

**LE SYNODE DU QUÉBEC ET DE L'EST DE L'ONTARIO
L'ÉGLISE PRESBYTÉRIENNE AU CANADA**

MINUTES AND REPORTS

**The 143rd Annual Synod Meeting
October 21st and 22nd, 2017**

**The Church of St. Andrew and St. Paul
Montréal, Québec**

THE PRESBYTERY OF MONTRÉAL



**THE SYNOD OF QUEBEC AND EASTERN ONTARIO
THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN CANADA**

The 143rd annual meeting of the Synod of Québec and Eastern Ontario

The Church of St. Andrew and St. Paul, Montréal, Québec

Friday and Saturday, October 20th and October 21st, 2017

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THE CHURCH OF ST. ANDREW AND ST. PAUL

The Church of St. Andrew and St. Paul, Montreal, celebrates the 214th year of its foundation in 2017, making it one of the oldest congregations in the Synod. St. Andrew's dates from 1803 and St. Paul's from 1834. Both acknowledge St. Gabriel Street Church (1787) as their mother church. St. Andrew's (described as "a church for tradesmen and mechanics") at the beginning was part of the Associate Reformed Synod of Scotland and was known as the St. Peter Street church. It became Church of Scotland in 1822 and moved to Beaver Hall Hill 25 years later, building an impressive church with a tall steeple inspired by Salisbury Cathedral. The church was destroyed by fire in 1869, but rebuilt the following year. In 1875, the congregation voted against joining the Presbyterian Church in Canada but in 1919 when St. Andrew's united with St. Paul's, was received back into the fold.

St. Paul's, the second daughter of Saint Gabriel Street, was built on St. Helen Street, moving to Dorchester Street in 1867. It was not far from St. Andrew's, in governance and worship, as well as distance. In 1919, the two congregations united in the Dorchester Street church, St. Andrew's bringing its stained-glass windows, memorial plaques and much of its furnishings to the now Church of St. Andrew and St. Paul. The following year, a chancel and the Black Watch Window was added. A few years later, St. Andrew's was sold, now the headquarters of the Bell Telephone Company. In 1930, the congregation was forced to move yet again, its property expropriated by the Canadian Northern Railway.

In 1932, the present Church of St. Andrew and St. Paul was dedicated on Sherbrooke Street, where Kildonan Hall, the home of the Mackay family, once stood. An award-winning design, it has served the congregation well ever since. Since its foundation, there have been six ministers of St. Andrew's, the longest serving being Dr. Alexander Mathieson (44 years); six ministers of St. Paul's, two of which became principal of Queen's University; and eight ministers of St. Andrew and St. Paul, of which Dr. Glenn Chestnutt is the present incumbent, Dr. Kay Diviney being the associate minister. Long known for the strength of its music program, Dr. Jonathan Oldengarm is Director of Music and Dr. Jean-Sebastien Vallée, conductor of the choir of more than 60 voices. St. Andrew and St. Paul is the regimental church of The Black Watch (Royal Highland Regiment) of Canada.



The Church
of St. Andrew
and St. Paul

**THE MINUTES AND REPORTS OF
THE ONE HUNDRED AND FORTY-THIRD ANNUAL MEETING
OF
THE SYNOD OF QUÉBEC AND EASTERN ONTARIO
OF
THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN CANADA
HELD AT MONTRÉAL, QUÉBEC
OCTOBER 20th – 21st, 2017**

FIRST SEDERUNT

In the City of Montréal, Québec, on Friday the twentieth day of October in the year of our Lord two thousand and seventeen at two o'clock in the afternoon:

At which place and time, the ministers and ruling elders being commissioners from the several presbyteries of The Synod of Québec and Eastern Ontario of The Presbyterian Church in Canada, convened as appointed by The Synod of Québec and Eastern Ontario held in the City of Ottawa, Ontario, in its final sederunt on the twenty-second day of October 2016.

The public worship of God was held in the sanctuary chancel of The Church of St. Andrew and St. Paul, Montréal, Québec. The service was conducted jointly by the Rev. Dr. Kay Diviney, Associate Minister of the Church of St. Andrew and St. Paul, and the Moderator of the 142nd annual synod meeting, the Rev. John Vaudry. Music was provided by Mr. Matthew Johnson, Organ Scholar. The scripture lesson was from Romans 5:1-11 and the message given by the Rev. John Vaudry was entitled "Justified by faith". The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper was celebrated.

Following the worship service, a short break was held.

SYNOD CONSTITUTED

At 3:15 o'clock in the afternoon, the Moderator, the Rev. John Vaudry constituted the Synod with prayer in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, the only King and Head of the Church, to transact all the business which might properly come before it.

MEMORIAL SERVICE

The clerk read the names of elders within the synod who had died during the previous year, followed by the reading of memorial minutes for the Rev. Dr. Joseph C. McLelland and the Rev. Dr. William J. Klempa.

Presbytery of Québec

No names received.

Presbytery of Montréal

1. The Rev. Dr. Joseph C. McLelland, December 20, 2016
2. The Rev. Dr. William J. Klempa, March 4, 2017

1. Mrs. Jean Macdonald, Taiwanese Robert Campbell Church, August 4, 2017

Presbytery of Seaway-Glengarry

1. Ray Smollett, Riverview Church (formerly Knox), Iroquois, November 14, 2016
2. Shirley Margaret Warner, St. John's Church, Cornwall, February 24, 2017
3. Lorraine Dobbie, St. Andrew's-Knox Church, Spencerville, May 30, 2017
4. Ronald Sullivan, St. John's Church, Cornwall, August 21, 2017

Clerk:

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Memorial Service (cont'd):

Presbytery of Ottawa

1. George Brown, Grace Church, Orleans, November 2, 2016
2. George Owen Toller, St. Timothy's Church, Ottawa, December 13, 2016
3. Raymond Baker Pepperdine, Knox Church, Ottawa, December 22, 2016
4. Ena McMahon, Westminster Church, Ottawa, May 5, 2017
5. Glaister (Roy) McKain, Knox Church, Ottawa, May 24, 2017
6. Doreen Annette McCully, St. Timothy's Church, Ottawa, August 16, 2017
7. Robert Bell, St. Andrew's Church, Kars, October 2, 2017

Presbytery of Lanark & Renfrew

No names received.

The Moderator, the Rev. John Vaudry, offered a prayer of thanksgiving for the faithful life, service, witness and dedication to the Church, by all the servants who had passed on.

MOTION: It was moved by Donna McIlveen and seconded by Barbara Fotheringham that the memorial records presented to the synod be included in the minutes of the 141st synod meeting. ADOPTED.

The Memorial Records for the Rev. Dr. Joseph C. McLelland and the Rev. Dr. William J. Klempa, are found at Appendix M – pages 82-83.

WELCOME

On behalf of the session and congregation of The Church of St. Andrew and St. Paul, Montréal, and the Rev. Dr. Glenn Chestnutt, Lead Minister, the Rev. Dr. Kay Diviney welcomed the members of synod, visitors and guests to the 143rd annual meeting of the Synod of Québec and Eastern Ontario.

THE ROLL OF SYNOD

Recommendation No. 1

MOTION: It was moved by Donna McIlveen and seconded by Barbara Fotheringham that the Roll of Synod be those Commissioners appointed by its several presbyteries. ADOPTED.

Presbytery of Quebec

The Rev. Katherine Burgess

The Rev. Barbara Fotheringham

Ms. Gina Farnell **

Mr. Harry Brown*

Presbytery of Montreal

Rev. Sampson Afoakwah

Rev. Stephen Azundem

Rev. Richard Bonetto

Rev. Joel Coppieters

Rev. Dr. Barry Mack

Mr. David Christiani

Ms. Anita Mack

Ms. Margarita Medina-Ibanez

Ms. Moira Robson

Mr. Donald Walcot

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Roll – Regrets (cont’d):

Presbytery of Seaway-Glengarry

The Rev. Samer Kandalaft

The Rev. Cheryl Gaver

The Rev. Ian MacLean

Mr. James Purcell

Mrs. Donna McIlveen

Presbytery of Ottawa

The Rev. William Ball

The Rev. Douglas Kendall

The Rev. Floyd McPhee

The Rev. James Pot

The Rev. Grant Wilson

Ms. Debi Brown

Mr. Peter Lamont

Ms. Olive O’May

Ms. Sharon Stewart

Mr. Gordon Walford

Presbytery of Lanark and Renfrew

The Rev. Jill Turnbull

The Rev. John Vaudry

Note: * regrets

underlined name indicates a member of Synod Council

** regrets Friday only

Regrets from Synod Council:

Mrs. Phyllis McNab (Clerk to the Presbytery of Lanark and Renfrew).

VISITORS

The Past Moderator welcomed the visitors to the synod meeting.

Synod Council:

The Rev. Ross Davidson (Synod Treasurer); Dr. Michael Pettem (Clerk to the Presbytery of Montréal); the Rev. James T. Hurd (Clerk to the Presbytery of Ottawa); Ms. Patricia Grainger (WMS Synodical President).

Others:

Mr. Craig Dewar (Camp d’action biblique); the Rev. Susan Smith (Presbytery of Québec); Ms. Gloria Purcell (Presbytery of Seaway-Glengarry); the Rev. Shahrzad Kandalaft (Presbytery of Ottawa); and Ms. Jennifer de Combe (Associate Secretary, Canadian Ministries).

MOTION: It was moved by Donna McIlveen and seconded by Barbara Fotheringham that the courtesies of the court, to sit and correspond, be extended to the visitors. **ADOPTED.**

ELECTION OF THE MODERATOR

The time having come to elect a Moderator to preside over the 143rd annual meeting of the Synod of Québec and Eastern Ontario, the clerk reported that one nomination for Moderator had been received from three of the five presbyteries within the bounds of the Synod of Québec and Eastern Ontario. By rotation the nominees were to come from the Presbytery of Québec. The nominees were: from the Presbytery of Québec, the Presbytery of Seaway-Glengarry and the Presbytery of Ottawa, the Rev. Katherine Burgess. The clerk contacted the nominee prior to the synod meeting and she indicated her willingness to let her nomination stand.

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Election of Moderator (cont'd):

MOTION: It was moved by Donna McIlveen and seconded by Barbara Fotheringham that the name of the Rev. Katherine Burgess be placed before the Synod of Québec and Eastern Ontario as a nominee for Moderator of the 143rd synod meeting. ADOPTED.

The Moderator, the Rev. John Vaudry, called for nominations from the floor. There were no further nominations.

MOTION: It was moved by Donna McIlveen and seconded by Barbara Fotheringham that nominations cease. ADOPTED.

The Moderator, the Rev. John Vaudry, declared the Rev. Katherine Burgess elected Moderator of the 143rd Synod of Québec and Eastern Ontario.

INSTALLATION OF THE MODERATOR

Moderator elect, the Rev. Katherine Burgess was invited to step forward. The Moderator, the Rev. John Vaudry, asked the court the appointed questions, followed by the appointed questions to the moderator elect. The Rev. John Vaudry then offered prayer and installed the Rev. Katherine Burgess as Moderator of the 143rd Synod of Québec and Eastern Ontario. The Rev. John Vaudry then offered the right hand of fellowship to the Rev. Katherine Burgess.

The Rev. Katherine Burgess thanked the Court for the privilege of serving as Moderator of the 143rd annual Synod meeting.

The Moderator then thanked the Rev. John Vaudry for his leadership service to the Court this past year.

The Rev. John Vaudry thanked the court for the confidence placed in him this past year.

The court showed its appreciation with a round of applause.

MINUTES OF PRESBYTERIES AND SYNOD COUNCIL

The Synod called for the minutes of the several presbyteries within the bounds, and the minutes of the synod council, that they might be placed in the hands of the Committee to Examine Minutes.

The clerk announced that the minutes from the Presbytery of Québec, the Presbytery of Montréal, the Presbytery of Seaway-Glengarry, the Presbytery of Ottawa, and the synod council were available for examination.

The minutes from the Presbytery of Lanark and Renfrew were not available.

MOTION: It was moved by Donna McIlveen and seconded by Barbara Fotheringham that a Special Commission be established consisting of Gordon Walford and James T. Hurd and that they be given power to examine and attest the minutes from the Presbytery of Lanark and Renfrew and to report on their attestation at the 144th annual synod meeting in 2018. ADOPTED.

REPORTS

MOTION: It was moved by Donna McIlveen and seconded by Barbara Fotheringham that all reports circulated in advance of the 143rd annual synod meeting be received and considered. ADOPTED.

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ADOPTION OF THE DOCKET

Under Fourth Sederunt: the date was corrected from the 17th to the 21st of October.

MOTION: It was moved by Donna McIlveen and seconded by Barbara Fotheringham that the proposed docket, as corrected, be approved. ADOPTED.

(Appendix – pages 1-2)

MINUTES OF THE 142nd ANNUAL SYNOD MEETING

The minutes of the 142nd annual meeting of the Synod of Québec and Eastern Ontario were posted on the synod website, with each presbytery receiving two print copies.

Correction: page 21

The names of the mover and seconder are missing with Recommendations 11, 13, and 14. The recommendations were moved by James T. Hurd and seconded by Barbara Fotheringham.

MOTION: It was moved by Ian MacLean and seconded by Gordon Walford that the minutes of the 142nd meeting of the Synod of Québec and Eastern Ontario be adopted, as corrected. ADOPTED.

CORRESPONDENCE

MOTION: It was moved by Donna McIlveen and seconded by Peter Lamont that the following items of correspondence be received. ADOPTED.

1. Camp d'action biblique. CAB 2016 Winter Newsletter, 2017 CAB schedule and Christmas card thanking the Synod for its continued support. Rec'd December 19, 2016.
2. Jen de Combe, Associate Secretary, Canadian Ministries. Letter with request for the synod to name one non-staff member to serve on a consultation group made up of representatives from each synod to get feedback about the needs and value of the Regional Resourcing Grants programme, so that eventually terms of reference for the *Regional Resourcing Grants* programme can be prepared. Rec'd June 5, 2017.

MOTION: It was moved by Barbara Fotheringham and seconded by Richard Bonetto that Donna McIlveen, synod clerk, be named to the Canadian Ministries consultation group established to receive feedback about the needs and value of the Regional Resourcing Grants programme. ADOPTED.

3. Assembly Office. Synod Minutes from the 141st annual meeting in 2015 returned after examination by the 143rd General Assembly – attested as neatly kept with note. Rec'd June 26, 2017.
4. Jennifer de Combe, Associate Secretary, Canadian Ministries. Letter noting that the 143rd General Assembly approved the 2018 budget for regional resourcing as presented, and the funds available for the Synod in 2018 are \$61,986. Rec'd July 10, 2017.
5. Stephen Kendall, Principal Clerk. Letter with (1) actions of the 2017 General Assembly for attention of synods, and (2) dates for submission of petitions (Tuesday, April 3, 2018) and overtures (referred: Thursday, February 1, 2018; unrefereed, Tuesday, April 3, 2018). Rec'd August 28, 2017.

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Correspondence (cont'd):

6. Re: Nominations for Synod Moderator:
 - (a) from the Presbytery of Seaway-Glengarry: Katherine Burgess. Rec'd June 12, 2017
 - (b) from the Presbytery of Ottawa: Katherine Burgess. Rec'd June 20, 2017
 - (c) from the Presbytery of Québec: Katherine Burgess. Rec'd June 29, 2017
7. Michael Pettem, Clerk to the Presbytery of Montréal. Extract minute stating the wish of the Presbytery that the Synod be dissolved. Rec'd October 19, 2017.

MOTION: It was moved by Donna McIlveen and seconded by Richard Bonetto that the correspondence report, including its recommendation, be adopted. ADOPTED.

INTRODUCTION OF JENNIFER DE COMBE

The Moderator welcomed to the court Jennifer de Combe, Associate Secretary, Canadian Ministries. Jennifer de Combe thanked the Synod of Québec and Eastern Ontario for the opportunity to be present for the annual meeting, and invited anyone with questions about the work of Canadian Ministries to speak to her. She brought greetings from the staff at national offices in Toronto, Ontario and noted that every Monday prayer is offered up by the national staff for the synods across the country.

COMMITTEE ON BUSINESS

MOTION: It was moved by Donna McIlveen and seconded by Joel Coppieters that the Report of the Committee on Business be received and considered. ADOPTED.

Consent Recommendation

It was moved by John Vaudry and seconded by Donna McIlveen that Recommendation Nos. 2-11 be adopted by consent. ADOPTED.

Recommendation No. 2

That attendance be recorded in the Synod's Register, and travel expenses be paid upon authorization of the Finance Committee in consultation with the Committee on the Roll and Leave to Withdraw.

Recommendation No. 3

That members of Synod Council be invited and expected to attend the meeting of Synod, and that, if necessary, their expenses be paid on the same basis as those of synod members.

Recommendation No. 4

That commissioners desiring to leave the Synod early, receive permission from the court through the Committee on the Roll and Leave to Withdraw.

Recommendation No. 5

That the Committee on the Roll and Leave to Withdraw be Sampson Afoakwah and Joel Coppieters from the Presbytery of Montréal.

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Committee on Business (cont'd):

Recommendation No. 6

That the Committee to Examine Presbytery Minutes and Minutes of the Synod Council be convened by John Vaudry from the Presbytery of Lanark & Renfrew, together with Grant Wilson and Olive O'May from the Presbytery of Ottawa, and that permission be granted to work during the meeting as necessary.

Recommendation No. 7

That the Committee on Courtesies be Ian MacLean and James Purcell from the Presbytery of Seaway-Glengarry.

Recommendation No. 8

That the Committee to review the Minutes of the meeting of the 142nd Synod of Quebec and Eastern Ontario be the Moderator of Synod and the Clerk of the Presbytery of Québec.

Recommendation No. 9

That Synod Council be authorized to fill any vacancies which may occur within the membership of Synod Committees prior to the next Synod meeting.

Recommendation No. 10

That the Synod Council be given power to issue, to advance any nominations to the General Assembly Committee to Nominate on behalf of the Synod, and to encourage members to consider the various committee and agencies for possible nominations to them.

Recommendation No. 11

That the Moderator and the immediate Past Moderator, in consultation with the synod clerk and synod council, be appointed the Commission on Unfinished Business.

It was agreed to consider Recommendations No. 12 and 13 from the Committee on Business at a later sederunt.

Break – a break was held from 3:50 – 4:00 pm.

Motion from the floor

The following motion was brought forward from the floor, moved by Peter Lamont and seconded by Doug Kendall,

That:

This assembly go on record as deploring the vilification of Muslim women who under Bill 62 (entitled 'An Act to Foster Adherence to State Religious Neutrality') are denied provincial government services in Québec simply for choosing to wear face-covering clothing, such as niqab or burqa, that manifests, for them, their faith in God.

And that:

The Moderator of the Synod write to the Premier of Québec, with a copy to the Minister of Justice of Québec, in these terms, and the web-servant post the letter to the web-site of the synod.

It was agreed that consideration of the motion be deferred to a later sederunt.

Clerk:

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SPECIAL COMMITTEE RE: POSSIBLE DISSOLUTION OF SYNOD

The following recommendation was adopted at the 142nd annual synod meeting:

That a special committee be struck to investigate the advisability of dissolving the synod and the ramifications and necessary contingencies should the synod be dissolved, and that the five presbyteries earnestly consider the future configuration and organization of the presbyteries and communicate their respective positions to the synod special committee.

The Moderator of the 142nd annual synod meeting named the following persons to the special committee:

David Christiani, convener, Karen Dimock, Jill Turnbull, Geoff Howard, James T. Hurd.

An advisory report was prepared by the Special Committee, and at the beginning of September 2017 it was circulated to the presbyteries within the bounds of the Synod and posted to the synod website. (Appendix B – pages 3-39)

Recommendation No. 1

It was moved by David Christiani and seconded by Jill Turnbull that the Synod receive and consider the committee's advisory report.

David Christiani spoke to the recommendation.

On being put to the vote, Recommendation No. 1 was ADOPTED.

Recommendation No. 2

It was moved by David Christiani and seconded by Jill Turnbull that the five constituent presbyteries should study the report and make an effort to re-envision and re-imagine what the synod is – why it exists – what its purpose is – and how can it best fulfill its purpose.

No matter which direction the conversation takes on the floor of Synod, the commissioners need to keep in mind that:

- The dissolution of the synod, or continuation of the synod, does not need to be unanimously supported by presbyteries.
- Even if two presbyteries support the pro position and three espouse the con position, the ultimate decision will be based on the vote of the commissioners present in October.
- Commissioners should therefore be well familiar with the contents of this report as they formulate their own views and decide how to vote.
- If the synod adopts our recommendation 2, then the presbyteries would have a year to study and to respond. The final decision on the question of supporting dissolution may well not be made until 2019.
- If there is sufficient support to pursue dissolution, the dissolution plan would be forwarded to the General Assembly for its consideration and decision. This regime would only therefore be in place in 2019.

Discussion on Recommendation No. 2 ensued.

The question was called for. It was agreed to take an immediate vote.

On being put to the vote Recommendation No. 2 was DEFEATED.

A count of the vote was requested.

The clerk indicated that there were 6 votes in favour and 18 votes against.

Clerk:

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Special Committee re: Possible Dissolution of Synod (cont'd):

MOTION: It was moved by Jim Pot and seconded by Cheryl Gaver that Synod appoint a special committee to develop a plan to re-imagine its role and function and report back to the 144th Synod in 2018.

AMENDMENT: It was moved by Ian MacLean and seconded by Jim Purcell that the following words be added to the end of the motion: 'in consultation with the presbyteries'.

Discussion on the amendment.

On being put to the vote the amendment was DEFEATED.

Discussion on the motion continued.

MOTION TO TABLE: It was moved by Ian MacLean and seconded by Samer Kandalaft that the motion be tabled. ADOPTED.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

At 5:15 pm the Moderator called for the Finance Committee report.

1. Treasurer's Report

(Appendix C – pages 40-43)

Ross Davidson, treasurer, presented the following reports:

a) Auditor's Letter for 2016

b) Treasurer's Report on Synod Finances from January 1, 2016 to December 31, 2016

Recommendation No. 1

It was moved by Barbara Fotheringham and seconded by Barry Mack that the Auditor's Letter of 2016 be received and the Treasurer's Report on Synod Finances from January 1, 2016 to December 31, 2016 be adopted. ADOPTED.

c) Treasurer's Report on Synod Finances from January 1, 2017 to October 15, 2017

Recommendation No. 2

It was moved by Barbara Fotheringham and seconded by Barry Mack that the Treasurer's Report on Synod Finances from January 1, 2017 to October 15, 2017 be received for information. ADOPTED.

d) Treasurer's Forecast for Synod Finances to December 31, 2017

Recommendation No. 3

It was moved by Barbara Fotheringham and seconded by Barry Mack that the Treasurer's Forecast for Synod Finances to December 31, 2017, be received for information. ADOPTED.

Recommendation No. 4

It was moved by Gordon Walford and seconded by Richard Bonetto that Suzanne Aubre be engaged to review the Synod financial statements for the year 2017. ADOPTED.

Clerk:

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Finance Committee (cont'd):

2. Budget and Assessments 2018 (Appendix D – pages 44-47)

MOTION: It was moved by Debi Brown and seconded by Doug Kendall that the Finance Committee report, including the 2018 proposed expenditure budget, the 2018 proposed presbytery assessments, and the 5-year forecast, and the dollar base by presbytery five-year trend, be received and considered. ADOPTED.

Gordon Walford, Finance Committee convener, introduced the 2018 budget.

Discussion on the 2018 budget ensued.

MOTION: It was moved by Ian MacLean and seconded by Richard Bonetto that further consideration of the Finance Committee report, including the 2018 proposed budget of expenditures, the 2018 proposed presbytery assessments, the 5-year forecast, and the dollar base by presbytery five-year trend, be deferred to a later sederunt. ADOPTED.

COMMITTEE RE SEXUAL ABUSE AND SEXUAL HARASSMENT

Katherine Burgess, committee convener, indicated that there was no report.

SYNOD WEBSERVANT

Gordon Walford, Synod Webservant, presented the report. (Appendix E – page 48)

The synod website is a tremendous asset, resource and vital communication tool. It contains contact information for congregations and clergy within the bounds, and is updated on a regular basis. The website is the main source of communication for the synod meeting, providing information for commissioners including reports.

The Moderator thanked Gordon Walford for his service to the Synod.

MOTION: It was moved by Gordon Walford and seconded by Barbara Fotheringham that the report of the Synod Webservant be adopted. ADOPTED.

SYNOD HISTORIAN

John Vaudry, Synod Historian, presented the report. (Appendix F – page 49)

The Synod Historian report makes note of the 150th anniversary of Confederation, the passing of Dr. William Klempa and Dr. Joseph McLelland, the Canadian Society of Presbyterian History, the Five Solas events, and the completion of the digitized form of the book *Enduring Witness*.

MOTION: It was moved by John Vaudry and seconded by Cheryl Gaver that the report of the Synod Historian be adopted. ADOPTED.

WMS SYNODICAL

Patricia Grainger, WMS Synodical President, presented the report. (Appendix G – page 50)

The report highlighted two events participated in by members of the WMS Synodical in 2017: The National Woman's Gathering held in Richmond Hill, Ontario from May 19th – 22nd, and the fall meeting of WMS Synodical, held in Kemptville, Ontario on October 14th.

The 143rd annual meeting of the Synod of Québec and Eastern Ontario

The Church of St. Andrew and St. Paul, Montréal, Québec

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WMS Synodical (cont'd):

MOTION: It was moved by Doug Kendall and seconded by Ian MacLean that the report of the WMS Synodical be adopted. ADOPTED.

Motion from page 7

The Moderator asked that the motion be read once more:

MOTION: It was moved by Peter Lamont and seconded by Doug Kendall that this assembly go on record as deploring the vilification of Muslim women who under Bill 62 (entitled 'An Act to Foster Adherence to State Religious Neutrality') are denied provincial government services in Québec simply for choosing to wear face-covering clothing, such as niqab or burqa, that manifests, for them, their faith in God;
And that the Moderator of the Synod write to the Premier of Québec, with a copy to the Minister of Justice of Québec, in these terms, and the web-servant post the letter to the web-site of the synod.

Discussion on the motion ensued.

Time: The hour for adjournment having arrived, the Moderator called time.

COMMITTEE ON THE ROLL AND LEAVE TO WITHDRAW

MOTION: It was moved by Sampson Afoakwah and seconded by Joel Coppieters that leave to withdraw be granted to Stephen Azundem, David Christiani and Doug Kendall for the second sederunt and Grant Wilson at 11:30 in the third sederunt. ADOPTED.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: It was moved by Grant Wilson and seconded by Ian MacLean that the Synod adjourn. ADOPTED.

The Moderator, at six-ten o'clock in the evening, adjourned the Synod to reconvene at seven o'clock in the evening in the same place.

The sederunt was closed with prayer by the Moderator.

Moderator

Clerk

SECOND SEDERUNT

On Friday, the twentieth day of October, two thousand and seventeen, at seven fifteen o'clock in the evening within The Church of St. Andrew and St. Paul, Montréal, Québec, the Synod met pursuant to adjournment.

The Moderator constituted the Synod with prayer.

Clerk:

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GUEST SPEAKER

The Moderator invited Dr. Jason Zuidema to address the court. His theme address was entitled “Justification by Faith and the Christian Life: Luther's Insight for Today” marking the 500th anniversary of the Reformation.

Dr. Jason Zuidema, using a power-point presentation which included magnificent images and descriptions from the time of the Reformation, brought Luther’s insights to the synod gathering with a captivating address. He spoke on the divisions of Protestantism, the need for reformation – both morally and doctrinally – purgatory, indulgences, translating the Bible into the language of the people, the 95 Theses, justification, sanctification, and Luther’s ultimate desire to call people to faith.

The Moderator thanked Dr. Jason Zuidema for his passionate and informative presentation. The Synod showed its appreciation with a round of applause.

COMMITTEE ON THE ROLL AND LEAVE TO WITHDRAW

The committee reported that there were no requests at this time.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: It was moved by Ian MacLean and seconded by Donna McIlveen that the Synod adjourn. ADOPTED.

The Moderator, at eight-fifty o’clock in the evening, adjourned the Synod to reconvene at nine o’clock Saturday morning, in the same place.

The sederunt was closed with prayer by the Moderator.

Moderator

Clerk

THIRD SEDERUNT

On Saturday, the twenty-first day of October, two thousand and seventeen, at nine o’clock in the morning within The Church of St. Andrew and St. Paul, Montréal, Québec, the Synod met pursuant to adjournment.

The Moderator, the Rev. Katherine Burgess, led in a time of worship. The scripture lesson was from John 15:1-5 and the message was entitled “Grace”. Piano accompaniment for the hymns was provided by Ross Davidson.

Following worship, the Moderator constituted the Synod with prayer at nine-twenty o’clock in the morning.

Clerk:

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REGIONAL RESOURCING COMMITTEE

MOTION: It was moved by Doug Kendall and seconded by Barbara Fotheringham that the report of the Regional Resourcing Committee be received and considered. **ADOPTED.**

The report was prepared by Barry Carr, past Convener. (Appendix H – pages 51-53)

It was noted by the clerk that the synod council accepted his resignation, with regret, at their September 21st, 2017 meeting.

The committee remains without a convener.

It was noted that the 2017 General Assembly approved a Regional Resourcing grant for the Synod of Québec and Eastern Ontario. The amount available to the synod, upon request and approval, is \$61,986.00.

