

Report to the Montreal & Ottawa Conference February 20, 2018

Québec Presbytery – Consistoire du Québec

- 1. Promouvoir le soutien spirituel, les soins pastoraux et le développement professionnel nécessaires au personnel ministériel. —*Promote the spiritual support, pastoral care, and professional development of Ministry personnel.***

Québec Presbytery—Consistoire du Québec reiterated that money has been set aside in the budget for Lay Worship Leaders expenses, including books.

It was also reiterated that Article 13 of the *Agreement concerning governance and sharing arrangements in the new Québec Presbytery—Consistoire du Québec* included a commitment to expanding the LLWL project throughout its territory.

A workshop of LLWLs was organized on October 28 at St. Paul's, Magog. The workshop was about the challenges and joys of being a Lay Worship Leader.

Concerns were expressed at the Executive table about the future of the Church in rural areas, and existing resources must be used intelligently in order to support churches in rural areas within the bounds of Québec Presbytery—Consistoire du Québec.

The Chair of Québec Presbytery—Consistoire du Québec has been appointed to the McGill Ecumenical Chaplaincy in replacement of Renata Sutherland as Quebec Presbytery Representative.

Québec Presbytery—Consistoire du Québec has approved the request of Rev. David Clinker, minister at Mount Royal UC for a sabbatical leave for a time of reflection, renewal, and new perspectives for ministry for a period of three months starting June 1, 2018.

- 2. Diriger et soutenir les efforts des consistoires pour que toutes les charges pastorales bénéficient d'un ministère pastoral efficace et sans interruption, et participent à la formation du nouveau personnel ministériel. —*Provide leadership in supporting Presbytery efforts to ensure that all Pastoral Charges have ongoing effective pastoral ministry and participate in the formation of new Ministry Personnel.***

On October 18, 2017, the Chair presided at the covenanting service of Lisa Byer-de Wever at Saint Columba House, Pointe-Saint-Charles, Qc. It was a very pleasant and touching ceremony attended by staff and clients of Saint Columba House, family and friends of Lisa, and members of various courts of the Church.

On November 19, the Chair presided at the covenanting service of Rev. Tami Spires, minister at United Eaton Valley Pastoral Charge, at Trinity United Church, Cookshire-

Eaton, Qc. Despite a heavy snow fall, the ceremony was well attended by congregants, family and friends, fellow ministers, and a representative from the Anglican Church in Québec.

The Presbytery approved the call of Rev. Jennifer Mountain of Bruce Presbytery, Hamilton Conference, to St. Lambert UC, effective April 1, 2018.

The Presbytery concurred with the request of the Laurentian Area Ministry (LAM) and reappointed Joëlle Leduc, candidate, from January 1, 2018, to April 30, 2018.

Presbytery resolved to appoint Rev. Janet Bisset as Pastoral Charge Supervisor to Greenfield Park UC.

Presbytery resolved to appoint Rev. Mark Hammond as Pastoral Charge Supervisor to St. Lambert UC.

Presbytery also concurred with the request of United Steeples Pastoral Charge and appointed Rev. Lise Kuzminska from November 1, 2017, to June 30, 2018, part-time (10 hrs/wk).

The Executive of the Quebec Presbytery-Consistoire du Québec concurred with the decision of the Education & Students Committee to recommend to the Montreal and Ottawa Conference that **Joëlle Leduc**, pending successful completion of all courses, interviews and requirements, be ordained to the ministry of word, sacrament, and pastoral care at the celebration of ministry service to take place at the Annual General Meeting of the Montreal and Ottawa Conference in May 2018.

The Executive of the Québec Presbytery-Consistoire du Québec concurred with the decision of the Education & Students Committee to recommend to the Montreal and Ottawa Conference that **Eric Pagé**, pending successful completion of all courses, interviews and requirements, be ordained to the ministry of word, sacrament, and pastoral care at the celebration of ministry service to take place at the Annual General Meeting of the Montreal and Ottawa Conference in May 2018.

The Executive of the Québec Presbytery-Consistoire du Québec concur with the decision of the Education & Students Committee to recommend to the Montreal and Ottawa Conference that **Cindy Casey**, pending successful completion of all courses, interviews and requirements, be ordained to the ministry of word, sacrament, and pastoral care at the celebration of ministry service to take place at the Annual General Meeting of the Montreal and Ottawa Conference in May 2018.

The Executive of the Quebec Presbytery-Consistoire du Québec concurred with the decision of the Education & Students Committee to recommend to the Montreal and Ottawa Conference that **Nelson Neil** be accepted to go to Conference Interview Board, as

a candidate for the ministry of Word, Sacrament and Pastoral Care in The United Church of Canada, which will be held from February 5 to February 7, 2018.

