

**Minutes of the Eighty-fifth General Meeting
British Columbia Conference
The United Church of Canada
Vancouver, BC
May 25 – 28, 2017**

First Session, 6:30 P.M., Thursday, May 25, 2017

- Authority** Pursuant to the authority of the eighty-fourth General Meeting of BC Conference of The United Church of Canada, the eighty-fifth General Meeting convened at The Nest, The University of British Columbia, Vancouver, BC, and was declared open to conduct the business properly before it, President Keith Simmonds presiding. A quorum was present.
- Welcome** The President, Keith Simmonds, welcomed delegates to the meeting.
- First Nation Welcome** Debra Sparrow of the Musqueam Nation welcomed the delegates to the traditional, unceded territories of the Musqueam people.
- Introductions** The President briefly introduced the theme of the meeting, “How Big is Our Tent?” He introduced the Worship and Theme Coordinator, Blair Odney, and the Worship Team, Lonnie Delisle, Jason Nickel, Jay Esplana, Alexander Flock, Sabrielle McCurdy, and Heather Olson.
- Table Groups** Blair Odney introduced the purpose of using table groups and group members introduced themselves to one another.
- Worship** Worship was led by the Worship Team. During worship time was spent remembering those who had passed away since the last General Meeting of the Conference. A homily was offered by Robin Jacobson.
- Business** The evening’s business session began with an introduction by the President of Doug Goodwin as the Executive Secretary, Beth Hayward as the Chair of the Business Committee, and the other Business Committee members. He noted that the designated representative of the General Council office, Kate Rodd, had recently broken her ankle and was not able to attend. He noted that two other General Council staff were present as observers at the meeting: Pat Elson and Jane Harding.
- Business Motions** Beth Hayward briefly outlined the business for the evening. She then reviewed the agenda for the meeting and provided information related to the business of the court.
- Beth Hayward highlighted several sections of the extensive Business Committee motion.
- M/S/Carried (Beth Hayward/Doug Goodwin) that*
1. *The Roll of the 85th General Meeting of BC Conference shall consist of those members of BC Conference who register prior to 12:00 p.m. Friday, May 26, 2017. Those arriving after that time shall not be included on the Roll and shall not be entitled to payment of travel expenses.*
 2. *The Quorum of the General Meeting shall be one-fifth of those entitled to vote, with at least two Presbyteries represented.*
 3. *The Bar of the Court shall be the floor of the Great Hall, The AMS Student Nest, The University of BC, Vancouver, BC.*

4. *The Business Committee for this General Meeting shall be Carol Acton, Allan Buckingham, Doug Goodwin, Beth Hayward (Chair), Doris Kizinna, Gabrielle McLarty, Blair Odney, Katie Purych, Keith Simmonds (President), and Nellie Tang.*
5. *In order to facilitate the formulation of motions and discussion of matters raised in business, the President may, at his discretion, suspend the ordinary rules of parliamentary debate and engage in a different process. All final decisions of the court shall follow the rules of debate and order as summarized in the Appendix of the Manual (2016).*
6. *At the discretion of the President, speakers can be limited to two minutes each.*
7. *Subject to such changes as the Business Committee might make and announce, the agenda as printed shall be the working basis for the order of business.*
8. *Proposals directed to the General Council or this General Meeting, must be received by the Business Committee prior to 6:00 p.m. Friday, May 26, 2017. The Business Committee may recommend editing or clarification before the Proposal comes to the floor. Proposals dealing with matters not noted on the agenda shall be dealt with in the order that they are received. Like proposals may be grouped together at the discretion of the Business Committee.*
9. *All unfinished business at the close of the meeting shall be referred to the Conference Executive.*
10. *Voting shall be carried out by members raising designated voting cards, save those instances where voting by ballot is required or moved and duly passed, in which case written ballots shall be used.*
11. *All motions having significant budget implications for BC Conference (\$2,000 or over) shall be considered "in principle only" and, if adopted, be referred to the BC Conference Executive for consideration within adopted budgetary constraints.*
12. *Election of President-Elect*
 - a. *This meeting of Conference shall elect, from amongst those nominated for this position, a President-Elect to serve as Conference President from the rise of the Conference meeting in May 2018 until a successor is elected at a subsequent meeting of the Conference.*
 - b. *All nominations for the position of President-Elect shall be submitted to the Business Committee by 9:00 p.m. Friday, May 26, 2017, accompanied by:*
 - i. *the signature of five members;*
 - ii. *the written agreement of the nominee;*
 - iii. *a single page introduction or resume of the nominee.*
 - c. *The election for President-Elect shall take place by a series (or exhaustive) ballot system until there is a clear majority obtained by the person with the greatest number of votes.*
13. *In accordance with the Manual D.4.4, action by the Conference regarding candidates to be ordained, commissioned, admitted, or recognized for ministry shall be decided by vote by ballot.*
14. *Corresponding Privileges be granted to Allan Buckingham, Executive member of the World Communion of Reformed Churches.*

