

**THE MINUTES AND REPORTS OF
THE 2024 MEETING
OF
THE SYNOD OF QUÉBEC AND EASTERN ONTARIO
OF
THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN CANADA
ARNPRIOR, ONTARIO
OCTOBER 18th and 19th, 2024**

At the town of Arnprior, Ontario, and within St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church there, on Friday the eighteenth day of October in the year of our Lord two thousand and twenty-four at two o'clock in the afternoon.

At which place and time, ministers and ruling elders from the five 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 at its meeting held online, in its final sederunt on the fifteenth day of October 2022.

WELCOME

The Moderator, the Rev. Dr. Sybil Mosley, welcomed the members of synod and visitors to 148^h meeting of the Synod of Québec and Eastern Ontario.

WORSHIP

Public worship was conducted jointly by the Rev. Paul Johnston, minister of the host congregation, St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, and the Rev. Dr. Sybil Mosley, moderator of the 147th synod meeting. Music during worship was provided by the congregation's choir. The scripture lesson was John 16:25-33 and the moderator preached the sermon.

The Moderator and the host minister celebrated the Sacrament of Holy Communion. An offering was received for the Dr. Peter Bryce Indigenous Scholarship in Medicine.

Following the worship service, a short break was held.

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The moderator offered the following land acknowledgement:

As we gather to share the work that rightly comes before this court, let us pause to remember that the land on which St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church is located and which the Synod of Québec and Eastern Ontario is meeting, is traditional Indigenous land. Specifically we respectfully acknowledge that this land is the traditional territory of the Omàmiwininiwag (Algonquin) people. The land is both unceded and unsurrendered land and land covered by Treaty 27 of 1819. We acknowledge the importance of the land to generations of indigenous people who live and continue to live here, the significance it held and still holds for those nations' cultural and spiritual identities, and the care they have shown and continue to show for the land and the waters here.

SYNOD CONSTITUTED

At 3:20 o'clock in the afternoon, the moderator, the Rev. Dr. Sybil Mosley, 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.

The 148th meeting of the Synod of Québec and Eastern Ontario

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Arnprior, Ontario

Friday, October 18 and Saturday, October 19, 2024

MEMORIAL SERVICE

The clerk read the names of ruling elders and ministers of word and sacraments within the bounds who had died since the synod last met, followed by the reading of memorial minutes.

PRESBYTERY OF QUEBEC

1. George MacDougall, formerly of St. Andrew's Church, Sherbrooke, January 11, 2023

PRESBYTERY OF MONTREAL

1. Jerry Auchinleck, Kensington Church, February 11, 2023
2. Claude Devieux, Église St-Luc, May 25, 2023
3. Milton Ronald Reddick, Georgetown Church, Howick, October 9, 2024

PRESBYTERY OF SEAWAY-GLENGARRY

1. The Rev. Dr. Frederick (Fred) Rennie, April 10, 2023
2. The Rev. Dr. Johann (Joop) Eenkhoorn, May 31, 2023
1. Mary Evelyn MacQueen, Kenyon Church, Dunvegan, April 19, 2023
2. Lyall MacLachlan, St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Lancaster, May 24, 2023
3. Audrey Sine, First Church, Brockville, July 28, 2023
4. John Allan Thom, St. Andrew's Church, Prescott, November 1, 2023
5. Elizabeth Anne Stewart, Kenyon Church, Dunvegan, May 13, 2024
6. Agnes Petrie, St. Andrew's Church, Lancaster, July 16, 2024
7. Bill (William) Clarke, First Church, Brockville, July 27, 2024
8. Peter Lewis, First Church, Brockville, August 10, 2024

PRESBYTERY OF OTTAWA

1. The Rev. David Brian Vincent, December 12, 2022
2. The Rev. Dr. Kálmán Andres Göndöcz, January 16, 2023
3. Dr. Pauline Brown, April 1, 2023
4. The Rev. Linda Robinson, May 9, 2023
1. Harold J. (Clem) McClemens, St. Stephen's Church, Ottawa, October 15, 2021
2. Glenda Debra Walker, St. Andrew's Church, Kars, November 3, 2022
3. Greg Sergeant, Knox Church, Manotick, November 29, 2022
4. Doris Margaret Dean, St. Andrew's Church, Richmond, February 13, 2023
5. Jean Brimmell, Knox Church, Ottawa, May 30, 2023
6. Stephen Tamasi, Calvin Hungarian Church, Ottawa, June 13, 2023
7. Marilyn Thomson, Knox Church, Ottawa, July 21, 2023
8. Donald Bernard Lloyd, St. David and St. Martin Church, Ottawa, September 26, 2023
9. The Honourable Senator Ian David Shugart, St. Paul's Church, Ottawa, October 25, 2023
10. Thelma Passmore, Parkwood Church, Ottawa, November 20, 2023
11. Ronald Eric Barrington, St. Paul's Church, Ottawa, January 13, 2024
12. Carol Brown, former elder, Parkwood Church, Ottawa, April 4, 2024
13. Janet Marie Warring, Gloucester Church, Ottawa, April 12, 2024
14. Gladys Cameron, Knox Church, Ottawa, May 16, 2024
15. Larry Ellis, Knox Church, Manotick, June 8, 2024
16. Shirley Leanna (Myers) McKay, Westminster Church, Ottawa, formerly Erskine Church, Ottawa, June 10, 2024

Clerk:

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Memorial Service (cont'd):

17. Donald Edward MacMillan, formerly Grace Church, Orleans, June 17, 2024, served as convener of Synod Mission Committee from 2006-2010
 18. Donnalee (Dee) Campbell, Trinity Church, Carp, August 30, 2024
 19. Kalman Fejes, Calvin Hungarian Church, Ottawa, September 11, 2024
 20. Bonnie Anderson, St. Andrew's Church, Stittsville, September 21, 2024
1. Raymond Thompson, October 30, 2023, treasurer of the Presbytery of Ottawa's Church Extension Fund from 1975-1995.

PRESBYTERY OF LANARK & RENFREW

No names received.

The moderator offered prayer for the faithful life, service, witness and dedication to the Church by all the servants named, as well as prayer for synod members who had lost family members since the synod last met.

