

THE MINUTES OF THE CANADIAN PRESBYTERY

Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church, General Synod

Stated Fall Meeting

September 28 -29, 2005

Grace Fellowship Church, ARPC

Sydney Mines, Nova Scotia



Mr. Bill McKay
Principal Clerk

Mr. Ken Turner
Moderator

OFFICERS OF CANADIAN PRESBYTERY

MODERATOR

Mr. Ken Turner
186 Greenleaf Crescent
Woodstock, ON, Canada
N4S 7K8

VICE MODERATOR

Rev. Frank Kovacs
11 Roosevelt Dr.
Richmond Hill, ON, Canada
L4C 6V1

PRINCIPAL CLERK

Mr. Bill McKay
1124 Tupper Gardens
Woodstock, ON, Canada
N4S 8K2

READING CLERK

Rev. Jeff Kingswood
172 Light St.
Woodstock, ON, Canada
N4S 6H4

TREASURER

Mr. Henry Brunsveld
RR #2
Puslinch, ON, Canada
N0B 2J0

CHURCHES OF THE CANADIAN PRESBYTERY

MARITIMES REGION

Covenant Reformed Presbyterian Church

Covenanters ARP Church

Grace Fellowship Church, ARPC

Mt. Zion ARP Church

Trinity Presbyterian Church

ONTARIO REGION

Grace Presbyterian Church

Reformed Hungarian Church

Riverside ARP Church

Trinity ARP Church

MINUTES OF THE CANADIAN PRESBYTERY, ARPC
STATED SPRING MEETING – September 28-29, 2005
Grace Fellowship Church (ARP), Sydney Mines, Nova Scotia

The Stated Fall Meeting of the Canadian Presbytery was held on September 28 and 29, 2005 at Grace Fellowship Church, Sydney Mines, Nova Scotia. Eighteen (18) persons (presbyters and guests) were in attendance for this stated meeting of presbytery.

WEDNESDAY – September 28, 2005

The delegates for presbytery gathered for a time of Christian fellowship, refreshments and prayer prior to the 2005 Stated Fall Meeting of the Canadian Presbytery. It is by God's grace and under His blessing that we gather as a court of His church. Praise God from whom all blessings flow.

Presbytery Convenes for Stated Fall Meeting.

The Moderator of the Canadian Presbytery, Mr. Ken Turner, called the presbyters to order at 9:00 a.m. and convened the 2005 Stated Fall Meeting of the Canadian Presbytery. The attending presbyters and guests joined in the singing of hymn #96 from The Hymnal. After reading from Scripture (1Peter 1: 3-9), Mr. Turner constituted the meeting of the Canadian Presbytery, as a court of the church of Jesus Christ, with prayer.

Greetings from the Host Church

On behalf of the congregation of Grace Fellowship Church, Rev. Rick Barnes extended warmest greetings and salutations to the presbyters and guests of the Canadian Presbytery.

Calling of the Roll

The Principal Clerk, Bill McKay, called the roll of presbyters for this stated meeting. The brothers named were asked to signify their presence at this meeting with a verbal acknowledgement.

a) Roll Call of ministers and Students of Theology present:

Rev. Kevin Carter
Rev. Rick Barnes
Rev. Jeff Kingswood
Rev. Brian Murray
Rev. Henry Bartsch
Rev. John Shearouse
Rev. John van Eyk
Rev. Frank Kovacs
Rev. David Els
Mr. Rudy deVries (Licentiate)
Mr. David Martinez (Student of Theology)

b) Roll Call of Ruling Elders (as delegates to presbytery):

Mr. Kevin Bigney (Covenant Reformed Presbyterian Church)
Mr. Marven MacLean (Mt. Zion ARPC)
Mr. Mike Flewelling (Trinity Presbyterian Church – Woodstock, NB)
Mr. Bill McKay (Grace Presbyterian Church)
Mr. Rudy deVries (Riverside ARPC)
Mr. Frank Masters (Grace Fellowship Church, ARP)

Mr. John Moerman (Trinity ARPC – Chatham, ON)

Rev. William Campbell, Rev. Dr. Jack Whytock and Mr. Mark Blauuw (Student of Theology) sent their apologies and regrets for their absence.

The Principal/Stated Clerk, Mr. Bill McKay, declared a quorum was present.

Introduction of Guests and Visitors.

A warm welcome was extended by the moderator, Mr. Ken Turner (Grace Presbyterian Church, Woodstock, ON) to the guests and visitors who were in attendance. Rev. Rick Barnes presented Mr. Doug Beane as the newly appointed Youth Director of Grace Fellowship Church. Rev. Kingswood introduced Mr. Bill VanDoodewaard, who is applying to the presbytery to be brought under care of presbytery as a Student of Theology.

Motion for Elder Representatives of Mission Congregations to be full participants.

- **Motion:** from Outreach Canada to extend the right of full participation to the elders from the mission congregations. **M/S/C**

Report of the Moderator (Mr. Ken Turner):

1. **Rules of Order.** Mr. Turner gave a brief explanation of the Rules of Order that would be followed during these proceedings.
2. **Presentation and Approval of the Docket.** Mr. Turner presented the proposed docket.
 - **Motion:** to adopt the docket as presented. **M/S/C**
3. **Appointment of the Moderator's Committees:**
 - a) Mr. Turner appointed the following men to serve on the Resolutions and Excuses Committee: Rev. David Els, Rev. Brian Murray and Rev. Kevin Carter.
4. **Report of Ecclesiastical Committee.**

Before the report of the Ecclesiastical Committee was presented, Rev. Brian Murray led the presbytery in prayer.

Rev. Jeff Kingswood presented the Report of the Ecclesiastical Committee which was appointed at the 2005 Stated Spring Meeting to meet with the session of Riverside ARP Church to deal with matters appearing in the Session Minutes relating to doctrinal tensions within the Session over many months. **(See Appendix 1)**

Recommendations from the Ecclesiastical Committee

1. *That charges against Rev. John van Eyk by Elder Gord Ridsdale not be pursued.*
2. *That the Session of Riverside apologise to Elder Ridsdale for not directly answering the request for a sabbatical and giving reasons why they felt such a request was counterproductive.*
3. *That the Session be encouraged to schedule a celebration of the Lord's Supper as soon as it is able after making the resolution to the situation known to the congregation.*
4. *The court of the Canadian Presbytery agrees with and supports the Session of Riverside Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church in their call to Elder Gord Ridsdale to repent of his action in unilaterally absenting himself from worship for a period of nine weeks and by this action causing confusion and rumour in the congregation.*

5. *That Elder Gord Ridsdale be encouraged to demit the office of elder for the sake of his conscience and the peace of the Session and fellowship of Riverside Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church.*
6. *That if Elder Ridsdale elects not to demit that Session may proceed to act.*

- **Motion:** To adopt recommendation #1 as presented. **M/S/C**
- **Motion:** To adopt recommendation #2 as presented. **M/S/C**
- **Motion:** To adopt recommendation #3 as presented. **M/S/C**
- **Motion:** To adopt recommendation #4 as presented. **M/S/C**
- **Motion:** To adopt recommendation #5 as presented. **M/S/C**
- **Motion:** To adopt recommendation #6 as presented. **M/S/C**

- **Motion:** To adopt the report as a whole. **M/S/C**
- **Motion:** To dissolve the Ecclesiastical Committee, with gratitude and thankfulness to God for their service to the court. **M/S/C**

ORDER OF THE DAY

Report of the Stated Clerk (Mr. Bill McKay):

1. Appeal Submitted by Mr. Gord Ridsdale and the Report of the Executive Council Meeting (June 20, 2005)

Before proceeding with this item, Rev. Kevin Carter led the Presbytery in prayer for guidance during these deliberations.

