

**TORONTO CONFERENCE, THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA**

**MINUTES  
OF THE 94th ANNUAL MEETING  
May 25-26, 2018**

The 94th annual meeting of Toronto Conference took place on May 25-26, 2018 at the North Simcoe Sports & Recreation Centre and St. Paul's United Church, Midland. The theme was "Great is Thy Faithfulness" from Psalm 119:90.

**FRIDAY, May 25, 2018**

**MORNING SESSION**

Gathering music

Ruth McDonald and Todd McDonald led the court in gathering music.

Welcome, worship, honouring the land and constituting the Court

President Audrey Brown welcomed people to the 94th annual meeting of the Conference. The President led the meeting in worship assisted by Past-President Bryan Ransom. The court acknowledged that we are gathering on the traditional territories of Indigenous peoples. The President constituted the meeting in the name of Jesus Christ to conduct business properly brought before it. The President made a number of introductions.

Opening motions

1. MOTION by Jody Maltby/Bryan Ransom that...

a) Bounds of the Court

the bounds of the court for this meeting of Toronto Conference be the North Simcoe Sports & Recreation Centre, Midland, Ontario and St. Paul's United Church, Midland, Ontario;

b) Roll of Conference

the roll of Toronto Conference for the 2017-2018 church year include:

i) members of the order of ministry who are on the rolls of the presbyteries within the jurisdiction of Toronto Conference;

ii) lay members of the United Church appointed by a presbytery as designated lay ministers to serve a pastoral charge or other presbytery

recognized ministry within the jurisdiction of Toronto Conference; Candidates appointed to serve a pastoral charge, mission or outreach ministry;

iii) lay members of the United Church elected by presbyteries;

iv) chairpersons of Conference committees, and the president of the Conference United Church Women.

c) Corresponding Members

corresponding members for this 94th annual meeting be a) those persons who are not members of the court but who have been invited to be resource persons to the annual meeting; b) Conference/presbytery staff; c) corresponding members of presbyteries within the jurisdiction of the Conference as defined in Section D.1.4 of *The Manual*.

d) Business Committee

the business committee for this 94th annual meeting be:

Audrey Brown, President  
Jody Maltby, Executive Secretary  
Bryan Ransom, Past-President

e) Parliamentarian

Beth Moore be appointed as parliamentarian.

f) Deadlines

12:30 p.m. on Friday be the deadline for new business, for written questions on the accountability reports and for nominations for General Council Commissioners.

g) Scrutineers

the head scrutineer for this 94th annual meeting be Rose Cambourne, and that scrutineers be the Conference/presbytery staff.

h) Minutes

the minutes of the 93rd annual meeting of Toronto Conference be approved as printed in the *Record of Proceedings*.

i) Method of voting

unless the court decides otherwise, voting be done by show of voting cards except for a secret ballot on decisions regarding those being ordained, commissioned and admitted.

and that all votes be approved by simple majority.

j) travel reimbursement

travel allowance to the 94th annual meeting be paid only to those not receiving a travel allowance, and that the travel rate be 41 cents per kilometre.

k) receive the following proposals

Proposals to Toronto Conference:

PTC #1 – Extension of terms of office

PTC #2 – Election of General Council Commissioners

Proposals to General Council:

PGC #1 – Funding and Support for LIRR Network Beyond 2018

PGC #2 – TRC Call 60/Blanket Exercise

PGC #3 – An Urgent Call for Peace Accord in the Korean Peninsula

PGC #4 – Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions against Israel

PGC #5 – Rethinking and Updating the Social Gospel Theology

PGC #6 – *The Manual* item 5.3.3: Mandatory Meetings of the Pastoral Charge

PGC #7 – Protecting the Pension Plan with Participant Permission

PGC #8 – Supplementing Pension Benefits

PGC #9 – Inflation Affects Pensioners Too: Adding Cost of Living Allowance to Retirees' Pension as with Active Members' Salary