In the absence of a convener, presbyteries, congregations and camps are invited to forward proposals to the synod clerk, and they will be forwarded to the committee for consideration.

Joel Coppieters thanked the committee for the Regional Resourcing grant given to the Presbytery of Montréal to assist with the project of translating the Book of Forms into the French language. The project is nearing completion.

MOTION: It was moved by Doug Kendall and seconded by Barbara Fotheringham that the report from the Regional Resourcing Committee be adopted. **ADOPTED.**

MISSION / ROBERT FUND COMMITTEE

MOTION: It was moved by Barry Mack and seconded by Joel Coppieters that the report of the Mission Committee be received and considered. **ADOPTED.**

The report was presented by Barry Mack, convener.

(Appendix I – page 54)

Robert Fund Requests

The committee was informed by Canadian Ministries that there is \$29,983.85 available for distribution this year in the “Reserve for Home Mission Quebec” (the designated label for monies generated by the Robert Fund).

The suggested allocation is as follows:

1. \$18,000 to Camp d'action biblique (CAB).
2. The balance (\$11,983.85) to be directed to the Presbytery of Montreal, for francophone work within its bounds, including such groups as Communauté Chretienne Siloé and Église St Luc. Once Canadian Ministries allocations for 2018 are known, proper applications for Robert Fund monies received and Presbytery approval for such applications has been granted (as per the 1979 terms of reference), monies would be released by vote of Presbytery.

Recommendation No. 1

It was moved by Barry Mack and seconded by Joel Coppieters that for 2018, the income generated by the Robert Fund be distributed as follows: 1) \$18,000 to Camp d'action Biblique (CAB) and 2) \$11,983.85 to the Presbytery of Montreal, under the terms specified above. **ADOPTED.**

MOTION: It was moved by Barry Mack and seconded by Joel Coppieters that the report of the Mission Committee, with its recommendation, be adopted. **ADOPTED.**

Clerk:

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REPORT OF THE PRESBYTERY OF OTTAWA

Re: Oversight of The Board of Directors for the Gracefield Christian Camp and Retreat Centre

MOTION: It was moved by Debi Brown and seconded by Sharon Stewart that the report of the Presbytery of Ottawa re oversight of the Board of Directors for the Gracefield Christian Camp and Retreat Centre, be received and considered. ADOPTED.

James T. Hurd, clerk to the Presbytery of Ottawa, presented the Oversight Report.

(Appendix J – pages 55-76)

The following documents are appended to the report.

1. Financial Statements re GCCRC
 - a. 2016 Financial Review report
 - b. Balance Sheet Previous Year Comparison as of 31 December 2016
 - c. Profit & Loss Budget vs Actual, January – December 2016
 - d. Profit & Loss Previous Years Comparison, January – December 2016
 - e. Notes to 2016 financial statements
2. Board of Directors Report to the Presbytery of Ottawa, September 19, 2017
3. Water and Septic Capital Improvement Project – Financial Overview 2003-2017
4. Water and Septic Project Financial Plan

It was noted that the Executive Director vacancy has been filled. Mr. Bruce Howard began his duties on October 1st, 2017.

The work on the new septic system for White Pine Lodge is underway.

A brief time of questions and answers was held.

MOTION: It was moved by Debi Brown and seconded by Sharon Stewart that the report from the Presbytery of Ottawa regarding Oversight of the Board of Directors of the Gracefield Christian Camp and Retreat Centre, be adopted. ADOPTED.

CAMP D’ACTION BIBLIQUE

MOTION: It was moved by Barry Mack and seconded by Anita Mack that the report from Camp d’action biblique (CAB) be received and considered. ADOPTED.

Craig Dewar, on behalf of the CAB Committee, presented the report.

(Appendix K – pages 77-81)

The report was accompanied by a photo presentation: Summer 2017 in pictures.

The following documents are appended to the report.

1. Financial Statement to December 31, 2016
2. 2018 Camp Schedule

A brief time of questions and answers was held.

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Camp d'action biblique (cont'd):

MOTION: It was moved by Barry Mack and seconded by Anita Mack that the report from Camp d'action biblique (CAB), be adopted. ADOPTED.

The Moderator thanked both presenters for their reports and for sharing with the Synod a sense of the dedication and enthusiasm offered by the workers and volunteers associated with each camp, and for their commitment to camping ministry.

Motion from page 7, discussion on page 11

Discussion resumed on the motion initially presented in the first sederunt.

Michael Pettem shared the report prepared by the Presbytery of Montréal on Bill 60 (2014) for the commissioners' information.

Discussion continued on the motion.

The question was called for.

It was agreed to take an immediate vote. On being put to the vote, the motion was DEFEATED.

A count of the vote was requested. The clerk indicated that there were 9 votes in favour and 17 votes against.

Break – a break was held from 10:30 – 10:45 am.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE RE POSSIBLE DISSOLUTION OF SYNOD

(continued from page 9)

ADDITIONAL MOTION: It was moved by Grant Wilson and seconded by Debi Brown that the Synod of Québec and Eastern Ontario begin the process of dissolution with the close of this (2017) Synod by striking a special committee to negotiate and formulate terms to ensure the continued support of our various presbyteries and camps.

Discussion on the additional motion ensued.

The question was called for.

A count of the vote was requested.

On being put to the vote, the motion was DEFEATED.

The clerk indicated that there were 9 votes in favour and 16 votes against.

MOTION TO LIFT FROM THE TABLE: It was moved by Jim Pot and seconded by Cheryl Gaver to lift the motion from the table. ADOPTED.

(motion lifted from the table)

MOTION: It was moved by Jim Pot and seconded by Cheryl Gaver that Synod appoint a special committee to develop a plan to re-imagine its role and function and report back to the 144th Synod in 2018.

AMENDMENT: It was moved by Barry Mack and seconded by John Vaudry that Synod Council consider and reimagine the role and function of Synod and develop a plan to accomplish the goals of synod with reduced resources and report back to the 144th meeting of synod in 2018.

Clerk:

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Special Committee re: Possible Dissolution of Synod (cont'd):

It was agreed to add the words: ‘including input and feedback from presbyteries and sessions’ at the end of the amendment.

The Amendment reads as follows:

That Synod Council consider and reimagine the role and function of Synod and develop a plan to accomplish the goals of synod with reduced resources and report back to the 144th meeting of synod in 2018, including input and feedback from presbyteries and sessions.

Discussion on the amendment ensued.

A motion to take an immediate vote was DEFEATED.

Discussion continued.

On being put to the vote the amendment was ADOPTED.

Discussion ensued on the motion as amended.

It is understood that resources mean not just finances, but people.

On being put to the vote the motion as amended was ADOPTED.

**COMMITTEE TO EXAMINE THE MINUTES OF THE PRESBYTERIES
AND THE SYNOD COUNCIL**

MOTION: It was moved by John Vaudry and seconded by Olive O’May that the report of the Committee to examine the Minutes of the Presbyteries and Synod Council be received and considered. ADOPTED.

Recommendation No.1

It was moved by John Vaudry and seconded by Olive O’May that the minutes of the Synod Council, the Presbytery of Montréal, the Presbytery of Seaway-Glengarry and the Presbytery of Ottawa, be attested as neatly and correctly kept, and the minutes of the Presbytery of Québec be attested with notes. ADOPTED.

MOTION: It was moved by John Vaudry and seconded by Olive O’May that the report of the Committee to Examine the Minutes of the Presbyteries and the Synod Council be adopted. ADOPTED.

COMMITTEE ON ROLL AND LEAVE TO WITHDRAW

MOTION: It was moved by Sampson Afoakwah and seconded by Joel Coppieters that leave to withdraw be granted to William Ball and Jill Turnbull for the fourth sederunt. ADOPTED.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: It was moved by Joel Coppieters and seconded by Donna McIlveen that the Synod adjourn. ADOPTED.

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The Church of St. Andrew and St. Paul, Montréal, Québec

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The Moderator, at eleven fifty o'clock in the morning, adjourned the Synod to reconvene at twelve forty-five o'clock in the afternoon in the same place.

The sederunt was closed with prayer by the Moderator.

Moderator

Clerk

FOURTH SEDERUNT

On Saturday, the twenty-first day of October, two thousand and seventeen, at twelve-forty o'clock in the afternoon within The Church of St. Andrew and St. Paul, Montréal, Québec, the Synod met pursuant to adjournment.

The Moderator constituted the court with prayer.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE RE POSSIBLE DISSOLUTION OF SYNOD

(continued from page 16)

MOTION: It was moved by Gordon Walford and seconded by John Vaudry that the report of the Special Committee re Possible Dissolution of Synod, as a whole and amended, be adopted. ADOPTED.

MOTION: It was moved by Gordon Walford and seconded by John Vaudry that the Special Committee re Possible Dissolution of Synod be discharged, with thanks. ADOPTED.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

(continued from page 10)

Discussion on the 2018 budget documents resumed.

Recommendation No. 1

It was moved by Gordon Walford and seconded by Richard Bonetto that the expenditure budget for 2018 be \$103,167.17.

Discussion on Recommendation No. 1 ensued.

On being put to the vote, Recommendation No. 1 was ADOPTED.

Recommendation No. 2

It was moved by Gordon Walford and seconded by Debi Brown that the proposed presbytery assessments for 2018 be adopted. ADOPTED.

Recommendation No. 3

It was moved by Gordon Walford and seconded by Debi Brown that the five-year forecast from 2018-2022 and the dollar base trend by presbytery, be received for information. ADOPTED.

MOTION: It was moved by Gordon Walford and seconded by Donald Walcot that the report of the Finance Committee, as a whole and amended, be adopted. ADOPTED.

Clerk:

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COMMITTEE ON BUSINESS

(continued from page 7)

Synod Committees (Recommendation No. 12)

Synod Committees

Synod Council – Committee to Nominate

Moderator, Past Moderator, Clerk, Treasurer, Clerks of the Presbyteries, Conveners of the Standing Committees, and a Representative of the WMS Synodical.

Finance Committee

Gordon Walford (Convener), Synod Treasurer (Ross Davidson), 5 Presbytery Treasurers/Finance Conveners/or designate: Vickie Blouin (Québec), Brian Ruse (Montréal), Ian MacMillan (Seaway-Glengarry), Noral Rebin (Ottawa), and Brenda Postma or alternate (Lanark and Renfrew).

Mission Committee / Robert Fund

Barry Mack (Convener), representatives from the 5 Presbytery Mission Committees: Vickie Blouin (Québec), Richard Bonetto (Montréal), Jim Ferrier (Seaway-Glengarry), Denise Allen-Macartney or designate (Ottawa), Joan Hilliard (Lanark & Renfrew), and Richard Bonetto (representing Francophone ministries within the Presbyteries of Québec and Montréal) and the Synodical President.

The Regional Resourcing Committee

____ (vacant) ____ (Convener), ____ (vacant) ____ (Lanark & Renfrew), Barbara Fotheringham (Québec), Samy Said (Montréal), Geoff Howard (Seaway-Glengarry), Tony Boonstra (Ottawa), Shahrzad Kandalaft (Gracefield) and Craig Dewar (CAB).

Synod Historian – John Vaudry.

Pension Board – Synod Corresponding Representative - Synod Treasurer.

Committee re Sexual Abuse and Sexual Harassment

Katherine Burgess (Convener), with representation from the various presbyteries: presbytery clerk as contact (Québec), Jocelyn MacKay (Montréal); Mark Bourgon and Ian MacLean (Seaway-Glengarry); John J. Young (Ottawa) and Joan Hilliard (Lanark & Renfrew).

Synod Web-Site – Webservant, Gordon Walford.

Synod Web-Site Oversight Committee – Gordon Walford, John Davidson and clerk.

Synod Representative to the Committee to Nominate Standing Committees of the General Assembly

- Barry Mack (2017-2020)

Clerk:

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The Church of St. Andrew and St. Paul, Montréal, Québec

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Committee on Business (cont'd):

Recommendation No. 12

It was moved by Donna McIlveen and seconded by Peter Lamont that the above be the Synod Committees for 2017-2018. ADOPTED.

Recommendation No. 13

It was moved by Donna McIlveen and seconded by Peter Lamont that the 144th meeting of the Synod of Québec and Eastern Ontario be held within the bounds of the Presbytery of Seaway-Glengarry on Friday, October 19th and Saturday, October 20th, 2018, with the location to be set by the synod council. ADOPTED.

MOTION: It was moved by Donna McIlveen and seconded by Barbara Fotheringham that the Committee on Business report, as a whole, be adopted. ADOPTED.

COMMITTEE ON COURTESIES

MOTION: It was moved by Ian MacLean and seconded by James Purcell that the report of the Committee on Courtesies be received and considered. ADOPTED.

The Synod expresses its thanks to God for the service of the following individuals and groups for enriching the 143rd annual synod meeting:

To the Ministers, Session and congregation of The Church of St. Andrew and St. Paul for graciously hosting us in their beautiful historic building.

Thanks to The Guild for the wonderful feasts they have prepared.

To all the worship leaders John Vaudry, Kay Diviney, Matthew Johnson (Organist), Katherine Burgess and Ross Davidson (pianist) for sharing their gifts of praise and prayer throughout our time together.

To John Vaudry serving as Moderator of the last synod, and to Katherine Burgess for serving as Moderator of the present synod.

To the conference speaker, Dr. Jason Zuidema for his presentations on the theme "Justification by Faith and the Christian Life: Luther's Insight's for Today.

To Ross Davidson for his service to the Synod as treasurer, and to Donna McIlveen as Clerk.

To Gordon Walford for projecting the reports during the meeting, and for keeping us connected throughout the year via the synod website.

To all who presented reports during the synod meeting and to all synod members for their diligent attendance and participation.

MOTION: It was moved by Ian MacLean and seconded by James Purcell that the report be adopted. ADOPTED.

Clerk:

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ADJOURNMENT

At one o'clock in the afternoon, the business being finished, the Moderator entertained a motion to adjourn.

MOTION: It was moved by Sampson Afoakwah and seconded by Richard Bonetto that the Synod adjourn. ADOPTED.

The Moderator led the synod in prayer.

She then said:

“In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, the only King and Head of the Church, and by the authority of this Synod, I declare the Synod adjourned to meet again as a commissioned court within the bounds of the Presbytery of Seaway-Glengarry, Ontario, on Friday the nineteenth day of October in the year of our Lord, two thousand and eighteen.”

Moderator

Clerk

Clerk:

143rd ANNUAL SYNOD MEETING DOCKET
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 20th – SATURDAY, OCTOBER 21st, 2017
THE CHURCH OF ST. ANDREW AND ST. PAUL – MONTRÉAL, QUÉBEC

FIRST SEDERUNT**Friday, October 20th at 2 p.m.**

- | | | |
|-----|-----------|---|
| 1. | 2:00 p.m. | Opening Worship / Communion |
| 2. | 3:15 p.m. | Constitution of the Synod |
| 3. | | Memorials |
| 4. | | Welcome to The Church of St. Andrew and St. Paul |
| 5. | | Roll of Synod / Regrets / Visitors |
| 6. | | Election of Moderator / Installation of the Moderator |
| 7. | | Records of Presbyteries and Synod Council |
| 8. | | Adoption of the Docket |
| 9. | | Minutes of the 142 nd annual meeting |
| 10. | | Correspondence |
| 11. | | Business Arising |
| 12. | | Committee on Business |
| | | |
| 13. | 3:45 p.m. | Refreshment Break |
| | | |
| 14. | 4:00 p.m. | Special Committee
re: Possible Dissolution of Synod |
| | | |
| 15. | 5:00 p.m. | Finance Committee <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Treasurer's Report 2016- Reviewer's Letter 2016- Treasurer's Report year to date 2017- Treasurer's Forecast to December 31, 2017- Introduction of Budget 2018 |
| 16. | | Committee re: Sexual Abuse and Sexual Harassment |
| 17. | | Synod Webservant |
| 18. | | Synod Historian |
| 19. | | WMS Synodical |
| 20. | | Committee on Roll and Leave to Withdraw |
| 21. | | Adjournment and Prayer |
| 22. | 6:00 p.m. | Supper |

The Synod of Québec and Eastern Ontario

The Church of St. Andrew and St. Paul, Montréal, Québec

Friday and Saturday, October 20th and October 21st, 2017

SECOND SEDERUNT**Friday, October 20th at 7:00 p.m.**

1. 7:00 p.m. Prayer and Constitute the Court
 2. 7:10 p.m. Guest Speaker, Dr. Jason Zuidema
"Justification by Faith and the Christian Life:
Luther's Insight for Today"
 3. 8:55 p.m. Committee on the Roll and Leave to Withdraw
 4. Announcements
 5. 9:00 p.m. Adjournment and Prayer
-

THIRD SEDERUNT**Saturday, October 21st at 9:00 a.m.**

- 8:00 a.m. Committee Meetings [as needed]
1. 9:00 a.m. Worship
2. 9:30 a.m. Prayer to Constitute the Court
3. 9:35 a.m. Regional Resourcing Committee
4. 9:45 a.m. Mission Committee / Robert Fund Committee
5. 10:00 a.m. Report from the Presbytery of Ottawa
Re: Gracefield Christian Camp and Retreat Centre
6. 10:20 a.m. Report from Camp d'action biblique
7. 10:40 a.m. Break / Evaluations
8. 10:50 Special Committee (cont'd) [if required]
re: Possible Dissolution of Synod
9. 11:55 a.m. Committee on Roll and Leave to Withdraw
10. Adjournment and Prayer
11. 12:00 p.m. Lunch

FOURTH SEDERUNT**Saturday, October 21st at 1:30 p.m.**

1. 1:30 p.m. Prayer to Constitute the Court
 2. 1:35 p.m. Finance Committee (cont'd)
 3. Unfinished Business
 4. Committee to Examine the Minutes of the Presbyteries and the
Synod Council
 5. Committee on Courtesies
 6. Time and Place of the next Synod meeting
 7. Adjournment and Prayer
-

Clerk:

SYNOD OF QUEBEC AND EASTERN ONTARIO

Advisory Report

Special Committee re: Possible Dissolution of Synod

David Christiani, Convenor

Reverend Karen Dimock

Reverend Jill Turnbull

Reverend Geoff Howard

Reverend James Hurd

September 1, 2017

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The Synod of Québec and Eastern Ontario

The Church of St. Andrew and St. Paul, Montréal, Québec

Friday and Saturday, October 20th and October 21st, 2017

Preamble

The Presbytery of Lanark & Renfrew has submitted an Overtureⁱ and the Presbytery of Montreal, a letterⁱⁱ stating their desire that the Synod of Quebec and Eastern Ontario be dissolved. This position has persuaded enough members of last year's Synod of the admissibility of the argument for Dissolution that they commissioned a Special Committeeⁱⁱⁱ to report on the implications of the very practical and detailed rationale for Dissolution put forward by the two Presbyteries, and to perhaps set the wheels in motion to that end.

We're not quite sure.

It is not for our Special Committee to argue the two sides of this question, but now that we are in possession of written responses from the other three Presbyteries of the Synod^{iv}, it is apparent that there exists a countervailing opinion for perpetuating the Synod, even if that institution might be modified to reflect the realities of 2017. If two Presbyteries are for Dissolution and three Presbyteries are contrary minded, then we submit that an open discussion should be had of how those not wishing to remain a part of Synod might be excused from their obligations. We don't propose to debate the pros and cons of dissolution in this report. That should happen in October on the floor of Synod. Even if the position of the respective presbyteries is two for dissolution and three opposed, then the decisions made will rest with the individual commissioners at Synod in October. Therefore, we will describe, to the extent of our mandate, the conditions sought by the two sides and will assume the responsibility to suggest the rules by which the topic should be discussed. Synod has also charged us with suggesting the contingencies arising out of the two possible outcomes: be it a continuation of the existing body, or be it an eventual dissolution. That will be the topic of the present report and we will conclude its study before making recommendations that might frame the debate at the next sederunt.

We propose to present a historic timeline of the discussion of the issue: first, whether our Synod should be a commissioned court or congress style and second, why it might be desirable to dissolve. This will be drawn from the minutes of all the sederunts since 1996^v. We will provide a statement on behalf of the Pro Dissolution side of the argument and the contrary position, based on the official statement opposing Optional Elimination of Synods that was submitted to the General Assembly in 2014^{vi}. These solicited remarks will be accompanied by comments pro and con dissolution that we have identified from all of the Synod minutes.^{vii}

As for a discussion of the contingencies, we will prepare a calendar for observing the steps to the dissolution of a Synod as outlined in Appendix K of the Book of Forms^{viii}. We will also present a discussion of the modifications to the structure and operation of the Synod suggested in response to our letter to the Presbyteries and a calendar for observing their advice.

Finally we will provide a summary of the financial implications and contingencies [also outlined in Appendix K] that might arise should the Synod dissolve or should the Synod continue to exist but without all of the current five Presbyteries as active members.

The final part of the report will suggest the rules of debate, the motions that might be needed whether we decide to dissolve or whether to maintain the status quo.

The Synod of Québec and Eastern Ontario

The Church of St. Andrew and St. Paul, Montréal, Québec

Friday and Saturday, October 20th and October 21st, 2017**Timeline**

1996-10	Proposal that the Synod should consider becoming a commissioned court.	
	The matter was debated and prayerfully considered over the next few years.	
1998-10-16	That the Synod should become a commissioned court ratio 1 in 4.	DEFEATED
	Additional motions re structure of Synod were withdrawn.	
2000-10-20	Report of Special Review Committee	
	Recommendation 1 – That the Synod become a commissioned court...	APPROVED
	Recommendation 2 – That the function of the Synod be reviewed in 2003 and that the 2003 meeting of Synod be mandated to decide if further changes are needed.	APPROVED
	Recommendation 3a,b,c,d - re review of mandate, tasks and responsibilities of Synod Committees, Standing Orders...	APPROVED
2003-10-17	Notice of Motion re - Reconsideration of resolution “to become a commissioned court”.	
	Recommendation 3b - 2000 Recommendation 1 – “to be amended to read, ‘That the Synod resolve to henceforth through commissioners appointed by its several Presbyteries.’”	APPROVED
	Recommendation 4 (summarized) – That the ratio be 1 in 4...	APPROVED
2007-04-20	Statement from J M Patterson Moderator of Synod offered to stimulate discussion	
2009-10-07	Review re Commissioned Court undertaken. Survey circulated to each teaching and ruling elder.	
	“Are you in favour of continuing the meetings of Synod as a commissioned court?”	
2010-10-15	Resulted of Survey Considered – 248 responses: 174 in favour, 74 opposed	
	One Presbytery, Lanark & Renfrew, responded to the Survey and proposed three options:	
	a) The Synod be abolished	
	b) The meetings be biennial as a commissioned court	
	c) Remain as a commissioned court	
	In light of the replies to the Survey, no change was made to the commissioned court resolution. Synod did resolve that:	
	“A committee should be struck to examine the role, structure and function of synod, including place and location, to the end of strengthening ministry, and report to the Synod Council with a subsequent report to the 137th (2011) synod meeting.	
2011-10-21	Based on the special committee’s report Synod resolved that:	
	“On a trial basis, the synod meet as a fully represented court consisting of the constituent members of the five presbyteries, (and) every third year, beginning in 2013, in a conference style...”	
	Presbytery of Montreal sent correspondence re: Concern for the role and function of Synod.	
2012-10-19	Notice of motion to reconsider the 2011 recommendation “on a trial basis...”	
	Recommendation to reconsider -	DEFEATED
2013-06 General	Assembly appointed a Special Committee re the Optional Elimination of Synods	
	Appendix K re procedures for the Dissolution of a Synod was prepared by that Committee	
2013-10-18	Overture #1 from the Presbytery of Lanark & Renfrew requesting 140th General Assembly to dissolve the Synod was transmitted to the 140th General Assembly by the Synod.	
2014-10-17	Referral from the 139th General Assembly re optional Elimination of Synods was considered.	
	A position paper from our Synod was forwarded to the General Assembly indicating that:	
	“provision for synods as part of our polity is sound and useful. Let us use it, not lose it.” With the added comment that: “the Synod... was not of one mind on the question (of) optional elimination of synods...” And that: “the position paper does not reflect the opinion of the entire synod.” ^{ix}	
2015-10-16	Petition from the Presbytery of Lanark & Renfrew requesting that they be excused “from any and all duties and responsibilities related to membership in the Synod”. Synod resolved that the petition be held as read and that the petition not be received.	
2016-10-21	Synod received a letter from the Presbytery of Montreal and an Overture from the Presbytery of Lanark & Renfrew that requested the dissolution of Synod.	
	Synod appointed the Special Committee for the Possible Dissolution of the Synod	

The Synod of Québec and Eastern Ontario

The Church of St. Andrew and St. Paul, Montréal, Québec

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Statement Pro Dissolution

Over the years there have been individuals as well as Presbyteries who have questioned the continued usefulness of Synod. As mentioned in the overture provided by the Presbytery of Lanark & Renfrew, the role of the Synod of Quebec and Eastern Ontario has changed substantially over the years. During the 142nd General Assembly (2016) changes were finalized in church law which provide a process for the voluntary dissolution of synods, and Synod, historically, has been a strong and vital court of the Church but that, now increasingly, the work is being done at the Presbytery level, and throughout the history of the Presbyterian Church in Canada, Presbytery has been and continues to be a vital link to congregations and a strength in the Church. There is a belief that the finances currently designated for Synod can be better utilized by presbyteries to help congregations.

According to a letter from James M. Patterson written on April 12th, 2007,

“The general level of interest among teaching elders in being an active part of the Synod level of government is generally low. The move to a commissioned court has not noticeably alleviated this problem. Fewer of the ruling elders (as with lay persons generally) have the amount of time available for church work that would have been the case a generation or two ago. The amount of money available to local churches for the support of various levels of government is being strained by the higher costs of maintaining their local operations coupled with the corresponding higher costs incurred by all levels of church government. This shortage of funds is exacerbated by generally declining membership numbers, and by the changing Canadian economic situation. The actual work accomplished by Synod and its executive could easily be done by the individual presbyteries or by a permanent commission composed on the clerks and moderators of the presbyteries.”

All of these items continue to be issues within our Synod. As well Synod only ever existed in Canada because of our vast distances. Now that our “horses” are much faster and can travel 400 kilometers or more on one feeding, the reason for Synod existing has ceased. Appeals and auditing of Presbytery records ought to be handled either by Assembly directly, or by a commission of the same. In the case of appeals, a judicial commission composed of appropriately trained persons would likely do a better job than a Synod. And finally there is much talk about having fellowship and study time together in groups larger than a Presbytery. Without a Synod, several Presbyteries could get together whenever they might choose to do so.

Statement Con Dissolution**Historical Basis for the Synod:**

The synod is an integral part of the Court System in the Presbyterian Church, the provision for which is laid out in the Books of Forms. Included in its powers and duties is the power “to handle, order or redress all things omitted or done amiss” by presbyteries and sessions within its bounds.^x Indeed, the synod has whole power of the presbyteries and sessions within its bounds.^{xi} Historically the existence of the synod, its regular meetings and the function of its executive between meetings provide for collegiality between neighbouring presbyteries and opportunities to work together to advance the gospel. It also provides a necessary network of peers for matters of church discipline. While the active role of the synod has diminished in recent history, these functions and the need for them remain. In its absence, the General Assembly, which is a national gathering does not provide for the same level of local interaction.

Also, it has become apparent that Assembly is overworked, Presbytery dockets are already filled with month-to-month practicalities and there is evidence that presbyteries do not take up matters that have been previously handled by Synod with the same efficiency.^{xiii} It is not clear that Presbyteries would have the time and resources to organize inter-Presbytery retreats.

The Synod of Québec and Eastern Ontario

The Church of St. Andrew and St. Paul, Montréal, Québec

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Current Views: The Presbyteries Weigh In.

In recent years the role and function of the Synod has come under constant examination and there is certainly a desire for change to make the court more viable and relevant to the current climate in the church. A timeline of these discussions is provided elsewhere in this report.^{xiii}

Following its meeting in May of 2017 the Synod Special Committee re: Possible Dissolution of the Synod, sought the current opinion of all five of the Synods presbyteries on this issue. While Montreal and Lanark & Renfrew have in the last year presented arguments in favour of eliminating the synod they did not respond to the request. The other three Presbyteries did respond, with each of them expressing their desire that synod not be eliminated at this time. That three out of five presbyteries express this view is an argument in and of itself to continue to seek a means for a viable and constructive synod among us. The comments of these three presbyteries and the rationale for their con position are reviewed below.

The Presbytery of Seaway-Glengarry

This Presbytery has undertaken a most thorough examination of the issues. In its report to the Synod Special Committee, the Presbytery acknowledged that the current configuration of the Synod is not working. The fact that it is difficult to get members to attend coupled with this conversation regarding dissolution speaks to that. They did however reach the conclusion that they are not ready to eliminate the synod at this time and went on record as “stating that the synod should not be eliminated at this time, but a re-envisioning and re-imagining of what the synod is needs to be intentionally undertaken so that the synod can best fulfill its purpose”.^{xiv}

Seaway-Glengarry was led in their discussion by a special committee of their own that had in the course of their work studied the General Assembly (2016) Document “A Study of Presbyterian Polity: Its Distinctives and Directions for the 21st Century”. The presbytery’s support for continuance of the synod includes:

1. The role it plays in the co-ordination of multi-presbytery functions and programmatic initiatives as well as funding for camp ministries.
2. Its role in Church Discipline, Church Polity and Oversight.
“Presbyteries can go astray and fail congregations. Smaller presbyteries scattered by distance and stretched to the limit through vacancies or interpersonal conflict may be unable to provide the necessary and appropriate collegial oversight of presbyters. In such cases, it is the role of the synod to intervene to provide what is needed and to ensure mutual accountability”.^{xv}

The Presbytery of Ottawa

At its meeting on June 17th, 2017, this Presbytery discussed the correspondence from the Synod Special Committee. The Presbytery reported that it has gone “on record as being in favour of neither the status quo nor the dissolution of the synod, but encourage the special committee to consider a bold vision for the reconfiguration and organization of the synod”.^{xvi} While no details of their discussion were provided, the Presbytery did note that all but one in attendance were in favour of the motion, with only one opposed.

