

Opening Worship: General Council 42 Corner Brook

Saturday August 8, 2015: 7:00pm

Theme: BE HERE NOW – SOIS ICI MAINTENANT

Gathering Music – 5-10 mins

Commissioners are all Seated at their table groups, communion stuff on the tables already

Video of Youth Pilgrimage – 3 mins

MV 8 - And On This Path

Processional

Each group brings in a banner in one of the M&S colours - Titles on screen in French/English

- 1. Representatives of the Aboriginal Ministries Council & local First Nations People**
 - bringing light/fire - **RED**
- 2. All Youth**
 - bringing their prayer rocks add to the cairn – invited to wear GC42 Hoodies - **BLUE**
- 3. Global Partners**
 - bringing in Water for the Font – water - **ORANGE**
- 4. Business Committee**
 - bringing in elements to set the table – bible, cross, gavel, manual, - **GREEN**
- 5. Moderator, General Secretary & Dignitaries (Phyllis Buchner NUCW – prayer shawl)**
 - seated on stage – bring in communion elements - **PURPLE**
- 6. Local Arrangements Team**
 - bring forward baskets of prayer fish - **YELLOW**

Body Prayer

“Be Here Now” – “Sois Ici Maintenant” - Maya with others doing actions

Constitution Of The Court (in place of the Call to Worship)

Acknowledgement of Land - Moderator (live feed)

Moderator: Since time immemorial First Peoples lives and spirituality have been deeply connected to this land known as Ktaqmkuk to the Mi'kmaq peoples. We acknowledge the Qalipu Mi'kmaq First Nation whose territory we visit. We acknowledge and give thanks for their stewardship. And, we give thanks for their welcome. May we live with respect and gratitude on this land.

Ktaqmkuk pronunciation -> TA-HUM-GOOK

Ktaqmkuk is the Mi'kmaq word for Newfoundland.

Drumbeat begins

MV 160 – There’s a River of Life –

blue material weaved through the crowd as we sing by 4-6 youth and placed at the base of font.

Introductions & Welcomes *(band plays music as people are transitioning to & from mic)*
(live feed)

1. **Vice Chief Keith** - 10min - *singing of Amazing Grace in his language*
2. **Corner Brook Mayor** – Charles Pender
3. **Vice-Chancellor of Memorial University, Grenfell Campus** - 3min
4. **Newfoundland Welcome** - 15 min
 - *GC42 Planning Committee & Host Conference Welcome*

VU 675 - Will Your Anchor Hold

Verses 1 & 2

*Table Group Time *(Etienne asking in French first and then in English)*

Project question in English and French: I wonder who you are, where you live, and how was the journey here?

VU 675 - Will Your Anchor Hold

Verses 3 & 4

Permission Granting

Danielle Ayana James & Eric Hamlyn – Project words: Safe Space

We have come from many places, and we may have different ideas of what it means to be in community together. Spirit is moving in this space and in this community. With Christ, we are co-creating sacred space together, and we hope to do this with respect, honesty, humility—and through God’s grace there is room for all.

Building a safe and strong community is hard work, with all this newness we all will feel a little uncomfortable; even awkward.

For example: Some of us are anxious about meeting new people; some of us would love to have conversations with each person in this room. Some of us would love to greet each other with hugs and kisses; some of us want to keep our distance. demo - passing peace

As we work together to build this community we recognize that some of us speak English fluently, some of us speak multiple languages, and some of us speak very little English at all.

There will be times where some of us may feel that we are using too much of one particular language; some of us might feel that we are not using enough of a particular language - **AWKWARD & uncomfortable** - remember it’s an invitation: demo would be trying speaking in a language

neither of you know - saying hello * inviting them to try

Some of us can't sit still, some of us love to dance; some of us - demo - band
- song - movement and another language WOW!