NB #1- Seeking Peace in the Middle East with Methods Applied in South Africa

NB #2 - Responding with Costly Solidarity to Palestinian Partners

l) new business

new business proposals will be considered in the order they are received.

m) sexual misconduct prevention consultants

Diane Bennett-Jones and Robin Wardlaw be the assigned consultants if any concerns are raised that would be covered by the church's policy on sexual misconduct.

n) acting for President

the Past-President act as meeting chair if the President is unavailable or is making reports.

o) reports

all reports printed in the annual meeting resource book be received for information.

p) offerings

only one financial offering be received at this meeting at the Celebration of Ministries Service, and that it be given to Mission & Service.

q) chaplains

Deborah Hart and Sungmin Jung be the chaplains for this annual meeting.

r) distributing materials

material may be distributed only with the permission of the business committee.

s) speakers' limits

speakers on motions be limited to 90 seconds each, with the understanding that the President may show discretion to those for whom English is not their first language and/or those with communicative disabilities, disorders or difficulties (not limited to verbal speech impediments), or for those wishing to use a self-chosen interpreter.

t) agenda

the agenda for this 94th annual meeting of Toronto Conference be adopted as printed.

MOTION

CARRIED.

2. MOTION by Bryan Ransom/Betty Lou McNabb that...

a) Editing of *Record of Proceedings*

the power to edit the *Record of Proceedings* of this 94th annual meeting of Toronto Conference be given to the Executive Secretary.

b) Authority to the Conference Executive

the Executive of Toronto Conference be empowered to transact any unfinished business of this 94th annual meeting of Toronto Conference and to transact any

business that the Conference has the power to transact, subject to the limitations of Section D.3.1.4 of *The Manual*.

MOTION

CARRIED.

Regrets

Executive Secretary Jody Maltby noted that a number of people had sent regrets for the meeting. Their names will appear in the minutes of this meeting.

**Living Waters**

Mary Belyea	Lay
Deanna Big Canoe	Lay
Cora Brodie	Lay
Kay Cho	OM Retired
Paul Dempsey	OM Retired
Chris Fahrner	Lay
Carol Hancock	OM Retired
Catherine Hawkins	Lay
Pat James	DLM
Sandra Kirby	Lay
Kevin Logie	OM
Lorraine Newton-Comar	OM
Gloria Tozek	Lay
Johanna VanderSpek	OM Retired
Doug Whidden	OM Retired

**Northern Waters**

Judy Chalmers	Lay
Violet Hill	Lay
Cathy Hird	OM
Nancy Hopkinson	Lay
Heather McCarrel	OM
Elizabeth McKinlay	OM Retired
Grant Preston	Lay

**South West**

Carol Baggett-McKinley	OM
Sarah Chapman	OM
Tina Conlon	Lay
Sue Cowan	DLM
Connie denBok	OM
Jamie Holtom	OM

Susan Howard	OM Retired
Debbie Johnson	OM
Darren Liepold-Nicholson	OM
Doug McLeod	OM
Eric Nyarko	Lay
Lawrence Nyarko	OM

**Toronto Southeast**

Dorothy Amos	Lay
Fred Angus	Lay
Eric Bacon	OM Retired
Barry Brooks	OM Retired
Douglas duCharme	OM
Barbara Edwards	Lay
Malcolm Finlay	OM Retired
Lauren Hodgson	OM
Nettie Hoffman	OM Retired
Bill Kervin	OM
John Klassen	OM Retired
Linda Kuschnik	OM
Donna Lang	Lay
Don Middleton	Lay
Sarah Miller	OM
Alan Morson	Lay
Linda Petrides	OM Retired
Marion Pope	DM Retired
Winston Roach	Lay
Malcolm Spencer	OM Retired
Andrew Stirling	OM
Ambury Stuart	OM Retired
Peter Thompson	OM Retired
Susan J. Thompson	OM Retired
Christopher White	OM Retired

### Workshop

Beverly Beuermann-King presented a workshop on *Meeting The Challenge: Harness Your Energy – Building Resiliency* which explored a variety of useful and practical ways that members of Toronto Conference can help themselves during this time of transition to relieve their stress and increase their satisfaction.

