

Northern Lights

Regional Synod of Canada Inc., RCA

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Regional Synod of Canada elects new President

- Mrs. Laurie Heron -

At the recent Annual General Meeting in Hamilton, Mrs. Laurie Heron, Powell River Reformed church of the Classis of British Columbia became our first female president.

Laurie was born in England of Scottish parents and was blessed to have been brought up in a Christian family that worshiped in the Scottish Presbyterian tradition.

She was fourteen when she made her public declaration of faith. After studying to be a nurse Laurie was called to serve as a missionary with the London Missionary Society. She was sent to Northern Rhodesia – now known as Zambia. There she worked in a leprosy settlement not far from Lake Tanganyika.

While in Zambia she met and married a Canadian, Michael Heron, who was working with CUSO. She then immigrated to Canada after returning to England where her husband taught for a year. Laurie and her husband have 4 children and 8 grandchildren. She decided not to return to full time work but continued serving God through the church teaching Sunday School, Youth groups, conducting bible studies and working with women's groups. She

also became an elder in the United Church of Canada. While with the United Church she was ordained as a staff associate and worked in Pastoral Care.

Shortly after moving to Powell River, a large group of worshipers left the local church, when the Presbytery denied the Lordship of Jesus and the authority of scripture. Fifteen years ago this group made a decision to form a new church and became part of the Reformed Church of America. Laurie was ordained as a lay pastor in the RCA and continued her work in pastoral care.

She was Chair of the Powell River consistory when the church was without an employed pastor. She was appointed a representative of BC Classis to the RSC and last year was elected vice-president of the Regional Synod of Canada.

Laurie says her faith has been her strength throughout her life. Both her parents died of cancer when she was a teenager and she lost a son at birth. "I have learned to depend on the Lord. My favourite scripture passage is Romans 8: 31-37."

"At the Mega-Shift Conference held in May of this year I questioned God as I felt overwhelmed by where he was leading me. I felt most inadequate to perhaps assume the leadership role that many suggested I should. The next morning the scripture reading from Words of Hope was Genesis 16:1-10,

entitled "God overcomes Human Shortcomings". Then I read the following from Oswald Chambers' Daily Devotional:"

"If Jesus ever gave us a command He could not enable us to fulfill, He would be a liar; and if we make our inability a barrier to obedience, it means we are telling God there is something He has not taken into account. Every element of self-reliance must be slain by the power of God. Complete weakness and dependence will always be the occasion for the Spirit of God to manifest His power."

Laurie goes on to say that, "We are stepping out in faith depending completely on God's Grace as the Regional Synod of Canada. There is a sense of excitement in our Canadian Churches as we feel the Spirit calling us to reach out to those people around who so desperately need God's transforming love in their lives. We are a large Synod geographically, although small in numbers. It is my prayer that in this next year we can get to know each other better, and experience being part of the family of God as the Regional Synod of Canada. We can, and will work together for God's glory."

Laurie Heron assumed her new office immediately after the Annual General Meeting.

Donation Reminders

If you are making a donation to the Reformed Church in America for:

- full time missionaries
- short term missionaries
- RCA mission programs
- Reformed Church World Service
- emergency relief programs
- RCA Seminaries or colleges
- Words of Hope
- any other RCA approved program

You can do so, either through your church or the Regional Synod of Canada Inc.

The Regional Synod of Canada Inc.

will send their income tax receipts in January of the next year.

Canada Revenue Agency requires all money going to charitable organizations outside of Canada to be recorded by a CRA approved charitable organization with an agency agreement with them.

The Regional Synod of Canada Inc. has such an agreement and all donations either private or from our churches are sent through our office and recorded according to CRA's requirements.

Please do NOT send the money directly to the USA. These cheques have to be returned to the Synod Office for proper processing.

Our Vision for every church

Hurts being healed, the lost being found, the hungry being fed, peace-healing brokenness, hope replacing despair, lives transformed by the love of Jesus Christ.



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