The Canadian Presbytery has received an appeal from Mr. Gord Ridsdale regarding action taken by the Session of Riverside Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church in removing him from the Office of Ruling Elder on May 17, 2005. **(See Appendix 2)**

The Stated Clerk, Bill McKay, introduced the matter to the court with a brief explanation and history of the events leading to the appeal being filed by Mr. Ridsdale.

The Stated Clerk presented the following motion:

- **Motion:** That the Court of the Canadian Presbytery at the 2005 Stated Fall Meeting (September 28-29, 2005) hereby sustains the request for the appeal of Mr. Gord Ridsdale in this action. **M/S/D**

After the decision was reached, the Stated Clerk was directed to inform Mr. Ridsdale in writing of the decision of the court.

2. Report of Correspondence Received.

- a) Memorial regarding recognition of “Exclusive Church” marriages. Presbytery has received this memorial from Grace Presbyterian Church (Woodstock, ON) regarding the recognition of “Exclusive Church” marriages. **(See Appendix 3)**

- **Motion:** To direct the Memorial from Grace Presbyterian Church regarding the recognition of “Exclusive Church” marriages to the Congregational Life Committee for their study and to report back to the Presbytery at the 2006 Stated Spring Meeting. **M/S/C**

- b) Memorial regarding Presbytery expenses. Presbytery has received this memorial from

Grace Presbyterian Church (Woodstock, ON) regarding the reimbursements of Presbytery expenses for the Moderator. **(See Appendix 4)**

- **Motion:** To direct the Memorial from Grace Presbyterian Church regarding the reimbursement of Presbytery expenses to the Stewardship Committee for their study and to report back to the Presbytery at the 2006 Stated Spring Meeting. **M/S/C**
3. **First Reading of Amendments to the Form of Government (#35-44).** The Amendments to the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church Form of Government (#35-44) were presented for First Reading. **(See Appendix 5)**
- **Motion:** To accept the presentation of the Amendments to the Form of Government as the First Reading (as presented). **M/S/C**
 - **Motion:** To adopt the report as a whole. **M/S/C**
 - **Motion:** To amend the order of the docket to allow the Standing Committees of Presbytery to meet at this time, whereupon Presbytery will reconvene at 3:00 p.m. to begin hearing reports from the Standing Committees. **M/S/C**

Mr. Turner called a recess for this session of presbytery to give the Standing Committees an opportunity to meet and form their reports to the Presbytery. There was also an opportunity for a time of lunch.

Presbytery Re-Convenes

The Moderator reconvened Presbytery at 3:00 p.m.

Old Business

There was no Old Business to report.

OUTREACH CANADA (Rev. John van Eyk)

1. Rev. van Eyk informed the court that the committee had received a draft copy of a policy manual outlining how Presbyteries and ONA should cooperate. This will be reviewed by the committee and discussed. The court was also made aware of a discussion that ensued within the committee regarding the make up of provisional sessions. The discussion evidenced that there needs to be some more thinking done regarding the status of mission churches and their oversight within the Presbytery.

The Maritime brothers reported on their retreat held in Truro in September. A couple of places were suggested as potential sites for Church plants, namely, Truro and Fredericton. It was also reported that there was discussion regarding the need for a paradigm shift respecting the division of the congregation's funds for missions. For most congregations the bulk of missions giving is relegated to foreign fields. Perhaps, in light of Canada's ongoing spiritual decline and the cost of doing a church plant, congregations should rethink their practice and devote more of their missions giving for works in Canada. The Ontario ministers and elders are scheduled to meet in December.

2. **Reports from Mission Congregations.**
 - a) Rev. Kevin Carter presented the report from Covenanters Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church of Kentville, NS. – **(See Appendix 6)**

- **Motion:** That the Canadian Presbytery authorize the release of up to \$17,000.00 from the Canadian Church Development Fund for 2006 for the use of Covenanters Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church. M/S/C

Elder Kevin Bigney offered prayer on behalf of Covenanters Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church.

- b) Rev. Henry Bartsch presented the report from Trinity Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church of Chatham, ON. – **(See Appendix 7)**

Rev. Rick Barnes offered prayer on behalf of Trinity Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church of Chatham, ON.

3. The Presbytery granted permission for Outreach Canada to issue a letter encouraging congregations to have a special offering for the Canadian Church Development Trust around Reformation Day.

- **Motion:** To adopt the report as a whole. M/S/C

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE COMMITTEE (Rev. Brian Murray)

1. Minutes to be received and approved.

The 2004 Session Minutes from Grace Fellowship Church ARP, Trinity Presbyterian Church, Covenanters' ARP Church and Covenant Reformed Presbyterian Church were received and examined according to the Form of Government. The minutes from the session of Mt. Zion ARP Church were absent and will be reviewed under Old Business during the 2006 Stated Spring Meeting of the Canadian Presbytery.