### Greetings, announcements and grace

Marlis Dupuis of the St. Paul's United Church, Midland local arrangements committee brought greetings from the congregation.

The President made a number of introductions and announcements.

Ruth McDonald and Todd McDonald led the court in a singing grace.

### **AFTERNOON SESSION**

#### Gathering music

Ruth McDonald and Todd McDonald led the court in gathering music.

#### Introduction of ordinands, commissionands and admittands

The President invited Kirsty Hunter, Chair of the Interview Committee, to present the candidates for ordination, commissioning and admission. Kirsty made some brief introductory remarks. She offered thanks to those from the presbyteries who provide support and oversight to students while they are in the candidacy process and to the members of the Conference Interview Committee. She particularly acknowledged the important role of Education and Students Convenors: Donna Bowman-Woodall, Living Waters Presbytery; Neil Parker, Northern Waters Presbytery; Beverley Burke and Cheryl-Lynn MacPherson, South West Presbytery; Pam Lock and June Cavers, Toronto Southeast Presbytery.

Before each candidate addressed the court, all assembled sang one verse of a hymn significant to the candidate.

#### Voting on candidates

The President asked Kirsty to lead the court in prayer. Ballots were distributed. As Kirsty presented each motion, members of the court marked their printed ballots.

Ordination:

MOTION by Maya Brathwaite/Janet Zenwirt that David Grant Christie Allan be ordained by Toronto Conference on May 26, 2018 at this 94th annual meeting.

MOTION by Jean Leckie/Bob Bingham that Carol-Ann Margaret Chapman be ordained by Toronto Conference on May 26, 2018 at this 94th annual meeting.

MOTION by Norm Seli/Thelma Arnott that Gregory John Daly be ordained by Toronto Conference on May 26, 2018 at this 94th annual meeting.

MOTION by Lorna Joblin/Brian McIntosh that Roberta Jean Jarvis Howey be ordained by Toronto Conference on May 26, 2018 at this 94th annual meeting.

MOTION by Cheryl-Lynn MacPherson/Thelma Arnott that Mercedes Janet Hughes be ordained by Toronto Conference on May 26, 2018 at this 94th annual meeting.

MOTION by Cindy Cooper/Henry MacLeod that John-Thomas MacNeil be ordained by Toronto Conference on May 26, 2018 at this 94th annual meeting.

MOTION by Cindy Cooper/Coral Prebble that Fraser Kenneth Williamson be ordained by Toronto Conference on May 26, 2018 at this 94th annual meeting.

Commissioning:

MOTION by Joyce MacKinnon/Kim Posno that Anita Grace Rowland be commissioned by Toronto Conference on May 26, 2018 at this 94th annual meeting.

Admission:

MOTION by Hae-Bin Jung/Dong-Chun Seo that Andrew Kun Young Lee be admitted by Toronto Conference to the order of ministry of The United Church of Canada on May 26, 2018 at this 94th annual meeting.

The scrutineers gathered the ballots.

Break

The court took an all-purpose break.

Gathering music

Ruth McDonald and Todd McDonald led the court in gathering music.

Ballot results

The Executive Secretary reported that the votes had all been positive regarding the candidates for ordination, commissioning and admission. The court responded with applause.

MOTION by Jody Maltby/Bryan Ransom that the ballots be destroyed.

MOTION

CARRIED.

### Service of Remembering

The chaplains, Deborah Hart and Sungmin Jung, led the court in a time of worship including a remembrance of congregations that had closed or amalgamated, those who had died in the last year, and the negative impacts on Indigenous peoples and those marginalized by the church.

