project	PWS&D Funds \$	CFGB Funds \$	DFATD Match \$	Total Financing \$
<b>Africa</b>					
Malawi	Lirangwe closing – Blantyre	2,338	2,338		4,676
Malawi	Farmer-to-Farmer Agroecology (EHAP) – AL	17,642	17,642		35,284
Malawi	Mpata Drought Mitigation Project (Livingstonia) – AL	18,984		56,951	75,935
Malawi	Nyungwe Conservation Farming (Livingstonia) – AL	17,918		53,756	71,674
Malawi	Blantyre adjustment – FA	(163.67)	(772)	(3,740)	(4,676)
Tanzania	Kishapu Food Security and Nutrition (AICT) – AL	6,580		19,740	26,320
<b>Africa Sub-total</b>		<b>63,298</b>	<b>19,208</b>	<b>126,707</b>	<b>209,213</b>
<b>Asia</b>					
Pakistan	Drought Tharparkar (CWS Asia) – FA	126,604	93,768	881,492	1,101,864
Pakistan	Floods Sajawal (CWS Asia) – FA	22,285	149,804	688,358	860,447
Pakistan	Sustainable Agriculture Badin (CWSA) – AL	14,970	34,467	148,311	197,748
<b>Asia Sub-total</b>		<b>163,859</b>	<b>278,039</b>	<b>1,718,161</b>	<b>2,160,059</b>
<b>Americas</b>					
Guatemala	Drought (ASDNA) – FA	64,635	52,564	468,795	585,994
Guatemala	Pre-planning food security – ASDENA – FA	3,095			3,095
Nicaragua	Pre-planning (CEPAD) – NU	4,225			4,225
Nicaragua	San Juan de Rio Coco (SOYNICA) – NU	11,815		47,261	59,077
<b>Americas Sub-total</b>		<b>83,770</b>	<b>52,564</b>	<b>\$516,056</b>	<b>\$652,390</b>
<b>Others</b>	PWS&D program support*	<b>14,435</b>			<b>14,435</b>
<b>Total</b>		<b>325,36</b>	<b>349,812</b>	<b>2,360,92</b>	<b>\$3,036,09</b>

AL: Agriculture and Livelihoods; FA: Food Assistance; NU: Nutrition

\*PWS&D receives an annual contribution based on a percentage of the total value of programming work led and managed by PWS&D from the Canadian Foodgrains Bank. This amount is a contribution for the expense costs assumed by PWS&D.

In 2015, PWS&D provided Presbyterian equity to support fellow CFGB members with food aid, food security and nutrition programs in the following countries: Afghanistan, India, Kenya, Laos, Lebanon, Philippines and South Sudan.

**PWS&D Contributions to other CFGB Members' Projects**

Country	Partner /Project	PWS&D Funds \$	CFGB Funds \$	DFATD Match \$	Total Value of PWS&D Funds \$
<b>Africa</b>					
Kenya	ERDO– Marsabit drought – FA	18,000	18,000		36,000
South Sudan	ADRA – FA	50,000	50,000		100,000
<b>Africa Sub-total</b>		<b>68,000</b>	<b>68,000</b>		<b>136,000</b>

**America**

Haiti	MCC– Agro-forestry – AL	40,000	120,000	160,000
<b>America Sub-total</b>		<b>40,000</b>	<b>120,000</b>	<b>160,000</b>

**ASIA**

Nepal	NCM– Earthquake – FA	45,000	45,000	90,000
<b>Asia Sub-total</b>		<b>45,000</b>	<b>45,000</b>	<b>90,000</b>

**Middle East**

Iraq	MCC – Displaced – FA	35,000	35,000	70,000
Lebanon	MCCC – Syrians Refugees FA	105,000	420,000	525,000
Syria	MCC – Displaced – FA	50,000	200,000	250,000
<b>Middle East Sub-total</b>		<b>190,000</b>	<b>35,000</b>	<b>620,000</b>

<b>Total</b>		<b>343,000</b>	<b>268,000</b>	<b>620,000</b>
				<b>1,231,00</b>

AL: Agriculture and Livelihoods; FA: Food Assistance; NU: Nutrition

**DISASTER, RELIEF AND REHABILITATION**

Changing climate conditions and natural disasters continued to negatively impact globally. El Niño severely impacted the globe in 2015 which will last into early spring 2016. El Niño is an anomalous, yet periodic, warming of the central and eastern equatorial Pacific Ocean, which causes more erratic and severe weather patterns such as an increased incidences of drought, floods and hurricanes. PWS&D is on constant look out for areas that are being affected by these impacts whether acute, like supporting Typhoon Relief in the Philippines or food aid projects in drought affected regions in Guatemala.

The disturbing trend of long-term deadly conflicts uprooting more and more people from their homes has meant many are now in urgent need of humanitarian aid. The statistics are staggering. The UNHCR reported that the number of refugees, asylum-seekers and internally displaced people worldwide exceeded 59.5 million people at the end of 2015. During the year, conflict and persecution forced an average of 42,500 persons per day to leave their homes and seek protection elsewhere, either within the borders of their countries or in other countries. Developing countries host over 86% of the world's refugees, compared to 70% ten years ago.

PWS&D is able to respond with life-saving relief and rehabilitation assistance through Canadian and international ecumenical networks and coalitions. As a member of the ACT Alliance, and Canadian Churches in Action (CCA), PWS&D can respond in communities where there are no historic or direct partnerships. ACT Alliance is a global coalition of over 140 churches and affiliated organizations collaborating together on humanitarian aid, development and advocacy issues. CCA is a Canadian coalition made up of ten CFGB members working together on non-food response efforts, thus complementing the food-related efforts of CFGB. In 2015, PWS&D supported a total of 11 relief projects in eight countries.

Country	Partner/ Project	PWS&D Funds \$
<b>Africa/Middle East</b>		
Malawi	Flood relief – Housing and latrines – MMH	48,948
Iraq	Support for displaced – ACT Alliance	10,000
Syria	Syria Crisis – ACT Alliance	24,392
<b>Africa/ Middle East Sub-total</b>		<b>83,340</b>
<b>Asia</b>		
Nepal	Earthquake Appeal – ACT Alliance	523,911
Vanuatu	Typhoon Relief – ADRA	10,000
Taiwan	Taiwan– Post-explosions Rehab – PCT	31,073
<b>Asia Sub-total</b>		<b>564,984</b>
<b>Europe / North America</b>		
Greece	Refugee and Migrant Support – ACT Alliance	20,000
Canada	Alberta Floods – Presbytery of Calgary MacLeod	684
<b>Europe / North America Sub-total</b>		<b>20,684</b>
<b>Total Relief (excluding CFGB)</b>		<b>669,008</b>

## **AFRICA DISASTER, RELIEF AND REHABILITATION PROJECTS**

### **Malawi: Malawi Flood Response-Mulanje Mission Hospital – \$48,948**

Severe flooding in southern Malawi in January 2015 affected thousands, destroying equally large numbers of homes and toilets. The loss of toilets in a flood zone is an urgent health priority, as proper health and sanitation practices are no longer possible, increasing the risk of waterborne diseases such as severe diarrhea and malaria.

With funds from PWS&D, Mulanje Mission Hospital targeted 1,000 of the most vulnerable households in the ten most affected villages. Mulanje Mission Hospital coordinated with the District Commissioner's office. The PHC Coordinator, together with the Environmental Health Officer and Health Surveillance Assistants supervised construction in each village.

### **South Sudan: Emergency Response Project in Budi County, Eastern Equatoria State – Adventist Development and Relief Agency Sudan (CFGB) – \$100,000**

Due to the most recent armed conflict in South Sudan, 4.9 million affected people were in need of humanitarian assistance. After several years of peace, conflict raged between the government and a rebel group. About one million people have fled their homes to escape the fighting. Many of the displaced are small scale farmers who depend on growing their own food in order to survive. Now living as internally displaced persons (IDP) in refugee camps and host communities far from their farms, they are unable to plant and grow their own food. According to the United Nations, about 3.7 million people – about one third of the population – are already at risk of starvation. The UN warns that this could be the worst food crisis in Africa since the 1980s.

PWS&D partnered with ADRA South Sudan that works on the ground to implement projects that further the development of this impoverished nation while providing emergency relief amid the IDP crisis. This food assistance project targeted 11,340 vulnerable people living in rural and peri-urban areas of Budi county in Eastern Equatoria State (EES) of South Sudan. At the end of 2015 this project distributed 5,670 food commodity vouchers to IDPs suffering from food shortages, lack of personal income and employment options. These food vouchers translate to the equivalent of 285,500 metric tonnes of maize grain, 28,400 metric tonnes of beans, 17,010 metric tonnes of vegetable cooking oil and 5,670 metric tonnes of salt.

### **Kenya: Marsabit Food Assistance (CFGB) – \$36,000**

Marsabit County is a food insecure area and much of the population is at risk of malnutrition. Crops have failed in the last two rainy seasons due to inadequate rainfall, resulting in a shortage of food and casual work. ERDO, in partnership with Kenyan NGO Sauti Moja – Kenya and with the support of PWS&D, is helping build food security through provision of livestock to widows and vulnerable single female-headed households by helping them build household herds. The initial provision of the animals is “paid back” to the project as the first born female from each animal given is then passed on to another widow. The project is located in two districts within Marsabit County. Laisamis is extremely arid – the driest area in Kenya. Marsabit Central is in the highlands where agro-pastoralism is practiced, but recent drought has affected the production of food. The food assistance project was a six-month intervention designed to protect against sale of the animals for food. The targeted food assistance provided half rations of maize, beans and oil to 690 households, as well as a small portion to share with others in need. PWS&D contributed \$18,000 to this project which was matched 1:1 by General Account funds at CFGB.

## **ASIA DISASTER, RELIEF AND REHABILITATION PROJECTS**

### **Nepal: Nepal Earthquake Response – ACT Alliance – \$523,911**

A devastating 7.8 magnitude earthquake with its epicentre approximately 80 km north-west of the ancient Nepali capital city of Kathmandu struck on April 25, 2015. This was the most powerful earthquake to hit the region since the Bihar earthquake of 1934, and its impact was devastating in terms of loss of life and destruction of infrastructure.

ACT Alliance members – already present in Nepal prior to the earthquake, alongside a number of national partners – were able to do rapid needs assessments, both within the Kathmandu valley and in five highly impacted rural districts outside the valley. Through the ACT Appeal, PWS&D helped support 12,000 households with shelter, 15,000 with water, sanitation and health projects, 20,000 with food and non-food items, and 14,000 individuals with psychosocial support. This assistance helped save lives and restore dignity to populations affected during the earthquake emergency period, as well as contributing to early recovery after the earthquake.

**Nepal: Food Assistance – Nazarene Compassionate Ministries (CFBG) – \$90,000**

Nazarene Compassionate Ministries (NCM) supported NCM Nepal with a three-month fast track food assistance project in Sindhupalchowk district. This project provided food assistance to 1,000 of the most vulnerable families (approximately 5,000 individuals) each month, utilizing 150 tonnes of rice, 30 tonnes of pulses, 15 tonnes of oil, 6 tonnes of sugar and 3 tonnes of salt. In three months about 1,000 households and approximately 5,000 individuals received vital food aid. PWS&D contributed \$45,000 that was matched with general account fund at CFBG.

**Pakistan: Humanitarian Food Assistance to Drought Affected Families in Tharparkar District-Community World Service Asia (CFGB) – \$1,101,864**

Drought is prevalent in southern Pakistan, especially in Tharparkar district of Sind province, due to declining rainfall. Tharparkar did not receive significant rainfall during the 2013 and 2014 monsoon seasons resulting in a prolonged dry spell. The start of the rainy season was delayed leading to the almost complete damage of any crops grown in the area. As a result, most of the farmers who planted were unable to recover even the seed they planted. The drought resulted in the death of 650 impoverished people in 2014, with the number predicted to increase in 2015 as food stocks were further diminished and livestock perished because of lack of drinking water and fodder. Furthermore, hundreds of children were reported to be suffering from pneumonia or diarrhea, adding to severe acute malnutrition. Community World Service Asia implemented a seven-month food assistance project from February to August in Tharparkar to benefit 1,800 drought affected households engaged in rearing livestock and seasonal crop production. The monthly food packages helped through a hunger period and provided family members with the energy to go about their daily activities. Beginning in June, the rains arrived in Tharparkar and rainfall was higher compared to previous years. The rainfall provided fodder for livestock and enabled farmers to plant their crops and harvest in September.

**Pakistan: Provision of Emergency Food Assistance to Flood Affected Families in District Sajawal – Community World Service Asia (CFGB) – \$860,447**

Monsoon rains struck Pakistan in July and continued across the country in August. As a result of heavy monsoon rains and melting glaciers in the north of country, there was widespread flooding in different regions of the country. The 2015 monsoon season was the worst for flooding since 2010. There were over 230 confirmed deaths and more than 1.5 million persons affected. PWS&D, in collaboration with CFBG and Community World Service Asia, supported a five-month food assistance project for 2,100 families affected in Sajawal district, Sind province. Seventy percent of the affected families rely on crop production as their livelihood strategy. The project provided wheat seed to 1,470 families engaged in crop production, enough to plant two acres of wheat. Families started receiving monthly food rations containing fortified wheat flour, pulses, cooking oil and salt in November.

The project targets 2,100 flood-affected families (approximately 10,500 individuals) who are extremely food insecure and have no resources and capacities to cope with their nutritional and routine dietary needs. While selecting the beneficiaries, special attention was given to vulnerable and marginalized groups such as households headed by women, persons with disabilities, social and religious minorities and elderly people. The ultimate goal of this project is to increase the food security by providing adequate food supply to immediately increase consumption, increase diversity of foods and increase wheat production for the target flood affected farmers.

**Vanuatu: Cyclone Pam Relief – Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) Canada – \$10,000**

On March 14th 2015, Category 5 Tropical Cyclone Pam made landfall in the Republic of Vanuatu. Cyclone Pam brought wind gusts of up to 320 km/h and storm surges that wreaked havoc across the region. Ninety percent of the structures on Efate, the most populated of the nation's 83 islands, were damaged or destroyed. This included the devastation of many school buildings and left over 100,000 people homeless. A large percentage of the country's population has been affected; leaving 24 dead and over 3,300 displaced according to UN reports. In response to this urgent humanitarian needs, ADRA Vanuatu, with support from PWS&D and the ADRA Network of offices, distributed a WASH kit, a shelter kit and a food parcel providing supplementary nutritional needs for one week to 1,000 households (about 5,000 people). Additionally, basic hygiene information and sanitation facilities were provided to 10 evacuation centres in Efate.

**Taiwan: Kaohsiung Explosions – Occupational Therapy, Presbyterian Church of Taiwan – \$31,073**

On the morning of August 1, 2014, a series of gas explosions occurred in Kaohsiung, Taiwan. As a result, 32 people were killed and 308 others were injured. Many victims became physically disabled and unable to return to their

original workplace. The Presbyterian Church of Taiwan prepared a six-year project to provide assistance and occupational therapy for the victims of this disaster. The agreement was signed in 2015.

## **MIDDLE EAST DISASTER, RELIEF AND REHABILITATION PROJECTS**

### **Iraq: Survival Assistance for Displaced Populations in Northern Iraq – ACT Alliance – \$10,000**

Iraq currently has one of the largest populations of internally displaced people (IDPs) in the world. The Sinjar Crisis triggered the most recent wave of displacement, contributing approximately 42% of the overall number of IDP families in Iraq, following intense fighting and the violent persecution of ethnic and religious minorities by Islamic State (IS) extremists. This is in addition to the 217,886 registered Syrian refugees. Most of these Kurdish ethnic refugees from Syria are being accommodated within the homes and communities of their relatives and friends, and are struggling to get back to a normal livelihood in the Kurdish region of Iraq. However, many of them have little or no means of support, and are living in several refugee camps run by the Kurdish Regional Government with the support of various international humanitarian agencies. The overall goal of this ACT response is to alleviate suffering through immediate assistance to targeted IDP families and their host communities through six interventions: ensuring food security, water supply, non-food items (including winter clothes, kitchen sets, etc.), psychosocial services, shelter, and later stage education (school rehabilitation).

### **Syria Humanitarian Response – ACT Alliance – \$24,932**

Conflicts and a high level of violence continue throughout the Syrian Arab Republic. Aerial bombings by government forces and attacks by armed opposition, extremist and designated terrorist groups continue to result in death, injury and displacement. It is estimated that 10.8 million people in Syria remain in need of urgent humanitarian assistance, many of them trapped in hard to reach areas. Over three million Syrian refugees have fled to neighboring countries with the majority arriving in Jordan and Lebanon, countries who wrestle with their own issues with poverty, lack of infrastructure and undersized economies.