Living into safe intercultural space is so much more than language: Some of us feel most comfortable when God is named as Mother or Spirit; some feel most comfortable when God is named Father or Lord. Some of us have binary notions of gender being male and female; some of us understand gender identity to be much more fluid and dynamic. Some of us will always wait for other people to finish speak; some of us will always want to speak first, or to interrupt. Some of us may feel that our theology is labelled as conservative, some of might feel that our theology is labelled as post-Christian.

We have come with many different ideas, assumptions, expectations, and theologies. As we come into this space, it is our prayer that we will offer one another grace and patience as we seek to live in a diverse community together for these next few days. And we pray that we might be able to do it with respect together. demo - hold and hands and make eye contact, then let go of hands and move us each committing to be part of this safe space God is calling us to - Take O Take me as I Am with actions.

MV 85 - Take O Take Me As I Am

English and French

Covenanting

Project Question: I Wonder how we are going to be together?

Be Love	Amour	Kanoronhkwáhtshera	gesaluet
Be Wise	Sagesse	Kanikonrowahnhátshera	ne'tata'suaqan
Be Respect	Respect	Kakwenien'stáhtshera	gepmite'lmatl
Be Humble	Humilité	Aionhñitènte	Wanqwajite'teken
Be Truth	Vérité	Orihwiiohónhwe	gi'wajiaq
Be Honest	Honnêteté	Iahkorihwahkwarihshiónshera	gegnuimatl
Be Brave	Courage	Kanikonhrahtsanítshera	melgita't

*Table Group Time

– adding words to covenant around the table – Project Question in English and French – “I Wonder what you might need to add to the covenant so people at your table know your needs?”

Musical Offering (live feed)

The New Creed - written and sung by Andrew Aitchison & music team

Scripture (languages to be projected will be in another document, 1st reading in French)
1 Corinthians 16:13 - **Keep alert, stand firm in your faith, be courageous, be strong.**

Preaching (Please show the ice berg photo I sent you here then live feed)
Theme - Welcome to the Rock - Brave - Faith M-M – 5-7min

(slide let us pray)

Prayer *written by Rev. Lauren Hodgson*

Holy One, you call us to be brave,
to stand up in the face of injustice,
to speak out, when a loud voice is what's needed.
In this moment, you present us with so many opportunities to be brave.
And yet, you call us to be tender – open to listen to the voice of all others,
and open to moments of profound transformation and true reconciliation.
So, we take a deep breath, in and out, connecting with you,
Our Source, Inspiring Spirit, wind of change,
We ask you to make us brave, and keep us tender. Bless us anew in this time together,
For, we know, that surely you are here.
We pray this in the name of Jesus, Your Mystery, Your Wisdom, Your Breath of Life.
Amen

Invitation to the Offering: Holy One, we do this work

VU 382 Breath On Me Breath of God – English and French

Dedication of the Offering:

We Remember Liturgy (One person from each group of processional will speak,
French up and english read, back and forth)

One: As we come to this table that is Christ's heart, We remember.
We remember and create space in our hearts for those we love who
have died in body but are truly with us in spirit. We make space at our
tables this day for the incredible cloud of witnesses (slide of a heart)

Friends, We Remember - Response: We Remember (*English & French*)
One: We remember those who have served the church and General
Council who have died. We are grateful for their ministries; for the
leadership they have provided throughout the years. We make space at
the table to honour those whose love has helped to build our church.
(slide of the UC crest)
We Remember
Response: We Remember

One: We remember churches and faith communities who have closed in the past triennium. There is space here at Christ's table for tears and joys, as memories of previous celebrations and community abound.

We Remember

Response: We Remember (*English & French*)

(slide of a community)

One: We remember that here "On the Rock", we are surrounded in all directions by water and the life within it. We remember those who work upon the sea. We celebrate the sustenance and courage they have brought to Christ's table. We remember those who have died at sea.

