

CONFERENCE OF MANITOBA AND NORTHWESTERN ONTARIO 2018 ANNUAL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

The much anticipated last meeting of the Conference of Manitoba and Northwestern Ontario was held May 24-27th at University Centre, University of Manitoba

280 registrants gathered to do the work of the Conference, to worship, to learn and to reconnect long standing relationships and to build new ones.

The meeting was filled with good energy and also the bittersweet recognition of the changes that will happen if/when the remits before the General Council meeting in July are approved.

The theme of our 2018 Annual Meeting was: ***Remembering Celebrating Imagining***

Here are but a few of the highlights:

THEMES

THEME 1: REMEMBERING

Ted Dodd, and keeper of the archives Erin Acland and student Holly Beroufe brought to life key historical moments, people, happenings and events in the life of the Conference throughout its history through an engaging and interactive process, archival displays and a “scavenger hunt”.

THEME 2: CELEBRATING

8 different workshops invited participants to explore a variety of issues. It was a celebration of who we are as the church responding to the many issues we continue to engage. >> [Workshop Schedule](#)

THEME 3: IMAGINING

The YAAY (Youth And Adult Youth) were invited to open the Court to imagining the church as we move forward. Their overall message to the Court was that “it will all be okay.”

They began with a time of welcome, as the pre-teens and teens present for the weekend invited us into a time of radical and inclusive welcome. They shared a statement of who we are, and who we are called to be as followers of Christ and the people of God.

The youth and young adults then invited the Court to explore how technology can be a tool for connecting - and offered Twitter as one of those tools. Young and old learned about Twitter - and then were asked a number of questions about the future, and each table group was invited to tweet their answers so all could see. The theme ended with a time of reflection and meditation.

WORSHIP:

Each Presbytery (except Winnipeg Presbytery) was invited to take responsibility for one of the worship times. Agassiz, Assiniboine, Cambrian, Northland and Selkirk offered meaningful, inspiring times to reflect, sing and pray.

Peter Douglas and Shirley Russell led in the In Memoriam time, and offered the Court a time to reflect and remember those who in the past year have joined the Communion of Saints.

MUSIC:

Adam and David Gerhard were the music team leaders and were joined by Alison Sparling and Leanne Douglas (and Chuck Kroeker and Jon Wong on Sunday morning). By the end of the weekend, they decided their band name was 'Time has Expired'.

FAREWELL TO CAMBRIAN

With the changing boundaries, and new regions being determined, the boundaries of our present Conference will change. Consequently, the congregations and pastoral charges in Cambrian Presbytery that are geographically east of the time zone will be moving to region 6, and the rest of the Conference of MNWO will be in region 5.

Joan Jarvis and Sherri McConnell highlighted the history of Cambrian Presbytery, the many gifts offered to the church; upheld the names of the congregations/pastoral charges that would be leaving and offered recognition of those present in the Court for this last conference meeting.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

President Betty Kelly's report was given Thursday and her remarks can be found here >> [President's Report](#)

GENERAL COUNCIL REPORT:

The General Council report was given by our representatives on the General Council Executive, Ken DeLisle and Anna Stewart as well as hearing from our General Council Staff guest, Kate Rodd, Director of Communications. More detailed information can be found here >>> [General Council Report](#)

CARETAKER'S REPORT

Guests from All Native Circle Conference and Keewatin Presbytery, Cheryl Jourdain (Speaker of All Native Circle Conference) and Gloria Cook provided the Court with the background and intent of the Caretaker's Report.

FINANCE REPORT:

Treasurer Rob Smith provided the final Conference financial statement for 2018. There was no budget to be approved for 2019 with the anticipated ending of Conference at the end of 2018.

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY'S REPORT:

Executive Secretary Shannon McCarthy gave her report on Thursday evening which you can view on the videos >> www.uccagm2018.com

CELEBRATION DINNER – HONOURING RETIREES AND HONOURING CONFERENCE STAFF

On Saturday evening, over 300 gathered for dinner and celebration.

Retirees present for the dinner and who spoke to the court included: Wendy Rankin, Barbara Ann Taylor Miller, John E. Robertson, Joanne Kury, Emily Elizabeth Lovell, William A. (Bill) Blaikie, and Deanna Lynne Sanderson. Glenna Beauchamp was unable to be present, but her words were shared by a member of her pastoral charge.

Retirees unable to be present included: James Christie, Nancy Finlayson, William (Bill) Millar, and Ellen Jean Wood.

The Conference Staff was also honoured and entertained by a song written by Laurie Simpson, on behalf of the Conference Staff Committee.

CELEBRATION OF MINISTRIES SERVICE:

On Sunday morning over 800 made their way to the University Center to join in the Celebration Service. Frances Flook, Brenda Shodin and Jamie Miller were the planning team and liturgists; a storytelling theatre provided the foundation for embarking on a new journey and reminded us we have all we need; the invited preacher was Deborah Vitt; 3 candidates were Ordained: Kate Elizabeth Jones, Donald E. Sellsted, and Patrick William Woodbeck. Communion was celebrated; Wayne Sanderson was installed as President of Conference for the remainder of 2018; and the General Council Commissioners were commissioned to do their work on our behalf at the General Council meeting in Oshawa in July.

For the Worship Liturgy, please [click here](#)

Videos of the whole Conference except the Saturday workshops are available here

>>> www.uccagm2018.com