The memorial records for the Rev. Dr. Fred Rennie, the Rev. Dr. Johan (Joop) Eenkhoorn, the Rev. Dr. David Brian Vincent, the Rev. Kálmán Andres Göndöcz, Dr. Pauline Brown, the Rev. Linda Robinson, Mr. Donald Lloyd, Mr. Ian Shugart and Mr. Raymond Thompson are found at Appendix J – pages 66-74.

COMMITTEE ON BUSINESS

MOTION: It was moved by James T. Hurd and seconded by Katherine Burgess that the Report of the Committee on Business be received and considered. ADOPTED.

THE ROLL OF SYNOD

Recommendation No. 1

It was moved by James T. Hurd and seconded by Katherine Burgess that the Roll of Synod be established from the rolls of the presbyteries within the bounds of the Synod of Québec and Eastern Ontario, and substitute elders. ADOPTED.

(underlined name indicates a member of Synod Council)

Presbytery of Québec

Ministers: Katherine Burgess, Nigel Parker

Elders: Gina Farnell

Presbytery of Montréal

Ministers: Sybil Mosley, Joseph Ansa (Friday only)

Presbytery of Seaway-Glengarry

Ministers: Robert Adams, Feras Chamas, Edward Charlton, James Douglas, David Hooper, Samer Kandalaf

Elders: Richard Berry, John Ferguson (Friday only), Ann Langabeer, Janet LeBrun

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Roll (cont'd):

Presbytery of Ottawa

Ministers: Denise Allen-Macartney, Reine Boghos, Chris Clarke, James T. Hurd,
Shahrazad Kandalaft, Meg Patterson, Paul Wu,
 Jim Pot (Friday evening/Saturday morning only)

Elders: Debi Brown, Linda Clarke, Brian Graham, Owen Mahaffy, Olive O'May,
 Sharon Stewart, Gordon Walford

Presbytery of Lanark & Renfrew

Ministers: Milton Fraser (Friday evening only), Gerald Gallant, Paul Johnston

Elders: Vivian Young (Saturday only)

REGRETS

Presbytery of Montréal: David Christiani

Presbytery of Seaway-Glengarry: Hugh Gallagher, Linda McCaslin

Presbytery of Ottawa: Liz Chan, Doug Kendall,

VISITORS

Members of Synod Council:

Vickie Blouin, Ross Davidson, Donna McIlveen

Presbytery of Ottawa:

Jonathan Dent, Greg Fyffe, Cathy Graham, Changwon Seo, Dale Tuck, Diane Walford,
 Brian Wilson

Presbytery of Seaway-Glengarry:

Francis LeBrun, Phyllis MacMaster, Robin McRae, Karin Mode

Presbytery of Lanark & Renfrew:

Kyle Fraser, Phyllis McNab, Carey Jo Johnston

Camp d'action biblique: Craig Dewar

Gracefield Christian Camp and Retreat Centre: Mark Hamilton

Ottawa Lay School of Theology and Spirituality: Norma Wrightly

Presbyterian World Service and Development: Guy Smagghe

Conference Speaker: Carey Nieuwhof

MOTION: It was moved by James T. Hurd and seconded by Katherine Burgess, that the courtesies of the court, to sit and correspond, be extended to the visitors. ADOPTED.

The moderator welcomed the visitors to the synod meeting.

Consent Recommendation

It was moved by James T. Hurd and seconded by Katherine Burgess that Recommendation Nos. 2-9 be adopted by consent. ADOPTED.

Recommendation No. 2

That all members of Synod on the Constituent Rolls of the presbyteries be recognized as having the right to vote on all matters before the court.

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Committee on Business (cont'd):**Recommendation No. 3**

That members of Synod Council and visitors be invited to sit and correspond.

Recommendation No. 4

That Carey Nieuwhof be invited to address the Synod Friday evening and Saturday morning, during the second and third sederunts.

Recommendation No. 5

That synod members desiring leave to withdraw receive permission from the court, through the Committee on the Roll and Leave to Withdraw.

Recommendation No. 6

That the Committee on the Roll and Leave to Withdraw be Sybil Mosley from the Presbytery of Montréal.

Recommendation No. 7

That the Committee to Examine Presbytery Minutes and Minutes of the Synod Council be convened by Debi Brown, from the Presbytery of Ottawa, together with Katherine Burgess and Nigel Parker, from the Presbytery of Québec, and that permission be granted to work during the meeting as necessary.

Recommendation No. 8

That the Committee on Courtesies be Robert Adams and Ed Charlton, from the Presbytery of Seaway-Glengarry.

Recommendation No. 9

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

On behalf of the Synod council, James T. Hurd introduced two notices of motion.

Notice of Motion No. 1

The Synod Council gives notice that, at a future sederunt, they will move or cause to be moved, that the Synod Standing Orders section 4.2 (Mission – including the Robert Fund) be amended to include the clause that the amount distributed in any given year be no more than the income from the previous year less the Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA).

Notice of Motion No. 2

The Synod Council gives notice that, at a future sederunt, they will move or cause to be moved, that the Synod Standing Orders section 2.4 (The Synod Council is authorized) be amended to include the clause that in years in which the Synod does not meet, Synod Council is authorized to set a budget for the following year and set out the Presbytery allocations pertaining to that budget. The budget, allocations and associated documents are to be prepared by the Finance Convener or designate and approved by Synod Council at its fall meeting. The approved budget and associated documents are to be circulated to the Presbyteries and published on the Synod website along with an extract of minutes of the Synod Council meeting at which they were approved.

Clerk:

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ELECTION OF THE MODERATOR

The time having come to elect a Moderator to preside over the 148th meeting of the Synod of Québec and Eastern Ontario, the clerk reported that three nominations for Moderator had been received from two 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 Lanark & Renfrew. The nominees were: The Rev. Milton Fraser, The Rev. Paul Johnston, and the Rev. David McFarlane. The deadline to receive nominations from presbyteries was September 18, 2024.

The clerk contacted each nominee and advised the Synod Council that each nominee declined their nomination.

The Synod Council subsequently considered nominations.

MOTION: It was moved by Katherine Burgess and seconded by Gordon Walford that the name of the Rev. Gerald Gallant be placed before the Synod of Québec and Eastern Ontario as a nominee for Moderator of the 148th synod meeting. ADOPTED.

The Moderator, the Rev. Dr. Sybil Mosley, called for further nominations. She did so three times. No further nominations were brought forward.

The Moderator called for a motion that nominations cease.