15. *Requests to withdraw from the meeting shall be submitted to, considered, and granted by the Business Committee. Members leaving before noon on Saturday, May 27, 2017 without the consent of the Business Committee shall not be entitled to have travel expenses paid.*

16. *Payment of member expenses shall be made as specified in the travel claim form. Claims shall be submitted to the Transportation Clerk at the time of registration but no later than 7:00 p.m. Friday, May 26, 2017. Late claims submitted after June 30, 2017 shall not be paid.*

Minutes 2015

M/S/Carried (Beth Hayward/Doug Goodwin)

that the minutes of the 84th General Meeting of BC Conference held May 28 - 31, 2015 in Whistler, BC, be adopted.

Election of Conference President

Beth Hayward noted that Cari Copeman-Haynes had been elected as President-Elect at the 2015 General Meeting with the expectation that she would assume the role of President at the end of the 2017 General Meeting.

M/S/Carried (Beth Hayward/Doug Goodwin)

that Cari Copeman-Haynes be elected as Conference President to take office upon her installation on Sunday, May 28, 2017 to serve until the installation of her successor.

The President invited Cari Copeman-Haynes to the stage who then spoke briefly to the court.

Theme: Under the Tent 1

Beth Hayward introduced Janet Gear as the theme leader and others who would be participating as presenters over the next few days. Janet Gear introduced the first theme session, "Learning the Languages."

During this theme time Janet and other presenters – Craig Perry, Michelle Slater, Simon LeSieur, Janice Young, Murray Groom– introduced the five theological streams which would help provide a framework for understanding the theological diversity within the United Church: evangelical, ecclesial, missional, ecumenical, and spiritual.

Adjourn

The President adjourned the meeting for the night.

Second Session, 8:45 AM, Friday, May 26, 2017

Welcome

The morning opened with singing led by the music team.

Worship - Evangelical

Worship was introduced by Brenda Fawkes and Will Sparks and led by Lonnie Delisle in an evangelical style. Testimony and prayer was offered by Stuart Appenheimer.

Announcements

Blair Odney made announcements and told participants how they might offer feedback throughout the meeting.

Theme: Under the Tent 2

After a skit performed by children and youth, Janet Gear led the second theme time, "Finding Our Home Base." She and the panel of Craig Perry, Michelle Slater, Richard Bott, Janice Young, and Murray Groom spoke about the strengths and weaknesses of each of the theological streams. The table group members then spoke to one another about the theological streams with which each most closely identified.

