



# GENERAL COUNCIL NEWS

Kelowna, British Columbia

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## BARTLETT, LANDELL NOMINATED FOR MODERATOR

by Jim Cairney

Two additional candidates have been nominated for the position of Moderator of the United Church. On August 9 the 40th General Council received the names of the Rev. Dr. Ross Bartlett and the Rev. Maya Landell.



The United Church of Canada

Bartlett serves St. Matthew's United Church in Halifax, Nova Scotia. He is a former President of Maritime Conference. Landell is a minister serving the Innerkip-Eastwood Pastoral Charge in Oxford County, Ontario. She is the President-Elect of London Conference.

There are now a total of eight nominees for Moderator. Nominations close just before noon on August 10 and the election will be August 14.

Bartlett has a Th.D. in church history from Toronto School of Theology and a D.Min. from Princeton Theological Seminary. But he says his "real education" came from a six-point charge in Nova Scotia, multi-point charges in the Bay of Quinte and Toronto Conferences, a presbytery appointment in rural Hamilton Conference, and serving at St. Andrew's-By-The-Lake in Kingston, Ontario.

He has enjoyed an exchange with the Uniting Church in Australia and visits to mission partners

in Brazil. Bartlett has spent several years on the national Theology and Faith Committee, participating in many projects, including the statement on "The Authority and Interpretation of Scripture."



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The child of two United Church ministers, Landell is married to Adam Hanley. They make their home in Woodstock, Ontario. A graduate of Emmanuel College, Toronto, Landell was the Director of Pearce Williams United Church Christian Centre for five years, and has a

Certificate in Youth Ministry from Princeton Theological Seminary.

She has also worked at the Naramata Centre as Program Resource staff for several summers and for a sabbatical term on the management team as Program Director.



## DANCERS, POTTERS ENHANCE WORSHIP

by Jeff Cook

The United Church's 40th General Council went down to the potter's house during opening worship August 9. Flanked by two potters shaping

bowls on potter's wheels, the Rt. Rev. David Giuliano preached about lessons the church can learn from potters.

He reminded worshippers that the theme of this Council is "down to the potter's house," based on the 18th chapter of Jeremiah. Stones have to be removed from the clay before you can work with it, the Moderator told commissioners and visitors to the 40th General Council.

"The stones get in the way of shaping the pot," he said. "We need to be aware of the rocks, of the hard places in our hearts." Giuliano said commissioners might have to temporarily set aside assumptions and ideas that "interfere with the shaping the Creator is trying to do with us."

He described the next stage of pottery making, called wedging, in which the ball of clay is continuously pounded "to soften the memory of the clay." He said clay "remembers" its original shape, so the potter has to help the clay "let go" of that memory.

"Most often institutions are very attached to the memory of who they are already," Giuliano said, "but the memory of who we are may interfere with the call to become who God is calling us to be."

Finally, the clay must be centred on the wheel. Giuliano said the church must be centred in the gospel of Jesus Christ and in who we are as the United Church in the body of Jesus Christ.

"God invites us into a creative act, a constant act of recreation," he said as potter Daryl Auten finished creating three large bowls to one side of Giuliano while Catherine Auten finished creating four smaller



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*Daryl Auten creates a bowl during opening worship.*

bowls on the other side of the stage.

The worship service began with drumming by the Vernon Immersion School Singers. Sarah Wyatt and Ha'eis Clare Hill from the Council's Worship Committee led in a litany of the four directions. Worshippers faced in the four compass directions as symbolic candles were lit.

Four dancers dressed in earth tones interpreted the image of the potter. Circling, alternately moving together, and then moving outward from a centre point, the dancers depicted the stages of clay being moulded and shaped.

"We are clay, complex and beautiful," said Eric Hamlyn, introducing the interpretative dance. "We are simple in form, yet beautiful in potential, willing to be shaped by a loving Creator."

The diversity of the United Church was expressed throughout the service. Scriptures were read in several languages, including Filipino, Cree, Portuguese, and Japanese. All hymns were sung in French and English.

Members of the Youth Forum served communion at stations located around the gym at the University of British Columbia Okanagan in Kelowna, British Columbia, where the Council is meeting.

Members from nearby United Churches filled the visitors' gallery, joining in the opening worship.



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*Drumming by Vernon Immersion School Singers.*

# LE 40<sup>E</sup> CONSEIL GÉNÉRAL DE L'ÉGLISE UNIE EST LANCÉ !

par David Fines

C'est par un culte d'ouverture haut en couleurs, en images et en symbolique que s'est ouvert le 40<sup>e</sup> Conseil général de L'Église Unie du Canada. Rappelons que c'est dans la ville de Kelowna, sur les terrains du très beau campus d'Okanagan de l'Université de la Colombie-Britannique que se tient cette Assemblée du Conseil général, la plus haute instance décisionnelle de L'Église unie qui se réunit tous les trois ans et rassemble près de 400 délégués laïques et pasteur-es de tous les coins de L'Église. À ce chiffre il faut ajouter 300 autres personnes : invités œcuméniques, observateurs, membres du personnel, bénévoles ainsi que les participants au programme des jeunes et à celui des enfants.

Le culte, qui avait lieu dans un gymnase tout décoré des 450 « drapeaux-prières » envoyés d'autant de paroisses de L'Église unie, a débuté par la très touchante présentation d'un chœur d'enfants autochtones qui ont chanté la bienvenue tout en s'accompagnant aux tambours ; puis a suivi une prière aux quatre directions.