- **Motion:** to receive and approve the minutes from Grace Fellowship Church ARP, Trinity Presbyterian Church, Covenanters' ARP Church and Covenant Reformed Presbyterian Church. M/S/C

- **Motion:** To adopt the report as a whole. M/S/C

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE (Rev. David Els)

1. Recommendations

The Stewardship Committee presented the following recommendations:

- 1) *A request for funds for Bill VanDoodewaard for theological training at Highland Theological College up to an amount of \$2,000.00 (Cad.) for the calendar year of 2006.*
- 2) *Request the various committees of Presbytery to submit budgets for the Stewardship Committee to have for consideration of the Presbytery Budget by November 1 of each calendar year.*
- 3) *For information regarding the geographical retreats of Presbytery:*
 - a. *Individual churches are to cover the travel expense to and from these meetings.*
 - b. *Presbytery covers the expense of the meeting room and luncheon.*
- 4) *Recommend that the Stated Clerk of the Canadian Presbytery be reimbursed for all stated and called meetings of Presbytery at which his presence is required. Reasonable travel expenses include travel to and from meetings, accommodation and meals.*
- 5) *Recommend that the Moderator of the Presbytery may apply for relief or reimbursement of travel expenses to and from any Presbytery meeting.*

- **Motion:** To adopt the recommendations as a whole. M/S/C

2. Treasurer's Report.

Rev. Els reviewed the Treasurer's Report for the Canadian Presbytery ending September 20, 2005. **(See Appendix 8)**

- **Motion:** To adopt the report as a whole. **M/S/C**

NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE (Mr. Bill McKay)

1. Standing Committees.

At the Stated Spring Meeting a mistake was made as to the dates of service for persons serving on the various Standing Committees of Presbytery. It was erroneously reported that the terms were expiring on June 30, 2005 when in reality they are set to expire on December 31, 2005. The nomination and election of new assignments for the Standing Committees was also completed at the Spring Meeting when they should have been done at this Stated Fall Meeting. Presbytery was requested to let the nominations stand as presented and approved at the 2005 Stated Spring Meeting. This was agreed to by a consensus of opinion.

2. Amendment to the Canadian Presbytery Manual of Procedure re. OFFICERS: (MODERATOR).

The Nominations Committee recommends an amendment to the Canadian Presbytery Manual of Procedure under Chapter V, PART A, Art. 1 (regarding the Moderator) to clarify the stipulations of the Manner of Selection to reflect the language used to describe the Manner of Selection for the Vice-moderator and to bring them in line with one another in order that a congregation's right to proper representation at presbytery meetings is made more evident in the event of the election of a Ruling Elder as Moderator.

Therefore, the Nominations Committee recommends the Canadian Presbytery of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Synod amend the wording of the Canadian Presbytery Manual of Procedure under Chapter V, PART A, Art. 1 (pg. 4) to read as follows:

Manner of Selection: The Moderator must be a member of the court over which he presides and is to be elected by it at the Spring Meeting. Any Teaching or Ruling Elder is He must be a Teaching or Ruling Elder to be eligible to the office of Moderator. (In the case of the election of a Ruling Elder, his congregation may still send an Elder delegate to represent them).

- **Motion:** To amend the Canadian Presbytery Manual of Procedure under Chapter V, PART A, Art. 1 as presented. **M/S/**
- **Motion:** To amend the Manual of Procedure by stating "the Moderator must be a member of the Presbytery-at-large. **M/S/C**
- **Motion:** To change the wording from "Teaching Elders" to "Ministers". **M/S/C**

The amended motion now reads:

Manner of Selection: The Moderator must be a member of the ~~court~~ Presbytery-at-large over which he presides and is to be elected by it at the Spring Meeting. Any Teaching or Ruling Elder is He must be a Teaching Minister or Ruling Elder to be eligible to the office of Moderator. (In the case of the election of a Ruling Elder, his congregation may still send an Elder delegate to represent them).

- **Motion:** To amend the Canadian Presbytery Manual of Procedure under Chapter V,

PART A, Art. 1 as amended. M/S/C

- **Motion:** To adopt the report as a whole. M/S/C

Mr. Turner called a recess for this session of presbytery.

The presbyters and friends of the Canadian Presbytery gathered together again at 7:00 p.m. in the sanctuary of Grace Fellowship Church for a time of worship and communion. Rev. Rick Barnes presided over the service and Rev. Henry Bartsch brought God's Word to the congregation. A time of fellowship followed the worship service.

Thursday, September 29, 2005

At 7:45 a.m., the presbytery gathered for a time of fellowship and refreshments.

At 8:05 a.m., the presbytery assembled for a time of prayer.

At 8:30 a.m., the presbytery gathered in the sanctuary for a worship service. Rev. Henry Bartsch presided over the proceedings and led the presbytery in prayer and in the singing of hymn #231. Mr. David Martinez (Student of Theology) brought the Word of God to the congregation as he preached from Galatians 1: 1-10 (focus on vv.6-9). Rev. Bartsch then led the presbytery in prayer and in the singing of hymn #106: vs.1 & 3.

Presbytery Re-Convenes

At 9:10 a.m., following the worship service, Mr. Turner called the presbytery to order and re-convened the 2005 Stated Fall Meeting of the Canadian Presbytery with a scripture reading from Ephesians 3:7-19, followed by prayer.

Calling of the Roll by the Reading Clerk

The Reading Clerk called the roll. Rev. Frank Kovacs gave his regrets for his absence for this session of Presbytery as he had to catch an early flight home. The clerk declared a quorum was present.

Introduction of Guests and Visitors

1. There were no new guests present from yesterday's session.

Introduction of Fraternal Delegates

1. There were no Fraternal Delegates present.
2. Rev. John van Eyk inquired if it was the policy of the Presbytery to invite Fraternal Delegates to our meetings. He was informed that it is not the current policy of the Presbytery to do so. He then asked what should occur in the event members of the Presbytery are invited to attend other Christian bodies' higher assemblies.
 - **Motion:** That the Executive Council is requested to give advice regarding how the Presbytery is to respond to invitations from other Christian bodies to attend their higher assemblies. M/S/C

Announcements

1. The Stated Clerk requested that all name tags be returned to him at the close of today's session.

MINISTER AND HIS WORK COMMITTEE (Rev. John Shearouse)

1. Evaluation of Student Sermons.

Various comments and opinions were forthcoming from the presbytery on the sermon as presented by David Martinez this morning.

- **Motion:** To receive this sermon as the third sermon required for licensure, and further that the sermon is sustained. M/S/C
- **Motion:** To receive Mr. Martinez' statement of belief, exegesis paper and sermon manuscript in satisfaction of his requirements for licensure. M/S/C
- **Motion:** That Mr. Martinez be examined on the floor of Presbytery in all four areas for licensure. M/S/C

2. Examination of David Martinez for Licensure:

Mr. Martinez was examined by the presbytery in the areas of English Bible (Rev. Rick Barnes), Systematic Theology (Rev. John van Eyk), Church History (Rev. Brian Murray) and Polity/Pastoral Care (Mr. Frank Masters).

- **Motion:** To sustain the examination of David Martinez for Licensure. M/S/D
- **Motion:** Whereas the Presbytery was not convinced that there was sufficient clarity of articulation of what David knew or should have known, the Presbytery directs David to resume his studies and come back to the 2006 Stated Spring Meeting to be re-examined for Licensure. M/S/C

Mr. Martinez was informed of the decision of the court.