MOTION: It was moved by James T. Hurd and seconded by Paul Johnston that nominations cease. ADOPTED.

The Moderator, the Rev. Dr. Sybil Mosley, declared the Rev. Gerald Gallant elected Moderator of the 148th meeting of the Synod of Québec and Eastern Ontario.

INSTALLATION OF THE MODERATOR

The Moderator Elect, the Rev. Gerald Gallant, was invited to step forward. The Moderator, the Rev. Dr. Sybil Mosley, asked the court the appointed questions, followed by the appointed questions to the moderator elect. The Rev. Dr. Sybil Mosley then offered prayer and installed the Rev. Gerald Gallant as Moderator of the 148th Synod of Québec and Eastern Ontario.

The Rev. Gerald Gallant thanked the Court for the confidence placed in him and for the privilege of serving as Moderator of the 148th synod meeting.

REPORTS

MOTION: It was moved by James T. Hurd and seconded by Katherine Burgess that all reports circulated in advance of the 148th synod meeting be received and considered. ADOPTED.

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 Montréal, the Presbytery of Seaway-Glengarry, the Presbytery of Ottawa, the Presbytery of Lanark and Renfrew and the synod council were available for examination.

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Congratulations Extended and Gratitude Expressed

MOTION: It was moved by James T. Hurd and seconded by Gina Farnell that congratulations be extended to Donna McIlveen who was awarded the Principal's Award for Faithful Service and Distinguished Leadership by The Presbyterian College in Montral at the convocation service held on June 6, 2024. ADOPTED.

MOTION: It was moved by James T. Hurd and seconded by Shahrzad Kandalaft that the gratitude of the Synod be expressed to Sybil Mosley for her prayerful leadership throughout her term as Moderator. ADOPTED.

ADOPTION OF THE DOCKET

MOTION: It was moved by James T. Hurd and seconded by Katherine Burgess that the proposed docket be approved as circulated. ADOPTED.

MINUTES OF THE 147th SYNOD MEETING

The minutes of the 147th meeting of the Synod of Québec and Eastern Ontario (2022) were posted on the synod website.

MOTION: It was moved by James Douglas and seconded by Samer Kandalaft that the minutes of the 147th meeting of the Synod of Québec and Eastern Ontario (2022) be adopted as circulated. ADOPTED.

CORRESPONDENCE

MOTION: It was moved by Edward Charlton and seconded by James Douglas that the following items of correspondence be received. ADOPTED.

2023 (including late 2022)

1. Jen de Combe, Associate Secretary, Canadian Ministries. Approval letters re Regional Resourcing grants.
 - From remaining 2022 funds. Rec'd October 31, 2022
 - a) Camp d'action biblique Executive Director (Presbytery of Québec): \$3,400.00
 - b) Mission Promotor (Presbytery of Montréal): \$12,318.00
 - From remaining 2022 funds – additional grant. Rec'd December 1, 2022
 - a) Camp d'action biblique Executive Director (Presbytery of Québec): \$3,400.00
 - From 2023 funds. Rec'd November 9, 2022
 - a) Camp d'action biblique Executive Director (Presbytery of Québec): \$10,000.00
 - b) Mission Promotor (Presbytery of Montréal): \$20,500.00
 - From 2023 funds (held in abeyance). Rec'd March 17, 2023
 - a) Presbytery Retreat (Presbytery of Ottawa): \$15,000.00 (from amount)
 - From 2023 funds (held in abeyance). Rec'd October 11, 2023
 - a) Lay Worship Leadership Workshop (Presbytery of Seaway-Glengarry): \$1,000.00
- Jennifer Astop, Grant Program Coordinator, Life and mission Agency. Approval letters re Regional Resourcing grants.
 - From remaining 2023 funds. Rec'd November 29, 2023
 - a) Camp d'action biblique Executive Director (Presbytery of Québec): \$11,157.00
 - b) Mission Promotor (Presbytery of Montréal): \$3,343.00

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Correspondence (cont'd):

- From 2024 funds. Rec'd November 29, 2023
 - a) Presbytery of Québec: Camp d'action biblique Executive Director: \$8,500.00
 - b) Presbytery of Montréal: Mission Promotor: \$22,000.00.
 - c) Presbytery of Ottawa: Presbytery Retreat: \$11,382.00
 - d) Presbytery of Lanark & Renfrew: Presbytery Retreat: \$1,618.00
 - e) Presbyteries of Ottawa and Seaway-Glengarry: Ministry Animator: \$17,500.00
- 2. Terrie-Lee Hamilton, Senior Administrator General Assembly Office. Letter calling for nominations for the various standing committees General Assembly for 2023. Rec'd November 9, 2022.
- 3. Jennifer Astop, Grant program Coordinator, Life and Mission Agency. Copy of letter to Gracefield Christian Camp and Retreat Centre advising that a \$2,000 grant from the Special Projects Fund was approved to enable the purchase of new safety equipment for the camp's waterfront program. Rec'd November 17, 2022.
- 4. Mark Hamilton, Executive Director Gracefield Christian Camp and Retreat Centre. Christmas letter with thanks expressed to the synod for the ongoing support of Gracefield's ministry. Rec'd November 25, 2022.
- 5. Anita Mack, on behalf of the Camp d'action biblique family. CAB 2022 Winter Newsletter, 2023 CAB schedule and Christmas card thanking the Synod for its continued support. Rec'd December 8, 2022.
- 6. Ross Davidson, synod treasurer. Synod financial statement for 2022, reviewed by Lorraine Learmonth. Rec'd January 27, 2023.
- 7. Victor Kim, Principal Clerk. Letter to synod clerks outlining proposed changes re General Assembly's Committee to Nominate Standing Committees, outlining proposed changes including the addition of a coordinating body to receive nominations from synod, that being the Assembly Council. Rec'd February 28, 2023.
- 8. James T. Hurd, Clerk to the Presbytery of Ottawa. Extract minute commending the initiative of the Dr. Peter Bryce Indigenous Scholarship in Medicine to the Synod of Québec and Eastern Ontario for publicity and further support within the synod. Rec'd April 1, 2023.
- Revisions made to the arrangements. Rec'd September 20, 2023
- 9. Roland DeVries, Principal The Presbyterian College. Thank you letter for the grant from the Robert Fund. Rec'd May 15, 2023.
- 10. Ian Ross-McDonald, General Secretary Life and Mission Agency. Letter advising that the funds available for the synod in 2024 are \$61,000.00. Rec'd June 26, 2023.
- 11. From Assembly Office: minutes of the 2021 Synod meeting, attested by the 2023 General Assembly as neatly and correctly kept. Rec'd June 29, 2023.
- 12. Diana Kellington, Controller. PCC Financial Services. Invoice re Directors & Officers Insurance 2023-2024 (\$951.98) and General Liability Insurance & Umbrella Coverage 2023-2024 (\$1,331.21). Rec'd July 6, 2023.