(Slide of the sea, maybe with a boat)

We Remember - Response: We Remember. (*French & English*)

One: We Remember - Response: We Remember. (*French & English*)

One: We remember the struggles of First Peoples who shared their grace, laughter, spirit, and great love for the land. We create space for the grief that remains at this table – in particular we acknowledge the Beothuk peoples. We remember them, as this land remembers them. We acknowledge the role our ancestors played in their abandonment and betrayal. (*pause*) We welcome the spirit of the Beothuk peoples to this space, which is in fact their space. We create space for their wisdom and hospitality. And so we honour as we remember that there is ample space for apology and forgiveness in action at this table. We remember.

(slide of heart garden photo attached for this)

Response: We Remember (*English & French & Beothuk language?*)

One: Friends, during this time of remembering – this time of gratitude and sorrow. We remember the One who has called us to this table at this time and place. We remember what we have needed to let go of, in order to Be Here Now. Rememberings that call us as God's people to "Be Brave!" We remember.

Response: We Remember (*French & English*)

* Table Group Time

I wonder what you are leaving behind in order to be on this journey?

Communion

Great Thanksgiving (band calls us back with Kingsfold funk'd up)

(live feed, when not projecting songs)

***We Remember O God,
You are always with us,
You have always been with us.
You have promised never to leave us nor forsake us
We Remember and giving thanks
For your goodness to all creation.***

Silence (prayer bells rung at the beginning and end of the silence)

We Remember and Affirm by Singing Together: MV#203 – Sanctus and Benedictus

***We remember the teachings of Jesus and the call of the disciples.
We remember how he shared his life and the promise of God’s hope with us.***

Silence (prayer bells rung at the beginning and end of the silence)

Sing: MV#204 – Memorial Acclamation

***Send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts, so we may know
the heart of Christ and remember your call to journey together in peace.***

Silence (prayer bells rung at the beginning and end of the silence)

Sing: MV#205 – Amen

Words of Institution: Moderator & Preacher at the table

***We Remember
Jesus took the bread. When he had given thanks, he broke it and said:
“This is my body that is given for you”.
We Remember
After supper, he took the cup and said:
“This cup is the new covenant in my blood.” Eat, drink, remember.
We approach the feast that draws us together in wonder, awe and gratitude.***

The Meal is Shared:

*The bread and cup are shared around the tables. Open up the bags, pour grape juice into the cup provided, take a piece of bread or rice cracker, dip it in the cup, and share with your neighbour.
“Bread of Life, Cup of Blessing”*

SING: MV#202 Bread for the Journey

Words of Reflection:

***Savouring this time of communion with God and with one another we give thanks in
silence.***

Silence (prayer bells rung at the beginning and the end)

Prayer After Communion:

***Grounded in your presence, nourished at your table, we are strengthened for our living.
You are blessing. We are blest.*** (modified version from Bob Root, Mark St UC (Peterborough, On))

Lord's Prayer *said out loud in the language of your heart*

VU 642 - Be Thou My Vision

Blessing and Benediction (live feed, not sure who yet)

Postlude: Brave

Video of Sara Bareilles - Brave

Keep Alert, Stand Firm in Your Faith, Be Courageous, Be Strong!
“Let all that you do be done in Love”

Last May my 13-year-old daughter Emily and I took a trip together to Florida to see her sister Jody play in a Basketball Tournament. As with any trip of course half of the fun is preparing for the anticipated destination. Part of the preparation was entering into the GPS all of the addresses of the places we were going to visit and most importantly the address of the place we would be calling home for the next 10 days. Emily was named the navigator and me of course the driver. We would make sure Emily knew how to be a good navigator. To give her mom plenty of notice so there would not have to be any sharp or missed turns. So wanting to do her job well and in anticipation of being in a different country where the land and scenery and roads were totally unfamiliar, we decided to have a few practice runs before leaving home. Practice makes perfect! Off we went on our adventure. We landed in Orlando, got our luggage, picked up our rental car, got out of the parking garage turned on the GPS and started on our way to our lodging, which was approximately an hour from the airport. We are driving along and feeling pretty proud of ourselves, we got this mom, says Emily. About 40 minutes into the drive, Emily says, “Mom, the GPS just crapped out?” “What does that mean?” I asked her. “Well, It’s showing our car in the middle of a field, just kinda floating around, like there are no roads.” “There has to be roads Emily we are driving on one. Emily looks at me with her big eyes and her very expressive face and says, “ Ya, Ah, Sorry Mom you’re on your own, I got nothin.”