### Jubilands

The President acknowledged the jubilands who were present in the court, and gave thanks for their ministries.

### Honouring of retirees

Past-President Bryan Ransom introduced ministers who are retiring. Those retiring were Dale Burkhart (present), Susan Howard, Hoon Kim (present), Cindy Randall (present), Debra Schneider (present), Rob Selby (present), Derek Shelly, Johanna VanderSpek, John Vincent, Robin Wardlaw (present), Ralph Carl Wushke (present). The court sang a verse of a hymn that is meaningful to the retiree, and each retiree addressed the court.

### Announcements and Grace

President Audrey Brown made a number of announcements. Ruth McDonald and Todd McDonald led the court in a singing grace.

### Celebration Dinner

President Audrey Brown and Past-President Bryan Ransom led the candidates, the retirees and the staff of Toronto Conference to a celebratory dinner. Past-Presidents Marg Walker and Ann Harbridge offered thanks to the staff and to former Executive Secretary David Allen. Each staff member received a gift of a clay bowl created by Peter Michalski of Blind Alley Arts. Past-President Bryan Ransom offered the thanks of the Conference to President Audrey Brown and presented her with a gift of a campership for Camp Simpresca. The President spoke about the experiences she had as President and the significant role the church camp played in her life.

## **EVENING SESSION**

### Gathering music

Ruth McDonald and Todd McDonald led the court in gathering music.



Proposal to General Council #1 – Funding and Support for LIRR Network Beyond 2018

Brian McIntosh made a presentation on this proposal and answered questions for clarification.

MOTION by Jody Maltby/Bryan Ransom that Toronto Conference agrees with the proposal titled “Funding Support for LIRR Network Beyond 2018”

and makes the following recommendation:

Recognizing that the General Council has no authority to bind current or future courts with responsibility for property sales, we recommend that congregations, presbyteries and proposed regions be invited, when property is being sold, to consider donating the land value to right relations and Indigenous justice work as an acknowledgement that our worship centres are on the traditional territories of Indigenous Peoples.

MOTION

CARRIED.

Proposal to General Council #2 – TRC Call 60/Blanket Exercise Proposal

Betty Lou McNabb and Ren Ito made a presentation on this proposal and answered questions for clarification.

MOTION by Jody Maltby/Bryan Ransom that Toronto Conference agrees with the proposal titled “TRC Call/60 Blanket Exercise”

and makes the following recommendations:

1. that this policy would not apply to Indigenous ministry personnel and lay leaders, understanding that it is the right and responsibility of the Indigenous ministries and communities of faith of The United Church to determine their own training needs;
2. that this policy be strongly encouraged for other than Indigenous lay leaders; and
3. that this training involve only the official Kairos Blanket Exercise or other tools that have been developed in collaboration with Indigenous ministries and communities.

MOTION

CARRIED.

Proposal to General Council #3 – An Urgent Call for Peace Accord in the Korean Peninsula

Sungmin Jung made a presentation on this proposal and answered questions for clarification. The court agreed to end for the day and the Executive Secretary noted who

was at the microphones to continue when the court reconvened.

#### Evening worship

The President led the closing worship.

### **SATURDAY, May 26, 2018**

#### **MORNING SESSION**

#### Gathering music

Ruth McDonald and Todd McDonald led the court in gathering music.

#### Morning worship

Past-President Bryan Ransom, and Chair of the Affirming Ministry Task Group, Anne Hepburn, led the opening worship.

#### Volunteer Appreciation

President Audrey Brown expressed the appreciation of Toronto Conference to the volunteers from St. Paul's United Church, Midland Ontario for all their work hosting the annual meeting for the past three years and presented a small gift of appreciation. The President also offered thanks to all those who have volunteered their time serving on a committee, consultation or circle of Toronto Conference, including those who serve in corporations and camps and the leadership of the youth and young adults at Conference. The court responded with applause.