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Correspondence (cont'd):

13. Victor Kim, Principal Clerk. Information/Action of the 2023 General Assembly for the attention of synods. Rec'd August 16, 2023.
14. Ian Ross-McDonald, General Secretary, The Life and Mission Agency. Letter re four items: a) LIFT youth and leaders conference July 3-7, 2024; b) the Fund for Ministerial Assistance c) financial assistance for accessing counseling re racism; d) financial assistance for accessing counseling re homophobia. Rec'd September 1, 2023.
15. Katie Olson, Executive Assistant, Carey Nieuwhof Communications Ltd. Contract re booking Carey Nieuwhof as speaker for Synod 2024. Rec'd September 6, 2023.
16. Terrie-Lee Hamilton, Senior Administrator General Assembly Office. Letter requesting the synod's nominee of a minister / diaconal minister to the GA Committee to Nominate Standing Committees for the three year term beginning with the 2024 GA and concluding in 2027. Rec'd October 27, 2023.
17. 2024 Regional Resourcing grant requests. Rec'd September 15-20, 2023

a) Presbytery of Québec: executive director at Camp d'action biblique	\$10,000.00
b) Presbytery of Québec: project manager for dining hall renovations	\$20,000.00
c) Presbytery of Montreal: Mission Promoter	\$25,000.00
d) Presbytery of Lanark & Renfrew: Presbytery Retreat	\$1,618.00
e) Presbyteries of Ottawa and Seaway-Glengarry: Ministry Animator	\$17,500.00
f) Presbytery of Ottawa: Presbytery Retreat	\$13,500.00
18. Robert Fund grant requests. Rec'd September 15-19, 2023

a) Presbytery of Québec: general support Camp d'action biblique	\$5,000.00
b) Presbytery of Montréal: Les Chemins protestants	\$4,200.00
19. Craig Dewar, on behalf of the Camp d'action biblique family. Christmas card thanking the Synod for its continued support, along with the 2024 Winter Newsletter and 2024 camping schedule. Rec'd December 18, 2023.
20. Terrie-Lee Hamilton, Senior Administrator General Assembly Office. Letter calling for nominations for the various standing committees General Assembly for 2024. Rec'd November 24, 2023.

2024

1. Lara Scholey, Presbytery of Montral Mission Committee Convenor. Letter advising the Synod that the person serving as Mission Promoter is leaving the bounds of presbytery as of February 29, 2024, and that the committee will be taking time to consider next steps regarding the future of the position. Rec'd February 2, 2024.
2. Ross Davidson, synod treasurer. Synod financial statement for 2023, with letter by reviewer Michelle Donovan. Rec'd March 26, 2024.
3. Victor Kim, Principal Clerk. Reply to letter re proposed changes to section 288.1 (Remit A, 2023), re the Appointment of the General Assembly's Committee to Nominate Standing Committees, thanking the synod council for its feedback. Rec'd April 7, 2024.

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Correspondence (cont'd):

4. Gina Farnell, clerk to the Presbytery of Québec. Extract minute (September 16, 2023) with the resolution to begin the process of dissolving the congregation at Leggatt's Point, and that Nigel Parker be named Interim Moderator. Rec'd April 12, 2024.
5. Victor Kim, Principal Clerk. Letter outlining the referrals from the 2024 General Assembly for the attention of synod. Rec'd August 23, 2024.
6. Ian Ross McDonald, General Secretary. Life and Mission Agency. Letter advising that the funds available for the synod in 2025 are \$61,000.00. Rec'd August 12, 2024.
7. Don Muir, Deputy Clerk. Letter of introduction re Pablo Kim Sun, the newly appointed Intercultural Liaison for The Presbyterian Church in Canada. Rec'd September 4, 2024.
8. PCC Financial Services. Invoice re Directors & Officers Insurance 2024-2025 (\$839.24) and General Liability Insurance & Umbrella Coverage 2024-2025 (\$1,369.52). Rec'd September 12, 2024.
9. Michael Pettem, clerk to the Presbytery of Montréal. Extract minute noting that the Presbytery of Montréal accepts in principle supporting a Synod Conference at the beginning of 2026 on the Cultural and Religious Integration of Immigrants, and accompanying report with recommendations. Rec'd September 18, 2024.
10. Nominations for Synod Moderator
 - 1) Milton Fraser (from the Presbytery of Seaway-Glengarry). Rec'd May 21, 2024 - declined
 - 2) Paul Johnston (from the Presbytery of Ottawa) Rec'd June 13, 2024 - declined
 - 3) David McFarlane (from the Presbytery of Seaway-Glengarry). Rec'd June 18, 2024 - declined
 - 4) No nomination – from the Presbytery of Québec. Rec'd September 14, 2024.
11. 2024 Regional Resourcing grant requests. Rec'd May 28 and June 13, 2024.
Notification from the Presbyteries of Ottawa and Seaway-Glengarry that the Ministry Animator position is filled as of June 1, 2024, noting that the approved grant of \$17,500.00 was for a nine month period, and the new period is for seven months.
12. 2025 Regional Resourcing grant requests. Rec'd June 13 – September 18, 2024

a) Presbyteries of Ottawa and Seaway-Glengarry: Ministry Animator	\$23,600.00
b) Presbytery of Québec: executive director at Camp d'action biblique	\$12,000.00
c) Presbytery of Québec: project manager for dining hall renovations	\$12,000.00
d) Presbytery of Montreal: Presbytery Youth Worker	\$18,700.00
e) Presbytery of Montréal: Supply Preaching Coordinator Presbytery Retreat	\$3,800.00
13. Robert Fund grant requests. Rec'd September 16-18, 2024

a) Presbytery of Québec: general support Camp d'action biblique	\$5,000.00
b) Presbytery of Montréal: Les Chemins protestants	\$5,000.00
c) Presbytery of Montréal: The Presbyterian College	\$5,000.00

Master of Theological Studies (Practical Theology) in French

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Correspondence (cont'd):

14. Michael Pettem, clerk to the Presbytery of Montréal. Circular letter to presbyteries and synods advising that at its meeting on September 17, 2024 the presbytery deposed Sampson Afoakwah from the office of Minister of Word and Sacraments. Rec'd October 2, 2024.
15. The Presbyterian College, Montréal. Letter re new online course program – Lay Leadership Formation – Wednesday evenings beginning March 19, 2025. Rec'd October 11, 20

MOTION: It was moved by Edward Charlton and seconded by James Douglas that the correspondence report be adopted. ADOPTED.

