



Moderator: The Rev. James T. Hurd

Clerk: Mrs. Donna McIlveen

135th Synod Meeting Highlights

Commissioners from the five presbyteries within the bounds of the Synod of Quebec and Eastern Ontario (le Synode du Québec et de l'Est de l'Ontario) gathered on Friday, October 16th and Saturday, October 17th, 2009 at Westminster Presbyterian Church, Ottawa, Ontario and within the bounds of the Presbytery of Ottawa for the 135th Synod meeting.

The moderator of the 134th Synod, the Rev. Mark Bourgon opened the meeting with worship at 2:00 p.m. Friday afternoon, including the celebration of the Sacrament of Holy Communion. Following opening worship and the constitution of the court, the election of the moderator of the 135th synod meeting was held. The Rev. James T. Hurd from the Presbytery of Ottawa was elected and installed.

The business of the court continued with the receiving and considering of various reports including from the Committee on Business, the Finance Committee, the Treasurer, the Mission/Robert Fund Committee, the Youth Committee, the Regional Staffing Committee, the Sexual Abuse and Sexual Harassment Committee and the WMS Synodical. In addition to the committee reports, the court was pleased to hear a report from the two Regional Staff, Anita Mack who serves the synod in the Presbyteries of Montreal and Quebec, and also from Christine Ball who serves the synod in the Presbyteries of Ottawa, Lanark and Renfrew and Seaway-Glengarry.

On Friday evening the synod was pleased to welcome as their guest speaker the Honourable Mr. David Kilgour, retired Member of Parliament for Southeast Edmonton 1979-2006. David Kilgour addressed the synod on the topic of “Minimizing Persecution of Spiritual Communities Internationally”. His challenging and thought-provoking address can be found on the synod webpage. (www.presbyterian.ca/qeosynod).

The synod reconvened on Saturday morning and began with morning worship lead by the synod moderator, James T. Hurd. Following opening worship, the synod was pleased to welcome Miss Mary Gorombey, PCC mission partner with the Reformed Church in Hungary (www.presbyterian.ca/webfm_send/45). Mary's address included an informative power-point presentation on her ministry work.

The synod was pleased to receive camping updates from the two camps located within the bounds. Douglas Kendall, chair of the Board of Directors of the Gracefield Christian Camp and

Retreat Centre, presented an update on the transition process and plans for the upcoming camping season. In addition the synod received a report from Craig Dewar, convenor of the Camp Board for Camp d'action biblique (CAB). The reports provided the commissioners with information about the two camps and their respective camping ministries

The Synod of Quebec and Eastern Ontario resolved at its meeting to distribute a survey to all elders within the bounds concerning the effects of a commissioned court upon our synod. The synod has been functioning as a commissioned court since 2001. The survey asked the following question: "Are you in favour of continuing the meetings of the Synod as a commissioned court? Following the synod meeting the survey was sent to each Clerk of Session within the bounds, with a request that it be copied and distributed to each elder, and that all elders prayerfully consider the survey and return it before Christmas.

The synod adjourned at 1:25 p.m. and will meet again on October 15th and 16th, 2009 within St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Melbourne, Québec.

Many heartfelt thanks are extended to the congregation of Westminster Presbyterian Church, Ottawa for their gracious hospitality.