Humanitarian needs in these regions remain enormous. The delivery of humanitarian assistance, especially in hard-to-reach areas, remains extremely difficult and insufficient to meet people's needs. Violence, rapidly shifting conflict lines, administrative hurdles and underfunding continue to hamper the relief effort as needs continue to grow. ACT Jordan Syria Lebanon Forum members have identified food, non-food items, water, sanitation, health, education, and shelter as high-impact priority areas for intervention. Furthermore, refugees are facing trauma, depression and stress over providing for their families, and battling isolation and loneliness. This is particularly true of those spread throughout host communities, who feel increasing hostility directed at them from local residents. Therefore this appeal sought to provide much needed psychosocial interventions. The overall goal of this project is to reduce the vulnerability and ease the burden of people who are affected by the Syrian conflict in Syria, Jordan and Lebanon.

### **Lebanon: Food Assistance for Syrian Refugees – PARD (CFGB) – \$525,000**

Entering its fifth year in April 2015, the armed conflict in Syria continues to move forward with no end in sight. Government forces and armed opposition groups comprised of both secularists and religious fundamentalists continue to vie for control of territory throughout the country. Ongoing violence throughout the country has led to more than 3.9 million people fleeing the country altogether, forcing Syrians to seek refuge in neighbouring countries in the region, including Lebanon, Jordan, Turkey and Iraq. As of March–April 2015, an estimated 1,196,000 refugees from Syria were living in Lebanon. In 2015, PWS&D supported a six-month extension of the MCC-led food assistance program for over 11,000 Syrian and Palestinian refugees from Syria in Lebanon. The project is meeting immediate food needs through the implementation of a cash-based voucher system for those living in precarious conditions. Vouchers are an appropriate system where refugees can purchase items from local stores or markets. MCC partner, Popular Aid for Relief and Development has extensive experience and oversaw and monitored the program. PWS&D contributed \$105,000 to this project that was matched 4:1 with Government of Canada funds at CFGB.

### **Syria: Food Aid Affected Syrians in Qalamoun Area and Rural Homs, Syria (CFGB) – \$250,000**

This project seeks to preserve the lives of a total of 6,000 families who have been affected or displaced by the conflict between government forces and opposition groups. By meeting the immediate food needs of internally affected beneficiary households, this project will reduce their reliance of various detrimental coping strategies that are currently, and increasingly, being utilized by this particular population. These activities also provide a very

significant secondary benefit to the community of the Qalamoun area and Rural Homs (Fayrouze) along with local businesses, who have borne an increasing burden of hosting their displaced ‘guests’ in an environment of decreased employment, considerable inflation and increased scarcity of financial resources. Led by MCC, this project is implemented locally by the Forum for Development, Culture and Dialogue (FDCD). PWS&D contributed \$50,000 to this project that was matched 4:1 with Government of Canada funds at CFGB.

### **AMERICAS DISASTER, RELIEF AND REHABILITATION PROJECTS**

#### **Guatemala: Food Assistance due to Drought and Crop Loss – ASDENA (CFGB) – \$585,994**

For over two years, a serious drought affecting different regions of Guatemala impacted the production of basic grains for subsistence farmers, putting at risk food security for thousands of families. In 2015, another severe period of drought during crucial planting and growing seasons further exacerbated food insecurity and income loss for farming families. In response PWS&D partner ASDENA provided emergency food assistance for a period of two months. This project was successfully executed from May 15 to July 15, 2015 with 4,240 families in 43 communities from the Quiché and Jutiapa Departments receiving life saving food rations that allowed them to continue with their daily lives and livelihoods without worrying about hunger and malnourishment. This food assistance project received a 4:1 match from the Canadian government at CFGB.

### **NORTH AMERICA AND EUROPE DISASTER, RELIEF AND REHABILITATION PROJECTS**

#### **Greece: Refugees and Migrants Humanitarian Response – ACT Alliance – \$20,000**

Increasing numbers of refugees/migrants are congregating in open spaces in island ports and surrounding areas owing to a lack of proper shelter and accommodation. These locations will no longer be suitable when it starts raining and the temperature drops in the fall and winter. Local police have expressed concern that poor living conditions in reception centers, inadequate food, cramped space, and a longer registration period may fuel frustration, unrest, and even violence. More refugees/migrants will potentially be staying on the islands for longer periods, and the need for accommodation, food, and sanitation was expected to increase accordingly.

#### **Canada: Alberta Floods – Presbytery of Calgary-Macleod – \$684**

Designated funds received by PWS&D after the initial response to the floods in Alberta were contributed to the Presbytery of Calgary-Macleod in support of local food banks reaching out to native populations still affected by the 2013 floods.

### **OVERSEAS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS**

In our interconnected world, it is increasingly common to see and feel the immense human suffering and injustice around the world. This can be heart wrenching and overwhelming but at the same time it is this interconnectedness that allows us to respond in collaboration with partners at home and abroad in a profound and efficient way, the likes of which have never been seen before. It is with this optimistic perspective that PWS&D implements its robust and diverse overseas development programming. We work with local partners in developing countries to break cycles of poverty and promote sustainable long-term development initiatives. Lives are being changed one by one and stories of solidarity, hope, empowerment and self-sufficiency prevail over ones of hardship, powerlessness and despair. With PWS&D support, people from poor and marginalized communities, regardless of race, gender, ethnicity and religion, are being equipped with the skills, knowledge and resources to better their lives and the lives of their families. In 2015, PWS&D continued to support local partners who work within our four thematic areas: livelihoods, health, food security and human rights. We deepened our impact by collaborating with a strong network of partner churches and likeminded organizations to implement 35 overseas development projects in 12 countries. In addition we are blessed with the support of our Presbyterian constituency, the Canadian Foodgrains Bank, as well as the Government of Canada through Global Affairs Canada.

#### Abbreviations:

- GoC: Government of Canada – Global Affairs Canada funded project with 3:1 match (formerly Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development Canada/Canadian International Development Agency)
- PWS&D: Presbyterian constituency sole-funded project
- CFGB: Canadian Foodgrains Bank funded (PWS&D equity plus matching funds)

## **AFRICA DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS**

### **Ghana: Garu Community Based Rehabilitation – Presbyterian Church of Ghana (PWS&D) – \$30,000**

In many countries, there are beliefs and assumptions that children and adults with disabilities have no value in society. Due to this mindset some communities believe that people with disabilities are unable to go to school, earn a livelihood, be part of meaningful relationships or participate in other aspects of life. The Garu Community Based Rehabilitation Centre supports persons with disabilities with schooling and vocational training to ensure that they have life skills and a way to support themselves. Persons with disabilities (PWDs) were actively engaged in the community based rehabilitation program and benefited from trainings and services to engage them in livelihood activities and community engagement. Functional literacy training was provided to 350 PWDs three times per week and 993 PWDs participated in leadership and advocacy skills training. Agricultural and vocational training benefited 410 PWDs and 400 PWDs received improved seeds and seedlings for crop production, while 44 PWDs received goats and roosters as well as animal husbandry training. Awareness raising sessions on disability issues were facilitated in nine communities and six schools targeting 3,571 people.

### **Ghana: Gambaga Outcast Home – Presbyterian Church of Ghana (PWS&D) – \$27,000**

The project provided a safe refuge for women accused of witchcraft to live. Twenty women participated in bead and soap making training and used the skills for income generating activities. The village chief provided 25 acres of farm land to 50 women to grow maize, beans and vegetables, which enables the women to be food self-sufficient. Seventy four women were registered with the national health insurance scheme to ensure they had access to health services and their health needs were met. Health talks were organized for the women to increase their awareness about environmental cleanliness and healthy eating habits to prevent cholera and other contagious diseases. The project also raised community awareness about witchcraft taboos, women's human rights and brutalities against women accused of witchcraft – 2,018 women and 982 men participated in these awareness sessions. This resulted in fewer women being banished from their communities and being accused of witchcraft

### **Malawi: Farmer-to-Farmer Agroecology – Livingstonia Ekwendeni Hospital (CFGB) – \$35,284**

Farmer Research Teams (FRTs) – made up of 113 women and 107 men – were trained on their roles and responsibilities on the MAFFA project and participated in group dynamics training including group formation, conflict management and leadership. The FRT members also participated in agroecological methodology, including crop production, planting patterns, crop residue incorporation, manure making, crop rotation and conservation agriculture training. The FRTs then took this information and trained the farmers in their respective villages through practical demonstrations, with the support of community promoters. The FRTs actively followed up with participating farmers on a continuous basis, providing support and supplementary information as needed. Many of the FRTs noted on their field visits that participating farmers were actively using the learned techniques. Farmers were intercropping with legumes and using the spacing patterns suggested by the project. In addition, farmers were increasingly adopting more agroecological practices promoted by the project including applying compost manure, rotating their land and implementing soil and water conservation strategies.

### **Malawi: Mpata Drought Mitigation –Livingstonia Development Department (CFGB) – \$75,935**

Village level field days were organized on outstanding conservation agriculture plots to educate and demonstrate the application of conservation agriculture principles. The farmers showcased agronomic practices such as plant spacing for both maize and pigeon peas, row inter-cropping for maize and pigeon peas, and weed control using mulch. The project is made up of 166 farmers and 33 farmers not participating in conservation agriculture visited the outstanding farm plots. The farmers were very impressed with what they saw and vowed to do the same on their own plots. The impact of mulching in conservation agriculture was a key discussion point during the field days because maize from conventional plots had wilted on adjacent plots whereas the crop stand was still healthy on the conservation agriculture plots. This demonstrated the importance and benefits of mulching because drought is prevalent in the area. In addition, weeds were not present in the conservation agriculture plots whereas they were visible in the conventional plots. The conservation agriculture plots were also intercropped with lablab which provided additional learning points for the farmers.

### **Malawi: Nyungwe Conservation Farming – Livingstonia Development Department (CFGB) – \$71,674**

The project organized a local fair in Nyungwe to acknowledge conservation agriculture champions – farmers participating in the project who were demonstrating excellent implementation of conservation agriculture practices.

Conservation agriculture champions were awarded wheel barrows, panga knives, hoes, shovels and maize seed to support the expansion of conservation agriculture in the participating villages. Another purpose of the fair was to sensitize community members about the importance and benefits of conservation agriculture and to encourage other farmers to adopt the practices. Participating farmers exhibited maize, pigeon peas and lablab grown in their plots and there was a competition for the biggest cob and best quality compost manure. Farmers participating in the project completed forms for their respective clubs evaluating how well their fellow members were engaged in the project. They evaluated each other on meeting attendance, participation in trainings, number of conservation agriculture plots planted, plot size, adherence to mulching standards, compost manure making, compost manure application and row spacing.

**Malawi: Mpata Water and Sanitation – Livingstonia Development Department (PWS&D) – \$132,000**

Eight boreholes were drilled in villages participating in the Mpata WASH Project increasing access to safe, clean drinking water for community members. Water Point Committees were established for each of the new boreholes to ensure the water source is well managed, the borehole is maintained, repairs are carried out when needed and families accessing the boreholes pay their user fees. Community members, especially women, were very happy to have the new boreholes constructed in their villages. Previously, women walked four kilometres each day to collect water from unsafe sources, resulting in less time for income generating activities and family members contracting water-borne diseases. The improved access to clean water in the villages has enabled women to plant vegetable gardens close to their homes, which will increase diet diversity and cash income.

**Tanzania: Kishapu Food Security and Nutrition – African Inland Church of Tanzania (CFGB) –\$26,320**

The Kishapu Food Security and Nutrition Project concluded in September and the project team carried out a survey to measure the impact of conservation agriculture in the participating communities. Throughout the project, farmers compared the differences between the maize and sorghum crops grown using conventional and conservation agriculture practices. Each project year, the maize and sorghum yields were higher on the conservation agriculture plots compared to the conventional plots. The farmers understood the importance of covering the soil with mulch, sufficient spacing between plants and adequate application of compost manure. Although the project has concluded, the farmers retain the knowledge and skills to grow their crops using conservation agriculture principles and will continue applying this farming system.

**Malawi: Maternal, Neonatal and Child Health Program 2011–2014 – Blantyre Synod Health and Development Commission and the Uchembere Network (GoC) \$37,786**

With PWS&D support, Malawian partners, stakeholders and community members have worked tirelessly over a three-year period to reduce maternal and newborn deaths in three regions of the country. The initiative worked to strengthen community structures to manage maternal and pregnancy-related health issues, and empower both women and men in their roles as mothers, fathers and spouses. The program also improved access to quality health care services by training health workers in new skills and improved attitudes. Communication, referral and monitoring systems were also strengthened at health facilities.

In 36 communities across Mulanje, Nkhoma, and Embangweni, Village Safe Motherhood Committees (VSMCs) learned to monitor the reproductive health practices of families and encourage men and women in the use of health services during pregnancy, at delivery and in the postnatal period. VSMCs pass on knowledge at the community level about sexual and reproductive health rights, safe motherhood rights, nutrition and hygiene. By using bicycle ambulances and encouraging pregnant women to arrive at the clinic early, these committees ensured that the majority of births took place in the presence of a skilled health practitioner instead of at home. More women attended antenatal care sessions and men decided to actively support the health of pregnant women and newborn children once they learned of the risks associated with pregnancy and delivery. In the last program period, only one maternal death was reported in program areas and a skilled birth attendant attended 94% of deliveries. At the same time, 60% of women improved their use of antenatal care services and almost 70% of men participated in training regarding the role of the father and raising maternal health awareness. This project was matched 3:1 by Government of Canada funds.

**Malawi: Building Sustainable Livelihoods Program 2012–2017 – Blantyre Synod Health and Development Commission and Ekwendeni Hospital AIDS Program (GoC) \$167,453**

This five-year program targets poor, vulnerable and marginalized communities in two regions of Malawi, with focused attention on orphans and vulnerable children, youth, women and people living with HIV and AIDS. The



initiative is building livelihoods and alleviating poverty by supporting beneficiaries with economic opportunities through the formation of Self-Help Groups (SHGs), vocational skills, educational support, and health, hygiene and nutrition promotion activities. PWS&D is working with the Ekwendeni Hospital AIDS Program (EHAP) in northern Malawi and the Blantyre Synod Health and Development Commission (BSHDC) in southern Malawi.

The second year of the program concluded in 2014 and achievements included the establishment of 117 SHGs, with 1,920 new and existing members conducting savings and credit on a regular basis. Women access loans from their group savings to invest in family needs and to start income generating activities. This has elevated women into a new economic position since they contribute to the welfare of their entire family. In the past year, 57 women have paid school fees for their children attending secondary school and 112 women have been able to purchase school supplies.

EHAP and BSHDC continued to support 133 orphans and vulnerable children (OVC) and youth with their academic studies. EHAP supported a total of 87 OVC in both secondary school (36 girls and 44 boys) and at Embangweni Teachers Training Colleges (2 girls and 5 boys). In Blantyre, BSHDC was able to support 23 secondary school students (11 girls and 12 boys) in year one and the community identified 23 primary school students (10 girls and 13 boys) to be supported. These students were provided with writing materials, school shoes and uniforms. In Ekwendeni, EHAP collaborated with stakeholders on child protection issues and developed strategies for improvement. It involved 65 people including the Senior Traditional Authority (TA) Mtwalu, District Health Office representatives, Ministry of Gender, women, child welfare and community services district representatives, volunteers, youth representatives, Area Development Committee representatives, Livingstonia Synod AIDS Program, the head teachers from different secondary and primary schools, Ekwendeni Congregation, the Ekwendeni police child protection representatives, the hospital management representatives and staff. This project is matched 3:1 by Government of Canada funds.

**Malawi: Tidzalerana Disabled Children's Program – Mulanje Mission Hospital (PWS&D) \$12,000**

Vulnerable people with disabilities and their caregivers received support through this volunteer operated program. The program provides a safe space of belonging for members and caregivers to support each other. For those who are often excluded and marginalized, it provides a means of inclusion, purpose and community. In 2015, about 120 members participated every week, with about 12–21 members needing support with weekly hospital visits for people with physical disabilities or to receive their anti-retro viral treatments for AIDS. The program has received support from Sandi Rehabilitation, a local occupational therapy organization. They provide weekly group physiotherapy sessions in mobility and auditory impairment. The program also applies art therapy as a tool to help members improve dexterity and entertainment, with a continued exploration of new crafting and income generating activities for its members.

**Malawi: Neno Girls Secondary School –Blantyre Synod Education Department (PWS&D) \$41,100**

Neno Girls Secondary School is an all-girls school in a remote and isolated area of Malawi. It is one of 380 schools overseen by the Education Department of Blantyre Synod. In 2015, PWS&D supported 15 vulnerable girl students with bursary support. Three of the bursary students sat for their examinations in June 2015 and were thus replaced by new students. The Blantyre Synod Education Department has continued to work closely with Neno Girls School to increase the scholastic capacity and academic achievement at the school, which has increased demand for enrolment as well as promoted the school's positive reputation.

