

Canadian Society of Presbyterian History
Minutes, Annual General Meeting
Sat. Sept. 30, 2017

The 43rd annual general meeting of the Canadian Society of Presbyterian History convened in Room 4 at Knox College, Toronto at 1:00 pm on Sat. Sept. 30, 2017.

Roll and Regrets:

Attendance:

Rev. Dr. Phyllis Airhart; Rev. Dr. Bob Anderson; Bob Anger; Margaret Bentley; Anna L. Burwash; Rev. Peter Bush; Sid Castle (Treasurer); Al Clarkson; Rev. Dr. Robert Dean; Nita DeVenne; Rev. Dr. Clyde Ervine; Zenon Godzyk; John Hutchinson; Rev. Dr. Geoff Johnston; Mary Lou Johnston; Ross Lamb; Rev. Dr. Stuart Macdonald; Rev. Dr. A. Donald MacLeod (President); Judy MacLeod; Ian Mason (Secretary); Marilyn Repchuck (Convener, Committee on History, The Presbyterian Church in Canada); Kate Revington (Editor, *CSPH Papers*); Mary Richardson; Nancy Robinson; Rev. Ritchie Robinson; Marjorie Ross; Margaret L. Stephenson; Rev. John Vaudry; Wendy Vaudry; Rev. Dr. John Vissers.

Regrets:

Rev. Dr. J.S.S. Armour; Kim Arnold; Rev. Henry Bartsch; Dr. Rudolf Bauer; Rev. Jeremy Bellsmith; Mark Boundy; Gerald Boyce; Rev. Calvin Brown; Rev. Dr. John Cameron; Rev. Dr. Major Lloyd Clifton; Dr. Duff Crerar; Rev. Ross Davidson; Jo-Ann Dickson; Rev. Dr. Zander Dunn; Hon. John Gammell; Rev. Lee Houghton; Rev. William Houghton; Dr. Gord Heath; Arthur Horne; Fr. Edward Jackman; Gloria Jackson; Dr. Paul Laverdure; Neil Lillico; Rev. Dr. Barry Mack; David McIlveen; Donna McIlveen; Ian D. McKechnie; Elizabeth Millar; Linda Miller; Rev. Malcolm Muth; Chris Redmond; Rev. Dr. Fred Rennie; Rev. Dr. Victor Shepherd; Dr. Don Smith; Rev. Dr. Todd Statham; Rev. Angus Sutherland; Dr. Marguerite Van Die; Rev. Dr. Jack Whytock.

Guests:

Rev. Dr. Stephen Farris; Alex Fels; Rev. Dr. Karla Wübbenhorst.

Greetings

Dr. Donald MacLeod, President, welcomed everyone to the 43rd annual general meeting of the Society, including special greetings to a current Moderator, the Rev. Peter Bush, and three former Moderators, the Rev. Dr. Stephen Farris, the Rev. Dr. John Vissers and the Rev. Dr. John Cameron (via video link). It was the first time in the Society's history that a current Moderator had attended the conference.

Approval of Agenda

The agenda was approved by consensus.

**Canadian Society of Presbyterian History – Annual General Meeting
Minutes - Sept. 30, 2017**

Approval of 2016 Annual General Meeting Minutes

Motion: Moved by Ian Mason, seconded by Sid Castle, that the minutes of the 2016 annual general meeting be approved. Carried

President's Report

Dr. MacLeod recognized the outstanding leadership that the Rev. Peter Bush provided this past June (June 4-7) to the 143rd General Assembly of The Presbyterian Church in Canada. Peter organized reflective historical video vignettes that were presented throughout many sessions of General Assembly. Between morning sessions of this conference, Dr. MacLeod had presented Peter with a certificate from the Society commemorating his life-time, diligent and scholarly study of significant themes in Canadian Presbyterian history.

Dr. MacLeod had attended the closing service of St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Hastings, Ont. this past year and was moved by the Rev. Sabrina Ingram's tribute to the congregation's ministry. She captured the congregation's sense of purpose, drive and creativity throughout its history.

Dr. MacLeod encouraged researchers to always appreciate the extremely helpful assistance of The Presbyterian Church in Canada's Archivists Kim Arnold and Bob Anger and reminded us, "to never take them for granted!"

He extended his thanks to Sid Castle, Treasurer, for sharing his financial expertise.

He also thanked Ian Mason, Secretary, particularly for his work in promotion of the conference to new contacts.

He noted that he could not emphasize too much his gratitude to Kate Revington for her work as Editor of the *CSPH Papers*.

We are very appreciative of the work of Ian MacCready, the Society's webmaster, for maintaining and regularly revising the website as well as formatting and posting notices from the President and Secretary to members, friends, presbyteries and congregations who are subscribed to the Society's electronic MailChimp account.