The Presbytery of Quebec

This Presbytery stressed in the report of its meeting on May 11th, 2017 (as it has done numerous times in the past), how as a small Presbytery it is vital to them to have the support and contact of other Presbyteries in the Synod. They expressed the further desire that the Synod return to being a full Synod with a conference component.

Both a more fulsome summary of the responses to our May request to the Presbyteries and the Lanark & Renfrew Overture of 2016 follow.^{xvii}

The Synod of Québec and Eastern Ontario

The Church of St. Andrew and St. Paul, Montréal, Québec

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Presbytery Statements Pro Dissolution^{xviii}

Presbytery of Lanark & Renfrew

September 23, 2016^{xix}

Dear Reverend Synod:

At Smiths Falls, Ontario on September 20, 2016, the Presbytery of Lanark & Renfrew met and was constituted with prayer. Among other matters addressed, the presbytery agreed to transmit an overture to the Synod re: the Dissolution of the Synod of Quebec and Eastern Ontario. This overture is transmitted with the approval of the court.

Randall A. Russell, Clerk

September 20, 2016^{xx}

Overture - PRESBYTERY OF LANARK & RENFREW

Re: the Dissolution of the Synod of Quebec & Eastern Ontario

To the 142nd Synod of Quebec and Eastern Ontario

WHEREAS the role of the Synod of Quebec and Eastern Ontario has changed substantially over the years, and
WHEREAS the 142nd General Assembly (2016) finalized changes in church law which provide a process for the voluntary dissolution of synods, and

WHEREAS Synod, historically, has been a strong and vital court of the Church but that, now, increasingly, the work is being done at the presbytery level, and

WHEREAS, throughout the history of The Presbyterian Church in Canada, Presbytery has been and continues to be a vital link to congregations and a strength in the Church, and

WHEREAS the finances currently designated for Synod can be better utilized by presbyteries to help congregations,

THEREFORE the Presbytery of Lanark & Renfrew humbly overtures the Reverend, the 142nd meeting of the Synod of Quebec and Eastern Ontario to voluntarily dissolve the Synod of Quebec and Eastern Ontario, according to the process set forth in the Book of Forms 259.2, or to do otherwise as the Synod, in its wisdom, may deem best.

Randall A. Russell, Clerk of Presbytery

Presbytery of Montreal^{xxi}

Extract from the records of the Presbytery of Montreal

At the Church of St. Andrew and St. Paul, Montreal, the 20th day of September in the year 2016:

Which day the Presbytery of Montreal met and was constituted, with prayer. Among other matters addressed, the Presbytery passed the following motion:

MOVED by J. Coppieters / R. De Vries that the Presbytery hereby states its wish that the Synod of Quebec and Eastern Ontario be dissolved and that Presbytery communicate this wish to the other Presbyteries of the Synod of Quebec and Eastern Ontario and to the Synod.

Number of votes cast 29

Necessary for adoption (majority) 15

Votes for motion 24

Votes against..... 5

CARRIED

Michael Pettem, Clerk of Presbytery

Clerk:

The Synod of Québec and Eastern Ontario

The Church of St. Andrew and St. Paul, Montréal, Québec

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Presbytery Statements Con Dissolution

Presbytery of Seaway Glengarry

EXTRACT MINUTE

At St. Andrew's Presbyterian Chesterville, Ontario, Tuesday, June 20, 2017, which day The Presbytery of Seaway-Glengarry met in regular session and was constituted with prayer by the Moderator, the Rev. Ian MacLean.

Constituent Roll Attendance:

Ministers: Ian MacLean, Moderator, Ian MacMillan, Geoff Howard, Jim Ferrier, Samer Kandalaft, Bruce Kemp, Marianne Emig Carr, Feras Chamas, Cheryl Gaver and Ian Johnston.

Representative Elders: Verne Gilkes, Marilyn Leach-Duck, Janet LeBrun, Phyllis MacMaster, Linda McCaslin, Heather McIntosh, Beth Short, Heather Stewart, Allan Thom and alternate Carol Esdale.

Among other matters addressed, a report was received from the Special Committee re the Future of Synod, established at the May 16, 2017 presbytery meeting in response to the correspondence from the Synod Special Committee. The committee members named: John Adams, Cheryl Gaver, Geoff Howard and Donna McIlveen. On behalf of the committee, Cheryl Gaver presented the report by way of a power-point presentation. The points within the presentation were also included in a written report. Discussion on the report ensued. The following two recommendations were moved, duly seconded and adopted:

1. That the report from the Special Committee re the Future of Synod be forwarded to the Synod Special Committee.
2. That the Presbytery of Seaway-Glengarry go on record as stating that the synod should not be eliminated at this time, but a re-envisioning and re-imagining of what the synod is needs to be intentionally undertaken so that the synod can best fulfill its purpose.

Marianne Emig Carr asked that her dissent be recorded to the second recommendation.

The committee report is as follows:

Comments: re Overture to Dissolve Synods

The Question

If one or more synods were eliminated, how would the oversight of presbyteries and the coordination of multi-presbytery functions and programmatic initiatives be exercised? How might the polity and ecclesiology of The Presbyterian Church in Canada be more effectively reflected in the processes of committees and boards of the General Assembly?

A Special Committee was established to consider:

1. The advisability of dissolving synod
2. The ramifications should the synod dissolve
3. The necessary contingencies should the synod dissolve
4. The responses of the five presbyteries regarding their respective positions on their future configuration and organization.

The options faced by the Special Committee are:

- To maintain the status quo – the Synod will continue as is
- To reconfigure the structure and organization of the Synod
- To eliminate (dissolve) the Synod.

The Special Committee asked the five presbyteries within the Synod of Quebec & Eastern Ontario to consider the issue and report back by June 30th, 2017. The Presbytery of Seaway- Glengarry created its own committee to consider the issue. We met May 31st, 2017 to consider the question. This report encapsulates our discussion.

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The Background

The 2016 General Assembly referred a document entitled “A Study of Presbyterian Polity: Its Distinctives and Directions for the 21st Century” for study and report. The document includes a section on synod:

What does it mean to be a synod?

“Part of the impetus for current discussion and decisions around “optional elimination of synods” arises from observations that synods do not have as much “work” or “money” to manage as formerly. Yet our first principles remind us that synods are “for weighty matters, to be intreated by mutual consent and assistance”. (Book of Forms section 274, quoting the Second Book of Discipline, VII, sec. 19)

“Presbyteries can go astray, and fail congregations. Small presbyteries, scattered by distance, stretched to the limit through vacancies, or troubled by inter-personal conflicts, may be unable to function in ways that ensure appropriate and necessary oversight of congregations and support for effective missional ministry to the communities in which they are situated, and necessary and appropriate collegial oversight of presbyters. In such cases, it is the role of the synod to intervene to provide what is needed and to ensure mutual accountability.

“In addition, synods as corporate entities provide for oversight and organisation for multi-presbytery initiatives and programs, including camps, conferences and retreats which may foster leadership training.

“If one or more synods were eliminated, how would the oversight of presbyteries and the coordination of multi-presbytery functions and programmatic initiatives be exercised? How might the polity and ecclesiology of The Presbyterian Church in Canada be more effectively reflected in the processes of committees and boards of the General Assembly?

Consideration 1 – The Advisability of Dissolving Synod

We began our discussion by asking what the synod was and explored its mandate and vision. While it was easy to summarize what the synod did, discerning its mandate and vision – its reason for existence – proved to be a challenge.

Yes, the synod is a judicial court and exists to handle certain appeals and deal with “weighty” matters. Yes, the synod funds certain activities – such as camps and the Presbytery Ministry

Animator’s position: Yes, the synod meets yearly and sometimes does hold educational conferences.

Its administrative and judicial roles are evident but are these roles enough to justify its existence? Does it have a place in the vision and mission of the Church as a whole? Could it? Should it?

While it was acknowledged that presbytery members generally seem to have a negative perception of the synod – as evidenced by difficulties getting members to volunteer for the annual synod meeting – is the reason that the synod is generally irrelevant or rather that it has failed to communicate its importance?

Consideration 2 – The Ramifications Should the Synod Dissolve

Judiciary Role. The synod is a court of the Church (session, presbytery, synod and General Assembly) and has a role in the judicial process to receive corrective cases and appeals from presbyteries. In the case of a transmittal to the synod, where there is no meeting prior to the General Assembly, the complaint shall be transmitted directly to the General Assembly (section 386 B of F). If the synod ceased to be, the process is already in place for transmittal to the higher court. Is the judiciary role sufficient reason to warrant the synod’s continued existence if the General Assembly can handle such matters?

Funding Role. The synod supports two camps financially: Gracefield Christian Camp and Retreat Centre (Gracefield) and Camp d’action biblique (CAB). In fact, CAB is funded by the presbyteries of Montreal and Quebec while Gracefield is funded by the presbyteries of Lanark-Renfrew, Ottawa and Seaway-Glengarry. Even though the funds are channelled through the synod, the responsibility for funding lies with the presbyteries.

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Without the synod, the presbyteries would simply continue the role they now play and fund the camps directly. The question to be asked is *would they?* Does the synod's existence broaden the presbyteries' perspective of the Church – the larger Church? Without the synod, would presbyteries narrow their vision and re-evaluate their commitment to broader initiatives such as the camps or Presbytery Ministry.

Planning Role. In the past, synod has planned educational events and conferences which crossed presbytery boundaries. This allowed the synod to plan more ambitious events and engage more expensive speakers. This role has declined in part because of the difficulties in getting volunteers to take the lead. Could presbyteries pick up the slack? The Presbytery of Ottawa is considering a Presbyterian Music Festival but does it have the resources to plan such an event without asking for contributions and assistance from the synod (or other presbyteries)?

Administrative Role. This role supports the activities of the synod. If activities were transferred to the individual presbyteries, do they have the resources to pick up the slack? Would the Clerks of Presbytery have the time to add on additional tasks? Would the presbytery have the resources to increase pay for the Clerks of Presbytery for their additional work?

Consideration 3 – The Necessary Contingencies Should the Synod Dissolve

- Modify the procedures dealing with judicial matters (i.e., interface between Presbytery and General Assembly)
- Ensure funding is “guaranteed” for ongoing synod commitments
- Ensure that presbyteries have the resources in place (staff and finances) to handle any functions that are transferred from synod to presbytery.

Consideration 4 – Response from Presbytery of Seaway-Glengarry

After much discussion, the presbytery committee has come up with the following conclusions:

- The status quo is not acceptable.
- The fact that it is difficult to get members to attend synod and that the question re dissolution of synod is even being asked is an indication that something is wrong and needs to be examined.
- The synod should not be eliminated at this time.

The fact that we have difficulty understanding the mission / vision of the synod within the church does not mean there is no mission or no place for the synod, though it might. It does mean we need to ask the questions and explore the issue. Once we have done that, we may indeed decide to eliminate the synod but should not eliminate it before exploring options.

- Reconfigure the structure and organization of the synod.

We disagree with this option as well. Looking at a new structure or organization without examining its vision/mandate – reason for existence (raison d'être) – is the wrong approach. The judiciary, funding, planning, and administrative roles should exist to support the synod vision; they should not be the overriding focus of the synod.

We do recommend a re-envisioning and re-imagining of what the synod is – why it exists – what its purpose is – and how can it best fulfill its purpose.

What our Committee envisaged – at a very preliminary level – was:

- Synod meeting every two years
- Synod focus should be on activities that span individual presbyteries and ecumenical outreach, including camps, Presbytery Ministry Animator, education conferences and retreats, festivals (such as Christian Music Festival being considered by the Presbytery of Ottawa).

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- Synod should hire an Event Planner or Event Coordinator (part-time, full-time or other options still to be determined).

Extracted from the records of the Presbytery of Seaway-Glengarry by Donna McIlveen, Clerk.

Presbytery of Ottawa

Appended herewith is an extract from the records of the Presbytery of Ottawa arising from the presbytery's receipt of the letter from David Christiani, convener of the special committee re the possible dissolution of the synod.

Extract minute of the stated meeting - June 17, 2017

At Gracefield, Quebec, and within the Gracefield Christian Camp and Retreat Centre there, Saturday, the seventeenth day of June two thousand seventeen, at ten o'clock in the morning: which place and date the Presbytery of Ottawa met in regular session.

Roll Call: Those members of the court present were: J. Tyler, Moderator; J. T. Hurd, Clerk; W. J. Ball, D. R. Kendall, J. E. Pot, F. R. McPhee, and C. C. Pettigrew, Ministers; and J. Born Flett, L. Buschman, R. Connelly, S. Currie, G. Fyffe (alt. for P. Winkelaar), D. Konrad, P. Lamont, D. Nickerson, O. O'May, D. Simpson, and S. Stewart, Elders.

T. Boonstra, Minister on the appendix to the roll, and D. Herbert, Diaconal Minister on the appendix to the roll, were also present. D. MacMillan, Convener, Committee on Policy and Planning; and N. Rebin, Treasurer, were also present.

Other Business

The court took into consideration item #2017-47, received at the previous stated meeting, from David Christiani, convener, special committee re the possible dissolution of the synod, dated May 11, 2017, reporting progress, offering options, and seeking input from the presbytery, and specifying a deadline for response of June 30, 2017. Copies of the letter had been circulated to all members of the presbytery in advance of the meeting

On motion of D. R. Kendall, seconded by S. Currie, it was agreed that the Presbytery of Ottawa go on record as being in favour of neither the status quo nor the dissolution of the synod, but encourage the special committee to consider a bold vision for the reconfiguration and organization of the synod.

It was agreed to note that on the vote, all but one were in favour, with one vote opposed.

Extracted from the records of the Presbytery of Ottawa at Ottawa

J. T. Hurd, Clerk

Presbytery of Quebec

At our regular Presbytery meeting, held in Thetford Mines on June 17, 2017, we discussed the May 11, 2017 letter from the Synod Special Committee Re: The Possible Dissolution of Synod. There is no desire within our Presbytery to have the Synod of Quebec and Eastern Ontario dissolved. This Presbytery has gone on record numerous times in the past as not being in favour of commissioned synods, desiring a return to full synods with a conference component. As a small presbytery, it is vitally important to us to have the support and contact with the other presbyteries within the synod.

I have attached an extract of the minutes showing our motion to support a return to full synods, which was passed unanimously.

Extract from the minutes of the Presbytery of Quebec at Thetford Mines, Quebec, on the 17th day of June, 2017. Which day the Presbytery of Quebec was constituted with prayer. Among other matters addressed and passed the motion as follows:

Clerk:

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It was moved by B. Fotheringham and seconded by R. Dempsey that the Presbytery of Quebec recommend a continuance of Synod, with it being a full synod every year (not a commissioned court), including a conference component.

The motion was adopted unanimously.

Extracted from the minutes of the Presbytery of Quebec, Barbara Fotheringham, Clerk

Advice from the Clerks of Assembly

From: David Christiani Sent: Thursday, June 29, 2017 5:03 PM
To: Stephen Kendall; Don Muir
Subject: Advice on Synods

Hello Stephen and Don:

I have been asked by the Synod of Quebec and Eastern Ontario to convene a Special Committee to investigate and advise on the possible dissolution of our Synod. This comes in response to an Overture from the Presbytery of Lanark & Renfrew and a letter from the Presbytery of Montreal.^{xxii} After receiving our Interim Report in April, the Synod Council has suggested that the final Committee report be written in terms of the pro [sic] position being that Synod exists in its current form and the con [sic] position being that the Synod would be dissolved. It was suggested that we will only have the serious attention of the presbyteries if we state the argument in these stark terms. In my mind, stating the argument in these terms would not preclude an open examination of "a modified status quo", and that the option of a compromise between the two poles of the argument might be recommended for consideration in October.

In fact, a letter^{xxiii} was sent to each Presbytery soliciting their opinion of the course of action that their presbytery supports and presenting them with three possibilities: 1. status quo 2. modified status quo and 3. dissolution. Given that some members of our Synod Council suggested that it might not be legal to make changes to the makeup of the membership of a Synod:

I am seeking your opinion on the possibility of charting a mid-course between the status quo and outright dissolution...^{xxiv} If, in fact we are stating that the application of Appendix K leads to the dissolution of a Synod, I have difficulty seeing how that is a constitutionally valid move. As Synods are courts of our Church, they must surely be protected in our polity from a precipitous attack on their right to exist. Therefore, if one Synod is closed, they all must be closed, and that only after a unanimous decision of General Assembly.^{xxv} In that context, I am asking you if a Synod, such as ours, where there is a discernible split among its Presbyteries and among its individual constituents, has any option to suggest a compromise that allows it to continue to exist, even if all presbyteries do not participate.

Depending on the response that we receive from Wynford Drive, ... the Special Committee needs to keep its options open until it has completed a thorough study of the variables and included their conclusions in its September report that will be circulated among the Presbyteries. The Presbyteries will have enough time between the first of September and the Synod meeting in October to contemplate their positions and the position of its individual members who come to the floor of Synod with their considered opinion. I will be interested to hear your reply to this request.

Best wishes,
David Christiani

On Jul 10, 2017 2:02 PM, "Don Muir" <DMuir@presbyterian.ca> wrote:

David:

Stephen and I had a few moments to consult together about the documentation you sent our way.

Clerk:

The Synod of Québec and Eastern Ontario

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1. It seems to us your committee is at a very early stage in the possible dissolution of the synod. Your committee has been assigned the task of exploring possible implications of dissolving the synod. As you suggest, it seems reasonable for the synod to consider three options.
 - A. Status quo
 - B. Dissolution
 - C. Something in between.
2. The something in between, in our opinion, could not include carrying on as a synod for three presbyteries while leaving two outside the governing system. That was never considered an option when the legislation was devised. Either the synod dissolves, or continues with all its presbyteries.
3. Other thoughts:
 - A. The next step could be for the synod to receive and consider the committee's report.
 - B. If the synod decides to pursue the possibility of dissolution, it would prepare a dissolution plan to be circulated to its presbyteries for comment, as described in Appendix K.
 - C. The dissolution of the synod, or continuation of the synod, does not need to be unanimously supported by presbyteries.
 - D. If there is sufficient support from presbyteries to pursue dissolution, the dissolution plan would be forwarded to the General Assembly for its consideration and decision.

In addition to the above, I thought I should mention that the governance of the church will allow for one or more synods to dissolve while others remain. [Ed. Note: In a subsequent phone conversation, Don Muir indicated that ours is the first Synod to actively consider dissolution and to take concrete steps toward that end. Even the Synod of Northwestern Ontario and Manitoba, who sent the Overture to call for Optional Elimination, continues to exist and has not so far contacted General Assembly with a request to dissolve.]

Blessings,
Don

Contingencies and Calendars

Appendix K –Book of Forms

PROCEDURES FOR THE DISSOLUTION OF A SYNOD

1. Synod prepares a dissolution plan including but not limited to:
 - A. Preamble summarizing the process followed by the synod leading to the decision to seek dissolution.
 - B. Transfer of all assets or liabilities under its control to a presbytery or presbyteries within its bounds.
 - C. Transfer of responsibility for staff, property and collaboration on any current or proposed programs to a presbytery or presbyteries within its bounds.
 - D. Transfer of all necessary synod budget items to a presbytery or presbyteries within its bounds.
 - E. A plan for the annual inter-presbytery attestation of minutes (Book of Forms section 32).
 - F. A formula for redistributing synod appointments to Assembly Council from among the presbyteries within its bounds.
 - G. A formula for redistributing synod appointments to the Committee to Nominate Standing Committees (Book of Forms section 288.1)
 - H. Consultation with the Life and Mission Agency on funding for the synod's regional staff or other synod grants.
 - I. A formula for collaboration among the presbyteries on future requests for amendment to the plan by General Assembly.
 - J. Any other matters deemed necessary.
2. Synod forwards the plan to the presbyteries within its bounds for consideration. Presbyteries will report back

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to the synod indicating approval, requested amendments, or disapproval after consulting with the congregations within their bounds.

3. Synod reviews and amends the dissolution plan and forwards it to the General Assembly, through the Committee on Bills and Overtures, for final approval.

4. General Assembly considers the dissolution plan and may grant dissolution with a specific date to become effective or refer the plan back to the synod.

5. Following the approval by the General Assembly, the synod shall, through signing officers, effect the necessary transfers and proceed with closing bank accounts, removing signing officers, revoking charitable status (if in place) and any other legal matters that need to be brought to conclusion.

6. Synod minutes and official reports shall be transferred to the Archives of The Presbyterian church in Canada and any legal documents transferred to the body accepting responsibility.

Proposed Calendar for Dissolution

If in October 2017 our Synod resolved to proceed to dissolution, then the steps would happen as follows:

Section 1. Preparing the Dissolution Plan	During 2017
Section 2. Forwarding Plan to Presbyteries	In February 2018
Section 3. Approval of a Final Amended Plan	In October 2018
Section 4. Consideration of our Plan by the General Assembly	In June 2019
Sections 5. & 6.	In October 2019
Synod might be finally dissolved on January 1, 2020.	

Proposed Calendar for Perpetuating the Synod

If in October 2017 our Synod decided not to proceed to dissolution, then what would be the steps needed to make changes in our structure?

Adjustments would apply to the following roles of Synod as set out by the Presbytery of Seaway-Glengarry:

1. Judicial Role
2. Funding Role
3. Planning Role
4. Administrative Role

The Seaway-Glengarry document contains more detail of the steps that might be taken to make these changes possible. As with a dissolution scenario, these steps would likely take place during the 2017-2018 season and the proposed changes might be discussed at the October 2019 sederunt.

Financial Contingencies

Financial Questions & Answers

1. SECESSION: If one or more of the presbyteries secedes from Synod, will grants be pared back by that presbytery's contribution to their part of Synod (the Quebec part or the Eastern Ontario part) or will the remaining presbyteries be willing to make up the difference, especially in terms of support of the camps and youth?

We have had a definitive word from Don Muir that, should the Synod decide to continue, then all five Presbyteries must continue to be members. Secession is not an option. We would instead be required to negotiate an adequate working relationship with any dissenting presbyteries. From a financial point of view, it may well be that some presbyteries might opt out of paying their assessments. If that were the case, then the other presbyteries would have to agree to revamp the assessment schedule in order to compensate for any loss of revenue.

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2. If we opt to make changes and the two Presbyteries who are not of a mind to participate leave, do the remaining three Presbyteries have the collective funds to provide that amount on an annual basis? If it is necessary to list these two Presbyteries as members of Synod, in order to maintain the constitutional integrity of the Synod, do we have the means to continue to operate without demanding an annual assessment from the dissenting presbyteries?

In the notes on the April meeting of Synod Council^{xxvi}, it was suggested that the net cost of operating the Synod in one year is \$23,350.00. Gord Walford, Convenor, Synod Finance Committee, has provided a table (See below) showing up-to-date budget figures as a guideline for discussion of this matter.

3. If there are individual Presbyterians from the dissenting presbyteries who still wish to attend Synod meetings could they do so?

Should some presbyteries insist on not sending commissioners or to not otherwise participate, we would have to address the implication of that action on the body as a whole and the implications for individual Presbyterians who might want to continue to participate in Synod if they come from a dissenting Presbytery.

4. If these members did participate, could they apply to Synod for the expense of attending, or would they have to ask their respective Presbytery to assume these costs for them?

5. The largest portion of Synod assessments – 76% at synod level – goes right back to the two camps. If Synod is dissolved will the presbyteries covenant to donate a similar annual amount to support the camps, or will presbyteries cease to support the camps? This could easily be a “make or break” situation for the camps. As the Presbytery of Montreal currently covers the entire cost of CAB and the Presbytery of Ottawa covers the cost of Gracefield, could we expect these Presbyteries to absorb those costs for Synod from their own resources?

In our Committee discussions, we have suggested that in fact, the Ottawa and Seaway-Glengarry, Montreal and Quebec presbyteries are, in effect funding and operating these camps, and that likely this financial arrangement would devolve to the four presbyteries, should the Synod dissolve. If the Synod continues to exist, then the current financial arrangement could be kept.

6. Would there continue to be a direct relationship of oversight or support between these Camps and Synod?

7. One quarter of other expenses goes to support youth programs. Same question - if Synod is dissolved will the presbyteries covenant to donate a similar annual amount to support youth activities in their areas (including participation in CY), or will presbyteries cease to support these youth activities?

In this case, the presbyteries would be asked to covenant a similar donation. We should keep in mind that, since Synod went out of the business of supporting the two regional workers, that the participation of all presbyteries in redirecting these funds to other initiatives has not been an unqualified success. It seems that there has been poor communication among the presbyteries and that all presbyteries have not taken advantage of the programme to redistribute the funds coming from Wynford Drive. On the other hand, if the Synod continues to exist, then the current financial arrangement could be kept.

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Financial breakdown of revenue and expenses, 2016

	2016b	2016a	2017b		2016b	2016a	2017b
assessments							
Quebec	3,036.00	3,036.00	2,735.00		7.8%	7.8%	7.6%
Montreal	35,652.00	35,652.00	33,198.00		92.2%	92.2%	92.4%
SUM, QUEBEC	38,688.00	38,688.00	35,933.00				
grant to CAB	27,513.00	27,513.00	25,732.63		71.1%	71.1%	71.6%
portion of assessment to o. expenses	11,175.00	11,175.00	10,200.37		28.9%	28.9%	28.4%
assessments							
Seaway-Glengarry	16,225.00	16,225.00	16,477.00		26.1%	26.1%	25.8%
Ottawa	32,639.00	32,639.00	34,007.00		52.5%	52.5%	53.2%
Lanark & Renfrew	13,279.00	13,279.00	13,449.00		21.4%	21.4%	21.0%
SUM, EASTERN ONTARIO	62,143.00	62,143.00	63,933.00				
grant to Gracefield	49,193.00	49,193.00	50,783.58		79.2%	79.2%	79.4%
portion of assessment to o. expenses	12,950.00	12,950.00	13,149.42		20.8%	20.8%	20.6%
SYNOD							
assessments	100,831.00	100,831.00	99,866.00				
grants to camps	76,706.00	76,706.00	76,516.21		76.1%	76.1%	76.6%
other expenses	24,125.00	24,125.00	23,349.79		23.9%	23.9%	23.4%
of which...							
meetings		6,759.15				6.7%	
honoraria		3,775.00				3.7%	
CY and youth programs		6,903.80				6.8%	
other		6,687.05				6.6%	

(a=actual, b=budget)

Ground Rules and Recommendations

When Synod meets next in October, the debate about dissolution will be based on the position of the Overture from Lanark & Renfrew. Those who agree with the Overture will be taking a position that is *pro* dissolution and will vote “yes” to any motion aimed at dissolving the Synod. Those who wish to perpetuate the Synod will be *con* dissolution and will vote “no” to any motion aimed at dissolution. You are reminded that the Clerks of Assembly have stated: “If the synod decides to pursue the possibility of dissolution, it would prepare a dissolution plan to be circulated to its presbyteries for comment, as described in Appendix K.”^{xxvii}

At this time, the Special Committee recommendations are as follows:

Recommendation 1: That the Synod receive and consider the committee’s report.

Recommendation 2: That the five constituent presbyteries should study the report and make an effort to re-envision and re-imagine of what the synod is – why it exists – what its purpose is – and how can it best fulfill its purpose.

No matter which direction the conversation takes on the floor of Synod, the commissioners need to keep in mind that:

- The dissolution of the synod, or continuation of the synod, does not need to be unanimously supported by presbyteries.
- Even if two presbyteries support the pro position and three espouse the con position, the ultimate decision will be based on the vote of the commissioners present in October.
- Commissioners should therefore be well familiar with the contents of this report as they formulate their own views and decide how to vote.

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- If the synod adopts our recommendation 2, then the presbyteries would have a year to study and to respond. The final decision on the question of supporting dissolution may well not be made until 2019.
- If there is sufficient support to pursue dissolution, the dissolution plan would be forwarded to the General Assembly for its consideration and decision. This regime would only therefore be in place in 2019.

Conclusion

“A Synod is instituted for weighty matters, to be intreated by mutual consent and assistance of the presbyters within the bounds, as need requires.”

While there are two written appeals to Synod asking it to dissolve, there was no strong consensus among our committee members to see these enacted. From the tenor of these documents, it rather seems that the appeals put the onus on the Synod itself to justify its continued existence. Meanwhile, those presbyters who want to see the Synod maintained feel that the existence of our Synod is protected by the polity of our denomination and by our vow to promote unity among its members. The “mutual consent” we seek, evidently does not obtain at the moment.

Our Special Committee regrets that our membership does not include presbyters who have been vocal in support of the position of the Presbytery of Lanark & Renfrew and the majority position of the Presbytery of Montreal. Unfortunately, those who were offered this opportunity demurred. This leaves us open to a disclaimer that the advice that we offer the Synod Council may lack adequate balance. Nevertheless, the letter to the presbyteries, cited above, shows our bias that a solution between the status quo and dissolution is much to be preferred.