- **Motion:** To amend the Canadian Presbytery Manual of Procedure (Chapter VII, Part D, Art. 2, sec. c), item (1)(e) (pg. 14) to read:
*“Before licensure the M&HW Committee **shall require a written examination** and shall examine the candidate in English Bible, Theology, Church History, and Polity/Pastoral Care to determine his fitness for a Presbytery Floor Examination. If the student is found to be deficient in any of the four areas, the M&HW committee and the mentor shall assign remedial work with a view to correcting the deficiency.”* M/S/
- **Motion:** To refer the question to the Minister & His Work Committee. M/S/C

3. Reception of students to come under the care of the Canadian Presbytery and the appointment of mentors:

a) Bill VanDoodewaard:

The M&HW Committee presented Mr. Bill VanDoodewaard to be taken under care as a Student of Theology. Mr. VanDoodewaard gave a brief testimony of his coming to faith, history and intentions for the future.

- **Motion:** To receive Mr. Bill VanDoodewaard as a Student of Theology under care of the Minister & His Work Committee of the Canadian Presbytery. M/S/C

Mr. Turner questioned Mr. VanDoodewaard as per the ARP Church Form of Government. Mr. Bill VanDoodewaard was received as a Student of Theology as a candidate for the Christian Ministry and was presented with a bible from the Moderator. Rev. John Shearouse led the presbytery in prayer.

- **Motion:** Rev. Dr. Jack Whytock is appointed to serve as the mentor for Mr. VanDoodewaard. M/S/C
- **Motion:** That the Canadian Presbytery provide Mr. VanDoodewaard with the full time student bursary of \$2000.00 tuition per year towards his studies, and \$400.00 for Presbytery travel per year. M/S/C

The committee was informed of an interest to set up a fund to assist Mr. Bill VanDoodewaard in his studies; and upon consultation with the Stewardship Committee, the M&HW Committee suggest this fund would be best administered by a congregation within the Canadian Presbytery.

4. Letter regarding Mark Blaauw:

A letter from the M&HW Committee was presented explaining in writing the circumstances requiring the extraordinary case waiver as required by the Form of Government, X,A.3.g. M/S/C

- **Motion:** To receive the letter as information. M/S/C

5. Rudy deVries:

- **Motion:** Rev. Jeff Kingswood is appointed to serve as the mentor for Mr. Rudy deVries prior to his further examinations before possible ordination. M/S/C

- **Motion:** That the M&HW Committee prepare a call to Mr. Rudy deVries in conjunction with the Board of Cornerstone Bible Institute to labour as an ordained minister in the prisons of Canada for Cornerstone Bible Institute. M/S/C

- **Motion:** To adopt the report as a whole. M/S/C

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business to report.

REPORTS OF MODERATOR COMMITTEE(S)

1. Excuses and Absences.

- a) Rev. William Campbell , Rev. Dr. Jack C. Whytock and Mr. Mark Blaauw send their regrets for their absence.

2. Resolutions. The following motion from the Excuses and Resolutions Committee was presented by Rev. Kevin Carter.

- **Motion:**

Whereas the Canadian Presbytery has at long last arrived in Cape Breton, much to the appreciation of Rev. Rick Barnes who has finally had the shortest distance to travel to any Presbytery meeting;

And whereas the warmth and wonderful hospitality of the fine congregation of Grace Fellowship was enjoyed by all;

And whereas it may be another five years before we are able to enjoy the beauty and splendour of the Celtic heritage of our forefathers;

Be it resolved that we, the Canadian Presbyters extend heartfelt and appreciative gratitude to the congregation of Grace Fellowship for their care and provision at the Fall Meeting of the Canadian Presbytery. M/S/C

DATES & LOCATIONS OF FUTURE MEETINGS OF THE CANADIAN PRESBYTERY

Stated Teleconference: Saturday, January 21, 2006 (9:00 a.m. E.S.T.)

Stated Spring Meeting: April 19 – 20, 2006

Reformed Hungarian Church ARP, Toronto, ON

Adjourned Meeting (if needed): June 7, 2006

General Synod, Bonclarken, Flat Rock, N.C.

Stated Fall Meeting: September 27 – 28, 2006

Covenanters ARP Church, Kentville, NS

Stated Teleconference: Saturday, January 20, 2007 (9:00 a.m. E.S.T.)

Stated Spring Meeting: April 18 – 19, 2007

Trinity ARP Church, Chatham, ON

ADJOURNMENT/ ANNOUNCEMENTS – CLOSING PRAYER AND BENEDICTION.

Mr. Turner gave the closing announcements and benediction. The court adjourned at 12:05 p.m. with the singing of Psalm 133.

- **Motion**: To adjourn the meeting. **M/S/C**

Respectfully submitted and attested by:

Mr. Bill McKay
Principal Clerk

Mr. Ken Turner
Moderator

APPENDIX 1 (September/05)
Ecclesiastical Committee - Dealing with the pastoral situation at Riverside
ARPC.

The Committee would like to remind all involved that it is a Committee and not a Commission. It is able to advise the parties involved and to bring recommendations to Presbytery but it is not able to order anyone to act; nor are its recommendations binding until such time as Presbytery in its wisdom acts upon them.

In light of the meetings held with the Session of the Riverside ARPC and the extensive correspondence that has been studied by the Committee, it is clear that action on these issues needs to be taken as soon as possible for the good of all involved as well as the peace and prosperity of the congregation. The current state of tension and indecision is paralysing.

We would also like to thank all the members of the Session for their frank contributions to the discussion. It was evident that everyone involved wanted to see Christ's Church bring honour and glory to His name.

It is with these matters in mind that the Committee brings forward the following recommendations:

- 1) That charges against Rev. John van Eyk by Elder Gord Ridsdale not be pursued.
- 2) That the Session of Riverside apologise to Elder Ridsdale for not directly answering the request for a sabbatical and giving reasons why they felt such a request was counterproductive.
- 3) That the Session be encouraged to schedule a celebration of the Lord's Supper as soon as it is able after making the resolution to the situation known to the congregation.
- 4) The court of the Canadian Presbytery agrees with and supports the Session of Riverside Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church in their call to Elder Gord Ridsdale to repent of his action in unilaterally absenting himself from worship for a period of nine weeks and by this action causing confusion and rumour in the congregation.
- 5) That Elder Gord Ridsdale be encouraged to demit the office of elder for the sake of his conscience and the peace of the Session and fellowship of Riverside Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church.
- 6) That if Elder Ridsdale elects not to demit that Session may proceed to act.

APPENDIX 2 (September/05)

MR. GORD RIDSDALE'S APPEAL TO PRESBYTERY

May 28th, 2005

To: Mr. William McKay the Clerk of the Canadian Presbytery.

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

Dear Sir;

I wish to inform you as Clerk of the Canadian Presbytery that I hereby appeal the decision of the Session of Riverside A.R.P. Church wherein they state " After discussion and with great sadness it was decided that you be removed immediately from the office of elder and no longer serve on the Session at Riverside Church." Also "A confirmation of our thinking regarding your removal from

Session was the unanimous recommendation of the Ecclesiastical Committee of the Canadian Presbytery to remove you from the Session if you did not heed their encouragement to demit." This notice was served to me at my residence by elder Jon Van Dyk on May 19th, 2005.

