

THE MARITIME CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA
91ST CONFERENCE ANNUAL MEETING – May 26-29, 2016
DIGEST OF ACTIONS

- President Rev. Matthew Fillier presided over the 91st Annual Meeting of Maritime Conference. The theme was “Gathering Strength, Scattering Light” with a particular emphasis on the use of “Open Space Technology.”
- Ecumenical guests to the meeting were:
 - Mr. Rick Haddad, Anglican Diocese of Fredericton
 - Rev. Lisa Vaughn, Anglican Diocese of Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island
 - Rev. Jeffrey Lackie, The Presbyterian Synod of the Atlantic Provinces
 - Rev. Dr. Frank Guinta Jr., Convention of Atlantic Baptist Churches
 - Rev. Charles Broderick, Moncton Archdiocese
 - Rev. Deborah Blood, Maine Conference of the United Church of Christ.
- Rev. Michael Blair, Executive Minister of the Church in Mission General Council, The United Church and Canada represented the General Council Office.
- Rev. Neale Bennet, President, Atlantic School of Theology and Mr. Peter Hough, Chair of the Board of Tatamagouche Centre were present.
- Joe Michael, Sipekne’katik First Nation (Indian Brook), Coordinator of the Peace and Friendship Project at Tatamagouche Centre addressed the court. He presented an eagle feather to Matthew Fillier, President. Matthew Fillier shared The 1986 Apology to First Nations Peoples and Joe Michael shared The 1988 Response.
- Reports from all of the Committees of Conference were received, and most were approved in written form. Conference heard reports from Church in Action, Nominations, and Ministry Personnel and Education.
- Jane Johnson, Staff Committee, thanked and introduced the Maritime Conference staff. Lorraine Horyl and Sarah Wallace were celebrated for their years of service at Maritime Conference Office, 25 and 5 years respectively. A new portraits frame of Conference Archivists was unveiled. This will be added to the gallery of portraits on display in the Conference Office.
- Sean Handcock and Pauline Walker reported on behalf of the General Council Executive and invited Michael Blair to address the court.
- Worship throughout the meeting was planned by Ivan Gregan, Mary White and Ian Harrison.
- Opening worship on Thursday evening included a time of remembrance. Those specifically remembered were Rev. Alastair Scott Anderson, Rev. Russell Burns, Mr. Douglas Dougherty, Mr. Stephen Fairweather, Mr. Eldon Archibald Gunn, Ms. “Nan”

Annie V. MacDonald, Rev. Jackie (John Charles) MacDonald, Mr. James Ian MacDonald, Rev. George MacLean, Rev. Everett “Wayne” Mitton, Rev. Eugene Victor Moriarty, Mr. Roland “George” Routledge, Ms. Wendy Topolski, Mr. John Thomas Hilgrove “Peter” Trott, Mr. Ralph Bradford Welch, and Rev. Dr. Norman Whitney.

- Roger Janes, Stewardship and Gifts Officer, The United Church of Canada addressed the court.
- Shirley Cleave was acclaimed as the alternate lay representative to the General Council Executive. Ivan Gregan was elected as the alternate ministry personnel representative to the General Council Executive.
- Richard Bowley was acclaimed as President-Designate.
- Ross Bartlett facilitated an educational process on Remits.
- The Conference budget for 2017 was adopted with:
 - expenditures of \$1,248,481.90
 - revenues other than Allocations of \$313,522.00
 - allocations to synod/presbyteries totaling \$934,365.99
 - a cash reserve of \$25,000 as a hedge against the projected total loss by 2018 of the General Council operating grant of approximately \$194,000.
- Proposal 1 from Valley Presbytery to cut the Conference budget by 25% was defeated.
- Proposal 2 from PEI Presbytery regarding Syrian Refugee Sponsorship was approved.
- Proposal 3 from Open Space to create a Mental Health working group of the Church in Action Committee was approved.
- Conference celebrated the ministries of Retirees Keith M. Adams, J. David Brewer, Katherine L. Clowater, Sylvia M. Fitzgerald, K. Ruth Gamble, William J. Gibson, Mark C. Hatfield, Elizabeth A. Stevenson, and Ross G. Wiseman. Conference also recognized Jubilarians:
 - 50 Years – James G. Crooks, James W. Forbes, R. Diane L. MacVicar, Norman C. Marple, Duncan E. Roach
 - 55 Years – Carman G. Burns, G. Boyd Butt, David H. Hamilton, Neil F. MacDonald, Ian F. MacLean, Kenley M. MacNeill, S. Elroy McKillop, H. Martin Rumscheidt
 - 60 Years – Waldo G. C. Elliott, Robert H. Mills, Douglas L. MacEachern, George A. Mossman, Donald F. Murray, Lester M. Settle
 - 65 Years – Nathan H. Mair, Edward P. Thompson
 - 70 Years – G. Earl Leard
 - 75 Years – W. Lawrence Randall

- Frank Guinta, on behalf of the ecumenical guests, reflected on their time at this meeting.
- The 92nd Annual Meeting of the Maritime Conference will be in Sackville, New Brunswick May 25-28, 2017.
- Proposed dates for the future conference annual meetings are May 24-27, 2018 and May 23-26, 2019.
- Youth Forum and Intermediates at Conference led worship with energy and enthusiasm.
- The 91st Maritime Conference Annual Meeting concluded in worship during which Stephen Andrew Brown, Alicia Cox, Heather Ferrier, Lesley Anne Hamilton, Keith MacPherson, Karen Ross, and Darin J. MacKinnon (on behalf of Bay of Quinte Conference) were ordained, and Rev. Carol Smith was admitted.
- Rev. Catherine Stuart, President-Elect, was installed as President of the 92nd Maritime Conference.

The full package of materials for the 91st Maritime Conference Annual Meeting can be found online at www.marconf.ca.