A look at the recent history of our Synod shows that we have dealt with “weighty matters” and dealt with them well. In fact there have been notable examples where we have all benefitted from a spiritual retreat that has inspired and encouraged us to return to the affairs of our presbyteries with renewed energy, insight and faith. It may have been inconvenient to the presbyters “within the bounds” to meet as a body, but that does not mitigate the goodness of assembly. It may have cost money to do so, but that does not mean that our deliberations have been without value. Some of our discussions have been prolonged and at times wearying, but that does not mean that our spiritual awareness has not been enhanced in the process. Let us hope and pray that a midcourse can be found for the Synod to perpetuate these good works.

Respectfully submitted,
David Christiani, Convenor

Appendix

The Synod of Québec and Eastern Ontario

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The Presbytery of Lanark & Renfrew

The Presbyterian Church in Canada

The Reverend Barry Carr, Moderator

*Randall Russell, Clerk of
Presbytery 349 Sand Bay Road, Shawville,
QC JOX 2Y0*

Tel : 819-647-2977

E-mail: randall.andrew.russell@gmail.com

presby.lanren@gmail.com

September 23, 2016

The Synod of Quebec and Eastern Ontario:

Mrs. Donna McIlveen, Clerk

1711 County Rd. 2

Johnstown, ON

KOE 1T1

Dear Reverend Synod:

At Smiths Falls, Ontario on September 20, 2016, the Presbytery of Lanark and Renfrew met and was constituted with prayer.

Among other matters addressed, the presbytery agreed to transmit an overture to the Synod re: the Dissolution of the Synod of Quebec and Eastern Ontario

This overture is transmitted with the approval of the court.

Sincerely,



Randall A. Russell Clerk

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The Church of St. Andrew and St. Paul, Montréal, Québec

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September 20, 2016

Overture - PRESBYTERY OF LANARK AND RENFREW

Re: the Dissolution of the Synod of Quebec & Eastern Ontario

To the 142nd Synod of Quebec and Eastern Ontario

WHEREAS the role of the Synod of Quebec and Eastern Ontario has changed substantially over the years,
and

WHEREAS the 142nd General Assembly (2016) finalized changes in church law which provide a process for the voluntary dissolution of synods,
and

WHEREAS Synod, historically, has been a strong and vital court of the Church but that, now, increasingly, the work is being done at the presbytery level,
and

WHEREAS, throughout the history of The Presbyterian Church in Canada, Presbytery has been and continues to be a vital link to congregations and a strength in the Church,
and

WHEREAS the finances currently designated for Synod can be better utilized by presbyteries to help congregations,

THEREFORE the Presbytery of Lanark and Renfrew humbly overtures the Reverend, the 142nd meeting of the Synod of Quebec and Eastern Ontario to voluntarily dissolve the Synod of Quebec and Eastern Ontario, according to the process set forth in the Book of Forms 259.2, or to do otherwise as the Synod, in its wisdom, may deem best.



Randall A. Russell Clerk

The Presbytery of Lanark & Renfrew

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L'ÉGLISE PRESBYTÉRIENNE AU CANADA – THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN CANADA

CONSISTOIRE DE MONTRÉAL – PRESBYTERY OF MONTREAL



NEC TAMEN CONSUMEBATUR

3495 UNIVERSITY ST.,
MONTREAL, QUE. H3A
2A8 845-2566

Extract from the records of the Presbytery of Montreal

At the Church of St. Andrew and St. Paul, Montreal, the 20th day of September in the year 2016:

Which day the Presbytery of Montreal met and was constituted, with prayer. Among other matters addressed, the presbytery passed the following motion:

MOVED by J. Coppieters / R. De Vries that the presbytery hereby state its wish that the Synod of Quebec and Eastern Ontario be dissolved and that presbytery communicate this wish to the other presbyteries of the Synod of Quebec and Eastern Ontario and to the synod.

Number of votes cast.....	29
Necessary for adoption (majority).....	15
Votes for motion.....	24
Votes against	5

CARRIED

Extracted from the records of the Presbytery of Montreal by Michael Pettem.

Michael Pettem Clerk of Presbytery

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SPECIAL COMMITTEE RE POSSIBLE DISSOLUTION OF SYNOD

That a special committee be struck to investigate the advisability of dissolving the synod and the ramifications and necessary contingencies should the synod be dissolved, and that the five presbyteries earnestly consider the future configuration and organization of the presbyteries and communicate their respective positions to the synod special committee.

Terms of Reference

The special committee is established by the Synod of Quebec and Eastern Ontario to consider:

- The advisability of dissolving synod
- The ramifications should the synod dissolve
- The necessary contingencies should the synod dissolve
- Consider the responses of the five presbyteries regarding their respective positions on their future configuration and organization

The special committee will prepare a proposed dissolution plan as per Appendix K of the Book of Forms for the consideration of the 143rd Synod.

Meetings of the special committee may be held by internet or telephone conference, email, and face to face, with their frequency determined by agreement of the members.

Expenses shall be reimbursed by the Synod on a reasonable basis for the special committee and its work.

The special committee is accountable to the Synod.

The special committee is to report progress to the synod council in April 2017.

The special committee will make a full report to the 143rd annual Synod meeting, with that report made available to presbyteries and posted to the synod website by September 1, 2017.

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A STATEMENT ON SYNODS (prepared by James T. Hurd):

“A synod is instituted for weighty matters, to be intreated by mutual consent and assistance of the presbyters within the bounds, as need requires.”

This definition (paraphrased from section 274 of The Book of Forms, but in its original form found in the

Second Book of Discipline in 1578, is foundational to our historic Presbyterian polity.

Two other statements grounded in the Second Book of Discipline provide the basic *raison d’être* for the synod: “A synod has power ‘to handle, order, or redress all things omitted or done amiss’ by presbyteries and sessions within its bounds.” (section 273); and “In general, the synod possesses the whole power of the particular presbyteries and sessions within its bounds.” (section 275)

Synods may meet as frequently or infrequently as the presbyters deem necessary. It is true that section 261 of The Book of Forms says, “The synod meets ordinarily once a year”, but there is nothing that precludes the synod from meeting somewhat more or somewhat less frequently. Synods are free to meet by commission, and can fix the ratio of commissioners to presbyters, as deemed best. On one hand, there is nothing that precludes the synod from appointing a small commission to meet every two years for the purpose of examining and attesting the records of the presbyteries. On the other hand, there is nothing that precludes the synod from meeting in full session for days or weeks on end for conference, prayer, study, and learning, and to bring together all the leaders or even all the members of the congregations within the bounds.

The synod collectively has the responsibility and authority to aid and support the presbyteries within its bounds, and to support sessions -- and through them congregations and missions -- to advance the gospel and the kingdom of Christ.

Rather than time and energy spent on crafting detailed changes to complicate The Book of Forms and permit “optional elimination of synods”, the resources of the church would be far better spent in doing the mission that Christ entrusted to the church: to go into all the world and make disciples of every nation, baptising, and teaching by word and deed the great commandments to love God with heart and soul and mind and strength and to love neighbour as self.

Provision for synods as part of our polity is sound and useful. Let us use it, not lose it. If one were to use the analogy that a synod is like a camp gathered in a tent, one might say that the place (and time) where the tent is pitched is far less significant than the company of people who gather to enjoy camp together. One might also say that the campers value the camp gathering for the people who come not for the size and shape of the tent. The tent poles are important to provide the framework for the tent, but the focus is not on admiring the poles, but using the tent wherever and whenever the campers find occasion to gather together to share life and work.

“Let us consider how we may spur one another on towards love and good deeds. Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another.”

(Hebrews 10: 24 - 25, NIV)

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EXTRACT MINUTE

At St. Andrew's Presbyterian Chesterville, Ontario, Tuesday, June 20, 2017,

Which day The Presbytery of Seaway-Glengarry met in regular session and was constituted with prayer by the Moderator, the Rev. Ian MacLean.

Constituent Roll Attendance:

Ministers: Ian MacLean, Moderator, Ian MacMillan, Geoff Howard, Jim Ferrier, Samer Kandalaft, Bruce Kemp, Marianne Emig Carr, Feras Chamas, Cheryl Gaver and Ian Johnston.

Representative Elders: Verne Gilkes, Marilyn Leach-Duck, Janet LeBrun, Phyllis MacMaster, Linda McCaslin, Heather McIntosh, Beth Short, Heather Stewart, Allan Thom and alternate Carol Esdale.

Among other matters addressed, a report was received from the Special Committee re the Future of Synod, established at the May 16, 2017 presbytery meeting in response to the correspondence from the Synod Special Committee. The committee members named: John Adams, Cheryl Gaver, Geoff Howard and Donna McIlveen. On behalf of the committee, Cheryl Gaver presented the report by way of a power-point presentation. The points within the presentation were also included in a written report.

Discussion on the report ensued.

The following two recommendations were moved, duly seconded and adopted:

1. That the report from the Special Committee re the Future of Synod be forwarded to the Synod Special Committee.

2. That the Presbytery of Seaway-Glengarry go on record as stating that the synod should not be eliminated at this time, but a re-envisioning and re-imagining of what the synod is needs to be intentionally undertaken so that the synod can best fulfill its purpose.

Marianne Emig Carr asked that her dissent be recorded to the second recommendation. The committee report is as follows:

Comments: re Overture to Dissolve Synods

The Question

If one or more synods were eliminated, how would the oversight of presbyteries and the coordination of multi-presbytery functions and programmatic initiatives be exercised? How might the polity and ecclesiology of The Presbyterian Church in Canada be more effectively reflected in the processes of committees and boards of the General Assembly?

A Special Committee was established to consider:

1. The advisability of dissolving synod
2. The ramifications should the synod dissolve
3. The necessary contingencies should the synod dissolve
4. The responses of the five presbyteries regarding their respective positions on their future configuration and organization

The options faced by the Special Committee are:

- To maintain the status quo – the Synod will continue as is
- To reconfigure the structure and organization of the Synod
- To eliminate (dissolve) the Synod.

The Special Committee asked the five presbyteries within the Synod of Quebec & Eastern Ontario to consider the issue and report back by June 30th, 2017. The Presbytery of Seaway- Glengarry created its own committee to consider the issue. We met May 31st, 2017 to consider the question. This report encapsulates our discussion. The Background

The 2016 General Assembly referred a document entitled “A Study of Presbyterian Polity: Its Distinctives and Directions for the 21st Century” for study and report. The document includes a section on synod:

What does it mean to be a synod?

“Part of the impetus for current discussion and decisions around “optional elimination of synods” arises from observations that synods do not have as much “work” or “money” to manage as formerly. Yet our first principles remind us that synods are “for weighty matters, to be intreated by mutual consent and assistance”.

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(Book of Forms section 274, quoting the Second Book of Discipline, VII, sec. 19)

“Presbyteries can go astray, and fail congregations. Small presbyteries, scattered by distance, stretched to the limit through vacancies, or troubled by inter-personal conflicts, may be unable to function in ways that ensure appropriate and necessary oversight of congregations and support for effective missional ministry to the communities in which they are situated, and necessary and appropriate collegial oversight of presbyters. In such cases, it is the role of the synod to intervene to provide what is needed and to ensure mutual accountability.

“In addition, synods as corporate entities provide for oversight and organisation for multi-presbytery initiatives and programs, including camps, conferences and retreats which may foster leadership training.

“If one or more synods were eliminated, how would the oversight of presbyteries and the coordination of multi-presbytery functions and programmatic initiatives be exercised? How might the polity and ecclesiology of The Presbyterian Church in Canada be more effectively reflected in the processes of committees and boards of the General Assembly?

Consideration 1 – The Advisability of Dissolving Synod

We began our discussion by asking what the synod was and explored its mandate and vision. While it was easy to summarize what the synod did, discerning its mandate and vision – its reason for existence – proved to be a challenge.

Yes, the synod is a judicial court and exists to handle certain appeals and deal with “weighty” matters. Yes, the synod funds certain activities – such as camps and the Presbytery Ministry Animator’s position. Yes, the synod meets yearly and sometimes does hold educational conferences.

Its administrative and judicial roles are evident but are these roles enough to justify its existence? Does it have a place in the vision and mission of the Church as a whole? Could it? Should it?

While it was acknowledged that presbytery members generally seem to have a negative perception of the synod – as evidenced by difficulties getting members to volunteer for the annual synod meeting – is the reason that the synod is generally irrelevant or rather that it has failed to communicate its importance?

Consideration 2 – The Ramifications Should the Synod Dissolve

Judiciary Role. The synod is a court of the Church (session, presbytery, synod and General Assembly) and has a role in the judicial process to receive corrective cases and appeals from presbyteries. In the case of a transmittal to the synod, where there is no meeting prior to the General Assembly, the complaint shall be transmitted directly to the General Assembly (section 386 B of F). If the synod ceased to be, the process is already in place for transmittal to the higher court. Is the judiciary role sufficient reason to warrant the synod’s continued existence if the General Assembly can handle such matters?

Funding Role. The synod supports two camps financially: Gracefield Christian Camp and Retreat Centre (Gracefield) and Camp d’action biblique (CAB). In fact, CAB is funded by the presbyteries of Montreal and Quebec while Gracefield is funded by the presbyteries of Lanark-Renfrew, Ottawa and Seaway-Glengarry. Even though the funds are channelled through the synod, the responsibility for funding lies with the presbyteries.

Without the synod, the presbyteries would simply continue the role they now play and fund the camps directly. The question to be asked is would they? Does the synod’s existence broaden the presbyteries’ perspective of the Church – the larger Church? Without the synod, would presbyteries narrow their vision and re-evaluate their commitment to broader initiatives such as the camps or Presbytery Ministry Animator?

Planning Role. In the past, synod has planned educational events and conferences which crossed presbytery boundaries. This allowed the synod to plan more ambitious events and engage more expensive speakers. This role has declined in part because of the difficulties in getting volunteers to take the lead.

Could presbyteries pick up the slack? The Presbytery of Ottawa is considering a Presbyterian Music Festival but does it have the resources to plan such an event without asking for contributions and assistance from the synod (or other presbyteries)?

Administrative Role. This role supports the activities of the synod. If activities were transferred to the

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individual presbyteries, do they have the resources to pick up the slack? Would the Clerks of Presbytery have the time to add on additional tasks? Would the presbytery have the resources to increase pay for the Clerks of Presbytery for their additional work?

Consideration 3 – The Necessary Contingencies Should the Synod Dissolve

- Modify the procedures dealing with judicial matters (i.e., interface between Presbytery and General Assembly)
- Ensure funding is “guaranteed” for ongoing synod commitments
- Ensure that presbyteries have the resources in place (staff and finances) to handle any functions that are transferred from synod to presbytery.

Consideration 4 – Response from Presbytery of Seaway-Glengarry

After much discussion, the presbytery committee has come up with the following conclusions:

- The status quo is not acceptable.

The fact that it is difficult to get members to attend synod and that the question re dissolution of synod is even being asked is an indication that something is wrong and needs to be examined.

- The synod should not be eliminated at this time.

The fact that we have difficulty understanding the mission / vision of the synod within the church does not mean there is no mission or no place for the synod, though it might. It does mean we need to ask the questions and explore the issue. Once we have done that, we may indeed decide to eliminate the synod but should not eliminate it before exploring options.

- Reconfigure the structure and organization of the synod.

We disagree with this option as well. Looking at a new structure or organization

without examining its vision/mandate – reason for existence (*raison d’être*) – is the wrong approach. The judiciary, funding, planning, and administrative roles should

exist to support the synod vision; they should not be the overriding focus of the synod.

We do recommend a re-envisioning and re-imagining of what the synod is – why it exists – what its purpose is – and how can it best fulfill its purpose.

What our Committee envisaged – at a very preliminary level – was:

- Synod meeting every two years
- Synod focus should be on activities that span individual presbyteries and ecumenical outreach, including camps, Presbytery Ministry Animator, education conferences and retreats, festivals (such as Christian Music Festival being considered by the Presbytery of Ottawa).
- Synod should hire an Event Planner or Event Coordinator (part-time, full-time or other options still to be determined).

Extracted from the records of the Presbytery of Seaway-Glengarry by Mrs. Donna McIlveen, Clerk.

The Synod of Québec and Eastern Ontario

The Church of St. Andrew and St. Paul, Montréal, Québec

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Presbytery of Ottawa

Extract minute of the stated meeting - June 17, 2017

At Gracefield, Quebec, and within the Gracefield Christian Camp and Retreat Centre there, Saturday, the seventeenth day of June two thousand seventeen, at ten o'clock in the morning: which place and date the Presbytery of Ottawa met in regular session.

Worship

The moderator called presbyters to worship including the singing of the hymn, “We cannot own the sunlit sky”, accompanied by C. C. Pettigrew on the piano.

Constitution

Thereafter the moderator led in prayer and constituted the court.

Roll Call

Those members of the court present were: J. Tyler, Moderator; J. T. Hurd, Clerk; W. J. Ball, D. R. Kendall, J. E. Pot, F. R. McPhee, and C. C. Pettigrew, Ministers; and J. Born Flett, L. Buschman, R. Connelly, S. Currie, G. Fyffe (alt. for P. Winkelaar), D. Konrad, P. Lamont, D. Nickerson, O. O'May, D. Simpson, and S. Stewart, Elders.

T. Boonstra, Minister on the appendix to the roll, and D. Herbert, Diaconal Minister on the appendix to the roll, were also present.

D. MacMillan, Convener, Committee on Policy and Planning; and N. Rebin, Treasurer, were also present.

Among other things:

Other Business

The court took into consideration item #2017-47, received at the previous stated meeting, from David Christiani, convener, special committee re the possible dissolution of the synod, dated May 11, 2017, reporting progress, offering options, and seeking input from the presbytery, and specifying a deadline for response of June 30, 2017.

Copies of the letter had been circulated to all members of the presbytery in advance of the meeting

On motion of D. R. Kendall, seconded by S. Currie, it was agreed that the Presbytery of Ottawa go on record as being in favour of neither the status quo nor the dissolution of the synod, but encourage the special committee to consider a bold vision for the reconfiguration and organization of the synod.

It was agreed to note that on the vote, all but one were in favour, with one vote opposed.

Extracted from the records of the Presbytery of Ottawa at Ottawa this the twenty-ninth day of June, in the year of our Lord two thousand seventeen, and certified correct.

J. T. Hurd, Clerk.

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The Church of St. Andrew and St. Paul, Montréal, Québec

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48 rue Mitchell,
Thetford Mines, Quebec, G6G 3L8
June 30, 2017

Mrs. Donna McIlveen, Clerk
The Synod of Quebec and Eastern Ontario Dear Donna,

At our regular Presbytery meeting, held in Thetford Mines on June 17, 2017, we discussed the May 11, 2017 letter from the Synod Special Committee Re: The Possible Dissolution of Synod.

There is no desire within our Presbytery to have the Synod of Quebec and Eastern Ontario dissolved. This Presbytery has gone on record numerous times in the past as not being in favour of commissioned synods, desiring a return to full synods with a conference component. As a small presbytery, it is vitally important to us to have the support and contact with the other presbyteries within the synod.

I have attached an extract of the minutes showing our motion to support a return to full synods, which was passed unanimously.

Please contact me if you have any questions or need further information. My phone number is

(418) 755-0990. My email contact is revbarb2003@gmail.com.

Yours in Christ's service,

Rev. Barbara Fotheringham, Clerk

Presbytery of Quebec

Extract from the minutes of the Presbytery of Quebec at
Thetford Mines, Quebec, on the 17th day of June, 2017.

Which day the Presbytery of Quebec was constituted with prayer. Among other matters addressed and passed the motion as follows:

It was moved by B. Fotheringham and seconded by R. Dempsey that the Presbytery of Quebec recommend a continuance of Synod, with it being a full synod every year (not a commissioned court), including a conference component.

The motion was adopted unanimously.

Extracted from the minutes of the Presbytery of Quebec,

Barbara Fotheringham, Clerk of The Presbytery of Quebec

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As part of its mandate from the Synod of Eastern Ontario and Quebec, the Special Committee Re: The Possible Dissolution of Synod has been charged with contacting the five presbyteries asking them to,

“... earnestly consider the future configuration and organization of the presbyteries and communicate their respective positions to the Synod Special Committee. As Convenor, I am sending this invitation to your Presbytery to respond to us in these terms.

The Special Committee met in Ottawa in March to consider all aspects of its terms of reference. In our investigation we considered the range of action now open to the Synod, including:

1. Status quo – Continuance of the Synod as it presently functions
2. Reconfiguration of the structure and organization of the Synod
3. Elimination of the Synod

Among the members of the Committee, there was consensus that options one and three might better be avoided. Our Committee's study found that Synod is envisaged to maintain a connective dimension among the presbyteries. For this reason, we are looking to find a middle course of action that might be found acceptable to all. We could imagine, for instance, that the Synod might not meet annually, and that when it does meet as a commissioned court, there might be a greatly diminished number of delegates appointed. At the same time, the framework for a full meeting of presbyters within the Quebec and Eastern Ontario region could remain in place for use if and when such a gathering were deemed necessary or advisable.

We have submitted an interim report to the Synod Council and have received feedback from them which we will include in the final report in September.

In your response to this invitation, the Committee requests that your Presbytery consider that Synod has three current and significant roles to fill within the spiritual life of our denomination:

- the opportunity to build a larger-scale gathering place for the exchange of Christian ideas,
- the collegial responsibility to provide balanced support to both our Presbyteries and their congregations
- the requirement to oversee and adjudicate the affairs of the Presbyterians within our region.

At the 142nd Synod meeting of October 2016, the Presbytery of Lanark & Renfrew issued a formal Overture and the Presbytery of Montreal issued a letter to Synod stating their position that the Synod should be dissolved. We are asking the presbyteries to please include this matter in their agenda, to reflect on the contents of this letter and to respond to the address below by June 30, 2017 with their opinion. If you choose, a vote count report might help our committee to gauge the level of support across the Synod for the options currently before us.

We thank you in advance for your collaboration in this matter.

Sincerely yours,

David Christiani, Convenor

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STATED HOUR (10:45 am) – Special Committee re Possible Dissolution of Synod

Committee Mandate and Terms of Reference (Appendix – page 1)

David Christiani, convener of the Special Committee re Possible Dissolution of Synod, joined the meeting by phone at the appointed hour of 10:45 am.

The past-Moderator welcomed David Christiani to the meeting and invited him to address the committee's interim report. (Appendix – pages 2-3)

David provided an overview of the committee's work to date. The committee has met once, face to face, on March 7, 2017 in Ottawa. They reviewed the Handbook & Research Document, prepared by the convener, which includes relevant sections from synod minutes since 1998 and other documents related to the continued existence of the synod.

- a copy of the Handbook & Research Document was available for members of the synod council to peruse.

David shared with the synod council that the Special Committee understands that there are strong opinions for and against the continuance of synod. Those that want the synod to dissolve have been the most vocal. Those that want the synod to continue have not been as vocal as they don't see the need to ask for something that already exists. There are also members of the various presbyteries within the bounds that are not familiar with synod, and as such don't have a strong opinion one way or the other.

The mandate of the Special Committee includes the request that the "...five presbyteries earnestly consider the future configuration and organization of the presbyteries and communicate their respective positions to the synod special committee."

Within the body of the Interim Report is a draft letter to the presbyteries seeking their response to the above request.

The synod council considered the content of the letter.

☐ It was agreed that within the letter there should be a statement acknowledging that the committee has heard the strong opinions expressed, for and against, the continuance of the synod.

☐ It was agreed that there is a need to raise with the presbyteries the importance of taking seriously the request to consider their future configuration and organization, and to share that with the Special Committee.

The letter contains five options that the Special Committee perceive to be open to the synod:

(a) status quo (b) opting out (c) reconfiguration with fewer presbyteries (d) optional elimination and (e) dissolution. They feel that the middle three options are the least divisive.

It was suggested that each option needs to be more clearly defined in the letter. For example, the differences between 'opting out' and 'optional elimination'.

In addition, a question was raised as to whether the legislation (Book of Forms 259.2) allows for the option of some presbyteries within a synod to opt out but still have the synod exist. If not, then only two options should be considered: either 'status quo' or 'dissolve'.

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However, it was suggested that the phrase ‘status quo’ leaves one with the impression that there is no room for improvement. What about ‘modified status quo’?

The Terms of Reference for the Special Committee state that they are to consider the advisability of dissolving the synod, the ramifications should it be dissolved, and the necessary contingencies. A question was raised as to why the letter to the presbyteries does not include any detail on those considerations.

The convener noted that the Special Committee expects their full report to be released at the beginning of September, and within it will be some history of the discussion in synod and the implications if it was to dissolve. A calendar based on Appendix K – Procedures for the Dissolution of a Synod, will also be developed and suggested.

Discussion on the cost of synod ensued. The majority of the annual synod budget goes to support Christian camping. At the special synod meeting of May 3, 2008, the synod agreed that 0.66% of the dollar base would be included in its annual budget to support Christian camping, with the full proportion of the assessment assigned to the Presbyteries of Montréal and Québec being directed to Camp d’action biblique and the full proportion of the assessment assigned to the Ontario Presbyteries being directed to Gracefield (subject to their continued satisfactory operations).

In the 2017 synod budget of \$99,866.21, the amount of \$76,516.21 is for camping (\$50,783.58 for Gracefield and \$25,732.63 for Camp d’action biblique). \$23,350.00 is budgeted for synod administration and programs.

It was agreed that a financial analysis of the cost of synod needs to be included in the discussion on the future of synod.

The financial analysis needs to include different scenarios, such as the cost of synod without any camps.

It was further agreed that the letter needs to encourage the presbyteries to respond to the Special Committee with both negative (‘the beefs’) and positive feedback on synod, including suggestions and possibilities for a revitalized synod.

END OF STATED HOUR

At 12:15 pm, it was agreed to conclude the stated hour, and adjourn for lunch.

The Moderator thanked David Christiani for his participation.

At 2:40 pm discussion on the draft letter to the presbyteries resumed.

It was agreed that the letter needs to be more concrete, and include a summary of what the synod does, in light of the reality that not all presbyters have attended a synod meeting.

As well the letter needs to encourage presbyteries to consider what a modified status quo synod might look like, within the limits of present legislation.

It was agreed that James T. Hurd, member on the Special Committee, would confer further with David Christiani regarding the content of the letter to the presbyteries.

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(From page 21, minutes)

That the position paper be included in the appendix to the minutes of the 140th Synod meeting, and that the position paper does not reflect the opinion of the entire synod.

Position Paper on the Optional Elimination of Synods

Presented to the 140th Meeting of the Synod of Quebec and Eastern Ontario

October 17 & 18, 2014

Introduction

No doubt it is a healthy exercise for our denomination to examine the relevance of our institutions from time to time and to ask whether they continue to fulfill their mandate. This is a very healthy exercise.

The overtures from the Presbytery of Lanark and Renfrew challenge us to undertake such an exercise in regard to our own Synod. However, I am speaking today against the optional elimination of Synods. I believe that optional dissolution is motivated not by a desire to question the relevance of the Synod and its continued ability to fulfill its mandate, but rather by the fear that congregations in a Presbytery may no longer survive if they continue to contribute financially to a process they see as propping up a Synod.

The Synod has three important roles that it is equipped to fill within the spiritual life of our denomination:

the opportunity to build a larger-scale gathering place for the exchange of Christian ideas and ideals,

the chance to provide balanced support to our congregations and our Presbyteries, and

fulfilling the mandate to maintain the system of governance that is an integral part of Presbyterianism in Canada.

How many of us Elders here present recall the question asked of us at our Induction? “Do you accept to follow no divisive course but to seek the peace and unity of Christ among your people and throughout the Holy Catholic Church?” It is difficult to see how overtures that advocate the dissolution of Synods serve to create peace and unity among Christian people. Their very wording seems to suggest that we should separate into isolated pockets of worship, cut off from the chance to celebrate those other places where God is at work in the lives of our fellow Presbyterians in the denomination.

Yes, we all recite the same creed; we pray the same prayers and sing the same hymns in our own churches. We know that our Book of Forms prescribes what it is to worship God as a Presbyterian in Canada in our individual congregations. But, you know, we are all human. We understand much better the concrete rather than the abstract. We may observe that there is a dwindling number who share in the worship prescribed for our own congregations and fear that all congregations are shrinking, or worse still that the apparent demise of the worship we have known is the full story. An institution like the Synod could be a place that would put paid to this kind of disunity and defeatism. There over 10,000 Presbyterians on our Communicant Rolls within the walls of the churches currently members of this Synod. Where are we going to see them if we do not from time to time invite them all to attend Synod? How can we be sensitized to the fact that we are not alone, we are not isolated and that God loves us?

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The position in favour of optional elimination is: The Synod is an institution that has lost its relevance. We are no longer capable of contributing financially and in so doing may hinder it from fulfilling its mandate. Therefore, we should gradually withdraw financial support ourselves and urge the other Presbyteries to acquiesce in abolishing our Synod. It cannot be denied that others within the Presbyterian Church in Canada consider Synods to be irrelevant and unsustainable. That is why the General Assembly has asked us respond to the report of the Committee on the Optional Elimination of Synods, and to take a position on the possibility of making regular Synod meetings optional.

But there is another side. There are those of us who say that Synods could serve an important purpose and that it is healthy for our denomination to support their continued existence. I cannot speak for you, but I am proud to be a commissioner to Synod. I am proud to be in a place that challenges us to dig deep and to speak up on spiritual issues of import based on our own years of experience. Here is where we are privileged to hear the opinion of others outside our immediate circle expressed before making a final judgment on the validity of our beliefs and those of our fellow members of Synod. There is potential within these walls for that to happen. That is what I am arguing today and that is what I intend to demonstrate in this speech: that the health of our congregations is best served by remaining within a fully functioning Synod of Quebec and Eastern Ontario.