Chaque élément de ce culte d'ouverture était inspiré du récit qui sert de thème à tout le Conseil général, celui que l'on trouve au chapitre 18 du livre de Jérémie alors que le prophète doit se rendre, en fait « descendre », sur l'ordre de Dieu, chez le potier : une danse liturgique mimera le fait d'être façonné par Dieu, et le verset : *Va, et descends chez le potier : c'est là que je te ferai entendre mes paroles*, sera lu en une dizaine de langues du japonais au portugais et du chinois au tagalog. L'assemblée a même eu droit à une démonstration de poterie sur scène alors que deux artisans ont façonné leurs briques d'argile sur leur tour en diverses vasques et vases durant la prédication offerte par le modérateur David Giuliano !

Tout en soulignant que c'est sous les mains habiles du potier qu'un tas d'argile informe se métamorphose en divers objets d'art ou utilitaires, ce dernier a insisté que se faire remodeler est pénible, que cet acte de transformation, de re-création que Dieu veut effectuer sur l'Église unie ne peut se

vivre sans peine. Plus tard dans la journée, à la fin de la présentation de son propre rapport, le modérateur recevra une ovation debout de la part de toute l'assemblée afin de lui manifester sa grande appréciation pour trois années de leadership exceptionnel.

Enfin, on ne peut passer sous silence la présence significative des jeunes durant ce culte notamment par l'animation musicale très dynamique du groupe *rEvolve* (qui a incorporé au moins un verset en français dans chacun des chants) et celle des enfants qui ont très joliment servi la communion.

Ce Conseil général, qui se déroulera jusqu'au 16 août, se veut le plus vert de l'histoire avec une utilisation réduite de papier, de vaisselle jetable et d'énergie, ainsi qu'un programme de récupération. Huit personnes ont posé leur candidature au poste de modérateur dont l'élection se fera dans quelques jours. Parmi les principaux rapports qui y seront étudiés, en plus des 173 propositions, soulignons l'*État de l'Église* qui dresse un portrait démographique et financier de L'Église et l'*Appel à être l'Église*, une réflexion sur une vision ce que pourrait devenir L'Église unie, de même qu'*Une Vision pour les ministères en français dans L'Église Unie du Canada*, dont nous reparlerons très bientôt.



## MODERATOR REPORTS TO GENERAL COUNCIL

by Derek Carlisle

The sustained applause marked a unique achievement for a United Church Moderator.

In what he called a first, the Rt. Rev. David Giuliano said that he was probably the first Moderator to receive a standing ovation simply for being alive at the end of his term.

The Moderator's report to commissioners at the 40th General Council in Kelowna, British Columbia, touched on his initial hopes for the position, fol-

lowed by what he termed a blessing of unwelcome blessings.

“When I was elected, well for one thing I had hair. Shortly afterwards, I discovered I had cancer and began to understand what it means when it says that the coming of the Holy One comes like a thief in the night and robs us while we are sleeping.”

Using other modern-day analogies, the Moderator described different unwelcome blessings and said it was through this lens that he had tried to speak to the church during his term. “I wished that I could have been among you as one with great power of some kind. I believe I was called among you in order to model what it means to be broken and fragile and to love God in that.”

The Moderator said the image of the risen and wounded Christ had become very important to him. He described the reaction to doubting Thomas with regards to Christ’s resurrection. In addition to telling Thomas and the disciples that he would be resurrected, Thomas was present when Lazarus was raised from the dead. Despite all the advance notice, Thomas eventually doubted the resurrection of Jesus until he could see the wounds.

“I think we have been a church that has had difficulties with the idea that the body of Christ, and we as part of it, could be both resurrected and wounded. I feel as though that is what I have been called to share.”

The Moderator expressed thanks to the General Council Executive during his term and called its members a “skilled and spiritually wise group of people.” Also singled out were members of the Moderator’s Advisory Committee and General Secretary Nora Sanders.

“I don’t know how I did, but I did my best. I feel peaceful and very grateful for those of you who helped me in prayer when I was ill. I’m feeling good, so your prayers and mine have been answered.”

The Rev. Karen Hamilton from Toronto Conference spoke of the tremendous support the Moderator had given to the Canadian Council of Churches.

“Your commitment to the annual retreat hosted by the Canadian Council of Churches was exemplary....Through the valley of the shadow in which you walked, you were committed to that witness to ecumenism and shared your vulnerabilities and for this I thank you very, very much.”

## Welcome To *General Council News*

*General Council News* is being posted daily on The United Church of Canada’s 40th General Council website [gc40.united-church.ca](http://gc40.united-church.ca), and sent as an e-newsletter to individuals, congregations, and news media that have requested it.

Each day a single printed copy will also be delivered to all table groups for commissioners to share. The final edition of *General Council News* will be available online within 24 hours of the closing of General Council on Saturday, August 15.

*General Council News* reporters will be covering the highlights and significant happenings of the 40th General Council, rather than recording everything that happens each day. All General Council News stories may be reproduced freely.

*General Council News* is prepared by the following General Council staff and volunteer writers:

**Reporters:** Jim Cairney, Derek Carlisle, Jeff Cook, David Fines

**Editor:** Rebekah Chevalier

**Designer:** Christopher Dumas

**Photographer:** Dan Benson

**Online edition:** Bill Gillard

**Video Producer:** Kate Rodd

**Video Reporter:** Royal Orr

**Editorial Oversight:** Dan Benson, Bruce Gregersen, Pierre Goldberger

**Newsroom Manager:** Mary-Frances Denis