#### General Council Representative

Erik Mathiesen, Chief Financial Officer, The United Church of Canada, brought greetings on behalf of the General Council and introduced a short video on Mission & Service.

#### Nominations Report

Past-President Bryan Ransom, chair of the Nominations Committee, brought a number of items to the meeting for consideration. He began by acknowledging the members of the Nominations Committee.

#### General Council Commissioners

The Executive Secretary Jody Maltby, outlined the process adopted by the Executive for electing the remaining six commissioners who will attend the General Council meeting in

2018. The court received one nomination from the floor, Nicholas Butler. The nominees for the remaining lay commissioner spoke to the court. They were Tracy Odell, who spoke via video conference, Jessica Stevenson, Sarah Jane Wetelainen and Nicholas Butler. Ballots were distributed. Bryan Ransom invited the court to write the name of one nominee on their ballot. The scrutineers gathered the ballots. While awaiting the results, the court continued its business.

#### Proposal to Toronto Conference #1: Extension of Terms of Office

On behalf of the Nominations Committee, Bryan Ransom introduced a motion to extend the terms of office for those currently serving in Conference volunteer positions with terms that end June 30, 2018.

MOTION by Angus MacLennan/Terry Davies that this 94th annual meeting of Toronto Conference take the following actions:

1. if the three-council remit is enacted by GC43: extend the term for the following roles to December 31, 2018:
  - Convenor for Supervised Ministry Education
  - General Council Executive Representative, Ministry Personnel
  - Right Relations Co-convenors
  - Chair, Settlement and Pastoral Relations
  - Lay representative to the General Council Judicial Committee
  - Diversity Representatives to the Toronto Conference Executive
2. if the three-council remit is not enacted by GC43: the Nominations Committee will follow the process outlined in the Conference Nominations Policy and make recommendations to the November meeting of the Executive for appointment.

MOTION

CARRIED.

#### Settlement and Pastoral Relations Committee Report

Todd McDonald, staff person of the Conference's Settlement and Pastoral Relations Committee presented the committee's report on behalf of Chair, Andy Comar, and offered thanks to those who have helped with pastoral relations work in the last year.

#### Questions on accountability reports

Members of the court had an opportunity to submit questions about items in the various accountability reports. The court received one question regarding Incorporated Ministries. The Executive Secretary indicated that the information was not available currently but would be provided directly to the questioner and included in the minutes.

The question was: Could you break down the 30+ incorporated ministries regarding their particular area of ministry. e.g. Housing – Seniors (active) – Families - Nursing Homes -

seniors core services - camps – youth – delivering social services - health related - other?

Linda Gray, staff person to the Executive, has had conversation with and directed the questioner to the Toronto Conference Policies Handbook on the Toronto Conference website where all the incorporated ministries are listed and updated as the list changes and offered further assistance if required. The link is here: <https://torontoconference.ca/toronto-conference-executive/>

Due to a number of corporations signing Legacy and Release Agreements, Toronto Conference now has oversight of 22 corporations. Four are United Church camps, one is a non-profit nursery school, and three are financial corporations. Six organizations support marginalized populations including two resource centres, one drop-in centre, one supporting pregnant and parenting adolescents and their babies, one social enterprise, and one offering a diversity of services and supports. Five organizations provide housing for seniors and one provides housing for seniors and families. Two are non-profit housing corporations.

#### Break

The court took an all-purpose break.

#### Gathering Music

Ruth McDonald and Todd McDonald led the court in gathering music.

#### Nominations Report (continued)

The Executive Secretary announced that the remaining lay commissioner would be Sarah Jane Wetelainen.

The President recognized Barry Rieder on a point of personal privilege who made a motion.

MOTION by Barry Rieder/Edmarl Los Banos that the court agree to pay the costs for the remaining three candidates to attend as observers if they wish and ask the Executive Secretary to seek opportunities for them to participate as fully as possible in the meeting of General Council.

MOTION

CARRIED.