Synod – Relevant and Competent

The position that I propose is: The Synod is an institution that continues to be relevant and competent. Even those churches, who feel that they are no longer capable of contributing financially, are still in need of the support of Synod. They are in need of help not only to survive, but to be communities who reflect God's vision of how we should live together. Therefore, we should find alternate sources of financial support so that all of the Presbyteries, through continued membership in the Synod, are able to put themselves in a stronger position to enact God's vision for His Church.

Let us take, as an example, the question of the health of the congregations in Lanark and Renfrew. Dr. Clyde Ervine has stated eloquently that "I'm here to plead that our central focus as a denomination be placed on congregations." (A&P 2012) I concur with him. We all should be concerned with the support of individual congregations. However, if the congregations of Lanark and Renfrew are so much under threat, I would have preferred that their Presbytery had sent an appeal to Synod asking for more financial support from the other Presbyteries who are Synod members, rather than asking Synod to disband. Far more desirable it would be to collaborate in Christian love within the Synod, than to further isolate the congregations of any one Presbytery by removing them from access to the important support available at the Synod level. We could help. We could draw the wagons together and provide shelter, aid and assistance to these beleaguered believers.

Would it not have been a more compassionate response to the needs and concerns of the Lanark & Renfrew congregations to say to the Presbytery, with the words of Christ, "Seek and ye shall find. Knock and the door shall be opened. Please come to this court in this spirit, so that we may respond constructively." As it is, we are side-tracked into an existential dialectic that, taken to its conclusion, would result in more rather than less isolation for these precious congregations who, like many other Presbyterian congregations, are asking; "How shall we sing the Lord's song in a strange land?"

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Synod – Source of Spiritual Guidance and Counsel

Take for instance the question of regional resource people. One of the Lanark and Renfrew Overtures has forced us to fire these valued workers. As a result, we have lost the inestimable value of their work as counsellors to our Presbyteries. Their ability to act as advocates for the fabulous camping programmes ongoing within our bounds has been compromised. Most significantly we have eliminated their function as spiritual guides for the youth of our denomination who are coming to grips with Christ's call to embark on a journey of personal faith as new Presbyterians. These regional resource workers were available to the congregations in Lanark and Renfrew too. Now they are gone.

Perhaps the two larger Presbyteries in the Synod could take up the slack and engage these workers as their employees. In fact, some of us in Montreal are urging our Presbytery to do just that. If that eventuates, what help can a regional resource person be in the outlying parts of Lanark and Renfrew? This regrettable decision has, at one and the same time, robbed Lanark and Renfrew of access to this service and at the same time weakened an important function of Synod. More on this later.

The case of the resource workers is cited here as evidence that the motivation of the move to optional elimination of Synods has led us on a destructive rather than a constructive path in building the Christian unity that we are enjoined by our Elder vows to build up within the bounds of the Synod of Québec and Eastern Ontario. Those of us who are Elders are in danger of failing our vows. As a community, our ability to respond to the guidance of God and his higher aims may now have been seriously compromised.

Synod – Preparing the Saints of God to be His Missional Church in the World

Let us instead look at what this Synod has offered to our constituents by way of an escape from a preoccupation with our survival and diminishing numbers. Let us consider what the Synod can contribute to the work that God is already doing outside the walls of our churches. He is waiting out there for us to be at the ready and respond. Let us not cower at the crossover, afraid to plunge in and forge a path to the other side of the river. I believe that there are important missions waiting to be fulfilled, if we only we can draw together as a denomination.

The 139th Synod meeting took a bold step to demonstrate the force of Synod's mandate to provide a gathering place. During last year's conference-style Synod, at no expense to the Synod coffers, we were able to hear an engaging and thoughtful analysis from Dr. Gary Nelson of the position of the Church in the 21st Century society. Yes, our influence within society has waned and is diminished, but Dr. Nelson was able to reassure us that God is still at work. It is up to us to be brave and to take that step out into our world that demands courage and faith on our part. In his book, Nelson goes on to say:

"From the beginning, God's redemptive plan was putting first an individual (Abraham), then a tribe and nation (the Israelites), and finally a people (the Church) who would be set apart to be God's new society. This people of God, called, "a holy nation" and a "royal priesthood" in I Peter 2:9-10, are particularly odd because they represent a profoundly different way of living life together as a community, while at the same time existing for others." (Nelson p. 47)

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The former minister at the Church of St. Andrew & St. Paul, Dr. Richard Topping, pointed out in one of his memorable sermons that all of us can be the Saints of God, if we just seek out the way to live our lives in that spirit. I think that Gary Nelson would concur. As he puts it, we all need to be conscious of our own spiritual awareness as we interact with others in our daily life. If we can do so, then we will demonstrate the manner in which, as Nelson goes on to quote David Augsburger,

The church is an alternative community - an alternative to human communities that live by coercion, competition and collective self-interest. It seeks to be a community of disciples who obey the particular rules of God that are revealed by Jesus. It models neighbour love, transformative redemptive justice, inclusion of the stranger, servanthood to each other and beyond, creative love, forgiveness and reconciliation and the humility to recognize and confess its own need for repentance and forgiveness.

And as David Fitch says,

The question is, how do we make sense of the Christian claim that ‘Jesus is Lord’ in a postmodern world where old ways to truth have broken down? The answer is we display what these words mean in the way we live and worship so that its reality, once displayed, cannot be denied, only rejected or entered into. We will persuade through living displays of truth, not one- on-one arguments. - (Nelson p. 50)

The intent of the Lanark and Renfrew Overtures has the potential to rob the congregations within its bounds of the chance to work with us as a Synod to fulfill these ideas and the concepts that were put on the floor of last year’s conference. Again at no cost, all of the sessions have been videotaped and are on our Synod website for congregations within our bounds and congregations anywhere in Canada to see and to evaluate anytime. Do we really want further such opportunities for events organized by Synod to evaporate? No, we do not. In fact we probably should contemplate how we could go beyond the focus on congregations that Clyde Irvine has encouraged. We should act forcefully to assist each individual Presbyterian to heighten their sense of spiritual awareness. Equipped with this awareness, we would hope that all of us could demonstrate what it is to be in a Christian community that is a preferable alternative to the status quo as demonstrated in secular society.

Synod - Building Balanced Governance and Support

As it stands today, the Book of Forms stipulates a built-in tripartite structure in our governance. We rely on a rapport between the courts of Presbytery, The Synod and the General Assembly to provide balanced judgement and support to individual Presbyterians and their congregations. The acts of any individual can be supported or censured and corrected for their own good by their congregation; likewise for the congregation, who can count on the support of the Presbytery and then for the Presbytery with the ongoing overview of the Synod. The problem is that this intermediate step between Synod and Presbytery has increasingly been circumvented by the General Assembly when it deals directly with Presbyteries.

Our decision to terminate our resource workers has furthered this erosion. Even if Presbyteries step in to employ the workers, we have further diminished the healthy balance and separation of powers between the General Assembly, the Synods and the Presbyteries. The decision regarding resource workers was partly made in response to the overtures. In the minority view of the resource worker decision, the balance of power has already been upset. Furthermore, those of us on the side of retaining an active Synod find that the call for optional elimination of Synods threatens to upset balanced governance all together. I, for one, am hesitant to take this step.

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Conclusion – One Church, One Faith, One Lord

Let us recall that as Elders, our vows incite us “to accept the government of this church by sessions, presbyteries, synods and General Assemblies, and ... to share in and submit yourself in all lawful oversight therein,” Before moving to abolish this institution, we as Elders and the Presbyterian Church as a whole would have to do some considerable soul-searching.

We may feel that it is inconvenient to attend Synod meetings at a great distance from home and with considerable cost attached. Did Peter and Andrew think in those terms when our Lord said, “Follow me and I will make you fishers of men?” We may be tempted to look at our struggling congregations with financially strapped budgets and say that the exercise of Synod is too frivolous and expensive. Have we considered that the God of the loaves and fishes is not going to see the 10,000 of us who profess belief in Him will be sufficiently nourished, financially speaking? If we watch our influence diminishing in a sea of secular thought and action; if we feel that something like a Synod may be irrelevant; are we forgetting that there is a God who loves us unconditionally and is surely not going to abandon those of us who espouse belief in Him?

Being a Canadian Presbyterian since I was a teenager has brought great joy and blessing to my life. I can depend on the teachings of Jesus and the love of God as expressed by our Teaching Elders and those in authority within those congregations who have framed my faith journey. I come from a large urban Church that is blessed with thriving church programmes, inspirational worship experiences and an engaged and growing congregation. I was raised in a small suburban Church that nevertheless achieved the same ends. If one was to examine them more closely in terms of what they could do to grow more and to impact society and all you relied upon were the resources and people of the congregation alone, you might find there would be a good chance that either could be thwarted in their aims. Yes, Christianity is under attack. Churches lack the influence we once held. I do not choose to ignore these challenges. I do choose to not allow this situation to deter me from joining with the other “Saints of God” here assembled and to carefully observe and keep our vows as Elders in respecting the Synod as an ordained part of Presbyterian governance and to promote unity among our fellow Presbyterian Christians.

As we consider the consequences and strive to come to a decision, I invite us all to be inspired by the words of the hymn *Thy hand, O God, has guided Thy church from age to age*.

And we, shall we be faithless,
Shall hearts fail, hands hang down?
Shall we evade the conflict and cast away God’s crown?
Not so, in God’s great counsel,
Some better thing is stored.
We will maintain,
unflinching,
“One Church, one Faith, one Lord!”

In Jesus’ name, I pray that God in His wisdom will lead us to a decision that is in our best interests and faithful to Him.

Respectfully submitted by David Christiani, Commissioner – Presbytery of Montreal

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End Notes

ⁱ See Appendix 1 & 2

ⁱⁱ See Appendix 3

ⁱⁱⁱ See Appendix 4

^{iv} See Appendix 6 to 10

^v These citations are drawn from the Synod website at: <http://www.presbyterian.ca/qeosynod/meetings.html>

^{vi} See Appendix 5

^{vii} <http://www.presbyterian.ca/qeosynod/meetings.html>

^{viii} See this document on p. 12

^{ix} See Appendix 5

^x Book of Forms, 274

^{xi} Book of Forms, 275

^{xii} See the current situation vis à vis the funds formerly attributed to Regional Congregational Workers

^{xiii} See p. 3

^{xiv} extract of minute of said Presbytery, June 20, 2017

^{xv} Presbyterian Polity, General Assembly 2016

^{xvi} Extract of Minute, Presbytery of Ottawa, June 17, 2017

^{xvii} See Appendix 1 & 2

^{xviii} Complete transcripts of these statements are found in the Appendix.

^{xix} See Appendix 1

^{xx} See Appendix 2

^{xxi} See Appendix 3

^{xxii} See Appendix 3

^{xxiii} The terms of reference for the Committee are attached in Appendix 11

^{xxiv} Coming out of the Committee on Optional Elimination of Synods meetings, I thought that the position of our denomination was that some Synods could be closed without all Synods being closed.

^{xxv} Had I known that I was allowing dissolution, as a member of a committee on Optional Elimination, I would not concur that we had done anything other than to allow Optional Elimination in a piecemeal fashion.

^{xxvi} See Appendix 13

^{xxvii} See p. 12

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Friday and Saturday, October 20th and October 21st, 2017**TREASURER'S REPORT ON SYNOD FINANCES – JANUARY - DECEMBER 2016 (Audited)**

Brought forward from December 31 st , 2015		13,282.88	
RECEIPTS DURING THE PERIOD	<u>2016 ACTUAL</u>		<u>2016 BUDGET</u>
Presbytery of Québec	3,036.00		3,036.00
Presbytery of Montréal	35,652.00		35,652.00
Presbytery of Seaway-Glengarry	16,225.00		16,225.00
Presbytery of Ottawa	32,639.00		32,639.00
Presbytery of Lanark & Renfrew	13,279.00		13,279.00
PCC grant for resourcing	15,496.50		
PCC grant for conference	3,500.00		
PCC grant for co-ordinator	4,500.00		
Charity donation share received	2.85		
Synod offering (406.00), meals paid (69.00)	475.00		
G.I.C. redeemed	6,136.80		
Travel refund	50.00		
Revenue Canada refund	238.90		
Revenue Québec tax refunds ('13, '14, '15)	<u>2,040.55</u>		
TOTAL RECEIPTS	133,271.60	<u>133,271.60</u>	<u>100,831.00</u>
YEAR'S GRAND TOTAL		146,554.48	
EXPENDITURES DURING THE PERIOD:			
Synod meeting (travel, meals)	2,993.10		6,000.00
Conference (including honoraria)	3,496.18	(3,500 requested, but not budgeted)	
Clerk's honorarium	2,200.00		2,200.00
Treasurer's honorarium	1,100.00		1,100.00
Web servant's honorarium	475.00		475.00
Financial Review of 2015	400.00		400.00
Accountant's work (tax returns, TP\$)	250.00		250.00
Clerk's consultation (spans two years)	275.00		150.00
Office expenses (clerk/treasurer)	349.25	(includes minutes)	600.00
Liability insurance premium	1,558.50		1,750.00
H & D overdue payments for '15, '16	4,628.61		
Synod council (April, Sept., Oct.)	3,051.20		2,500.00
Committee meetings (resourcing, planning)	714.85		800.00
Donations from offering (WMS, PWSD)	406.00		
Bank charges	95.40		150.00
Revenu Québec tax on '15	27.23		
Presbyteries' co-ordinator (Ottawa)	15,496.50		
Youth programming (Ottawa, CAB)	2,000.00		2,000.00
Canada Youth '16	15,540.60	(6,000 from '15)	12,000.00
Gracefield operating grant	44,193.00		44,193.00
Gracefield capital grant (Ottawa)	5,000.00		5,000.00
Camp d'action biblique	<u>27,513.00</u>		<u>27,513.00</u>
TOTAL:	131,763.42	<u>131,763.42</u>	<u>107,081.00</u>
BALANCE:		<u>14,791.06</u>	
BANK BALANCE:		<u>14,791.06</u>	

NOTE: 1. The \$10,000 minimum reserve fund is understood to be included in the balance.

Respectfully submitted, J. Ross H. Davidson (treasurer)

Clerk:

February 22, 2017

RE : Financial statements

January 1st to December 31st, 2016

To the Directors of
The Synod of Quebec and Eastern Ontario

At the request of Mr. Ross Davidson, I have verified the financial statements of the Synod of Quebec and Eastern Ontario for the fiscal year 2016, as prepared by Mr. Davidson. I have done so as a private individual.

As a result of my examination based on the documents provided to me by Mr. Davidson (cheques, cheque stubs, invoices, payroll records, ledgers and the 2016 financial statements), I find that nothing has come to my attention that causes me to believe that these statements are not accurate.

This does not constitute an audit and therefore does not express an audit opinion on these financial statements.

Yours truly,

Suzanne Aubre
175, Côte de l'Église
St-Ferdinand (Qc)
GON 1N0

Note : At the time of this examination, I was the Executive Director of the Megantic English-speaking Community Development Corporation (MCDC). The MCDC is a non-profit community organization based in Thetford Mines. The organization is funded by grants through various federal and provincial government programs and donations by Quebec-based private foundations. The annual budget of the MCDC for which I am responsible and accountable is approximately \$450,000. Previous to my employment at MCDC, I was Director – Compensation and Benefits at Télémédia Inc. in Montréal, and was responsible for the payroll, compensation and benefits of 1500 employees across Canada and the administration of a departmental budget of approximately \$500,000.

TREASURER'S REPORT ON SYNOD FINANCES JANUARY – OCTOBER 15TH, 2017

Brought forward from December 31st, 2016

14,791.06

RECEIPTS DURING THE PERIOD:	<u>2017 ACTUAL</u>	<u>2017 BUDGET</u>
Presbytery of Québec – 100%	2,735.00	2,735.00
Presbytery of Montréal – 100%	33,200.00	33,198.00
Presbytery of Seaway/Glengarry – 100%	16,477.00	16,477.00
Presbytery of Ottawa – 100%	34,007.00	34,007.00
Presbytery of L. & Renfrew – 76%	10,087.25	13,449.00
Refunds (committee travel)	262.67	
PCC grant for resourcing	.00	
Synod offering	<u>.00</u>	

TOTAL RECEIPTS: 96,768.92 96,768.92 99,866.00

GRAND TOTAL TO DATE: 111,559.98

EXPENDITURES DURING THE PERIOD:		
Synod meeting (travel, meals)		3,000.00
Clerk's honorarium	1,150.00	2,300.00
Treasurer's honorarium	500.00	1,200.00
Web servant's honorarium	250.00	475.00
Financial review of 2016	400.00	400.00
Clerks' consultation (spans two years)		150.00
Office expenses (clerk, treasurer, minutes)		625.00
Liability insurance premium	1,533.28	1,850.00
Synod council (April, Sept., Oct.)	1,779.55	2,200.00
Committee meetings (resourcing, planning)	1,012.85	3,000.00
Bank charges	60.75	150.00
Youth programming (Ottawa)	1,000.00	2,000.00
Canada Youth 2018 (G.I.C)	6,000.00	6,000.00
Gracefield operating grant – 75%	34,338.00	45,783.58
Gracefield capital grant (Ottawa)		5,000.00
Camp d'action biblique –	<u>25,733.50</u>	<u>25,732.63</u>

TOTAL EXPENDITURES: 73,757.93 73,757.93 99,866.21

BALANCE: 37,802.05

LEDGER BALANCE: 37,802.05

BANK STATEMENT (less cheques) 37,802.05

- NOTES:
1. The \$10,000 minimum reserve fund is understood to be included in the balance.
 2. The G.I.C. was purchased as an investment for Canada Youth 2018.

Respectfully submitted,
J. Ross H. Davidson (treasurer)

Clerk:

TREASURER'S FINANCIAL FORECAST TO DECEMBER 31ST, 2017

ANTICIPATED INCOME:

Assessments	3,361.75	
Synod offering	<u>400.00</u>	
TOTAL	3,761.75	3,761.75

BALANCE FORWARDED 37,802.05

GRAND TOTAL 41,563.80

ANTICIPATED EXPENSES:

Synod meeting	3,000.00	
Clerk's honorarium	1,150.00	
Treasurer's honorarium	500.00	
Web servant's honorarium	225.00	
Office supplies	500.00	
Council meeting	900.00	
Committee meeting	200.00	
Bank charges	25.00	
Youth programming	1,000.00	
Gracefield Camp	11,446.00	
Gracefield capital project	<u>5,000.00</u>	
TOTAL	23,946.00	<u>23,946.00</u>

FINAL BALANCE ANTICIPATED 17,617.80

Respectfully submitted,
J. Ross H. Davidson (treasurer)

The Synod of Québec and Eastern Ontario

The Church of St. Andrew and St. Paul, Montréal, Québec

Friday and Saturday, October 20th and October 21st, 2017

SYNOD OF QUEBEC AND EASTERN ONTARIO 2018 BUDGET

	2016 actual	2016 budget	2017 01/01-10/15	2017 10/16-12/31	2017 anticipated	2017 budget	2018 budget
<u>Administration</u>							(from 5yr plan)
Synod Meeting	2,993	6,000		3,000	3,000	3,000	3,500
conference	3,496						
Minutes		100				100	100
Honoraria							
Clerk's	2,200	2,200	1,150	1,150	2,300	2,300	2,300
Treasurer's	1,100	1,100	500	500	1,000	1,200	1,200
Audit/Review	400	400	400		400	400	400
Accountant	250	250					
Webserver	475	475	250	225	475	475	475
Clerk's Office							
Office expenses	349	500		500	500	525	551
Liability insurance	1,559	1,750	1,533		1,533	1,850	1,950
Clerk's consultation	275	150				150	150
Committees							
Synod council	3,051	2,500	1,780	900	2,680	2,200	2,200
Other committees	715	800	1,013	200	1,213	3,000	3,000
Finance							
Banking costs	95	150	61	25	86	150	150
Misc	5,062						
<u>Total Administration</u>	22,020	16,375	6,686	6,500	13,186	15,350	15,976
<u>Camping, Outreach & Programs</u>							
Programs							
Youth							
Youth programs	2,000	2,000	1,000	1,000	2,000	2,000	2,000
Canada Youth	15,541	12,000	6,000		6,000	6,000	6,000
Presbyteries Coordinator	15,497						
Gracefield							
Operating grant	44,193	44,193	34,338	11,446	45,784	45,784	46,859
Capital grant	5,000	5,000		5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000
Camp d'action biblique							
Operating grant	27,513	27,513	25,734		25,734	25,733	27,332
<u>Total Camping/Outreach/Programs</u>	109,743	90,706	67,072	17,446	84,518	84,516	87,191
TOTAL OPERATIONS	131,763	107,081	73,758	23,946	97,704	99,866	103,167

percent of total

Administration	17%	15%	9%	27%	13%	15%	15%
Camping/Outreach/Programs	83%	85%	91%	73%	87%	85%	85%

NOTES:

- 1) Presbyteries Coordinator: cost neutral - revenue received equals amount paid out
- 2) CY2016 includes an amount for a Synod coordinator; this amount was covered by a grant from the PCC
- 3) majority of "misc" is unbudgeted health & dental payments for 2016

Clerk:

**SYNOD OF QUEBEC AND EASTERN ONTARIO
2018 ASSESSMENTS**

Presbytery	\$ Base	% share of Synod total	2018 Assessment	2017	% Change
Quebec	356,624	3.2	3,308	2,735	0.21
Montreal	3,741,187	33.6	34,700	33,198	0.05
Seaway-Glengarry	1,799,994	16.2	16,695	16,477	0.01
Ottawa	3,830,122	34.4	35,525	34,007	0.04
Lanark & Renfrew	1,395,149	12.5	12,940	13,449	-0.04
Total Synod	11,123,076	100.0	103,167	99,866	0.04

Note: \$ Base is provided by Acts & Proceedings 2017 (Quebec revised)

The Synod of Québec and Eastern Ontario

The Church of St. Andrew and St. Paul, Montréal, Québec

Friday and Saturday, October 20th and October 21st, 2017

SYNOD OF QUEBEC AND EASTERN ONTARIO FIVE-YEAR FORECAST OF EXPENSES

EXPENSES	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Administration					
Synod meetings	3,500	3,500	3,500	3,500	3,500
Minutes	100	100	100	100	100
Honoraria					
Clerk	2,300	2,300	2,300	2,300	2,300
Treasurer	1,200	1,200	1,200	1,200	1,200
Audit/Review	400	450	450	450	450
Accountant					
Webservant	475	475	475	475	475
Clerk's Office					
Office expenses	551	579	608	638	670
Liability insurance	1,950	2,050	2,150	2,250	2,350
Clerk's consultation	150	150	150	150	150
Committees					
Synod council	2,200	2,500	2,500	2,500	2,500
Other committees	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000
Finance					
Banking costs	150	150	150	150	150
Programs					
Youth					
Youth program	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000
Canada youth	6,000	6,000	6,000	6,000	6,000
Misc					
Gracefield					
Operating grant	46,859	47,179	47,502	47,827	48,154
Capital (septic/water project)	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000
Camp d'action biblique					
Operating grant	27,332	27,519	27,708	27,897	28,088
Total Expenses	103,167	104,152	104,792	105,437	106,087

\$ BASE (A&P) <i>A&P</i>	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Quebec	361,520	363,993	366,483	368,991	371,515
Montreal	3,792,550	3,818,495	3,844,618	3,870,920	3,897,401
Seaway-Glengarry	1,824,706	1,837,189	1,849,758	1,862,412	1,875,153
Ottawa	3,882,706	3,909,268	3,936,012	3,962,939	3,990,050
Lanark & Renfrew	1,414,303	1,423,979	1,433,720	1,443,528	1,453,404
Total Synod	11,275,786	11,352,925	11,430,592	11,508,790	11,587,523

NOTE: average annual increase in \$ base over 5 years (2012-16): 0.68% this trend has been applied to the 2016 dollar base (2017 A&P)

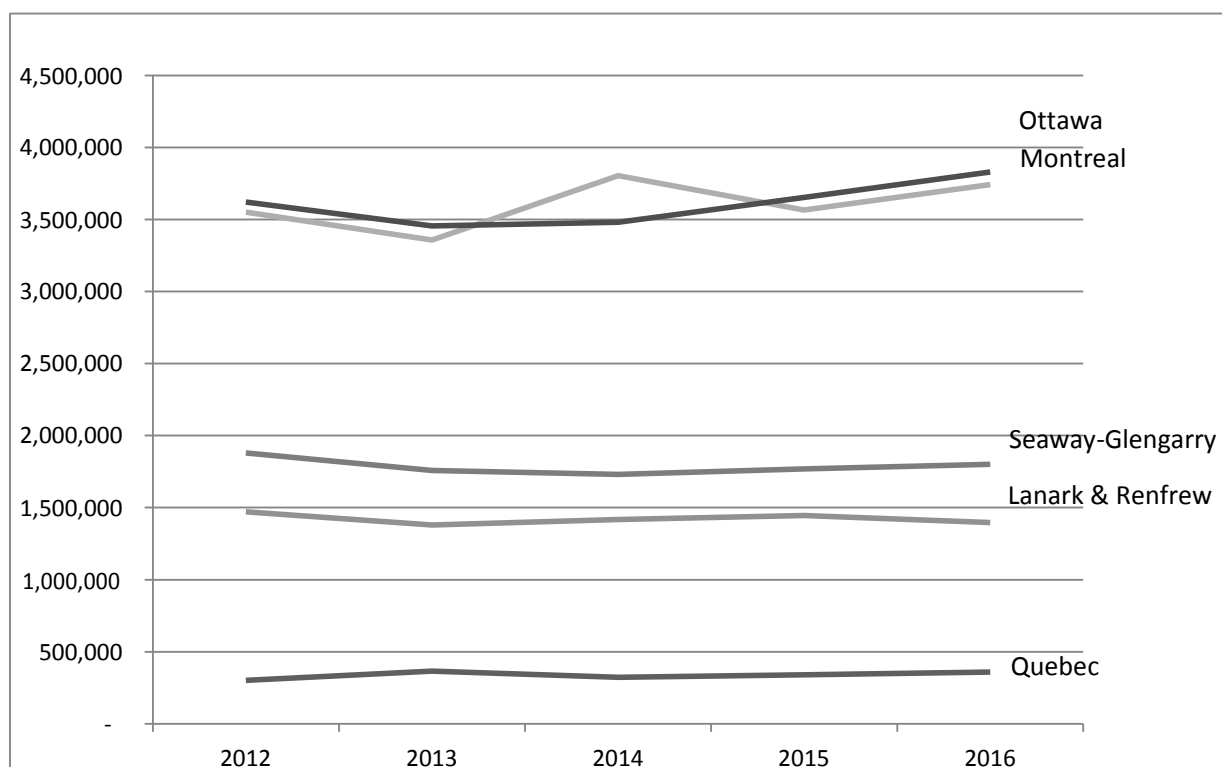
ASSESSMENTS	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Quebec	3,308	3,339	3,360	3,380	3,401
Montreal	34,700	35,031	35,246	35,463	35,682
Seaway-Glengarry	16,695	16,854	16,958	17,062	17,168
Ottawa	35,525	35,864	36,084	36,306	36,530
Lanark & Renfrew	12,940	13,064	13,144	13,225	13,306
Total Synod	103,167	104,152	104,792	105,437	106,087

The Synod of Québec and Eastern Ontario

The Church of St. Andrew and St. Paul, Montréal, Québec

Friday and Saturday, October 20th and October 21st, 2017

**SYNOD OF QUEBEC AND EASTERN
ONTARIO DOLLAR BASE BY PRESBYTERY
FIVE-YEAR TREND**



\$ BASE	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
<i>A&P</i>	<i>2013</i>	<i>2014</i>	<i>2015</i>	<i>2016</i>	<i>2017</i>
Quebec	298,723	364,531	323,816	340,874	356,624
	3,551,833	3,357,972	3,803,071	3,566,098	3,741,187
Seaway-Glengarry	1,880,187	1,759,074	1,730,794	1,769,903	1,799,994
Ottawa	3,621,630	3,455,266	3,481,669	3,652,920	3,830,122
Lanark & Renfrew	1,470,407	1,377,518	1,416,467	1,444,714	1,395,149
Total Synod	10,826,805	10,318,388	10,755,817	10,774,509	11,123,076
<i>yr/yr percent change</i>		- 4.7	4.2	0.2	3.2
<i>5-year avg percent change</i>					0.68

source: Acts and Proceedings, 2013 through 2017

The Synod of Québec and Eastern Ontario

The Church of St. Andrew and St. Paul, Montréal, Québec

Friday and Saturday, October 20th and October 21st, 2017

Webservant's Report, 2017

The Synod site continues to reside on the national church's server at www.presbyterian.ca/geosynod/

Currently (Oct 15/17), the presbyteries' stats re: e-mail and church websites are as follows:

Quebec:

2 e-mail addresses (ex. appendix), 3 church websites, 3 Facebook pages
(7 congregations in 7 charges; 4 vacant; two shared ministries)
100% of ministers have e-mail

Montreal:

42 e-mail addresses (incl. church offices, excl. appendix), 19 church websites,
12 Facebook pages
(32 congregations in 31 charges; 13 vacant, 1 supply, 3 stated supply,
1 summer supply, 1 lay missionary)
100% of ministers and stated supply have e-mail, as well as 10 vacant charges

Seaway-Glengarry:

19 e-mail addresses (incl. church offices, excl. appendix), 14 church websites,
4 Facebook pages
(25 congregations in 13 charges; 2 vacant, 1 with appointment)
100% of ministers have e-mail; all charges have e-mail contact

Ottawa:

36 e-mail addresses, 20 church websites, 14 Facebook pages
(21 congregations in 19 charges and one extension work, 5 vacant; 3 regular supply,
1 lay missionary with special training, 2 interim ministers)
100% of ministers and all vacant charges have e-mail

Lanark-Renfrew:

16 e-mail addresses, 14 church websites, 3 Facebook pages
(19 congregations in 15 charges, 3 vacant; 2 supply, 4 stated supply)
100% of the ministers, 4 stated supply have e-mail/contact page

In total 100% of the ministers and known stated supply have e-mail addresses, as well as several of the vacant charges. In the entire synod only 13 of the 104 congregations in 85 charges and 1 mission do not have known e-mail addresses. 38 charges have two or more e-mail addresses.