BUSINESS ARISING

Background:

2020 Synod Meeting

It was agreed to defer the examination of Presbytery Minutes and Minutes of the Synod Council until the Synod met next in person in regular session.

2021 Synod Meeting

It was noted at the 2021 synod meeting, that as the meeting was held online, there would be no examination of minutes at the meeting.

2022 Synod Meeting

As the last examination of minutes was held at the 2018 synod meeting, the following recommendation was brought forward in the Committee on Business report, and adopted:

That the Synod appoint and the Moderator name a commission of 3 people with power to call for, examine and attest the records of the constituent presbyteries and synod council.

The Moderator named Lara Scholey (Presbytery of Montreal), Phyllis MacMaster and Beth Short (Presbytery of Seaway-Glengarry) to be the commission to examine minutes.

On January 11, 2023, the commission examined the minutes of synod council, the minutes from the Presbytery of Québec, the Presbytery of Montréal, the Presbytery of Seaway-Glengarry, and the Presbytery of Ottawa.

The minutes from the Presbytery of Lanark & Renfrew were examined on March 23, 2023.

- Synod Council: neatly and correctly kept
- Presbytery of Québec: neatly kept with note
- Presbytery of Montréal: neatly and correctly kept
- Presbytery of Seaway-Glengarry: neatly and correctly kept
- Presbytery of Ottawa: neatly and correctly kept
- Presbytery of Lanark & Renfrew: neatly kept with note

COMMITTEE ON BUSINESS

(continued from page 5)

Consent Recommendation

It was moved by James T. Hurd and seconded by Katherine Burgess that Recommendation Nos. 10-12 be adopted by consent. ADOPTED.

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Committee on Business (cont'd):

Recommendation No. 10

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

Recommendation No. 11

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. 12

That the following list be the officers and conveners of the Synod of Québec and Eastern Ontario for the period of October 2024 – October 2026:

Synod Council:

Moderator (Gerald Gallant); Past Moderator (Sybil Mosley); Clerk (Donna McIlveen); Treasurer (Ross Davidson to December 31, 2024); Presbytery Clerks (Québec, Montréal, Seaway-Glengarry, Ottawa, Lanark and Renfrew) or their representatives named by their presbyteries; Finance (Vickie Blouin along with Gordon Walford for 2025); Mission/Robert Fund (Barry Mack); Regional Resourcing (requests received through the clerk); Sexual Abuse and Sexual Harassment (Katherine Burgess).

Others:

Synod Historian: vacant

Synod Webservant: Gordon Walford

Synod Representative on the Committee to Nominate Standing Committees of the
General Assembly (2024 - 2027 term): Shahrzad Kandalafi

Recommendation No. 13

It was moved by James T. Hurd and seconded by Katherine Burgess that the Synod of Québec and Eastern Ontario meet next in regular session within the bounds of the Presbytery of Québec on Friday, October 16, 2026, with the time and other logistical details to be set by the synod council. ADOPTED.

FINANCE

1. Treasurer's Report (Appendix B – pages 3-7)

Ross Davidson, treasurer, presented the Treasurer's Report.

2022 – Reviewer's Letter and Treasurer's Report on Synod Finances for 2022

MOTION: It was moved by James T. Hurd and seconded by Katherine Burgess that the Reviewer's Letter for 2022 be received for information and the Treasurer's Report on Synod Finances from January 1, 2022 to December 31, 2022 be adopted, and appended to the minutes of the 2024 synod meeting. ADOPTED.

2023

a) Reviewer's Letter for 2023

Recommendation No. 1

It was moved by Denise Allen-Macartney and seconded by Chris Clarke that the Reviewer's Letter for 2023 be received for information. ADOPTED.

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Finance (cont'd):

b) Treasurer's Report on Synod Finances for 2023

Recommendation No. 2

It was moved by Denise Allen-Macartney and seconded by Chris Clarke that the Treasurer's Report on Synod Finances from January 1, 2023 to December 31, 2023, be adopted. ADOPTED.

c) Financial Reviewer

Recommendation No. 3

It was moved by Denise Allen-Macartney and seconded by Chris Clarke that Michelle Donovan be engaged to review the Synod financial statements for the year 2024. ADOPTED.

d) Treasurer's Report on Synod Finances from January 1, 2024 to October 15, 2024

Recommendation No. 4

It was moved by Denise Allen-Macartney and seconded by Chris Clarke that the Treasurer's Report on Synod Finances from January 1, 2024 to October 15, 2024 be received for information. ADOPTED.

2. Finance – Budget and Assessments

2024 Budget

(Appendix C – pages 8-11)

MOTION: It was moved by James T. Hurd and seconded by Katherine Burgess that the 2024 Synod Budget documents be adopted, and appended to the minutes of the 2024 synod meeting. ADOPTED.

2025 Budget documents

(Appendix D – pages 12-15)

a) 2025 Expenditure Budget

Recommendation No. 1

It was moved by James T. Hurd and seconded by Chris Clarke that the 2025 expenditure budget be \$ 104,044.00. ADOPTED.

b) 2025 Presbytery Assessments

Recommendation No. 2

It was moved by James T. Hurd and seconded by Chris Clarke that the proposed presbytery assessments for 2025 be adopted. ADOPTED.

c) Five-Year Forecast

Recommendation No. 3

It was moved by Gordon Walford and seconded by Debi Brown that the five-year forecast from 2025-2030 be received for information. ADOPTED.

d) Dollar Base by Presbytery Five-Year Trend

Recommendation No. 4

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

Dr. Peter Bryce Indigenous Scholarship in Medicine

Recommendation No. 5

It was moved by Katherine Burgess and seconded by Shahrzad Kandalaft that the Synod of Québec and Eastern Ontario donate \$2,000.00 in 2024 to the Dr. Peter Bryce Indigenous Scholarship in Medicine. ADOPTED.