He expressed, on behalf of the Society, our appreciation to Knox College for the use of two of its rooms for conference venue and lunch hall.

He acknowledged the presence and support of Marilyn Repchuck, the Convener of the Committee on History of The Presbyterian Church in Canada.

As a learned society, the CSPH's most vital goal, should not be to just maintain, but to protect, preserve and promote the record of Christian witness in a post-Christian era Canada.

He noted that, as he approached 80 years of age, he has been at the helm of the Society for one decade, having served in the role of President since his election in 2008. He announced that this would be the final year that he would serve as President.

Motion: Moved by Dr. Donald MacLeod, seconded by Rev. John Vaudry, that the President's Report be accepted. Carried

**Canadian Society of Presbyterian History – Annual General Meeting
Minutes - Sept. 30, 2017**

Greetings from Marilyn Repchuck, Convener of the Committee on History of The Presbyterian Church in Canada

Marilyn Repchuck extended greetings to the Society on behalf of the Committee on History. She commented on the initiatives of the Committee to recognize and celebrate the 500th anniversary of the beginning of the Reformation.

She remarked that she was very pleased to be a member of the Hamilton Presbytery of The Presbyterian Church in Canada due to the fact that three late prominent historians had also been members of Hamilton Presbytery – namely, Rev. Dr. Mel Bailey, former Archivist of The Presbyterian Church in Canada; Rev. Dr. John Johnston, founding Curator of the National Presbyterian Museum; and Dr. John Moir, noted church historian.

Marilyn extended her thanks to the Society for its recognition of the Rev. Peter Bush as Moderator of the 143rd General Assembly of the denomination.

She extended appreciation on behalf of the Committee on History for Peter's research and production of the bi-annual newsletter, *Presbyterian History*, now in its 27th year of publication.

Marilyn recognized the work of Al Clarkson and Ian Mason, members of the Advisory Committee and volunteer staff of the National Presbyterian Museum, to promote interest in the witness and work of Canadian Presbyterians. The artefact collection is maintained in order to provide a visual connection to the contributions of earlier generations of Christians.

Marilyn conveyed, on behalf of the Committee on History, their appreciation for the high calibre of research and the willingness to share their discoveries by this year's conference presenters: Rev. Dr. John Cameron; Rev. Dr. Stephen Farris; Rev. Dr. A. Donald MacLeod; and Rev. John Vaudry.

Marilyn commended our Society's work to not let the past be forgotten by the present.

Treasurer's Report

Sid Castle presented the Treasurer's Report. He shared an earlier question posed to him by the President, "are we solvent?" The answer was a resounding "yes".

The balance on Dec. 31, 2016 was \$3,818.

Income from memberships as of Sept. 30, 2017 was \$1,830.

The Society also held an investment certificate of \$2,000.

Income from memberships and conference registration had increased from the previous year.

Sid expressed his thanks to Ian Mason for his assistance throughout the year.

Motion: Moved by Sid Castle, seconded by Rev. Ritchie Robinson, that the financial report be accepted. Carried

**Canadian Society of Presbyterian History – Annual General Meeting
Minutes - Sept. 30, 2017**

Secretary's Report

The Society had lost some of its highly regarded and long-time members within the past year.

Rev. Dr. Tony Plomp died on Fri. Sept. 23, 2016, the day before last year's conference. He served as the Moderator of the 113th (1987) General Assembly of The Presbyterian Church in Canada and was the Assembly's longest serving Deputy Clerk. A prolific writer, Tony wrote a popular column for the *Presbyterian Record* entitled, "You Were Asking?", for over 20 years.

Rev. Dr. William J. Klempa died on March 4, 2017. The former Principal of Presbyterian College, Montreal, (1978-1998) he was the contributor of 3 Papers to the Society which focussed on his interests in doctrine and polity. He served as the Moderator of the 124th (1998) General Assembly of The Presbyterian Church in Canada.

Olive Regina Anstice died on Mar. 26, 2017. She was the contributor of a *CSPH Paper* about Rosalind Goforth, wife of the Rev. Dr. Jonathan Goforth. Olive had originally lived and worked in Guelph as a social worker with Family and Children's Services. A former member of St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Guelph, she had served as the elder to Rev. Dr. Stanford and Priscilla Reid in their senior years. We will greatly miss Olive's engagement. There were very few presentations for which Olive was not able to ask a question or make a comment!

Rev. Dr. Eldon Hay died on Sept. 17, 2017. Dr. Hay had presented 8 Papers to the Society, several of which featured studies about the Covenanters in Canada. Elizabeth Millar, former Editor of the *CSPH Papers*, memorialized Dr. Hay: "Eldon presented eight conference papers between 1987 and 2005, and served on the Editorial Committee from 2009 to 2015. I remain extremely grateful for his kind and steadfast support during my time as Editor of the papers."

