

ALBERTA AND NORTHWEST CONFERENCE
THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA
CELEBRATION OF MINISTRY

DATE: Saturday and Sunday, May 27-28, 2017

PLACE: Pomeroy Inn and Suites, Olds, Alberta

SATURDAY, MAY 27, 2017

CELEBRATION OF MINISTRY BANQUET

The Celebration of Ministry Banquet was held on Saturday, May 27, 2017, in the Centennial Suite of the Pomeroy Inn and Suites, Olds Alberta, as part of the 2017 Mid-Triennium Event.

Leigh Sinclair, Past President of Conference, served as the Emcee.

Leigh welcomed those present and provided a brief reflection on the 2017 Mid-Triennium Event, with the Theme, *Called to Be*.

The President-Elect, Kathy Yamashita, led grace for the dinner, catered by the Pomeroy Inn.

RECOGNITION OF THE CELEBRANTS

After dinner, Leigh Sinclair introduced the format for the evening: a talk show, entitled, "*High Tea with Donalee*", and hosted by Donalee Williams, Yellowhead Presbytery.

Donalee interviewed the Ministry Personnel who were retiring in 2017, including:

James Allan, Susan Bowyer, Sally Boyle, Cecile Fausak,
Alice Hanson, Alan Richards, and Brenda Watt.

Retirees who were not present included:

Rita Cattell, Sharon Irving, Donald Koots, Helena (Lyn) Lamers,
Margaret Lange, Wayne Lewry, Hugh MacGregor, and Lynn Maki.

Throughout the program, two "roving reporters", Tracy Robertson and Vicki McPhee, both of Calgary Presbytery, interviewed the Candidates for Ordination and Admission to the Order of Ministry of The United Church of Canada:

Andrew Kinoti Lairenge, Candidate for Admission to the Order of Ministry of the United Church of Canada, from the Methodist Church in Kenya;

Esther Baerends, Candidate for Ordination, Yellowhead Presbytery;

Candace McNeill, Candidate for Ordination, Calgary Presbytery;

Justin McNeill, Candidate for Ordination, Calgary Presbytery; and

William Weaver, Candidate for Ordination, Calgary Presbytery.

A series of video presentations prepared by some of the Retirees served as "commercial breaks".

Paul Douglas Walfall, Conference President, concluded the program with a presentation of the "Evening News", expressing appreciation for the following:

the Planning Committee for the Mid-Triennium Event: Ruth Lumax, Red Deer Presbytery, and Ray Goodship, Foothills Presbytery, Co-Chairpersons; Leigh Sinclair, Past President; Bill Doyle, Conference Executive Secretary; Carolyn Woodall, St. Paul Presbytery; and Tammy Allan and Sue Hertell, both of Red Deer Presbytery, Local Arrangements;

the Theme Facilitator, Dianne Baker, of Emerging Wholeness, Winnipeg;

the members of *Joyful Noise*, musicians for the Mid-Triennium Event;

the Hosts for the evening program: Leigh Sinclair, Donalee Williams, Tracy Robertson, and Vicki McPhee, and the participants who provided the entertainment;

the Members of Alberta and Northwest Conference for the opportunity to serve as President; and the former Executive Secretary, Lynn Maki, the Conference Staff, and the current Executive Secretaries, Bill Doyle and Shannon McCarthy, for the support provided to Paul as President.

The evening concluded with a reminder from Paul Douglas Walfall that "God is with us, we are not alone", and with the singing of Bob Marley's "Redemption Song".

The President, Paul Douglas Walfall, gave the benediction.

SUNDAY, MAY 28, 2017

CELEBRATION OF MINISTRY SERVICE:

The Celebration of Ministry Service was held on Sunday, May 28, 2017, in the Centennial Suite of the Pomeroy Inn and Suites, Olds, Alberta.

The Call to Worship and welcome to the land of Treaty 7 were led by Tammy Allan, Ministry Personnel at Olds United Church, Red Deer Presbytery.

The music was led by the Mid-Triennium Event Music Team, *Joyful Noise*, and the Celebration of Ministry Choir.