My concerns include , but may not be limited to the following:

Session states: "A confirmation of our thinking regarding your removal from Session was the unanimous recommendation of the Ecclesiastical Committee of the Canadian Presbytery to remove you from the Session if you did not heed their encouragement to demit."

Session has asked me to demit because it was the encouragement of the Ecclesiastical Committee. It is my understanding that the Ecclesiastical Committee recommendations require the action of the appointing court or agency as per the F.O.G. XIV C 2b. So how can Riverside Session implement the recommendations, unanimous or not, before Presbytery has approved them? Secondly it states that I did not heed *their* encouragement to demit. These recommendations are yet to be approved by Presbytery, so how can I heed their encouragement. Again this is not a commission that is appointed and *empowered* by a court of the Church to examine consider and *conclude* certain designated business.

May 14, 2005 I sent a reply not agreeing to demit as requested.

Session then implemented a motion to remove me from Eldership as per their letter dated May 19, 2005. They again state that part of their reasoning for removing me from eldership was "A confirmation of our thinking regarding your removal from Session was the unanimous recommendation of the Ecclesiastical Committee of the Canadian Presbytery to remove you from the Session if you did not heed their encouragement to demit." Again I state that I believe they can not only not rely on the recommendations of the Ecclesiastical Committee but nor should they act upon them in part or in whole until such time as the recommendations are approved at Presbytery and the court tells the Committee to implement them. Unfortunately, from my perspective, Session has seen fit to call a Congregational meeting May 22, 2005 and inform the congregation of the recommendations and that they have removed me from eldership even before such recommendations have been approved by Presbytery. I would submit that this action is premature and therefore should not have taken place.

Session also states that " while all the while refusing to press charges at Presbytery as a way to address your differences in a proper way" I can not understand why such drastic measures are the ones that are suggested rather than possibly going to Presbytery to discuss it. On March 3, 2005 I suggested this "I therefore offer this suggestion, that without submitting the details of the e-mails, we make enquiry of Presbytery and should they also state that the only two options are as you have suggested, then I will have to prayerfully make that final determination. In the interim, for the sake of Session and the congregation, I would ask Session for a sabbatical (say six months or longer if necessary) until Presbytery has responded. During this time I would not actively participate as an elder, allowing Session the unity they desire." There was no reply to this suggestion.

I respectfully submit this appeal and pray that the Lord would be glorified in all of these deliberations.

In the bonds of Christ,
Gord Ridsdale



APPENDIX 3 (September/05)

Grace Presbyterian Church

A congregation of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Synod

Pastor: Rev. Jeff Kingswood

50 Finkle St. Woodstock, ON N4S 3C8
(519) 421-1249

kingswood@execulink.com

**MEMORIAL FROM GRACE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, ARPC
FORMAL RECOGNITION OF EXCLUSIVE CHURCH MARRIAGES**

WHEREAS, we acknowledge the Holy Scriptures as God's inspired, infallible and inerrant Word and

is the basis upon which we order our lives in all matters of faith and practice; and,

WHEREAS, we believe that marriage, as defined by God’s Holy Word and historically supported by the Westminster Confession of Faith, is the lawful union of one man and one woman to the exclusion of all else, which is consistent with God's eternal plan for men and women; and,

WHEREAS, the institution of marriage, as originally ordained and instituted by God, was presided over and solemnized by duly ordained Ministers of the Word and Sacraments who acted within the bounds of their calling as servants of the Lord, according to the dictates of scripture; and,

WHEREAS, historically, the institution of marriage was later adopted as a civil institution, where the civil ceremonies were presided over by persons authorized by the state (e.g. judges, justices of the peace, the master of a ship at sea, Ministers of the Word and Sacraments and other specified leaders of the various religions of the world) so that civil marriages also became legitimate to the state; and,

WHEREAS, “*Canada is founded upon principles that recognize the supremacy of God and the rule of law*”, but has since become a country characterized by a religious and cultural diversity that has drifted far away from its Judeo/Christian roots and its historical proclamation of the recognition of God’s supremacy and the rule of law; and,

WHEREAS, in the past the various levels of government in Canada “*recognized the traditional common-law understanding of civil marriage as an exclusively heterosexual institution*”, but due to the ruling of the Supreme Court of Canada that resulted in the introduction of an Act of Parliament (Bill C-38) by the federal government of Canada to extend the legal capacity for marriage for civil purposes to same-sex couples; and,

WHEREAS, on July 20, 2005 (A.D.), with the signing of Royal Assent to Bill C-38, the governing body of Canada has finalized its movement away from “*the traditional common-law understanding of civil marriage as an exclusively heterosexual institution*”, and enacted legislation which states “*marriage, for civil purposes, is the lawful union of two persons to the exclusion of all others*” thus extending civil marriage rights to conjugal couples of the same sex.; and,

WHEREAS, Ministers of the Word and Sacraments, in their desire to be true to the immutable Word of God and refuse to act in a manner that is in contradiction to God’s Holy Word, have surrendered their Certificate of Registration to act as an “agent of the state” to solemnize civil marriages or subsequently (by other means) refuse to act as an “agent of the state” by presiding over civil marriages; and,

WHEREAS, these Ministers of the Word and Sacraments will, instead, continue to solemnize marriages between “equally yoked” members of the Church of Jesus Christ with no reference to any

civil authority;

THEREFORE, the Session of Grace Presbyterian Church (Woodstock, ON) respectfully **MEMORIALIZES** the Canadian Presbytery of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Synod to have all of the congregations of the Canadian Presbytery formally recognise any such marriages, (that adhere to scripture and the stated doctrinal position of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Synod, as supported by the Westminster Confession of Faith), as performed by a duly ordained Minister of the Word and Sacraments, as valid and binding before God and the church, even though the marriages are subsequently not registered with the civil authorities; and,

FURTHER, that all marriages performed and recognized in this manner will be recorded in the registers of our congregations and issued a certificate of marriage specifying the names of the parties, the date of the marriage and the names of the witnesses with no reference to any civil authority; and,

FURTHER, that the Canadian Presbytery respectfully memorialize the General Synod of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church to acknowledge these marriages in the same manner and to request their sister denominations of NAPARC to consider the same acknowledgement.

Approved by the Session of Grace Presbyterian Church on August 25, 2005 (A.D.)