At that point my thoughts began to race, ok , I don’t even have a road map, I should have done what I did for years and got out a road map and traced the route with a marker so I knew exactly where I was going. I knew I shouldn’t have depended on this weird technology that somehow can see where you are, where you are going and tell you how to get there. It’s going to be dark soon and we can’t be lost here. What if we have to get out of the safety of the car and ask someone to help us, how frightening would that be? As all of this was going through my mind Emily was just calmly sitting in her seat, knowing that her mom the one that always looks after things would figure it out.

So I said to Emily, ok we need to be very alert now and watch the road signs, We know the name of the community where we are going so we need to be diligent and watch for the signs for Mount Dora, once we find it we can stop and ask for help. We did and we found our way.

Life doesn't always give us road maps; there are times when we are thrust into situations in which we have no GPS, to tell us the way. The early church certainly did not have a GPS. As we heard in the scripture reading we were hearing about another group of people, those in Corinth, the Early Church who were also trying to make their way without a road map or a GPS to guide them. Paul through his letter to the Corinthians was not laying out doctrinal prescriptions but rather ethical and Practical ways to be the church. In the early 1920'S, we met another group of people trying to do the same thing as they deliberated about who and what this United Church would be. Here in this province was another group of people trying to decide what the church was called to be, we were not even part of Canada when we became part of the United Church. The churches here in the province who were mostly Methodist voted a resounding no for union, but when they learned about the vote from Canada, they decided that they would be in solidarity with their bothers and sisters in Canada and so became part of the United Church of Canada with our own Act of Parliament, 24 years before becoming Canadians. What a bold act of faith. All throughout the ages we have been called to act boldly, to discern what is it we are called to be as a church. Again this is one of those times, when we find ourselves trying to discern who we are to be as a church. We could just say I suppose, the church has crapped out, we are floating in a field and have no sense of direction we are on our own, we got nothin and just walk away. Or we can be like those who have come before us, understanding that we are the people who are called to help find the way, and I believe we do know who we want to be as a church we have always known, we have been that church, it's the Faith we have demonstrated, it's the courage and the strength that has been ours from the very first bold steps in the early dawn of this United Church and we will still be that church.

And guess what, we do have the road map. I know it, and so do you, because it has been written on our hearts. Come on you can help me,
We believe in God
We are called to be the church,

To celebrate God Presence,
To Love and serve others,
To seek justice and resist evil
To proclaim Jesus, Crucified and Risen,
Our Just and our Hope.

That's our road map. From the tiniest out port church to the biggest urban congregation.

What Paul told the people of Corinth is probably the exact same advice we need right now.

Keep Alert, know what you are looking for, know what you are to be about, be alert to the mission and ministry of Jesus, Stand Firm in your Faith, know where your faith is grounded, know that it is through faith that we find our way, Be Courageous, Be Strong!

We are here today at the beginning of this 42nd General Council and we are alert, we are steadfast in our Faith, we are courageous and strong and we are humble enough to pray for God's guidance as we manoeuvre our way through the field.

We do not have to ask God to be with us this week, God is here, God has always been here. God will always be here.

Aunt Lydia from Hants Harbour knew that. Hants Harbour is a small fishing village on Newfoundland's East Coast. In 1868 it was a community of 700 people That summer the whole community was in deep poverty and despair because the cod fishery was a complete failure. Two-thirds of the fishing season had passed and not a fish was caught to be drying on the flakes. At early dawn, day after day the weary fishers would row out to the fishing ground and in the evening returned with empty boats. The flour Barrels were low and there would not be enough food to get through the winter if there was no fish in the summer. At the end of the Sunday service, Pastor Fox announced that on the following Wednesday night, there would be a prayer service for the community. On the appointed night it is said the church was packed to the doors and people stood outside. The Pastor said that the prayer meeting was devoted to one petition – God's Mercy.