**Malawi: Orphan Care – Mulanje Hospital Primary Health Care (PWS&D) – \$56,000**

In 2015, this project entered the second of a three-year orphan care initiative in partnership with Mulanje Mission Hospital. The program provided medical care and the nutritional supplement Likuni Phala to approximately 350 orphans while ensuring that each child along with their caregivers receives counseling and support services. The program continued to support 60 of the most vulnerable orphans that attend Apatza School. Twenty orphans and their households received a goat, along with education on the long term benefits of keeping livestock, such as the ability to sell the offspring in coming years and the use of manure in kitchen gardens for growing vegetables. This is a strong incentive and encouragement in households which often provide homes to multiple orphans and struggle to meet the basic needs of each child. The program also reached out to the local communities to reduce stigma and discrimination against those living with or affected by HIV or AIDS.

**Malawi: Integrated Orphans And Vulnerable Children, Home Based Care and Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission of HIV (PMTCT) Program (PWS&D) – \$73,900**

In 2015, EHAP and PWS&D integrated previously separate projects into one larger cohesive program that serves orphans and vulnerable children and people living with HIV, including pregnant women. Volunteer leaders and community members in local village level committees are mobilized to work alongside EHAP staff in supporting the objectives of ensuring health and safety and improved educational achievement for girls and boys, as well as improved health and food security among Home-based care (HBC) patients and HIV positive women. The new three-year program includes all four theme areas and will focus on 2,586 direct beneficiaries and 16,400 community members in 121 villages.

**Malawi: Malaria Control Program – Ekwendeni Hospital AIDS Program (PWS&D) – \$15,000**

In northern Malawi, EHAP and the Ekwendeni hospital continue to encourage malaria prevention through awareness campaigns and the promotion of key prevention methods – the consistent and proper use of bed nets and early diagnosis followed by effective and appropriate treatment. The program is supported through the efforts of over 200 volunteers, 100 hospital staff and 30 health surveillance assistants who provide a direct link between communities and the health system. With this vast network the program is targeting over 13,600 direct beneficiaries and indirectly benefiting a population of almost 130,000 people. Along with government support, the project under Ekwendeni Hospital is aiming to ensure that 6,800 households own bed nets and that there will be less than 3,000 cases of malaria in the first year.

**Malawi: Support to Vulnerable Groups – Livingstonia Synod AIDS Program (PWS&D) – \$25,000**

In this two-year program, LISAP worked with the community of Elunyeneni to promote ownership and sustainability of local initiatives to prevent spread of HIV and to promote health and increased quality of life for children and people living with HIV. Through mobilization of 91 stakeholders and cooperation of the District Health Office, outreach services are now available for the entire community. During the seasonal tobacco market, tobacco growers, their spouses, and sex workers are at higher risk for spread of HIV. LISAP conducted dialogue sessions targeting 60 participants including tobacco growers, vendors and vulnerable women. Two committees were established to raise awareness campaigns and promote prevention measures through public gatherings and places such as local bars. The two committees are supported by the local health centre which provides condoms and health services. Economic empowerment is mainstreamed through village savings and loans, which has increased the capacity of individual members and encouraged local village savings and loans to use their social welfare fund to sustainably provide food and financial resources for the needs of the local child care centre. Parent committees of the CBCCs receive committee trainings, learn to mobilize resources for the running of care centres and initiate projects such as moulding bricks, construction of child friendly toilets, and kitchen and communal gardens for soya and maize. Community participation has allowed for construction of centres in six different communities.

**AMERICAS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS**

**Bolivia: Ecumenical Chagas Project – Canadian Baptist Ministries (PWS&D) – \$15,000**

This CCA collaborative initiative in Bolivia is combating Chagas disease – a tropical disease caused by the protozoan parasite, *Trypanosoma cruzi*. The parasite is transmitted to humans and animals by triatomine bugs. These bugs are usually found living within the roofs and walls of homes constructed with mud, adobe and straw, where the poorest people live. Chagas disease affects over seven million people worldwide (mainly in Latin America) and if left untreated, can lead to debilitating effects such as cardiac disorders and neurological and digestive problems. The project is following WHO guidelines to prevent and control the disease: improving housing conditions to prevent transmission, promoting use of insecticides in and around the home, employing good sanitation and hygiene practices, using bed nets and encouraging early screening, diagnosis and treatment. The project seeks to change the attitude of people regarding this disease by making both parents aware of the dangers of the Chagas infection and teaching their children good habits. The improvement of their homes not only benefits adults, but children as well, as they will likely inherit the property in the future and will live there with their own families. PWS&D support for this project ended in 2015 but will continue on through CCA for an undetermined time.

**El Salvador: Women's Participation to Achieve Equal Rights – Institute for Women's Research, Training and Development (PWS&D) – \$35,045**

The Institute for Women's Research, Training and Development (IMU) was founded in 1986 as a grassroots movement to fight against social, economic and political discrimination affecting rural Salvadoran women. IMU promotes women's empowerment and rights through advocacy and training, helping facilitate the mobilization of women's groups and associations across the country. PWS&D closed the final year of a three-year program seeking social justice and equality by promoting changes in the institutional and political frameworks to support women's rights. The organization helps to improve the quality of life of women through holistic health, food security and economic empowerment initiatives. IMU facilitated workshops, forums and conferences focusing on themes of sexual and reproductive rights, food sovereignty and security, and nutrition. In 2015, after 25 years of collaboration with IMU, PWS&D phased out of work with IMU to pursue programming on women's empowerment in other countries in the region.

**Guatemala: School Support for Vulnerable Children – Francisco Coll School (PWS&D) – \$25,000**

Located in Guatemala City, the Francisco Coll School sits on a landfill site opposite from the garbage dump. Settlements have sprung up in the area and families make ends meet from searching through the dump – collecting, recycling and selling trash. It is also a violent neighbourhood due to the linkages between poverty and criminality – domestic assaults, robberies, extortion and gang activity are commonplace. Francisco Coll provides and facilitates comprehensive education and training to children with very limited resources in a safe and nurturing environment. They implement educational strategies which promote innovative and dynamic pedagogy that take into account their student's socio-economic context. PWS&D offered operational support as the school continued to ensure that underprivileged girls and boys from the dump receive a comprehensive education in a safe and nurturing environment. In 2015, the school year commenced with 302 students (154 boys and 148 girls) with eight students being pulled out and 18 held back in their grades, thus having a rate of 92% who passed their respective grades. A total of eight scholarship students were supported, with all graduating to the next level.

**Guatemala: Women Development – Fraternidad de Presbiteriales Mayas (PWS&D) – \$25,000**

The Fraternidad de Presbiteriales Mayas (FPM) has been helping empower marginalized women for nearly three decades. This organization works in solidarity with indigenous Maya women from Mam, Quiche and Kakchiquel communities to build their spiritual, economic and social capacity. The heart of their programming centres on promoting self-esteem, values and leadership among women participants. PWS&D annually supports various programs that benefit 44 women's groups (approximately 600 women) with training and education in health and nutrition, environmental awareness and socio-productive entrepreneurship in nine different municipalities. Revolving group loans and business management skills enable the women to start income generating ventures such as livestock rearing, organic gardens and artisanal production. They now contribute to their household capital, send their children to school buy basic necessities and have greater control over assets and decision making. There is a large focus on nutrition and health and reclaiming ownership of local medicinal plants and natural methods for treating common illnesses. FPM promotes the idea of using local plants, vegetables and fruits in order to cultivate more diverse, accessible and affordable diets for household that do not have the financial capacity or access to healthy foods.

**Guatemala: Livelihood for Vulnerable Families – New Dawn Association for Community Health and Development (ASDNA) (PWS&D) – \$116,143**

This PWS&D supported program completed its first year and is building on the achievements of past initiatives. Seventeen vulnerable communities in the municipalities of Cunén, Uspantán and Chicaman in Quiché are targeted in this intervention which strengthens livelihoods. In this phase, promoters who established their integrated model farms in previous years now help families replicate the process to start farms of their own. These farms promote sustainable ecosystems, and beneficiaries must contribute inputs to ensure ownership. Forty-two promoters (some new to the program) are responsible for overseeing a group of families and are accompanied by field technicians. They share their skills, experience and inputs with other participants through training opportunities, visits and exchanges. A total of 300 families are targeted. Components include raising and caring for livestock (cows, rabbits and goats), organic farming, production of natural fertilizers and pesticides, income generating activities for women's groups, fruit tree nurseries and conservation agriculture techniques. In 2014, the Belgian organization, DISOP signed a three-year agreement with PWS&D and ASDENA to provide a four-to-one match of PWS&D funds. PWS&D also provided supplementary funds towards this programming in 2015. This project receives 4:1 matching funds from the Government of Belgium through DISOP.

**Nicaragua: Preparing for Food Security – Council of Evangelical and Protestant Churches (CEPAD) (PWS&D) – \$737**

In 2015, PWS&D supported CEPAD with funds for a preplanning evaluation of their food security project proposal to benefit 672 families in 14 rural communities. This project seeks to improve food security by providing families with improved farming techniques, which focus on sustainable agriculture methods through improvements made to the soil, natural pest management, conservation of water and the use of certified seeds with higher yields. The proposed project will also focus on providing families with different types of seeds to plant fruits and vegetables they are currently not consuming through establishing community plant nurseries. This will allow families to increase the production of basic grains, fruits and vegetables which will alleviate problems of food insecurity and chronic malnutrition. CEPAD has spent the past year working closely with PWS&D to fully realize the proposal.

**Nicaragua: Nutrition and Food Security – SOYNICA (CFGB) – \$59,077**

PWS&D supported partner SOYNICA is in its second year of a three-year nutrition project in 11 communities in the Municipality of San Juan de Rio Coco, Madriz. Most of the families participating in the project depend on coffee production as their principal source of livelihood but also produce basic grains (maize and beans). The intervention areas have high chronic malnutrition rates and people have poor dietary habits. This project works with 40 promoters to improve the health and nutrition of 440 families: improving dietary habits, dispelling myths about local foods, developing recipes, increasing food consumption and diversity, and promoting exclusive breastfeeding for at least six months. In 2015, promoters conducted 88 accompaniment visits with mothers who were part of the breast feeding classes in the previous year. Health promoter's capacity was strengthened through classes on nutrition, health and cooking which they put into practice in workshops with participating community members. This project was matched 4:1 from Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development Canada.

**Haiti: Treatment and Prevention of Gender-based Violence – Primate's World Relief and Development Fund (PWS&D) – \$15,000**

PWS&D contributes to a three-year gender-based violence prevention project led by PWRDF (Anglicans) and implemented in Haiti by Zamni Lasante (Partners in Health). Gender-based violence (GBV) against girls and women in Haiti is a serious health and human rights issue. In Haiti, women are known as the "poto mitan" – the "central pillars" of the family and community and yet are the most underserved and at-risk members of the community, frequently vulnerable to sexual violence and restricted in their options to seek justice. Access to care, health and psychosocial services, and legal remedies are severely limited by lack of resources, political will, economic insecurity, gender power imbalances and widespread poverty. The lack of reliable data on the prevalence, nature and consequences of sexual violence in Haiti is also an obstacle to the development of strategies to empower women, to sensitize men to GBV issues, to endorse penalties for abusers and effectively meet the needs of victims. In addition, the Ministry of Women's Affairs and Women's Rights is not adequately resourced and needs support. This project is a collaborative effort between Anglicans, Nazarenes and Presbyterians in Canada, with partners in Health Canada and Zamni Lasante in Haiti to help increase the network of health care services to women who are victims of GBV, promote a more open discussion about GBV within communities and amongst health care centre and finally to promote the proper tracking and reporting of incidences of GBV so that this issues can be better addressed at an institutional level.

**Haiti: Climate Change Resilience and Food Security– ACT Alliance Forum (PWS&D) – \$24,356**

Climate change is a major threat to the livelihood of most Haitians. In particular, it poses new and serious technological, economic, administrative and organizational challenges to farmers and other users of natural resources. Moreover, the poor are the most vulnerable to its consequences and their resilience and adaptation capacity is very low. Haiti is classified as one of the 10 most vulnerable countries to the effects of climate change. Only 43% of national food needs are covered by local agricultural production while the figure was 80% in 1981, and 1.3 million people are considered food insecure.

ACT Alliance Forum in Haiti have decided to combine their efforts and resources with Service Chretien Haiti (SCH), a registered Haitian organization, to launch a project to strengthen the capacity of civil society to influence and pressure authorities on the resilience of vulnerable communities to food insecurity. SCH also works as a coalition of Protestant Churches in Haiti that promote human rights through building up civil society and increasing food security and standards of environmental protection. PWS&D is proud to support this essential intervention from 2015–2017, which will strengthen the Civil Society Platform on Climate Change (PSC-CC) and the resilience of farmers and vulnerable communities who are affected by food insecurity, through advocacy and agricultural adaptation to climate change in order to organize and reinforce the food production systems.

**ASIA DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS****Afghanistan: Girls Education Project – Community World Service Asia (PWS&D) – \$60,000**

Improving the quality of education is a key component of the Girls Education project. To promote this objective and increase sustainability, the project trained 33 female and 48 male teachers as master trainers in the participating schools. The master trainers have the skills and knowledge to train and mentor teachers in their schools on teaching methods and pedagogical skills to improve the quality of learning for students. After the master trainers facilitate trainings, they observe how the teachers integrate the training in their classroom. The master trainers provided constructive feedback to the teachers on what methods worked well and how to better integrate teaching methods and resources into the classroom. Teachers and students appreciate the teaching methods and resources because the approaches are more participatory and learner focused, which results in students being more engaged in learning.

**Nepal: Jumla Leprosy and TB Referral Clinic – International Nepal Fellowship (PWS&D) – \$20,000**

The primary beneficiaries of the project are people infected and affected by TB and leprosy. Through timely diagnosis, treatment and referral services, many people are living an improved quality of life and the project has reduced the transmission channel of these diseases. By providing complication management services, many people affected with leprosy complications have been able to improve their health and learn how to prevent such complications in future. The project has also contributed to reducing susceptibility to disability among leprosy patients and decreasing stigma against the disease. The secondary beneficiaries of this project are government health workers, community leaders and students who are key players in controlling the spread of TB and leprosy.

**Pakistan: Sustainable Agriculture for Marginalized Farmers – Community World Service Asia (CFGB) – \$197,748**

Agriculture is the backbone of Pakistan's economy and is one of the major livelihood sources of rural communities of the country. It contributes to 21.4% of national GDP and employs 45% of the country's labour force. The majority of farmers have less than five hectares of land, which barely meets their subsistence level needs because of lack of irrigation water, energy crises, frequent floods, inequitable distribution of resources and unsustainable agriculture practices. Realizing the unmet chronic food security needs and gaps related to improving agriculture production of small-scale farmers, the project started in October and is expected to engage 650 farmers over a three-year period. The farmers will learn sustainable farming practices to improve their yields. Farmers will learn about recommended application rates which will reduce the amount of money they borrow for inputs (seeds, fertilizers, pesticides, tractor services). Field staff will mentor the farmers to ensure they have ample support to implement what they learn in the trainings. Women will learn how to prepare kitchen gardens, which is expected to increase the amount and diversity of vegetables families eat. A nutrition officer will raise awareness in the communities about healthy eating practices, including the importance of eating vegetables.

**India: Community Health and Self-Reliance – Church of North India, Central Regional Board of Health Services (PWS&D) – \$78,405**

In 2015, the Central Regional Board of Health Services entered the final year of a three-year program targeting 27 villages in Barwani, Hatpipliya and Ratlam regions, in western Madhya Pradesh. The community health and self-reliance project is working through village level committees to promote improved livelihoods via agricultural, water and health activities of the community. This is done through the promotion of kitchen gardens, water harvesting and techniques to prevent soil erosion. Sanitation and hygiene awareness is promoted through monthly health camps at the schools, while health is promoted with the planting of fruit trees to provide dietary support and improve nutrition. Women are participating in self-help groups focused on improving their economic situation and social mobility. New program planning continues in the Mendha region. A monitoring visit by PWS&D in February 2016, assessed the level of achievements in the project. Important and repeated delays in reporting may jeopardize the possibility of future funding.

**India: Women, Children and Youth Empowerment – Institute for Development Education (PWS&D) – \$40,143**

IFDE supports better academic achievement, increased literacy and vocational skills, and mobilization of communities to access resources available from the government. After decades of work together, PWS&D and IFDE entered a transitional phase-out period, through which a final grant from PWS&D of \$35,000 was made available to support programming needs and to mobilize additional local and international resources for partnership. IFDE used the funds to supplement another year of programs in the Tamil Nadu area, where a change in the local government

programs has increased support for the self-help programming, which IFDE has years of expertise in promoting. IFDE and PWS&D will develop a comprehensive narrative portraying the achievements of many years of work together, which will be shared with the Presbyterian constituency in Canada. As PWS&D is phasing out of its work in Tamil Nadu state, this was the last year of support for IFDE.