- Native Ministries** Lawrence Sankey reported on the national work of the Caretakers who are helping plan for the future of the indigenous church in The United Church of Canada. He noted that the present hope is for an enhanced national aboriginal organization that includes all of the aboriginal communities in the church with appropriate financial and other supports. He also reported on numerous other initiatives and programs being undertaken in the church. In BC Conference the Native Ministries Council is taking on the responsibility for Mission Support Grants granted to aboriginal communities. Support for aboriginal ministry is helped with financing from the Thomas Crosby Fund. Education and training directly related to aboriginal ministry is offered through the Charlotte Sullivan Diploma program. Lawrence ended by offering testimony to his own journey into ministry.
- President's Address** The President, Keith Simmonds, addressed the meeting, speaking of his time as President and some of the insights he gained during that time. He spoke of how different the church presently is from the one in which he was baptized as a child. He observed the theological diversity within the church and noted that, as a whole, those in the church are treating this diversity positively, showing respect to one another. He characterized the United Church as open-minded, curious, joyful, responsive and responding: "it is a good church to be a part of." Bringing the best of the past as well as present hopes together would lead us into a future which draws us forward.
- Lifetime UCW Pin** Sandra Dunning was presented with a Lifetime UCW Membership pin, replacing one which had been stolen from her home earlier in the year.
- Gratitude** The President offered thanks to the Agenda and Planning Committee for the work they did preparing for the General Meeting. He also offered gratitude for the work of the Conference staff, particularly those who helped prepare the logistics for this meeting.
- Announcements** Blair Odney and Beth Hayward made announcements and offered the grace before the meeting adjourned for lunch.
- Lunch** During the lunch break the Presbyteries met.
- Third Session, 1:30 p.m., Friday, May 26, 2017**
- Music** The music team opened the afternoon session with song.
- Worship - Ecclesial** Worship in an ecclesial style was led by Jenny Carter. Ryan Slifka offered the homily.
- Pecha Kucha – Camp Spirit** Using the Pecha Kucha format, Moriah Anderson, Director of the Camp Spirit Oversight Team, provided an overview of this summer day camp for children aged 3 – 11 years. Camp Spirit is a cross-Presbytery initiative in the Lower Mainland, funded in part by Conference ProVision Funds.
- Truth and Reconciliation** The President introduced Jean Macdonald who presented a United Church statement on the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples where the Declaration was proposed as a framework for reconciliation.
- Proposals** Beth Hayward introduced the business for the afternoon and explained how the proposal method of decision-making would be implemented.

- Conference Proposal 2017-01: "Poverty Reduction Plan for BC"** Miriam Peacock from St. Andrew's United Church, Comox-Nanaimo Presbytery, introduced Conference Proposal 2017-01, "Poverty Reduction Plan for BC."
- During her introduction Miriam Peacock honoured the anniversary of Rev. Jim Manly's ordination 60 years ago to the day, recognizing Jim as a strong advocate for social justice in BC and throughout the world.
- During discussion on the proposal the court was encouraged to take individual and corporate action to reduce poverty in BC.
- M/S/Carried (Miriam Peacock/Elaine Julian)
that British Columbia Conference endorse the Poverty Reduction Plan developed by the BC Poverty Reduction Coalition.*
- Conference Proposal 2017-02: "Support for Ktunaxa Nation"** Greg Powell, Chair of Kootenay Presbytery, introduced Conference Proposal 2017-02, "Support for Ktunaxa Nation."
- The proposal was for educational purposes only. The court was informed about the history of the Ktunaxa Nation's fight for the recognition of their spiritual home in the Qat'muk (Jumbo) Valley and the support that has been offered by Kootenay Presbytery, including obtaining and using intervenor status at the Supreme Court in December 2016.
- Conference Proposal 2017-03: "Sinixt Status"** Greg Powell, Chair of Kootenay Presbytery, introduced Conference Proposal 2017-03, "Sinixt Status."
- The proposal was for educational purposes only. The court was informed about a recent court ruling that the Sinixt people were not "extinct" as declared in 1956 but had maintained a continuous connection to land from Revelstoke to the USA border. The meeting was encouraged to continue to support the Sinixt nation in its quest for recognition and self-determination.