We were saddened to learn of the passing Rev. R. Steward Clark, most recently of Lawrencetown and Darmouth, on January 19, 2018. Stew, as he liked to be called, was the M&O Conference Staff person for Mission in the '70s. Then he was called to what is now Cowansville Area Pastoral Charge, where he served as minister to those four congregations at the time, as well as Conference Convenor of Ministry, Personnel, and Education. After his retirement to Lawrenceville, NS, he posted a weekly blog of scripture introductions which some often used on Sundays.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to the family of Huibert van Ginhoven. It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Huibert C. J. van Ginhoven, aged 91 years, retired Minister of the United Church of Canada, on December 13, 2017, at the Maison Au Diapason in Bromont.

Hazel Irene Ecott, RN, of Guelph, mother of Lynda Ecott, retired Administrator of Québec Presbytery—Consistoire du Québec, passed away peacefully at the Guelph General Hospital on Monday, December 11, 2017, in her 94th year.

The ministries of retiring ministers were celebrated at the Presbytery meeting of November 4, 2017, namely Rev. Patricia Lisson, formerly Director of Saint Columba House, when Rev. Shaun Friday spoke extensively and very appreciatively of Patricia's ministry and sense of mission, and praising her in admiration for her tenacity in defending the causes of justice and peace. He alluded to the fact that she had served on many committees, including the Executive and M&O Conference, and many other t of the national church, as well as internationally such as in the Philippines. The Chair and Lisa Byer-de Wever also said a few words of gratitude and appreciation, thanking Patricia for the invaluable contribution she has made to the United Church of Canada, Saint Columba House, and the lives of so many who have been fortunate enough to cross her path or to journey with her.

3. Favoriser la coordination et l'utilisation stratégique des ressources en explorant les possibilités de coopération régionale. —Promote the co-operation of strategic use of resources through exploring regional co-operation.

Representative of Québec Presbytery—Consistoire du Québec met with the Expanded Executive of M&O Conference via Adobe on January 24 to discuss the recommendations of the Boundaries Commission.

The Chair met with representatives of the Montreal Presbytery of the Presbyterian Church in Québec on January 25, 2018, to discuss a possible covenanting agreement in the event of an Ecumenical Shared Ministry within the bounds of Québec Presbytery—Consistoire du Québec.

The Chair also took part in talks with the Table regional and the Table nationale for Ministries in French on January 19, 2018, when a response to the recommendations of the Boundaries Commission and the future of the two Tables were discussed. The Chair expressed his appreciation for having been invited to participate in these discussions and welcomed the opportunity to do so again when the Tables meet again.

The Chair also conveyed an invitation to the Chair of the Consistoire Laurentian to appoint a representative of the Consistoire to join the Executive of Québec Presbytery—Consistoire du Québec as a corresponding member.

4. Favoriser les projets de développement de revitalisation des charges pastorales et des unités de mission, et soutenir les efforts dans ce sens. —Promote efforts/initiatives/support of development and redevelopment of Pastoral Charges and Mission Units.

An event took place on November 25, 2017, at Saint Columba House called Soul of the City, Building neighbourhoods of hope.

Québec Presbytery—Consistoire du Québec concurred with the recommendation of the Administration & Finance Committee to apply for a block grant to the Erskine & American Fund in January 2018 for up to \$50,000.00 for work, including outside consultants, to assist congregations/communities of faith in preparing for the covenanting expectations and transition they would have in the new structure.

However, since then the Trustees have met and decided against the request. The Trustees feel that the application is outside the scope of the Trust's mandate of transformational ministry and outreach, but partakes more of the nature of helping communities of faith with their new administrative duty within the wider church to construct covenants with the Regional Council (and vice versa). This may well need to initiatives of transformation and outreach and the Trust is very open to funding ideas of that nature which might arise from this first covenanting exercise.

At the November meeting of Presbytery, Rev. Paula Kline and Rev. Helen Hliaris spoke of initiatives that were brought into existence thanks to the Good Samaritan Fund, such as the Montreal City Mission legal clinic, the Northlea Care Group, Hemingford's sale of their church building and use of the money with the help of the GSF to offer programmes for seniors in the community. Short videos were also presented to the presbyters.

The Youth Forum held from November 3 to 5 was a great success with 20 participants. The theme of the event focussed on Mental Health and Stress. The recruitment of young people was reported to be a challenge.

Vision & Transformation Committee held a conference call to discuss visioning where the Church is at present and where it will be in the future, while taking into account the upcoming structural changes.

The Executive of the Québec Presbytery—Consistoire du Québec concurred with the recommendations of the Administration & Finance Committee to, first, reiterate its approval of the amalgamation of the three congregations (Christ Church, Northley and Rosemère Memorial) under one single entity, and second, to approve the request of Northley and Rosemère Memorial Church to change the effective amalgamation date with Christ Church Deux-Montagnes to January 1, 2018, and to change its name, effective January 15, 2018, to Riverside United Church.