Attest: Bill McKay
Stated Clerk of Session,
Grace Presbyterian Church



APPENDIX 4 (September/05)

Grace Presbyterian Church

A congregation of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Synod

Pastor: Rev. Jeff Kingswood

50 Finkle St. Woodstock, ON N4S 3C8
(519) 421-1249

kingswood@execulink.com

MEMORIAL FROM GRACE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, ARPC

REIMBURSING PRESBYTERY EXPENSES

WHEREAS, Stated Meetings of the Presbytery, as governed by F.O.G. XII C.5, shall ordinarily be

held in January via teleconference call, in the Ontario region in the Spring and in the Maritime Region in the Fall of each year; and,

WHEREAS, all congregations of the Presbytery shall be represented by at least one (1) Ruling Elder at Presbytery Meetings; and,

WHEREAS, all presbyters attending the meetings of Presbytery due so on the behest and support of their congregations, with the congregation responsible for any expenses associated with travel to and from Presbytery, (unless the presbyter takes responsibility for his own expenses); and,

WHEREAS, the Moderator of the Presbytery may be any Teaching or Ruling Elder and is a member of the court over which he presides, but does not serve as a representative of a particular congregation at Presbytery meetings; and,

WHEREAS, if the Moderator is a Ruling Elder, then that congregation will possibly be responsible for the travel expenses of three (3) (or more) persons to the Presbytery meetings for that year; and,

WHEREAS, there are some congregations who may not, (presently or in the future), have the resources to take responsibility for travel expenses to Presbytery meetings for more than two (2) presbyters; and,

WHEREAS, this financial burden may hinder the ability for some Ruling Elders to serve as Moderator of the Presbytery if they or their congregation do not have the resources to pay for travel expenses to Presbytery meetings; and,

WHEREAS, the Presbytery does not wish for financial burdens to be an impediment for any qualified elder from serving as an officer of the court.

THEREFORE, the Session of Grace Presbyterian Church (Woodstock, ON) respectfully **MEMORIALIZES** the Canadian Presbytery of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Synod to have the Presbytery to put into place a plan that would allow a congregation (or presbyter acting in the capacity of Moderator of the Presbytery) to apply for relief and reimbursement for the travel expenses they incur going to and from any Presbytery meetings; and,

FURTHER, that the reimbursement of travel expenses to and from Presbytery meetings for the Principal/Stated Clerk of the Presbytery, also be considered in the future as the Principal/Stated Clerk is doing the work of the court.

Approved by the Session of Grace Presbyterian Church on August 25, 2005 (A.D.)

Attest: Bill McKay
Stated Clerk of Session,
Grace Presbyterian Church

APPENDIX 5 (September/05)

PROPOSED CHANGES TO FORM OF GOVERNMENT

SUMMARY

Amendment No. 35

Shall the *Form of Government*, **CHAPTER X, Section E.11.** be amended to read:

11. The call shall clearly state the amount of salary and other allowances, and shall include information as to manse, vacation, moving expense, medical and hospitalization insurance and, ~~where the minister's customary employment is expected to be for more than and aggregate of 1,000 hours in a calendar year,~~ **except for calls to new fields or congregations which are unable to support a pastor (i.e., as an evangelist)**, shall include provisions for the church to make contributions to the General Synod in support of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Retirement Plan (for churches in the United States) or to a locally-accredited and registered retirement plan approved by the presbytery (for churches located outside the United States), according to the guidelines approved by the General Synod. **Calls shall and** provide for an annual review of the terms of the call. Without such a statement the call shall not be approved. The call shall meet all requirements of the Presbytery before approval. A call shall be presented to a pastor-elect by the Presbytery in which the congregation issuing the call is located.

Amendment No. 36

Shall the *Form of Government*, **CHAPTER X, Section H.1.** be amended to read:

1. The procedure for calls to ministers other than those involving pastoral relationship shall be essentially the same as for calls to the pastorate. The court or agency issuing the call shall present to the Presbytery of which he is a member, **which shall retain primary jurisdiction**, a call appropriate to the service involved.

Amendment No. 37

Shall the *Form of Government*, **CHAPTER XI, Section B.1.** be amended to read:

1. The session shall have as its primary responsibility the initiation, planning, organization and administration of programs designed to enable the congregation to carry on the mission of God in Christ's Church by word and deed in the community and also in the Presbytery, the General Synod and the whole world. **In order to institute and supervise the general work of the congregation, the Session has the power to appoint boards, commissions, or committees (See Chapter XIV).**

Amendment No. 38

Shall the *Form of Government*, **CHAPTER XII, Section B.1.** be amended to read:

1. The Presbytery shall have as its primary responsibility the initiation, planning, organization and administration of programs designed to enable it to carry on the mission of God in Christ's Church by word and deed in the Presbytery and also in the local congregations, the General Synod and the whole world. **In order to institute and supervise the general work of the Presbytery, the Presbytery has the power to appoint boards, commissions, or committees (See Chapter XIV).**

Amendment No. 39

Shall the *Form of Government*, **CHAPTER XIII** be amended to add an introductory sentence following the heading **CONCERNING THE GENERAL SYNOD** to read:

In order to institute and supervise the general work of the Church, the General Synod the power to appoint boards, commissions, and committees (See Chapter XIV).

Amendment No. 40

Shall the *Form of Government*, **CHAPTER XIII, Section B.2.b.** be amended to read:

b. To institute, **create operating rules**, and supervise the agencies necessary in the general work of the Church.

Amendment No. 41

Shall the *Form of Government*, **CHAPTER XIII** be amended to add **Section D** to read:

D. THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN

ARP Women's Ministries is an organization which encourages and equips the community of Associate Reformed Presbyterian women to minister together for God's glory and purpose, functioning under the ecclesiastical leadership of the General Synod of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church.

ARP Women's Ministries accomplishes its purposes through its Board and presbytery and local church organizations.

ARP Women's Ministries shall report to the General Synod on an annual basis.

Amendment No. 42

Shall the *Form of Government*, **CHAPTER XIV, Section A.** be amended to read:

A. BOARDS

1. Purpose.

A board is a body appointed and empowered by a court of the Church to take management of certain specified duties in advancing the mission of the church.

The specified duties shall be set forth and published in a manual of authorities and duties or other document of the appointing court.

2. Authority and responsibility.

a. A board shall perform ~~special work~~ **the specified duties** entrusted to it without particular instructions from the appointing court but shall follow the general instructions of the court.

b. A board ~~shall be~~ **is** empowered to study, initiate, **and** administer programs and funds **within its specific area of responsibility**, and hold title to properties within its specific area of responsibility.

c. A board is empowered to create and staff an administrative entity for the purpose of carrying out its specified duties. A position description of an administrative officer of a board of the General Synod shall be submitted to the General Synod for inclusion in a manual of authorities and duties. The administrative officer shall report to the board on the basis of his position description.

d. A board shall make an annual report to the appointing court, giving full statement of all business transacted, ~~and~~ actions taken during the year, **and newly initiated and/or planned programs. The report shall address the specified duties as set forth in a manual of authorities and duties or other document of the appointing court.**

e. Any action of a board may be approved, amended, or set aside by the appointing court.

f. A board shall keep full and accurate records of its proceedings in a permanent form which shall be available for review and inspection as required by the appointing court.