MOTION by Betty Lou McNabb/ Brian Elcombe that the ballots be destroyed.

MOTION

CARRIED.

MOTION by Bryan Ransom/Jessica Stevenson

- a) ...that this 94<sup>th</sup> annual meeting of Toronto Conference (2018) elect as Commissioners to the 43<sup>rd</sup> meeting of the General Council (2018) the following persons:

Toronto Conference      Mel Stenson (L)  
                                         Colin Phillips (L)  
                                         Sarah Jane Wetelainen (L)

Nicholas Forrester (M)  
Maya Brathwaite (M)

- b) ...that this 94<sup>th</sup> annual meeting of Toronto Conference (2018) elect as Commissioners to the 43<sup>rd</sup> meeting of the General Council (2018) the following persons as nominated by Toronto Southeast Presbytery within Toronto Conference...

Toronto Southeast      Sharon Aylsworth (L)  
                                         Hedy Baker-Graf (L)  
                                         Cynthia O'Connell (L)

Martha ter Kuile (M)  
Emily Gordon (M)  
Debra Schneider (M)

- c) Alternates for those nominated through Toronto Southeast:

...that this 94<sup>th</sup> annual meeting of Toronto Conference (2018) approve that vacancies in the presbytery-nominated list of elected Commissioners to the 43<sup>rd</sup> meeting of the General Council (2018) be filled by referring to the following list of persons nominated as alternates by Toronto Southeast...

Toronto Southeast      Lynella Reid-James (L)  
                                         Anne Hepburn (M)

MOTION

CARRIED.

Prayer for General Council Commissioners

Bryan Ransom offered celebration and led the court in prayer for the Commissioners to General Council 43 and all others who would be attending the 43<sup>rd</sup> meeting of the General Council.

Proposals (continued)

The court continued to consider PGC #3.

Proposal to General Council #3 – An Urgent Call for Peace Accord in the Korean Peninsula

MOTION by Jody Maltby/Bryan Ransom that Toronto Conference agrees with the proposal titled “An Urgent Call for Peace Accord in the Korean Peninsula”

and makes the following recommendations:

1. we acknowledge that the United Church is actively involved in South Korea and encourage our work with our partners to increase;
2. we join with global partners including the World Council of Churches in this work;
3. we acknowledge and advocate for the importance of peace talks through the council of churches in USA, North and South Korea;
4. we consider sending delegates instead of overseas personnel; and
5. any United Church of Canada overseas personnel or delegates going to North Korea do so at the request of North Korean churches.

MOTION

CARRIED.

Proposal to General Council #5 – Rethinking and Updating the Social Gospel Theology

Barbara White made a presentation on this proposal and answered questions for clarification.

MOTION by Jody Maltby/Bryan Ransom that Toronto Conference agrees with the proposal entitled “Rethinking and Updating the Social Gospel Theology”

and makes the following recommendations:

1. that the appropriate General Council committee be invited to give leadership to this work;
2. that we see this as a call to action;
3. that we include as many voices as possible throughout the United Church and beyond in the consultation;
4. that we acknowledge in many ways we are engaging in conversation and relationship already and need to keep building on this; and
5. that every region have a social justice animator to help in engaging this work.

MOTION

CARRIED.

Proposal to General Council #4 – Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions against Israel

Susan Eagle made a presentation on this proposal and answered questions for clarification.

MOTION by Jody Maltby/Bryan Ransom that Toronto Conference agrees with the proposal entitled “Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions against Israel”

MOTION

DEFEATED.

MOTION by Jody Maltby/Bryan Ransom that Toronto Conference does not agree with the proposal entitled “Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions against Israel” but is passing it on to the General Council for further consideration

MOTION

DEFEATED.

Proposal to General Council #6 – *The Manual* item 5.3.3: Mandatory Meetings of the Pastoral Charge

Bri-Anne Swan made a presentation on this proposal and answered questions for clarification.