Conference Executive Report

- Introduction** President Keith Simmonds introduced the Conference Executive members present. He then introduced the work of the Conference Executive and highlighted some of its recent achievements, including: the divestment of fossil fuels from the investment portfolio; the start of the development of a new Children and Families' certificate program; the inauguration of the Contemplative Justice work and network; and continued work in Intercultural and Ethnic Ministries. He also introduced the recommendations from the Organizational Audit conducted by Dan Hotchkiss in late 2016. While most of the Audit recommendations have already been adopted by the Executive, one suggesting that the Executive be much smaller and meet more often will be discussed throughout the year at Presbytery meetings, with a possible Proposal at the next General Meeting.
- Property Resource Team** Terry Harrison reported on the work of the Property Resource Team, noting the several different ways the Conference is presently involved in property development. Most recently the Conference has partnered with BC Housing to begin an affordable housing ministry with development at four sites in the Conference, in which the Conference serves as developer and BC Housing as the financier. The \$120 million project will result in over 400 new rental units, as well as renewed church space and income for the congregations involved.

- Finances** Ken Fanning, Chair of the Finance Committee, gave an overview of the Conference's finances which, he summarized, are in very good shape. His report focused on the trends in income and expenditures in the Conference operating budget, the assets held by the Conference and how they are used, and how assets are presently invested. He also introduced David Nanton who serves in a Chief Financial Officer role for the Conference.
- LeaderShift** Treena Duncan and Rhian Walker reported on the work of LeaderShift and its plans for the coming year which include workshops, retreats, and mentoring for leaders and for congregations.
- Treena announced that a new program entitled Embracing the Spirit (BC), funded from some of the assets of the sale of St. James United Church ("St. James Place"), will be planned and then inaugurated in the fall and winter. Rob Crosby-Shearer has been hired to provide leadership to this new venture which has a multi-year, \$3.2 million budget. The program will support new ventures in Christian community building.
- Theme: Under the Tent 3** Children and youth performed a short skit to introduce the third theme session, "Living It Out." Janet Gear spoke of the importance of recognizing how people enter "the Tent" and find a home. A panel of Jen Cunnings, Simon LeSieur, and Henri Lock spoke of how children, youth and young adults are welcomed and find a home in different communities which reflect the theological streams. Table groups reflected on the thresholds that either welcome or turn away those from outside the Tent. Janet suggested that the United Church is being faced with the foundational question of how it recognizes itself within the communal Christian story.
- Dinner** Blair Odney made announcements, then offered a prayer before the meeting adjourned for dinner.

Fourth Session, 6:45 p.m., Friday, May 26, 2017

- Gathering Music** The Worship Team led the meeting in song.
- Welcome Back** The President welcomed participants back to the meeting. Blair Odney introduced the evening's agenda.
- Pecha Kucha – Contemplative Justice** Using the Pecha Kucha format, Christina Kinch introduced the Conference's Contemplative Justice work. She opened with a breath meditation and a dramatic spoken work poem encouraging resilience rather than hate in the face of injustice.
- General Council Executive** Graham Brownmiller and Jean Macdonald, Conference representatives to the General Council Executive, reported on the recent work of the General Council Executive, as well as other General Council work.
- They noted that five remits are presently being voted upon by Presbyteries and pastoral charge governing boards: Three Council Model; Elimination of Transfer and Settlement; Office of Vocation; Funding a New Model; One Order of Ministry.
- Following on the decision by the General Council in 2015 to enter into full communion with the United Church of Christ, meetings have been taking place between the two denominations. Talks are also underway with the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and there is some possibility for three-way conversation with the Presbyterian Church USA and The Presbyterian Church in Canada in order to strengthen relationships.

They also reported that: the United Church has produced a statement on the subject of medical assistance and dying; the church has responded powerfully to the need to support refugees from Syria and elsewhere; the Pension Board continues to hold stock in Goldcorp and, by so doing, is able to exercise stockholder influence which seems to have made some difference in the work of Goldcorp; and the General Council office will consolidate its space so that, after renovations, it will only occupy one floor at its present location, down from the present four floors.

WCRC

Allan Buckingham offered greetings from the World Communion of Reformed Church and spoke briefly about its upcoming General Assembly. He noted that the General Secretary of the WCRC, Chris Ferguson, is a United Church minister and had recently been granted an honorary doctoral degree by the Vancouver School of Theology.

