

137th 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 21st and Saturday, October 22nd, 2011 at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church in Perth, Ontario for the 137th Synod meeting.

The moderator of the 136th Synod, the Rev. Dr. Douglas Robinson 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 137th synod meeting was held. The Rev. Marilyn Savage from the Presbytery of Lanark & Renfrew 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 Regional Staffing 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.

The Moderator welcomed David Morris as the Convener of the Synod Finance Committee. It was also noted that the position of Synod Historian has been filled by John Vaudry. The Moderator also extended thanks to two retiring members of the Synod Missions Committee. Thanks were extended to Sarah MacDonald for her 14 years of service as the representative from the Presbytery of Québec, and to Donald MacMillan for his time on the committee as the representative from the Presbytery of Ottawa and as the Committee Convener for the last six years.

On Friday evening the Synod hosted a panel entitled "The Future of the Church". The theme speaker was the Rev. Dr. Dale Woods, Director of Pastoral Studies at Presbyterian College. The panel members were the Rev. Calvin Brown, immediate Past-Executive Director of the Renewal Fellowship, the Rev. Jeremy Bellsmith,

The Rev. Marilyn Savage, Moderator
Mrs. Donna McIlveen, Clerk

minister at Burn's Presbyterian Church, and the Rev. Dr. Rick Fee, General Secretary of the Life and Mission Agency.

On Saturday morning, the synod was also 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, addressed the synod and showed a power-point presentation on Gracefield. The synod also received a report from Craig Dewar, convenor of the Camp Board for Camp d'action biblique. The Synod commends Camp d'action biblique on achieving accreditation for 2012.

At the 136th synod meeting of 2010, the synod struck a committee to examine the role, structure, and function of synod, including place and location, to the end of strengthening ministry. The committee presented their report, and following a lengthy discussion the synod resolved that “On a trial basis the Synod meet as a fully represented court consisting of the constituent members of the five Presbyteries, every third year, beginning in 2013, in a conference style and that Synod apply to the Life and Mission Agency for a conference grant to help pay for the additional costs, and that the Synod appoint a committee representing all of its presbyteries to plan such a conference, focusing on the mission of the Synod.”

Following two years of lying fallow, the Synod agreed that the Youth Committee would be dissolved. The matters overseen by the Youth Committee – the Synod’s participation in Canada Youth, Youth in Mission, other youth mission endeavours and youth programming will be assumed by the Regional Staff with consultation as necessary with the Synod Council.

The Synod resolved at its meeting to make up the funding shortfall for the year 2012 by including an assessment to the presbyteries for Regional Staff, calculated on the dollar base.

The synod adjourned at 2:20 p.m. and will meet again on October 19th and 20th, 2012 within the bounds of the Presbytery of Montréal.

Many heartfelt thanks are extended to the congregation of St. Andrew’s Presbyterian Church, Perth, for their gracious hospitality.