**India: Sustainable Livelihood and Empowerment – Madurai Non-Formal Education Centre (PWS&D) – \$40,075**

PWS&D supported MNEC in 2015 with a transitional grant and support to build capacity within the organization to mobilize local and international resources for its programming. The MNEC Director attended workshops on resource mobilization and strategic planning management in New Delhi, while the balance of those funds was used to support ongoing programs in the Madurai slums and villages where MNEC works. These programs strive to alleviate poverty in vulnerable communities through the promotion of gender equality, economic opportunities and health services. The key strategic tool in mobilizing communities has been the formation and support of women's self-help groups through which women and their communities are empowered in their legal and human rights and through government funded assistance programs, which would otherwise be unknown to them. With MNEC's support, over 20,000 women and their communities mobilize regularly to receive government services and infrastructure, such as installation of street lights and sanitation and sewage systems. As PWS&D is phasing out of its work in Tamil Nadu state, this was the last year of support for the Madurai Non-Formal Education Centre.

**India: Building Sustainable Livelihoods – Roofs for the Roofless (PWS&D) – \$37,638**

In 2015, PWS&D supported RFR with a transitional phase-out grant, made available after many years of direct program support. The transitional grant provided opportunity to support core budget costs while also exploring alternative sources of local and international funding. In May 2015, the founder and director of RFR, Mrs. Savithri Devanesen, passed away. Mrs. Devanesen was recognized widely for her commitment and dedication to the community and rural development in Tamil Nadu. Through her leadership and networks of support in India, Canada and Australia, the Executive Committee and staff of Roofs for the Roofless will continue to maintain the community-based livelihoods programs and Rural Community College for disadvantaged youth. As PWS&D is phasing out of its work in Tamil Nadu state, this was the last year of support for Roofs for the Roofless. In December 2015, Guy Smagge and Leah Adema were given the honorary title of Ambassadors for Roofs for the Roofless in Canada, based on the years of collaboration with the organization.

**REFUGEE MINISTRY**

“I was a stranger and you welcomed me.” (Matthew 25:35)

Throughout 2015, the number of people displaced by conflict and persecution continued to rise. They had, in recent years, already reached record numbers in the post-World War II era. In June, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees reported a total of 60 million people, up 8.3 million over the previous year, and the numbers continued to grow in 2015. After Palestinians, who are dealt with differently in the United Nations' refugee system, Syrian refugees remained the world's largest refugee population, their number increasing from over three million at the end of 2013 to some 4.6 million at the end of 2015.

Over the course of the year, interest in responding to refugees within congregations and presbyteries of The Presbyterian Church in Canada (PCC) increased progressively and then dramatically over the fall. At year end, there were 57 sponsorships officially active: from having been filed and awaiting arrival to having concluded their twelve-month term. This was up from 47 at the end of 2014. Perhaps more significantly, at year end there were some 50 pending applications to sponsor refugees known to sponsoring groups and 30 groups waiting to sponsor refugee cases under the Blended Visa Office Referred (BVOR) refugee program (refugees referred for resettlement by the United Nations via Canadian visa offices overseas).

The 2015 Presbyterian response included efforts to sponsor refugees from Burma (Myanmar), Burundi, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Iran, Iraq, Pakistan, Somalia, South Sudan, Syria and Venezuela. Sponsoring groups were established with members from different congregations, from different denominations, with participants from service organizations and other faiths, and with participation from town or city councils.

This remarkable response notwithstanding, there was a growing sense that the increasing numbers of refugees were being abandoned by the international community and by Canada. In July, António Guterres, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, was moved to say of Syrians, “This is the biggest refugee population from a single conflict in a generation. It is a population that deserves the support of the world but is instead living in dire conditions and sinking deeper into abject poverty.” On September 3, the Moderator, Karen Horst, following on motions adopted at the 2015 General Assembly, wrote to Prime Minister Stephen Harper to express “our hope that our government will act immediately and generously to upgrade its response to the UNHCR’s resettlement requests,” to “urge that Canada increase its annual contribution to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees” and to ask “Canada to do significantly more in refugee resettlement and humanitarian assistance.”

### **Syria Crisis**

As the year progressed, popular awareness grew of the situation of Syrians and other refugee groups. However, in late summer everything changed. In the early hours of September 2, a camera captured images of three-year-old Alan Kurdi, a “boat person” whose body had washed up on a beach in Turkey, and the world awoke to the urgent plight of Syrian refugees. All political parties involved in the Canadian federal election at the time adopted positions favouring an increase in the numbers of Syrian refugees to be resettled in Canada. A strong desire to help emerged in the church and broader society, as well. Between the beginning of September and year end, 15 presbyteries and 117 congregations from across Canada were in touch with the sponsorship coordinator in the national offices of the church. At year end, 19 applications to sponsor Syrian refugees had been filed, four applications were being developed and there were 30 sponsoring groups on a waiting list hoping to be matched with Syrian or non-Syrian refugees referred for resettlement via Canadian visa offices overseas. Two families, one co-sponsored by the Presbytery of Pickering and Life in Christ Ministry, the other sponsored by a group of churches led by St. Andrew’s Humber Heights (Toronto) were aboard the first Canadian military aircraft bringing Syrian refugees to a new life in Canada that landed in Toronto on December 10.

Forty percent of people of Syrian descent in Canada live in Quebec, mainly in Montreal. Thus, Action Réfugiés Montréal (ARM), who manages The Presbyterian Church in Canada and the Anglican Diocese of Montreal’s ententes-cadre (sponsorship agreements) with the Quebec government, was also part of this sponsorship response throughout the year. Under their memorandum of understanding with The Presbyterian Church in Canada, sponsorships using the Presbyterian sponsorship agreement require the involvement of a congregation. ARM is also supporting through *Presbyterians Sharing* program which complements our relationship. ARM executive director, Mr. Paul Clarke, met with members from St Andrew’s Church (St-Lambert), the Arabic Church and The Church of St. Andrew and St. Paul regarding sponsorship. Other congregations sought information and offered help. The St. Lambert congregation joined an ecumenical project, which included seven churches that welcomed a Syrian family in December 2015. Meanwhile, under the Anglican agreement, ARM submitted 64 sponsorship applications to sponsor 152 people with relatives in Quebec accepting responsibility for resettlement. Both the sponsorship coordinator in the national offices of the church in Toronto and ARM staff in Montreal were very involved in media outreach throughout the autumn of 2015, in English and in French.

### **Non-Syrian Refugees**

Sponsorship efforts continued on behalf of non-Syrians as well. Since 2012, the Private Sponsorship of Refugees program outside of Quebec has been subject to quotas, referred to as “caps”, imposed by the federal government. These caps do not apply to visa office referred cases and, since the beginning of 2015, have not applied to Syrian or Iraqi refugees, but do apply to all other refugee populations. Since the caps for 2014 were not announced until the end of July in that year, the deadline to utilize them was set as December 31, 2015. For The Presbyterian Church in Canada, the 2014 cap was set at 28 persons. The 2015 cap, announced in early February, was set at 11 persons. (The rationale for the lower 2015 number was the removal of the cap on Syrians and Iraqis.) Sponsorship applications were submitted to Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC – formerly Citizenship and Immigration Canada) to utilize all of the denomination’s 2014 and 2015 allocated spaces, while a waiting list was established for groups wishing to sponsor refugees for whom there were no remaining spaces. As well, in order to avoid the caps, two groups worked to develop applications outside of the church’s sponsorship agreement with the government, drawing on the support of the national office.

**Sponsorship applications submitted under the PCC agreement  
with the federal government using 2014 and 2015 allocated spaces**

	<b>Number of active sponsorships in 2015</b>	
	<b>Cases</b>	<b>People</b>
PSR 12-month sponsorships: filed pre-2014 awaiting arrival	2	2
PSR 12-month sponsorships: filed in 2014-15 awaiting arrival	26	55
PSR 12-month sponsorships: arrived in 2014 or 2015 / active in 2015	15	40
BVOR 12-month sponsorships: filed in 2015 awaiting arrival	5	24
BVOR 12-month sponsorships: arrived in 2014 or 2015 / active in 2015	9	39
<b>Totals</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>160</b>

PSR = Privately sponsored refugees

BVOR = Blended visa office referred refugees

We are very grateful to the following congregations, presbyteries and other groups who were involved in sponsorship in 2014 and 2015: preparing for sponsorship of refugees known to them or for BVOR cases, developing applications, awaiting arrival and/or assisting with the first year of settlement in Canada. (Some participating congregations may not appear in this list in light of their participation under the umbrella of a presbytery or another congregation.) They include:

Almanarah Mission, Hamilton	Paulin Memorial, Windsor
Almonte, Almonte	Presbytery of Hamilton
Arabic Church, Montreal	Presbytery of London
Beaches, Toronto	Presbytery of Niagara
Bethel, Riverview	Presbytery of Oak Ridges
Calvin, Kitchener	Presbytery of Ottawa
Calvin, Toronto	Presbytery of Peace River
Central, Cambridge	Presbytery of Pickering (25 congregations with LinC Ministry)
Central, Hamilton	Presbytery of Seaway Glengarry
Chapel Place, Markham	Presbytery of Waterloo-Wellington
Comox Valley, Comox	Presbytery of Winnipeg
Crieff Hills Community, Crieff Hills	Richmond Hill, Richmond Hill
Erskine, Hamilton	Rosedale, Toronto
First, Brockville	St. Andrew and St. Paul, Montreal
First, Collingwood	St. Andrew's, Barrie
First, Edmonton	St. Andrew's, Brampton
First, Thunder Bay	St. Andrew's, Coldwater
Glenview, Toronto	St. Andrew's, Dartmouth
Grace, Calgary	St. Andrew's, Fredericton
Grace, Orleans	St. Andrew's, Guelph
Grace, St. John	St. Andrew's, Kingston
Grace (West Hill), Toronto	St. Andrew's, Kitchener
Innerkip, Innerkip	St. Andrew's, Ottawa
Kerrisdale, Vancouver	St. Andrew's, Owen Sound
Knox, Bracebridge	St. Andrew's, Penticton
Knox, Calgary	St. Andrew's, Sackville
Knox, Cranbrook	St. Andrew's, St John's
Knox, Georgetown	St. Andrew's, St. Lambert
Knox, Goderich	St. Andrew's, Saskatoon
Knox, Grand Valley	St. Andrew's (King St.), Toronto
Knox, Guelph	St. Andrew's (Humber Heights), Toronto
Knox, Kincardine	



Knox, Oakville	St. Andrew's (Islington), Toronto
Knox, Ottawa	Church of St. David, Halifax
Knox (Spadina), Toronto	St. Giles, Calgary
Knox Leamington (with the Leamington Area Ecumenical Refugee Committee)	St. Giles, Ottawa
Knox, Waterdown	St. James, Stouffville
Knox, Waterloo	St. John's, Bradford
Knox-Calvin, Harriston	St. John's, Medicine Hat
Lakeshore St. Andrew's, Tecumseh	St. Mark's (Don Mills), Toronto
Leaside, Toronto	St. Paul's, Ottawa
Life in Christ (LinC) Ministry, Toronto (with Presbytery of Pickering)	St. Paul's, Prince Albert
Living Faith Community, Baxter	St. Timothy's, Toronto
Morningside High Park, Toronto	Strathcona Park, Kingston
New St. James, London (With the London Ecumenical Refugee Committee)	Trinity Community, Oro
Paris, Paris	Valleyview Community Church, Calgary
Parkwood, Ottawa	Varsity Acres, Calgary
	West Vancouver, West Vancouver,
	Westmount, Edmonton

## RESOURCES, COMMUNICATION, PROMOTION AND GRANTS

In 2015, PWS&D Communications continued to place focus on ensuring the PWS&D website, WeRespond.ca, was a place for supporters to have easy access to current information on PWS&D programs, stories and downloadable resources. People are also able to sign up for PWS&D communications such as the e-newsletter and quarterly print newsletter through the website.

### Resources for Congregations

Every fall, a package of resources is sent to congregations and designated PWS&D advocates containing worship resources and promotional materials. The 2015 package focused on Abundant Life – taken from PWS&D's vision statement. It included Advent and Lent liturgies, placemat, poster, offering envelope, annual report, bulletin cover and bulletin insert. Congregations and advocates are encouraged to use and broadly distribute materials from the fall package in order to keep constituents informed about the work of PWS&D programs around the world and to show how donations are being used to make a difference in our global village.

PWS&D produces a variety of free resources for congregations to use during worship, for youth ministry, fundraisers and other special events. New resources from 2015 include:

- Downloadable bulletin inserts for World Food Day/Thanksgiving, the Syria conflict and the Be a Peacemaker campaign.
- A Thanksgiving/World Food Day worship resource, produced in collaboration with Canadian Foodgrains Bank
- Good Soil campaign brochure

These materials are all available on the website and can be ordered through the Resource Centre at 1-800-619-7301.

### Emergency and Special Appeals

PWS&D sends out special appeals to supporters in the wake of natural disasters and emergencies. In 2015, PWS&D continued to appeal to congregations and individuals for support through our Be a Peacemaker campaign. This campaign raised funds to aid people affected by violent conflict around the world. After the Government of Canada announced matching funds in response to the ongoing crisis in Syria, an appeal was issued and the Presbyterian constituency responded generously – \$456,441 was raised in 2015, of which \$321,727 was eligible to be matched.

PWS&D also sent out a special appeal following the devastating earthquake that struck Nepal in April 2015. Presbyterians freely gave in response to the appeal, raising almost \$593,848 of which \$368,206 was eligible to be matched by the Government of Canada.

Appeals were issued through the PWS&D website, email, newsletter and other church mailings. Bulletin inserts were made available to raise awareness among congregations.

## **Speaking Engagements**

PWS&D staff and committee members continue to represent PWS&D through speaking engagements across the country. These engagements provide a valuable opportunity for people to hear first-hand news and stories of impact from overseas programs.

In 2015, PWS&D completed 69 speaking engagements that included Sunday worship services, presbytery meetings, WMS gatherings and youth events. A number of these engagements took place in response to the ongoing refugee crisis with groups, congregations and presbyteries interested in learning more about refugee sponsorship. Daniel Kolbila from The Presbyterian Church of Ghana participated in PWS&D's committee meetings in October and shared his experiences with congregations and groups across Canada while in the country.

Churches interested in requesting a PWS&D speaker are encouraged to give at least two months notice and should contact Karen Bokma (kbokma@presbyterian.ca or 1-800-619-7301 ext. 240).

## **ECUMENICAL COALITIONS**

### **World Council of Churches (WCC) – \$15,000**

The World Council of Churches (WCC) is a worldwide fellowship of over 300 churches and denominations in more than 100 countries dedicated to Christian unity. This movement encourages common witness and action by churches, as well as cooperation and sharing between members. Currently, the WCC focuses its work in three program areas: Unity, Mission, and Ecumenical Relations; Public Witness and Diakonia; and Ecumenical Formation.

PWS&D supported the Ecumenical HIV and AIDS Initiative in Africa (EHAIA) that began in 2002 as a concerted effort to enable churches, theological institutions, organizations and lay people to work together to deal with HIV and AIDS issues in their communities. It strongly promotes the eradication of stigma and discrimination as a key factor in helping combat HIV transmission and ensuring quality of life for people living with HIV and AIDS.

PWS&D funding also supports the World Council of Churches' Migration and Social Justice Program. It provides an ethics-based global perspective to empower churches to engage in solidarity, advocacy and ministry with uprooted people. The historic high numbers of people uprooted from their home communities requires greater world attention. The program fosters critical partnerships with the United Nations High Commission for Refugees through participation in executive and standing committee meetings and with the International Organization for Migration. The Global Ecumenical Network on Migration acts as an advisory group to the WCC with representatives from Africa, Asia, Australia, Canada, the Americas, the Middle East, Europe and the USA.

### **KAIROS: Canadian Ecumenical Justice Initiatives – Women of Courage Program – \$65,000**

KAIROS is an ecumenical organization working with partners in Canada and internationally for human rights and ecological justice. With programs like Women of Courage focused on Indigenous rights and gender justice, KAIROS is committed to working for practical solutions to global human rights struggles; deepening research; conducting education; building networks; and increasing partner capacity. KAIROS has a long history of working with and accompanying the most marginalized populations, including women and Indigenous people, in the Global South and in Canada.

KAIROS is in the sixth year of its Women of Courage Program. Beginning with a six-woman delegation to Colombia in 2010, Women of Courage has grown into a multi-country project responding to systemic violence against women and sustaining the work of women human rights defenders. Co-developing projects in the global south, KAIROS and our partner organizations have enabled the successful implementation of projects that directly respond to gender-based violence and contributing social factors in the communities and countries in which our partners work.

PWS&D contributed \$65,000 to KAIROS' Women of Courage program. PWS&D also supported KAIROS with \$25,000 for core support.

### **Ecumenical Advocacy Alliance – \$13,128**

Founded in 2000, the Ecumenical Advocacy Alliance (EAA) is an international network of 80 churches/church-based agencies and Christian organizations advocating for policies and practices to achieve a just, peaceful and

sustainable world. The EAA recognizes the importance of campaigning, raising awareness and policy engagement, and regularly collaborates with the ACT Alliance and World Council of Churches. Current programs are focusing on HIV and AIDS with the “Live the Promise” campaign and Sustainable Food Systems with a human rights-based approach with the “Food for Life” campaign.

### **Canadian Council for International Cooperation**

The Canadian Council for International Cooperation (CCIC) is a coalition that represents Canadian civil society organizations working globally to achieve sustainable human development. CCIC seeks to end poverty and to promote social justice and human dignity for all. CCIC has worked with DFATD on its policy of partnership with civil society organizations.

The council’s broad vision of development as articulated in the 10-Point Agenda to End Global Poverty and Injustice is reconfirmed – not as a work plan for the CCIC Secretariat but as a guiding framework for CCIC as a whole and as a situating document to help inform the way in which council spokespersons characterize the positions of the sector writ large. The 10-Point Agenda to End Global Poverty and Injustice asserts development in a human rights framework. PWS&D is a member of the three regional working groups at CCIC: the Americas Policy Group, the Africa-Canada Forum and the Asia-Pacific Working Group.

#### **CCIC: Americas Policy Group**

The Americas Policy Group (APG) is a Canadian civil society policy group focused on development and social justice issues in the Americas. It brings together approximately 40 international development and humanitarian NGOs, human rights groups, labour unions, research institutions, church and solidarity groups. The APG’s mandate is to articulate coordinated positions on Canadian foreign policy towards Latin America and promote dialogue with the Canadian government and other bodies. Key areas of interest are: democracy, governance, and human rights; rights-based approaches to trade and investment policy; and corporate accountability. The APG has worked to fulfill its mandate through monitoring the human rights situations specifically in Mexico, Honduras and Colombia. It also takes action by informing MPs and by writing press releases to flag situations that require action from the Canadian government.

#### **CCIC: Africa-Canada Forum**

The Africa-Canada Forum (ACF) is a Working Group of the Canadian Council for International Co-operation and brings together NGOs, churches, unions and solidarity groups from across Canada that have a specific interest in development issues and social justice in Sub-Saharan Africa. Its purpose is twofold: 1) to improve the quality and impact of the work of participating groups through reflection and analysis of current programming relationships in Africa; and 2) to improve the coordination of policy development and strategies for joint action and advocacy, in dialogue with African counterparts and colleagues. ACF’s mandate is to develop collaborative strategies for policy development, dialogue, and advocacy with the Canadian government and multilateral institutions; enhance the capacity of members to undertake policy work concerning Sub-Saharan Africa; facilitate the sharing of lessons on programming issues to improve the quality and impact of members’ work, sharing the experiences of participating groups and their African partners; participate collectively in relevant national and international bodies; provide advice to the CCIC Policy Team and Board of Directors on Africa-related policy issues and actions; monitor and share information and produce analysis on development and human rights issues in Africa, in dialogue with African counterparts and colleagues; and provide venues for joint reflection, debate, and for the building of common platforms.

#### **CCIC: Asia – Pacific Working Group**

The Asia-Pacific Working Group (APWG) brings together approximately 30 NGOs, human rights groups, faith-based organizations, labour unions and solidarity groups from across Canada that have a specific interest in development, social justice, and human rights in Asia. The main objectives of the APWG are: to provide a Canadian civil society voice on the Asia – Pacific Region by sharing information, monitoring Canadian policies toward the region and engaging in policy dialogue and development, and to facilitate a space for collaboration, joint learning and reflection by Canadian civil society organizations active in the region. Countries of particular focus at the moment include the Philippines, Myanmar, Afghanistan and Indonesia.

### **Canadian Council for Refugees**

In 2015, the Canadian Council for Refugees (CCR) continued its leadership in promoting and defending the rights of refugees and other vulnerable migrants. In recognition for their work on the cutting edge of mission, the CCR

received the E.H. Johnson award at the 2015 General Assembly in June. Key CCR initiatives over the course of the year included promoting a vision of protection and welcome for refugees and newcomers in Canada: making status in Canada secure; calling for a broad, inclusive and effective resettlement program; ensuring access to protection; providing speedy family reunification; securing rights and dignity for all; demanding accountable immigration enforcement and offering welcoming communities. Until the change of government, the CCR continued to lobby for a significant response by Canada to Syrian refugees; while the call for improvements in processing of private sponsorship procedures for other refugees, which can take over five years, continued. The CCR's focus on human trafficking continued in 2015, with the production of a national assessment tool, and the CCR Youth Network organized another very successful gathering of refugee and immigrant youth and their allies, this year in Vancouver. An important initiative over the last two years has been to create space for inter-faith dialogue and exploration on faith-based response to refugees, seeking to deepen understanding while providing ideas for action to build bridges across faiths.

### **Inter-Agency Coalition on AIDS and Development**

PWS&D is a member of the Inter-Agency Coalition on AIDS and Development (ICAD), a coalition made up of approximately 100 Canadian international development NGOs, faith-based organizations, educational institutions, AIDS service organizations, and individuals working together to address the global HIV and AIDS pandemic. Through public policy, leadership and awareness raising, ICAD helps Canadians engage in HIV and AIDS initiatives and communicates to Canadian organizations the lessons learned from global responses to HIV and AIDS. This is intended to improve prevention, care and support services and ultimately reduce the impact of HIV and AIDS on individuals and communities, as well as eliminate stigma and discrimination in society.

### **Manitoba Council for International Cooperation**

The Manitoba Council for International Cooperation (MCIC) is a coalition of more than 40 regular and affiliate members organizations involved in international development who are committed to: “respect, empowerment and self-determination for all peoples; development that protects the world’s environment; global understanding, cooperation and social justice.” MCIC’s mission as a coordinating structure is to promote public awareness of international issues, to foster member interaction, and to administer funds for international development.

In 2015, PWS&D received \$11,877 in MCIC funding to support the DFATD Building Sustainable Livelihoods Program in Malawi. This program equips vulnerable youth, women and men with opportunities to build sustainable livelihoods for themselves and their families. Economic empowerment is fostered through vocational skills, education, and savings/financial management through Self Help Groups. Productivity is bolstered through volunteer care groups and awareness of maternal and child health services, improving health, hygiene, and nutrition.

### **Ontario Council for International Cooperation**

This provincial association coordinated network and strategy meetings with PWS&D and 60 other organizational members as well as a range of capacity building sessions in which PWS&D staff participated. OCIC also provided regular international development updates and public outreach to nearly 200,000 people, especially to youth. OCIC has facilitated meetings with and about the government department responsible for international development, DFATD. OCIC also brought members together to review multi-stakeholder partnerships (usually meaning including private sector), which has been a major shift by DFATD and, therefore, an area of analysis and debate for NGOs.

### **Saskatchewan Council for International Cooperation**

SCIC is a coalition of more than 60 full and associate member organizations committed to international development and relief efforts. Its mission statement declares that it is “committed to the recognition of the dignity of all people and their right to self-determination, to the protection of the world’s fragile environment, and to the promotion of global understanding, cooperation, peace and justice.” In 2015, PWS&D received \$21,388 from SCIC to support the DFATD Building Sustainable Livelihoods Program in Malawi.

#### **Recommendation No. 14                      Adopted/Defeated/Amended**

That individuals, congregations and presbyteries be commended for their involvement in refugee sponsorship and for their support for refugees who remain overseas and who require humanitarian assistance.

**Recommendation No. 15                      Adopted/Defeated/Amended**

That individuals, congregations and presbyteries be commended for their prayers, generosity of spirit and resources to support the life-saving work of PWS&D in emergency assistance, in particular for the generous responses to the Nepal earthquake relief and to the Syria crisis, and life-transforming work in development programs responding to communities suffering from hunger, disease, disaster, conflict and injustice around the world.

**Recommendation No. 16                      Adopted/Defeated/Amended**

That individuals, congregations and presbyteries take note that PWS&D continues to be a separate fund of The Presbyterian Church in Canada. As such all are encouraged to meet their *Presbyterians Sharing* allocation and to consider making separate contributions in support of the development, relief and refugee work of the church.

**PWS&D COMMITTEE**

PWS&D has a governing committee that approves the annual budget, sets policies and priorities and ensures the proper functioning of PWS&D in the pursuit of its mission and vision. Members are both clergy and lay people with diverse backgrounds, qualifications and experiences who offer their skills, knowledge and time for the effective functioning of the agency and its programs. Two in-person meetings are held, in April and October, as well as teleconferences that are regularly scheduled for the Executive Committee – comprised of five members. The Executive carries on the work of the committee throughout the year, particularly on financial matters and responses to emergencies, as well as providing regular guidance to the director.

The Rev. Lara Scholey led the committee as convener in 2015. She provided support and continuity while PWS&D experienced changes in director and in staff. The previous director, Ken Kim, submitted his resignation effective March 13, 2015. The Rev. Lara Scholey took part as a member of the Search Committee for a new Director of PWS&D.

Canadian members of the PWS&D Committee (\*member of the Executive): the Rev. Ian Fraser\* (Pointe-Claire, Quebec), the Rev. Mark Gaskin\* (Brantford, Ontario), the Rev. Laura Kavanagh\* (Victoria, British Columbia), Mr. Steve McInnis (Woodstock, Ontario), Mr. Rob Robertson (Ottawa, Ontario), Ms. Janice Rodda (Saskatoon, Saskatchewan), the Rev. Lara Scholey\* (convener – Scotsburn, Nova Scotia), the Rev. Dr. Sarah Travis\* (Oakville, Ontario), Ms. Erin Whittaker (Winnipeg, Manitoba), Mr. Geoff Zakaib (Calgary, Alberta)

Southern partner: Daniel Kolbilla (Presbyterian Church of Ghana);

Ex-officio Members: the Rev. Karen Horst (Moderator of the 141st General Assembly), Mr. Stephen Allen (Justice Ministries); the Rev. Ian Ross-McDonald (Life and Mission Agency); Ms. Karen Plater (Stewardship and Planned Giving); Ms. Elsa Furzer (WMS); Mrs. Linda MacKinnon (AMS); the Rev. Dr. Glynis Williams (International Ministries); Mr. Stephen Roche (Treasurer/CFO)

The Rev. Lara Scholey

**STEWARDSHIP AND PLANNED GIVING****RECOMMENDATIONS****Consent Recommendations**

That Recommendations Nos. 17 and, 18, (identified by ►) be adopted by consent.

**► Recommendation No. 17**

That sincere appreciation be expressed to the individuals and congregations who faithfully supported *Presbyterians Sharing* in 2015. (see p. 12.1.84)

**► Recommendation No. 18**

That all congregations develop an intentional plan to work towards meeting and exceeding the 10% *Presbyterians Sharing* Allocation in 2016. (see p. 12.1.84)

## **REPORT**

Staff	Associate Secretary:	Karen Plater
	Associate Secretary:	Herb Gale (until December 31, 2015)
	Program Coordinator:	Sheryl Sutton (until February 10, 2016)
	Program Coordinator:	Heather Chappell
	Mission Trip and Youth in Mission Coordinator:	Matthew Foxall

### **INTRODUCTION**

“So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth”

1 Corinthians 3:7

The ministry of stewardship and planned giving is a work of planting and harvesting. Sometimes we plant the seeds that others will harvest. Sometimes we harvest crops grown from the seeds others have planted. But whoever plants and whoever harvests, it is really God who provides both the initial impetus and the growth.

On September 1, 2015, the Stewardship and Planned Giving departments were amalgamated. The new Stewardship and Planned Giving Department encourages generous giving to The Presbyterian Church in Canada through annual, major and planned gifts and help congregations, specialized ministries, presbyteries and synods access sustainable financial resources to participate in God’s mission. The executive staffing of the department was overseen by the Rev. Dr. Herb Gale and by Ms. Karen Plater, until Herb’s retirement at the end of December 2015. Karen continues the work into 2016.

This department has the happy task both of helping the most generous people in the church – and in Canada – to give to and leave enduring legacies for the church and its ministry and helping congregations and specialized ministries receive those gifts and utilize them most effectively. The department works hard to encourage a culture of generosity in congregations as we help them find the resources, volunteer and financial, to further enhance their ministries. We encourage healthy stewardship habits and help congregations and specialized ministries develop sustainable financial practices for the immediate future and long term. We encourage participation in our common ministry through gifts to *Presbyterians Sharing* and legacy gifts through bequests, annuities and gifts of securities. We help people connect with the joy that flows from generosity and the excitement that comes as we use the gifts – time, skills, resources – God has given us to do God’s mission and ministry at local, national and international levels.

Significant time in 2015 was devoted to building on the work of the two departments and finding new ways to encourage generous giving through annual, major and planned gifts. This has included drafting new job descriptions for support staff, reviewing and updating resources, finding new ways to support congregations and planning new strategies for raising funds to support the mission and ministry that we do together through The Presbyterian Church in Canada.

### **EQUIPPING CONGREGATIONS AND LEADERS**

#### **Educational Opportunities**

The Stewardship and Planned Giving department provided opportunities for congregational leaders to develop stewardship knowledge and skills.

The Presbyterian Church in Canada’s Stewards By Design conference helps congregations discover how to nurture generous giving and expand their ministry. Participants learn about different ways people give – including annual, planned and spontaneous gifts and how to nurture faithful giving and abundant living. They explore how stewardship is not just a financial matter, but also a spiritual matter concerned with all aspects of life. The next Stewards By Design will be held April 7–10, 2016 in Orillia, Ontario. Congregations send teams of 4, including their minister.

We provided grants to help congregational leaders, lay and clergy, attend conferences organized by the Ecumenical Stewardship Center. The ESC’s Leadership Seminar in December 2015 explored issues of wealth and poverty. Its North American Conference on Christian Philanthropy in April 2015 helped congregations explore how the stewardship of accumulated assets connects with annual gifts.

### Stewarding Your Stuff – a practical tool to help plan gifts

The Presbyterian Church in Canada began a pilot project with the Canadian National Christian Foundation (CNCF) in which congregations and specialized ministries have access to the Stewarding Your Stuff program. This includes a Bible study or phone seminar and an opportunity for congregational members to have confidential consultations with CNCF's estate planners. Congregations pay \$500 to participate in the program, which allows for a detailed estate plan for up to 10 members/supporters. These plans help people discover ways to give to their congregation and other charities through planned giving vehicles such as bequests, annuities, gifts of securities etc. and could normally cost up to \$2000 per plan. Between March and December 2015 three congregations in the Guelph area participated in the Bible study and one congregation in the Ottawa region participated in phone seminars. Seventeen people participated and eleven estate plans were developed, with \$408,000 being raised for Presbyterian congregations and ministries and \$717,000 raised for other charities.

### The ProVisionaries Congregational Network

The ProVisionaries Network is designed to support congregations and specialized ministries in their development of an intentional ministry of planned giving. The amalgamated department is looking at how to further develop this network to provide coaching and mentoring and integrate ways to encourage generous giving through annual, major and planned gifts.

### **Educational Resources for Congregations**

The following resources can be ordered by contacting the Presbyterian Church in Canada's Resource Centre. Many are also available for download.

#### Annual Stewardship Resources

For 2015–2018 the theme is a four year emphasis based on 'Take hold of the life which really is life' (1 Timothy 6:18–19). The four years emphasize living freely, simply, generously and courageously. Each year builds upon the next. The theme helps congregations share the stewardship message in a new way. The multiple year format provides an opportunity for congregations to build upon and develop the theme.

#### *Presbyterians Sharing*

New resources for congregations to promote *Presbyterians Sharing* were developed, including poster, thermometer chart, annual report cover and worship resources. The video "One Mission, Two Funds" was updated to show how *Presbyterians Sharing* and PWS&D are making an impact. General *Presbyterians Sharing* bulletin inserts were translated into Korean and French. All can be downloaded at [presbyterian.ca/sharing](http://presbyterian.ca/sharing). They can be used around *Presbyterians Sharing* Sunday (the last Sunday in September) and at annual general meetings.

#### Stories of Mission

The format of this great resource was revised. It highlights twelve ministries supported by *Presbyterians Sharing* and includes a reflective devotional on each ministry. It could be used in a Bible study group, WMS program, mission moment, sermon illustration, or series.