Pecha Kucha – VST

Using the Pecha Kucha format, Julie Lees, Recruitment Officer for the Vancouver School of Theology, presented information about VST and the many changes it has undergone over the past few years.

Worship

Worship was led by Ingrid Brown in the missional style; Dave Anderson offered a testimonial.

Theme: Under the Tent 4

Trevor Malkinson led the fourth theme time, “What’s Trending?” Brian Thorpe presented some background information on the history of evangelism and mission in the United Church. A panel of Jeff Seaton, Aaron Miller, Christine Boyle, and Carmen Lansdowne spoke about how they honour both evangelism and mission in their work and what it means to be Christian in today’s world.

Adjournment

The President adjourned the meeting at 9:15 p.m.

Fifth Session, 8:45 a.m., Saturday, May 27, 2017**Worship**

The Youth and Children led in worship in an ecumenical style. Christine Boyle offered a testimonial. Worship included a video presentation from a variety of youth and their leaders.

Vigil

A candle was lit for Conference Executive member Jim White, who is presently in hospital, and for others who are presently facing serious medical or end-of-life challenges.

PROK

Cari Copeman-Haynes introduced the members of Gyeonggi South Presbytery of The Presbyterian Church in The Republic of Korea (PROK) who are presently visiting the Conference, returning a visit made by Conference members to the PROK in October 2016: Rev. Ilshin Lee, Rev. Kwangsoo Lee, Deaconess Hyuksin Kwon, Rev. Hyunil Kim, Rev. Myung Doo Yang, Ms. Hyerim Yang, Elder Moonbo Shim, Rev. Sang Hwan Park, Rev. Jaehong Lee.

A video introducing the Gyeonggi South Presbytery was shown to the court. Its Moderator, the Rev. Sang Hwan Park, then addressed the court. He shared warm greetings from his Presbytery, and the hope that a partnership in these times of change will support the mission of both the PROK in Gyeonggi South Presbytery and the United Church in BC Conference.

Simon LeSieur, who was part of the BC Conference delegation which visited the PROK in Korea, spoke to the meeting during which he shared some highlights from the visit. Brianna Huet also spoke of some of her experiences and thanked the Korean delegation for the hospitality and commitment they had shown during her time in Korea. Cari Copeman-Haynes then reflected on some of her learnings from the visit and spoke positively about the possibilities for a future relationship.

Table groups were encouraged to welcome the PROK visitors at their tables.

Theme: Under the Tent 5

A skit by children and youth introduced the fifth theme time, "Making it Work."

Janet Gear noted that having several different theological streams within the United Church has raised some tensions and difficulties in the church. Each stream has its positive and shadow sides, but each shadow side also has its antidotes.

A panel of BC Conference staff – Treena Duncan, Allison Rennie, Gail Miller and Marc Coulombe – reflected on their experience and work in a theologically diverse church and what perspectives and approaches they bring to their work.

Presbytery Consultations

Doug Goodwin introduced the directions taken in two consultations with Presbytery representatives in February 2016 and January 2017. The consultations were held in order to discuss how responsibilities might shift between Presbyteries and the Conference. They also considered what changes might have to happen if the Three Council Model remit is approved by the church.

Marc Coulombe, Allison Rennie, and Kathy Davies led the table groups in discussion on two questions:

1. "What is the most important thing we need to pay attention to as we consider this direction?" and
2. "Out of the conversation we have just had at our table, what guiding principle as a table do you want to offer Conference Executive as it moves forward with this work?"

The table group consultations were gathered by the scrutineers and given to Allison Rennie to be collated for review and future use.

Worship

Worship was led by the Children of Conference, with stories and biblical stories about risk and trust.

Lunch

The meeting adjourned for lunch.

Sixth Session, 1:30 p.m., Saturday, May 27, 2017

Music

The music team opened the afternoon session with song.

Campus Ministry

Using the Pecha Kucha format, Henri Lock and Karen Hollis presented information on the Campus Ministries at the University of Victoria and the University of British Columbia.