MOTION by Jody Maltby/Bryan Ransom that Toronto Conference agrees with the proposal entitled “*The Manual* item 5.3.3: Mandatory Meetings of the Pastoral Charge”

and makes the following recommendations:

1. that the General Council take into account the difference between smaller and larger churches in how they determine the required number; and
2. that the General Council consider using a required number and/or percentage, whichever is the greater.

MOTION

CARRIED.

Unfinished business

As the court had come to an order of the day, the Executive Secretary informed the court that the following items of unfinished business would be referred to the Conference’s Executive for action:

- Proposal to General Council #7 – Protecting the Pension Plan with Participant Permission
- Proposal to General Council #8 – Supplementing Pension Benefits
- Proposal to General Council #9 – Inflation Affects Pensioners Too: Adding Cost of Living Allowance to Retirees’ Pension as with Active Members’ Salary
- New Business #1 – Proposal to General Council – Seeking Peace in the Middle East with Methods Applied in South Africa
- New Business #2 – Proposal to General Council – Responding with Costly Solidarity to Palestinian Partners

The President recognized Robin Wardlaw on a point of personal privilege. Robin asked to make a motion that the Executive forward the remaining proposals regardless of their agreement or disagreement. The Executive Secretary advised that the court could not make such a motion to bind the Executive in its work. The President ruled the motion out of order but offered thanks for the wisdom offered.

#### Affirming Ministry Task Group

Anne Hepburn, chair of the Affirming Ministry Task Group, provided an update on the work of the task group, the Conference and Iridescence, the Living Apology of the United Church. She encouraged everyone to participate in the annual meeting of Affirm United July 13-15, 2018.

#### Right Relations

The Executive Secretary highlighted the report of the Living Into Right Relations Circle and the Calls to the Church from the Caretakers that will be before the General Council. She offered thanks for the leadership of Linda Parsons, long-time co-convenor of the LIRR Circle.

The court responded with applause.

#### Announcements and grace

President Audrey Brown made a number of announcements. Ruth McDonald and Todd McDonald led the court in a singing grace.

### **AFTERNOON SESSION**

#### Gathering music

Ruth McDonald and Todd McDonald led the court in gathering music.

#### Celebrating the Life of Toronto Conference 1925 – 2018

The members of Toronto Conference participated in a community art project “We Shall Go Out With Joy and Be Led Forth in Peace”. This was an opportunity through a variety of forums to collect our stories, remember the struggles and share the gratitude as we go out with joy into new ways of being The United Church of Canada.

#### Appreciations and benediction

President Audrey Brown thanked a number of people. She pronounced a benediction. Ruth McDonald and Todd McDonald led the court in singing the closing hymn “You Shall Go Out With Joy”.



## **EVENING SESSION**

### Celebration of Ministries Service

The 94th annual meeting of Toronto Conference concluded with the Celebration of Ministries Service at St. Paul's United Church, Midland. President Audrey Brown presided, assisted by Executive Secretary Jody Maltby, Past-President Bryan Ransom, and former Executive Secretary David Allen, who delivered the message. Seven people were ordained to the order of ministry: David Allan, Carol-Ann Chapman, Gregory Daly, Roberta Howey, Mercedes Hughes, John-Thomas MacNeil, and Fraser Williamson. Anita Rowland was commissioned to Diaconal Ministry and Andrew Lee was admitted to the order of ministry of The United Church of Canada.

Edmarl Los Banos and Didier Rousseau read scripture; the texts being Ezra 3:10-13 and Philippians 1:1-5. Victoria Warwick and a choir made up of St. Paul's United Church, Midland people and members of the Conference provided musical leadership. Karen Ptolemy-Stam assisted with communion, which was served by the newly ordained, commissioned and admitted members of the order of ministry along with Past-Presidents of Toronto Conference, current leaders of Toronto Conference and volunteers from St. Paul's United Church, Midland.

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Audrey Brown  
President

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Jody Maltby  
Executive Secretary