#### Stewardship Moments

These stewardship quotes at [presbyterian.ca/stewardship-moments](http://presbyterian.ca/stewardship-moments) will get people in your congregation thinking about how they can use the gifts God has given them – time, talent, and treasure – to participate in God's mission. The weekly quotes are available as photo images for projecting in your church. They are posted weekly on Facebook or can be found at [flickr.com/photos/pconnect/sets](http://flickr.com/photos/pconnect/sets)

#### Planned Giving

- Worship resources to help congregations celebrate Planned Giving Sunday are available for download at [presbyterian.ca/provisionaries/resources](http://presbyterian.ca/provisionaries/resources). Planned Giving Sunday is the third Sunday of November, to coincide with National Philanthropy Day. However, it can also be done at any other time of year.
- The three-minute video, Growing Generosity, continues to introduce concepts of planned giving and explains the benefits of fostering a spirit of generosity. Use the video during worship to show how we can

- all make generosity a part of who we are and allow a true spirit of Christian stewardship to take root. Download at [presbyterian.ca/provisionaries/pg-video](http://presbyterian.ca/provisionaries/pg-video).
- For those interested in developing an intentional ministry of planned giving in their congregations, the Planned Giving Office has prepared a step-by-step guide entitled, “Developing a Vital Planned Giving Ministry in Your Congregation”. The booklet contains a checklist to help gauge the vitality of your congregation’s planned giving ministry. It can be downloaded from [presbyterian.ca/resources-pg](http://presbyterian.ca/resources-pg).
  - There are new resources and ideas for promoting gift annuities in congregations, including bulletin inserts, pew cards, short text for worship bulletins and PowerPoint, personal testimonies from our annuitants and small group gatherings to talk about gift annuities in an informal setting. A video on gift annuities will be released shortly.
  - With proper education and promotion, gifts of publicly traded securities can provide an important additional stream of income to fund the life and mission of local congregations and the larger church. A PowerPoint presentation and printed brochures highlighting the Gift of Publicly Traded Securities are available free of charge.
  - A series of brochures highlighting the Mission Priority Funds and the various ways of making a planned gift are available free of charge. The set uses the ProVisionaries theme – “Planting seeds of hope. For generations to come”. It is designed to allow congregations to add their own planned giving resources and contact information.

### **Mission Experiences**

We continue to send groups – congregational, presbytery, synod, national, youth – to visit and accompany our mission partners. These trips help Presbyterians engage in meaningful mission, support our international and Canadian mission partners and learn about work supported by Presbyterian World Service & Development and *Presbyterians Sharing*. In addition, we help Presbyterians apply for opportunities with our ecumenical partners, including the World Council of Churches, The Caribbean and North America Council for Mission and Canadian Foodgrains Bank. All these experiences change people’s lives: the choices they make about the way they live, their outlook on life and their faith journey. In March 2015, a study tour group travelled to visit our partners in India. In October, Knox Church in Oakville travelled to Ghana. Three Youth in Mission trips went out in the summer of 2015, working with our mission partners in Taiwan, Cuba and Hungary/Ukraine.

There are currently four mission opportunities planned for 2016: an intergenerational trip exploring life and mission in Malawi, a study tour looking at the complex issues of the Middle East and Youth in Mission experiences in Taiwan and Romania. Because this is a Canada Youth year, we will also be organizing the experience of the international youth visitors to visit and experience mission in Canada.

### **ENCOURAGING GENEROSITY**

#### **The Presbyterian Church in Canada**

In 2015, Presbyterians across Canada gave over \$10.3 million to support the work of The Presbyterian Church in Canada. Congregations and individuals gave \$7,101,582 to *Presbyterians Sharing* to support the church’s mission and ministry in Canada and around the world, \$2,937,695 to PWS&D for international development and relief programs and \$204,642 to special projects of International Ministries and Canadian Ministries. In addition, over \$1,160,000 in major gifts were given to The Presbyterian Church in Canada’s ministries including \$1,021,087.26 for congregations and \$248,922 for PWS&D’s Loaves and Fishes Fund.

The largest portion of funds for the General Assembly budget comes from gifts congregations and individuals make to *Presbyterians Sharing*. In 2015 congregations from across Canada donated \$6,956,787 for *Presbyterians Sharing*, (budget was set for \$7,300,000) and individuals gave \$144,794 (budget was set for \$200,000). Additional contributions from the WMS, AMS, interest, rent and bequests raised the total to over \$7.7 million.

#### ***Presbyterians Sharing***

This was the second year of the new *Presbyterians Sharing* allocation based on 10% of a congregation’s dollar base.



10% Formula Analysis; Total 897 congregations and missions

- 155 congregations/missions (17%) gave above their 10% expected allocation, giving a total of \$407,453.66 above the goal
- 63 (7%) gave at their 10% goal
- 656 (73%) gave less than the 10% allocation
- 23 congregations/missions (3%) have no expected allocation and gave nothing (15 congregations/missions with no expected allocations gave something.)

Of the 155 congregations who gave above 10%

- collectively they gave a total of \$2,170,823; 31% of gifts from congregations
- 61 congregations increased their giving by \$77,452, giving 178,054 above what was asked for
- 21 maintained their gifts, giving \$54,814 above what was asked for
- 73 congregations reduced their gifts by \$139,187, still giving \$174,585 above what was asked for

Of the 63 who gave at their 10% goal

- 12 congregations gave more than 2014, giving \$18,156 more than 2014
- 25 congregations gave at the same level as 2014
- 26 congregations reduced their gifts by \$62,699 from 2014

Of the 656 congregations who gave less than 10%

- 210 congregations increased their giving by \$255,967
- 174 congregations maintained their giving
- 272 dropped their giving by \$404,938
- Note: 45 congregations gave nothing, despite having an expected allocation

Comparing 2015 gifts from congregations to 2014:

- 283 congregations (31.5%) gave MORE, for a gain of \$351,575 (58 were already giving over 10%)
- 220 congregations (24.5%) gave the SAME.
- 371 congregations (41.4%) gave LESS, for a total loss of \$606,823 (70 were giving above 10%)
- 23 congregations gave nothing in 2014 and 2015 (2.6%)

Other Observations

The largest drops came from ten congregations who collectively declined \$152,291. Of those ten, three were giving at the 10% formula, two gave more than the 10%, and five gave less than the 10%.

In addition, nine congregations went inactive (closed or amalgamated) and gave \$15,942. In 2014 we had received over \$106,000 from congregations which have either closed or amalgamated, the largest \$75,000 from the sale of Strathcona Church.

Many congregations continue to cite the increase in the pension and benefits assessment and increased overall costs with decreased attendance as reasons why they are unable to give the expected allocation.

Planning to Meet Expected Allocations

In the past three years, contributions to *Presbyterians Sharing* have declined by \$1 million. In 2012 the revenue from congregations was \$7.95 million and in 2015 it was \$6.95 million. This decline in total revenue follows the decline in overall membership of The Presbyterian Church in Canada, so on a per capita basis, members are actually giving about the same per member as they were three years ago. However, membership records also may be less accurate than donation dollars.

If all congregations were meeting the expected allocation – 10% of their dollar base – we would have more than enough to fund the mission and ministry we are doing collectively. It is noted that there is an increasing trend towards cutting *Presbyterians Sharing* from the congregational budget and “sending in what comes in” for *Presbyterians Sharing*. Unfortunately this is often accompanied by a decline in funds sent in. This should be accompanied by an intentional plan for ways to meet the expected allocation. When the General Assembly budget is passed, a commitment to raise the funds to support the ministry is also passed. Congregations need to take seriously the responsibility to try to meet or exceed their expected allocation.

This does not need to be a dreary prospect! Congregations can make it fun. An intentional plan to meet the expected allocation should include providing educational resources and connecting people to the mission and ministry we are doing together. It may include special invitations to give, an event which builds community and connects people to the mission and more. Share your plans with the Stewardship and Planned Giving office and we will share them to inspire others.

### **Gifts of Change**

The 2016 *Gifts of Change* catalogue provides ideas for giving gifts that change people's lives, both in Canada and around the world. These gifts build on and support the ministry being done through International Ministries, Canadian Ministries and Presbyterian World Service & Development. The catalogue can be ordered free of charge to distribute to congregational members. Additional projects can be found at [presbyterian.ca/donate](http://presbyterian.ca/donate).

### **Pre-Authorized Remittance (PAR) Plan**

Automatic debit plans help people give consistently, proportionately and intentionally to God and to the church. Our PAR program, administered by The United Church of Canada, is an economical way for congregations to receive gifts. PAR congregations and givers have been growing each year. We currently have 362 congregations on PAR, with 6,863 households participating.

### **Publicly Traded Securities**

The tax benefits of giving securities that have appreciated in value directly to the church are substantial. When individuals sell a stock privately, they owe tax on fifty percent of the capital gains. However, if the securities are gifted to charity the tax on capital gains is eliminated. Donors are also entitled to a donation tax receipt for the full market value of the securities on the day they are received by the charity. The Presbyterian Church in Canada will facilitate the gifts of anyone wanting to make a gift of securities to any ministry within The Presbyterian Church in Canada, including their own congregation. Transfer forms are available from [presbyterian.ca/resources-pg](http://presbyterian.ca/resources-pg) or can be filled out online.

Since the Federal government eliminated capital gains taxes on charitable gifts of publicly traded securities in 2006, The Presbyterian Church in Canada has received over \$7.3 million in donations of appreciated securities from over 500 donors. In 2005, only \$252,240 worth of stocks was donated to the church. The year the tax law changed, that amount tripled to \$791,00. In 2014, for the first time, we surpassed \$1.3 million worth of stocks and mutual funds.

In 2015, 80 generous Presbyterians donated gifts of 30,577 shares of stocks and mutual funds totaling over \$1,168,081.24, of which 83.88% was designated to congregations; 11.57% to PWS&D, 3.38% to the Mission Priority Funds, 0.36% to *Presbyterians Sharing*, 0.58% to Evangel Hall, 0.17% to Knox College and the remaining 0.06 % to other ministries.

### **Charitable Bequests**

Statistics indicate that half of all Canadians do not have a legal will. Without a legal will, the government determines the beneficiaries of someone's estate, and it is government policy that nothing will go to charity. The Presbyterian Church in Canada is grateful for the number of people who decided making a gift for the ongoing mission and ministry of their church was important in their will.

In 2015, The Presbyterian Church in Canada received \$425,000 in charitable bequests for the ministry of the church and received notification of bequests from the estates of the following people listed in alphabetical order: Agnes Hill Chidgey, Jean McQueen Dancey, Gysbertas deKoning, Lachlan Campbell Evans, Agnes Linea Hanson, Edna Jean Howie, Myrtle Elizabeth Inglis, Robert Victor Keith, Joan C. Laird, Ian Alistair MacKenzie, James Douglas Monteith, Elspeth Margaret Christina Newall, Mary M. Ritchie, William Donald Ross, and Marion Caroline Wilson. We thank God for the generosity and foresight of these people and are grateful for the legacy of faith and hope they have bequeathed to the church. Their generosity will be celebrated during the 2016 General Assembly.

### **Gift Annuities**

Gift annuities are a way that Canadians 60 years of age and older can make a gift to the church to fund the ministries of their choice and in return receive a guaranteed annual income for life, the majority or all of that income tax-free. There are presently 131 annuitants (including both individuals with single annuities and couples with joint annuities)

who have acquired 145 gift annuities with contributions of more than \$3.2 million designated for various ministries within The Presbyterian Church in Canada. Of these 41% was designated for congregational use, 27.99% for PWS&D, 16% for *Presbyterians Sharing*, 3.26% for Colleges, 2.75% for Evangel Hall, 2.72 for the Mission Priority Funds and the remainder for International Ministries, Canadian Ministries, Winnipeg Inner City Missions, Boarding Homes Ministry and camps.

During 2015, 8 new gift annuities were acquired for a total value of \$19,930.00.

### **Life Insurance**

There are several ways people can give a gift of life insurance to the church. The gift of a current life insurance policy provides the church with a substantial gift upon the death of the donor, while the heirs benefit from a substantial tax credit. When donors give a paid-up policy to the church by naming it as the owner and beneficiary, the donor receives an immediate income tax receipt for the paid-up cash value of the policy. Donors can also purchase a new policy, name the church as the owner and beneficiary, and receive a tax receipt for the value of the annual premiums.

At the time of writing this report, twenty-four people have chosen ministries within the church as the beneficiary of life insurance policies for a total value of nearly \$1 million, however, no insurance policies were assigned to the church in 2015. A pamphlet detailing the benefits of life insurance as a gifting vehicle is available free of charge through the Resource Centre.

### **The Mission Priority Funds**

The Presbyterian Church in Canada has six funds to channel planned gifts into vitally needed areas of ministry and mission called Mission Priority Funds. It is expected that these funds will change over time as The Presbyterian Church in Canada's ministry needs and opportunities change.

In 2015 a couple wanted to support these funds but couldn't decide which one to support. After consulting with Herb Gale, they established the Priorities for Mission Fund – a new fund that will channel financial support to any or all of the Mission Priority Funds, wherever it is most needed in any given year. They made an initial contribution of mutual funds from their non-registered investment portfolio. They also pledged to contribute additional gifts to the fund in future years, including the proceeds from a life insurance policy. The capital is invested in The Presbyterian Church in Canada's Consolidated Portfolio which will continue to grow their investment over time. The Priorities for Mission Fund will allocate 10% of its total value each year into one or more of The Presbyterian Church in Canada's Mission Priority Funds. The Life and Mission Agency Committee will direct the annual disbursements into the areas of greatest need and opportunity.

### **The Presbyterian Church in Canada's Mission Priority Funds:**

- *Creative Ministry with Children and Youth Fund* provides congregations and other groups within the church with additional money for expanding their ministry with children and youth.
- *Growing Churches Fund* helps presbyteries in their work of planting new congregations using new models of church growth and offers strategic support to those engaged in new church development.
- *Sustaining Pastoral Excellence Fund* provides professional church workers with the support they need to function optimally in the midst of the stresses of pastoral ministry in a rapidly changing world.
- *Living Links Missionary Endowment Fund* ensures ongoing support for the appointment of long-term international mission staff living and working with our partner churches and agencies around the world.
- *Mission Connections Fund* facilitates short-term exposure tours and volunteer mission experiences with our international mission partners.
- *Healing & Reconciliation – The Journey Continues Fund* supports local initiatives for Presbyterians to build stronger relationships between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people in Canada so that the journey of healing and reconciliation continues.

If you would like to learn more about how your planned gifts can expand the mission of the church for generations to come, visit the website at [presbyterian.ca/mission-priority-funds](http://presbyterian.ca/mission-priority-funds). Printed brochures providing additional information on the Mission Priority Funds are available free of charge.

### **Raiser's Edge Database**

The Presbyterian Church in Canada implemented a new database in 2015. The migration of data from our previous database to the new one, and the process of setting it up to do what we were previously able to do, took much longer than anticipated; however, we are seeing the potential that this system has for improving our communication and fundraising abilities.

We have redesigned the congregational remittance report to meet needs identified by treasurers and bookkeepers. The new format shows gifts to *Presbyterians Sharing*, PWS&D, International Ministries, Canadian Ministries, Healing and Reconciliation, *Gifts of Change* etc., plus loan repayments and contributions for speaking engagements, conferences, seminars and mission trips. The bottom of the report summarizes a congregation's gifts to *Presbyterians Sharing* and PWS&D, including expected allocation, what a congregation has accepted, what has been sent in to date and the balance remaining of the accepted allocation.

We also moved to annual consolidated receipts which will be issued for all of The Presbyterian Church in Canada's ministries including *Presbyterians Sharing*, PWS&D, International Ministries, Canadian Ministries and General Assembly. Annual donation receipts help reduce paper, save money and cut down on mailings.

We plan on using the database to tailor communications to donors, members and participants in The Presbyterian Church in Canada.

#### **Recommendation No. 17                      Adopted/Defeated/Amended**

That sincere appreciation be expressed to the individuals and congregations who faithfully supported *Presbyterians Sharing* in 2015.

#### **Recommendation No. 18                      Adopted/Defeated/Amended**

That all congregations develop an intentional plan to work towards meeting and exceeding the 10% *Presbyterians Sharing* Allocation in 2016.

### ***Stewards By Design* Advisory Committee**

The Rev. Ken MacQuarrie (convener), Mrs. Doris Eaglesham, the Rev. Peter Ma, the Rev. Karen Dimock, the Rev. Sean Astop, the Rev. Linda Patton-Cowie, the Rev. Dr. Herb Gale.

### **Planned Giving Advisory Committee (to December 2015)**

Ms. Sandra Dow; Ms. Betty Kupeian; Mr. Richard Daugherty; the Rev. Kirk Summers.

Wendy Paterson  
Convener

Ian Ross-McDonald  
General Secretary

**SUPPLEMENTARY REPORT**  
**LIFE AND MISSION AGENCY**  
**RECOMMENDATIONS**

**Consent Recommendations**

There are no consent recommendations.

