

Presbytery constituted at 9:00 am after meditation and prayer by The Rev. Dr. Bob Paul (Moderator pro tem, as per prior adopted motion).

Present:

Constituent Roll:

M. Baxter, H. Botha, B. Childs, Y.T. Choi, L. Deacon, P. Dutcher-Walls, P. Eastwood, M. Fontaine, B. Fraser, S. Goble, D. Howard, G. Jay, T. Kim, V. Kim, J. Lin, B. Paul, R. Simpson, G. Sinclair, B. Skelding, J. Smith, G. Snyman, M. Szigeti, W. van de Wall, M. Wong.

N. Abramson, A. Bauman, A. Bassani (Alt for L. Gorman) A. Beattie, J. Christopherson, J. Con, B. Dennehy, I. Evans, B. Feick, D. Jennings, K. Kim, L. Kovacs, A. Lin, L. Lochhead (Alt for M. Allan), J. Low, R. Miller, K. Sewell, B. Shepansky, L. Tarko, R. Wensler, E. Wilson, P. Wong, L. Yen, M. Zaine.

Appendix:

A. Aicken, S. Cleland, R. Ross, W. Sosnowsky, R. Tiessen, R. Watson.

Students:

S. Bell, N. Hartley, M. Arsenault.

Regrets:

T. Hsieh, R. Lockhart, C. MacLeod, R. Topping, W. van der Westhuizen.

L. Gorman, K. Patrick, C. McLean (Alt for S. Stacey), G. Shields, S. Stacey, R. Steward.

B. Garvin, K. Jordan, A. Perrett.

Guests:

J. Calland, C. Finlayson, G. Finlayson, P. Goddard, M. Graham, R. Harry, S. Harry, A. Hartley, S. Hession, R. Jansen, P. Klassen, K. LaRoy, P. Marcais, M. Meszaros, H. Nordine, S. Osborne, M. Pigott, D. Rausch, C. Robosura, L. Sinclair, E. Sparrow, D. Tarko, J. Tiessen, C. Zathureczky, P. Zathureczky.

The Moderator welcomed guests from a number of Sessions within the presbytery.

Motion to adopt the agenda for the day as presented, with representatives of three Sessions making presentations to the court: St. Aidan's, First Hungarian and Cooke's, moved by David Jennings, seconded by Geof Jay. **CARRIED**

Brad Childs spoke to the history of the PCC decisions around issues of Human Sexuality and how the current General Assembly Remits B and C, 2019, have come about.

Victor Kim spoke to the process around the Barrier Act, that changes to the doctrine of the church need the approval of one General Assembly, then the majority of presbyteries across the denomination representing the majority of presbyters within those presbyteries, followed by the approval of the subsequent General Assembly. The support of the presbyteries does not necessarily mean that the subsequent General Assembly must approve the remits. Each Assembly may do as it discerns is appropriate.

After a break, representatives from the three Sessions noted above addressed the court.

The court rose for an early lunch at 11:15 AM.

After lunch, the court expressed thanks for the hospitality provided by the people of St. Andrew's and St. Stephen's Presbyterian Church.

At 12:15 PM, the court was reconvened by the Moderator.

It was moved by Neil Abramson, seconded by Bev Shepansky, that the presbytery move into a closed court, and also into a committee of the whole. **CARRIED**

Moved by Brian Fraser, seconded by Martin Baxter, that those on the appendix to the roll, along with theological students under our care and any alternate elders who may be present be granted permission to remain and to sit and correspond without vote. **CARRIED**

Moved by Geof Jay, seconded by Jim Smith, that the presbytery vote on the remits by ballot. **CARRIED**

The presbytery entered into discussion within the committee of the whole.

As part of the conversation, David Jennings presented information from two independently obtained legal opinions around possible implications of the remits should they be adopted by the church.

After discussion, it was moved by Dennis Howard, seconded by Willem van de Wall, that the presbytery move out of the committee of the whole but remain as a closed court and move to vote on Remits B and C, 2019. **CARRIED**

Votes were cast and counted.

Moved by Willem van de Wall, seconded by Ken Sewell that the numerical results of the votes be disclosed. **CARRIED**

Remit B was defeated by a vote of 25 to 22.

Remit C was defeated by a vote of 24 to 23.

The Clerk of Presbytery will report to the Clerks of Assembly the decisions of the Presbytery of Westminster, along with the note that the presbytery has 60 people on the constituent roll as of November 13, 2019.

All responses from the various presbyteries must be received by the Clerks of Assembly by April 1, 2020.

Moved by Brian Fraser, seconded by Bev Shepansky, that the court be adjourned. **CARRIED**

The Moderator closed the court with prayer at 2:00 PM.