Ian acknowledged his continued appreciation for the invaluable assistance that Ian MacCready, the Society's webmaster, has provided in emailing notices to members through the MailChimp electronic mass mailing program.

This past Summer, the Secretary developed a new list on our MailChimp account which allowed the Society to promote the 2017 conference to the secretaries of all the United Church presbyteries. The presbytery secretaries were asked to notify their members that anyone can sign up for free for email sent from the Society. There were 4 people who responded to this campaign, including two who indicated that they were interested in exploring membership in the Society.

Another list developed for the MailChimp account was a list of congregational Clerks of Session for Presbyterian Churches within Toronto and surrounding area. Congregations in the following presbyteries were contacted in September with notice of the 2017 conference: East Toronto; West

**Canadian Society of Presbyterian History – Annual General Meeting
Minutes - Sept. 30, 2017**

Toronto; Pickering; Oak Ridges; Hamilton; Barrie; Brampton; Waterloo-Wellington; Paris; Niagara; London; Lindsay-Peterborough.

There were 239 churches contacted which represents more than ¼ of the churches within the denomination.

Ian stated that his goal was to complete the MailChimp account for all the congregations within The Presbyterian Church in Canada within the coming year. Although the Society will likely not benefit from membership from Presbyterians beyond Ontario, church members and adherents will potentially be introduced to the Society and invited to participate in the conference by watching the live-stream YouTube link.

The following are the current MailChimp lists and the number of subscribers for each:

Society (members only) - 57

Presbyterian Church presbytery clerks – 43 (+ 2 presbyteries which need to be emailed directly)

Congregational Clerks of Session, Presbyterian - 239

United Church presbytery secretaries - 81

Everyone (the Society list [i.e. members] as well as those who have requested email notifications) - 68

During the past year, there have been 7 new subscribers who have signed up to receive emails from the Society.

This year's conference was promoted to the following contacts.

Academic societies:

Dr. Lucille Marr, Canadian Society of Church History;

Dr. James Fraser, Centre for Scottish Studies, University of Guelph;

Dr. Katie McCullough, Director, Simon Fraser University Centre for Scottish Studies.

Theological Colleges:

Dr. Lucille Marr and Rev. Dr. Dan Shute, Librarian, Presbyterian College, Montreal; Rev. Dr. Robert Paul and Rev. Dr. Richard Topping, St. Andrew's Hall, Vancouver School of Theology; Emmanuel College, Toronto; Rev. Dr. Philip Joudrey, United Theological College, Montreal; Rev. Dr. Rob Fennell, Acting Academic Dean, Atlantic School of Theology; Dr. Michael Wilkinson, Religion in Canada Institute, Trinity Western University, Langley, BC; Dr. Craig Allert, Co-ordinator, Christianity and Culture Program, Trinity Western University; Rev. Dr. Jack Whytock, Haddington House, Charlottetown, PEI; Rev. Jeff Kingswood and Rev. Brian Murray, Gillespie Academy, Woodstock, Ont.

**Canadian Society of Presbyterian History – Annual General Meeting
Minutes - Sept. 30, 2017**

Churches, non PCC:

Rev. Allan MacLeod, Evangelical Presbyterian Church, Toronto; Free Presbyterian Church, Toronto;
Grace Toronto Church, Presbyterian Church of America

Websites:

National Presbyterian Museum

For the first time, the draft annual general meeting minutes from the previous year's conference were electronically distributed to the members in advance of the conference.

Membership

The Society's membership is 74, with the loss by death of 4 members. One new member has joined the Society – namely, Rev. Dr. Robert Dean.

Lunch caterer

Maureen Strong of the Strong Food Company was asked to cater a lunch and morning break at this year's conference. The Secretary suggested that the members be polled to determine if they would like this arrangement to continue for next year's conference.

Editor's Report – *Canadian Society of Presbyterian History Papers*

Kate Revington, Editor of the *Canadian Society of Presbyterian History Papers*, reported that she regarded it as a great opportunity and privilege to edit the *Papers* of the 2016 conference as noted:

Rev. Ritchie Robinson: "Restless Spirit: The Odyssey of Norman McLeod (1780-1866)";

Rev. Dr. Stuart Macdonald: "What Were They Thinking? – Revisiting the 1966 General Assembly Decision on the Ordination of Women"; and

Rev. Dr. A. Donald MacLeod, President: "Wilfred Cantwell Smith (1916-2000), The Missionary Who Wasn't, Toward a Measured Understanding of Islam"

She commented that she was very pleased with the technical quality of the *Papers*.

Kate also noted that she had revised both indices (by author and by year of presentation) for the *CSPH Papers* on the website. The 5-point citations reflect the format of the *Chicago Manual of Style*. The indices are current to the year 2016 inclusively.

Ian MacCready uploaded the corrected and revised indices.