**Recommendation No. 19**

That the terms of reference for the Stewardship and Planned Giving Department be approved. (see p. 12.1.85)

**PROGRAM SUPPORT AND ADMINISTRATION**

**AMALGAMATION OF THE STEWARDSHIP AND PLANNED GIVING DEPARTMENTS**

In March 2015 the Life and Mission Agency Committee approved an amalgamation of the Stewardship and Planned Giving departments. The union of the two departments became effective on September 1, 2015 with the following terms of reference approved by the Life and Mission Agency Committee:

**Purpose**

The Stewardship and Planned Giving department will help individuals, congregations, presbyteries and synods discover the ways that they can best use their resources to participate in God's mission in creation and redemption by:

- helping congregations to better understand the linkages between money and faith and foster an understanding of generosity as a spiritual discipline and as a way to share in God's mission;
- equipping clergy and lay leaders with the skills, materials and opportunities they need to nurture financially healthy churches with strong annual giving programs, year round stewardship and planned giving opportunities, and how to effectively use their facilities for ministry;
- encouraging individuals, congregations, presbyteries and synods to support mission locally, nationally and internationally as one way of participating in God's mission;
- helping the church understand and support the annual budget of The Presbyterian Church in Canada (Presbyterians Sharing);
- encouraging and enabling individuals to make gifts of their accumulated resources to all levels of the church through a strong planned giving and major gifts program.

**Mandate**

The Stewardship and Planned Giving department shall be grounded in the theology of stewardship and the ethos and mission of The Presbyterian Church in Canada. The department will encourage generous giving from individuals and congregations to the ministries of The Presbyterian Church in Canada through Presbyterians Sharing, Gifts of Change, accumulated assets and major gifts. It will help individuals, congregations, presbyteries, synods, and specialized ministries find sustainable financial resources to participate in God's mission today and in the future.

**Tasks**

The department will:

- nurture annual, major and planned gifts from congregations and individuals to support the mission and ministry we do together through Presbyterians Sharing, Gifts of Change and special funds;
- hold educational and equipping events (eg: Stewards by Design, regional workshops, congregational consultations) to equip congregations to nurture a culture of generosity in support of the ministry of the church – locally, regionally and nationally;
- develop and support networks of resource people who are equipping congregations in healthy financial stewardship and planned giving and are encouraging gifts to national ministry;
- research, adapt and prepare electronic and printed educational materials – including best practices, templates for policies, assessment tools, worship material and congregational strategies – to help congregations, specialized ministries and presbyteries develop sound financial stewardship and planned giving strategies based on technology appropriate for the Presbyterian context.

**Recommendation No. 19**

**Adopted/Defeated/Amended**

That the terms of reference for the Stewardship and Planned Giving Department be approved.

## **BODY, MIND AND SOUL STUDY GUIDE**

In 2015 the General Assembly tasked the Committee on Church Doctrine and the Life and Mission Agency (Justice Ministries) to "...prepare a joint study guide on the topics of human sexuality, sexual orientation and other related matters raised in the overtures to be posted on the church's website by the end of October, 2015..." (A&P 2015, p. 46). After the General Assembly, discussions began between the convener of the Committee on Church Doctrine and the General Secretary of the Life and Mission Agency seeking to set a process for pursuing this goal. The following terms of reference for the Design Team were settled in July of 2015:

### **Purpose**

The Design Team established by Committee on Church Doctrine (CCD) and LMA representatives will serve as the editorial body for the writer of a study guide that will be created to help equip the denomination for study and discussion on issues of human sexuality and sexual orientation in the life of The Presbyterian Church in Canada. The team will offer guidance, direction, and advice as the writer prepares the resource. In working relationship with the writer, the design team will have the final authority about content, organization, and the presentation of the publication. The design team will submit the document to the LMA and CCD for their input before it is made available to the denomination.

### **Timeline**

It is expected that this study guide will be available for distribution by October 31, 2015 (at the latest). Therefore, the following timeline is proposed:

- The team meets and determines principles, values, and the scope, objectives and main components of the resource
- The team meets with the writer to review principles, values, the scope of the study, the timeline, and to answer questions and determine some future meeting dates
- The writer creates the study guide and submits drafts periodically for feedback
- The study guide is presented to the CCD and LMA Committees for input no later than the first week of October
- Layout and or production
- By October 31, 2015 the final copy of the study guide is made available to the church on the web and in written form

### **Writer**

The CCD and LMA representatives will recruit and engage a writer who will prepare the study guide.

### **Framework for the Study Guide**

This guide will address primary points of relevance for the church on this topic at this time, rather than being an exhaustive study on all aspects of the matter. The study guide will help the church move forward as it considers these matters. The Team may suggest that the writer employ an organizational frame like The Wesleyan Quadrilateral<sup>1</sup> or the resource used at General Assembly (2015).

### **Elements**

The study guide will have an introductory section that acknowledges the complexity of the issue and emphasizes the importance of respectful listening and speech. This section will refer to the process and material used at the meeting of the General Assembly (Vancouver 2015).

- The study guide will reference PCC statements and study material on this subject, especially the 1994, 2000 and 2003 documents.
- The study guide will refer to scripture passages and theological principles cited in some of the overtures submitted to the General Assembly and those the team considers relevant.
- The guide will offer some reflection that engages material from relevant fields of scientific study.
- The study guide will include a bibliography.
- The study guide will include a means by which users of the study guide can submit responses to the CCD and LMA as the bodies prepare responses to the overtures.

### **Endnote**

1. [wikipedia.org/wiki/Wesleyan\\_Quadrilateral](http://wikipedia.org/wiki/Wesleyan_Quadrilateral)

## **JUSTICE MINISTRIES**

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

There are no recommendations.

### **REPORT**

Justice Ministries prepared this summary to fulfill the terms of the following motion adopted by the Life and Mission Agency Committee in March 2016:

That Justice Ministries submit a supplementary report to General Assembly with a summary of responses received regarding human sexuality.

Justice Ministries prepared this summary after reviewing all the material submitted to the Committee on Church Doctrine and to Justice Ministries on the topic of sexuality. Some responses commented only on the *Body, Mind and Soul* resource while other responses were on broader topics related to the discussion of same sex marriage and ordaining ministers in same sex relationships.

In 2015 the General Assembly adopted the following motion (A&P 2015, p. 46):

That the Committee on Church Doctrine and the Life and Mission Agency (Justice Ministries) prepare a joint study guide on the topics of human sexuality, sexual orientation and other related matters raised in the overtures to be posted on the church's website by the end of October, 2015 and that congregations, sessions, presbyteries and synods be invited to share the result of their conversation with both the Committee on Church Doctrine and the Life and Mission Agency (Justice Ministries) prior to March 31, 2016.

A design team that included three individuals from the Committee on Church Doctrine and three individuals representing Justice Ministries was created. The design team provided oversight and direction to the writer. The Associate Secretary for Justice Ministries provided planning and organizational support to the design team and to the writer.

Justice Ministries takes this opportunity to thank the leaders who planned and led discussions in sessions, congregations and presbyteries. These individuals facilitated challenging and sometimes painful as well as divisive conversations in some cases. A few people explained that facilitating discussions came at the expense of relationships with church friends. Justice Ministries is also grateful to the sessions, congregations, presbyteries and individuals who submitted comments and suggestions.

### **SUMMARY REVIEW OF RESPONSES**

This is not a comprehensive statistical review of the material. It is only possible to provide a synopsis of the received responses, which is an unreliable sampling. While every congregation, session, presbytery and synod was invited to respond, the majority have not.

Every response that was submitted is accounted for in the categories listed below. In some cases, a court or group submitted a response and then individual members also submitted their own personal responses. Both the response from the court and the response from individuals of that court or group were counted. In some cases, a response was both mailed and emailed. A few responses are likely accounted for twice. More than 50% of those that submitted a response did not express a position on same-sex marriage or ministers or candidates for ministry in same-sex relationships.

- 463 responses were received as of April 21, 2016. Justice Ministries continues to receive responses.
- The majority of responses indicated no consensus or did not declare a position on same-sex marriage or blessing and ordaining a minister in a same-sex relationship.
- There were responses from: 1 synod; 16 presbyteries; 115 sessions; 72 congregations or congregational study groups; 91 responses were from individuals who participated in congregational or presbytery discussions; 124 responses indicated they did not participate in group discussions; 1 youth group; 1 congregation noted that it had spoken to their youth group but no comments from the youth group were submitted; there were no responses from the theological colleges.
- 157 responses affirmed the current church policy; 56 of these were sessions, congregations or study groups in congregations.

- 85 responses affirmed that gay and lesbian people in same-sex relationships be allowed to serve as ministers and affirmed recognition of same-sex marriages by the church; 31 of these were sessions, congregations or study groups in congregations.
- 332 respondents commented exclusively on *Body, Mind and Soul*.
- 131 respondents commented on human sexuality but not on *Body, Mind and Soul*.
- Some commented on both *Body, Mind and Soul* and on The Presbyterian Church in Canada's policies on human sexuality.
- 2 youth responded (12 years old, one older teen).
- Several people shared personal experiences regarding family or friends who are LGBT and reflected how it has impacted their faith journey.

### WHAT SOME RESPONSES SAID

Note: Anything within quotation marks is a direct quote from a respondent.

#### General Comments

- Presbyterians approach biblical interpretation differently. Some said “let scripture speak for itself” and “don't explain it”. Some said that information in the study guide about how scripture is interpreted was helpful.
- Some stated that the Bible is “infallible”.
- Several responses said that the heart of this discussion is not about same-sex unions but about different approaches to biblical interpretation.
- Some respondents said *Body, Mind and Soul* was biased.
- The Presbyterian Church in Canada's pension plan and benefits programs are currently available to those in a same-sex relationship who request these benefits.
- Many respondents said “homosexuality is a sin” according to the Bible.
- A few respondents suggested that ministers who officiate at same sex marriages and ministers, or candidates for ministry who are in same sex marriage not be disciplined.
- A few respondents asked if homosexuality is being treated differently than adultery or divorce.
- Many people fear this issue will divide the church or that people will leave.
- Several responses said “this isn't an issue, why are we discussing it?”
- It was noted that biblical recognition of maleness and femaleness is not a reason to exclude other gender identities as legitimate within God's creation.

#### Some Comments about *Body, Mind and Soul*

- Many responses indicated that the “traditional/progressive” language was inadequate and divisive.
- Many said the guide was “clear” and helpful for facilitating or starting conversation. Others said that the material was “dense” and “overwhelming”.
- It was noted that *Body, Mind and Soul* did not address how a congregation can be welcoming but not affirming of same sex relationships.
- Many appreciated the inclusion of policies of other denominations. Some would welcome the policies of Orthodox denominations, The Church of Scotland and Indigenous perspectives of “Two-spirited” or “Two-spirit”. (Two-spirit refers to a person who has both a masculine and a feminine spirit, and is used by some First Nations people to describe their sexual, gender and/or spiritual identity. The term is a translation of the Anishinaabemowin term niizh manidoowag, two spirits.)
- Some found the guidelines for the Listening Circles Group helpful. In one congregation, the minister had bowls of water at each table as a symbol of baptism as a reminder that we are all baptized. In another congregation a person could speak when they were holding a seashell.
- Many indicated that their conversations were respectful.

#### Some Ideas and Suggestions that Emerged from the Submissions

- Many respondents asked for more time to consider the matter.
- Some responses requested resources on bi-sexual and transgender people.
- Several responses suggested the local option. This means that each session would have the option to decide whether or not same-sex marriages would be celebrated in the church. Likewise, each presbytery would have authority to decide about ministers and candidates for ministry in same-sex relationships.
- Any proposed policy changes should include conscience clauses.
- Having LGBT people involved in discussions is helpful.
- One congregation asked for liturgical resources for same-sex marriage ceremonies.



- Several respondents asked for resources for elders providing pastoral care to church members hurt by or struggling with this issue.
- There were requests for a clear communication plan for dealing with this issue, especially when changes to policy are discussed and if changes are made.
- One respondent commented that all people have inestimable value because they are made in the image of God. Acknowledging this truth can help to build common ground amidst conflict.

### **Some Quotes from Respondents**

Below are some quotes drawn from the submissions that reflect the spectrum of the material received. Many of the reflections were passionate and reflected prayerful study or discussion.

Some responses made claims that were inaccurate or invoked information that is outdated or untrue. For example, it is not true that homosexuality is listed as a disorder in the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM) of the American Psychiatric Association. It was delisted in 1973.

Some responses fell short of respectful commentary or made inappropriate suggestions. For example it was asserted that homosexual people who care for children in the church should be monitored. Some respondents stated that homosexual orientation or behaviour is consistent with or correlative to pedophilia.

- One contributor reminds us that “the way we speak and listen to one another is at least as important as the actual decisions we make on this or that controversial topic”.
- “We affirm the equal value of homosexuals and their right to love, respect and dignity. We welcome them in our midst with full love and acceptance. We oppose...homophobia...But we can't approve or condone homosexual practice. Homosexuals and heterosexuals are brothers and sisters in humanity.”
- “I...believe that we are all wonderfully made; created in the image of God...that includes all genders and orientation.”
- “The Church can (and must!) find the middle road of communicating care, love and acceptance, without affirming a lifestyle that it has concluded to be problematic vis a vis the Scriptures.”
- “I grew up confident in the knowledge that God hated me. In my twenties I attended church with my partner. We were treated as lepers.”
- “I was skeptical going into the roundtable discussions. I know what I believed and wasn't really too keen to listen to others. But after having sat through that experience, I must say that it was incredible! It opened my eyes to the value and importance of listening, and to (and especially to!) those who differ from us.”
- “I particularly appreciated [the invitation] to think about the ways that churches hold diversity together – the things that we disagree about, but that we can live with, and stay together anyway. I really think we need to talk about this unity question a lot more...can we live with that difference, and respect each other, and love each other, and stay together in our diverse church family?”
- “Hopeful that fear will not stop people from further discussions on this topic”.

## **MINISTRY AND CHURCH VOCATIONS**

### **COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND RECEPTION**

#### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

##### **Consent Recommendation**

That recommendation Nos. 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30 and 31 (identified by the ►) be adopted by consent.

##### **► Recommendation No. 20**

That the case of Patricia Ramkhelawn be dropped (see p. 12.1.93).

##### **► Recommendation No. 21**

That permission be granted to the Presbytery of Seaway-Glengarry to examine Ms. Reine Boghos for certification for ordination, subject to no competent objections being raised by a presbytery of this church by July 31, 2016 and subject to satisfactory completion of 2 semesters (10 semester courses or equivalent) of theological study at one of the colleges of this church, with courses to include, Presbyterian Church in Canada history, Presbyterian Church in Canada government, Reformed Worship and a supervised theological field education placement in a congregation of The Presbyterian Church in Canada. (see p. 12.1.93–94)

► **Recommendation No. 22**

That permission be granted to the Presbytery of Waterloo-Wellington to examine Ms. Diane E. Boyd for certification for ordination, subject to no competent objections being raised by a presbytery of this church by July 31, 2016 and subject to satisfactory completion of 2 semesters (10 semester courses or equivalent) of theological study at one of the colleges of this church, with courses to include, Presbyterian Church in Canada history, Presbyterian Church in Canada government, pastoral care and a supervised theological field education placement in a congregation (other than her home congregation) of The Presbyterian Church in Canada. (see p. 12.1.94)

► **Recommendation No. 23**

That permission be granted to the Presbytery of Western Han-Ca to examine Mr. Jonghwa (Joshua) Kim for certification for ordination, subject to satisfactory completion of 2 semesters (10 semester courses or equivalent) of theological study at one of the colleges of this church, with courses to include, Reformed Theology, Reformed Sacraments, Presbyterian Church in Canada history, Presbyterian Church in Canada government, and a supervised theological field education placement in a Presbyterian Church in Canada congregation. (see p. 12.1.94)

► **Recommendation No. 24**

That the application of Mr. Saturnin Espoir N. Ndandala for eligibility for examination for certification for ordination not be approved. (see p. 12.1.94)

► **Recommendation No. 25**

That Mr. Elkanah K. Shekari be declared eligible for reception as a Certified Candidate for Ordination of The Presbyterian Church in Canada, subject to the successful completion of 2 semesters (10 semester courses or equivalent) of theological study at one of the colleges of this church, with courses to include Presbyterian Church in Canada history, Presbyterian Church in Canada government, and the supervised theological field education placement in a Presbyterian Church in Canada congregation currently in progress. (see p. 12.1.94)

► **Recommendation No. 26**

That the Rev. Pamela J. Carlson be declared eligible for reception as a minister of The Presbyterian Church in Canada, subject to no competent objections being raised by a presbytery of this church by June 30, 2016, and subject to the successful completion of 1 semester (5 semester courses or equivalent) at one of the colleges of this church, with courses to include Presbyterian Church in Canada History, Presbyterian Church in Canada Government, and 3 further courses with a focus on the Presbyterian and Reformed tradition. (see p. 12.1.94)

► **Recommendation No. 27**

That the Rev. Dr. Robert J. Dean be declared eligible for reception as a minister of The Presbyterian Church in Canada, subject to the successful completion of 1 semester (5 semester courses or equivalent) of theological study at one of the colleges of this church, with courses to include Presbyterian Church in Canada history, Presbyterian Church in Canada government, a supervised theological field placement in a Presbyterian Church in Canada congregation, and study in areas such as Reformed worship, ecclesiology and sacraments. (see p. 12.1.94–95)

► **Recommendation No. 28**

That the Rev. Eok Kim be declared eligible for reception as a minister of The Presbyterian Church in Canada, subject to the successful completion of 2 semesters (10 semester courses or equivalent) of theological study at one of the colleges of this church, with courses to include Presbyterian Church in Canada history and Presbyterian Church in Canada government. (see p. 12.1.95)

► **Recommendation No. 29**

That the Rev. Samuel Suyong Kim be declared eligible for reception as a minister of The Presbyterian Church in Canada, subject to the successful completion of 2 semesters (10 semester courses or equivalent) of theological study at one of the colleges of this church, with courses to include Presbyterian Church in Canada history and Presbyterian Church in Canada government. (see p. 12.1.95)

► **Recommendation No. 30**

That the Rev. Carnot Jacy Roque Jr. not be declared eligible for reception as a minister of The Presbyterian Church in Canada. (see p. 12.1.95)

**► Recommendation No. 31**

That the Rev. Dr. Kye Won Lee be declared eligible for reception as a minister of The Presbyterian Church in Canada, subject to the successful completion of 1 semester of theological study (5 semester courses or equivalent) at one of the colleges of this church, with courses to include Presbyterian Church in Canada history, Presbyterian Church in Canada government and a supervised theological field education placement in a Presbyterian Church in Canada congregation. (see p. 12.1.95).

**REPORT**

The Committee on Education and Reception reviews applications of Presbyterian Church in Canada certified candidates for ministry with three types of educational backgrounds: mature students lacking a university undergraduate degree, diaconal ministers seeking ordination to the Ministry of Word and Sacraments, and graduates of non-Presbyterian Church in Canada theological colleges. It is also the committee's responsibility to review the applications of ministers from other denominations who wish to work within this branch of the church.

The guidelines the committee uses in reviewing applications are found at p. G-11 to G-14 in the Book of Reports. They were last revised and approved by the General Assembly in 2011 (A&P 2011, p. 382-94). A brief overview is provided here.

The normal educational preparation for the Ministry of Word and Sacraments or for Diaconal Ministry is a general Arts or equivalent university undergraduate degree followed by the Master of Divinity degree and the diploma of a college of The Presbyterian Church in Canada. This standard is used as a benchmark in recommending the educational assignments for applicants to the Committee on Education and Reception, upon approval of their application. While the educational requirements outlined below are given in terms of full-time study, the equivalent amount of part-time study is also possible.

Certified candidates for ministry between the ages of 35 and 59 years who lack a university undergraduate degree, upon approval of their application, may be assigned a General Assembly Special Course. Their life experience is counted towards their Arts studies, reducing their undergraduate studies from a full three-year degree to either one or two years of Arts, depending on their age. The Arts studies must be completed with a minimum of a B average. These are followed by three years of theology in the M.Div. program of a college of The Presbyterian Church in Canada (fulfilling most of the requirements of the M.Div., but not always qualifying to receive the degree). Certified candidates younger than 35 years of age are ineligible for a General Assembly Special Course; they are required to complete a university undergraduate degree before entering M.Div. studies.

Certified candidates for ministry with M.Div. degrees (with a minimum B average) from theological colleges outside The Presbyterian Church in Canada (following the prerequisite university undergraduate degree), upon approval of their application, are assigned theological study in a Presbyterian Church in Canada college. Graduates of theological colleges affiliated with Reformed churches are typically assigned one semester plus a supervised theological field education placement in a congregation of The Presbyterian Church in Canada. Graduates of other theological colleges are normally assigned two semesters at one of the colleges of The Presbyterian Church in Canada, with courses to include a supervised theological field education placement in a congregation of The Presbyterian Church in Canada. Candidates for ministry in this category of application must have been members of a congregation of The Presbyterian Church in Canada for at least the two years preceding their application.

Ordained ministers and candidates certified for ordination in other Reformed churches, upon approval of their application, are typically assigned examinations in Presbyterian Church in Canada history and Presbyterian Church in Canada government. Normally receiving presbyteries may tutor and examine such ministers using local resources or may require them to study at one of our denominational colleges. Ordained ministers and candidates certified for ordination in all other churches, upon approval of their application, are typically assigned two semesters of study at one of the colleges of this church, with courses to include a supervised theological field education placement in a congregation of The Presbyterian Church in Canada.

**CASES IN WHICH ACTION HAS BEEN COMPLETED****Special Course Candidates, Certified for Ordination by Presbyteries as Shown**

1. Lisa Dolson (Brimblecombe), Presbytery of Waterloo-Wellington
2. Ernest Naylor, Presbytery of Huron-Perth
3. Mikal C. Schomburg, Presbytery of London

**Graduates of Other Theological Colleges, Certified for Ordination by Presbyteries as Shown**

1. Allan Brouwer, Presbytery of Kootenay
2. Carluci Dos Santos, Presbytery of East Toronto
3. Teresa (Terry) McWhirter, Presbytery of Grey-Bruce-Maitland
4. Megan Purdy, Presbytery of Grey-Bruce-Maitland
5. Joseph Qian, Presbytery of Westminster

**Ministers of Other Churches, Received by Presbyteries as Shown**

1. Joseph Choi, Presbytery of Pickering
2. Nelson Imsung Lee, Presbytery of Eastern Han-Ca
3. Augustus Oku, Presbytery of West Toronto
4. Nagi Said, Presbytery of Oak Ridges

**Ministers of Reformed Churches, Received by Presbyteries as Shown**

1. Jong Woog Kim, Presbytery of Western Han-Ca

**CASES IN PROGRESS**

**Special Course Candidates**

1. Sean A. Angel, Presbytery of Barrie  
No information
2. Shelly Chandler, Presbytery of Westminster  
Continuing studies in Theology
3. Janice G. Dawson-Doyle, Presbytery of Hamilton  
No information
4. Glynis Faith, Presbytery of Prince Edward Island  
Continuing studies in Theology
5. Istvan C. Farkas, Presbytery of Essex-Kent  
Continuing studies in Arts
6. Patricia D. Heidebrecht, Presbytery of Niagara  
Continuing studies in Theology
7. Robert G. Howard, Presbytery of West Toronto  
Continuing studies in Arts
8. Angela M. Kirton, Presbytery of Barrie  
No information
9. Guy Laberge, Presbytery of Seaway-Glengarry  
Continuing studies in Theology
10. Seon Ok Lee, Presbytery of Eastern Han-Ca  
Continuing studies
11. Debora A. Lim, Presbytery of Brampton  
No information
12. William David McFarlane, Presbytery of Lanark & Renfrew  
No information
13. Samuel Silwamba, Presbytery of Westminster  
Continuing studies in Arts
14. Francis Owusu, Presbytery of West Toronto  
Continuing studies in Theology
15. Janet L. Taylor, Presbytery of Westminster  
Continuing studies in Theology

**Graduates of Other Theological Colleges Applying for Eligibility for Certification for Ordination**

1. Nam Sun Choi, Presbytery of Eastern Han-Ca  
Continuing studies in Theology
2. Suyeon Jin, Presbytery of Eastern Han-Ca  
Continuing studies in Theology
3. Alvin Eu-Shin Kim, Presbytery of East Toronto  
Continuing studies in Theology
4. Hyung Jun Kim, Presbytery of Western Han-Ca  
No information
5. Nancy I. Mostert, Presbytery of Hamilton  
No information

**Members of the Order of Diaconal Ministries Applying for Eligibility for Certification for Ordination**

1. Terrie-Lee Hamilton, Presbytery of East Toronto  
Studies on hold

**Ministers of Other Churches Applying for Eligibility for Reception**

1. Elizabeth A. Chan, Presbytery of Ottawa  
Completed studies
2. Phye-Huat (Pye) Chew, Presbytery of Brampton  
Completed studies
3. Mahendra Christi, Presbytery of Brampton  
No information
4. Niven Harrichand, Presbytery of Pickering  
Not currently studying
5. Tai-Hun David Oh, Presbytery of Western Han-Ca  
Withdrawn from studies
6. Nicolae Pavel, Presbytery of Waterloo-Wellington  
No information
7. Andras Rameshwar, Presbytery of London  
Not currently studying
8. Jaekil Yang, Presbytery of Western Han-Ca  
No information
9. Hounsek 'Joel' You, Presbytery of Calgary-MacLeod  
Continuing studies
10. Ibrahim Zabaneh, Presbytery of Winnipeg  
No information

**CASES TO BE DROPPED**

**Recommendation No. 20                      Adopted/Defeated/Amended**  
That the case of Patricia Ramkhelawn be dropped.

**NEW APPLICATIONS**

**Graduates of Other Theological Colleges Applying for Eligibility for Certification for Ordination**

1. Reine Boghos, Presbytery of Seaway-Glengarry

**Recommendation No. 21                      Adopted/Defeated/Amended**

That permission be granted to the Presbytery of Seaway-Glengarry to examine Ms. Reine Boghos for certification for ordination, subject to no competent objections being raised by a presbytery of this church

by July 31, 2016 and subject to satisfactory completion of 2 semesters (10 semester courses or equivalent) of theological study at one of the colleges of this church, with courses to include, Presbyterian Church in Canada history, Presbyterian Church in Canada government, Reformed Worship and a supervised theological field education placement in a congregation of The Presbyterian Church in Canada.

2. Diane E. Boyd, Presbytery of Waterloo-Wellington

**Recommendation No. 22                      Adopted/Defeated/Amended**

That permission be granted to the Presbytery of Waterloo-Wellington to examine Ms. Diane E. Boyd for certification for ordination, subject to no competent objections being raised by a presbytery of this church by July 31, 2016 and subject to satisfactory completion of 2 semesters (10 semester courses or equivalent) of theological study at one of the colleges of this church, with courses to include, Presbyterian Church in Canada history, Presbyterian Church in Canada government, pastoral care and a supervised theological field education placement in a congregation (other than her home congregation) of The Presbyterian Church in Canada.

3. Jonghwa (Joshua) Kim, Presbytery of Western Han-Ca

**Recommendation No. 23                      Adopted/Defeated/Amended**

That permission be granted to the Presbytery of Western Han-Ca to examine Mr. Jonghwa (Joshua) Kim for certification for ordination, subject to satisfactory completion of 2 semesters (10 semester courses or equivalent) of theological study at one of the colleges of this church, with courses to include, Reformed Theology, Reformed Sacraments, Presbyterian Church in Canada history, Presbyterian Church in Canada government, and a supervised theological field education placement in a Presbyterian Church in Canada congregation.

4. Saturnin Espoir Ntamba Ndandala , Presbytery of Montreal

**Recommendation No. 24                      Adopted/Defeated/Amended**

That the application of Mr. Saturnin Espoir N. Ndandala for eligibility for examination for certification for ordination not be approved.

**Certified Candidates applying for Eligibility for Reception**

1. Elkanah Shekari, Presbytery of Montreal

**Recommendation No. 25                      Adopted/Defeated/Amended**

That Mr. Elkanah K. Shekari be declared eligible for reception as a Certified Candidate for Ordination of The Presbyterian Church in Canada, subject to the successful completion of 2 semesters (10 semester courses or equivalent) of theological study at one of the colleges of this church, with courses to include Presbyterian Church in Canada history, Presbyterian Church in Canada government, and the supervised theological field education placement in a Presbyterian Church in Canada congregation currently in progress.

**Ministers of Other Churches Applying for Eligibility for Reception**

1. Pamela J. Carlson, U.S.A.

**Recommendation No. 26                      Adopted/Defeated/Amended**

That the Rev. Pamela J. Carlson be declared eligible for reception as a minister of The Presbyterian Church in Canada, subject to no competent objections being raised by a presbytery of this church by June 30, 2016, and subject to the successful completion of 1 semester (5 semester courses or equivalent) at one of the colleges of this church, with courses to include Presbyterian Church in Canada History, Presbyterian Church in Canada Government, and 3 further courses with a focus on the Presbyterian and Reformed tradition.

2. Robert J. Dean, Presbytery of Pickering

**Recommendation No. 27                      Adopted/Defeated/Amended**

That the Rev. Dr. Robert J. Dean be declared eligible for reception as a minister of The Presbyterian Church in Canada, subject to the successful completion of 1 semester (5 semester courses or equivalent) of theological study at one of the colleges of this church, with courses to include Presbyterian Church in Canada history, Presbyterian Church in Canada government, a supervised theological field placement in a

Presbyterian Church in Canada congregation, and study in areas such as Reformed worship, ecclesiology and sacraments.

3. Eok Kim, Presbytery of Montreal

**Recommendation No. 28                      Adopted/Defeated/Amended**

That the Rev. Eok Kim be declared eligible for reception as a minister of The Presbyterian Church in Canada, subject to the successful completion of 2 semesters (10 semester courses or equivalent) of theological study at one of the colleges of this church, with courses to include Presbyterian Church in Canada history and Presbyterian Church in Canada government.

4. Samuel Kim, Presbytery of Eastern Han-Ca

**Recommendation No. 29                      Adopted/Defeated/Amended**

That the Rev. Samuel Suyong Kim be declared eligible for reception as a minister of The Presbyterian Church in Canada, subject to the successful completion of 2 semesters (10 semester courses or equivalent) of theological study at one of the colleges of this church, with courses to include Presbyterian Church in Canada history and Presbyterian Church in Canada government.

5. Carnot Jacy Roque Jr., Brazil

**Recommendation No. 30                      Adopted/Defeated/Amended**

That the Rev. Carnot Jacy Roque Jr. not be declared eligible for reception as a minister of The Presbyterian Church in Canada.

**Ministers of Reformed Churches Applying for Eligibility for Reception**

1. Kyo Won Lee, Australia

**Recommendation No. 31                      Adopted/Defeated/Amended**

That the Rev. Dr. Kye Won Lee be declared eligible for reception as a minister of The Presbyterian Church in Canada, subject to the successful completion of 1 semester of theological study (5 semester courses or equivalent) at one of the colleges of this church, with courses to include Presbyterian Church in Canada history, Presbyterian Church in Canada government and a supervised theological field education placement in a Presbyterian Church in Canada congregation.

**Ministers and Certified Candidates of Reformed Churches Declared Eligible for Reception**

The following applicants have been declared eligible for reception, however in some cases their eligibility for reception has not yet come into effect. In all cases, presbyteries are circularized with information about the applicants and given opportunity to raise competent objections, based on their knowledge of the individuals. Until the period for raising objections has elapsed, applicants are not permitted to apply for calls and presbyteries are not permitted to place their names on the roll.

With respect to educational requirements, all are required to complete successfully examinations in Presbyterian Church in Canada history and Presbyterian Church in Canada government, prior to induction. In cases when only this study is assigned, Book of Forms sections 248.12 to 248.12.6 apply. However in other cases, Reformed Church applicants are assigned additional studies that must be completed successfully before the applicant is permitted to apply for calls or before a presbytery is permitted to place the applicant's name on its roll.

For these reasons, presbyteries are advised to confirm details with the Committee on Education and Reception before making a decision to receive one of the applicants named below.

1. Johann Heinrich Botha, Presbytery of Edmonton-Lakeland
2. SungBin Enoch Cho, Presbytery of Eastern Han-Ca
3. Sabino Diok, Presbytery of Calgary-Macleod
4. Ching-Hsi (Jonah) Lin, Taiwan
5. Sarina Odden Meyer, Presbytery of Montreal
6. Robert Paul, Presbytery of Westminster
7. Freddie Saleh, Presbytery of Oak Ridges
8. Gabriel Snyman, South Africa
9. Johan van den Heever, South Africa

**Committee on Education and Reception**

The Rev. Dr. Emily Bisset, Mr. Woon-Yong Chung, Mr. Brent Ellis, Ms. Jennifer De Combe, The Rev. Dr. Roland De Vries, The Rev. Dr. Ross Lockhart, The Rev. Heather Malnick (Convener), Ms. Anne Phillips, The Rev. Dr. Lynda Reid, The Rev. Susan Shaffer (Secretary), and The Rev. Dr. John Vissers

Wendy Paterson  
Convener

Ian Ross-McDonald  
General Secretary