3. Composition and organization.

a. Members of a board shall be appointed and their terms of membership shall be fixed by the appointing court.

b. A board shall elect its own officers and, subject to the approval of the appointing court, shall adopt a constitution, **policy book**, and/or by-laws. **Changes to governing documents shall be reported to the appointing court.**

c. A board may incorporate; however, the provision of its charter and by-laws must always be in accordance with the *Form of Government of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church*.

4. Any newly-elected member of any board ~~or committee~~ or any newly-appointed administrative or teaching employee shall have given satisfactory evidence of his **or her** belief in and adherence to the basic doctrines of evangelical Christianity **as adopted by the General Synod and as set forth in a manual of authorities and duties.**

Amendment No. 43

Shall the *Form of Government*, CHAPTER XIV, Section B.2. be amended to change “b” to “c” and insert “b” to read:

b. An ecclesiastical commission may be formed to interpret, construe, and apply the constitution and laws of the church to all matters involving constitutionality referred to it by the appointing court.

Amendment No. 44

Shall the *Form of Government*, CHAPTER XIV, Section C. be amended to add “4” to read:

4. Any newly-elected member of any Committee shall have given satisfactory evidence of his or her belief in and adherence to the basic doctrines of evangelical Christianity as adopted by the General Synod and as set forth in a manual of authorities and duties.

APPENDIX 6 (September/05)**Covenanters Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church**

September 2005

The following is a brief report on the status of Covenanters ARP Mission church for the September 2005 Presbytery meeting. I have begun my fourth year as mission developer at Covenanters.

1. Membership: We presently have 7 family members with 2 adherent families making our core attendance 40. This has been the first year we have not seen an increase in core attendance/membership. We have made a number of contacts and have had a fair number of visitors out over the year, but nothing translating into people growth. Our congregation is still praying earnestly for 4-5 families to come into our midst. There have been some encouraging notes as reported under ministry, and some discouragement. We expected a student or two from Acadia, but that has not yet developed; we have had a Chinese family we thought was coming around but that has fallen through; we had another couple who has been saying they will come but have yet to do so. Persevering through this stage is important.

2. Ministry: Besides our regular Lord's Day services, we offer Children's Catechism Club for children age 5-12 in the Spring and Fall [due to begin in October]; Youth Club for ages 11 up begins Sept.27, meeting once a month; Adult Bible Study weekly on Wednesday; our newsletter "The Ambassador", a bimonthly production; and the Valley Reformed Bible Conference each May. We anticipate a couple extra children for Catechism Club; we have already had a family contact us regarding our Youth Club and they will be sending out their 11 yr old son [this is a family who has been out of formal church, having church in their home for several years]; our Wed. Adult Bible Study has begun with Ken Ham's "Answers In Genesis" video series, and we have a young man and his girlfriend now coming to this. We are seeking a way of bringing this Bible Study into the University with the contacts we now have in Acadia. Rev. Carter is also meeting with the chaplain at Springhill Institution and will be doing the devotional at chapel on October 3. This is anticipated to be a quarterly event. I have stopped helping the local soup kitchen mostly because of strong gospel difficulties with the heads of this group. We have Rev Jeff Kingswood coming to speak at our conference in May on ecumenicalism. All in all we are endeavouring to make our mark here in Kentville and have strived to make many contacts.

3. Eldership training: the provisional Session has determined that Henry Hogeterp and Albert Gerrits are wonderfully qualified to take on the eldership roles within the congregation and we would like to proceed with organization in the Spring. These men have been participating in our Session meetings to get a fuller sense for this area of work, and have been well received by the congregation as prominent men. Please be in prayer for these men.

4. Finances: As of the end of August our general receipts and expenses [not including any missions/mercy/building fund] are as follows: Total receipts - \$24,666. [avg. monthly = \$3083]; total expenses - \$37,622. [avg. monthly = \$4703]. As you can see we fall short approximately \$1600 each month. Presently we have \$11,281 in reserve, which by the end of the year will be \$4800. If we maintain our present budget for 2006, which is our goal [we have started again searching for a better meeting facility and should we acquire one, we anticipate an increase in that monthly expense. As well, with rising fuel costs an increase of some sort is expected.], and if we use these figures to gauge our receipts/disbursements we anticipate the following: I can assure you our people are more than tithing. Any monies for mission/mercy/building fund are extra special offerings taken up once a month and have never affected our tithes. A budget report is attached which reflects what is transpiring for 2005 and what we believe will be needed in 2006. This budget has no increase in any expense except for rental facilities. What has carried our congregation thus far has been our carry over balance from the previous year, but this is also being spent. **So with these figures in mind the Session of Covenanters has asked me to humbly appeal for more financial aid from the Canadian Church Development Trust fund in the amount of \$17,000.00.** Please consider this report that formal request.

5. Building Fund: We began 2005 with \$14,225 in the fund, and at the end of August we stand at \$19,709. There have been two significant outside donations to this fund and the congregation has been sacrificing

amounts as well. For our size we have been very pleased with its increase. We do not anticipate any movement towards a building until at least 2007. We do recognize our present facilities are not very conducive to worship or families with young children. I have begun again to search for new facilities and there are a couple possibilities, [we are investigating a church between Wolfville and New Minas that might be vacant] but this will be an added expense. To date we pay \$300 a month for the hall, but we are getting a \$300 a month facility. Please pray for us as we search for a favourable meeting place.

6. Family Report: I would like to give a personal report on my family. From April to the end of July Joanne had to undergo some tests for a possible tumour, which has been determined to be only a cyst [we sincerely praise our Father for this blessed report]. She [with Chris] has been working this summer to help with university costs and house maintenance. She has been a very faithful, helpful, loving and busy wife. Chris has gone off to university and is settling in well. He has acquainted himself with the Intervarsity Christian group there, is helping out with our 11 up youth group, is also helping out a senior couple once a week with chores. He has become comfortable among the adults as well and has purposed to attend the Adult Bible Study. Matthew [17] is still very much struggling in the faith. 2004 was a difficult year for him. He has been under admonishment from our Session to encourage him. As well many people have taken up prayers for him and we see great evidence of this grace impacting him. While he has not yet “turned around” these past few months have seen a change in his personality: he has quieted his vocal disdain for going to church; he has become increasingly pleasant, helpful, loving in our family towards everyone; and he has renewed his closeness to his brother. For example, Matthew was inclined to missing church for the sake of events [6-7 times a year]. This was one source of much hardship in our home. Now, when he goes away for a weekend he makes sure he is attending a local church. He also has been the only one to consistently bring into our congregation one who is not a believer. His attitude towards church and family bible study has seen a remarkable change these past few months. Please keep praying. Our three girls are growing up. Elizabeth is becoming a teenager; Sabrina wants to be a teenager and we have an ongoing task of curbing her behaviour, she is our extrovert; Michelle is 10, but has the mental capabilities of a 5-6 yr old. She is slow developing mental skills, and educating her is a very time-consuming task. These girls have grown spiritually. Instilling in their minds a knowledge of an invisible Being who is Lord, and who is to be worship has been a trial, but we have seen this past year a sincere comprehension of Christ and his blessed saving mercies. Praise to our faithful Lord.