The Processional included the Tammy Allan, Worship Leader; the Candidates and their guests; the Retirees and their partners; the Rev. Dr. Robert Fennell, Guest Preacher; the Rev. Bill Doyle, Executive Secretary, Dr. Kathryn Yamashita, President Elect; and the Rev. Paul Douglas Walfall, Conference President.

The Scripture, Genesis 7:11-20 and 8:1-5, was read by Chandra Gray.

The Gospel, Matthew 14:22-33, was read by Gilbert Baerends.

The Sermon, *Out of the Boat and into the Storm*, was given by the Rev. Dr. Robert C. Fennell, Associate Professor of Historical and Systematic Theology at the Atlantic School of Theology.

Paul Douglas Walfall, Conference President; Leigh Sinclair, Past President; and Bill Doyle, Executive Secretary; led a time of remembrance for those from this Conference who had died in the previous year, including:

the Reverends William Edward Burgess, Dr. Mina Gladys Pool, Harold Thomas Martin and Donal Roney Stewart;

Ruth Caroline McPhee, DM; and

Lay Members, Carol Dacyk, Dorothy Janice Sherwood, Donna Rae Zuk, Margaret Millie (Nicholl) Kinniburgh, Louise Patricia Horstman, John Harry Kuzyk, Beatrice Fredericks, and Ferne Dorothy Hickman.

As each name was read, a flower was placed in a vase as a symbol of their contributions to the life and work of Alberta and Northwest Conference.

The President, Paul Douglas Walfall, and the Executive Secretary, Bill Doyle, presented Retirement Certificates to James Allan, Susan Bowyer, Cecile Fausak, Alice Hanson, Margaret Lange, Alan Richards, and Brenda Watt. Retirees acknowledged, but not able to be present included Sally Boyle, Rita Cattell, Sharon Irving (2009), Donald Koots, Helena (Lyn) Lamers, Wayne Lewry, Hugh MacGregor, and Lynn Maki.

An Offering was collected and dedicated for the use of the Alberta and Northwest Conference Student Bursary Fund Society.

The Candidates for Ordination and Admission to the Order of Ministry of The United Church of Canada were introduced by Bill Doyle, Executive Secretary.

Sarah Fanning, Calgary Presbytery, was present on behalf of the Conference Education and Students Committee.

The Ordinations and Admission were conducted by the President, Paul Douglas Walfall, and the Executive Secretary, Bill Doyle.

Esther Johanna Baerends, Candace Eden McNeill, Justin Mackenzie McNeill and William Ryan Weaver were ordained to the Ministry of Word, Sacrament and Pastoral Care.

The Rev. Andrew Kinoti Lairenge was admitted to the Order of Ministry (Ordained) of The United Church of Canada.

A Bible was presented to each new minister by Margery Wright, Conference UCW President, on behalf of the Alberta and Northwest Conference United Church Women.

The President, Paul Douglas Walfall, and the Executive Secretary, Bill Doyle, presented each of the new Ministers with a certificate and symbolic gifts, on behalf of Alberta and Northwest Conference.

Dr. Kathryn Yamashita was installed as the President of Alberta and Northwest Conference. Paul Douglas Walfall presented the symbols of the Office of President of Alberta and Northwest Conference to the new President, including: the President's Stole, the Gavel, the Cane, and the President's Banner.

Leigh Sinclair, Past President, presented the Past President's Pin and certificate to Paul Douglas Walfall.

The Communion was presided over by the new Conference President, Kathryn Yamashita, and the Worship Leader, Tammy Allan, and was served by the new Ministers and the Retirees.

The Commissioning and Blessing were given by the new President, Kathryn Yamashita, to conclude the Celebration of Ministry Service.

A Reception was held following the Celebration of Ministry Service.

RISE OF CONFERENCE:

The closing of the Celebration of Ministry Service marked the Rise of Alberta and Northwest Conference, and the conclusion of the 2016-2017 Conference Year.

Paul Douglas Walfall,
President

Bill Doyle,
Executive Secretary