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SEXUAL ABUSE AND SEXUAL HARASSMENT

Katherine Burgess, convener, indicated there was no report.

SYNOD WEBSERVANT

Gordon Walford, Synod Webservant, presented the report. (Appendix E – page 16)

The Synod Webservant noted that the synod website has moved. The new address is:

www.qeosynodpcc.ca/

The synod site consists of 10 pages plus one page for each of the 5 presbyteries. The main pages include the home page, news, photo gallery, current & past meetings, documents, camps, youth, contacts and links.

The report to synod includes the statistics for each presbytery regarding number of congregations, vacancies, email addresses, websites, facebook pages.

Presbytery clerks were reminded to contact the Synod Webservant with any changes to the roll so that he can keep the website up to date.

The Moderator thanked Gordon Walford for the important work that he does to keep the synod connected and up to date with changes.

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

REGIONAL RESOURCING

The clerk presented the report. (Appendix F – pages 17-18)

The Regional Resourcing report to synod includes a 2022 update, a report on 2023 approved grants, unused funds in 2024, and 2025 grant requests.

2025 Grant Requests

Recommendation No. 1

It was moved by Edward Charlton and seconded by Robert Adams that the Synod of Québec and Eastern Ontario endorse the following five requests for a Regional Resourcing grant for 2025 and that the synod clerk transmit the request with all supporting documents to the Life and Mission Agency for consideration.

1. Presbytery of Québec	CAB Project Manager	\$2,840.00
2. Presbytery of Québec	CAB Executive Director	\$12,000.00
3. Presbytery of Montréal	Supply Preaching Coordinator	\$3,800.00
4. Presbytery of Montréal	Youth Worker	\$18,700.00
5. Presbyteries of Ottawa and Seaway-Glengarry	Ministry Animator	<u>\$23,660.00</u>
		\$61,000.00

ADOPTED.

Remaining 2024 Funds

James T. Hurd spoke to the matter of remaining Regional Resourcing funds available for the current year 2024, in the amount of \$30,947.00.

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Regional Resourcing (cont'd):

The report notes that the Synod Council, at its September 19, 2024 meeting, resolved to request a Regional Resourcing grant of \$10,000.00 to help with accommodation assistance for synod registrants, and speaker related costs, for the 2024 Synod Meeting and Conference. The grant amount was an estimate based on a breakdown of \$5,600.00 for accommodation assistance for 75 people @ \$75/person, and \$4,000.00 to help offset speaker costs.

With a lower registration number of 49 plus 4 guests, and not all participants requesting accommodation assistance, the amount expended will be lower than estimated. The full grant will not be required.

Additional Motion No. 1

It was moved by Denise Allen-Macartney and seconded by Katherine Burgess that the Synod of Quebec and Eastern Ontario endorse a request to the Life and Mission Agency for regional resourcing funding for 2024 in the amount of \$1,500.00 to be paid to Camp d'action biblique for the Executive Director position, which amount is the balance in the request previously approved by the Presbytery of Québec of \$10,000.00, considered by the Synod Council in 2023 as the Synod did not meet that year, but prorated to \$8,500.00 to allow funding to other request, the funding of which is now no longer needed. ADOPTED.

Additional Recommendation No. 2

It was moved by Edward Charlton and seconded by Meg Patterson that the Synod of Quebec and Eastern Ontario grant power to issue to the Synod Council to receive, consider, and if deemed appropriate endorse any further requests for regional resourcing funds for 2024 received by November 21, 2024, and to forward any such endorsed requests to the Life and Mission Agency. ADOPTED.

MISSION / ROBERT FUND

The clerk presented the report.

(Appendix G – pages 19-20)

The Mission / Robert Fund report to synod includes a 2022 update, 2023 grant requests and 2024 grant requests.

The report notes that no financial statements were received by the Synod for the year 2024. With no financial statements for the year 2024, the actual amount of investment income earned in the PCC Consolidated investment portfolio for the Robert Fund (the Reserve for Home Missions Fund – Québec) was unknown.

Recommendation No. 1

It was moved by Edward Charlton and seconded by James T. Hurd that subject to receiving a financial statement for the Robert Fund (the Reserve for Home Mission Fund – Québec), \$2,500.00 be disbursed from the Robert Fund to each of the three applicants whose applications have been presently received, namely Camp d'action biblique, the Presbytery of Montreal for Chemins protestants, and The Presbyterian College, and that the Synod Council advise the applicants that it will subsequently consider further possible disbursements when a more accurate and complete statement for the Robert Fund is received. ADOPTED.

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Mission / Robert Fund (cont'd):

Additional Motion

It was moved by Katherine Burgess and seconded by Edward Charlton that the Synod of Québec and Eastern Ontario send a letter to the Assembly Council expressing its strong displeasure that no financial statements were issued to the Synod for the year 2024 for the Robert Fund (the Reserve for Home Missions Fund – Québec), as the funds in the account are invested in the PCC's consolidated portfolio, and that with no financial statements the Synod was constrained in its efforts to be good stewards of the funds entrusted to it, and prevented from making an informed and timely decision on distribution of income earned for mission work within the bounds of the Synod. ADOPTED.

A Notice of Motion (page 5) is before the synod with a proposed amendment to the Synod Standing Orders to include the clause that the amount distributed in any given year be no more than the income from the previous year less the Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA).

NOMINATIONS FOR GENERAL ASSEMBLY COMMITTEES

Members of the court and visitors were reminded that each year the General Assembly Committee to Nominate Standing Committees invites sessions, presbyteries and synods to nominate members of The Presbyterian Church in Canada to serve on General Assembly standing committees.

Nomination forms and complete terms of reference for each standing committee can be found on the denominational website. Nominations are submitted to the General Assembly Committee to Nominate Standing Committees and are due by the end of February of each year.