Worship

Worship in a spiritual style led by Dan Chambers and Rhian Walker. Rhian offered testimony about her own faith journey.

- Theme: Under the Tent 6** Janet Gear opened the sixth theme time, “Getting Serious”, by inviting the members of the court to join in groups that represent the theological stream with which they most closely identify. Those groups then reflected on the strengths and commitments of their own theological stream, as well as the fears one might hold as part of that theological stream. Upon the return of members to the court, Will Sparks led a process to hear back from each group about what strengths each theological stream brings to the church.
- Pecha Kucha – Our Place** Using the Pecha Kucha format, Don Evans and Julianne Kasmer spoke about the work of Our Place in Victoria.
- Retirees** From time to time in the meeting short videos were shown with reflections from some of the retirees.
- Election of President-Elect** Blair Odney introduced the two nominees for the position of Conference President-Elect: Graham Brownmiller and Jay Olson. Graham and Jay each responded to the questions “why did you let your name stand for election as President-Elect of BC Conference?” and “what difference will the conversation we have been having this weekend make to the way you might lead as President of BC Conference?”
- Blair offered a prayer, after which the election of the President-Elect took place by secret ballot. When the vote was counted, it was announced that Jay Olson had been elected as President-Elect.
- M/S/Carried (Graham Brownmiller/Jenny Carter) that BC Conference make the election of Jay Olson as President-Elect unanimous.*
- Candidates** Treena Duncan and Brenda Fawkes offered a short overview of the Candidacy Pathway and the work of the Candidacy Pathway Committee. Brenda Fawkes introduced all the candidates who were being received into ordered ministry in the church. Each candidate then addressed the meeting.
- M/S/Carried (Scott Swanson/Carol Cox) that BC Conference: admit Alan Lai to the Ordained Ministry of Word, Sacrament and Pastoral Care in The United Church of Canada.*
- M/S/Carried (Scott Swanson/Carol Cox) that BC Conference: admit Warren McKinnon to the Ordained Ministry of Word, Sacrament and Pastoral Care in The United Church of Canada.*
- M/S/Carried (Scott Swanson/Carol Cox) that BC Conference: admit Donald Schmidt to the Ordained Ministry of Word, Sacrament and Pastoral Care in The United Church of Canada.*
- M/S/Carried (Scott Swanson/Carol Cox) that BC Conference: commission Ian McLean to the diaconal ministry of Education, Service and Pastoral Care.*
- M/S/Carried (Scott Swanson/Carol Cox) that BC Conference: ordain Eva Biedermann to the Ordained Ministry of Word, Sacrament and Pastoral Care.*
- M/S/Carried (Scott Swanson/Carol Cox) that BC Conference: ordain Christine Boyle to the Ordained Ministry of Word, Sacrament and Pastoral Care.*
- M/S/Carried (Scott Swanson/Carol Cox) that BC Conference: ordain Ming Yung Chuan to the Ordained Ministry of Word, Sacrament and Pastoral Care.*
- M/S/Carried (Scott Swanson/Carol Cox) that BC Conference: ordain Diane Halkett to the Ordained Ministry of Word, Sacrament and Pastoral Care.*

M/S/Carried (Scott Swanson/Carol Cox) that BC Conference: ordain Eric Hamlyn to the Ordained Ministry of Word, Sacrament and Pastoral Care.

M/S/Carried (Scott Swanson/Carol Cox) that BC Conference: ordain Trevor Malkinson to the Ordained Ministry of Word, Sacrament and Pastoral Care.

A ballot with the names of the candidates for ordination, commissioning, recognition, and admission was distributed and the members of the court voted by secret ballot. When the votes had been counted, the President announced that each candidate had been accepted.

Pecha Kucha – YAYA Using the Pecha Kucha format, several representatives of the Youth and Young Adult Leadership Team provided an update on their work and shared stories from those who have been impacted by this ministry.

Dinner The meeting adjourned for dinner at 5:30 p.m.