Appointment of Editor, CSPH Papers

Motion: Moved by Rev. John Vaudry, seconded by Al Clarkson, that Kate Revington be appointed Editor of the *Canadian Society of Presbyterian History Papers* for the 2017-2018 term. Carried

**Canadian Society of Presbyterian History – Annual General Meeting
Minutes - Sept. 30, 2017**

Election of Officers for 2017-2018

A call for nominations for officers was extended to the members. No nominations were received from the floor.

Motion: Moved by Dr. Clyde Ervine, seconded by Rev. John Vaudry, that the present slate of officers, be acclaimed as the Society's officers for the 2017-2018 term. Carried

President: Rev. Dr. Donald MacLeod

Secretary: Ian Mason

Treasurer: Sid Castle

Nominating Committee

In light of Dr. MacLeod's announcement in his report that this would be the final year that he would serve as President, there is a need to find his successor.

He called for nominations from the floor. There were none.

Dr. MacLeod indicated that he would appoint a Nominating Committee and that he would serve as an ex-officio member of the Committee.

Action: It was agreed by consensus that the Nominating Committee will have power to issue in determining a candidate for the office of President for the 2018-2019 term.

Papers Presented at the 2017 Conference

Rev. Dr. Stephen Farris: "Walks with My Father: Geneva, Storytelling and the Reformed Tradition"

Rev. Dr. A. Donald MacLeod: "Stanford Reid and the Importance of Reformation History for the PCC"

Rev. John Vaudry: "Rt. Rev. Bishop Cridge and Presbyterian College, Montreal: Quebec Protestants vs. Catholicism"

Rev. Dr. John R. Cameron: "Congregational Property Rights After 1925: St. Luke's, Salt Springs, Nova Scotia" (live video link)

Dr. MacLeod expressed the Society's appreciation to the Rev. Amanda Henderson-Bolton, minister of St. James Presbyterian Church, Charlottetown, PEI for setting up the equipment and recording Dr. Cameron as he presented his *Paper* via video link from St. James Church.

**Canadian Society of Presbyterian History – Annual General Meeting
Minutes - Sept. 30, 2017**

New Business

Conference Lunch

Maureen Strong of the Strong Food Company catered the muffins for our morning snack and the lunch. She also provided the tea and coffee. This was the second year that the Society engaged Maureen to cater the conference lunch.

The Society was asked if they would like to provide or purchase their own lunches. Members expressed how much they enjoyed the muffins and the sandwich, salad and dessert selections at lunch.

Action: It was agreed by consensus to ask Maureen Strong to cater the 2018 conference.

Announcements

**Celebration in Honour of the late Rev. Dr. Ian S. Rennie – Tyndale Seminary, Toronto
Friday, October 20, 2017**

Al Clarkson noted the upcoming special remembrance service for the late Rev. Dr. Ian Rennie, a former member of the Society. Dr. Rennie served as the Academic Dean of the Ontario Theological Seminary (now Tyndale University College and Seminary) from 1981 through 1995. Tyndale Seminary states, “The influence and impact of Dr. Ian Rennie and his wife, Lee, is legendary and much of what Tyndale Seminary is today is directly related to Ian’s leadership over 30 years ago.”

In commemoration of Dr. Rennie’s positive impact, Tyndale Seminary is creating the Ian S. Rennie Seminary Collaboration Room.

The celebration of the lives of the Rev. Dr. Ian Rennie and his wife, Lee, and recognition of his significant impact as Academic Dean will take place in the chapel of Tyndale Seminary on Fri. Oct. 20, 2017 at 7 p.m.

Death of Mary A. Johnston, M.Ed.

Al Clarkson also noted the death of Ms. Mary A. Johnston, M.Ed., on July 7, 2017. A teacher, vice-principal and principal, she was the only person in the Waterloo Region District School Board to have an elementary school named after them while they were still alive.

“Aunt Mary” as she was known to the Advisory Committee and volunteer staff of the National Presbyterian Museum had been an invaluable support to her brother, the late Rev. Dr. John Johnston of Hamilton, Ont. Dr. Johnston had been the founding Curator of the Museum. Mary worked alongside John providing the hospitality and janitorial infrastructure that made the Museum such an inviting facility. After John’s death, she continued to drive from Waterloo to Toronto in order to clean the Museum and provide morning break snacks and lunches for the other volunteers.

**Canadian Society of Presbyterian History – Annual General Meeting
Minutes - Sept. 30, 2017**

Date of Next Meeting

The next annual general meeting will take place in conjunction with the annual conference on Sat. Sept. 29th, 2018 at Knox College, Toronto at 1 pm.

Adjournment

Dr. Clyde Ervine moved that the meeting be adjourned. Dr. MacLeod declared that the meeting be adjourned. The meeting adjourned at 1:55 pm.

A. Donald MacLeod
President

Ian Mason
Secretary