He asked Lydia to pray. Sister Lydia was a school Teacher by training; she had married a young fisherman and was now the Mother of a large family. Her family like all the rest in Hants Harbour had no food. She

was known in the community for her Faith, and her courage. The following is a part of her prayer:

Lord Jesus, when they people were in the storm of the Sea of Galilee and almost overwhelmed with the waves. Thou didst come to their help, walking over the waters and treading down the swelling bellows and then, the winds were hushed and there was a great calm. We are now in stormy waters. The billows of fear and despair and want are threatening to overwhelm us. Thou didst not despise humble fisher folk. From them thou didst choose the messengers to carry the tidings of salvation to the world. One of them was thy beloved and when some of them had tilled all night and caught nothing, in thy mercy thou didst fill their nets with great multitude of fishes and gladdened their hearts. Let there be like mercies for us. Put thy strong hand into our weak and trembling hands, and then, we shall not be afraid. Saviuor, we believe in thy presence and in thy infinite love. Thou didst feed pity the hungry multitudes when on earth and multiplied the loaves and fishes for them to eat as they sat on the soft grass. We know that thou are still the same. We hope in your mercies.

As the story goes the next week the fish came in and there was plenty of work and food for all, and Hants Harbour had never seen such a fishery. The Methodist record shows that in the winter of 1869, there was a great revival in the little town of Hants Harbour.

Aunt Lydia's prayer was very powerful then and I think very powerful now.

This week in this very sacred time in the life of our church and as we are called to give leadership for the church may we put our weak and trembling hands into God's strong hand, and not be afraid, May we know and believe in Jesus presence with us in the past, in the now and in the future. And as Paul instructed in verse 14 which we did not read "Let all that we do be done in Love", Let us be courageous and strong as we walk into this week, with our road map, knowing, that we are never and will never be alone. Amen

Other Translations of 1 Corinthians 16:13

- **French:** [13](#) Veillez, demeurez fermes dans la foi, soyez des hommes, fortifiez-vous (Paroles de vie)
- **Spanish:** 1 Corintios 16:13 La Biblia de las Américas (LBLA): ¹³ Estad alerta, permaneced firmes en la fe, portaos varonilmente, sed fuertes.
- **Hindi:** 1 कुरिन्थियों 16:13 Hindi Bible: Easy-to-Read Version (ERV-HI) पौलुस के पत्र की समाप्ति ¹³ सावधान रहो। दृढ़ता के साथ अपने विश्वास में अटल बने रहो। साहसी बनो, शक्तिशाली बनो।
- **Italian:** 1 Corinzi 16:13 La Bibbia della Gioia (BDG)¹³ Tenete gli occhi aperti, siate costanti nella fede, agite da uomini, siate forti.
- **Portuguese:** 1 Coríntios 16:13 Almeida Revista e Corrigida 2009 (ARC)¹³ Vigiai, estai firmes na fé, portai-vos varonilmente e fortalecei-vos.
- **Chinese:** 哥林多前书 16:13 Chinese Contemporary Bible (CCB) 劝勉与问候 ¹³ 你们要警醒，在信仰上坚定不移，做勇敢刚强的人。
- **Urdu:** 16:13 Urdu Bible: Easy-to-Read Version (ERV-UR)

ۛ ات رک ماتتخا اک طخ ۛنپا سل وپ

ۛر طوبضم روا، ۛر دنم لاصوح ۛر می اق ۛس ی تخس رپ نامیا ۛنپا، ۛر رایش وه ¹³

- **Japanese:** (i) **13** 目を覺し、堅く信仰に立ち、雄々しく、かつ剛かれ。 **14** 一切のこと愛をもて行へ。
- **Korean:** (i) **13** 깨어 믿음에 굳게 서서 남자답게 강건하여라 ! **14** 너희 모든 일을 사랑으로 행하라 !