Seventh Session, 7:00 p.m., Saturday, May 27, 2017

Settlement Committee Shannon Tennant, on behalf of the Pastoral Relations Working Group, presented the Settlement Committee Report and the Ministerial Standing Report.

M/S/Carried (Shannon Tennant/Martha Ashbaugh) that the Settlement Committee Report be received for information.

M/S/Carried (Shannon Tennant/Martha Ashbaugh) that the Ministerial Standing Report be adopted.

Presbytery Records Blair Galston, Conference Archivist, advised the court that the audit of Presbytery minutes had been concluded and that all presbyteries had submitted all the required documents. Blair also presented a book to the winner of the BC Conference Trivia Quiz.

Registrar’s Report Presbyteries:

Cariboo	19	Prince Rupert	21
Comox-Nanaimo	40	Vancouver-Burrard	40
Fraser	50	Vancouver South	36
Kamloops-Okanagan	53	Victoria	32
Kootenay	19	Westminster	29
Others (guests, resource, staff, visitors, volunteers, etc.)			88
Total:			427
Children			25
Youth - voting			9

- Enabling Motions** *M/S/Carried (Beth Hayward/Graham Brownmiller) that:*
1. *the Executive Secretary be authorized to edit reports and minutes for the Record of Proceedings of this meeting;*
 2. *the Executive be authorized to transact all business of the Conference until the next meeting of Conference, except those matters prohibited by the Constitution and Bylaws of The United Church of Canada;*
 3. *The 86th General Meeting of BC Conference take place May 31 – June 3, 2018 at the Penticton Trade and Convention Centre, Penticton, BC.*

4. *all remaining ballots be destroyed; and*
5. *the meeting adjourn following the benediction at the Celebration of Ministry worship service.*

Thank-you to the President

On behalf of the Conference, Jean Macdonald offered words of gratitude for the work of the President, Keith Simmonds, over the past two years. After being presented with a gift, Keith offered his own words of gratitude for the privilege of serving as President alongside all of those working for God's mission in BC Conference.

Retiree Celebration

Retirees were honoured and given a gift. Present were Steven Chambers, Michael Hare, Peggy Jensen, Brad Newcombe, Gary Paterson, Alan Saunders, Megumi Matsuo Saunders, Sang Won Cha, Beverley Tracey, and Tim Stevenson.

Theme: Under the Tent 7

The seventh theme time, "How Big is Our Tent?", began with the presentation of symbolic gifts representing each of the theological streams and with table group time.

Janet Gear led a panel discussion with Aaron Miller, Steven Chambers, Ryan Slifka, Janice Young, and Henri Locke, reflecting on what had been discussed earlier in the day in their separate theological stream groups.

Janet then summarized the work the court had done in the theme times, emphasizing theology as a servant of faith and life, not a weapon to be deployed to achieve victory, and how the church might now be thought not to hold a "common faith" but "a faith in common."

Gratitude and Appreciations

Dan Chambers and Karen Dickey offered gratitude and appreciations to all those who planned and provided many different forms of leadership at this General Meeting.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned for the night with a benediction by the President at 9:00 p.m.

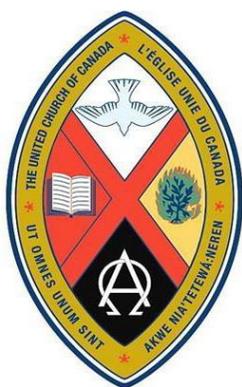
Eighth Session, 10:00 AM, Sunday, May 28, 2017

Celebration of Ministry

The court gathered at The Nest, The University of British Columbia, Vancouver, BC, in a Celebration of Ministry worship service, which included the ordination, commissioning, recognition and admission of ten ministers and the installation of the President, the Rev. Cari Copeman-Haynes. The Rev. Carmen Lansdown preached.

Adjournment

The newly installed President, Cari Copeman-Haynes, adjourned the meeting with a commission and benediction.



BC Conference

Keith Simmonds, President

Rev. G. Douglas Goodwin, Executive Secretary