

145th (2020) Synod Meeting Highlights

The Synod of Québec and Eastern Ontario met on Friday morning October 16, 2020. The meeting was held on zoom, a first for the synod. 31 commissioners were in attendance. The Synod Moderator, Samer Kandalaft, led in opening worship including the celebration of the Lord's Supper. A memorial time was held recognizing teaching and ruling elders that have died since the synod last met.

In 2018 the synod resolved to meet biennially and to revise the committee structure. The standing orders were amended to reflect these changes with the proposed changes adopted by the synod.

The 2020 meeting of synod was originally to have been a full meeting and conference, but those plans had to be put on hold due to Covid-19 non-gathering restrictions. The plan is to hold the full meeting and conference in the fall of October 2021 on Friday and Saturday October 15 and 16, 2021 at the Ramada Inn & Conference Centre in Cornwall. The guest speaker will be Dr. Norman Wirzba, professor at Duke University, Divinity School, and the conference theme will be "Climate Change: What Can I Do? – Christian Caring for Creation." A five-minute video has been produced to promote the conference and will be made available for showing to congregations and presbyteries.

Four requests for Regional Resourcing funding were approved for submission to Canadian Ministries for their consideration. The amount available in 2021 is \$61,000.00, and the agreed upon breakdown is as follows:

- the Presbyteries of Ottawa and Seaway-Glengarry: \$29,500.00 for a Presbytery Ministry Animator
- the Presbytery of Montréal: \$24,000 for a Mission Promoter
- the Presbytery of Québec: \$2,500.00 for the Camp d'action biblique Executive Director
- the Synod: \$5,000.00 for the synod conference.

Reports were also received from the Synod Webservant, the Mission / Robert Fund, Camp d'action biblique, and the Presbytery of Ottawa on their oversight of the Gracefield Christian Camp and Conference Centre.

The synod is currently looking for a person to take on the role of Synod Historian, with that person coordinating the gathering of oral histories of minister, elders, mission workers, and other leaders who have served or are from the bounds of the synod.

The 2021 budget and presbytery assessments were adopted.

The Moderator of the General Assembly, Amanda Currie, joined the zoom synod meeting mid-morning for a brief visit to extend greetings from the General Assembly and to encourage the synod and its members as they minister during challenging times.

The synod adjourned at 12:15 pm. It was agreed that the synod would meet next as a full court and with a conference held on Friday, October 15th and Saturday, October 16th, 2021 in Cornwall, Ontario, and should circumstances of public health make it unadvisable to meet in person, the moderator in consultation with synod council be empowered to make alternate arrangements.