

DIGEST OF ACTIONS
86TH ANNUAL MEETING OF
THE MARITIME CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA

Covenanting with Executive Secretary:

The President, together with the Moderator, led the Conference in covenanting with Executive Secretary David Hewitt. The Executive Secretary was presented with Symbols from Conference which included a stole, cane, towel, and Bible.

Welcome from Aboriginal Community:

The Rev. Dr. Russ Daye, representing the Aboriginal Concerns and Relations Task Group, introduced guests, Hanford Nye, member of the Fort Folly First Nation and Raymond Solomon. Mr. Nye addressed the court and introduced Mr. Solomon who honoured the Conference with a smudging ceremony and a small pipe ceremony. The pipe ceremony is a great honour and gift of trust. On behalf of the Conference the President presented the traditional tobacco to Mr. Solomon.

Ecumenical Guests:

The Rev. Dr. Mark Hatfield, convenor of Gospel, Ecumenism and Theology, introduced the ecumenical and interfaith guests: Rev. Greg Frazer, Diocese of Fredericton, Rev. Lidvald Haugen-Strand, Eastern Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church, and Rev. Marlene Knowles, Atlantic Ecumenical Council.

General Council Office Representative:

The President introduced Rev. Michael Blair, Executive Minister of the Communities in Ministry/Communautés et Ministères Unit of The United Church of Canada.

Moderator:

The President introduced Moderator Mardi Tindal.

Theme: “From Now On.”

The theme comes out of a three year exploration by the Gospel, Ecumenism and Theology Committee of rural ministry. Through worship, a professional Reading of the new play, “Tompkinsville,” and the use of Open Space Technology, Conference members were invited to engage in discernment of their own passions and call to ministry. Worship focused on the Exodus story, and included the assembly of a 700 square foot quilt as backdrop to the stage. Please see the Conference website for the final report on the Open Space experience:

<http://www.marconf.ca/pdf/2011ReportOpenSpaceTechnologySessions.pdf>

and watch for the announcement of a Youtube video of the quilt. Other worship materials from the Conference Annual Meeting will also soon be available.

Service of Remembrance:

The opening worship included a time of remembrance for Ministry Personnel Thomas Stuart Bellis, Donald Fairweather, Reginald James Miller, William Robert Pope, Sidney Whitfield Snow, and Kenneth Wayne Yorke.

Reports:

The majority of reports from Conference Committees were accepted as circulated. In addition, Conference heard reports from Ministry Personnel and Education, Education,

and Students, Stewardship, Nominations, General Council, Conference Executive, Finance and Property, Christian Life and Growth.

Staff Committee:

Charlotte Youland, Chair, Staff Committee led the Conference in recognizing the retirement of Judith Colwell, Maritime Conference Archivist. Charlotte Youland also led the Conference in recognizing Rev. Dr. Linda Marcotte, who is leaving the hospital chaplaincy in Saint John.

Atlantic School of Theology (AST):

Rev. Dr. Rob Fennell presented a video on behalf of Atlantic School of Theology and highlighted the Pine Hill endowment that provides generous financial support to Candidates studying at AST.

Tatamagouche Centre:

Lori Crocker and Catherine Stuart, Board Members, Tatamagouche Centre, along with Wilf Bean, Interim Organizational Director, and Kathryn Anderson, Faith and Spirituality Program Coordinator presented information about the Centre.

Edge Network:

Donna Tourneur introduced the Edge Network for ministry development. A short video was shown.

President-Designate:

Maritime Conference elected Rev. Philip Kennedy as President-Designate.

Budget:

Maritime Conference adopted the Budget for 2012 with expenses of \$1,130,625; and Excess of Revenue over Expenses is (\$79,169). Allocations for 2012 to presbyteries/pastoral charges will be approximately \$645,501 (subject to the final determination of the amount of the grant from The United Church of Canada). This represents a one percent (1%) increase.

Introduction of Retirees:

Past-President, Rev. Bob Johnson, introduced those members of the Conference who are retiring: Robert G. Campbell, Brian DeLong, Robert L. Johnson, Keith L. Lyons, Karen A. Lynch, Roger K. Moore, Linda Reid, Jim Shaffner, and Blair C. Whyte.

Introduction of Jubilarians:

Past-President, Rev. Bob Johnson, introduced those Jubilarians marking anniversaries of 50 years and above:

50 Years – Carman G. Burns, Boyd Butt, David H. Hamilton, L. Avery Kempton, David S. MacDonald, Neil F. MacDonald, Ian F. MacLean, Kenley M. MacNeill, Elroy McKillop, H. Martin Rumscheidt, Robert M. Shaw

55 Years – Waldo G. C. Elliott, Earle G. Leslie, James A. MacDonald, Douglas MacEachern, Robert Mills, George A. Mossman, Donald F. Murray, Lester M. Settle

60 Years – Nathan H. Mair, Edward Thompson

65 Years – G. Earl Leard

70 Years – W. Lawrence Randall

Conference Accommodations Committee:

Dean Lawrence, Chair, Conference Accommodations Committee, shared financial information with regards to the new building. The new structure will cost \$2.9 million with mortgage of \$1.9 million at 6.5% interest amortized over 25 years with a 10 year term. A ground-breaking ceremony was held at the Wright Street location with the Moderator, the Mayor of Sackville, the vendor of the property Gerry Moore, and Philip Jones, Vice President and General Manager of Alliance Building Contractors in attendance.

Truth and Reconciliation Commission Update:

The President introduced David MacDonald. He addressed the court regarding Aboriginal healing, understanding the legacy of Indian residential schools. The Truth and Reconciliation Committee held a meeting last year to meeting to discuss the legacy through lenses of Canada today. First National event in the Maritimes is October in Halifax, NS. This is an exciting opportunity for us to close the gap between us and our closest neighbours – he hopes that members of Conference, including the youth, will attend this four day event.

Worship:

Worship was led by Youth Forum. The Message played.

Intermediates at Conference:

Intermediates at Conference read from I Jeremiah, presenting a skit during this reading.

Proposals:

1. Maritime Conference adopted Proposal 1, “Limiting the Destructive Impacts of the Alberta Tar Sands,” with some minor amendments.
2. Maritime Conference voted to take no action on Proposal 2, “Funding for Hospital Chaplaincies after 2011.”
3. Maritime Conference defeated Proposal 3, “Restore Funding for Hospital Chaplaincies beginning January 1, 2012.”
4. Maritime Conference agreed that Proposal 4, “Reinstatement of KAIROS funding,” be referred to the Executive.

Closing worship -- Celebration of Ministry

The Moderator, Mardi Tindal, offered the sermon. The following persons were ordained to the ministry of Word, Sacrament and Pastoral Care of The United Church of Canada: Sarah Rose Chapman, Alison Louise Etter, Bonnie Ann Fraser, Helena Medeiros, Lori Beth Sheffield-Bowles, and Mary Josephine White. The President, assisted by the Executive Secretary, the Ordinands, and others, presided at Holy Communion.

Installation of President:

Rev. Jane Johnson, President-Elect, was installed as President of the 87th Maritime Conference by Ms. Ruth Gamble, President, and presented with the symbols of that office, including the Conference Bible, the President’s stole, cane and gavel.