

Donald C. MacDonald

1916 - 1989

The Reverend Donald C. MacDonald reflected two significant characteristics in his life's work – a connection to the grassroots of communities in Canada and an outreach to cooperation with other societies in the world. He was devoted to a life-long service in the Presbyterian Church in Canada, within which he travelled from being a freshly graduated minister to the highest level of leadership. Along the way he served people in communities in Canada and overseas.

Born in Sylvester, Pictou County, Nova Scotia in 1916, he was descended from a Highland Scots pioneer who arrived in Canada in 1773 after an



appalling 11-week voyage aboard the old brig *Hector*. He came, in fact, of sturdy stock. After graduating from Acadia University and the Presbyterian College in Montreal, he was ordained in 1942. His initial pastorate was in Gairloch, Nova Scotia, after which he moved on to others in Chatham and Newcastle, New Brunswick, and Avonmore and Simcoe, Ontario.

Within the structure of the Church, he was appointed

Secretary of the Administrative Council in 1970 and served in this key position for 12 years. He became a Clerk of the General Assembly in 1971 and later Principal Clerk. Rev. MacDonald was chosen as Moderator of the Church in 1983, serving for two years before his retirement in 1985. Within the Church, he initiated a system of organized study groups at the beginning of the annual General Assembly.

Internationally, Dr. MacDonald represented the church on the World Alliance of Reformed Churches, based in Geneva, and for a time was the sole Canadian representative on the executive of the Alliance. He also served on the Alliance's Caribbean and North American Area Council, a position he

held until his death in 1989 at the age of 73.

Rev. MacDonald and his wife, Elizabeth, had four children and four grandchildren. He was honoured by The Presbyterian College with a Doctorate of Divinity in 1970. Personally, he was known for his dry wit, his story telling, and his curling prowess on the ice.

Rev. MacDonald demonstrated leadership in civil society through his roles within the church and his commitment to involving people in meaningful dialogue on important issues, to ensure full understanding and informed decision-making.