The Executive of the Québec Presbytery—Consistoire du Québec also concurred with the recommendation of the Administration & Finance Committee to approve of the submitted Mission Plan of the Bedford Pastoral Charge (i.e.: annual spending of \$15,000 on mission-oriented projects in their area), and the Executive concurred with the request of Bedford P.C.'s trustees.

5. S'assurer de faire entendre la voix collective du Synode comme témoignage chrétien sur la scène publique. — Ensure ways of providing a collective Conference voice on public Christian witness.

Québec Presbytery—Consistoire du Québec joined with M&O Conference in expressing chagrin and regrets following the murder and injury of Muslim convening for Friday prayers at the Mosque in Quebec City in January 2017 at events marking this tragedy in Montréal (Saint Columba House, St. James United, and Montreal City Mission, among others, and in Quebec City).

6. Devenir un pont et une inspiration entre les communautés locales de l'Église Unie du Canada comme communauté d'ensemble. — Provide an inspirational link between local United Church communities and the United Church of Canada as a whole community.

June Smith explained how the church at Metis Beach is sponsoring a little boy in Africa and is very active in fundraising, and the church also enjoys a good relationship with the other 4 churches in the town.

Brenda Lee Strickland, lay worship leader from Chevery, Qc, just west of Harrington Harbour, gave presbyters a summary of what life is like in the Lower North Shore and how ministry is conducted. She thanked Rev. Heather McLure for visiting the congregation back in March 2017 and thanked retired Anglican minister, Rev. Curtis Patheson and his wife for coming for a visit for 6 weeks to provide worship services to the community.

Rev. Mead Baldwin led a prayer of support of the continuation of ministry in both Harrington Harbour and Metis Beach, and he blessed the efforts and ministry commitments these two congregations are making.

Claire Cameron gave a presentation on the Dominique Literacy Centre (TDL) in Haiti, a Presbytery Project that came into being following the 7.0-magnitude earthquake on January 12, 2010, and presented through Beaconsfield UC. The TDL's mission is to help children on their path to educational and spiritual growth, to encourage self-esteem and provide a safe place that promotes learning, as well as providing the community with access to clean water. Today TDL boast 100 students and is a primary school following the Ministère de l'Éducation's curriculum of Haiti.

The Chair attended services presided by Rev. David Fines in French for the MiF communities of Granby, Drummondville and outlying areas on October 22 and again on December 17, 2017, held at Sainte-Brigide-d'Iberville.

Kristine Greenaway, Responsable des Ministères en français at General Council, continues to attend meetings of Québec Presbytery - Consistoire du Québec as a corresponding member.

7. Promouvoir le soutien de la vie dans ses diverses dimensions. —Promote whole-life stewardship.

Québec Presbytery - Consistoire du Québec is always happy to host Carolyn Ruda, M&S Champion at M&O Conference at its meetings as well as Paul Sales, Financial Development Officer – Quebec and Eastern Ontario, upon request and to make any material they may have available to presbyters.

8. Fournir l'efficacité nécessaire à la pratique de « l'art de faire vivre » notre Synode. — Provide administrative effectiveness in the "art" of making our Conference life happen.

Rev. Cathy Hamilton again presented Remit 6 to Presbyters, One Order of Ministry, and shared fact-based questions and answers as well as "academic requirements" questions and answers. It was noted that Remit 6 would have the effect of improving ecumenical relations, including the relationship with the Anglican Church. Following a lengthy debate whereby Ordained Ministers, Diaconal Ministers, Designated Lay Ministers, and one ministry student all expressed their views and opinions about the unique attributes of each stream of ministry, presbyters voted on Remit 6, and the remit was defeated.

I report again that the Presbytery continues to live stream its Presbytery meetings between two meeting sites—Magog and Montreal. Executive meetings and Finance and Extension Board meetings are conducted via ADOBE Connect or teleconferencing. We are making progress in terms of understanding and operating technology. We have hired a consultant and have been testing new equipment through rental before purchasing.

We are also grateful to the Presbytery Meeting Planning Committee chaired by the Rev. Linda Buchanan for the tremendous work done to plan and organize our Presbytery meetings, supported by the Presbytery office staff.

The Chair attended a special service on Affirming Sunday at Mount Royal UC on October 22.

The Chair attended a talk by Rev. Greta Vospers at Westmount Park UC on October 25.

Saint Columba House marked its 100th anniversary on Saturday, October 28.

The Presbytery met on November 4, 2017, and will meet again on February 24, 2018. Another full meeting of the Presbytery in one location is being planned for late April.

The Executive of Québec Presbytery—Consistoire du Québec met on October 17, November 24, December 7, 2017, and January 16, 2018.

The Chair attended a Blanket Exercise organized by Hemmingford UC on Sunday, November 12, 2017.

Respectfully submitted,

Marc A. Grenon
Chair
Québec Presbytery - Consistoire du Québec