The synod site consists of seven main pages plus one page for each of the five presbyteries. The main pages include the home page, contacts, past meetings (minutes), documents, camps, youth and related links. Each presbytery page lists the churches (including e-mail and web address links), other ministries, appendices and retired missionaries, including e-mail addresses and links to active Facebook pages where known. A few churches have inactive Facebook pages. The listings are similar to those found in the back of the Acts and Proceedings. Where there are shared ministries those are noted as well. Maps are included on the entry page and each presbytery page.

Listings are updated periodically based on input from contacts within the presbyteries and the list of changes to the roll sent out from the national church office, as well as occasional detective work using other sources.

Gord Walford

Synod Webservant

gord.walford@rogers.com

Clerk:

The Synod of Québec and Eastern Ontario

The Church of St. Andrew and St. Paul, Montréal, Québec

Friday and Saturday, October 20th and October 21st, 2017

Synod Historian's Report

Many of our congregations celebrated the 150th Anniversary of Confederation this year and prayed for God's blessing on the future of our nation.

Some of our church's outstanding leaders passed away since the Synod last met, including two scholars long associated with The Presbyterian College, Montreal, Dr William J Klempa and Dr Joseph C McLelland. Dr Klempa served for 20 years as Principal of the college and Dr McLelland was a former Dean of the Faculty of Religious Studies in McGill University. Dr Klempa was an authority on Calvin and on Karl Barth, while Dr McLelland was a world-class expert on Peter Martyr Vermigli, the Italian Reformer. Both men were prolific writers. Their passing marks the end of an era.

An event that is worth mentioning is the annual meeting of the Canadian Society of Presbyterian History, which met this year in Knox College, Toronto, on Sept 30th. The speakers were: Stephen Farris, John Cameron, Don MacLeod and John Vaudry. The papers presented will be available eventually from the Society.

An important event yet to come is the last of the gatherings to affirm the Five Solas of the Reformation in honour of the 500th Anniversary of Luther's protest at Wittenberg. This is scheduled to take place at Knox College on Saturday, Sept. 28th, and will focus on the theme, 'Soli Deo Gloria' ('To the glory of God alone') with Christine O'Reilly and John Vissers as keynote speakers.

The official history of The Presbyterian Church in Canada, *Enduring Witness*, by the late Dr John S Moir, is now available in digitized form on the Presbyterian Church in Canada Archives website.

Respectfully submitted, John Vaudry

WMS SYNODICAL OF QUÉBEC AND EASTERN ONTARIO**Report to Synod: October 20 – 21, 2017**

The ladies of the WMS Synodical returned to their congregations bringing stories and updates of their experiences at the National Women's Conference which was held in Markham, Ontario on the weekend of May19-21, 2017. It was a very interesting, informative and motivating conference for all who participated. We heard from and had opportunities to meet with 13 international guests as well as an inspiring group of Indigenous Women. Friendships were made, links between Churches across country were established, and all participants left with the certainty that the Presbyterian Church in Canada is vibrantly alive and moving forward. The Synodical remains grateful to the Synod and its Presbyteries for the funding provided to enable women to participate in this Conference.

The Québec and Eastern Ontario Synodical met on Saturday, October 14, 2017 at St. Paul's Church in Kemptville. The theme for this meeting was 'Extending Hands' and we spent time thinking about the arrival of many recent refugees into our local communities. These newcomers arrive with many skills that they wish to share in their new homeland. They extend their hands and these talents to those of us already here in Canada. We, in turn, must extend our hands to support them to settle happily. On October 14th, we were blessed by the presence of 7 people who had recently arrived in Canada. Among them were a family of 5 who participated in the meeting by presenting their story in word and through pictures. We enjoyed the wonderful musical talent of another gentleman who arrived last year and very soon, we were rocking in our seats and tapping our toes. It was a delight to have the entire group with us and we are hoping to continue contact with them and strengthen these new friendships.

Our next Synodical meeting will be held in the spring on April 7, 2018. We look forward to this opportunity when we will be together once again.

Respectfully, Patricia Grainger President

Synod Regional Resourcing Committee Report 2016-17

The Synod Regional Resourcing Committee, with assistance from the Synod Clerk, forwarded to LMA the request from Presbytery of Montreal for funding to translate the Book of Forms into French. This was approved prior to the end of 2016.

One further request was received from Presbytery's of Ottawa and Seaway Glengarry for the purpose of retaining the Presbytery Animator position. This position was originally approved in 2015 but did not actually begin work until mid 2016. The request received was asking for funding for the balance of 2016 (3 months) and continue through 2017. These requests were approved by LMA.

Thus far no other requests for LMA funds have been received for 2017, and the committee has not had reason to meet. The remaining funds available for the calendar year 2017 are \$30,993.00. Any Presbytery wishing to request these funds would be advised to forward the request to the Synod Clerk with sufficient time to get them submitted to LMA before the current calendar year expires.

The 2018 funds available for the full Synod are \$61,986.00.

At this time the committee is without a convenor as Rev. Barry Carr has stepped down from the committee.

Respectfully Submitted Rev. Barry Carr
Past Convenor

REGIONAL RESOURCING GRANTS
THE SYNOD OF QUEBEC AND EASTERN ONTARIO

2015

Amount available in 2015:	\$ 61,986.00
Transition Allowance for regional staff (January 1-September 30):	<u>46,489.50</u>
Amount remaining (October 1-December 31)	\$ 15,496.50

REQUESTS

1. Presbytery Ministry Animator
(Oct 1- Dec 31: 3 months)

SUBMITTED BY:

Synod Council *\$ 7,748.25
* not needed as the position was not filled in

2015

2. Synod Camp Leadership	Regional Resourcing Committee	<u>\$ 7,748.25</u>
	Total Disbursed	\$ 7,748.25

Amount not requested in 2015: \$7,748.25

Submitted directly to the LMA:

3. McGill Chaplaincy	Presbytery of Montreal	* \$ 7,748.25
	* Approved for 2016	

2016

Amount available in 2016:	\$61,986.00
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REQUESTS

1. Presbytery Ministry Animator
(Jan 1-Sept 30: 9 months)

SUBMITTED BY:

Synod Council (\$ 23,244.75)

NEW TIME FRAME: June 1-Dec 31: 7 months \$ 18,079.25

2. McGill Chaplaincy	Presbytery of Montreal	\$ 7,748.25
3. Synod CY Coordinator	Regional Resourcing Committee	\$ 4,500.00
4. Synod Conference Grant	Regional Resourcing Committee	<u>\$ 3,500.00</u>
5. Translation of the Book of Forms	Presbytery of Montreal	<u>\$ 17,918.00</u>
	Total Disbursed	\$ 51,745.50

Amount not requested in 2016: \$10,240.50

Clerk:

The Synod of Québec and Eastern Ontario

The Church of St. Andrew and St. Paul, Montréal, Québec

Friday and Saturday, October 20th and October 21st, 2017

REGIONAL RESOURCING GRANTS

THE SYNOD OF QUEBEC AND EASTERN ONTARIO

2017

Amount available in 2017: \$61,986.00

REQUESTS

1. Presbytery Ministry Animator
(Jan 1 – December 31, 2017)

SUBMITTED BY:

Presbyteries of Ottawa and
Seaway-Glengarry

\$ 30,993.00

SYNOD MISSION / ROBERT FUND COMMITTEE REPORT 2017

The Synod Mission Committee's responsibilities have been reduced to one, namely the distribution of monies generated by the Robert Fund.

The Robert Fund was established in 1951, from the estate of Mr. William Robert and his sister, Sarah. The will states that income from the fund is to be used annually for "religious and charitable schemes in the province of Quebec." It has become the practice to grant priority to work in the French language. Synod adopted Terms of Reference to that effect in 1979. (Minutes, 105th Synod of Quebec and Eastern Ontario, p. 21.
http://www.presbyterian.ca/geosynod/documents/Robert_Fund-Terms_of_Reference.pdf)

We were informed by 50 Wynford that the consolidated Investment Fund had a very good year, so there is \$ 29,983.85 available for distribution this year in the "Reserve for Home Mission Quebec" (the designated label for monies generated by the Robert Fund). The committee received only one request. The suggested allocation, therefore is as follows:

\$18, 000. - Camp d'action biblique (CAB). All their camps now function bi-lingually.

The balance (\$11,983.85) to be directed to the Presbytery of Montreal, for francophone work within its bounds, including such groups as Communauté Chretienne Siloé and Église St Luc. Once Canadian Ministries allocations for 2018 are known, proper applications for Robert Fund monies received and Presbytery approval for such applications has been granted (as per the 1979 terms of reference), monies would be released by vote of Presbytery.

The C.A.B. report and grant application is appended.

RECOMMENDATION: That for 2018, the income generated by the Robert Fund be distributed as follows: 1) \$18,000 to CAB and 2) \$11,983.85 to the Presbytery of Montreal, under the terms specified above.

Respectfully submitted,
Rev. Dr. Barry Mack
Convener, Synod Mission Committee

The Synod of Québec and Eastern Ontario

The Church of St. Andrew and St. Paul, Montréal, Québec

Friday and Saturday, October 20th and October 21st, 2017

The Presbyterian Church in Canada

Presbytery of Ottawa

Mail: 10 Chesterton Drive, Ottawa, Ontario K2E 5S9

Telephone: 613-225-6648 Fax: 613-225-8535 E-mail: jthurd@sympatico.ca

The Reverend Mr. Douglas R. Kendall, Moderator

The Rev'd Mr. James T. Hurd, Clerk

October 14, 2017.

The Synod of Quebec and Eastern Ontario, c/o Mrs. Donna McIlveen, Clerk.

The Presbytery of Ottawa is pleased to submit this report on its oversight of the Board of Directors of the Gracefield Christian Camp and Retreat Centre, and reports diligence.

At its regular meeting in January, 2017, the presbytery was apprised by the board of directors of plans for a Canada 150 celebration project planned for August, 2017 in conjunction with the Kitigan Zibi Anishanbe Nation and the Billings Estate Museum of the city of Ottawa, and enthusiastically endorsed an application by the camp for a grant from the healing and reconciliation funds of The Presbyterian Church in Canada. The celebration took place and was well attended.

At its stated meeting in May, 2017, and following review by its Committee on Finance and Maintenance of the financial statements, the presbytery resolved that the report of the board of directors of the Gracefield Christian Camp and Retreat Centre inclusive of the financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2016 be adopted. The balance sheet shows assets of \$92,829., liabilities of \$145,951., for a net equity position of negative \$53,122. as of December 31, 2016, which is a favourable improvement compared with negative \$54,734. as of the previous year end. Income for the year 2016 was \$286,256., expenditures totalled \$284,232., for a net surplus of \$2,024., compared to a net loss of \$318. in the prior year.

As part of its triennial visitation of all congregations within its bounds, the Presbytery of Ottawa appointed a committee to visit the Gracefield Christian Camp and Retreat Centre, and a full report was lodged by the committee with the presbytery. In advance of the presbytery's consideration of the report, a copy of the camp's Master Plan developed in conjunction with Run River Enterprises, dated December 2016, was lodged by the visitation committee with the clerk of the presbytery and distributed to members of the presbytery. The presbytery itself held its June, 2017 stated meeting at the camp. Arising from the report of the visitation committee, the following recommendations were adopted by the presbytery at its June, 2017 stated meeting:

#1 - That the Presbytery of Ottawa congratulate Gracefield Christian Camp and Retreat Centre on its 55 years of achievements as a church ministry of the Presbyterian Church in Canada.

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The Synod of Québec and Eastern Ontario

The Church of St. Andrew and St. Paul, Montréal, Québec

Friday and Saturday, October 20th and October 21st, 2017

#2 - That the Presbytery of Ottawa affirm the mission of the ministry of Gracefield Christian Camp and Retreat Centre: “To invite all people to experience the loving presence of the living God in creation, in Christ and in Christian community” and that presbytery express its confidence in the board and administration of GCCRC.

#3 - That the Presbytery of Ottawa commend and endorse the hard work underpinning the new Gracefield Christian Camp and Retreat Centre Master Plan and encourage the presbytery and its congregations to fully support the GCCRC board and staff as they work towards realizing the goals of this master plan.

#4 - That the Presbytery of Ottawa take note and promote the upcoming celebrations of the 150th Anniversary of Confederation and the 55th anniversary of GCCRC to be held at Camp Gracefield on August 19th and 20th, 2017.

Also at its June, 2017 stated meeting, the presbytery appointed the following slate as the membership of the board of directors for the Gracefield Christian Camp and Retreat Centre: Bon E. Cummings, Chair; Karen Dimock, Secretary; Alan Herbert, Treasurer and Convener, Finance Committee; Claire Mahaffy, Convener, Program Committee; Gordon Richardson, Convener, Property Committee; Geoff De Melo, Convener, Personnel Committee; Glenn Ogden, Convener, Communications Committee; and Debra Luckow, Ian Johnston, Shahrzad Kandalaft, and Suzanne Saunders, Directors at Large.

Subsequently, the board reported to the September, 2017 stated meeting of the presbytery that Geoff De Melo had resigned as a member of the board, and that Ellie Bennett had been appointed to fill the vacancy, and had assumed the duties of secretary in place of Karen Dimock.

To the September, 2017 meeting of the presbytery, the board submitted a report summarizing the year’s camping ministry, which involved a total of 139 campers between the March break and the summer camps, including ten in the leaders-in-training programme, and also highlighting some significant new developments with respect to staff and property.

The board reported the hiring of Bruce Howard as the new Executive Director, commencing October 1, 2017. He was introduced to members of the presbytery at a luncheon held at Parkwood Church, Ottawa on October 3, 2017.

The board also reported that the installation of a new steel roof on Beaver Lodge was completed, and two new staff cabins were erected and used in 2017. A fire caused no harm to people but some damage to the Jolly Roger building in August, and the board reported that the insurance company is involved and remedial work is underway.

At its September, 2017 stated meeting, the board also reported that plans to install the new septic system for White Pine Lodge were moving forward, and that a contractor

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had been selected. In reviewing this development, the Presbytery of Ottawa requested that the board of directors of the Gracefield Christian Camp and Retreat Centre provide the financial information for the septic system project and contract details to the presbytery's Committee on Finance and Maintenance prior to the signing of a contract, and gave power to issue to the Committee on Finance and Maintenance to review the project and to release funds held in trust by the presbytery for the project and funds pledged as a loan by the presbytery for the project. It was also resolved that the Presbytery of Ottawa express thanks to the board of directors for its work on moving the septic system project forward.

The requested documents were submitted on September 29, 2017 and the presbytery's Committee on Finance and Maintenance met October 3, 2017 to review the proposed contract for the septic system project. The treasurer of the camp attended and reported on developments, including that the discovery that (contrary to information included in last year's report of the presbytery to the synod) the original authorization issued by the Ministry of the Environment in 2005 remains valid and would be the basis for the issuance of a building permit from the municipality of Gracefield. The committee resolved and reported to the clerk that subject to (a) verification that appropriate insurance coverage is in place for the project, (b) confirmation of the receipt of the building permit for the project, (c) confirmation of the dates for payment in three instalments of the contractor for the project, and (d) submission of a progress report prior to the release of the second payment and receipt of the final inspection report prior to release of the third payment, the funds held in trust by the Presbytery of Ottawa and a loan of up to forty-five thousand dollars approved previously by the Presbytery of Ottawa be released to the Gracefield Christian Camp and Retreat Centre.

The contract is with Enterprises SCSM, Deleage, Quebec. Work is underway as of October 10, 2017.

The original budget for a combined water treatment and septic system project for the camp as approved by the synod in 2006 was for \$262,900. The water treatment project was completed separately in 2015, at a total cost of \$90,162. The revised total cost for the septic system project including monies spent to date and an estimate of costs to completion net of tax rebates is \$172,684. Thus the total estimated cost for both the water treatment and septic system projects is \$262,846., which is within the original approved budget. The synod's contributions to date for this project include \$18,592. paid directly to Gracefield Camp in 2004 and 2005, \$67,143. transferred in trust to the Presbytery of Ottawa in 2008 when oversight of the whole operation was committed to and undertaken by the Presbytery of Ottawa; plus four annual grants of \$15,360. during the years 2009-2012, and a grant of \$5,000 in 2016, for a total of \$128,483.

The funding of the project was originally envisaged to include direct donations to the camp, a grant from The Presbyterian Church in Canada, and funds committed by the synod.

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Accounting for donations and grants received by the camp and funds held by the presbytery in trust, some of which have been advanced to the camp, a total of \$134,330 has been received by the camp towards the combined water and septic system project. The total funds expended to September 30, 2017 for the water and septic system projects total \$98,924.; the estimated balance of the cost is \$163,923. Of this amount, the treasurer of the Gracefield Christian Camp and Retreat Centre reports the camp holds \$35,406. as of September 30, 2017. At the same date, the Presbytery of Ottawa was holding approximately \$85,890., for a total of \$121,296., leaving a shortfall of \$42,627. yet to be provided. In 2005-2006, recognizing that the synod did not have sufficient reserves on which to draw, and in view of the difficulties highlighted by the synod's Finance Committee in seeking sources from which to borrow, the Presbytery of Ottawa resolved to loan the synod up to \$45,000. at five percent per annum, but no call was made for loan as the project was delayed. Subsequent to the oversight of Gracefield as a whole being entrusted to the Presbytery of Ottawa, in 2011 the presbytery resolved to replace its commitment to loan the funds to the synod with a commitment to loan the funds on the same terms to the Gracefield Christian Camp and Retreat Centre. It would now appear that a call for those funds, to the amount of \$42,627 will be needed, and has been authorized per the resolution of the presbytery at its September, 2017 meeting and the subsequent power to issue exercised by its Committee on Finance and Maintenance. Going forward, contributions from the synod towards this would fulfil the intent of the synod's original commitment, reaffirmed when the oversight of Gracefield was entrusted to the Presbytery of Ottawa, to fund the water and septic system project. The Presbytery of Ottawa is grateful to the synod for the inclusion of five thousand dollars in its budget for 2017 towards this.

The Presbytery of Ottawa remains committed to the ministry of Christian camping at the Gracefield Christian Camp and Retreat Centre and is thankful for all who contribute toward it, in the nurturing of children, youth, and adults in Christian faith and in the development of leaders in Christ's church both present and future.

Appended are four documents:

- (a) financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2016;
- (b) the report of the board of directors to the September, 2017 stated meeting of the presbytery;
- (c) a financial overview 2003-2017 of the water and septic system projects, dated May 31, 2017;
- (d) the current financial plan for the water and septic system, dated September 30, 2017.

All of which is respectfully submitted,

J. T. Hurd, Clerk.



A MINISTRY OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN CANADA

May 11th, 2017

To:

Board of Directors, Gracefield Christian Camp & Retreat Centre; Presbytery of Ottawa;
Synod of Quebec & Eastern Ontario:

On the basis of the information provided we have reviewed the balance sheet and the income and expense statement of the Gracefield Christian Camp & Retreat Centre as of December 31st 2016, and for the 12 months then ended.

Our review followed the guidelines recommended for volunteer review committees in the Presbyterian Church in Canada Congregational Treasurer's Handbook (revised 2013), section 13.0 "Auditing the Records". The recommendations are for the review committee to conduct 24 separate tasks which include sampling all financial transactions for the period reviewed and verifying balances. We have found them to be kept accurately and with appropriate documentation, and we have not found any items of concern in this process.

The committee has made some recommendations to the Treasurer and Board of Directors which we hope will assist with future record-keeping (copy attached for the GCCRC board).

We have not performed a professional audit or a review engagement in respect to these financial statements and accordingly we express no assurance thereon. Readers are cautioned that these statements may not be appropriate for some purposes.

Respectfully submitted,

Robyn Lockhart-Birrell
William Cummings CPA
Karen Hill

Tel. (819) 463-2465 or 1-888-493-CAMP
info@ gracefieldcamp.ca
37 Chemin des Loisirs, C. P. 420
Gracefield, Québec J0X 1W 0

Charitable Reg. # 89568 1930 RR0001

www.gracefieldcamp.ca

Clerk:

Gracefield Christian Camp & Retreat Centre
Balance Sheet Prev Year Comparison
As of December 31, 2016

Final Reviewed

Accrual Basis

	Dec 31, 16	Dec 31, 15	\$ Change	% Change	Notes
ASSETS					
Current Assets					
Chequing/Savings					
1001 · Desjardins bank account #34138	(160.41)	15,046.19	(15,206.60)	(101.07%)	note 1
1004 · Desjardins share account	5.00	5.00	0.00	0.0%	note 2
1005 · Petty Cash	0.00	78.20	(78.20)	(100.0%)	
1010 · PCC Consolidated Portfolio	82,123.37	96,166.48	(14,043.11)	(14.6%)	note 3
Total Chequing/Savings	81,967.96	111,295.87	(29,327.91)	(26.35%)	
Accounts Receivable					
1200 · Accounts Receivable	3,700.96	7,545.32	(3,844.36)	(50.95%)	note 4
2382 · G.S.T. Receivable	1,773.82	2,041.59	(267.77)	(13.12%)	
2397 · Q.S.T. Receivable	2,921.44	3,285.54	(364.10)	(11.08%)	
Total Accounts Receivable	8,396.22	12,872.45	(4,476.23)	(34.77%)	
Other Current Assets					
1499 · Undeposited Funds	2,464.58	11,687.30	(9,222.72)	(78.91%)	note 1
Total Other Current Assets	2,464.58	11,687.30	(9,222.72)	(78.91%)	
Total Current Assets	92,828.76	135,855.62	(43,026.86)	(31.67%)	
TOTAL ASSETS	92,828.76	135,855.62	(43,026.86)	(31.67%)	
LIABILITIES & EQUITY					
Current Liabilities					
Accounts Payable					
2000 · Accounts Payable	12,156.24	8,057.05	4,099.19	50.88%	
Total Accounts Payable	12,156.24	8,057.05	4,099.19	50.88%	
Other Current Liabilities					
2100 · Payroll Liabilities	0.00	5.33	-5.33	(100.0%)	
2121 · Accrued liability	0.00	3,870.02	-3,870.02	(100.0%)	
2240 · GST/QST Payable	4,520.60	29,082.54	-24,561.94	(84.46%)	
2301 · Jemima Rae Mem. Fund	1,434.90	1,434.90	0.00	0.0%	note 4
2303 · Turtle Rock Land Fund	331.86	331.86	0.00	0.0%	note 4
2306 · Water/Septic Capital Fund	36,725.99	37,293.27	-567.28	(1.52%)	note 5
2308 · Capital projects fund	5,000.00	0.00	5,000.00	100.0%	note 4
2310 · Grace Garceau Campership fund	2,094.49	2,094.49	0.00	0.0%	note 4
2320 · Campership Fund	618.15	3,306.87	-2,688.72	(81.31%)	note 4
2350 · Erskine Fund balance	75,282.66	96,166.48	-20,883.82	(21.72%)	note 3
2401 · Deferred revenue	7,785.88	8,946.76	(1,160.88)	(12.98%)	note 4
Total Other Current Liabilities	133,794.53	182,532.52	(48,737.99)	(26.7%)	
Total Current Liabilities	145,950.77	190,589.57	(44,638.80)	(23.42%)	
Equity					
3000 · Opening Balance Equity	-59,052.83	-59,052.83	0.00	0.0%	note 6
3900 · Retained earnings	3,906.16	4,636.73	-730.57	(15.76%)	note 7
Net Income	2,024.66	-317.85	2,342.51	736.99%	note 7
Total Equity	-53,122.01	-54,733.95	1,611.94	2.95%	note 7
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	92,828.76	135,855.62	(43,026.86)	(31.67%)	

Clerk:

Gracefield Christian Camp & Retreat Centre					Final Reviewed
Profit & Loss Budget vs . Actual					
January through December 2016					
Accrual Basis	Jan - Dec 16	Budget	\$ Over Budget	% of Budget	Notes
Ordinary Income/Expense					
Income					
Donations					
1509 · Chapel offerings	555.88	1,200.00	-644.12	46.32%	
4205 · Donations individuals	15,870.15	19,187.00	-3,316.85	82.71%	
4206 · Donations Churches/organization	6,776.52	8,087.00	-1,310.48	83.8%	
4212 · Designated Donations (Individ)	4,632.71	2,500.00	2,132.71	185.31%	
4213 · Designated Donation (Church)	1,301.00	4,000.00	-2,699.00	32.53%	
4218 · Gala dinner & auction	0.00	6,000.00	-6,000.00	0.0%	
4219 · Gala dinner donations	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%	
4220 · Pledged donations	10,395.00	11,303.00	-908.00	91.97%	
4221 · Canada Helps donations	2,549.12	3,000.00	-450.88	84.97%	
Total Donations	42,080.38	55,277.00	-13,196.62	76.13%	
Grants & Other revenue					
4208 · Synod block grants	44,193.00	44,193.00	0.00	100.0%	
4209 · Presbytery Grants	5,000.00	5,000.00	0.00	100.0%	
4407 · Government grants	8,902.00	3,881.00	5,021.00	229.37%	
4410 · Fundraising Grants	4,000.00	10,000.00	-6,000.00	40.0%	
4411 · Jemima Rae Allocated	0.00	1,600.00	-1,600.00	0.0%	
4850 · Forestry Income	0.00	3,000.00	-3,000.00	0.0%	note 4
4901 · Net Sales taxes collected	9,926.87	11,475.00	-1,548.13	86.51%	
4951 · Other revenue	549.68	0.00	549.68	100.0%	
Total Grants & Other revenue	72,571.55	79,149.00	-6,577.45	91.69%	
Pgm Revenue - Adult/Family					
4101 · Family Camp fees	2,306.00	1,950.00	356.00	118.26%	
4102 · Family camperships allocated	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%	
4111 · Lodge guest fees	13,249.60	44,930.00	-31,680.40	29.49%	
4112 · Lodge guests equip. rentals	1,064.32	875.00	189.32	121.64%	
4121 · Tent/Trailer fees	21,034.50	22,000.00	-965.50	95.61%	
4122 · Camp site	7,979.45	7,567.00	412.45	105.45%	
4141 · Group Retreat Fees	65,882.14	54,552.00	11,330.14	120.77%	
4142 · Group program/equip rental	822.33	2,086.00	-1,263.67	39.42%	
Total Pgm Revenue - Adult/Family	112,338.34	133,960.00	-21,621.66	83.86%	
Pgm Revenue - Child/Youth					
4001 · Co-ed summer camp fees	43,909.46	53,558.00	-9,648.54	81.99%	
4010 · Coed camperships allocated	5,297.78	5,091.00	206.78	104.06%	
4011 · Day Camp Fees	0.00	400.00	-400.00	0.0%	
4021 · L.I.T. Camp fees	3,724.00	4,680.00	-956.00	79.57%	
4041 · Outdoor Educ. fees	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%	
4050 · March break camperships alloc.	656.00	665.00	-9.00	98.65%	
4051 · March Break camp fees	3,039.30	2,374.00	665.30	128.02%	
Total Pgm Revenue - Child/Youth	56,626.54	66,768.00	-10,141.46	84.81%	
Store Revenue					
4301 · T-Shirt/Sweatshirt sales	1,568.94	1,500.00	68.94	104.6%	
4302 · STAFF T-SHIRTS	1,070.57	0.00	1,070.57	100.0%	
4303 · Tuck adhoc sales	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%	

Clerk:

Gracefield Christian Camp & Retreat Centre
Profit & Loss Budget vs . Actual
January through December 2016

