

**Reflection on the Maritime Conference Annual Meeting
June 23, 2013**

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Basically, I'm going to talk about music and Maritime Conference.

It was a privilege to sing in the volunteer choir, as did Graham and Karen, under the leadership at the keyboard of Llyod MacLean. Llyod is organist at one of the churches where our previous minister Rev. Meredith Fraser currently serves.

About 5 years ago, Lloyd conducted a workshop here at Forest Hill to get us acquainted with the new hymn book resource called *More Voices*. Lloyd was on the cross Canada committee which produced *More Voices* published in 2007. Also on that committee was Rick Gunn of Bedford United Church in Nova Scotia, who composed music for two of the hymns and arranged music for another. Llyod MacLean and Rick Gunn's names are shown on page 7 of the preface to *More Voices*.

Rick took part in the Conference Choir and the choir performed two anthems he had composed.

The first of these anthems called "There is Wisdom in Silence" was performed on the Thursday evening by the choir when the theme of the worship service was "Remembering our Baptism". There was an Act of Remembrance at the conclusion of worship where we were invited to line up at various stations to be marked with the water of life. However, before that an actual child baptism took place. I believe this was a first for Maritime Conference.

Eight month old Ethan, son of Rev. Catherine Stuart and Rev. Scott Stuart was baptized at about 8 pm in the evening!

The choir sang a Negro spiritual piece called "Wade in the Water" and this song was also used at the Friday morning worship period and cropped up several times during the four-day Conference.

The other anthem composed by Rick Gunn "I Will Know that you are Standing Firm" was sung at the Sunday morning ordination service when the choir was conducted by Sara Campbell. Sara also sang with a group called The Message, who performed during the Conference.

There is much more that could be said but I should wrap up by saying that it was a privilege to take part in the Conference Choir and God-willing, I hope to be able to do so another year.