7. Prayer Requests: -Please pray for the outreach work of our congregation, especially the Lord’s Day services and adult bible study. Several have told us that the preaching is very good, yet people seem disinclined towards us. Perhaps it is still a ‘wait and see’ perspective of our church.

-Pray for our youth. Half of the congregation is under 13. Our ministry to them and their families is very important.

-Praise God for the help of Presbytery. We are very thankful for the ongoing support Presbytery has been.

-Pray for our seniors. We have 7 members who are in their 70-80, and a couple whose health is failing.

-Pray that we persevere through this plateau stage. Spiritual growth is evident and that is vital to future growth.

-Praise God for the wondrous generosity of the congregation. They have been extremely supportive of me and my family and very generous to supply us with many things.

Respectfully in Christ,
Kevin Carter

This budget for 2006 reflects what has been [and will be] spent for 2005. There have been no changes to any amounts other than employer contributions and rental facilities. We have been very frugal in our budget, not spending if we do not have to. With regard to salary, an elder has commented that there has been no increase since 2002, neither is the Synod requirement for medical benefits being met for him or his family. I have voiced no concern in these areas however realizing certain sacrifices do need to be made for this work. With our family’s medical situation, NB Medicare covers our three girls until I receive some medical plan; Chris is now 18 and Matt will soon be 18 so they no longer qualify for coverage under me. That leaves only Joanne and I at this time, which expenses have been nominal.

Budget for 2006

		Receipts:
General tithes/offerings	36,000.00	
Carry over from 2005-09-22	<u>4,800.00</u>	
Total		40,800.00
Disbursements:		
Pastor's salary/Employer Contrib.	46,500.00	(includes \$3600 for employer contributions: up 300.)
Pulpit supply	1,000.00	(includes travel for elders)
Facility Rent	5,000.00	(increased by \$1,400. for 2006)
Telephone	1,200.00	
Presb/Synod travel	2,500.00	
Stationary/Advertise	600.00	
Christian Ed	500.00	
Misc/Audit/Fees	<u>500.00</u>	
Total		57,800.00
Shortfall		-17,000.00

APPENDIX 7 (September/05)**Trinity Associate Reformed**

Presbyterian Church

Pastor: Rev. Henry G. Bartsch

Unit L02D
405 Riverview Drive
Chatham, Ontario
N7M 5J5
Telephone (519) 354-3240
Email: trinityarpchurch3@bellnet.ca

Sep 22, 2005

To the fathers and brothers of the Canadian Presbytery

Re: Report from Trinity ARP Mission (Chatham, ON)

Greetings in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord!

It is our pleasure to share with the Canadian Presbytery some of the evidences of God's grace amongst us.

Attendance: Attendance is generally in the high 80's in the morning, and mid 70's in the evening. There have been peaks of almost 100 in the morning and just shy of 90 in the evening as visitors still come and 'check us out.' We will be receiving one family (with 5 children to be baptized) in a few weeks. In Nov. another family hopes to join... 5 children, already baptized. That will bring our family membership count to 19. (I think) One family has ceased worshipping with us since March. Communication appears to have completely broken down, and session will dealing with this situation in a definitive way. Though harder to see, we know that God blesses his church, even in such difficult and trying circumstances. A second family is also having their share of spiritual difficulties. Pray that they will be responsive to the leadership of session and obedient to Christ.

Preaching: Rev. Bartsch has almost completed his series on the Gospel of John in the morning services. In the evening, he has recently begun to preach through the Sermon on the Mount. In both cases, we sincerely desire the blessing of God, to move the hearer to true Gospel repentance and obedience.

Training: The leadership classes introduced last spring took a summer leave and will resume in a few weeks. Several men, and some of their sons, have attended. The classes have been promoted as an opportunity to develop leadership skills in the home *as well as* in the church. No one is obligated to be a candidate for office, and session is under no obligation to nominate any for office.

Missions: We had the privilege of hosting Rev Chas. Amicy and one of his supporters and itinerary co-ordinators, Anne Kline, a few weeks ago. He preached a morning service for us, and we had opportunity to interact with them with respect to their needs as church planters in Haiti. Financial support for our other mission agencies is ongoing. We are encouraged with the work that God does through His people around the world.

Finances: Weekly offerings have risen from a consistent \$1,500 per week, to a current \$X,XXX.XX per week. All of our budget needs are being met. We have a current savings balance of near \$110,000.00 which we hope to designate for property as such becomes available.

Venue: Our location at the Chatham Christian School continues to meet our needs very well, as well as serving as a central location for our 'spread out' congregation. Besides travelling from the east (40 km), and the west (80 km), we now have a family visiting from the north (60 km). If anyone comes from the south at that distance, they'll be coming out of Lake Erie... We do not feel particularly pressured to buy property as yet. Land values do not rise dramatically in Chatham, so we can keep looking for something that is suitable from a location point of view. Asking prices for land in an excellent location is about \$65,000.00 per acre.... More than we can safely handle at this time.

Organization: We continue to anticipate what the Lord will do via the leadership classes. Our primary need is for at least one more elder before we can petition Presbytery for organization. However, we do also desire that the session and congregation have reached a level of maturity whereby we can be weaned from a Provisional session situation.

Evangelism: Materials have been ordered for the "Christianity Explored" program. Invitations will be distributed to the community over the next few week-ends, with opening night scheduled for Oct. 5th. Members are also asked to invite their friends/neighbours/relatives. "Christianity Explored" is a 10 week study of the Gospel of Mark designed to expose the uninformed to the reality, teaching and claims of Jesus Christ. Though patterned after the popular "Alpha" program, this series has greater emphasis on the reality of sin, and less (none) emphasis on the charismatic side. That is, more properly 'Reformed' in approach.

Please pray for this work... that we might be successful for these reasons:

- That Christ's Kingdom would expand in this locality
- That other church plants would take heart, and more be envisioned

- That the name of Christ would be magnified, and not suffer disrepute
- That a heart passion for Christ might be cultivated and grow amongst us.

Respectfully, and in His service!!

Henry Bartsch/John Moerman

APPENDIX 8 (September/05)