REPORT OF THE PRESBYTERY OF OTTAWA

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

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

(Appendix H – pages 21-57)

The following documents are appended to the report:

1. Financial Statements re GCCRC - 2022
 - a. Balance Sheet Previous Year Comparison as of 31 December 2022
 - b. Profit & Loss Previous Year Comparison, January – December 2022
 - c. Notes to 2022 financial statements
2. Financial Statements re GCCRC - 2023
 - a. Balance Sheet Previous Year Comparison as of 31 December 2023
 - b. Profit & Loss Previous Year Comparison, January – December 2023
 - c. Notes to 2023 financial statements
3. Report to the Presbytery of Ottawa – September 2024
4. Financial Statements re GCCRC - 2024
 - a. Balance Sheet Previous Year Comparison as of 30 August 2024
 - b. Profit & Loss Previous Year Comparison, January – 30 August 2024

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Report of the Presbytery of Ottawa (cont'd):

Mark Hamilton, Managing Director, Gracefield Christian Camp and Retreat Centre, shared a few words about the camp and the importance of camping ministry.

He shared that there has been a rejuvenation in numbers, with over 150 children attending summer camps in 2024. The camp is aiming for 200 campers in 2025.

Visits to congregations and presbyteries within the synod are an important communication tool for the camp. Contact the managing director to arrange a visit.

MOTION: It was moved by James T. Hurd and seconded by Chris Clarke 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

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

(Appendix I – pages 58-65)

The following documents are appended to the report.

1. Camp Schedule 2025
2. Financial Statement to December 31, 2023
3. Financial statement to August 31, 2024

Craig Dewar shared some highlights from the recent summer camping season at Camp d'action biblique (CAB). It was noted that a 150 slide presentation is available for viewing on the display table and on the synod website.

In 2024, 34 staff and 102 campers enjoyed CAB. 27 campers and staff attended the fall retreat at CAB. The camp committee has grown to 12 with the addition of help from the local Richmond area. The many dedicated volunteers are invaluable to the ongoing operation of the camp.

MOTION: It was moved by Gina Farnell and seconded by Nigel Parker that the report from Camp d'action biblique (CAB), be adopted. ADOPTED.

Thanks extended

The Moderator thanked Craig Dewar and James T. Hurd for their camp reports. It is encouraging to hear positive stories about each camp and the positive impact of Christian camping. He thanked all the staff and volunteers for their dedication and commitment to camping ministry. It is an investment in our children.

PRESBYTERIAN WORLD SERVICE & DEVELOPMENT

Guy Smaghe, Director of Presbyterian World Service & Development (PWS&D), addressed the court.

PWS&D is the international development and emergency relief agency of The Presbyterian Church in Canada. Their three areas of focus are sustainable development, emergency relief and refugee sponsorship. PWS&D does not receive funding from Presbyterians Sharing. It relies on direct, designated donations from individuals, congregations, legacy gifts, and matching government grants.

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PWS&D Presentation (cont'd):

With the generous support of Presbyterians in Canada, PWS&D works with local partners around the world, through membership in ecumenical organizations like Canadian Foodgrains Bank and ACT (Action by Churches together) Alliance, and with the support of the Canadian government to address the root causes of poverty and create new futures of hope and opportunity through programs for a sustainable, compassionate and just world.

There are numerous resources available to download or purchase. More information can be found on the PWS&D website.

- PWS&D Impact Report and Video.
- The Gifts of Change catalogue has a section on PWS&D. All of the initiatives help reach out to those who are most in need, and to help people rise out of poverty.
- “Practical Compassion” is a book commemorating 75 years of the church's work responding around the world.
- Advent and Lenten liturgies.
- PWS&D Champions help promote PWS&D at the local level.
- Donations: all donations are gratefully received. Contact PWS&D to become a monthly donor.
- Legacy gifts: PWS&D has its own legacy fund “Loaves and Fishes Fund” and gifts are invested and spent (with interest and market value added) over a period of seven years.

Guy Smagghe thanked the Synod for the opportunity to share about PWS&D. He noted that he would be pleased to receive an invitation from congregations to speak on a Sunday morning or for a special event about the work that PWS&D does for the church and it helps to bring about a more compassionate, sustainable and just world.

The Moderator thanked Guy Smagghe for sharing with the Synod some of the vital, caring and important work of PWS&D. Prayer was offered for PWS&D.

LEAVE TO WITHDRAW

MOTION: It was moved by Sybil Mosley and seconded by James Douglas that leave to withdraw be granted to Joseph Ansa, John Ferguson and Milton Fraser for the third and fourth sederunts. ADOPTED.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: It was moved by Robert Adams and seconded by Chris Clarke that the Synod adjourn. ADOPTED.

The Moderator, at 6:00 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

Clerk:

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SECOND SEDERUNT

On Friday, the eighteenth day of October, two thousand and twenty-four, at 7:00 o'clock in the evening within St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Arnprior, Ontario, the Synod met pursuant to adjournment.

The moderator constituted the synod with prayer.

Shahrzad Kandalaft led the synod in a time of worship which included a reflection, the singing of praise and the offering of prayer.

GUEST SPEAKER

Carey Nieuwhof

Shahrzad Kandalaft introduced the speaker.

Carey Nieuwhof is a bestselling author, speaker, former attorney, and he hosts one of today's most influential leadership podcasts. His podcast, blog, and online content for leaders are accessed over 1.5 million times each month. He speaks to leaders around the world about leadership, change, and personal growth.

Friday evening theme address

The first address was entitled "Past, Present, and Future Church Trends."

Carey Nieuwhof shared some of his own story and then reflected on the changes in the church. He spoke on Historic Christianity, Fiducia (trust) over Assensus (approval), Growing Churches, and Mission over Methods. He stated that "Churches who love their methods more than the mission will die."

Carey Nieuwhof also spoke about current cultural shifts and trends:

Shift One: A church without a great online presence won't reach unchurched people.

Shift Two: People are longing for transcendence more than immanence. Too often people come to church looking for God and only find us.

Shift Three: People are looking for an alternative to the culture not an echo of it.

Shift Four: In an age where nothing seems real anymore, people are looking for passionate authenticity.

Trend One: Elevate community and connection over content.

Trend Two: Regularly engage both the head and the heart.

Trend Three: Create more space and moments in your in-person experiences.

Trend Four: Unhealthy leaders lead unhealthy churches...healthy leaders lead healthy churches.

Trend Five: Be more sensitive to the leading of the Holy Spirit.

A time of question and answer was held at the conclusion of the first address.

The Moderator thanked Carey Nieuwhof for his presentation.

LEAVE TO WITHDRAW

MOTION: It was moved by Sybil Mosley and seconded by James Douglas that leave to withdraw be granted to Sybil Mosley and Chris Clarke for the third and fourth sederunts.
ADOPTED.