Final Reviewed

Accrual Basis

	Jan - Dec 16	Budget	\$ Over Budget	% of Budget	Notes
Total Store Revenue	2,639.51	1,500.00	1,139.51	175.97%	
Total Income	286,256.32	336,654.00	-50,397.68	85.03%	
Expense					
Administration Expenses					
6001 · Wages (office admin)	37,949.40	38,031.00	-81.60	99.79%	
6002 · Directors Stipend	16,132.32	16,132.00	0.32	100.0%	
6011 · Payroll Taxes (all depts)	12,427.33	14,688.00	-2,260.67	84.61%	
6012 · Vacation Pay (all depts)	2,653.15	2,935.00	-281.85	90.4%	
6013 · Board & Lodge benefits	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%	
6021 · Health Insurance (Directors)	3,951.91	3,590.00	361.91	110.08%	
6031 · Pension Plan (Directors)	3,097.42	3,097.00	0.42	100.01%	
6041 · Workers Comp (all depts)	2,401.11	2,572.00	-170.89	93.36%	
6081 · Auto Gas (admin)	1,163.30	1,500.00	-336.70	77.55%	
6091 · Auto mileage (Admin)	0.00	225.00	-225.00	0.0%	
6101 · Auto registration (all depts)	654.23	775.00	-120.77	84.42%	
6111 · Property/Liability Insurance	21,049.56	20,987.00	62.56	100.3%	
6121 · Office postage	2,605.52	2,142.00	463.52	121.64%	
6131 · Office supplies (all depts)	608.17	1,030.00	-421.83	59.05%	
6141 · Office copier	3,125.96	3,576.00	-450.04	87.42%	
6151 · Office postage meter	562.54	600.00	-37.46	93.76%	
6171 · Computer equipment/software	1,008.00	1,500.00	-492.00	67.2%	
6181 · Health care/infirmarary	1,986.00	305.00	1,681.00	651.15%	
6182 · Safety equipment	1,076.00	1,600.00	-524.00	67.25%	
6191 · Phone & Internet services	2,505.97	2,785.00	-279.03	89.98%	
6201 · Prof. development (directors)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%	
6202 · Staff Training (all depts)	67.80	1,200.00	-1,132.20	5.65%	
6203 · Board development	125.15	300.00	-174.85	41.72%	
6211 · Publicity & promotion	1,602.85	1,500.00	102.85	106.86%	
6221 · Memberships/permits	2,532.02	2,000.00	532.02	126.6%	
6231 · Audit prof. services	0.00	4,000.00	-4,000.00	0.0%	
6251 · Auto insurance (all depts)	1,430.00	1,480.00	-50.00	96.62%	
6511 · Fundraising events/materials	200.00	2,500.00	-2,300.00	8.0%	
6991 · Miscellaneous/unclassified	79.24	150.00	-70.76	52.83%	
8001 · Bank & Merchant Card charges	3,972.58	4,700.00	-727.42	84.52%	
8011 · Line of Credit & Interest	841.05	200.00	641.05	420.53%	
8015 · Registration fees -online	3,245.61	3,457.49	-211.88	93.87%	
8021 · GST Net expense	1,536.25	2,193.49	-657.24	70.04%	
8022 · QST Net Expense	2,447.50	3,579.48	-1,131.98	68.38%	
8023 · Ontario sales taxes	776.66	750.16	26.50	103.53%	
Total Administration Expenses	133,814.60	146,080.62	-12,266.02	91.6%	
Camp Store					
7671 · Souvenir Shirts	1,521.50	1,500.00	21.50	101.43%	
7681 · Staff theme shirts	1,686.06	500.00	1,186.06	337.21%	
Total Camp Store	3,207.56	2,000.00	1,207.56	160.38%	
Food Services					
5001 · Wages - kitchen staff	19,025.40	27,495.00	-8,469.60	69.2%	

Clerk:

Gracefield Christian Camp & Retreat Centre					Final Reviewed
Profit & Loss Budget vs . Actual					
January through December 2016					
Accrual Basis	Jan - Dec 16	Budget	\$ Over Budget	% of Budget	Notes
5003 · Chef Services	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%	
5051 · Small kitchen equipment	162.27	500.00	-337.73	32.45%	
5311 · Repairs and kitchen supplies	1,379.98	1,500.00	-120.02	92.0%	
5541 · Food & beverage supplies	30,065.49	37,356.00	-7,290.51	80.48%	
5551 · Propane (cooking) supplies	1,106.85	1,000.00	106.85	110.69%	
Total Food Services	51,739.99	67,851.00	-16,111.01	76.26%	
Program - Adult/Family					
7007 · Program supplies (Family)	0.00	125.00	-125.00	0.0%	
Total Program - Adult/Family	0.00	125.00	-125.00	0.0%	
Program - Child/Youth					
6701 · Wages (coed summer camp)	14,287.43	19,157.00	-4,869.57	74.58%	
6704 · Bus transport (Coed camp)	282.67	0.00	282.67	100.0%	
6706 · Program equipment (Coed camp)	644.04	1,200.00	-555.96	53.67%	
6707 · Program supplies (Coed camp)	692.83	1,500.00	-807.17	46.19%	
6709 · Program - Aerial trek	0.00	400.00	-400.00	0.0%	
6721 · Wages - LIT & senior pgm	13,516.84	15,600.00	-2,083.16	86.65%	
6723 · LIT Honoraria	2,280.00	0.00	2,280.00	100.0%	
6725 · Staff Travel (LIT)	624.00	0.00	624.00	100.0%	
6727 · Program supplies -LIT	3,517.13	750.00	2,767.13	468.95%	
6743 · Honoraria (outdoor educ)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%	
6745 · Staff travel (outdoor ed)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%	
6751 · Wages - March Break camp	448.00	448.00	0.00	100.0%	
6754 · Bus transport - March break	0.00	240.00	-240.00	0.0%	
6755 · Staff travel - March break	136.80	0.00	136.80	100.0%	
6757 · Program Supplies march break	29.50	250.00	-220.50	11.8%	
7817 · Wilderness & Trip Equipment	0.00	1,600.00	-1,600.00	0.0%	
Total Program - Child/Youth	36,459.24	41,145.00	-4,685.76	88.61%	
Property Management					
6301 · Wages - Maint & housekeeping	20,358.97	22,819.00	-2,460.03	89.22%	
6303 · Housekeeping Services	1,195.93	7,200.00	-6,004.07	16.61%	
6361 · Staff travel - Maintenance	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%	
6381 · Fuel - tractors, engines	265.72	575.00	-309.28	46.21%	
6401 · Housekeeping supplies	2,044.25	3,000.00	-955.75	68.14%	
6411 · Repairs & building supplies	5,499.09	10,000.00	-4,500.91	54.99%	
6414 · Water testing and maintenance	6,731.79	7,000.00	-268.21	96.17%	
6421 · Road Maintenance & Snow removal	3,230.00	4,000.00	-770.00	80.75%	
6431 · Garbage/septic collection	3,349.99	3,300.00	49.99	101.52%	
6432 · Trailer permits	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%	
6441 · Hydro electricity	14,848.11	16,500.00	-1,651.89	89.99%	
6451 · Auto repair & maintenance	351.36	3,000.00	-2,648.64	11.71%	
6471 · Major maint. equipment	0.00	1,000.00	-1,000.00	0.0%	
7813 · Structural Improvement projects	1,135.06	0.00	1,135.06	100.0%	
Total Property Management	59,010.27	78,394.00	-19,383.73	75.27%	
Total Expense	284,231.66	335,595.62	-51,363.96	84.7%	
Net Ordinary Income	2,024.66	1,058.38	966.28	191.3%	

Clerk:

Gracefield Christian Camp & Retreat Centre
Profit & Loss Budget vs . Actual
January through December 2016

Final Reviewed

Accrual Basis

	Jan - Dec 16	Budget	\$ Over Budget	% of Budget	Notes
Other Income/Expense					
Other Income					
Capital Maint. Grants					
4413 · Erskine Historic building grant	10,214.01	0.00	10,214.01	100.0%	note 3
7909 · Grants for Septic system	750.00	0.00	750.00	100.0%	
7910 · Grants for Water Treatment Proj	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%	
Total Capital Maint. Grants	10,964.01	0.00	10,964.01	100.0%	
GCCRC transition					
4412 · Erskine Strat planning grants	16,626.70	0.00	16,626.70	100.0%	note 3
Total GCCRC transition	16,626.70	0.00	16,626.70	100.0%	
Total Other Income	27,590.71	0.00	27,590.71	100.0%	
Other Expense					
Capital Maintenance Pgm					
7824 · White Pine Septic system	750.00	0.00	750.00	100.0%	
7825 · Historic building reno projects	10,214.01	0.00	10,214.01	100.0%	
7920 · Water Treatment Expenses	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%	
Total Capital Maintenance Pgm	10,964.01	0.00	10,964.01	100.0%	
GCCRC transition costs					
7202 · Strategic Planning	16,626.70	0.00	16,626.70	100.0%	
Total GCCRC transition costs	16,626.70	0.00	16,626.70	100.0%	
Total Other Expense	27,590.71	0.00	27,590.71	100.0%	
Net Other Income	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%	
Net Income	2,024.66	1,058.38	966.28	191.3%	

Gracefield Christian Camp & Retreat Centre		Final Reviewed			
Accrual Basis		Profit & Loss Prev Year Comparison			
		January through December 2016			
		Jan - Dec 16	Jan - Dec 15	\$ Change	% Change Notes
Ordinary Income/Expense					
Income					
Donations					
1509 · Chapel offerings	555.88	1,038.10	-482.22	(46.45%)	
4205 · Donations individuals	15,870.15	17,442.37	-1,572.22	(9.01%)	
4206 · Donations Churches/organization	6,776.52	7,352.18	-575.66	(7.83%)	
4212 · Designated Donations (Individ)	4,632.71	2,181.09	2,451.62	112.4%	
4213 · Designated Donation (Church)	1,301.00	6,042.50	-4,741.50	(78.47%)	
4218 · Gala dinner & auction	0.00	5,021.37	-5,021.37	(100.0%)	
4219 · Gala dinner donations	0.00	530.00	-530.00	(100.0%)	
4220 · Pledged donations	10,395.00	10,275.00	120.00	1.17%	
4221 · Canada Helps donations	2,549.12	3,172.10	-622.98	(19.64%)	
Total Donations	42,080.38	53,054.71	-10,974.33	(20.69%)	
Grants & Other revenue					
4208 · Synod block grants	44,193.00	43,506.26	686.74	1.58%	
4209 · Presbytery Grants	5,000.00	5,000.00	0.00	0.0%	
4407 · Government grants	8,902.00	3,881.00	5,021.00	129.37%	
4410 · Fundraising Grants	4,000.00	4,790.35	-790.35	(16.5%)	
4411 · Jemima Rae Allocated	0.00	1,425.33	-1,425.33	(100.0%)	
4850 · Forestry Income	0.00	5,090.00	-5,090.00	(100.0%)	note 4
4901 · Net Sales taxes collected	9,926.87	10,431.70	-504.83	(4.84%)	
4951 · Other revenue	549.68	9,505.50	-8,955.82	(94.22%)	
Total Grants & Other revenue	72,571.55	83,630.14	-11,058.59	(13.22%)	
Pgm Revenue - Adult/Family					
4101 · Family Camp fees	2,306.00	2,622.21	-316.21	(12.06%)	
4102 · Family camperships allocated	0.00	122.80	-122.80	(100.0%)	
4111 · Lodge guest fees	13,249.60	18,821.71	-5,572.11	(29.61%)	
4112 · Lodge guests equip. rentals	1,064.32	761.28	303.04	39.81%	
4121 · Tent/Trailer fees	21,034.50	21,802.51	-768.01	(3.52%)	
4122 · Camp site	7,979.45	6,579.92	1,399.53	21.27%	
4141 · Group Retreat Fees	65,882.14	67,684.80	-1,802.66	(2.66%)	
4142 · Group program/equip rental	822.33	1,813.76	-991.43	(54.66%)	
Total Pgm Revenue - Adult/Family	112,338.34	120,208.99	-7,870.65	(6.55%)	
Pgm Revenue - Child/Youth					
4001 · Co-ed summer camp fees	43,909.46	41,200.06	2,709.40	6.58%	
4010 · Coed camperships allocated	5,297.78	1,358.23	3,939.55	290.05%	
4011 · Day Camp Fees	0.00	360.00	-360.00	(100.0%)	
4021 · L.I.T. Camp fees	3,724.00	0.00	3,724.00	100.0%	
4050 · March break camperships alloc.	656.00	35.35	620.65	1,755.73%	
4051 · March Break camp fees	3,039.30	1,622.45	1,416.85	87.33%	
Total Pgm Revenue - Child/Youth	56,626.54	44,576.09	12,050.45	27.03%	
Store Revenue					
4301 · T-Shirt/Sweatshirt sales	1,568.94	1,562.63	6.31	0.4%	
4302 · STAFF T-SHIRTS	1,070.57	0.00	1,070.57	100.0%	
4303 · Tuck adhoc sales	0.00	70.71	-70.71	(100.0%)	

Clerk:

Gracefield Christian Camp & Retreat Centre					Final Reviewed
Profit & Loss Prev Year Comparison					
January through December 2016					
	Jan - Dec 16	Jan - Dec 15	\$ Change	% Change	Notes
Total Store Revenue	2,639.51	1,633.34	1,006.17	61.6%	
Total Income	286,256.32	303,103.27	-16,846.95	(5.56%)	
Expense					
Administration Expenses					
6001 · Wages (office admin)	37,949.40	31,557.61	6,391.79	20.25%	
6002 · Directors Stipend	16,132.32	40,806.00	-24,673.68	(60.47%)	
6011 · Payroll Taxes (all depts)	12,427.33	12,873.90	-446.57	(3.47%)	
6012 · Vacation Pay (all depts)	2,653.15	1,609.27	1,043.88	64.87%	
6013 · Board & Lodge benefits	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%	
6021 · Health Insurance (Directors)	3,951.91	4,224.00	-272.09	(6.44%)	
6031 · Pension Plan (Directors)	3,097.42	6,855.36	-3,757.94	(54.82%)	
6041 · Workers Comp (all depts)	2,401.11	4,066.08	-1,664.97	(40.95%)	
6081 · Auto Gas (admin)	1,163.30	1,315.04	-151.74	(11.54%)	
6091 · Auto mileage (Admin)	0.00	223.06	-223.06	(100.0%)	
6101 · Auto registration (all depts)	654.23	764.37	-110.14	(14.41%)	
6111 · Property/Liability Insurance	21,049.56	16,196.45	4,853.11	29.96%	
6121 · Office postage	2,605.52	1,947.25	658.27	33.81%	
6131 · Office supplies (all depts)	608.17	895.40	-287.23	(32.08%)	
6141 · Office copier	3,125.96	3,406.06	-280.10	(8.22%)	
6151 · Office postage meter	562.54	620.44	-57.90	(9.33%)	
6171 · Computer equipment/software	1,008.00	1,046.74	-38.74	(3.7%)	
6181 · Health care/infirmarary	1,986.00	277.46	1,708.54	615.78%	
6182 · Safety equipment	1,076.00	2,475.38	-1,399.38	(56.53%)	
6191 · Phone & Internet services	2,505.97	2,531.97	-26.00	(1.03%)	
6201 · Prof. development (directors)	0.00	600.00	-600.00	(100.0%)	
6202 · Staff Training (all depts)	67.80	1,216.60	-1,148.80	(94.43%)	
6203 · Board development	125.15	1,004.82	-879.67	(87.55%)	
6211 · Publicity & promotion	1,602.85	987.53	615.32	62.31%	
6221 · Memberships/permits	2,532.02	3,131.73	-599.71	(19.15%)	
6251 · Auto insurance (all depts)	1,430.00	1,448.00	-18.00	(1.24%)	
6511 · Fundraising events/materials	200.00	2,277.00	-2,077.00	(91.22%)	
6991 · Miscellaneous/unclassified	79.24	145.00	-65.76	(45.35%)	
8001 · Bank & Merchant Card charges	3,972.58	4,404.71	-432.13	(9.81%)	
8011 · Line of Credit & Interest	841.05	185.54	655.51	353.3%	
8015 · Registration fees -online	3,245.61	3,143.11	102.50	3.26%	
8021 · GST Net expense	1,536.25	1,994.04	-457.79	(22.96%)	
8022 · QST Net Expense	2,447.50	3,253.81	-806.31	(24.78%)	
8023 · Ontario sales taxes	776.66	681.99	94.67	13.88%	
Total Administration Expenses	133,814.60	158,165.72	-24,351.12	(15.4%)	
Camp Store					
7671 · Souvenir Shirts	1,521.50	1,574.50	-53.00	(3.37%)	
7681 · Staff theme shirts	1,686.06	0.00	1,686.06	100.0%	
Total Camp Store	3,207.56	1,574.50	1,633.06	103.72%	
Food Services					
5001 · Wages - kitchen staff	19,025.40	10,684.88	8,340.52	78.06%	

Clerk:

Gracefield Christian Camp & Retreat Centre		Final Reviewed			
Accrual Basis		Profit & Loss Prev Year Comparison			
		January through December 2016			
	Jan - Dec 16	Jan - Dec 15	\$ Change	% Change	Notes
5003 · Chef Services	0.00	7,685.00	-7,685.00	(100.0%)	
5051 · Small kitchen equipment	162.27	483.65	-321.38	(66.45%)	
5311 · Repairs and kitchen supplies	1,379.98	2,793.12	-1,413.14	(50.59%)	
5541 · Food & beverage supplies	30,065.49	31,129.83	-1,064.34	(3.42%)	
5551 · Propane (cooking) supplies	1,106.85	989.66	117.19	11.84%	
Total Food Services	51,739.99	53,766.14	-2,026.15	(3.77%)	
Program - Adult/Family					
7007 · Program supplies (Family)	0.00	47.61	-47.61	(100.0%)	
Total Program - Adult/Family	0.00	47.61	-47.61	(100.0%)	
Program - Child/Youth					
6701 · Wages (coed summer camp)	14,287.43	13,789.52	497.91	3.61%	
6704 · Bus transport (Coed camp)	282.67	0.00	282.67	100.0%	
6706 · Program equipment (Coed camp)	644.04	72.50	571.54	788.33%	
6707 · Program supplies (Coed camp)	692.83	2,211.42	-1,518.59	(68.67%)	
6709 · Program - Aerial trek	0.00	397.63	-397.63	(100.0%)	
6721 · Wages - LIT & senior pgm	13,516.84	13,798.00	-281.16	(2.04%)	
6723 · LIT Honoraria	2,280.00	0.00	2,280.00	100.0%	
6725 · Staff Travel (LIT)	624.00	0.00	624.00	100.0%	
6727 · Program supplies -LIT	3,517.13	0.00	3,517.13	100.0%	
6743 · Honoraria (outdoor educ)	0.00	4,120.02	-4,120.02	(100.0%)	
6745 · Staff travel (outdoor ed)	0.00	84.98	-84.98	(100.0%)	
6751 · Wages - March Break camp	448.00	500.00	-52.00	(10.4%)	
6754 · Bus transport - March break	0.00	69.58	-69.58	(100.0%)	
6755 · Staff travel - March break	136.80	0.00	136.80	100.0%	
6757 · Program Supplies march break	29.50	252.62	-223.12	(88.32%)	
7817 · Wilderness & Trip Equipment	0.00	628.40	-628.40	(100.0%)	
Total Program - Child/Youth	36,459.24	35,924.67	534.57	1.49%	
Property Management					
6301 · Wages - Maint & housekeeping	20,358.97	1,459.35	18,899.62	1,295.07%	
6303 · Housekeeping Services	1,195.93	5,131.50	-3,935.57	(76.69%)	
6361 · Staff travel - Maintenance	0.00	638.80	-638.80	(100.0%)	
6381 · Fuel - tractors, engines	265.72	518.37	-252.65	(48.74%)	
6401 · Housekeeping supplies	2,044.25	1,411.67	632.58	44.81%	
6411 · Repairs & building supplies	5,499.09	11,002.12	-5,503.03	(50.02%)	
6414 · Water testing and maintenance	6,731.79	4,030.00	2,701.79	67.04%	
6421 · Road Maintenance & Snow removal	3,230.00	2,773.97	456.03	16.44%	
6431 · Garbage/septic collection	3,349.99	3,099.07	250.92	8.1%	
6432 · Trailer permits	0.00	-240.00	240.00	100.0%	
6441 · Hydro electricity	14,848.11	16,377.71	-1,529.60	(9.34%)	
6451 · Auto repair & maintenance	351.36	3,352.00	-3,000.64	(89.52%)	
7813 · Structural Improvement projects	1,135.06	4,387.92	-3,252.86	(74.13%)	
Total Property Management	59,010.27	53,942.48	5,067.79	9.4%	
Total Expense	284,231.66	303,421.12	-19,189.46	(6.32%)	
Net Ordinary Income	2,024.66	-317.85	2,342.51	736.99%	

Clerk:

Gracefield Christian Camp & Retreat Centre
Profit & Loss Prev Year Comparison
January through December 2016

Final Reviewed

Accrual Basis

	Jan - Dec 16	Jan - Dec 15	\$ Change	% Change	Notes
Other Income/Expense					
Other Income					
Capital Maint. Grants					
4413 · Erskine Historic building grant	10,214.01	0.00	10,214.01	100.0%	note 3
7909 · Grants for Septic system	750.00	0.00	750.00	100.0%	
7910 · Grants for Water Treatment Proj	0.00	1,981.23	-1,981.23	(100.0%)	
Total Capital Maint. Grants	10,964.01	1,981.23	8,982.78	453.39%	
GCCRC transition					
4412 · Erskine Strat planning grants	16,626.70	0.00	16,626.70	100.0%	note 3
Total GCCRC transition	16,626.70	0.00	16,626.70	100.0%	
Total Other Income	27,590.71	1,981.23	25,609.48	1,292.61%	
Other Expense					
Capital Maintenance Pgm					
7824 · White Pine Septic system	750.00	0.00	750.00	100.0%	
7825 · Historic building reno projects	10,214.01	0.00	10,214.01	100.0%	
7920 · Water Treatment Expenses	0.00	1,981.23	-1,981.23	(100.0%)	
Total Capital Maintenance Pgm	10,964.01	1,981.23	8,982.78	453.39%	
GCCRC transition costs					
7202 · Strategic Planning	16,626.70	0.00	16,626.70	100.0%	
Total GCCRC transition costs	16,626.70	0.00	16,626.70	100.0%	
Total Other Expense	27,590.71	1,981.23	25,609.48	1,292.61%	
Net Other Income	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%	
Net Income	2,024.66	-317.85	2,342.51	736.99%	

Gracefield Christian Camp & Retreat Centre

Explanatory Notes to the financial statements for December 31st 2016**Balance Sheet**Note 1:

There are 2 available cash accounts: *#1001 Desjardins chequing account 13148*, & *#1499 Undeposited Funds* which includes donations postmarked in 2016 but not received until after year-end and hence not yet deposited in the bank as of the period closing date. At year-end there was no draw on the line of credit which has an authorized maximum limit of \$60,000.

Note 2:

The camp is a full member of the Caisse Populaire Desjardins Gracefield credit union with whom we hold all our bank accounts. Account *#1004 Desjardins share account* reflects the mandatory \$5 held for active membership in the credit union.

Note 3:

In January 2011 the Presbytery of Ottawa agreed to the proposal from the Westminster congregation that a portion of the proceeds from the sale of the former Erskine Church property be allocated to Gracefield Camp. The relevant portion of the motion approved by Presbytery was:

“...\$200,000 to Gracefield Christian Camp and Retreat Centre for a meaningful project that honours the legacy of Service and Ministry of the Erskine Congregation”.

Subsequently the designated funds, plus interest, valued at \$204,372.59 were transferred to the consolidated investment portfolio of the Presbyterian Church in Canada to be held on behalf of Gracefield Camp. This fund is under the control of the Gracefield Board of Directors and is considered an internally restricted fund called “The Erskine Legacy Fund”.

Due to substantial operating deficits of approximately \$201,000 in the years 2010-2012 the board chose to withdraw a total of \$140,000 from the fund to be able to continue camp operations. The amount withdrawn from the Erskine fund, plus accumulated interest, was initially recorded as a loan. With no prospect of paying down the loan in the foreseeable future, and with the concurrence of the Westminster session, the loan balance of \$143,540.79 at December 31st 2014 was written off by the Board of Directors effective December 31st 2015 and the balance reduced to zero.

In 2016 the board approved grants totalling \$26,840.71 from the Erskine Legacy Fund for the Strategic Planning process and additional work on restoration of the historic Jolly Roger building. These grants are recorded on the P&L Income Statement in other income accounts *#4412* and *#4413* respectively. The remaining balance in the Erskine Legacy Fund is recorded as a restricted fund in *#2350 Erskine Legacy Fund balance*.

The PCC Consolidated Portfolio performed quite well in 2016, and after withdrawals of \$20,000 to partially cover the approved grants the balance due to Gracefield Camp remaining in the PCC Consolidated Portfolio at December 31st 2016 is recorded in savings account *#1010*. Any changes in the market value of the portfolio (+\$5,956.89 in 2016) are also recorded as changes to account *#2350 Erskine Legacy Fund balance*. As withdrawals from the portfolio are made only to transfer sufficient cash to avoid using the line of credit, they are not always equal in value to the grants made from the Erskine fund. Thus the value recorded for the portfolio will generally exceed the value remaining in the Erskine Legacy restricted fund, any excess amount is an available unrestricted asset to the operating fund.

The Synod of Québec and Eastern Ontario

The Church of St. Andrew and St. Paul, Montréal, Québec

Friday and Saturday, October 20th and October 21st, 2017

Note 4:

From time to time the camp receives donations from individuals and churches designated for specific purposes. If the initial donation is substantial and expected to take several years to expend, these externally restricted funds are recorded in accounts #2301 to #2320. As the funds are expended for their designated purpose the amount is recorded as revenue in the year the expense was incurred and the balance of each fund reduced accordingly. It is the Board's intent to use such funds for their designated purpose at the earliest opportunity. The board has a long standing policy to add imputed interest at the 1-year GIC rate to any such fund, existing for more than a year, with a balance of \$5,000 or more at December 31st.

According to this policy interest in the amount of \$182.72 was accrued to account #2306 *Water/Septic Capital Fund* in 2016. A designated donation for the washroom project (held in account #2308 *Capital Projects Fund*) was received right at year-end and thus was not eligible for 2016 under this policy.

Small designated donations expected to be expended within a year of receipt are held in account #2401 *Deferred Revenue* along with guest prepaid deposits and other anticipated revenues accrued but not yet received. In 2015 the camp entered into a contract with a local forestry co-op to complete a renewal of the forest in certain areas of the camp property. The project was expected to yield a total net income of approximately \$8,000 of which \$5,090 was received in 2015. Due to unforeseen weather circumstances the remaining portion of the project has been delayed and an amount of \$3,000 is still outstanding. This has been recorded as an accounts receivable and included in account #2401 *Deferred Revenue* until such time as the project is completed.

Note 5:

In 2005 at the 131st meeting the Synod of Quebec & Eastern Ontario approved proceeding with the water & septic system projects based on a budget of \$262,900 including net sales taxes. Approval was given for a loan of \$150,000 provided that the required money was received to cover the remaining cost of the project. The loan was to be paid back over a period of 20 years.

At the 132nd meeting of Synod (October 20th - 21st 2006) funding already received from various sources was \$82,555 leaving a shortfall of \$180,345. The Synod passed the following motion "...that the synod approve the borrowing of additional funds required for the water and septic system projects at the Gracefield Camp & Conference Centre from up to \$150,000 to up to \$180,000 at the lowest possible interest rate."

As of December 31st 2016 the water system had been completed and engineering studies for the septic system were ongoing for a total cost of \$97,604. Designated funds remaining include \$36,725.99 held by the camp in account #2306 *Water/Septic Capital Fund* and an additional \$85,890 held by the Presbytery of Ottawa for a total available of \$122,616. If required, an additional loan of \$45,000 at 5% has been committed by the Presbytery of Ottawa as their contribution to the loan amount approved by Synod.

Note 6:

The camp converted their books to the Quickbooks software beginning January 1st 2000 from the previous Fortune1000/Acoma system used by the external bookkeeper. The opening balance was recorded in account #3000 *Opening Balance Equity* at that time. The negative amount of -\$59,052.83 comprised primarily the balance of the mortgage on White Pine Lodge (\$49,150, paid off by mid-2001) plus the remaining amount of the operating deficit accumulated in the previous three decades of the camp's life (which was cleared by the end of 2009).

Note 7:

The net accumulated operating surplus since opening Quickbooks to the end of the prior year is recorded in account #3900 *Retained Earnings*. The current year surplus or deficit is shown as *Net income*. The outstanding accumulated operating surplus or deficit since the camp began (the total of lines 3000, 3900 and *Net income*) is then shown as *Total Equity*. This stands at -\$53,122.01 at the end of 2016.



A MINISTRY OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN CANADA

**REPORT OF THE GRACEFIELD CHRISTIAN CAMP AND RETREAT CENTRE
BOARD OF DIRECTORS TO THE PRESBYTERY OF OTTAWA
September 19, 2017**

The mission of Gracefield Christian Camp and Retreat Centre is to invite all people to experience the loving presence of the living God in creation, in Christ and in Christian community.

The Board of Directors is pleased to present the Presbytery of Ottawa with an updated summary of our 2017 season to date including current activities.

Executive Summary

We are pleased to announce that the search for an Executive Directive lead by Rev. Karen Dimock has concluded; the camp will be welcoming its new Executive Director, Bruce Howard on October 1.

- 139 campers attended the March break and summer camps including 10 in the Leaders in Training Program
- 23 summer staff and three part-time/casual staff along with eight volunteers joined Barbra Draper, acting Camp Manager in the delivery of the summer program
- We are indebted to Barbra, our summer Program Director, Jenny De Melo, the summer staff and a host of volunteers for the success of the Camps.
- A conservative estimate of close to 5,000 volunteer hours have provided support to the Camp in areas such as work weekends, training, chaplaincy, food preparation and planning
- A very successful Canada 150th/Gracefield Christian Camp and Retreat Centre 55th anniversary celebration was held the weekend of August 18th with more than 100 participants
- The shingling of the Beaver Lodge was completed in time for summer occupancy
- Two staff cabins, each with a four-bed capacity were completed and installed along the cabin road
- A contractor has been selected for the installation of the long awaited new septic system
- Mark your calendars please:
 - Thanksgiving at Gracefield!! Dinner Sunday October 8th Meet and greet with Bruce Howard, Gracefield's Executive Director;
 - Work and Fellowship Weekends (October 20 - 22; 27 - 29 and November 3 - 5) are planned to shut down seasonal buildings, secure summer assets and prepare the camp for winter. (Information available on the <http://www.gracefieldcamp.ca>)



A MINISTRY OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN CANADA

Program

The theme of this summer's 13 camps was *Branching Out*. The campers and staff learned about the transformative power of Christ, and becoming equipped to share the Good News with others. The key passage was taken from John 15: 1-11 "I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing..."

The Leader in Training Program was the largest since 2009 with 10 participants coming from churches in Gatineau, Ottawa, Brockville, and the surrounding areas. Many of the participants expressed interest returning as leaders.

The canoe tripping program also continues to be improved. This year two successful offsite trips were run, and the wilderness sites at GCCRC saw significant improvements opening up more opportunities for our campers to learn important outdoor living skills.

Thirteen camps ran successfully this summer. The most popular camps were those for ages 9-12, and the camps with the lowest registration were our camps aimed at family groups. We are looking at ways to better structure our camp programming, alongside our retreats and church weekends, to offer family programming that is accessible to all.

Moving forward, GCCRC is excited for the growth of our wilderness and kids camp programs. In order to encourage positive growth at the camp we are always in need of staff and volunteers with strong faith. We have benefited greatly from the support of our volunteer chaplains, nurses and maintenance volunteers.

Fund Development and Communications

On Saturday, August 19th, GCCRC welcomed more than 100 members of the public and the Gracefield community to an open house celebration to mark Canada's 150th and GCCRC's 55th anniversaries. Our goal was not only to mark two major milestones but to nurture our relationships with our neighbours Ville de Gracefield, la Municipalité régionale de comté de la Vallée-de-la-Gatineau, the Kitigan Zibi Anishinabe First Nation and further afield, with the City of Ottawa.

Running from 9:30 to 4pm, after a well-attended opening ceremony, the program featured a wide mix of events and activities highlighting contributions from our partners and from the staff and volunteers of GCCRC. Members of the Kitigan Zibi First Nation showcased local Algonquin culture through a Pow-Wow dancing demonstration, sample traditional Algonquin foods and a sequence of presentations and discussions. To celebrate the history of the camp and its connections with the historic Billings family, the City of Ottawa created a unique special exhibit for the event and gave a well-attended presentation on the Billings family links to the camp. Beaver Lodge hosted a popular series of storytelling sessions inspired by the Billings family. For those unfamiliar with the site, the camp was the summer home of the Billings

Clerk:



A MINISTRY OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN CANADA

family from the early 1900s through to 1962. The Hull-Manawaki rail line (now the Trans Canada Trail) runs through the site. Every spring for decades the extended Ottawa-based Billings family would ride the train to the site, spend the summer, and return to the city in the fall.

Ville de Gracefield hosted a free BBQ lunch, at which the Gracefield mayor, Joanne Poulin, gave a well-received congratulations to the camp on its anniversary. Elsewhere our staff and volunteers hosted a series of activities to showcase the camp's natural beauty, history and camp assets including tours, hikes, canoeing, kids' crafts and an excellent history display hosted at the former and original train station (still on site).

This story of this celebration was published in the local paper <http://www.lagatineau.com/camp-et-centre-de-recueillement-chretien-de-gracefield-hommage-a-une-famille-fondatrice>.

Strategic Planning

The Strategic Planning Group met in August to follow-up on progress made on the Strategic Plan and to identify adjustments and gaps. This group of 20 stakeholders, referred to as the G20, continue to provide volunteer support, constructive ideas and a reach into the broad GCCRC community.

The Run River Inc. group, as volunteers, participated in the meeting, providing insight on specific GCCRC issues as well as on the Christian camping in general.

Property and Maintenance

This summer season had been a challenging one. Lacking a senior maintenance person at the beginning of the spring, the many required tasks were accomplished by various volunteers. Thankfully by the beginning of the summer a maintenance person was hired, the Beaver roof was completed and two new cabins installed for staff accommodation during summer camp and rental accommodation in the off season.

The five-cabin village, identified in the Strategic Plan, is in the process of being completed. We are working on the Le Ministère de Développement durable Environnement et Lutte Contre les Changements Climatique requirement for an engineer sign off on water and septic capacity and are expecting the cabin village to be in place by next summer.

After much time and effort, a contractor has been selected to install the long awaited new septic system. Work is expected to start right after Thanksgiving and take three to four weeks. This system will replace the deteriorating White Pine system and will afford us the possibility of increasing building and site usage.

In early August there was a fire in the Joly Roger laundry room heavily damaging the room and causing extensive smoke damage throughout the living/dining/kitchen section of the building. There was no one



A MINISTRY OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN CANADA

in the building at the time and there were no injuries as a result of the fire. We were fortunate that the fire was noticed and staff and volunteers were quickly able to contact the fire department and extinguish the fire. Our insurance company is now involved and a contractor is in the process of completing restoration work. The camp emergency procedures worked well with the alarm sounding and all campers and staff congregating at the boat house for further instruction. The fire chief complimented the staff on their actions.

Work weekends are scheduled for October 17- 20; 27 – 29 and November 3 – 5. We invite you to join us.

Finance

The treasurer has been out of the country on a family emergency. A financial statement will be sent to Presbytery's Finance and Maintenance Committee as soon as available.

Community Outreach

GCCRC continues to provide accommodation space for Grace Connexion, a local mental health awareness group focused on mental health issues in the great Gracefield town area.

Board Members

We thank Peter Lamont, David Kilgour and Geoff De Melo who leave the Board this month and commend them for their faithful service and support.

We welcome back to the Board Ellie Bennett who served as Program Convener in 2015 and is returning as Board Secretary.

Respectfully Submitted
Bon E Cummings
Convener
Board of Directors

Tel. (819) 463-2465 or 1-888-493-CAMP
info@gracefieldcamp.ca
37 Chemin des Loisirs, C. P. 420
Gracefield, Québec J0X 1W 0

Charitable Reg. # 89568 1930 RR0001

www.gracefieldcamp.ca

GCCRC Water & Septic Capital Improvement Project Financial Overview 2003-2017

<u>Account Description (note 1)</u>	<u>2003</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>2005</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>	<u>2009</u>	<u>2010</u>
2306 Designated capital donations received	1,900	2,206	3,735	10,730	2,181	755	225	2,000
2306 Imputed interest added (note 2)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	451	350	100	0
2308 PCC Capital Project Grants received				13,657				
2308 Imputed interest added (note 2)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	396	260	72	0
4408 Synod water/septic capital grants received		7,092	11,500					
2352 Project advance from Presbytery Ottawa								
Total water/septic revenue	1,900	9,298	15,235	24,387	3,028	1,365	397	2,000
7823 Water treatment engineering studies	0	7,092	5,533	1,565	0	0	1,170	3,791
7920 Water treatment system installation								
sub-total water treatment system	0	7,092	5,533	1,565	0	0	1,170	3,791
7824 Septic system engineering study	0	0	5,967	725	0	0	0	0
7909 Septic system project manager	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
sub-total septic system	0	0	5,967	725	0	0	0	0
Total water/septic expenses	0	7,092	11,500	2,289	0	0	1,170	3,791
cumulative expenses	0	7,092	18,592	20,881	20,881	20,881	22,052	25,843
Net income/expense	1,900	2,206	3,735	22,098	3,028	1,365	-774	-1,791
Cumulative balance in GCCRC capital funds	1,900	4,106	7,841	29,939	32,967	34,332	33,558	31,767
	<u>2011</u>	<u>2012</u>	<u>2013</u>	<u>2014</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>Total</u>
	500	0	0	0	0	0	0	24,232
	0	0	600	252	186	183	0	2,121
								13,657
	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	727
								18,592
		75,000	0	0	0	0	0	75,000
	500	75,000	600	252	186	183	0	134,330
	3,787	0	0	2,863	0	0	0	25,800
		38,464	22,035	1,882	1,981	0	0	64,362
	3,787	38,464	22,035	4,745	1,981	0	0	90,162
	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6,692
	0	0	0	0	0	750	1,320	2,070
	0	0	0	0	0	750	1,320	8,762
	3,787	38,464	22,035	4,745	1,981	750	1,320	98,924
	29,629	68,093	90,128	94,873	96,854	97,604	98,924	
	-3,287	36,536	-21,435	-4,492	-1,796	-567	-1,320	35,406
	28,480	65,016	43,581	39,089	37,293	36,726	35,406	
Designated Funds held by Presbytery Ottawa (note 3) (as per Noral Rebin email April 6, 2017)			73,411	75,578	78,178	85,890	85,890	
Total funds available for water/septic (year-end balances)	1,900	4,106	7,841	29,939	32,967	34,332	33,558	31,767
	28,480	65,016	116,992	114,667	115,471	122,616	121,296	
Approved project budget (note 4)				262,900				
Remaining budget	0	-7,092	-18,592	242,019	242,019	242,019	240,848	237,057
	233,271	194,807	172,772	168,027	166,046	165,296	163,976	

Notes:

- only water-septic project income & expense entries in these accounts are reported, other projects are removed
- until 2009 and starting again in 2013, interest was accrued to each designated fund for fund balances exceeding \$5,000 on the anniversary date or at year-end
- Presbytery of Ottawa has also approved a loan of up to \$45,000 at 5% if needed for the project
- Total Budget approved by 132nd Synod October 20-21 2006

Clerk:

The Synod of Québec and Eastern Ontario

The Church of St. Andrew and St. Paul, Montréal, Québec

Friday and Saturday, October 20th and October 21st, 2017

Gracefield Water-Septic Project Financial Plan

Project	synod approved budget	actual expense to 30-09-2017	proposed expense to complete	total planned expense	change from approved budget	notes
Water system						
engineering & proj mgmt.	18,100	25,800	0	25,800	-7,700	
equipment & installation	63,300	64,362	0	64,362	-1,062	
sub-total water	81,400	90,162	0	90,162	-8,762	
sales taxes @ 50% payable	6,110	0	0	0	6,110	50% taxes included in actuals
Total Water system	87,510	90,162	0	90,162	-2,652	
Septic system						
engineering & proj mgmt	11,800	8,762	2,500	11,262	538	Berthiaume engineering contract
equipment & installation	111,300	0	124,983	124,983	-13,683	SCSM contract
excavation contingency	0	0	5,000	5,000	-5,000	SCSM quote if hit shallow bedrock
electrical & plumbing required generator		40,000	0	20,000	20,000	20,000 includes
sub-total septic	163,100	8,762	152,483	161,244	1,856	
sales taxes @ 50% payable	12,290	0	11,440	11,440	850	50% taxes included in actuals
Total Septic system	175,390	8,762	163,923	172,684	2,706	
Grand total both projects	262,900	98,924	163,923	262,846	54	
Sources of Funds						
Gracefield capital funds			35,406			as of Sept 30 2017
Synod funds at Presbytery			85,890			as of Dec 31 2016
Additional synod funds			42,627			\$45,000 Ottawa loan already approved
Total funding required			163,923			

CAMP D'ACTION BIBLIQUE - OCTOBER 2017

The camp continues to move forward with your support and prayers. The following updates are submitted to the Synod of Quebec and Eastern Ontario for your information and consideration.

1. Camp Committee. The camp committee continues to meet on an as required basis. The last meeting was August 31st, 2017. Jeffrey Hamel from St. Andrews St. Lambert joined and Rev Richard Bonetto from St. Luc Presbyterian Church retired from the committee.
2. Part-time positions. Both Randy and Gary Johnston are planning to return in 2018.
3. Campers. A total of 218 campers (or 173 camper weeks) (up slightly from 2016) at CAB this past summer.
4. Summer Staff. In 2017 we had a significant number of returning staff mixed with new volunteers. There were 29 different staff (totaling 134 staff weeks including training).
5. Open House, Friday June 30th, 2017. What a great way to start the summer even though the weather did not cooperate. The week of staff training was followed by a great day at camp where Rev Paul Wu led the worship service in the Chapel.
6. Curriculum. The summer program was provided by the PCC. The theme for summer 2017 was "Branching out: Connecting through Christ". An excellent product that the staff could use and build upon.
7. Camp opening. The preparation, spring clean-up and opening of the camp was done by the team of Gary (uncle) and Jeremy Johnston (nephew) with occasional help from William (son) and Michel Randlett (father).
8. Maintenance Planned expenses included a new 2 room staff cabin and unplanned expenses included a new septic pump and UV computer and sensor which were purchased and installed.
9. CAB website - <http://www.cabqc.ca/>. Continuously improving, suggestions welcome. The camp Facebook page is being used by staff and campers much more than in past years.
10. Welcome Hall Mission. WHM in Montreal sent 132 campers over three 4 day camps during a two-week period. Extra staff was hired and the campers had a wonderful time. Having every bed filled was very encouraging.
11. Inspections. The number of formal inspections was again very light. The only inspection was for the water system which went very well.

Service Canada. CAB had applied to Service Canada for a number of years in the hope of getting funding to employ students as part of the CAB staff team. This was the second year that we have been successful and a Counsellor was funded for 6-weeks.

The Synod of Québec and Eastern Ontario

The Church of St. Andrew and St. Paul, Montréal, Québec

Friday and Saturday, October 20th and October 21st, 2017

12. Visits. The Mayor of the Canton de Cleveland and three municipal counsellors, Amy Savage a Camp alumnus from 1988 and Rev Marc Henri Vidal stopped by with some of his grandchildren during the summer.

13. Financial Statement. The camp is ending the year in a sound financial position. This will allow us to consider some larger facilities upkeep activities for next summer.

14. 2018 Schedule. It is envisaged that the camp will run another 7 week schedule next summer. One week of training, followed by 6 camper weeks with 2 dedicated to Welcome Hall Mission. Please note Open House will be held on Saturday, June 30th, 2018 and the retreat will be one week earlier, the second weekend in September. The planned 2018 schedule is attached.

15. Past & Future. Having just completed my 18th summer with camp, I look back. Wow! Look what we've accomplished in 70+ years of camping in the Presbytery of Quebec and Montreal. This was achieved through the excellent cooperation of many individuals over the years. I am also encouraged by the little improvements we achieve annually and the immense opportunity that lies ahead. The need for additional (some new and local), dedicated volunteers, especially in camp committee would be openly welcomed.

16. The Synod of Quebec and Eastern Ontario continued strong support, enables camp d'action biblique to deliver a high quality, bilingual Ministry.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call.

C.A. Dewar September 20th, 2017

Director General (Convenor)/ Secretary

Camp d'action biblique

(613) 822-9881 (Home) (613) 614-9224 (Cellular) (613) 945-0578 (work)

The Synod of Québec and Eastern Ontario

The Church of St. Andrew and St. Paul, Montréal, Québec

Friday and Saturday, October 20th and October 21st, 2017

31 Dec 16

CAMP D'ACTION BIBLIQUE
EXPENSES 2016

Hydro Quebec	\$ 2,904.64
Propane	\$ 732.00
Bell telephone	\$ 765.24
Postage / Stationary / Photocopying	\$ 619.81
Property – 4 wheeler use	\$ 3,679.08
Pharmacy – First Aid	\$ 224.45
Food – Maxi / Tuck	\$ 8,589.48
Water Testing + UV machine bills	\$ 1,442.16
Honorariums – Staff	\$ 39,525.00
Honorariums – Executive Director	\$ 19,320.00
Honorariums – Maintenance (Michel)	\$ 510.00
Honorariums – Maintenance (William)	\$ 100.00
Honorariums – Maintenance (Gary)	\$ 6,800.00
Honorariums – Maintenance (Jeremy)	\$ 2,000.00
Travel – Staff (Ex Dir & Committee)	\$ 2,369.40
Fire Extinguishers	\$ 328.36
Septic	\$ 1,338.18
Insurance	\$ 9,466.65
Return of Registration	\$ 700.00
Cleaning – housekeeping – Supplies (Cherbourg)	\$ 1,260.94
CITQ – QCA – CCI	\$ 1,630.02
T shirts	\$ 1,137.67
Program	\$ 3,380.42
1 st Aid Training	\$ 672.03
St. Andrew's Melbourne (Lifeguard)	\$ 3,000.00
Ropes Course	\$ 1,879.85
Aquatech	\$ 574.88
Excavation Richmond Inc	\$ -
Picnic Tables	\$ 775.00
Dredging	\$ -
bank charges / fees / returned cheque	\$ 377.77
	\$ 116,098.03

Sent to Presbytery of Québec for Tax Receipts	\$ 7,817.92
	\$ 7,817.92

Expenses 2016

\$ 123,915.95

31 Dec 16

CAMP D'ACTION BIBLIQUE
Camp Operating Income / Donations / Misc - 2016

Camp Operating Income	\$ 18,990.00
Camper dues week 1 (Youth I)	\$ 6,220.00
Camper dues week 2 (Bil Jr I)	\$ 5,015.00
Camper dues week 3 (Bil Jr 2A-C)	\$ 730.00
Camper dues week 4 (Bil Jr 3)	\$ 2,770.00
Camper dues week 5 (Youth II)	\$ 3,405.00
Retreat	\$ 850.00
Donations	\$ 91,524.00
Presbytery of Montréal	\$ 9,069.00
Presbytery of Québec	\$ 1,000.00
Welcome Hall Mission	\$ 28,000.00
ACQ sponsorship	\$ -
Synod of QC and Eastern ON	\$ 32,383.00
Various Churches / Organizations (8)	\$ 4,177.00
Various Individuals (22) (includes open house donations)	\$ 4,895.00
Robert Fund	\$ 12,000.00-
Miscellaneous – 2016	\$ 9,217.54
Joe Kelly Bottles (Apr – Jun)	\$ 1,011.32
Rentals Fees	\$ 4,317.50
Damage deposit cashed	\$ 250.00
bottle return (Misc.)	\$
Bottle Return (Craig)	\$ 261.83
Bottle Return (Elie)	\$ 414.70
T-shirt	\$ 96.00
DVDs	\$ 5.00
Bell rtn overpayment	\$ 95.75
St Andrew's Presbyterian Church	\$ 2,709.44
Silent Auction (open house)	\$ 56.00
Camp Operating/Donations/Misc – 2016 (Total)	\$ 119,731.54
Donations receipted through the Presbytery of Québec	\$ 9,306.09
	\$ 9,306.09
Operating Balance (01 Jan 16)	\$ 55,183.09
+ Camp Operating/Donations/Misc 2016	\$ 129,037.63
- Expenses 2016	\$ 123,915.95
Book Balance 31 Dec 16	\$ 60,304.77

Clerk:



2018 Camp d'action biblique Schedule

Pre-Camp: Monday, June 25th (2 p.m.) – Saturday, June 30th (10 a.m.)

Open House: Saturday, June 30th (2 – 8 p.m.)

Youth Camp 1 (ages 13-16): Sunday, July 1st (5 p.m.) – Saturday, July 7th (10 a.m.)

Junior Camp 1 (ages 8-12): Sunday, July 8th (5 p.m.) – Saturday, July 14th (10 a.m.)

Welcome Hall Mission Weeks (ages 8-12): Sunday, July 15th (5 p.m.) – Sunday, July 29th (10 a.m.)

Camp Rental: Sunday, July 29st - Sunday, August 5th (10 a.m.)

Junior Camp 2 (ages 8-12): Sunday, August 5th (5 p.m.) – Saturday, August 11th (10 a.m.)

Youth Camp 2 (ages 13-16): Sunday, August 12th (5 p.m.) – Saturday, August 18th (10 a.m.) **Camp Rental:** Sunday, August 19th – Saturday, August 25th

Retreat: Friday, September 7th (5 p.m.) - Sunday September 9th (2 p.m.)

For general information or camp rental possibilities, please visit or contact CAB by:

Website: www.cabqc.ca

E-mail: cabqc@yahoo.ca

Phone: (819) 826-5400 (June to August)
(450) 923-0794
(450) 826-4599

Address: Camp d'action biblique
P.O. Box 3154
Richmond, Québec J0B 2H0

The Synod of Québec and Eastern Ontario

The Church of St. Andrew and St. Paul, Montréal, Québec

Friday and Saturday, October 20th and October 21st, 2017

MEMORIAL RECORD

Presbytery of Montreal

THE REV. DR. JOSEPH C. MCLELLAND

B.A., M.A., B.D., PH.D., D.D.

The Rev. Dr. Joseph C. McLelland was born in Port-Glasgow, Scotland, and came to Canada in 1927 with his family. At McMaster University he earned a B.A. in English literature, followed by a B.D. from Knox College, Toronto, and an M.A. in philosophy from the University of Toronto.

Dr. McLelland was ordained in 1949, and served as the minister of St. Paul's Church, Val D'Or, Quebec. He then went to the University of Edinburgh where he received a Ph.D. in historical theology. Upon returning to Canada, he became the minister to congregations at Bolton and Nashville, Ontario. In the mid-fifties he was a lecturer at Knox College, Toronto. In 1957 he joined the faculty of The Presbyterian College, Montreal, as the Robert Professor of History and Philosophy of Religion and Christian Ethics. In 1959, he became an associate professor of philosophy and religion at McGill University and became McConnell Professor of Philosophy of Religion at McGill in 1964. Dr. McLelland served as Dean of the McGill Faculty of Religious Studies from 1975 to 1985.

Dr. McLelland also served as President of the Canadian Theological Society and as editor of several academic journals and was a contributing editor of the Presbyterian Record. He was a member or chairman of several dialogue groups with other churches. He was author of numerous academic articles and wrote or edited over twenty books, including *The Clown and the Crocodile* (1970) and *Prometheus Rebound: The Irony of Atheism* (1988). He was a founding editor of The Peter Martyr Library, a series of English translations of the chief works of the early protestant reformer, Peter Martyr Vermigli.

In his retirement he was appointed as McConnell Professor Emeritus. Dr. McLelland was a prolific author, editor and reviewer. In 1985 he was elected Moderator of the 111th General Assembly of The Presbyterian Church in Canada. Dr. McLelland received a Doctor of Divinity (honoris causa) from Knox College, Toronto, and from the Diocesan Theological College, Montreal. In October 2007, The Presbyterian College renamed the library in honour of Dr. McLelland, in recognition of his fifty-year association with the college.

Dr. McLelland is pre-deceased by his beloved wife, Audrey. He is survived by their children Jonathan, Peter, Andrew and Margaret, and their grandchildren.

A memorial service was held on Saturday, February 25, 2017, at Briarwood Presbyterian Church, Beaconsfield.

From Dr. McLelland's book *The Clown and the Crocodile*, these words: "Because of life's contradictions; because man experiences both darkness and light; because the contest is a dance and the dance is a glory, therefore celebration is always in order. The truly human life is an act of celebration."

Clerk:

MEMORIAL RECORD

Presbytery of Montreal

THE REV. DR. WILLIAM J. KLEMPA

B.A., M.A., B.D., PH.D., D.D.

The Rev. Dr. William J. Klempa who was born in 1932 passed away on Saturday, March 4, 2017. Dr. Klempa was Principal Emeritus of The Presbyterian College, and a theologian and historian of the Reformed tradition of the first order. In November of 2016, Dr. Klempa saw the publication of his final book entitled *A Unique Time of God*, a collection of Karl Barth's World War I sermons, edited and translated.

Dr. Klempa earned post-graduate degrees at Knox College (B.D.), the University of Toronto (M.A.) and the University of Edinburgh (Ph.D.). Over his academic career he published extensively, with writings focused on works of the 16th century Reformer John Calvin, and of the 20th century Reformed theologian Karl Barth. In addition to other essays, two key publications include *For Such a Time as This* (a collection of sermons) and *The Burning Bush and A Few Acres of Snow* (an edited collection of essays on the Presbyterian contribution to Canadian culture). During his twenty years as Principal of The Presbyterian College (1978–1998), he also served as a lecturer in the Faculty of Religious Studies at McGill University.

In addition to his academic work, Dr. Klempa served as an ordained minister at Gorge Church, Victoria, British Columbia (1962–1966); at Knox Church, Burlington (1966–1970); and finally, at Rosedale Church, Toronto (1970–1978). He was a servant of the church, who offered his gifts in administration, pastoral care, popular writing, education and intellectual endeavour for the upbuilding of Christ's body and for the glory of God.

As is written of Dr. Klempa in the editor's preface to *Exploring The Faith: Essays in the History and Theology of the Reformed Tradition* (a collection of his essays published by The Presbyterian College in 2009): "Standing in the tradition of Calvin and Barth, Principal Emeritus Klempa is committed to doing theology in the service of the church. Such a theology is centred, he believes, in Jesus Christ the living word of God to whom the written word of God in holy scriptures bears witness. The task of the theologian is to interpret the word of God for the gathering, up-building and sending of the church."

The Rev. Dr. William J. Klempa is pre-deceased by his beloved wife Lois. We remember his children Catherine, Michael and Mary-Margaret in this time, committing them to the gracious care of Christ.

A funeral service was held on Saturday, March 18, 2017, at St. Andrew and St. Paul Church, Montreal. A memorial service was also held at Rosedale Church, Toronto, on Saturday April 8, 2017.

The Synod of Québec and Eastern Ontario

The Church of St. Andrew and St. Paul, Montréal, Québec

Friday and Saturday, October 20th and October 21st, 2017**MODERATORS OF THE SYNOD OF QUÉBEC AND EASTERN ONTARIO 1975- 2017**

At the 98th General Assembly (1972) the name of the synod was changed from
the Synod of Montréal and Ottawa to the Synod of Québec and Eastern Ontario.

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>MODERATOR</u>	<u>HOME PRESBYTERY</u>
1975	Montréal	Wallace MacKinnon, B.A., D.D.	Glengarry
1976	Smiths Falls	Lawrence J. Cowper, B.Th.	Brockville
1977	Prescott	George E. Dobie, B.A., B.D., M.Th., D.D.	Ottawa
1978	Cornwall	James C.M. Jack, M.A.	Québec
1979	Ottawa	Bill McElwain, M.A., Th.M.	Ottawa
1980	Sherbrooke	Donovan G. Neil, B.A., B.D., Th.M.	Montréal
1981	Arnprior	Wilfrid M. Moncrieff, B.A., M.Div.	Lanark and Renfrew
1982	St. Lambert	Robert Martin, M.A.	Glengarry
1983	Brockville	Allan M. Duncan, B.A., B.D.	Brockville
1984	Ottawa	P. Lyle Sams, C.C., B.A.	Québec
1985	Vankleek Hill	Graham Kennedy, B.A., B.Th., M.Th.	Ottawa
1986	Perth	J. Bruce Robertson, S.T.M.	Montréal
1987	Montréal	Linda Bell, B.A., M.Div.	Lanark and Renfrew
1988	Iroquois	Fred Rennie, M.Th., D.D.	Glengarry
1989	Cornwall	Nicholas Vandermay, M.Th.	Brockville
1990	Gloucester	Daniel H. Forget, M.Th.	Québec
1991	Richmond	Floyd McPhee, M.A., D.Min.	Ottawa
1992	Gracefield	Wally Hong, B.Sc., S.T.M.	Montréal
1993	Smiths Falls	Larry Paul, B.A., B.D., S.T.M., M.A.	Lanark and Renfrew
1994	Montréal	Garry van Bruchem, S.T.M., M.A., D.Min.	Seaway-Glengarry
1995	Ingleside	Garry Morton, B.A.	Ottawa
1996	Ottawa	J.S.S. Armour, B.A., B.D., S.T.M., D.D., M.A.	Montréal
1997	Renfrew	Ruth Syme, B.A., B.Ed., M.A., Dip.Min., Ph.D.	Lanark and Renfrew
1998	Montréal	Ian MacLean, B.A., B.Th., M.Div.	Seaway-Glengarry
1999	Prescott	Anthony Boonstra, B.Ed., B.Th., M.Div.	Ottawa
2000	Ottawa	Daniel Shute, B.A., M.Div., L.M.S., Ph.D.	Montréal
2001	Arnprior	Joan Hilliard	Lanark and Renfrew
2002	Lachute	J. Ross. H. Davidson, B.A., B.D.	Québec
2003	Kemptville	Geoffrey P. Howard, B.A., B.Th., M.Div.	Seaway-Glengarry
2004	Ottawa	Charlene E. Wilson, B.A., B.Th., M.Div.	Ottawa
2005	Lennoxville	John P. Vaudry, B.A., S.T.M.	Montréal
2006	Smiths Falls	James M. Patterson, B.A., B.Th., M.Div.	Lanark and Renfrew
2007	Montréal	Giancarlo Fantechi, B.A., B.Th., M.Div.	Québec
2008	Ingleside	Mark Bourgon, B.A., M.Div.	Seaway-Glengarry
2009	Ottawa	James T. Hurd, B.A., M.Div.	Ottawa
2010	Melbourne	Douglas Robinson, B.A., M.Div., Th.D.	Montréal
2011	Perth	Marilyn Savage, B.Mus., M.T.S., M.Div.	Lanark and Renfrew
2012	Beaconsfield	John Barry Forsyth, B.A., B.Ed., B.D.	Québec
2013	Cornwall	Harold H.A. Kouwenberg, B.A., M.Div.	Seaway-Glengarry
2014	Gloucester	Gordon K. Walford, B.A., M.A.	Ottawa
2015	Granby	Warren Wong	Montréal
2016	Carp	John P. Vaudry, B.A., S.T.M.	Lanark and Renfrew
2017	Montréal	Katherine Burgess, B.A., B.A.Ed., M.Ed., Dip.F.A., B.Th., M.Div.	Québec

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