

Greetings from Dr. HC Wilson, National Superintendent, The Wesleyan Church of Canada:

As you may recall, the North American General Conference of our church, meeting in 2016 elevated the status of The Wesleyan Church of Canada (TWCC). We were granted standing as an Established National Conference, which simply means that we have grown, matured and developed as a church. This eventually leads to the possibility of being advanced further to become a full General Conference—shoulder to shoulder with the other global Wesleyan General Conferences.

We continue to be a part of the worldwide family of The Wesleyan Church and an integral unit in the North American General Conference. It is rather like a teenager who has matured to the point of having a set of keys to the family car while still living in the parents' home.

I was appointed to a two-year term as part-time National Superintendent (NS) of TWCC by the General Superintendent serving at that time, Dr. Jo Anne Lyon. That term is now expiring and a very positive go-forward plan has come together.

The work and direction of TWCC is under the guidance of the NS and, in addition to the NS, an additional eight people who form the National Board. Of these persons, four come from each of the Canadian districts, including both District Superintendents.

There have been earlier iterations of the transition plan that were adopted which have now been replaced by the unanimous action of the National Board at a meeting just a few days ago. The items following outline the actions of your National Board from its meeting of June 8 and 9.

After weighing all options there was general agreement that a 2019 vs. 2018 National Conference would allow the new National Superintendent to unwrap a compelling national vision and to do so at a strategic location (perhaps in Quebec). However, deferring the first National Conference until 2019 would present some logistical issues. These were discussed thoroughly resulting in the following voted action:

- 1) That the first National Conference shall occur in 2019;
- 2) That the National Board shall appoint a National Superintendent to fill the vacancy created at Dr. Wilson's retirement, with the understanding that this will preferably occur during the summer of this year with a target date of August 1st;
- 3) That both of the 2018 District Conferences shall be requested to ratify the National Board's action to appoint a National Superintendent to a four-year term, with the understanding that the aggregate vote of the two Districts shall determine support for the appointment;
- 4) That the initial term of the appointed National Superintendent shall be a four-year term to expire at the rise of the second National Conference in 2022, thus not requiring an election of the National Superintendent at the 2019 National Conference;
- 5) That the second National Conference shall occur in 2022 in order to establish a mid-quadrennium rhythm with the North American General Conference as an ongoing model;
- 6) That subsequent National Conferences shall occur at four-year intervals per the proposed governing documents.

Your National Board had requested potential nominees for the National Superintendent position from both District Boards of Administration as well as from National Board members themselves. This process resulted in 10 names emerging and the top two nominees being interviewed in person by the full National Board.

As a result of that process, I am pleased to formally announce that Dr. Stephen Elliott has been selected and appointed to be our next National Superintendent, which continues to be a part-time appointment. He has accepted, and his service will become official subject to the affirming vote of the 2018 district conferences and the arranging of necessary transition details.

Once affirmed, Dr. Elliott and I will work together to implement the logistics of this rather unique transition. The NS role continues to be a part-time ministry position presently and Dr. Elliott will continue to serve as a professor at Kingswood University (but move to part-time there as well).

I plan to be at both 2018 district conferences and will be available for questions and follow up at that time.

Onward and upward! He is risen!

H C Wilson, National Superintendent, The Wesleyan Church of Canada