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ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: It was moved by Edward Charlton and seconded by Robert Adams that the Synod adjourn. ADOPTED.

The Moderator, at 9:00 o'clock in the evening, adjourned the Synod to reconvene at nine thirty o'clock Saturday morning in the same place.

The sederunt was closed with prayer by the Moderator.

Moderator

Clerk

THIRD SEDERUNT

On Saturday, the nineteenth day of October, two thousand and twenty-four, at 9:30 o'clock in the morning within St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Arnprior, Ontario, the Synod met pursuant to adjournment.

The Moderator, the Rev. Gerald Gallant led in a time of worship. A scripture reading from the book of James 3:13-18 was read, along with a meditation, praise and prayer.

It was noted that \$550.00 was received in the offering at the Friday afternoon opening worship.

Following worship, the Moderator constituted the Synod with prayer at 10:00 o'clock in the morning.

GUEST SPEAKER

The Moderator welcomed Carey Nieuwhof to address the Synod.

Saturday morning theme address

The second address by Carey Nieuwhof was entitled "Leading Change without Losing It."

Carey Nieuwhof spoke on the why, what and how of change. He spoke about the importance of change and the four types of people during change: the early adopters (10%), the early majority (30%), the quiet majority (50%), and the opponents (10%). The opponents might be loud, but they are generally not the majority. Doing the math, there are far more people willing to embrace change than are not.

The importance of choosing a focus was explored. Carey Nieuwhof stated that 'You can focus on who you want for each or who you want to keep. Is it more frightening to lose a handful of people, or to never accomplish your mission?' He then spoke on finding a filter. Without a filter, everything sounds compelling.

Carey Nieuwhof wrapped up his presentation by speaking on the importance of attacking problems, not people. He ended with the challenge to not quit and to keep changing. The greatest enemy of your future success is your current success. Don't become comfortable. Unimplemented change becomes regret.

A time of question and answer was held at the conclusion of the second address.

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Guest Speaker Presentations (cont'd):

Carey Nieuwhof offered prayer for the Church.

The Moderator thanked Carey Nieuwhof for his presentation and for his challenging message to the synod.

The synod members and visitors expressed their thanks for both the Friday evening and Saturday morning presentations with a round of applause.

It was noted that the Friday evening and Saturday morning addresses by guest speaker Carey Nieuwhof were recorded. The power-point slides and recording will be posted on the synod website.

It was further noted that Carey Nieuwhof has given permission for his power-point slides and presentation to be shared. They can be used as a tool within a session and congregation but are not to be copied and distributed further without his permission.

COMMITTEE ON BUSINESS

(continued from page 12)

Notice of Motion No. 1

It was moved by James T. Hurd and seconded by Katherine Burgess that the Synod Standing Orders section 4.2 (Mission – including the Robert Fund) be amended to include the clause that the amount distributed in any given year be no more than the income from the previous year less the Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA). ADOPTED.

Notice of Motion No. 2

It was moved by James T. Hurd and seconded by Katherine Burgess that the Synod Standing Orders section 2.4 (The Synod Council is authorized) be amended to include the clause that in years in which the Synod does not meet, Synod Council is authorized to set a budget for the following year and set out the Presbytery allocations pertaining to that budget. The budget, allocations and associated documents are to be prepared by the Finance Convener or designate and approved by Synod Council at its fall meeting. The approved budget and associated documents are to be circulated to the Presbyteries and published on the Synod website along with an extract of minutes of the Synod Council meeting at which they were approved. ADOPTED.

MOTION: It was moved by James T. Hurd and seconded by Katherine Burgess that the report of the Committee on Business as a whole be adopted. ADOPTED.

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

MOTION: It was moved by Debi Brown and seconded by Katherine Burgess 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 Debi Brown and seconded by Katherine Burgess that 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. ADOPTED.

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Committee to Examine the Minutes of the Presbyteries and Synod Council (cont'd):

Recommendation No. 2

It was moved by Debi Brown and seconded by Katherine Burgess that the minutes of the Presbytery of Lanark & Renfrew be attested as neatly kept with note. ADOPTED.

Recommendation No. 3

It was moved by Debi Brown and seconded by Katherine Burgess that a Special Commission be established consisting of James T. Hurd and Gordon Walford and that they be given power to issue to examine and attest the minutes from the presbytery of Québec and to report on their attestation at the 2026 meeting. ADOPTED.

MOTION: It was moved by Debi Brown and seconded by Katherine Burgess that the report of the Committee to Examine the Minutes of the Presbyteries and the Synod Council be adopted. ADOPTED.

COMMITTEE ON COURTESIES

MOTION: It was moved by Edward Charlton and seconded by Robert Adams that the 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 148th annual synod meeting:

To our first nations peoples who were stewards of this land before our arrival; and our partners in seeking true reconciliation.

To the congregation of St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church for graciously hosting us.

To all the worship leaders, the Rev. Dr. Sybil Mosley and the Rev. Paul Johnston., musicians Marion Neal and Cheryl Mickle and the choir of St. Andrew's, Arnprior, for sharing their gifts of praise and prayer in opening worship.

To the Rev. Shahrzad Kandalaft for her leadership in Friday evening worship, to Gordon and Diane Walford for sharing their musical gifts, and to the Rev. Gerald Gallant for his leadership in Saturday morning worship.

To Gail Carroll for enabling our Worship and meeting through technology.

To Sybil Mosley for serving as Moderator of the last synod, and to Gerry Gallant for serving as Moderator of the present synod.

To the conference speaker, the Rev. Carey Nieuwhoff for his humility, openness and wisdom.

To Guy Smagghe, director of Presbyterian World Service & Development, for sharing with the Synod timely information about its international development and emergency relief work.

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.

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Committee on Courtesies (cont'd):

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 Edward Charlton and seconded by Robert Adams that the Committee on Courtesies report be adopted. ADOPTED.

ADJOURNMENT

At 12:10 o'clock in the afternoon, the business being finished, the Moderator entertained a motion to adjourn.

MOTION: It was moved by Robert Adams and seconded by Meg Patterson that the Synod adjourn.

The Moderator led the synod in prayer. He 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 full court on Friday the sixteenth day of October in the year of our Lord two thousand and twenty-six.

Moderator

Clerk

Clerk: